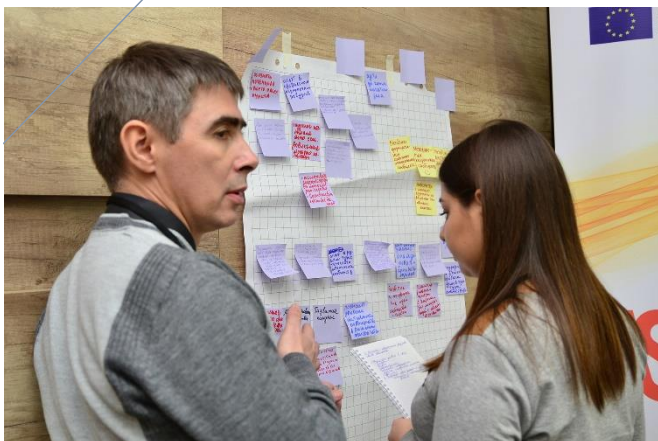


REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE OF 'SOLIDARITY FUND PL' FOUNDATION IN MOLDOVA, 2017



Chişinău, 2018

The report on the activity of the Representation of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova for 2017 refers to the activities, projects and events that took place between January - December 2017.

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Information Center for Local Authorities

Solidarity Fund PL is a state treasury foundation of Poland, re-established in 2011 by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to support the sustainable socio-economic development of the developing countries and their societies, as well as to support democratisation processes and building of modern state's institutions, promotion of human rights and supporting civil society.



Solidarity Fund PL

The Representation of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova started its activity in Moldova in 2012. The Representation aims at supporting the democracy and local development in Moldova. The Representation works under the initiative **Information Center for Local Authorities (ICLA)** – a joint program initiated through the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by Poland and the Republic of Moldova.

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Introduction

The mission of the Solidarity Fund PL Foundation in Moldova is the integrated support for **local development** and **local democracy development** in line with the **principle of resource-based local development** and the **principle of subsidiarity**.

The Foundation's Representation has been active in the Republic of Moldova since 2012 on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDM). Its legal address is registered in Ialoveni, but the office is located in Chisinau. The Office of the Representation from Moldova is managed by the Information Center for Local Authorities.



In 2017, the activities of the Representation were focused on supporting local development and local democracy in Moldova in two thematic directions: (i) **rural development** and (ii) **urban development**.

The objectives assumed were implemented through:



- **Strengthening the capacities of local leaders** (local government, non-government organisations) in community-based activities: workshops, trainings, support for local working processes, study visits, consultations, assistance in drawing up development strategies;
- **Creating partnerships** (both local and international) as well as sharing experience on local development, local democracy: study visits, discussions, but also implementing systemic

changes at local level (including the LEADER Program);

- **Supporting local communities** by funding small-scale development projects implemented by the local administration, non-government organisations and local entrepreneurs;
- **Cooperating with public administration institutions** at central and local level to implement systemic solutions for the local development of Moldova.



The activities of the Representation in 2017 were funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (PLN 1,272,099.25) and other donors: EuropeAid (about PLN 377,847), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania (about PLN 14,611) and the British Embassy in Chisinau (about PLN 31,766).

In 2017, the key partners of the Representation were the following institutions: Embassy of Poland in Chisinau; The Ministry of Development of the Republic of Poland; Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova; Centre for LEADER Programme and Agriculture Training Methodology (Lithuania); the Czech organisation 'People in Need'; The Foreign Affairs Council of Slovakia; UNDP – Moldova; USAID – Moldova; and the Moldovan organisations - EcoContact, Ecospectr and Mostenitorii [Heirs].

In 2017, the Representation hired **10 people** (including the Chairperson of the Representation, hired by the SFM Office from Warsaw) and collaborated with a group of **27 people**, seven of whom were involved in facilitating the local development processes in various regions of Moldova.

2017 Activity Report

I. Support of Public Administration in the Republic of Moldova

Within this activity, the Representation continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova (September 2017 - **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment**) in order to develop the national regulations on implementing the LEADER/Community Lead Local Development (LEADER/CLLD) approach and the urban revitalisation mechanisms. The group of experts of the **Ministry of Development of the Republic of Poland** also participated in the works of the Commission for Implementing the LEADER Programme in Moldova.

