



GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

MOLDOVAN LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DISCUSS EMERGING THREATS IN ORGANISED CRIME WITH UKRAINIAN COLLEAGUES

14-15 February, Odessa - Experts from Moldovan, Ukrainian and international law-enforcement agencies gathered at the headquarters of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine in order to assess new organised criminal threats and phenomena and ways to counteract them.

The workshop, entitled "Combating Organised Crime: Contemporary Threats, Opportunities for Cooperation" is one of the most important initiatives to be conducted by EUBAM during the current phase of Mission's implementation (2011-2013). Among the most pressing issues identified by law-enforcement agencies in Moldova and Ukraine were synthetic drugs/new psychoactive substances, THB, illegal migration and organised smuggling of goods. New proposals and solutions in line with EU best practices regarding effective preventing and combating organised crime were presented, discussed and forwarded for consideration.

Apart from representatives from Moldovan and Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies, the workshop was also attended by international experts from EUROPOL, INTERPOL, Drug Enforcement Administration, Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre and law-enforcement experts from Hungary and Poland.



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

Contact person: Christina Turcan, e-mail: christina.turcan@eubam.org

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM DISCUSSED BY EXPERTS AND JOURNALISTS AT THE PRESS CLUB MEETING

6 February, Rezina - Experts, analysts and journalists from Chisinau, Rezina and Soldanesti met at a press club session organised by the Independent Journalism Centre (IJC) under the EU-funded project on strengthening the Moldovan media capacity to cover issues of public interest. Some of the topics addressed during the meeting were the need to organise a new referendum and constitutional amendment.

The experts that participated in the meeting expressed different opinions regarding the Alliance for European Integration (AIE) intention to organise a new constitutional referendum. While Vitali Catana, expert in constitutional law, believes that the referendum will not be held, the journalist Nicolae Negru emphasizes that the AIE has not exhausted all possibilities to elect the president.

Journalists and experts at the press club session were also keen to talk about the constitutional amendment. From the point of view of Vitali Catana, if the referendum is not organised, then the Constitution will need to be revised, namely of Article 78 on how to elect the President.

Contact person: Cristina Bobarca, e-mail: coordonator@ijc.md



MOLDOVAN FUTURE VISA POLICY AND NEW TRENDS IN THE VISA FIELD IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

2-3 February, Chisinau - Representatives of Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior, Border Guard Service, EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine and the International Organisation for Migration discussed Moldovan future visa policy during a workshop organised within the EU-funded project "Supporting the Implementation of the EC Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in Moldova and Georgia (REVIS)".

The participants discussed about new trends in the visa field in the EU and importance of the visa policy for the migration management process. Representatives of EU Members States from Hungary and Romania shared their best practices in the field and provided recommendations aimed at drafting initial version of the MFAEI's guidelines for the implementation of the Regulation on visas.

The REVIS project seeks to enhance capacities of government institutions in Moldova and Georgia to implement returns and readmission to and from the country, as well as the capacities of government institutions to issue supporting documents required for visa applicants to the EU in line with international standards.



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

Contact person: Diana Hincu, e-mail: diana.hincu@icmpd-md.org



SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

EU-FUNDED PROJECT RAISES PUBLIC AWARENESS REGARDING THE PHENOMENA OF MIGRATION

8-25 February, Chisinau – A photo exhibition on migration of labour force and its consequences on the labour market of Moldova took place in the centre of the capital in Pushkin Park within the EU-funded project on strengthening Moldova's capacity to manage labour and return migration. The project's main objective is to facilitate legal migration between Moldova and the EU.

The photo exhibition aims at raising the awareness of public opinion regarding the phenomena of migration that lasts in Moldova for more than 10 years now. Hoping to assure a better future for themselves and their families, many of them decided to leave the country, often facing legal problems. At the same time massive leave of young persons, able to work, defines the severe lack of labour force already in the home country. Insufficient specialists can be already felt in domains like: constructions, agriculture, medicine, industry, etc.

The EU project focuses its efforts on informing and raising the awareness of public opinion towards the hazards of illegal migration, insufficient labour force in Moldova, at the same time promoting legal migration of citizens to work in the European Union.

More information at: <http://legal-in.eu/>
Cristina Cozma, e-mail: cristina.cozma@legal-in.eu



EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR ATTRACTING REMITTANCES INTO MOLDOVAN ECONOMY

1 February, Chisinau – Over 70 beneficiaries of the Moldovan Government led PARE 1+1 pilot programme for attracting remittances into Moldovan economy, representatives of the line Ministries, international organisations and donors gathered together at a conference to bring forward and review the interim results and achievements of the PARE 1+1 programme, as well as to show the programme's impact on the regional development.

