

5th Progress Report

of GIZ Projects

“Modernization of Local Public Services

in the Republic of Moldova”

**and “Capacity Development for Regional and Cross-Border
Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova”**

Reporting period: March 1, 2012 - May 31, 2012



June, 2012

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the reporting period, March 1st – May 31st 2012, the GIZ project "Modernization of Local Public Services" (MLPS) has been working very closely with all project stakeholders performing its annual work plan and achieving progress towards its objectives. Progress was achieved in both components: Regional Planning and Programming and Modernization of Local Public Services, as well as in the area of Cross-Border Cooperation. The progress was discussed and reviewed at the last meeting of the GIZ project MLPS Steering Committee.

The GIZ project MLPS has been working very closely with Ministry of Regional Development and Construction and the Regional Development Agencies (RDA), assisting them in launching and carrying out the second Call for Project Proposals (CPP). This call for project proposals is composed of two phases. The first phase is Project Concept Notes and the second phase is the full project documentation package. The second phase started on May 21, 2012 and the deadline for submitting the full project documentation package was July 19, 2012. The GIZ project MLPS provides the assistance in the whole process in the form of technical assistance and training. As a result of the GIZ project MLPS efforts, 39 persons were prepared as trainers and 12 information sessions on the CPP were organized by these trainers. Nineteen members of the Evaluation Committee were trained to apply the Evaluation Grid developed with the GIZ project MLPS support. From 211 Concept Notes, 154 were approved at the first stage of the CPP. The GIZ project MLPS will continue its assistance in the second phase of the CPP too. At the same time, the GIZ project MLPS is cooperating with partners in updating the national and regional development strategies as well as the regional

operational plans. Special measures are undertaken for collecting data on energy efficiency of public buildings in the three regions. This intervention is being implemented in line with the agreement between the MRDC and MoE and its Energy Efficiency Agency.

Significant progress in the reporting period was achieved in the area of building partnerships with partners on Inter-Municipal Cooperation (IMC). The GIZ project MLPS participated in the Working Group responsible for preparation of the First National Conference on Inter-Municipal Cooperation. The conference will be organized by the State Chancellery and MRDC in close cooperation with international development partners, including the GIZ project MLPS. The event was scheduled for June 5 and 6, 2012. The conference marks a milestone in the process of developing IMC approach in Moldova. While preparing for the conference, the project simultaneously worked on capacity development in IMC with partners from different public administration levels. In the period of May 22-24, 2012 eight representatives of MRDC and RDAs visited Estonia and Finland, where they learned the IMC experience. As a result of the study visit, the Mission of Understanding (MoU) between RDA Center and the Regional and Local Development Agency from Estonia was signed.

On May 30, 2012 the MoU between the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Government of Sweden, represented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed. The event took place in the presence of Mr. Dirk Niebel, the German Minister for

Economic Cooperation and Development who visited Moldova together with a group of representatives from business and public sectors. The MoU outlines the principles and rules of cooperation between the partners and lays the legal foundation for the financial contribution of the Swedish Government to the GIZ project MLPS. It is an example of very good cooperation and coordination among donors.

The European Energy Manager Training Course (EUREM) represents a key cooperation point between MoEco, the National Agency for Energy Efficiency, MRDC and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations. The GIZ Project MLPS has facilitated cooperation from the beginning among partners on running the training course. Thanks to these efforts, the next group of Energy Managers will be trained in Moldova in 2012. The Committee on Eastern Economic Relations closely collaborated with the GIZ Project MLPS in the preparation and implementation of the networking travel for business and state representatives to IFAT ENTSORGA on May 6 – 8, 2012. IFAT ENTSORGA is the World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management.

The first meeting of the Advisory Working Group for Implementing Public Policies in Solid Waste Management took place on May 18, 2012. The key role of this group is to consider the proposals from different institutions and donors on the methodologies used for implementing solid waste management projects, and to suggest "consensus" solutions to the Ministry of Environment for the planning, implementation and monitoring of SWM projects. The GIZ project MLPS participates in the Working Group linking the policy dialogue with the SWM pilot project in Soldanesti. The SWM pilot project in Soldanesti has extended its potential geographical coverage and is being

considered as a project for a regional integrated solid waste management system under IMC approach. The GIZ project MLPS has provided assistance to local partners of so called "Soldanesti ++" in harmonizing their applications on SWM for the National Fund of Regional Development.

