

GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

EUBAM TRAINS ON FORGED DOCUMENTS

Chisinau, 4 March – More than forty Moldovan border policemen and officers of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs started a three-day training course to improve their ability to detect forged travel documents.

The EUBAM course provides basic information available in document security to the officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. With advancing technology the fake documents are getting more and more sophisticated. That's why it is important that the border officers' knowledge is up-to-date.

"Fake IDs are a problem not only for Moldova, but also present a global challenge, especially in light of international terrorism and human trafficking. Many crimes can be avoided or solved by detecting forged documents," said Matthias Ambrecht, the EUBAM Border Police Expert conducting the training.

The course focuses on the visual and electronic security features of identification documents and participants receive practical tips on how to distinguish genuine identification documents from forgeries. The course topics include forgery methods, Schengen visa, selected foreign passports and detection of impostors using valid documents.

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 12 March 2014, the EU Project "Consolidation of migration management capacities in the Republic of Moldova" organized a high-level conference to inform the heads of local Employment Agencies and the heads of directorates of the National Employment Agency regarding changes to be implemented by the Republic of Moldova within the Association Agreement with the European Union, initialized last November, in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Mr. Iulian Groza, deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, offered details regarding the provisions of the Association Agreement, which is to be signed, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) and the Agreement on visa liberalization regime. In his presentation, Mr. Groza mentioned changes that will appear, as well as the advantages that we will benefit from as a result of their implementation.

Mr Serjiu Sainciuc, deputy Minister of Labour Social Protection and Family, reiterated the reforms, which will be implemented in the field of employment, social policy and equal opportunities within the Association Agreement with the EU highlighting the importance of reforms and activities to be realized for the sustainable development of Moldova.

Mr. Mindaugas Kacerauskis, political officer of the European Union Delegation in Chisinau expressed the European Union's vision with respect to the Association Agreement. Mr. Kacerauskis, in his speech, mentioned that it is vital for Moldova to determine the objectives of strategic development within the Association Agreement with EU and to undertake serious efforts for their achievement.

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PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES TRAINED TO PROFESSIONALLY WORK ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

On 13th of March, 20 prosecutors and judges from various districts of Moldova participated in the training: "The investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes under the new trends and changes in legislation". This activity was organized within the framework of the EU-funded project "Strengthening Migration Management and Cooperation on Readmission in Eastern Europe (MIGRECO)" implemented by the International Organization for Migration.

Based on case studies, participants of the training discussed the most effective methods of investigation in the context of new trends and changes in the legislation on trafficking in persons. The participants also discussed the particularities of trying cases of human trafficking and child trafficking. Prosecutors and judges from various districts of Moldova learned about efficient practices of hearing the testimonies of victims of human trafficking using verbal and nonverbal communication. Also, they learned about psychological state of victims of trafficking, as well as their legal protection.

This is the first training from the series of activities dedicated to prosecutors and judges, meant to develop their capacity in facing and solving human trafficking cases.

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SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL NEXUS WHEELS ARE ALSO GAINING SPEED

Every day NEXUS Moldova activities enforce and highlight local perspectives and contributions in the gaining of efficiencies at all stages of circular migration process. In this regard, the volunteers that make up the three NEXUS Local Advisory Boards (LAB) play central roles. Over the months each LAB has gained more speed and confidence, as shown again during the March round of LAB meetings held in three the pilot rayons of Cahul, Edinet and Ungheni.

These meetings focused on reviewing the activities envisaged in the Local (Rayon-level) Plans of Action and establishing the next steps to be undertaken by the consortium partners. Also LAB members discussed the day-to-day business process developed for Local Service Centers (LSC) and already put into motion.

In order to get more transparency and popularity for LSC, Local Awareness Campaigns were developed and presented to LAB members, who contributed their valuable inputs reflecting local peculiarities.

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SUPPORT THE USE OF REMITTANCES FOR NEW BUSINESSES AND JOBS CREATION.

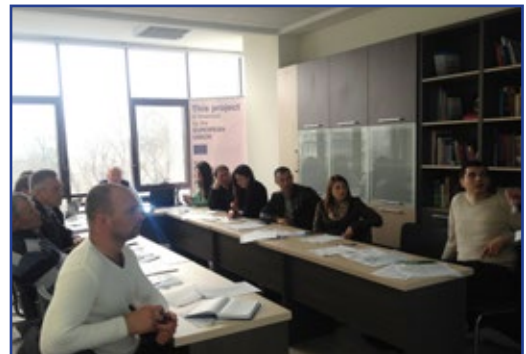
In the framework of the "Support the use of remittances for new businesses and jobs creation" Project, during March 2014 monitoring visits have been organized and held in Ungheni, Nisporeni, Ocnita and Drochia Rayons. During visits were monitored new established businesses for who were elaborated business plans, consultancy starting from the registration of enterprise till its start up. Also in March the beneficiary of the project were contacted in order to see the help needed for further assistance.

