



EU PROJECT PUBLISHES A STUDY OF COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY IN MOLDOVA

On 20 April the EU-funded project “Support for the Implementation of Agreements between Moldova and the European Union” held the launch of the first of a series of expert studies on law approximation to EU standards in Moldova, entitled: “Competition Law and Policy – Law Approximation to EU Standards in the Republic of Moldova”.

Welcoming the publication Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, Head of the EU Delegation appreciated that the study is designed not only to support the legal approximation process in the Republic of Moldova, but to promote competition and efficiency in the Moldovan marketplace, to ensure that all Moldovans enjoy the benefit of low prices, product choice and quality service.”

The publication has an analytical part (on Moldova), and information/explanatory part (on the EU) and an advisory part (for future action by the Moldovan authorities). The main conclusion from the analysis is that the approximation of competition law and policy in Moldova to EU norms and in line with EU-Moldova and other agreements has progressed slowly and not always in the right direction. In this regard, the study focuses primarily on the Law on the Protection of Competition of 2000 which was found to have significant deficiencies vis-à-vis EU standards. The study recommends a specific strategic effort in this sector in the next five years and sets out the elements of a strategy for the full development of competition law and policy approximation in Moldova in the form of specific legislative proposals and a five-year competition development strategy.

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

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EU-COE PROJECT DISCUSS THE LIBERALISATION OF MOLDOVAN ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

In April the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented programme “Increased independence, transparency and efficiency of the justice system in the Republic of Moldova” organised a working group to discuss the current state of the liberalisation of the enforcement system and a roadmap towards the completion of the reform. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Enforcement Department and bailiffs’ profession, judges, representatives of Legal Standing Committee of the Parliament and of Moldovan Chamber of Commerce, as well as Council of Europe experts.

The one-day event was carried out as a follow-up of the working group on the first concept of the draft Law on bailiffs, aiming at holding joint discussions on the current state of affairs in the process of enforcement system and bailiffs’ profession reform, at suggesting Moldovan counterparts solutions on how to avoid possible obstacles in the process of the reform, as well as at joint drafting of an approximate roadmap of next steps to be taken in order to finalise the reform.

The Working Group has offered the participants a possibility to have another exchange of views and a preliminary revision of the current draft law as well as to formulate the first conclusions and opinions on the timetable of the next phases of the reform process, such as entry into force of the law and its implementation, adoption of secondary legislation, setting up of bailiffs’ self-administration bodies and the commencement of private bailiffs activity itself.

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EU PROJECT HOLDS LESSONS FOR TEENAGERS ON HIV

At the end of April, the first group of young people from Tiraspol enjoyed an interactive lesson entitled “Heart connection tour” about prophylaxis of HIV and AIDS infection. During the lesson, the teenagers were informed about the ways of HIV infection transmission, the situation regarding cases of HIV/AIDS in the native town.

HIV prophylaxis activity unfolded in districts on the left side of the Dniester river is implemented in collaboration with local authorities, “HIV and infectious diseases prophylaxis and fighting centre”, NGO “Healthy Future”, under assistants of “Support to Confidence Building Measures” programme, financed by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

Throughout this year, over 100 same lessons will be held for young people from Tiraspol, Bender, Slobozia, Râbnîța and Dnestrovsc.

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EU-UNDP PROJECT PROVIDES RECOMMENDATIONS ON TORTURE PREVENTION AND COMBATING

On 28 April the EU-UNDP project „Torture Prevention” introduced the basic study „Situation in R. Moldova on combating torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment forms”. According to the study, the detention conditions at police stations do not meet the national and international legislative requirements; the situation regarding maltreatment and attempts to hush up cases of torture and inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment of prisoners remains worrisome; the situation in psychiatric institutions is alarming etc.

The authors of the study concluded that, up till present, domestic investigations conducted by the Ministry of Domestic Affairs did not comply with torture investigation principles and good practice. The majority of criminal investigations in torture cases (before and after April 2009 events) do not meet the minimal requirements. The experts drafted a series of recommendations and actions, which were included in a new chapter regarding torture prevention and combating. The new chapter is part of the National Action Plan in the field of Human Rights and has been presented to the authorities for approval.

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EU PROJECT SUMS UP PRELIMINARILY ACHIEVEMENTS ON SUPPORT TO THE MOLDOVAN PARLIAMENT

On 29 April the EU-funded Twinning project “Support to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova” held its Steering Committee (SC) meeting to discuss the successful implementation of the activities of the project as well as to decide on the last months of implementation. The SC consists of the project leaders on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Speaker of Parliament Mihai Ghimpu, of the EU Member State partners, the French and the Hungarian Parliament, the EU Delegation representative, and a Government official.