The GIZ project MLPS has continued working on implementing its WSS pilot projects in Riscani and Cahul Rayons. In both pilot projects significant progress was achieved in constructing the water and sanitation infrastructure. The deadlines for finishing the constructions works is coming in the next months. At the same time, the works on updating the WSS chapters in the Socio-Economic Development Strategies are finished and it is foreseen that the updated chapters will be adopted by the Rayon Councils in the next months. Taking into account the progress in defining the strategic directions of WSS infrastructure development and the final phase of construction works of the pilot projects the GIZ project MLPS has intensified its efforts in capacity development focusing on IMC development.

On May 30, 2012 the BMZ Minister Mr. Dirk Niebel, together with 35 German delegates, visited the hospital in the city of Orhei and learned the results of the Energy Efficiency Pilot Project. The delegation apprised the achieved results highlighting how important the energy efficiency of their buildings is for Moldovan public institutions. The GIZ project MLPS has continued its work on the project by working on the Smart Energy Installation System. It is foreseen that the system will be installed in the next months. After a tender procedure the installation works will be done for the Pilot Project on "Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community". The sustainability of capacity development and its institutionalization is a key issue in the project strategy.

The curriculum for a training course on Regional and Local Planning and Programming was jointly developed and implemented by APA and MRDC. This course is dedicated to the representatives of the Local Public Administration (LPA) I and II from the Republic of Moldova, RDAs staff and RDC members. During the reporting period, the MoU between the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC), the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova (APA) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) was jointly developed and signed. The cooperation aims to enhance the process of implementing the regional development

policy through capacity development of the LPA I and II , Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), Regional Development Councils (RDCs).

At the end of the reporting period March 1 – May 31, 2012 the GIZ project MLPS enters the next phase with achieved progress in all areas of its interventions. Building on the progress, the GIZ project MLPS will continue to cooperate very closely with all project institutional partners at central, regional and local levels as well as with development partners towards performing its annual work plan and achieving its objectives.

ABBREVIATIONS

AEE	Agency for Energy Efficiency
APA	Academy of Public Administration
BMZ	German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
BO	Branch Office
BSB	Black Sea Basin
CALM	Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CPP	Call for Project Proposals
EE/RES	Energy Efficiency and use of Renewable Energy Sources
ENPI	The European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
EU	European Union
EUREM	European Energy Manager Training Course
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
GoM	Government of Moldova
IMC	Inter-Municipal Cooperation
JILDP	Joint Integrated Local Development Programme
JMA	Joint Managing Authority
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JOP	Joint Operational Programme
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
LGSP	Local Government Support Project in Moldova
LPA	Local Public Administration
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFAR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
MLPS	Modernization of Local Public Services
MoEco	Ministry of Economy
MoEnv	Ministry of Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDC	Ministry of Regional Development and Construction
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities
NCCRD	National Coordination Council for Regional Development
NFRD	National Fund for Regional Development
NSRD	National Strategy for Regional Development
OA	Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

RDA	Regional Development Agency
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
ROP	Regional Operational Plan
RCBI	Regional Capacity Building Initiative
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEDS	Socio Economic Development Strategy
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SLE	Center for Advanced Training in Rural Development, Humboldt University, Berlin
SWM	Solid Waste Management
TA	Technical Assistance
TNC	Trans-National Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

INTRODUCTION

Regional development constitutes a key governance principle for the GoM, enshrined in the NSRD and the National Decentralization Strategy. Also, there will most likely be a prominent provision in the future Association Agreement with the EU, as is the case in all previously signed agreements. Since 2010 GIZ supports various Local Public Administrations in extending and modernizing service provision in water and sanitation, solid waste management and energy efficiency of public buildings. These thematic areas are crucial for the socio-economic development of Moldova's regions and represent a large majority of the project proposals submitted by Local Public Administrations to the NFRD both in 2010 and 2012.

The Ministries of Environment (MoEnv) and Economy have both agreed with MRDC to implement their respective sector strategies by harmonizing them with local priorities and realities with the help of aligned Regional Operation Plans. Both Ministries are responsible for policy areas which are benefitting substantial EU Sector Policy Support Programs, but face profound challenges in applying the available funds in results oriented activities and investments in the regions. The State Chancellery, as well as the CALM (Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova) will be increasingly integrated into the discussions about strengthening the local self-administration in order to ensure that the LPAs interests and perspectives are represented within this context.

This approach of aligning sector funds and policy objectives with local plans has not been conducted before in Moldova, and no other development partners are offering assistance in this specific field. There are various

initiatives in the areas of regional development, decentralization, as well as in the specific thematic areas, supported by a number of bi- and multilateral development partners who provide a multitude of synergy options.

In this regard, MLPS has a goal to contribute to the capacity development of public institutions and service providers in order to improve the population's access to quality public services.