II. Rural Development:

One of the most important directions of the Centre's activities in the context of rural development were the projects aimed at implementing a systemic approach for the rural development based on **the LEADER approach**. In 2017, the following projects were implemented in this area:

a) LEADER – SARD

The 'EU LEADER/CLLD approach implementation in the ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district of the Republic of Moldova' project is implemented by the Centre under **the SARD program** (Support for Agriculture and Rural Development), managed by UNDP Moldova and financed by European Union's funds. The main purpose of the project is to develop the rural areas of **ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district** (south of the Republic of Moldova) by supporting the establishment of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the new LAGs during the first year of activity. The action is being piloted and during its conduct, the methodology implementing the LEADER approach is being developed, which the Centre tries to multiply during other activities in cooperation with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova**.



In 2017, the following activities were performed under the project:



- a three-day training workshop for trainers, which led to the establishment of a **local SARD team of seven people** aimed at implementing the LEADER approach, the activities of which are coordinated by the Centre;
- facilitation of the creation of eight LAGs in Gagauzia and Taraclia, as well as in neighboring settlements, made up of **250 representatives** of local public administrations, local institutions, etc., providing support in defining their mission and vision, the main development directions and submitting the requests for assistance, inter alia, under the SARD program;

providing support in defining their mission and vision, the main development directions and submitting the requests for assistance, inter alia, under the SARD program;

- organisation of a study visit in **Italy** for **representatives of LAGs** and for the members of the local team implementing the LEADER programme;
- participation of SARD team members in the implementation of the LEADER approach in several local development conferences where they shared their experiences, including **the Cahul Regional Conference** (December 2017), **the Economic Forum in Ungheni** (November 2017), **the meeting of the European Rural Parliament in the Netherlands** (October 2017).



b) LEADER – GB

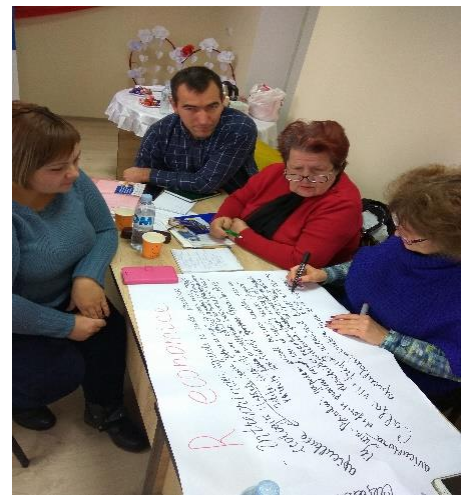
The project entitled ‘Enhancing Civil Society and Local Democratic Development in Rural Moldova’ is being carried out in partnership with the representation of the Czech organisation ‘People in Need’ in Moldova and is funded by the British Embassy in Chisinau. The main objective is the development of rural areas by supporting the establishment of **two Local Action Groups in Anenii Noi (five localities) and Straseni (four localities) districts**. The Centre is in charge of Anenii Noi district and is responsible for coordinating the concept and the content of the process.

In 2017, the process of setting up the LAGs in Anenii Noi (mobilisation



of potential members of Local

Action Groups, identification of resources and potential development directions) and creating two local action strategies was initiated.



In December 2017, the **ceremony of signing two letters of intent** by four rural localities from Straseni district and five rural communities from Anenii Noi district aiming to create a Local Action Group, took place.

c) LEADER – LT and LGD ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’

The project entitled ‘Sharing Lithuanian experience for successful regional development in Moldova’ is being carried out in partnership with the Centre for LEADER Programme from Lithuania and is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. It is an **element of support for the Centre in the process of creating the Local Action Group ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’ in Cahul district**.



Activities were implemented under the project to mobilise potential members of Local Action Groups, to identify local resources and possible directions of development, to start working on developing the Local Development Strategy and to formalise the LAGs. Also, a local contest of micro-projects was organised. As a result, **8 micro-projects** were co-financed (e.g. the procurement of teaching materials for the natural reservation and lessons about the environment for pupils from local schools, a list of projects with a short description is attached to the report – see Annex 17). In October 2017, a **five-day study visit to Lithuania** was organised for **eight members/representatives of the LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’** in to share experience on the implementation of LEADER approach.



d) Rural Edition of Small Project Fund



The main purpose of the third edition of the Fund was **to support local development projects implemented by local public authorities in partnership with non-government organisations at local level** in order to develop rural areas on two thematic directions: development of local democracy and modernisation of services for local communities and local economic development.

A number of 50 projects were submitted to the Centre, and the selection was done by representatives of the local and central public administration, non-government organisations and independent experts. Co-financing was granted to six projects, each of them being implemented by a consortium of at least three rural settlements. The total amount of funding was PLN 400,000. In May, a training for partners took place, which coincided with the contract signing ceremony, which was also attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau.

