



GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

EU SUPPORTS THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN MOLDOVA

Chisinau, 27 April – The first successfully implemented Twinning project on Support to the Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Moldova came to its end and was concluded with a final conference. The project with a budget of €1 million was implemented over a period of 18 months by the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, the Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of Moldova.

The project strengthened the administrative capacity of institutions in Moldova to protect and enforce intellectual property rights, enhanced communication between the Government institutions responsible for the protection of intellectual property rights, strengthened and raised awareness about the importance of protecting intellectual property rights and assisted with the development of the national system for the protection of Geographical Indications, Designations of Origin and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed.

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NATIONAL AGENCY FOR COMPETITION PROTECTION TO CONTINUE DRAWING UP THE STATE AID INVENTORY

Chisinau, 25-27 April – The EU-funded Twinning project on “Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy” is currently involved in continuing creating the Inventory of the Existing State Aid, in close cooperation with representatives of ministries and other public authorities. The Inventory shall ensure full transparency as regards State Aid granting in Moldova in accordance with EU best practice and represents the first step of the National Agency for Protection of Competition (NAPC) in creating the state aid mechanism.

In order to realise the established goals, a mission was performed during 25-27 April, and meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy took place. The experts and NAPC staff focused on identifying state aid measures, after discussions with state aid grantors, analysing grantors reports and completing the state aid drafting inventory. The activities were performed taking into consideration the existing draft of the State Aid Law approved in the first reading by the Parliament on 6 March.

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INVESTIGATIVE METHODS AND TOOLS IN ANTITRUST AND UNFAIR COMPETITION CASES

Chisinau, 24-27 April– Improving the ability of the National Agency for Protection of Competition to investigate unfair competition and antitrust cases was the purpose of the workshop dedicated to investigative methods and tools in antitrust and unfair competition cases.

Experts from Austria and Latvia presented theoretical aspects in investigation of unfair competition, unfair advertising cases and investigation tools, case studies and workshops on specific unfair competition, unfair advertising cases and antitrust cases investigated by Latvia and the Austrian Competition Authorities, also discussed actual NAPC unfair competition and unfair advertising cases, and provided individual consultation.

The experts shared their experience in relation to cases dealt with by the Latvian and Austrian Competition Authorities regarding investigations of different types of unfair competition; unfair advertising infringements and antitrust cases, as well relevant case-law of the European Court of Justice.

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EU-FUNDED REGIONAL PROGRAMME SUPPORTS LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

18 April, Chisinau – Local public authorities (LPAs) involved in the EU-funded regional programme on improving forest law enforcement and governance (ENPI FLEG), as well as representatives of Agency “Moldsilva”, Ministry of Environment, NGO “Ecospectru” and Forest Research and Management Institute gathered at a planning conference to help local public authorities in forest management of their localities.

Experts of the NGO “Ecospectru”, an ENPI FLEG local partner, provided a General Technical Report (GTR) on the work done in the forestland owned by selected LPAs. Most of Moldova’s community forestland was never properly managed. The level of illegal logging and deforestation in the country’s community forestland is extremely high, driven by subsistence needs of communities.

Taking into account Moldova’s conditions and dispersal of forests, the range of community forests surface varied from 35 to 500 ha each. Thus, the forest management plans developed by the experts are the normative documentation to be used as benchmarking information for the proper management of forest resources as well as for projecting silvicultural activities (felling, restoration/regeneration) for the period of 10 years.

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

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT SUPPORTS THE MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS STUDY VISIT TO BRUSSELS

Brussels, 17-20 April – Moldovan Government officials visited the EU institutions as part of the EU-funded project “Effective governance of labour migration management and its skills dimension”.

The overall scope of the study visit to EU institutions was to enhance the capacities of the national stakeholders to design and implement rights-based labour migration laws, policies and programmes, through increased understanding of the EU institutions and counterparts, presenting and exchanging views on important priority areas for cooperation, and discussing possible policy options to cater for the needs of their constituencies.

Throughout the two-day study visit a series of meetings was organised with participation of the representatives of Moldovan Parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Education, as well as the EU officials, representing European Commission.

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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICERS TRAINED ON READMISSION ISSUES

Chisinau, 9-11 April – About 50 Ministry of Interior officers from Centre, North and South regions were trained on EU regulations and standards regarding readmission policies and their impact on migration management within the EU-funded project “Supporting the Implementation of the EC Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in Moldova and Georgia (REVIS)”.

At the request of Bureau for Migration and Asylum two experts from Romanian Immigration Service provided the training and shared the best practices existing at EU level in the domain of migration, readmission and return policies, and how the inter-agency cooperation is organised to face the challenges existing in this regard.