According to the general project document, the target group is the population of 9-12 rural communities in different Rayons from the North, Center and South development regions of the Republic of Moldova. The assistance by GIZ is and will be provided through the institutions for regional development in order to provide capacity development directly to the responsible public organizations, rather than providing it through separate consulting assignments. All current and future investments for local infrastructure are selected within the framework of the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD) and implemented by the RDAs. This increases the capacities of the RDAs and the RDCs in drafting, assessing and monitoring coherent Regional Operational Plans based on realistic investment project fiches.

MLPS was commissioned by BMZ in 2009, based on the results of the government negotiations between Moldova and Germany of the same year. The current project phase (01/2010 – 12/2014) is funded by BMZ at the scale of € 3M, the Romanian Government with € 0.7M and by the Swedish Government with 30 million SDK.

The form of assistance for the project consists of providing international and national short-term and long-term experts, specific technical assistance, continuous professional training programs, as well as financial contributions for pilot measures to improve rural infrastructure development.

In this context, progress can be measured according to the following criteria:

- Improved inter-communal collaboration
 - Increased efficiency and effectiveness in project implementation
 - Increased capacity for quality control and M&E of local public services by LPAs
 - Improved management of local public services by service providers
 - Higher customer satisfaction
- Increased coherence in planning and budgeting (LPA, RDA, RDC, sector Ministries)

PARTNERSHIPS

In the reporting period, the project has built up or extended partnerships with national government institutions, development

partners in Moldova, and institutions outside of Moldova.

Partnership with national government institutions

- **Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC) and RDAs**



Developing the capacities of MRDC, RCDs and RDAs is a priority for

MLPS project, enforced by organizing study visits and trainings for the key-staff. In the period May 22-24, 2012, eight representatives of MRDC and RDAs had a study visit to Estonia and Finland where they met officials and directors of municipal enterprises that regionalized local public services. The focus of the event was on inter-municipal cooperation (IMC). As result of the study visit, a MoU between RDA Center and The Regional and Local Development Agency from Estonia was signed.

"This memorandum will let us cooperate to develop partnerships and learn from Estonian experience."

(Tudor Mesina, director, RDA Centre)

support to MRDC, RDAs, RCDs and LPA I and II representatives. Thirty-nine persons were prepared as trainers. Twelve information sessions on the CPP were organized by these

In the context of the second Call for Project Proposals (CPP)

for NFRD, the MLPS offered technical

trainers. Thus, 211 Concept Notes were submitted by the applicants.

The 19 members of the Evaluation Committee were trained to apply the Evaluation Grid, developed with GIZ support. So, from 211 conceptual notes 154 were approved at the first stage of the contest.

RCD members and LPA representatives from the Center Region - 60 persons - attended a training on regional development policies and strategies, institutional framework and strategic planning.

As always, MLPS, MRDC and RDAs and other key partners jointly planned the short-term expert missions commissioned by the project, while the respective reports were provided to MRDC and other stakeholders.

- **Ministry of Economy of Moldova (MoEco)**

Since 2006 MoEco has been responsible for all issues relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy. All the activities related to the pilot projects on energy efficiency were coordinated with the General Directorate of Energy Security and Efficiency of MoEco. The European Energy Manager Training Course (EUREM) represents a key cooperation point between MoEco, the National Agency for Energy Efficiency, MRDC and the Committee

on Eastern European Economic Relations. The MLPS staff participated in various EE/RES related events and all respective Donor Coordination Meetings, including mid-term expenditures on the energy field.

- Ministry of Environment (MoEnv)

In addition to its other responsibilities, MoEnv is also responsible for the efficient management of water resources and solid waste management. Water and waste management is the key conceptual counterpart for three MLPS pilot projects. In January, the project became a member of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Water and Sanitation (WSS) Working Groups, headed by MoEnv. The Project managed to gain MoEnv's commitment to support the co-financing of the "Expanding Integrated Waste Management into Rural Areas in the Ciorna River Basin" through the Ecological Fund.

Regarding SWM, the first meeting of the Advisory Working Group for Implementing Public Policies in Solid Waste Management took place on May 18, 2012. A key role for this Group was considering the proposals from different institutions and donors on methodologies used for implementing solid waste management projects and to suggest "consensus" solutions to the MoEnv for the planning, implementation and monitoring of SWM projects.

On May 22, 2012, MLPS representatives for MoEnv attended a workshop on Planning the Management Information System for Water and Sanitation. At the same time, GIZ project shared proiecte.md database with the EPTISA Management Information System (MIS) expert who has the task to build an information management system for the MoEnv. This will avoid overlapping and will allow information and data exchange. Also, GIZ will support MRDC and RDAs in developing a MIS for them.