The projects were implemented between **June and December 2017 in 18 rural localities** of the Republic of Moldova. As a result, 10 public sites/buildings (fire station, house of culture, local museum, rural market and rural sports center) were renovated or repaired, 10 open events were organised (festivals, picnics, meetings, debates) and equipment for 10 public institutions was purchased (local municipal enterprises, museums, cultural houses).



e) Access for Success: Partnership for Self-sustainable Community Development (A2S)

The 'Access for Success' project is carried out in collaboration with local organisations: **EcoContact, Ecospectr and Mostenitorii [Heirs]**. A2S is co-financed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (20%) and EuropeAid (80%). The main objective of the project is the development, at local community level, of **42 localities located on both banks of Nistru River**, based on the **ABCD method (e.g. Asset Based Community Development)**.



The project provides for **workshops** that will be conducted for **local leaders** (representatives of non-government organisations and informal groups of citizens) a series of **study visits in Poland**, co-financing of **local development projects**.

The main activities carried out under the project in 2017 are:

- initiating the development of the project methodology, including the formalities related to the implementation of the project in the Transnistrian region;
- launching the site (<https://a2s.vox.md/>);
- starting a two-stage call for project participants (out of a total of **118 applications**, **42 settlements** were selected, **21 on each bank of Nistru River**);
- organising the inauguration forum for the project (November 2017), attended by more than **120 representatives** of the cities participating in the project and donors supporting local and regional development;
- organising the first cycle of workshops based on the concept of resource-based local development.



III. Urban Development

a) Urban Revitalization – Cooperation with the Ministry of Development of Poland

In 2017, the Centre actively supported the implementation of the project of the Polish Ministry of Development, funded under the Polish assistance program, to create urban development mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova, particularly, an urban revitalisation system.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova. In 2017, initiation activities related to the objectives for the development of the revitalisation system in Moldova were carried out. A number of a **15 municipalities and pilot cities**, which were involved in the activities of the project and in the initiation of the training cycles were selected. The Centre's involvement consists in: organisational support and coordination of cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, as well as with local partners; organisational support for Moldovan activities (trainings, expert missions, conferences, etc.); coordination of the activity of local team for implementing the revitalisation approach in the selected cities that participate in the project; co-financing of pilot projects for urban revitalization.



The main activities for 2017 are:

- **training** of representatives of Moldovan municipalities and cities – beneficiaries of the 2017 Urban Edition of Small Project Fund related to the Polish experience in the field of revitalisation (April);
- assistance in organising **the inauguration conference** of the Ministry of Development of Poland (July);
- support in organising **three expert missions**, following which the 'Assumptions about the Revitalisation System in the Republic of Moldova';



- assistance in organising **two three-day workshops**, that represent an introduction into the revitalisation aspect for representatives of 14 cities and regional development agencies and of MARDE (October - November 2017);
- support in organising a **study visit to Poland** for participants from the Republic of Moldova, related the Polish experience in the field of urban revitalisation (December 2017).

All activities were funded directly from the resources of the Ministry of Development of Poland.

b) Urban Edition of Small Project Fund

Because of limited funds, only **cities with the status of a municipality** were invited to participate in the urban edition of Small Project Fund. The main purpose of the edition was to support urban development projects implemented by local public authorities based on the concept of revitalisation. The fund was divided into three thematic directions: **socio-cultural revitalisation, economic revitalisation, revitalisation of public spaces.**

Four projects were co-financed with a total amount of PLN 200,000. The projects were implemented between June and December 2017. The projects helped to renovate and revitalise three public spaces (a community center, a market and a sports field); a series of public events (festivals, picnics, meetings, debates) and social consultations were organised and the equipment for a youth centre was purchased.



IV. Other Activities of the Centre

Besides its core activities, the Centre carried out the following activities:

- provided support in organising **12 workshops for youth**, under the project 'How to Change the World?'; the meetings were focused on globalisation issues, civic education, global education;
- organised, in cooperation with the Echo Pyzdr Cultural Association, of a **five-day visit**, for the representatives of local public authorities and non-government activists from Kalisz, Poland to the Republic of Moldova;



during the visit, the representatives of the local authorities visited the partner settlements and discussed about the potential joint initiatives, including with the Polish organisations in the Transnistrian region;



- organised **five one-day workshops** for representatives of local communities in the field of project development in Bender (two workshops), Nisporeni, Telita and Visniovca.