Maintaining the project that has started in July 2008, is in line with the strategy of the ruling Alliance for European Integration as the project can contribute to the preparation of the Parliament in its capacities for going forward on its path toward European integration process.

During October 2009-March 2010 altogether 14 activities such as training seminars for the MPs, the staff of Parliament as well as civil servants of the Executive, on EU structure, legal approximation, and programming, also on the legal framework for the interparliamentary relations among EU Member States national parliaments, as well as on the parliamentary procedures and electoral systems has been held. In addition, several bilateral meetings took place in the Parliament and in the Government to provide consultancy on up-to-date issues like the presidential electoral systems, the Human Resources capacities and restructuring of the parliamentary administration, rules of procedures of national parliaments, and infrastructural issues to reinforce its democratically functioning.

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EU PROJECT FAMILIARISE MOLDOVAN OFFICIALS WITH EU PRACTICE IN THE DOCUMENT SECURITY

On 3-7 May the EU-funded project “Strengthening Capacities and Cooperation in the Identification of Forged and Falsified Travel Documents at the Moldova-Romania Border” held a study visit to Hungary. During the visit representatives from the Moldovan Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as the Ministry of Informational Technologies and Communication had the unique opportunity to share experience and knowledge on document security and information exchange with the Hungarian colleagues.

The issues raised during the visit varied from the structure and work of the Hungarian National Police in Budapest, presentation on the National Security Intelligence Service, teaching methods at the Adyliget Police Technical College, functions and structure of the Csongrád County Police Headquarters and Border Police Service in Szeged to the practical aspects of the production of the Hungarian documents by the State Printing House, the airport policing at International Airport Ferihegy in Budapest and the border policing at the EU external border at the Hungarian-Serbian border crossing point at Röszke. The study visit has supplemented the knowledge gained during the previous workshops which have been implemented on the monthly basis as of January 2010. It has also served as a basis for the training of trainers, which takes place on 25 May-3 June 2010 in Chisinau.

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EU-UNHCR PROJECT HANDS OVER IT EQUIPMENT TO MOLDOVAN COURTS

On 5 May the EU-funded and UNHCR-implemented project “Regional Protection Support Project in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine” handed over to Calarasi District Court of Justice IT equipment (computers, printers). Chairman of the Supreme Council of Magistrates Dumitru Visterniceanu, Chairman of Calarasi District Court of Justice Grigore Daschevici, judges from the abovementioned court and project representatives participated in the official ceremony.

The handover is an important step in the implementation of the EU-funded project aimed at strengthening the capacity of government authorities and judiciary with a view of developing a fair and efficient asylum system in accordance with European and international standards. In order to enhance the operational capacity of the court system in Republic of Moldova, four courts received IT equipment with a total value of \$22,000.

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EU PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO REHABILITATION OF DISABLED CHILDREN

On 6 May the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented programme „Support to Confidence Building Measures” launched a series of practical seminars for employees of day-care centres for disabled children and youth in the Republic of Moldova, including Transnistrian region on the topic „Infantile cerebral paralysis and rehabilitation methods”.

The sharing of experience seeks to inform the participants about the notions and practical methods for rehabilitation of children suffering from infantile cerebral paralysis (ICP). During the first seminar, the participants visited the kineto-therapy room from school no. 120 from Chisinau (institution attended by children with special needs), assisted during the demonstration of physical rehabilitation methods for children suffering from ICP (examples of children with various forms and degrees of severity were introduced) and documented themselves about several specific cases of becoming sick with the concerned illnesses.

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EU-UNDP INITIATIVE REDUCES NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MIGRATION

On 10 May the children whose parents are abroad and grandparents looking after them from Carabetovca village, Basarabeasca district, took part in a sports contest „Happy starts”. This activity aims at reducing the impact of migration phenomenon upon multi-generational families and strengthening ties between the younger and the elder.

The contest is held by the project “Strengthening community-based support to multi-generational households left behind by migration in Moldova”, assisted financially by the EU-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative.

The competition included seven sports tests and dancing for the entire audience. During the event, grandparents provided children with useful pieces of advice and ideas for various situations, whereas children, to their turn, helped the grandparents jump with skipping ropes, play with the ball, assemble pyramids etc.

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EU-COE PROJECT HOLDS TRAINING SEMINARS FOR MOLDOVAN LAWYERS

On 10-11 May the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented programme “Increased independence, transparency and efficiency of the justice system in the Republic of Moldova” held two training seminars for national lawyers on Article 10 “Freedom of Expression” of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The training was conducted by the Council of Europe experts and registered the attendance of 45 lawyers.

