The European Union supports the modernisation of the agriculture sector and the development of rural areas in Moldova

An EU funded programme – ENPARD Moldova – to Support Agriculture and Rural Development was signed by the Prime-Minister of Moldova, Chiril Gaburici, and the Director for Neighbourhood East of the European Commission (Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), Gerhard Schumann-Hitzler.

The signature took place during the visit of the EU official to Chisinau, in the framework of an official ceremony followed by press-statements.

The European Union remains committed to the development and modernisation of the Republic of Moldova, including its agriculture and rural areas. The official visit of the European Commission Director for Neighbourhood East soon after the 1st EU-Moldova Association Council reflects this support, as well as the interest of the EU in the reform process in Moldova.

The signature of the Financing Agreement on ENPARD with the Government of the Republic of Moldova underlines the structural reform process initiated by the country and policy alignment with the EU, following the signature and implementation of the Association Agreement and DCFTA.

With the launch of the ENPARD Moldova program, the EU will support the establishment of a long-term relationship and dialogue between the Government and civil society organisations, farmers, producer's organisations and federations, food business operators and last but not least rural communities.

The development of agriculture and rural areas is a priority sector for EU-Moldova cooperation for the period of 2014-2017. The EU will provide a total of EUR 64 million through this new ENPARD programme to improve the competitiveness and modernisation of the agri-food sector, develop rural areas and increase the living standard of Moldovan citizens.
Background information:

ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development) Moldova is a new Budget Support Programme of EUR 64 million approved by the European Commission with the Annual Action Programme 2014 in Favour of Moldova. It consists of two parts: 1) EUR 53 million for budget support, and 2) EUR 11 million for complementary support.

Among the expected results of EU supported assistance are the following:

- Improved design and implementation of agricultural and rural development policies and improved service delivery,
- Increased investment in the modernisation of the agriculture, agri-food and feed chains meeting EU food safety and quality requirements,
- Improved education, research and extension services in the agriculture, agri-food sector, including facilitating information systems,
- Improved access to capital, input and output markets for farmers,
- Increased employment and income opportunities in rural areas in support of the agricultural and the agri-food sector. Improvements in key indicators of service delivery with respect to reduced geographical and gender disparities of access and quality.

Complementary support

Among the main activities to be carried out are the following:

- Grants/Call for Proposal to promote Civil Society Organisations’ (CSOs) and local authorities involvement in the implementation of ARD (Agriculture and Rural Development) policy supporting especially actions that are gender equality and woman empowerment oriented;
- Call for proposal for capacity building of the Agricultural Intervention and Payment Agency (AIPA ) through a Twinning project;
- Technical Assistance with the main activities foreseen to be capacity-building and institutional-strengthening in the area of improving competitiveness of the agri-food sector through restructuring and modernisation.

For more information