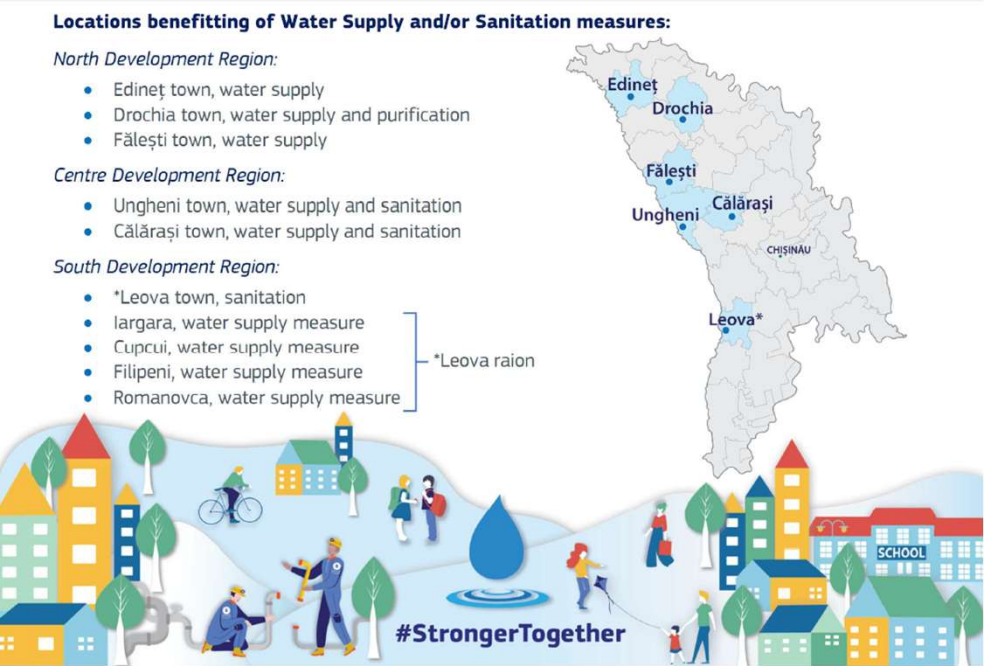
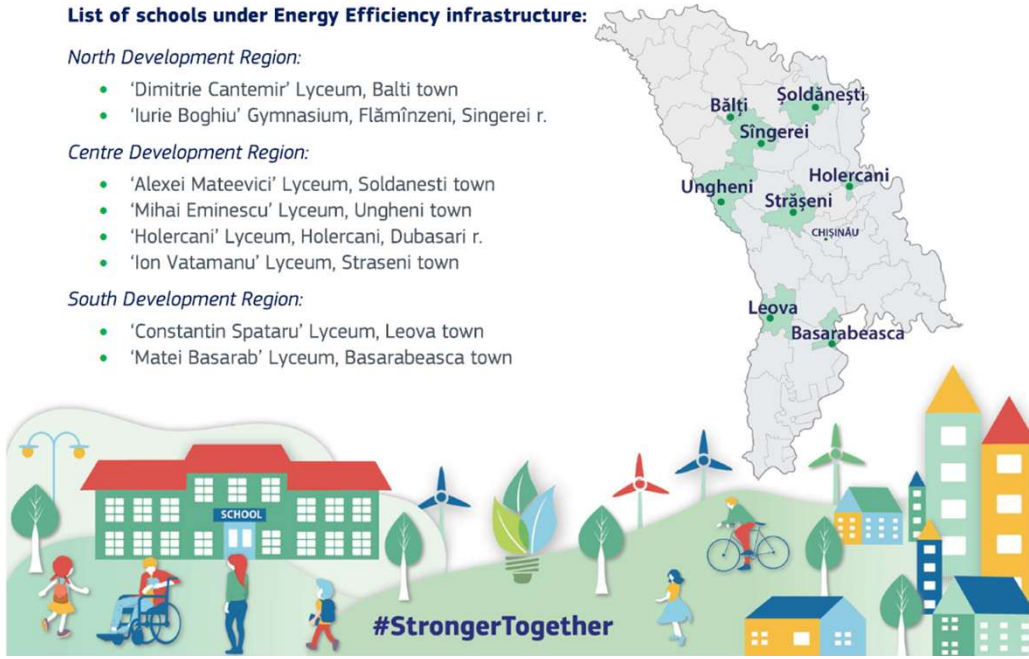
Final evaluation: Construction of Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructure as well as Energy Efficiency in Public buildings

This EU-funded project aimed to improve the quality of life in Moldova by addressing two critical needs: access to clean water and sanitation and energy-efficient public buildings. The project supported 10 water and sanitation infrastructure projects and 8 energy efficiency upgrades in schools, directly benefiting thousands of residents, students, and teachers. The initiative aligned with Moldova's national development goals and EU policies on sustainable infrastructure, climate action, and regional development.





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Main findings

Increased access to water and sanitation: Thousands of households gained reliable connections to water supply and sewage systems.

Improved infrastructure: Water treatment plants, pipelines, and sewage networks were upgraded, though some areas still face water quality issues due to management challenges.

Community involvement: Local residents and authorities were engaged in planning and monitoring, fostering a sense of ownership.

Delays and inefficiencies occurred due to: Errors in planning, administrative bottlenecks (slow permit issuing), and external crises (which disrupted supply chains and increased costs).

Lessons learnt

Early stakeholder engagement: Involving local authorities, utility providers, and communities from the start helps avoid delays and ensures projects meet real needs.

Flexibility in implementation: Projects should anticipate and adapt to external challenges, such as supply chain disruptions or changing regulations.

Local capacity building: Many local institutions lacked the expertise to manage complex projects. Strengthening their skills through training and support is essential for success.

Monitor and report progress: Regular tracking of sustainability plans and energy savings helps identify issues early and keeps projects on track.

Recommendations

Update and expand infrastructure plans: Develop clear, actionable strategies for water and sanitation that include modern treatment systems and asbestos removal where needed.

Strengthen local institutions: Provide training and resources to help regional and local authorities manage projects effectively.

Improve coordination: Create dedicated project units to oversee implementation and avoid delays caused by unclear responsibilities.

Ensure affordable services: Introduce preferential tariffs for vulnerable households to guarantee equitable access.

Promote energy performance standards: Introduce certification for energy-efficient buildings to encourage further upgrades.

ENEST Learns