Our Partners in 2017

| Poland: | Organisations from EU countries: | Republic of Moldova: | Donors: |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau | Centre for LEADER Programme and Agricultural Training Methodology (Lithuania) | Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova | Polish Aid – Poland |
| Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs | DemNet (Hungary) | EcoContact | UNDP – Moldova |
| Ministry of Development of Poland | Foreign Affairs Council of Slovakia (Slovakia) | Ecospectr | USAID – Moldova |
| Regional Office of Kalisz | People In Need – Moldovan Representative Office | ‘Mostenitorii’ [Heirs] Association | EuropeAid/EU Delegation to Moldova |
| | | Rockit Academy | |

Important Events in 2017

(i) Participation in the work of the Committee for the implementation of the LEADER approach in the Republic of Moldova

In 2017, we actively participated in the work of the Committee for the implementation of the LEADER approach in Moldova, which works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova (now: Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment), chaired by Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment – Iurie Usurelu.

(ii) Participation in the work of local government groups, for civil society development as well as for agriculture and rural development as part of the EU Joint Response exercise

In 2017, we actively cooperated with the Embassy of Poland in Chisinau in preparing the EU Joint Response on the development needs of the Republic of Moldova. We participated in the activity of the working group for local public administration, the group for the development of civil society and the group for the agriculture and rural development.



(iii) Polish Radio about the Centre's Activities

In May, under a collaboration agreement between the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Radio, we hosted Polish radio journalists who prepared material about the social-political situation in Moldova and the activities of our Centre.

(iv) Change Moldova

Together with PIN Moldova and the Women Association from Lodz, Poland, in July, we organised a five-day workshop for 25 young people – ‘How to (ex)-change the world’ – an activity under a project funded by the Education for Democracy Foundation as part of RITA Program – Regions in Transitions.



(v) Inauguration of the Urban Revitalisation Project implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Development of Poland

The three-year Urban Revitalisation Project of Moldovan cities (planned for 2017-2019) was launched in July. The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Poland and the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova. The inauguration conference was attended by Paweł Choraży, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Poland; and Vasile Bitca – Minister of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova.



(vi) Meeting of the European Rural Parliament in the Netherlands

In October, we attended a meeting of the European Rural Parliament which took place in the Netherlands, where we presented our experience of implementing the LEADER approach in ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia, as part of the SARD program.



(vii) Signing of the agreements on the establishment of eight Local Action Groups under the UNDP – SARD Project as part of the conference ‘Towards Prosperous Villages’

In November, as part of the SARD Program (Support for Agriculture and Rural Development) implemented by UNDP Moldova and funded by EuropeAid funds, we co-organised a conference during which more than 250 representatives of local governments, non-government organisations and local entrepreneurs signed Partnership Agreements, creating the first Local Action Groups in Republic of Moldova.



(viii) Inauguration of the ‘Access to Success’ project for the development of local communities on both sides of the Nistru River, a project co-financed by EuropeAid

In November, we launched a two-and-a-half-year project (planned for the period 2017-2019) for the development of local communities on both banks of the Nistru River. The project is funded by EuropeAid in a proportion of 80% under the ‘Support to Confidence Building Measures’ Program between the



two banks of Nistru River. The inauguration forum was attended by representatives of the EU Delegation and of the Embassy of Poland in Chisinau.



(ix) Signing of partnership letters by nine townships, aimed at establishing two Local Action Groups

In December, together with ‘People in Need’ Moldova, we organised a ceremony of signing partnership letters by four rural settlements from Straseni district and five rural settlements from Anenii Noi district with the aim to establish two Local Action Groups.

The event was attended, including by Dorin Andros – State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment; and Lucy Joice – Ambassador of Great Britain in Chisinau.



Programs, Projects and Activities Conducted in 2017 – detailed description

- **LEADER – SARD:** Performance of the mission: ‘EU LEADER/CLLD approach implementation in the ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district of the Republic of Moldova’ for UNDP Moldova, project funded by EU funds.
- **LEADER – GB:** Implementation of the project: ‘Enhancing Civil Society and Local Democratic Development in Rural Moldova’ in partnership with PIN Moldova, financed by the British Embassy in Chisinau.
- **LEADER – LT:** Implementation of the project: ‘Transfer of the Lithuanian Experience for Successful Development of the Regions of Moldova’ in partnership with the Lithuanian Center for the LEADER Programme, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.
- **LEADER – Lunca Prutului de Jos:** Facilitation of the process of establishing the LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’.
- **SPF 2017 – Rural Edition:** Implementation of the Small Project Fund to support rural development projects in Moldova, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.
- **A2S:** Implementation of the project: ‘Access to success: Partnership for Self-sustainable Community Development’ in collaboration with EcoContact/Ecospectr and Mostenitorii [Heirs].
- **Urban Revitalisation:** Cooperation with the Ministry of Development of Poland to implement the project implementing the urban revitalisation tools in the regional development policies of the Republic of Moldova.
- **SPF 2017 – Urban Edition:** Implementation of the Small Project Fund to support urban development projects in Moldova, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.
- **Vzlyot:** Implementation of the project: ‘Vzlyot edition 2017/2018 – Visegrad School for Young Leaders’ in partnership with PIN Moldova, Slovak Foreign Council and DemNet, funded by the Visegrad International Fund.



