



MOLDOVAN DELEGATION IN VISITS TO THE FRENCH AND HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

In February the EU-funded Twinning project “Support to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova” organised two visits of the Moldovan parliamentary delegations to the National Assembly and Senate of France, as well as to the Hungarian National Assembly. The study visits focused on exchanging experiences on the control function of Parliament over the Government in democracies of EU Members States.

The visit to Paris took place on 9-11 February in the auspices of the French Parliament. The Moldovan parliamentary delegation consisted of parliamentary civil servants and consultants from standing committees, parliamentary factions and departments of the administration. The delegation was received in the French National Assembly by MPs and senators as well as high ranked officials from the French administration. The exchange of views in Budapest aimed also to gain experience from a “newly established democracy” like Hungary, and was carried out on 15-18 February. The delegation consisted of MPs, as well as of parliamentary civil servants. The project with a budget of about €1 million started in July 2008, having the aim at strengthening the human resources capacities of the Moldovan Parliament, the EU affairs management, the regulatory impact assessment issues, and strengthening the control function of the Parliament over the Government.



Contact Person: **Krisztián Kovács**, e-mail: kovacsparlament@gmail.com

HEALTH OFFICIALS FAMILIARISE WITH EU-FUNDED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

On 2 March high officials from the Ministry of Health (MoH), National Company of Health Insurance and Health Department of Chisinau City Hall visited the Territorial Medical Association (AMT) “Centru” in Chisinau in order to see for themselves both the functionality and progress of the EU-funded Health Information System for Primary Health Care – Medex 2.0 piloted in AMT Centru. This advanced system was developed by the EU-funded project “EU support to the Health Reform: Strengthening of Health Care in Moldova” and has functionalities concerning patient flow, medical data, statistical data, and other aspects of Primary Health Care.



During the last months the project and AMT Centru have upgraded the old Health Information System. The last step was the successful data migration from Medex 1.0 to Medex 2.0, which is in experimental utilisation starting with 22 February 2010. According to the Memorandum of Collaboration signed between the project, MoH and MTA Centru, the staff of MTA Centru actively participates in the development through identification of requirements toward the functionality of the system, testing and piloting.

After successful piloting in AMT Centru, the new version of Medex (“Medex 2”) can be further replicated in other MTAs, in Regional Centres and could be used country-wide in the future provided the IT infrastructure is appropriate. The IT component is one of the 4 components of project, which has a duration of 2 years till August 2010 and a budget of €1.2 million.

More information at: <http://www.amp.md/>

Contact person: **Lars Kyburg**, e-mail: lars.kyburg@amp.md

EU-UNHCR PROJECT TRAIN MOLDOVAN OFFICIALS ON REFUGEE PROTECTION

On 3-6 March the EU-funded and UNHCR-implemented Regional Protection Support Project in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine organised a refugee law seminar in Poiana Brasov, Romania. The event was organised for 28 participants including judges, senior management and representatives of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (MOI), Border Guard Service, Law Centre of Advocates, NGO and academia.

The event is part of a comprehensive training strategy that is targeting specific issues of refugee protection in the context of mixed migration flows and is addressing the need to improve the knowledge on asylum, migration and protection principles of relevant state authorities and judiciary.

The seminar was conducted by UNHCR staff from Moldova, Romania, and representatives of the Romanian Immigration Office, Border Police and judiciary. The valuable inputs on Romanian procedures and best practices in the asylum area, including the presentation on the activities and outcomes of the first phase of the Quality Initiative Project implemented jointly in Romania by UNHCR and the Government, was highly appreciated by the absolute majority of participants.



Contact person: **Marin Roman**, e-mail: roman@unhcr.org



EU-COE PROJECT PROVIDES TRAININGS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR MOLDOVAN JUDGES

On 4-5 March the joint EU-Council of Europe project “Increased independence, transparency and efficiency of the justice system in the Republic of Moldova” organised a continuous training session on freedom of expression and access to information for some 60 Moldovan judges.