- State Chancellery

The State Chancellery coordinates and ensures the strategic planning processes within the central public administration and established the methods and organizational framework for public decision making. It coordinates and monitors the performance of central public authorities, including activities related to their internal reforms in order to achieve the country's strategic European integration objectives. The State Chancellery also manages the process of programming, managing, monitoring and evaluating external assistance to Moldova.

All MLPS activities have been presented to representatives of the State Chancellery during RDC Coordination sessions.

The project became a member of the IMC Work Group headed by the State Chancellery. It was decided to organize the First National Conference on IMC on June 5-6, 2012. The event will be held by the State Chancellery, in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, with the support of international organizations. The aim of the event is to expand the collaboration of authorities for IMC and to develop a consensus among central and local public authorities, as well as with associations and other interested parties.

Financial support is provided by the MLPS in the Republic of Moldova Project, implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Local Government Support Project in Moldova and the Integrated Local Development Joint Programme, UNDP Moldova.

During the reporting period the key messages and the presentations for the conference were developed. The event will be focused on

case studies from Germany and Romania, as well as other South-Eastern European countries. Two workshops will be organized

for the second day on WSS and SWM, starting with GIZ project investment pilot initiatives as case studies.

Partnership with the national agencies

- **National Water Agency “Apele Moldovei”**

“Apele Moldovei” (the Agency) is the central government’s specialized agency for water management in Moldova. Representatives of the agency participated in various meetings and events related to WSS pilot projects. Partnering with this institution helps identify adequate technical and managerial solutions relating to “The National WSS Strategy of the Republic of Moldova.”

The representatives of the National Water Agency were invited to participate in all national round tables on integrated sector planning approaches.

- **Public Procurement Agency**

The Public Procurement Agency is a specialized authority within the Ministry of Finance, which ensures the implementation of state policy for public procurement. Consequently, all public acquisition processes for GIZ financed pilot projects are being conducted in accordance with regulations on public procurement. All related trainings are being prepared in close coordination with the agency.

The GIZ focal point in public procurement has been included as a member of the Steering Committee of the Twinning project for the Public Procurement Agency and continuously exchange information.

At the moment, a guide for entrepreneurs on public procurement is being developed by

MLPS in partnership with the Public Procurement Agency.

- **Public Property Agency**

The Public Property Agency, subordinated to the MoEco, implements government policy on public property management for state owned property. Training the RDAs on registering public property for the LPAs from the covered area was discussed. Also, studies were developed on establishing and transferring property rights for the infrastructure constructed from funds of NFRD and GIZ and on the administrative acts and registering of property regarding the infrastructure constructed under financing from NFRD and GIZ were developed.

- **The Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre**

The Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre is the central government body that implements public policy specifically related to cadastre, cartography and geo-information. On April 13, 2012, a meeting between MLPS project and the agency took place to select the subjects of interest for the agency and its subordinate institutions which should be tackled at GIZ training sessions for LPA on registering infrastructure municipal objects (IMO).

It was proposed to organize a roundtable with the involvement of the state bodies directly responsible for the registration, monitoring and updating infrastructure municipal objects: the Cadastre and Land Relations Agency, the National Energy Regulatory Agency of

Moldova, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Regional Development and

Construction, the Ministry of Environment, etc.

Partnership with other Moldovan institutions

- **Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM)**

CALM represents the largest association of local communities from the Republic of Moldova. It consists of approximately 400 representatives and is a member of the regional network of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

CALM was involved in the design message for the First Inter-Municipal Conference. On June 2, 2012, a GIZ representative will attend the Congress of CALM.

- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova**

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a non-governmental organization whose objective is to support the creation of an improved positive business climate in Moldova. The Chamber organizes the EUREM course with support from the Project and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations. The Chamber organized the official delivery of the certificates to all participants of the EUREM course implemented in 2011.

- **The Academy of Public Administration (APA)**

Collaboration with the Academy of Public Administration started last year.

On May 30, 2012, a MoU between the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions (MRDC), Academy of Public

Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova (APA) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) were jointly developed and signed.

The MoU aims to strengthen the cooperation of the parties in the process of implementing the regional development policy through capacity development of the LPA I, II, (RDAs), and RDCs.