LEADER – SARD

Performance of the activity: 'EU LEADER/CLLD approach implementation in the ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district of the Republic of Moldova' for the SARD Program (Support for Agriculture and Rural Development) implemented by UNDP Moldova and funded by EU funds.

Objectives of the activity:

The main objective of the activity is to develop the rural areas of ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district, facilitate the process of establishing the pilot Local Action Groups and support the new LAGs in their first year of activity.

The action is being piloted in Moldova and during its implementation the methodology for implementing the LEADER/CLLD approach is being co-created, which we try to multiply during other activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment. The person responsible for implementing the mission is an international UNDP expert on LEADER/CLLD programme.

Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- In January, we organised a three-day training seminar for trainers, and as a result, a local SARD team of seven people was created aimed to implement the LEADER approach, the activities of which are coordinated by the Centre.
- Between February and November, we facilitated the process of setting up eight Local Action Groups in ATU Gagauzia in Taraclia district and in the neighboring settlements (44 communities). In each of the eight LAGs we organised 10 working meetings, attended by about 20 persons. The meetings were held as workshops and lasted between 3 and 5 hours.
- In July, we helped to organise a study visit in Italy for representatives of LAGs and for members of the local team implementing the LEADER programme; (18 people in total).
- In October we completed the process of setting up eight Local Development Strategies. The following parts of the documents were developed during working meetings with Groups' members, including the definition of the mission, the vision of LAGs and the main development directions. During the development of the strategies, we collected about 700 ideas for local development projects.
- In November, 250 representatives of local authorities, local institutions and organisations, and active citizens signed agreements on territorial partnerships, formalising the process of setting up the eight LAGs.
- In December, we helped to organise the first LAG meetings, during which local development strategies were adopted, the authorities of the Groups were selected, the host-organisation of the LAG was chosen, and the applications for the assistance of the LAG were prepared by the SARD Program.
- We submitted eight requests for support for LAGs through the SARD Program.
- As part of the LAG's support activities, we helped write 20 requests for funding, of which five received funding.



Additional information:

- The members of the SARD team implementing the LEADER approach participated in several conferences on local and regional development, during which we shared our experience, including at the Cahul Regional Conference (December 2017) and Economic Forum in Ungheni (November 2017), as well as the meeting of the European Rural Parliament in the Netherlands.

Implementation status:

In 2017, we conducted activities related to the: (i) mobilisation of potential members of Local Action Groups, (ii) identification of local resources and possible directions of development, (iii) joint development of Local Development Strategies, and (iv) formalisation LAGs. In 2018, we will focus on supporting the LAGs in their activities, implementing the first SARD pilot projects and on identifying new funding sources.

Activity Budget:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name: | EU LEADER/CLLD approach implementation in the ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district of the Republic of Moldova |
| Funding source: | EuropeAid through UNDP Moldova, SARD Program (Support Agriculture and Rural Development) |
| Total mission budget: | USD 97,080.00 |
| Contract duration: | January 2017 - September 2018 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | USD 71,580.84 |



LEADER – GB

Implementation of the project: ‘Enhancing Civil Society and Local Democratic Development in Rural Moldova’. The project is implemented in partnership with PIN Moldova and is financed by the British Embassy in Chisinau.

Project Objectives:

The main objective is the development of rural areas from Moldova by facilitating the establishment of two Local Action Groups in Anenii Noi (five localities) and Straseneni (four localities) districts. The Centre is responsible for the process of facilitating the establishment of the LAG in Anenii Noi district and for the substantial coordination of the process.

Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- In July, we started the process of facilitating the establishment of LAGs in the Anenii Noi district. In 2017, we organised eight informal meetings with residents from five localities and three working meetings with potential members of the Group. The meetings were held as workshops, were attended by about 20 people and lasted about 3-4 hours.



- In October, we started the joint establishment of two Local Development Strategies.

- In December, we organised a signing ceremony of two letters of intent by four settlements from Straseneni district and five settlements from Anenii Noi district, aimed creating two LAGs. The event was attended, including by Dorin Andros – State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment; and Lucy Joice – Ambassador of Great Britain in Chisinau.



Implementation status:

- In 2017, we conducted activities to: (i) mobilise the potential members of Local Action Groups, (ii) identify of local resources and possible directions of development, (iii) develop the Local Development Strategies. In 2018, we will focus to formalise the LAGs and to complete the work on Local Development Strategies. We also want to support the LAGs set up under the Small Project Fund 2018 – LEADER edition.