The activity aimed at improving the understanding of standards on freedom of expression expressly guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), guaranteeing the implementation of best practices while dealing with cases concerning freedom of expression and ensuring access to information, and last but not least, improving public relations in the activity of the national courts.

The training was conducted by Council of Europe experts. Participants to the training received a recently published Guide for Judges and Journalists on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, attempting to explain how freedom of expression is protected and the important role played by the domestic judiciary in ensuring this protection, taking into consideration concerns raised by court rulings against journalists and consequent findings of a violation of Article 10 of the ECHR by the European Court of Human Rights in cases against the Republic of Moldova.



Contact Person: Julia Cozacenco, e-mail: julia.cozacenco@coe.int

EU PROJECT ORGANISES A NETWORKING VISIT FOR MOLDOVAN OFFICIALS TO HUNGARY

On 9-12 March the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Governments of Moldova and Ukraine for the Implementation of Readmission Agreements with the EU” (GUMIRA) organised a networking visit to Hungary for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Border Guards Service of Moldova, and a Moldovan partner NGO.

The purpose of the visit was to expose the Moldovan authorities to various issues of readmission procedures in Hungary, best practices in managing Migrants Accommodation Centres and temporary holding facilities as well as Hungary's relevant experience in assisting irregular migrants and addressing their rights and needs. During the visit IOM organised meetings with the Hungarian National Police, the Office for Immigration and Nationality, Ministry of Justice and Law enforcement, UNHCR representatives and Hungarian Helsinki Committee NGO. The delegation visited a border checkpoint at the Austria-Hungary border, a temporary holding facility for irregular migrants near the Slovakia-Austria-Hungary borders, and a temporary holding facility for irregular migrants at the airport in Budapest. The visit provided the Moldovan participants with first hand examples of good collaboration between Hungarian authorities and the authorities of neighbouring countries, and local civil society. At the same time, the Moldovan delegation met their Hungarian counterparts, and had the opportunity to network and exchange experiences.



Contact Person: Mihai Maciuca, e-mail: mmaciuca@iom.int

EU SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES CONSUMERS RIGHTS IN MOLDOVA

On 15-19 March the EU-funded project „Support for the Implementation of the EU-Moldova Agreements” organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Economy the „Consumers’ Awareness Week”. The event initiated under the slogan “Our Money, Our Rights” was launched within a special conference dedicated to the World Day of Consumer Protection.

A series of events aiming to promote consumer rights were held during the awareness week: informative sessions provided by the State Inspectorate for Market Surveillance and Consumer Protection for both consumers and business entities across the country. Accordingly, direct counselling meetings were organised in several commercial centres from Chisinau and other 8 districts, raising public awareness on consumer's rights and business entities responsibilities.

The Vice Minister of Economy, Octavian Calmic stated that this week is not a singular event, this meaning that promotion activities on consumers rights will take place almost every day. A range of representatives attended the conference - from the National Bank of Moldova, central and local public authorities, educational institutions as well as public associations active in the consumer protection field.



More information at: <http://support-md-eu.md/>

Contact person: Olga Captilova, e-mail: office@support-md-eu.md



EU PROJECT HOLDS A MISSION AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER MOLDOVA

On 16-17 March the EU-funded Regional Protection Support Project in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine conducted a protection monitoring and awareness raising mission at the southern border of Moldova (with Ukraine and Romania), in order to ensure that asylum seekers have access to the country and to asylum procedures in accordance with the national legislation and international standards. The mission included the UNHCR/Government/NGO joint Protection Monitoring Team.

The team monitored 3 Border Guard Regional Detachments and 9 International Border Crossing Points (BCPs) - including Giurgiulesti International Port. The protection monitoring missions are activities are governed by a Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2009 in Chisinau between the project and the Border Guard Service, Bureau for Migration and Asylum (MOI) and the Law Centre of Advocates NGO. The mission conducted in March concluded a series of awareness raising and PM missions combined with mini-trainings, initiated in November 2009 that covered all 9 Regional BG Detachments and all International BCPs that operate in Republic of Moldova at all segments of the state border - northern, western, southern and south-eastern, the only exception being the eastern segment of the border that is not controlled by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Contact person: Marin Roman, e-mail: roman@unhcr.org



EU PROJECT SUPPORTS OFFICIALS ON DOCUMENT SECURITY IN MOLDOVA

On 16-18 March the EU-funded project "Strengthening Capacities and Cooperation in the Identification of Forged and Falsified Travel Documents at the Moldova-Romania Border" held a workshop, entitled "Development of Training Curricula and Development/Updating of Manuals on Document Security". The event gathered representatives from the Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, which worked together with international experts from Hungary, the Netherlands and Romania.