Among other issues the participants learned about the system of ECHR, core elements and principles of the right to freedom of expression, subjects and types of expression, limits and conditions of permissible restrictions of the mentioned right. Also, during the discussion over the case-law of the European Court in cases against Moldova, Council of Europe experts outlined the most frequent mistakes made by Moldovan judges when examining cases relating to freedom of expression.

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EU PROJECT ORGANISES A MOLDOVAN OUTGOING BUSINESS MISSION TO THE EU

On 11-12 May the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova” held an outgoing business mission for over 10 Moldovan information communication and technologies (ICT) companies to Amsterdam. The visit was organised in close cooperation with the Moldovan ICT Association under the auspices of the Moldovan Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT).

The mission was organised as a combination of formal Moldovan IT sector introductory seminars to interested Dutch private and public sector representatives as well as a direct business-to-business meeting forum and visits at leading Dutch IT companies and governmental IT support organisations. Overall, the mission was a great success and, especially, the location of Moldova of a near-shore IT outsourcing destination drew a vivid interested from Dutch IT software development companies.

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

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EU PROJECT HOLDS A SEMINAR AT MOLDOVA COUNTRY CONFERENCE IN ZAGREB

The EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova” held an introductory business seminar on “How to Do Business in Moldova” at the Moldovan Country Conference organised within the framework of EBRD’s Annual Conference in Zagreb, Croatia between 14-16 May. The seminar was held at the request of the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Valeriu Lazar.

The Country Conference, chaired by Vice Prime Minister Lazar, was well-attended and a large number of questions were raised by the audience, especially in terms of new reform policies adopted by the new Government of Moldova and concrete tips on how to successfully invest and/or enter into the Moldovan market.

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

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EU PROJECT ORGANISES A SLOVAK INCOMING BUSINESS MISSION TO MOLDOVA

On 7 May the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova” organised a business-to-business event for over 12 Slovak companies. The event was held at the request of the Moldovan Ministry of Economy.

During this match-making event over 40 direct business-to-business meetings were organised between interested Slovak and Moldovan companies covering a wide range of trade, investment and cooperation possibilities, especially, in the energy, road and water sectors.

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

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EU PROJECT HOLDS FULL-FLEDGED CELEBRATIONS OF EUROPE DAY

On 15 May the EU-funded project “Communication and Visibility 2010 in Moldova” organised in Chisinau full-fledged celebrations of the Europe Day. The event was coordinated by the EU Delegation to Moldova in cooperation with Chisinau City Hall and the Embassies of EU Member States in Moldova, as well as the leading EU-funded projects in the country. The event took place on the Great National Assembly Square in Chisinau and was meant to bring the European Union closer to the Moldovan citizens.



The European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Ștefan Füle paid a visit to Chisinau to attend the event. “I am delighted to witness the city preparing to celebrate Europe Day with such enthusiasm”, said Commissioner Füle.

For Europe Day, a European Village was set up where more than 20 leading EU-funded projects in Moldova and Embassies of EU Member States welcomed citizens in about 50 tents, to distribute promotional materials, organise quizzes and communicate with the public, hold education and information activities. EU-funded projects called attention on EU assistance to Moldova, and on how Moldovan citizens benefit from it.

The Embassies presented the “Unity in Diversity” of European cuisines in their food tents, where guests were invited to taste traditional European food and drinks. Two Language Schools offered citizens the opportunity to pick up key words and phrases in many EU languages. The EU Ambassador and high representatives of Moldova answered questions from the public within the debates on political and economic aspects of the EU-Moldova relations.

The event culminated in a concert by the Moldovan band “Alternosfera” and the Latvian band “Brainstorm”.

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EU-COE PROJECT DISCUSSES THE LEGAL PROFESSION REFORM

On 17-18 May the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented programme “Increased independence, transparency and efficiency of the justice system in the Republic of Moldova” held a roundtable on possible improvements of the legal framework with regard to lawyers’ status, procedural position and rights in defence of their clients, having paid due consideration the current priorities of the Ministry of Justice regarding the legal profession reform and the improvement of national procedural legislation, including guarantees of a fair trial.



The activity is a follow-up of the expert assessment of Moldovan legislation aiming at bringing lawyers’ status and rights in the exercise of their clients defence in line with the European standards and best practices, prepared by the Council of Europe experts.

The round table was attended by some 40 lawyers, representatives of judicial and other state authorities, of the civil society and donor community. Participants to the roundtable agreed that comprehensive revision of the Criminal Procedure Code and Administrative Offences Code in accordance with experts’ joint opinion is necessary. It was suggested that all the recommendations should be considered by the working groups and committees charged with the amendment of relevant legislation (namely Law on Legal Profession, Civil Procedure Code and other codes).