Project Budget:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Project name: | Enhancing civil society and local democratic development in rural Moldova |
| Funding source: | Good Governance Fund Program, Embassy of Great Britain |
| Total project budget: | GBP 24,105.00 |
| Contract duration: | July 2017 - March 2018 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | GBP 6,189.52 |

LEADER – LT and LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’

Implementation of the project: ‘Sharing Lithuanian experience for successful regional development in Moldova’, in partnership with the Centre for LEADER Programme from Lithuania, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. The project was implemented as part of the Centre's activities, i.e. of the process of facilitating the establishment of the Local Action Group ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’ in Cahul district.

Project Objectives:

The main objective of the project was to strengthen the process of setting up the Local Action Group ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’.

Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- Between January and December, we organised five working meetings with potential members of the LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’.
- In July, we organised a two-day workshop on project writing for members of the LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’, in collaboration with the Centre for LEADER Programme.
- In July, we organised a local contest of micro-projects in collaboration with the LAG, and as a result, eight micro-projects were funded and implemented (until October).
- In October, in collaboration with the Centre for LEADER Programme, we organised a five-day study visit in Lithuania for eight members of the LAG ‘Lunca Prutului de Jos’.
- We have also initiated the formalisation of the LAG (collection of member declarations within the LAG).

Example [of co-financed](#):

01. Project name: [‘A Protected Environment for a Sustainable Future’](#)

Partners: Natural Reserve ‘Prutul de Jos’

Grant amount: MDL 14,000 (about PLN 2,800)

Short description: Teaching materials on protection of environment and nature were purchased for the Reserve's library under the Project. The Hall of the scientific department of the Natural Reserve ‘Prutul de Jos’ was arranged, which is an information and training center on ecological issues. Courses and lessons on the protection of natural environment were organised in the education facilities of the LAG.



Implementation stage:

- The Project, implemented in collaboration with the Centre for LEADER Programme, was carried out according to the schedule – from May to October 2017. In addition, we conducted activities related to the: (i) mobilisation of potential members of local action groups, (ii) identification of local resources and potential development directions, (iii) development of Local Development Strategies. In 2018, we will focus to formalise the LAG and to complete the work on Local Development Strategy. We also want to support the LAG created under the Small Project Fund 2018 – LEADER edition.

Project Budget:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Project name: | Sharing Lithuanian Experience for Successful Regional Development in Moldova |
| Funding source: | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania & Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland |
| Total project budget: | EUR 3,185.00/EUR 1,428.18 |
| Contract duration: | May - October 2017/January - December 2017 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | EUR 3,185.00/EUR 1,428.18 |

Small Project Fund 2017 – Rural Edition

In 2017, we organised the third edition of the Small Project Fund for local authorities from Moldova. This year, the Small Project Fund was divided in two editions: (i) for the development of rural areas and (ii) for the development of urban areas. In 2017, as part of the rural edition, we co-financed six projects – each project was implemented by a consortium of at least three localities between June and December. The total amount of the co-financing was PLN 400,000.



Objectives of the Fund:

The main objective of the Fund is to support local development projects implemented by local public authorities in partnership with local non-government organisations in order to develop rural areas on two thematic directions: (i) development of local democracy and modernisation of services for local communities and ii) local economic development.



Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- Following the open call for projects, **50 applications** were submitted, of which the committee – made of representatives of central and local authorities as well as non-government organisations and independent experts – selected five projects recommended for co-financing and one project on the reserve list, which eventually was financed.
- In May, we organised a one-day training for partners as part of the signing ceremony of contracts for implementing the projects. Artur Michalski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau, attended the event.
- The projects were implemented between June and December 2017, in 18 rural localities. Each of the partners was visited several times by the Centre's team. Altogether, more than 50 visits were made - so that the projects meet the local needs.
- As a result, **10 public sites/buildings** (fire station, house of culture, local museum, rural market and rural sports center) were renovated or repaired, **10 public events** were organised (festivals, picnics, meetings, debates) and equipment for **10 public institutions** was purchased (local municipal enterprises, museums, cultural houses).



Examples of co-financed projects:

01. Project name: Building the Capacity of the Service for Preventing the Emergencies at Inter-community Level by [Modernising the Volunteer Fire Station in Carpineni](#)

Partners: Csrpineni Mayoralty, Negrea Mayoralty, Mingir Mayoralty, LCA 'Langa Noi' [Near Us]

Grant amount: MDL 387,500 (about PLN 77,500)

Short description:

The project aimed at building the capacity of the service for preventing the emergencies at inter-community level by modernising the volunteer fire station in Carpineni, which will help reduce human and material losses in the area of consortium.