The workshop was coordinated by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), which is the project implementing agency. The work was largely based on the previous workshop, held in January this year. As a result of the three-day work, a comprehensive training concept on document security and identification of forged/falsified documents was developed. This concept includes draft curricula and manuals based on the best examples from EU Member States. The draft curricula and manuals will be fine-tuned and updated during the final workshop from this project module, which will be held in Chisinau in June 2010.

Contact Person: Monika Weber, e-mail: monika.weber@icmpd.org



EU PROJECT HANDS OVER A NEW HOME CARE UNIT IN HINCESTI

On 17 March the EU-funded project "Establishment of a Home Care Unit at the Municipality of Hincesti" held the ceremony for the handing over of the Home Care Unit to the Municipality of Hincesti. Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, Head of the EU Delegation as well as officials of the Municipality of Hincesti took part in the event.

The Home Care Unit was handed over to the Municipality and will be running with the financial support of the project until 31 August 2010. The Unit is established in the premises of the Municipal Health Centre and is modelled after similar centres from EU Member States, for the delivery of Health and Social Welfare services to people in need of such assistance.

The Unit addresses primarily the social welfare needs of incapacitated individuals, who cannot cater for themselves either on a permanent basis, or for a shorter period of time. By definition, this target group includes the elderly, people with sensory or mental disabilities, long term ill individuals or people who are recovering following an illness.

The project is funded from the TACIS 2006 Cross Border Cooperation Programme. It is implemented from November 2008 with a total budget of €274,260 (90% EU grant and 10% contribution from Hincesti Raional Council).

Contact Person: Angela Sestacov e-mail: anestacov@mail.ru





FLEMISH INCOMING BUSINESS MISSION

Subsequent to an Export Scoping Mission executed in Romania by the SEPIA Project during January, 2010, the Flemish Investment and Trade Agency's Representative Office in Romania contacted the SEPIA Project in view of organising a two-day Incoming Flemish Trade Mission to Chisinau, Moldova, at the end of March, 2010.

Following the eager acceptance of MIEPO/SEPIA of this proposal, a business mission was organised for over 12 Flemish companies to Chisinau during 30-31 March, 2010. Whilst the first day primarily focussed on the organisation of an introductory business seminar for the participating Flemish companies on how to do business in Moldova, the second day was fully dedicated to direct business-to-business meetings between the Flemish companies and their Moldovan counterparts. Over 50 direct B2B meetings were organised, covering a wide range of trade, investment and cooperation possibilities in, amongst others, the ICT, agri-processing and textile sectors.



More information at: <http://miepo.md/>

Contact person: Philip Santens, e-mail: philip.santens@gfa-sepia.md

PORTUGUESE INCOMING BUSINESS MISSION

At the request of the Portuguese Embassy in Bucharest, Romania and the Moldovan Ministry of Economy (MoE), MIEPO/SEPIA organised a business mission to Chisinau for over 10 Portuguese companies to Chisinau on 26 March, 2010.

Whilst the morning session was devoted to an introductory business seminar for the participating Portuguese companies on how to do business in Moldova, the second part of the day was fully dedicated to direct business-to-business meetings between Portuguese companies and their Moldovan counterparts. Over 30 direct B2B meetings were organised, covering a wide range of trade, investment and cooperation possibilities in, especially, the infrastructure sector.



More information at: <http://miepo.md/>

Contact person: Philip Santens, e-mail: philip.santens@gfa-sepia.md

REGIONAL ICT SUMMIT

Since the beginning of its project activities in November, 2009, the SEPIA Project has earmarked the Moldovan ICT sector as one of the promising key sectors of Moldova to generate accelerated exports.