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EU PROJECT PRESENTS GERMAN AND UKRAINIAN TEXTILES’ MARKET SURVEYS

On 21 May the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova” organised the presentation of the German and Ukrainian Textiles’ Market Surveys prepared by the German and Ukrainian Export and Investment Promotion In-Market Specialists Jens Hauser and Olexander Tsepko.



The event, which was attended by over 40 Moldovan businesses wishing to export textiles and textiles-related products to Germany and/or Ukraine focussed on current German and Ukrainian textiles market import trends, specific niches where Moldovan textiles products could establish a significant market presence in these countries and concrete suggestions and recommendations to realise Moldovan textiles exports to Germany and/or Romania.

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

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EU PROJECT PROMOTES HEALTH, DISEASE PREVENTION, AND HEALTHY LIFE STYLES

On 21 May the EU-funded project “Support to Health Reform: Strengthening of Primary Health Care in Moldova” jointly with the Ministry of Health launched a public information and awareness campaign: “If you wish to be healthy, contribute to it day by day!”. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness within the society about the importance of taking responsibility for personal health and to promote a positive perception of healthy life styles, as well as to support attempts to practice healthy life styles within the primary target group – Moldovan families. Also, under the campaign Primary Health Care institutions will be supported in developing patient education & awareness programs.



The campaign will promote: healthy alimentation, sport practicing, control of the stress level, disease prevention measures for your body, regular general checkups, replacing bad habits with healthy activities. During the campaign health promotion specialists, family practitioners and journalists, working together with local communities, will be actively involved in the implementation of this campaign via public and interpersonal communication activities. The campaign will be implemented during May-July 2010. Video, audio and printed materials will be distributed among the population and health promotion interpersonal activities will be conducted via experts from Centres of Preventive Medicine and Family Centres practitioners in: Chisinau; Singerei; Comrat; Floresti; Drochia; Cimislia; Orhei; Stefan Voda; Laloveni; Anenii Noi; Criuleni; and Cahul.

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

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NEW EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON MIGRATION LAUNCHED IN CHISINAU

On 21 May the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project “Support to the Implementation of Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership” was launched in Chisinau. The project was presented within the meeting of the Cooperation Platform for EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership. The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Natalia Gherman and Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, Head of the EU Delegation.



This project has a budget of around €2 million and will be implemented during 2010-2012, focusing primarily on stimulating the return of Moldovan migrants. Project beneficiaries will be immigrants and their families returned home, diaspora associations, Moldovan citizens living abroad, children and elders, entrepreneurs, those who want to borrow to start or create your own business in Moldova, women and young entrepreneurs, people Diaspora science research community in Moldova, Moldovan professionals, Moldovan graduates of foreign educational institutions and public institutions responsible for migration management.

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EU BORDER MISSION HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL MINI-FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On 22-23 May the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) hosted an international mini-football tournament in Odesa. The event ran for two days and included teams from the Ukrainian and Moldovan border guard and customs services, the Romanian border police, FRONTEX (the EU agency that coordinates operational cooperation between EU Member States in the field of border security), the Odesa regional administration and EUBAM.



“The football tournament is about building trust and good relationships” said Udo Burkholder, Head of EUBAM. “Our tournament last year helped build working relationships between Moldova, Ukraine and EUBAM and I’m delighted that teams of experts from the EU are joining us this year” he added. The tournament took place at the Lyusdorf Sport and Recreation Centre – Chernomorets’ Training Base, Sovinion district, Odessa and was the second of its kind. An extensive opening ceremony took place with all teams on parade before kick. The tournament began with matches in the two groups followed by a playoff for 3rd and 4th places and of course the final. A friendly mini-tournament for border guard and customs chiefs, EUBAM senior management and regional leaders took place as part of the event. EUBAM and the border guards and customs services of Moldova and Ukraine have held a number of such trust building exercise to date, including a women’s volleyball tournament in September 2009 as well as the first international mini-football tournament in Odesa in 2009.

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

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EU PROJECT HOLDS A STUDY VISIT FOR MOLDOVAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE EU

On 23-26 May the EU-funded Twinning project “Support to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova” held a visit to the Estonian Parliament for Moldovan parliamentary delegation. The study visit focused on exchanging experiences on the control function of Parliament over the Government in democracies of EU Members States. The Moldovan delegation was received in the Estonian Parliament by the Secretary General Heiki Sibul.

During the study visit the delegation had discussions and exchange of views with the Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Chairman of the National Defence Committee, the Deputy Head of the Research Department of the Estonian Parliament, as well as with the adviser to EU Affairs Committee.