Romanian counterparts presented their experiences in developing mechanisms and practices of inland detection of illegal foreigners in EU Members States and norms existing for return and expulsion procedures.

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

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MOLDOVAN SYSTEM OF SCIENCE GOVERNANCE ASSESSED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

2-5 April, Chisinau – The Academy of Sciences of Moldova hosted a mission of a group of international experts involved in an evaluation exercise of the research, development and innovation (RDI) system in Moldova.

The main goal of the mission was to identify existing practices concerning the implementation of RDI development policies. The mission ended with a round table to present the systems governing RDI in Austria, Greece, Estonia and Belarus. In addition, the newly founded Centre for Fundamental and Applied Research Funding (CFARF) of Moldova was presented at the event. The Centre aims to support and promote national scientific community activities at the expense of public funds allocated through an open competition system.

Evaluation exercise of the RDI system in Moldova is conducted within the EU-funded project IncoNet EECA ("S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries") and will end in June with a final report performed by the experts. This document will provide an assessment of the current system of science governance in Moldova and will contain recommendations on how to improve and align it to the best international practices in this field.

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EU DELEGATION PUBLISHES A CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NON-STATE ACTORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Brussels, 31 March – The EU Delegation to Moldova published an Open Call for Proposals within the Thematic Programme “Non-State Actors (NSA) and Local Authorities (LA) in Development” and Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility.

The objective of the Thematic Programme is to provide support to development actions, to be implemented by NSA-LA, in close cooperation with local communities and the most vulnerable population groups, aiming at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries.

The objective of the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility is to strengthen and promote civil society organizations' role in reforms and democratic changes, through increased participation in the fulfilment of Neighbourhood Policy objectives.

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is €1.05 million. Any grant requested must fall between €150,000 and €300,000. The deadline for the submission of applications is 2 July 2012.

More information at: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/>, Grants Section



MOLDOVAN JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS TRAINED ON EXAMINATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CASES

Chisinau, 20-23 March – Over 60 judges and prosecutors from Moldova were trained in the matters of international best practice on examination of intellectual property rights cases according to the civil and criminal procedure, methodology and practical aspects.

The seminar was moderated by international experts from Denmark and Romania and was organised within the Twinning Project “Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova”.

Among the topics discussed during the seminar were the issues of applying national legislation in the field of intellectual property rights.

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SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

EU-FUNDED PROJECT EQUIPS SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTENS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES WITH HEATING SYSTEMS USING BIOMASS

Chisinau, 25 April – The EU-funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will extend in 2012 its activities in 13 new districts of Moldova. The project will start installation of alternative heating systems using biomass in rural public institutions of Glodeni, Donduseni, Soroca, Riscani, Floresti, Anenii Noi, Orhei, Rezina, Soldanesti, Ungheni, Basarabasca, Cimislia and Cahul districts, all selected in open competition.

These project priorities were presented during steering committee meeting chaired by Valeriu Lazar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy. "At the same time with development of biomass fuel demand, we must ensure biomass fuel supply, and stimulate the development of the industry of collecting and processing of agricultural waste based on free competition between private operators", said Valeriu Lazar.

Next winter, 72 schools, kindergartens and rural community centres will be heated with energy using biomass. In total, over 15,000 people will directly benefit from new energy source. By 2014, the project will be active in all districts, over 130 villages will have reliable and sustainable systems of energy supply from biomass, with potential for replication throughout the country.

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MAIN WEBSITE ON LEGAL AND SAFE MIGRATION UPGRADED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

Chisinau, 24 April – The upgraded website <http://www.migratie.md/> containing comprehensive and concise information about migration was re-launched as a result of its modernisation and updating within the "Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership" project implemented by the International Organisation for Migration and funded by the European Union.

The new internet-based information tool allows citizens of Moldova who have decided to go abroad, to easily access extensive and comprehensive information about the possibilities and opportunities to migrate to over 20 countries around the world. Furthermore, foreign citizens who would like to visit or settle in our country can find information about legal stay requirements, job and business opportunities on the same site.

The <http://www.migratie.md/> website, updated to a new format, is meant to provide concrete facts and comprehensive information to potential migrants so that their decision to leave is a well-informed one - legally, socially and economically.

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AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS GAINS GROUND IN ITALY

Bologna, 30 March-1 April – 12 leaders of Moldovan Diaspora Associations established in Italy gathered to participate in a training of trainers, organised by the International Organisation for Migration as part of the EU-funded funded project "Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind".