Within this framework the SEPIA Project has facilitated the conclusion of a Global Partnership Agreement (GPA) between its local export promotion counterpart, MIEPO, and the Moldovan ICT Sector Association (AICT), which provides the platform for the financial and technical project support to a number of specific Moldovan ICT sector export promotion activities. Within this set-up, the SEPIA Project sponsored the organisation and implementation of the First Regional ICT Summit in Chisinau, between 30 and 31 March, 2010. The Summit, which was held under the auspices of the Moldovan Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) was attended by over 100 Moldovan and foreign ICT professionals and focussed on the strategic orientation of the Moldovan ICT sector in an ever-increasing globalised ICT environment, including, but not limited to, ICT country branding, Business Processing Outsourcing (BPOs) and the creation and nurturing of inter-regional ICT outsourcing platforms.



More information at: <http://miepo.md/>

Contact person: Philip Santens, e-mail: philip.santens@gfa-sepia.md

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION AT MOLDOVAN LABORATORY-LEVEL CONTINUED

Within the framework of its upgrading and international accreditation programme for selected Moldovan Testing Laboratories, the project has continued to support the beneficiary testing laboratories in preparing for international (ISO 17025) certification and accreditation.

During the current month, the project has, in particular, 1) continued the Proficiency Testing (PT) stages for the Feed and Republican Centre for Veterinary Diagnosis' Testing Laboratories, 2) mobilised the contracted Romanian Moldovan Product Testing Specialists to assist in these processes and 3) initiated the formulation of a customer-friendly Handbook on the different aspects of establishing an internationally-recognised MSTQ infrastructure in Moldova.

More information at: <http://miepo.md/>

Contact person: Philip Santens, e-mail: philip.santens@gfa-sepia.md



EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 APRIL, CHISINAU

Visit of the 2nd National Steering Committee of the EU-funded Regional Protection Support Project to the Border Guard Service of Republic Moldova.

Contact person: Marin Roman, e-mail: roman@unhcr.org

6-7 APRIL, CHISINAU

Workshop for the members and staff of the Committee for Legal Issues Appointments and Immunities and the members of the Committee for National Security, Defence and Public Order of the Parliament of Moldova.

Contact person: Krisztián Kovács, e-mail: kovacsparlament@gmail.com

7 APRIL, CAHUL

Third Training Session for municipal specialists and politicians of the EU-funded project "Capacity Strengthening and Awareness Raising in Cahul Region".

Contact person: Iacob Ajder, e-mail: iacobajder@yahoo.fr

13-15 APRIL, CHISINAU

Workshop of the EU-funded project "Development of a Comprehensive Information Exchange Mechanism on Document Security".

Contact person: Monika Weber, e-mail: monika.weber@icmpd.org

13-15 APRIL, CHISINAU

Training on constitutionality control for the members and officials of the Parliament of Moldova.

Contact person: Krisztián Kovács, e-mail: kovacsparlament@gmail.com

19-23 APRIL, CHISINAU

Evaluation session on the parliamentary control over the government for the members and officials of the Parliament of Moldova.

Contact person: Krisztián Kovács, e-mail: kovacsparlament@gmail.com

21 APRIL, CHISINAU

International Conference entitled "New technologies in List Compilation". Expected attendance around 100. project Electoral Support to Moldova"

Contact Person: Charlotte Souibes, e-mail: charlotte.souibes@undp.org

22 APRIL, CHISINAU

UNDP meeting of the EU-funded project "Electoral Support to Moldova" for around 70 participants.

Contact Person: Charlotte Souibes e-mail: charlotte.souibes@undp.org

23 APRIL, CHISINAU

International ACEEEO Conference of the EU-funded project "Electoral Support to Moldova" for around 80 participants.

Contact Person: Charlotte Souibes e-mail: charlotte.souibes@undp.org

28-29 APRIL

Steering Committee meeting of the Project Leaders

Contact Person: Krisztián Kovács, e-mail: kovacsparlament@gmail.com