In order to assure the complex exchange of information on the subject of the control function of Parliament over the Government, the delegation has met the Information Adviser of the Government, who gave an overview of the highly developed Estonian e-government system, the Deputy Director of the Office of Chancellor of Justice, and the Director of the State Audit Office of Estonia. The delegation had the opportunity to discuss the bilateral relations between Moldova and Estonia and the current developments in the Republic of Moldova.

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EU_UNDP INITIATIVE REDUCES NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MIGRATION

On 24 May the children whose parents are working abroad and the grandparents who look after these children from Lăpușna, Hâncești district, felt themselves real actors on the stage of the Social Theatre during a performance entitled „The kid with three nanny-goats”. The play, staged in Lăpușna primary school and having a cast of 4 grandmothers and 9 children, aimed at reducing the negative impact of migration upon family members left behind and strengthening relationships between generations.

The Social Theatre represents one of the activities foreseen by the project “Strengthening community-based support to multi-generational households left behind by migration in Moldova”, assisted financially by the EU-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative.

The involvement of grandparents and grandchildren in the Social Theatre aims at strengthening relationships between generations and diminishing the negative impact resulted from parents’ migration upon the family members left behind. The performance has a social character. Once presented to the public, it strives to approach the existent problem in the society and jointly identify solutions to settle it. It represents a successful dovetailing of role-play, involvement of younger and elder generations in the social life for ensuring a closer communication between them.

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EU-COE PROJECT DONATES EQUIPMENT TO THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF PROSECUTORS

On 25 May the EU-funded and Council of Europe-implemented programme “Increased independence, transparency and efficiency of the justice system in the Republic of Moldova” donated technical equipment worth almost €10,000 to the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP) aiming at ensuring the proper functioning of the mentioned institution.

The donation includes 3 desktop computers, 1 laptop, 2 printers, 1 heavy-duty copy machine, 1 video camera, etc. The donated equipment was rendered to SCP at the premises of the General Prosecutor’s Office in attendance of the members of the Superior Council of Prosecutors.

The range of activities and assistance provided by the Joint Programme with regard to the reform of the prosecution service in the Republic of Moldova includes: expert’s opinions and assistance relating to the new Law on Public Prosecution Service, improvement of the system of initial and ongoing training for prosecutors through the National Institute of Justice, organisation of study visits and advancement of international co-operation, assistance in the drafting and the implementation of the Communication Strategy of the Public Prosecutor’s Service, provision of technical equipment to the prosecutor’s office of Anenii-Noi, assistance aiming at the founding of the Superior Council of Prosecutors, etc.

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APPROXIMATION OF MOLDOVAN TAXATION LAW AND POLICY TO EU STANDARDS

On 27 May the EU-funded project “Support for the Implementation of Agreements between Moldova and the European Union” held the launch of a major study entitled: “Taxation Law and Policy – Approximation to EU Standards in the Republic of Moldova”. Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, Head of the EU Delegation, as well as senior officials from the Ministry for Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration and State Tax Inspectorate attended the event.



In the context of Moldova's efforts towards greater EU integration, the approximation of tax legislation and systems is of particular importance and operates in two phases – the removal of all types of tax barriers to trade, establishment and investment and, eventually, the alignment of national tax rules and procedures with those commonly adopted in the European Union. Underlying both phases is the gradual development of a modern and objectively fair tax administration. The presented study notes the progress achieved in Moldova and the specific complexities of EU law and policy in the tax field. While minor changes in Moldovan direct taxation are recommended, a significant agenda of further reform issues is identified in regard to indirect taxation (VAT and excise duties) and the continuing challenges of achieving an effective and modern tax administration in Moldova.

More information at: <http://support-md-eu.md/>
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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2-5 JUNE, POTSDAM AND BREMEN

Moldova Outgoing Business Mission to Germany by the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova”

More information at: <http://miepo.md/>
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4-5 JUNE, HRUSEVO VILLAGE, CRIULENI

Working group with the topic: “Inspection and monitoring social welfare” organised by EU-funded project “Addressing Needs of Vulnerable Layers of The Population of Moldova”.

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6-12 JUNE, MINSK

Moldova Outgoing Business Mission to Belarus by the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova”

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9-11 JUNE, CHISINAU

Assisting the implementation of the new assessment techniques in Regulatory Impact Assessment by the EU-funded project “Support to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova”

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11 JUNE, CHISINAU

Next Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded project "Democracy Support Package"

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16 JUNE, CHISINAU

Next Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded project “Support to Export Promotion and Investment Attraction in the Republic of Moldova”

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