



Press Release

28 May, 2015

Chisinau

Head of EU Delegation to Moldova participates in the Closing Conference of the Economic Stimulation in Rural Area (ESRA) Technical Assistance Project in Chisinau

On Thursday 28 May, 2015 a closing conference marking the closure of the Economic Stimulation in Rural Area (ESRA) Technical Assistance Project was held in the premises of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova in Chisinau.

The closing conference was organised by the Moldovan Ministry of Economy in close cooperation by the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and included official statements by, amongst others, HE Stephane Bride, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova and HE Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

Since 2010 the European Union has been supporting development programmes and initiatives in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the Economic Stimulation in Rural Area Budget Support Programme (ESRA BSP), with the Economic Stimulation in Rural Area Technical Assistance Project (ESRA TA) being a key support tool for implementation.

The total EU financial assistance provided through the ESRA BSP programme during 2010-2014 has been approximately EUR 72 million, of which over 3.7 mn Euro through the ESRA TA Project, with the focal intervention areas being, on the one hand, the provision of SME business development funds through the Republic of Moldova's National Access to Funding Programmes such as the National Programme for the Economic Empowerment of Youth (NPEEY), the Moldovan Loan Guarantee Scheme (LGS), the National Programme for the Attraction of Migrants' Remittances into the Real Economy of the Republic of Moldova (PARE 1+1) and the national agricultural subvention scheme operated by the Agriculture Intervention and Payment Agency (AIPA) and, on the other hand, the creation of a Network of 8 Rural Business Incubators in the Republic of Moldova (Stefan Voda, Leova, Singerei, Rezina, Cosnita, Cedir Lunga, Nisporeni and Cimislia).

In this context, Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova, outlined the role Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) play in the creation of new businesses and jobs, and their relevance to rural economic activity in the Republic of Moldova:

“The EU-funded Economic Stimulation in Rural Area Budget Support Programme, assisted by an accompanying Technical Assistance Project, has played a key role in the economic development of Moldova’s rural economy. Since its inception in 2010, the ESRA BSP has disbursed over 3 200 individual business development grants, supported over 1 600 new and existing rural business, created close to 10 000 new jobs in the rural economy and created a network of 8 Rural Business Incubators. As the European Union we are proud to have been closely associated with this success”.

Background information:

In 2010 the EU and the Government of Moldova signed the Financing Agreement on the implementation of “The Economic Stimulation in Rural Area Budget Support Programme – ESRA BSP”, which aimed at supporting the sustainable economic development of the country’s rural areas by creating, amongst others, new rural businesses, generating higher-quality and better-paid rural jobs and providing, in general, a socio-economic boost to the disadvantaged rural areas of the country.

Following a number of financial top-ups in 2013 and 2014 the total EU financial contribution to the ESRA BSP programme equalled 72 mn Euro during 2010-2014, of which approximately 68 mn Euro was direct budget support and roughly 4 mn Euro technical assistance and other complimentary measures. The accompanying ESRA BSP TA project was implemented by a GFA Consulting Group GmbH-led consortium.

Photo caption:

The family Marzancanu at work in the family-owned bakery business started up with financial support through the EU ESRA BSP-funded PARE 1+1 Programme



For more information

Delegation of the EU to Moldova: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/index_en.htm



Contacts:

Kogalniceanu 12, MD 2001
Chisinau, Moldova

Tel: + 373 22 505 210
Fax: + 373 22 545 421

Delegation of
the European Union to Moldova

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