The PARE 1+1 pilot programme is co-funded by the European Union and the Moldovan Government with the total amount of almost EUR 2 million. The programme is promoting homeland economic activities and encouraging both migrants and their first degree relatives to invest the remittances in launching and developing small and medium enterprises for sustainable economic development of the country.

Thus, since the beginning of the programme, more than 256 labour migrants, as well as their relatives of the first degree benefited from the business start-up trainings, enabling them to strengthen their entrepreneurial capacities and skills and providing them with practical information on business planning and management.

More information at: <http://www.iom.md/>
Contact person: Nelea Motriuc, e-mail: nmotriuc@iom.int



NEW PORTAL ON MOLDOVAN LABOUR MARKET LAUNCHED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

27 January, Chisinau – The National Employment Agency launched a new portal on the national labour market, <http://www.angajat.md/>, with the support of the EU-funded project „Strengthening Moldova's capacity to manage labour and return migration“. The portal has the goal of mediating the demand and offer in the respective area.

Taking the experience of other EU Member States, the National Employment Agency has updated and enriched with new functionalities its portal. As a result it became more simple and easy in use for the beneficiaries. Namely on this electronic platform the employer will meet its future employees, while the job seekers will find the wanted jobs. For the first time in Moldova employers and job seekers will have the possibility to automatically match the job vacancy and respectively the CV with the data base of NEA according to definite criteria.

The launch event was opened by Valentina Buliga, Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family, who has highly appreciated the functionalities and advantages that the new portal offers to the society. "This project will definitely bring the employer closer to the job seeker and vice versa, in this way strengthening the confidence in the day of tomorrow", added the Minister.

More information at: <http://legal-in.eu/>
Contact person: Cristina Cozma, e-mail: cristina.cozma@legal-in.eu





TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NEWLY LAUNCHED TWINNING PROJECT ON STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DISCUSSES PROGRESSES DURING THE STEERING COMMITTEE

23 February, Chisinau – Representatives of the Ministry of Finance, international organisations and governmental agencies gathered at the 1st Steering Committee meeting to review the main results of the first quarter of implementation of the EU-funded Twinning project “Strengthening Public Financial Management in the Republic of Moldova”.

During the meeting, a special attention was devoted to the discussion on the mandating system and managerial accountability. Strong emphasis was put on the need for successful implementation of the activities related to the financial management and control system.

The overall objective of this Twinning project is to improve the management of public financial control in the Republic of Moldova in line with internationally recognised standards and European best practices. Project will enhance the capacity of the Central Harmonisation Unit at the Ministry of Finance to oversee the implementation of Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova, by strengthening financial and managerial control as well as internal audit. It will also seek to update the relevant legislative and normative framework.

Contact Person: Aliona Cojocaru, e-mail: aliona.cojocaru@esv.se



ESTIMATIVE WOOD CONSUMPTION IN MOLDOVA REVEALED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

20 February, Chisinau – The International Union for Conservation of Nature in cooperation with Moldovan NGO “Silva-Mileniu III” and EU-funded regional programme on improving forest law enforcement and governance (ENPI FLEG) carried out an analytical study on the estimative consumption of wood and wood products in Moldova (including import-export trends).

Data and other information were provided by the forestry entities of a range of different actors including Agency “Moldsilva”, Ministry of Environment, State Ecological Inspectorate, Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure, National Bureau of Statistics, Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre, Customs Service and Local Public Authorities.

According to the results, the estimated annual consumption of wood (including other energetic biomass) by local population in Moldova is estimated at around 1.3 million m³, of which 2.5% is timber and 97.5% constitutes fuel wood. Most of this consumption is from domestic forest resources, mainly to meet household subsistence needs, and less from imported wood products. A dangerous situation is the fuel wood consumption, which is virtually equal to the annual growth in forests in Moldova.

More information at: <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/>

Contact person: Aurel Lozan, e-mail: aurel.lozan@enpi-fleg.org



SEVEN MOLDOVAN COMPANIES WERE HONOURED AS WINNERS AT THE “EU-EBRD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2012”

15 February, Chisinau – Seven best sustainable energy projects under the Moldovan Sustainable Energy Financing Facility (MoSEFF) were honoured during the “EU-EBRD Sustainable Excellence Awards 2012” ceremony. The award ceremony was attended by representatives of the Moldovan government and authorities, international institutions and diplomatic community as well as EBRD partner banks and local companies.

MoSEFF is part of EBRD’s Sustainable Energy Financing Facilities that the Bank has already successfully established in 15 countries of its operation, ranging from Poland to Kazakhstan. Over EUR 1.8 billion were funded through EBRD SEFF programmes to date.

So far, 37 projects in a wide range of industries from agriculture and food-processing to manufacturing have been supported by MoSEFF, benefiting from a total of €9.26 million in loans. Another 25 projects are about to be financed. The programme is realised through participation of the EBRD partner banks in Moldova.