Under the project it is planned to refurbish and endow the volunteer fire station and inform residents in the consortium area about fire safety measures.



02. Project name: An Innovative Approach for Preserving and Promoting the Heritage of Gagauz and Bulgarian People in the Republic of Moldova

Partners: Avdarma Mayoralty, Chiriet-Lunga Mayoralty, Tvardița Mayoralty, A.O. ‘Pro-Europa’

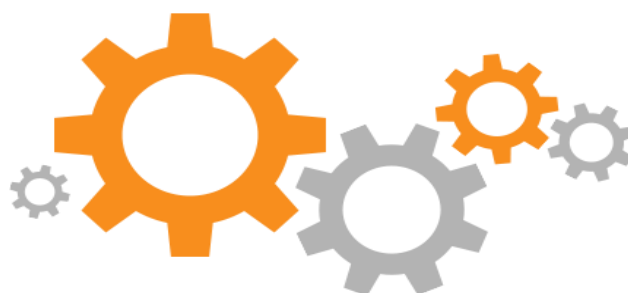
Grant amount: MDL 303,300 (about PLN 60,500)

Short description: The project is aimed at developing the tourist attractiveness of the multicultural and multinational area of Gagauzia and Taraclia by adapting the innovative methods, which will allow to develop and expand the services provided by Avdarma Museum; restoring and endowing the Tvardița Museum; creating (renovating and endowing) of a handicraft studio in Chiriet-Lunga; developing promotional materials (business cards) following an exercise for the identification of the local values and cultural and tourist objects of the consortium area, with the active involvement of the inhabitants. An annual cultural event was also organised under the project – the Touristic Festival ‘Diversity in Creativity’.



Project Budget:

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|------------------------------|---|
| Project name: | Small Project Fund 2017 – Rural Edition |
| Funding source: | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland |
| Total project budget: | MDL 1,988,750.00 |
| Contract duration: | March – December 2017 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | MDL 1,988,750.00 |



A2S – Access for Success: Partnership for Self-sustainable Community Development

Implementation of the project: ‘Access for Success: Partnership for Self-sustainable Community Development’ in cooperation with EcoContact, Ecospectr and ‘Mostenitorii’ [Heirs].

Project Objectives:

The main objective of the project is the local development of 42 localities located on both banks of the Nistru River, based on the ABCD method (Asset Based Community Development). The following are planned under the project: (i) workshops for local leaders – representatives of non-government organisations and informal groups of citizens supported by a network of local facilitators in order to map out local resources and develop local action plans for community development, (ii) a series of study visits to Poland, and (iii) co-financing of local development projects.

Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- In March, we began to work on drafting the project methodology, including the formalities related to the implementation of the project in the Transnistrian region. We also launched the project site: <https://a2s.vox.md/>
- In September, the call for participation was launched and the process of selecting participants (non-government organisations or an informal group of citizens) was conducted in two stages. Of 118 applications submitted, 60 localities were selected, which we visited during the second stage of the selection process. As a result, 42 localities (21 from each bank of the Nistru River) were selected, the representatives of which were invited to participate in the project.
- In November, we organized a Forum to launch the project, which was attended by more than 120 people – representatives of the cities participating in the project, and donor organisations supporting local and regional development in Moldova, the development of civil society, especially in the Transnistrian region.
- In December, we organised the first series of workshops on the basis of the local resource-based development concept. We organised three-day workshops for three groups, which were attended by a total of 85 leaders from local communities.



Degree of implementation:

In 2017, we conducted activities related to the: (i) preparation of the implementation project, including formalities in the Transnistrian region, (ii) selection of project participants, (iii) inauguration of the project – partners’ forum, and (iv) launch of a series of workshops. In 2018, we will focus on (i) developing maps of local resources and needs and of local action plans for community development, (ii) organising study visits on local development, (iii) conducting a contest and co-financing development projects implemented by local partners.

Budget of the project:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Project name: | Access for Success: Partnership for Self-sustainable Community Development |
| Funding source: | EuropeAid – 80% Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland – 20% |
| Total project budget: | EUR 779,775.00 |
| Contract duration: | March 2017 – July 2019 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | EUR 18,519.28 |



Urban Revitalization – Cooperation with the Ministry of Development

Cooperation with the Ministry of Development of Poland in realising a project implementing the urban revitalisation approach in the Republic of Moldova.