The training was meant to enable participants to successfully organise and implement the forthcoming awareness raising campaign for Moldovan migrants in Italy entitled "Nobody is alone on the earth". During the 3 working days, the 12 Diaspora representatives learned how to facilitate discussions with their fellow migrants, correctly convey the message of the campaign, work with awareness raising materials, promote the campaign and organize the screening event in their cities.

The campaign will be organised over the period of six months and carried out with the direct support of Moldovan Diaspora Associations in 9 Italian cities with the highest concentration of Moldovan migrants.

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TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EU AND MOLDOVA OFFICIALS FIRST PRESENT TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY START OF NEGOTIATIONS ON DCFTA

Chisinau, 25 April, 2012 – The Delegation of the European Union to Moldova held a conference on present and future EU-Moldova trade and economic relations. More than 120 participants representing business community from all regions including Transnistria, as well as public authorities, civil society and mass media attended the event. The conference organised in partnership with the European Business Association was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova Vlad Filat and the Head of EU Delegation Ambassador Dirk Schuebel.

The main focus of the event was the current status of negotiations between the EU and Moldova on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Welcoming the first round of negotiations held on 16-23 March, 2012 on DCFTA, Ambassador Schuebel said: "We believe that this is a historical moment in EU-Moldova trade relations. We are entering a new phase that will bring our relations to a new level of depth and ambition".

Three further rounds of negotiations are foreseen also in June, September and November 2012 and other 2-3 rounds in 2013. The EU and Moldova plan to finalise the negotiations and sign the agreement on DCFTA by end of 2013.

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EU NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENT FACILITY: MOLDOVA IS THE BIGGEST BENEFICIARY AMONG EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Brussels, 4 April: The EU's Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) last year approved grant contributions in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood rising to a record €142.3 million, leveraging total new investments of about €4.3 billion, according to the newly-released NIF 2011 report.

Since 2008, the NIF has supported 52 projects across the Neighbourhood region, representing a total investment cost of around €14 billion. Nine projects with grant contributions of €60.4 million were approved since 2008 for the Republic of Moldova, the country being the biggest beneficiary among Eastern Partnership countries.

The NIF is providing assistance for modernisation of the Republican Clinical Hospital in Chisinau, improvement of water and sanitation systems in Chisinau, modernisation of Chisinau Airport and Chisinau public transport, road rehabilitation, energy efficiency water utilities development and wine sector upgrading.

More information at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/investment_en.htm



AGRIBUSINESS AND WINE PRODUCERS LEARN ABOUT GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND THEIR BENEFITS

Edinet, Chisinau and Comrat, 19-21 March – Over 50 representatives of Moldovan agribusiness, wine producers and public institutions with an interest in the field gathered at workshops on geographical indications and their benefits. The events were organised within the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova" and were moderated by international experts from France and Poland.

Participants had an opportunity to learn about the concept of geographical indication, advantages offered to producers and rural regions, existing systems and examples of products protected in the EU, as well as the registration system in Moldova. They also received informational packages with relevant case studies.

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EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

6 MAY 2012, MESTRE, ITALY

Launch of the awareness raising campaign "Nobody is alone on the earth" for Moldovan migrants in Mestre, Italy within the "Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind" project.

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7-8 MAY, MADRID, SPAIN

Study Visit on the procedure of recognition of the status of stateless persons for the Bureau for Migration and Asylum officials

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

8-10 MAY, CHISINAU

Workshop on EU legal framework and best practices in combating drug use of drivers for officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Anti Drug Commission

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

10-11 MAY, CHISINAU

Workshop on Strengthening Operational Capacities in Providing Static and Dynamic Protection for National and Foreign State Dignitaries for officers of the State Protection and Guard Service

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

14-17 MAY, YORK, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Study visit on agriculture statistics for experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food industry

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

14-15 MAY, CHISINAU

Workshop on Transposition of EU legislation on Credit Agreements for Consumers

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

14-17 MAY, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Study Visit on strengthening the institutional capacities in the context of the visa liberalization process

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

15 MAY-21 JUNE, SOROCA, REZINA, ORHEI, HINCESTI, CAHUL, COMRAT, CAUSENI, CHISINAU

Seminars on "Improving the institutional capacity of Public Procurement System" within the Twinning project "Support to the Public System in the Republic of Moldova"

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19 MAY, COMRAT

Partners visit to Community Centre and Kindergarten from Carbalia village (Comrat), heated with biomass based energy, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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28-30 MAY, CHISINAU

Workshop on border management for officials from Border Guard Service, Custom Service and Ministry of Internal affairs

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

29-30 MAY, CHISINAU

Workshop on the establishment and functioning of Asset Recovery Offices

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