“With this award, EBRD emphasises not only its continuing support to Moldova’s energy efficiency efforts but also to the country’s banking sector,” said Henry Russell, Director for Western Balkans, Croatia, Moldova and Belarus, Financial Institutions EBRD.

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





ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WASTE GOVERNANCE PROJECT DISCUSSED DURING REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

9 February, Chisinau – Representatives of seven partner countries met at the regional steering committee meeting of the EU-funded regional project on waste governance to present the project achievements for 2011 and set the further plans. The meeting was moderated by Lena Nielsen, Programme Manager from the European Commission and Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova.

The main purpose of the meeting was to present the activities implemented by the project in all countries during 2011, and to discuss the key milestones to be achieved and the priorities for the next stage of project implementation during 2012.

From a Moldovan perspective, the presented activities included the development of an integrated waste management plan for the country's Southern Development region. This strategy has recently been approved by the Council for Regional Development and in the context of the forthcoming meeting, the participants shall examine how to facilitate the transition from development to implementation of the strategy's objectives. In addition a special field trip to the pilot sites was organised to demonstrate the implementation of separate waste collection system in operations.

More information at: <http://www.wastegovernance.org/>
Contact person: Tatiana Tugui, e-mail: ttugui@eptisa.com



MOLDOVAN TEACHERS ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

27 January, Chisinau – Over 70 school teachers and directors from 8 rayons of the Republic of Moldova came to Chisinau to find out more information about renewable energy and energy efficiency. They will be the promoters of the educational initiative regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will be launched during the spring of this year, within the framework of the EU-funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

"It is necessary for the school, through teachers, family, and society to develop constructive actions for the young generation to rationally use natural resources and to harness the renewable energy sources", stated Mariana Goras, Deputy Head of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education Division, Ministry of Education.

During March-May, over 2.600 school students from the 7th and 8th grades will be involved in different educational activities dedicated to renewable energy and energy efficiency: debates, discussion clubs, excursions, on-line lessons, watching and discussing movies related to alternative energy, exhibitions, competitions of projects about the respective topic, and other.

Contact person: Ina Prisacaru-Zglavuta, e-mail: ina.zglavuta@undp.org



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF UNGHENI FORMULATED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

15-22 January, Ungheni – Experts from the EU-funded CIUDAD project on development of sustainable tourism products have conducted a six-day mission to Ungheni with the aim of formulating sustainable tourism strategy for the city. The mission to Ungheni was held after a similar mission to Kutaisi in Georgia.

The missions took place with the support of an international expert in Kutaisi, national and international experts in Ungheni, the local working team established by the two City Halls, as well as relevant stakeholders active in tourism. Working groups met in partnership with local teams and stakeholders in each city, looking at problems and objectives.

Key achievements of both missions include an agreement on the final form and contents of the Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plans for each city, and the definition of the priorities of both City Halls following consultations with the cities' decision-makers (mayor, vice-mayor, local team).

More information at: <http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/>
Contact person: Claudia Poles, e-mail: claudia.poles@artigianisandona.it





Nº 02 March, 2012

EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

28 FEBRUARY, CHISINAU

Follow-up workshop on the post-election training campaign for the newly elected local officials within the EU-funded project "Domestic Election Monitoring and Voter Education in Moldova – Strengthening of Capacities and International Networking"

Contact person: Nicolae Panfil, e-mail: info@alegeliber.md

5-6 MARCH, CHISINAU

TAIEX Workshop on Performance Management System in Customs for Heads of Subdivisions of the Moldovan Customs Service

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>

12-16 MARCH, CHISINAU

TAIEX Expert mission on General Authorisation and Licensing of radio frequency usage, Market Supervision in a liberalised market and on Consumer protection in Moldova

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>

12-16 MARCH, CHISINAU

TAIEX Expert Mission on protection and welfare of farm animals to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>

13-15 MARCH, CHISINAU

TAIEX Workshop on information management in combating crime for Moldovan police officers

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>

14-17 MARCH, CHISINAU

Energy and Biomass Project participation at MOLDENERGY Exhibition

Contact person: Ina Prisacaru-Zglavuta, e-mail: ina.zglavuta@undp.org

19-23 MARCH, CHISINAU

TAIEX Expert Mission on Developing a Strategy on Internationalization of Research and Innovation to the Academy of Science of Moldova

More information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/>

19 MARCH, CHISINAU

Round Table event to present the Report on "Discriminatory ill-treatment in Moldova" within the framework of the project "Strengthening Legal Protection from and Raising Awareness of Discriminatory Ill-Treatment in the Republic of Moldova, including Transnistria",

Contact person: Olga Manole, e-mail: olga_manole@promolex.md

19-23 MARCH, EDINET, BALTI, UNGHENI

Seminars within the Twinning project "Support to the Public System in the Republic of Moldova"

Clara Calin, e-mail: calinclara@gmail.com