Objectives of the activity:

The main objective is to support the Ministry of Development of Poland to implement the project, particularly: (i) provide substantial assistance and support to coordinate the cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and local partners; (ii) provide organisational support of Moldovan activities (trainings, expert missions, conferences); (iii) coordinate the local team's work to implement the urban revitalisation approach in selected cities, and (iv) co-finance the pilot projects for urban regeneration.



Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- In April, together with the Polish Ministry of Development, we organised a one-day training for representatives of Moldovan cities, beneficiaries of the Small Project Fund 2017 – Urban Edition (16 people) on Polish experience in the field of revitalisation.
- In July, we co-organised the inauguration conference of the project, attended by, Paweł Chorąży – Deputy Secretary of State at the Ministry of Development and Vasile Bitca – Minister of Regional Development and Construction of Moldova.
- We participated and co-organised expert missions, following which the *'Assumptions of the Revitalization System in the Republic of Moldova'* were developed. Missions took place in July, October and December.
- We co-organised two three-day workshops, which were an introduction on urban revitalisation for the representatives of 14 cities, of regional development agencies and of the ministry. The workshop organised for the first group took place in October, for the second group – in November. Both workshops were attended by 45 people.
- In December, we supported the Ministry of Development in organising a study visit to Poland of the representatives of Moldovan cities and of the Ministry and Agencies for Regional Development on Polish experience in urban revitalisation.



Implementation stage:

In 2017, we conducted training activities related to the: (i) development of the document *'Assumptions about the revitalisation system in the Republic of Moldova'*, (ii) selection of 14 pilot cities participating in the project, and (iii) initiation of the training sessions. In 2018, we will focus on (i) developing the policy document *'Guidelines for the Urban Revitalisation System in Moldova'*, (ii) developing minimum 10 urban revitalisation programs, (iii) co-financing of minimum 5 pilot projects for urban revitalization.

Project Budget: The activities were funded directly from the funds of the Ministry of Development of Poland.

Small Project Fund 2017 – Urban Edition

In 2017, we organised the third edition of the Small Project Fund for local authorities from Moldova. This year, the Small Project Fund was divided in two editions: (i) for the development of rural areas and (ii) for the development of urban areas. Because of the limited number of funds, only cities with the status of municipalities were invited to participate in the project. In 2017, as part of the urban edition, we co-financed four projects, implemented between June and December. The total amount of funding was PLN 200,000.

Objectives of the Fund:

The main objective of the Fund is to support local development projects conducted by local authorities in partnership with non-government organisations at local level for the development of urban areas. The projects are implemented on the basis of the urban revitalisation approach, on three thematic directions (i) socio-cultural revitalisation; (ii) economic revitalisation; and (iii) the revitalisation of public spaces.

Main activities and events conducted in 2017:

- **Six applications** were submitted after the call for proposals of projects was made, of which the committee – made of representatives of central and local authorities, non-government organisations and independent experts – recommended four projects for funding.
- In May, we organised a one-day training for partners, including the ceremony for signing the project implementation contracts. The event was attended by Artur Michalski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau.



- The projects were implemented in June-December 2017 in four Moldovan municipalities. Each of our partners was visited several times by the Centre's team. Altogether, more than 10 visits were made – so that the projects meet the local needs.
- The projects helped to renovate and revitalise **three public spaces/buildings** (a community center, a public market and a sports field); **a series of public events** (festivals, picnics, meetings, debates) and social consultations were organised and the equipment for **one public institution** (youth centre) was purchased.



Examples of co-financed projects:

01. Project name: Renovation and Modernisation of the Multifunctional Cultural Centre in Ungheni Municipality

Partners: Ungheni Mayoralty, A.O. 'Regional Center for Sustainable Development', Dorohoi Mayoralty, Romania

Grant amount: MDL 397,364 (about PLN 800,000)

Short description: The project aimed to increase the level of education, socialisation and culture of the inhabitants of the peripheral sectors – Beresti and Vasilica from Ungheni municipality. The project started the reconstruction of the multifunctional



cultural home in the Berești sector – an idea formulated by the Local Initiative



Group of Beresti in 2016 as part of a democratic exercise of participatory budgeting. The following activities were organised within the project: socio-cultural/entertainment activities (musical-literary evening, a contest of poetry, music and dance, a painting exhibition) and socio-recreational activities (two sports competitions for table games, chess, checkers); an exchange of good practices on the diversification of socio-cultural activities at community level in Dorohoi municipality, Romania; a cross-border festival with the participation of Romanian collectives.

Project Budget:

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|------------------------------|---|
| Project name: | Small Project Fund 2017 – Urban Edition |
| Funding source: | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland |
| Total project budget: | MDL 993,457.19 |
| Contract duration: | March – December 2017 |
| Budget spent in 2017: | MDL 993,457.19 |