On March 21 in Drochia and 28 in Chisinau were organized 2 post creation seminars on: "Crop protection, subsidizing, alternative sources of funding". The group was formed for the first seminar of 15 persons, beneficiaries of the project which were selected approximately by the same type of business- Agriculture and by the same problems that they have encountered. At the second seminar were present 12 beneficiaries that mainly have peasant farms, also in agriculture from South and Centre Rayons.

In March were written 3 success stories additional and posted in national newspapers. In april there will be 3-4 more, in order to cover all the success stories from South, North and Centre Regions.

In April there will be organized and held another 2 post creation seminar for beneficiars at their request in South and North Regions.

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TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA CONTEST 2014 HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest was launched on 5 March 2014. This is the largest competition in the area of energy efficiency and renewables. The Contest is open for public institutions, private sector representatives, NGOs, foundations, initiative groups, Media, Academia and individuals that have successfully accomplished notable, innovative and ambitious initiatives aimed at using and promoting renewables and energy efficiency.

"The Competition proved its paramount importance over time, and has become a milestone for remarkable achievements in the area of energy efficiency and renewables. The participating Projects have got success stories in their backgrounds, which serve as good examples and motivation, having inspired other people to follow them", Valeriu Lazar, Minister of Economy, Chairman of Moldova Eco-Energetica Coordination Board, stated.

The Contest enrolment requirements, the Application forms and other relevant data are available on the Energy Efficiency Agency webpage at: www.aee.md

The application period is set for 5 March – 5 August 2014. The Contest winners will be awarded during the Moldova Eco-Energetica Gala to be conducted on 5 December 2014.

Moldova Eco-Energetica is organized by the Ministry of Economy and Energy Efficiency Agency, in partnership with Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by UNDP Moldova.

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“TA TO ECONOMIC STIMULATION IN RURAL AREA (ESRA) BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAMME” SUPPORTS THE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ENPARD)

13 March, Chishinau. As part of its continued project activities within the framework of the EC-funded 2010-2012 Economic Stimulation in Rural Area Budget Support Programme (ESRA BSP) - Component TA 02 (support to rural development policies), the project provided concrete technical input to the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agricultural and Rural Development (ENPARD) technical workshop jointly organised by the Moldovan Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI), the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and the EU-funded project: “Support to the DCFTA Implementation Process”.

The technical workshop was attended by over 120 participants representing ministerial officials, donor organisations and projects operating in the agricultural and rural development sector, farmers and agri-processing enterprises as well as sector-relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The purpose of the workshop was to: i) present and discuss the new Moldova Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy (ARDS) around its 3 core dimensions, i.e. a) modernisation and competitiveness, b) natural resources preservation and c) rural development; define key sector development objectives around which EU and other donor support could be framed; identify key actors and stakeholders to be involved in each sector priority and identify complementarity with others interventions (on-going or planned); define sector coordination mechanisms at governmental and inter-donor level and identify possible technical assistance intervention areas to support the sector reform process launched.

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REORGANIZATION OF APA CANAL NISPORENI

On March 6, 2014 a workshop on the future external structure and internal organization of Apa Canal (AC) took place. The workshop is part of the institutional component of the ongoing Project “Rehabilitation of the Water Supply System in the Rayon Nisporeni” (www.prut-nisporeni.md) financed by the EU, ADA, SDC, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, the Rayon Council of Nisporeni and the three Municipalities.

The PIU “Posch & Partner Consulting Engineers” from Austria organized the workshop, which was moderated by the institutional expert Mr. Fritz Schwaiger. Participants included the mayors and councilors of the municipalities, AC as well as representatives of the project donors.

Currently, AC is an enterprise owned by the Municipality of Nisporeni and provides various public services. In the future, three Municipalities will be involved in the new system, which requires an adaptation of the current structure of AC. Different options were presented for the future legal structure. The objective is to transform AC into a modern, well organized, customer oriented water and wastewater service provider.

The Municipality also reports that the first two tender procedures for construction works were completed successfully. The contracts will be signed in April 2014 and the works shall start in April.

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4 ROAD REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS SIGNED ON 24 OF MARCH 2014

SE „State Road Administration” had signed on 24 of March 2014 four (4) contracts with a total amount estimated at EUR 79,772,614.69 which will provide the rehabilitation of the following roads in the next two years:

- Contract RSPSP/W4/01: „Rehabilitation of R1 Chisinau-Ungheni-Sculeni km 6+446-km 24+050”
- Contract RSPSP/W4/02: „Rehabilitation of R1 Chisinau-Ungheni-Sculeni, km 24+050-km 68+250”
- Contract RSPSP/W4/03: „Construction of Ungheni Bypass, R1 km 96+200 – km 103+913”
- Contract RSPSP/W4/04: „Rehabilitation of M3 Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti Road km 151+200 – km 171+290 and km 179+650- km 190+750”

These contracts are part of the Moldova Road Sector Program Support Project and in order to perform these contracts, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission (EC) granted financing to the Government of Moldova. The scheduled time for completion of works for each contract is 24 months and one year for the Defects Notification Period (warranty period).

By upgrading these sections of road is intended to reduce operational costs of transport for road users, the number of accidents, reducing the time spent in traffic and creating conditions of comfort and public road safety.

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CONFLICT PREVENTION**PEOPLE IN HAGIMUS, TALMAZA AND CIOBURCIU VILLAGES HAVE NOW ACCESS TO SAFE WATER**

20 March. On the eve of the World Water Day, more than 700 families and several social institutions from the south of Moldova have been connected to drinking water. Water supply systems built with the financial support of the European Union and UNDP "Support to Confidence Building Measures" Programme were launched today in Hagimus, Talmaza and Cioburciu villages.

During the last 20 years, the inhabitants of the three villages suffered because of the damaged or lack of water supply systems, while statistical data shows that the majority of diseases and deaths are caused by the lack of water or its poor quality

With the support of the EU-UNDP Support to Confidence Building Programme, over 21 km of aqueduct was built, a new well was drilled and two others were rehabilitated in the three villages. The overall investment of the EU-UNDP Support to Confidence Building Programme in the three villages constituted over 326.447 euro, while the communities contributed with 40.396 euro.

The building and renovation of the water supply systems provided the inhabitants not only with access to improved water sources, but also with more affordable costs.

The Programme is implemented during 2012-2015 with a total budget of 10.600.000 Euro, provided by the European Union (9,500,000 Euro) and UNDP (1,100,000 Euro).

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**CREATING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE SECURITY ZONE**

28 March. 10 young people from settlements in the Security Zone will benefit from grants of up to 15 thousand US dollars, individual consulting for a period of 10 months and assistance for the purchase of equipment and raw materials needed to start up or develop businesses. This is possible due to a project implemented by AXA Management Consulting, with the financial assistance of the European Union and the UNDP within the "Supporting Confidence Building Measures" Programme.

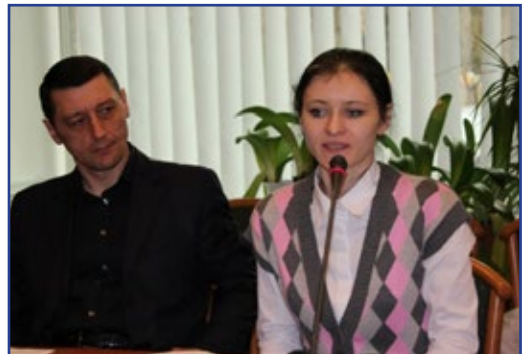
The young people were selected based on the business plan competition held over three weeks, where 71 competitors had participated. The competition was opened for young people from Floresti, Soldanesti, Rezina, Orhei, Criuleni Dubosari, Anenii Noi, Causeni and Stefan Voda districts, aged between 18 and 35 years. Within the project funded by the EU and the UNDP the selected young people will also benefit from study visits to enterprises on both banks of Nistru river and will become members of a network of young entrepreneurs. The network will become a platform for communication and dissemination of best practices that will help them establishing cooperation relationships with contractors on both banks of Nistru river.

Through this project, the EU-UNDP Confidence Building Programme aims to create employment opportunities for youth from the Security Zone and to increase confidence between people on both banks of Nistru river for them together to raise the standard of living.

For more details about the project visit:

<http://axa.md/news/Concurs-de-Planuri-de-Afacere---quotCrearea-oportunitilor-de-angajare-pentru-tinerii-din-zona-de-securitate-quot-Data-limit-/166>

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**OTHER EVENTS****3 MAY, COMRAT, R. MOLDOVA**

Eco-Mobile exhibition of Biomass boilers part of the subsidy programme

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10 MAY, HANCESTI, R. MOLDOVA

Eco-Mobile exhibition of Biomass boilers part of the subsidy programme

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16 MAY, EDINET, R. MOLDOVA

Roundtables on MEBP results in 4 regions (North, Centre, South, Gagauzia&Taraclia)

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28 April 2014

EU CO-OPERATION NEWS

Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova

19-21 MAY, VDAB/ BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Improving the capacities of NEA Call Centre. Consolidating the relations with private employment agencies.

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20 MAY, IALOVENI, R. MOLDOVA

Roundtables on MEBP results in 4 regions (North, Centre, South, Gagauzia&Taraclia)

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22 MAY, BALTI, R. MOLDOVA

Eco-Mobile exhibition of Biomass boilers part of the subsidy programme

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27 MAY, CIMISLIA, R. MOLDOVA

Roundtables on MEBP results in 4 regions (North, Centre, South, Gagauzia&Taraclia)

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29 MAY, COMRAT, R. MOLDOVA

Roundtables on MEBP results in 4 regions (North, Centre, South, Gagauzia&Taraclia)

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31 MAY, UNGHENI, R. MOLDOVA

Eco-Mobile exhibition of Biomass boilers part of the subsidy programme

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MAY, R. MOLDOVA

Press tour to Moldova Eco-Energetica 2013 edition finalists and winners

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