- **Regional Office Chisinau of the Technical Joint Secretariat of the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) / Trans-National Cooperation (TNC) Programs**

In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the CBC Programs (JOP Ro-Ua-Md, JOP BSB, TNC SEE) in Moldova, a country contact point (Branch Office) was set up in 2007, being financially supported by several budget lines (EC Delegation in Moldova, TA from the JOP Ro-Ua-Md). The current operational contract ended on March 31, 2012 and the extension is envisioned for September 2012 due to internal procedures of the Contracting Authority. For this reason the State Chancellery requested the collaboration of GIZ with MRDC, has decided to assist the Branch Office Chisinau by hiring two senior experts to implement the activities that should be undertaken April – September, 2012. This should ensure the smooth and efficient running of the cross-border program in the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Partnership with development partners in Moldova

- **UNDP / Joint Integrated Local Development Programme (JILDP)**

JILDP assists the government of the Republic of Moldova in the process of decentralization as well as strengthens local self-government. GIZ invites UNDP to all its partners' relevant events to exchange knowledge and good practices. In the reporting period GIZ project cooperated with JILDP for organizing the First National Inter-Municipal Conference.

- **USAID / USAID Local Government Support Project (LGSP)**

GIZ and USAID/ LGSP became members of the IMC working group and successfully cooperated in organizing the First National Inter-Municipal Conference.

- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

The Swiss Cooperation in Moldova, as outlined in the Cooperation Strategy 2010, aims to "support the Republic of Moldova in its objective to guarantee to all its citizens equal access to quality infrastructure and services in the health and water sectors." As the lead donor in the field of WSS, SDC prepared and co-chaired various sector coordination and donor meetings during the reporting period, in which MLPS participated.

MLPS is collaborating with the Apa San Project on various activities in the WSS sector, especially in planning at Rayon level (Apa San Project assists the development of a WSS Master Plan for Ialoveni Rayon). Both MLPS and Apa San are members of WSS National Task force, headed by MoEnv.

- **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**

Sweden is the lead donor in the Republic of Moldova in the area of energy, which constitutes a key sector of the 2011-2014 "Country Strategy of Sida for the Republic of Moldova." MLPS has established working relations with Sida in the Republic of Moldova since its inception, participating in regular meetings of the Energy Donor Coordination Council and various events on regional development, decentralization and governance. In December 2011 GIZ and Sida signed the financing agreement for extending the first phase of the Project with 30,000 SDK.

On May 30, 2012, a MoU between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and

Sweden was signed,
represented
by the
Swedish
International
Development



Cooperation Agency and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The event took place in the presence of Dirk Niebel, the German Minister for Cooperation and Economic Development. The document outlines the principles and procedures for the partnership.

Partnership with institutions outside of Moldova

– Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations

The Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA) is the German business community's oldest regional initiative. It serves as a mediator between business leaders and policymakers in Germany and in Eastern Europe. It also seeks to build economic relations with these countries in order to promote trade and industry as well as investment and services with and in the region.

OA was actively involved in organizing and co-funding the EUREM training of trainers course.

OA has designed a specific project, in close cooperation with MLPS, in order to improve the investment climate for German companies in the field of local public service infrastructure.

The Committee on Eastern Economic Relations

Relations closely collaborated with the project in the preparation and implementation of travel for business and state representatives to IFAT ENTSORGA 2012, on May 6-8, 2012. IFAT ENTSORGA is the World's Leading Trade Fair

for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management.

– Trilateral cooperation: Moldova - Romania - Germany

The Republic of Moldova is the major partner of Romania in its bilateral development efforts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania provided 500,000 Euros in 2010 to MLPS as part of the international development assistance to Moldova for implementing a pilot project on improving water supply and sewage systems in the village of Rosu, Cahul Rayon.

In August 2011, the Ministry, in cooperation with MLPS, increased its contribution by an additional 200,000 Euros, which was used for improving sanitation in Rosu complementary to the ongoing water supply activities. The report was sent in January 2012. The future plans for cooperation are being discussed. A designer company was contracted by the mayoralty of Rosu, based on allocation of 200,000 MDL from the local budget. According to the operational plan, the finalization of the works was scheduled for July 2012.

This project in Rosu is constantly monitored by the representatives of the Romanian Embassy to Moldova, jointly with GIZ and RDA South to ensure smooth cooperation and efficient use of the allocated funds.



"This event represented a significant opportunity to inform on the most modern and energy efficient technologies and on environment protection area, WSS and SWM. We are sure that this experience will help us in strengthening our capacity to solve environment issues".

(Rodion Bajureanu, Deputy Environment Minister)

I. MODERNIZATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Chapter 1. Regional and Local Planning and Programming

According to the terms of reference for the grant agreement between Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and GIZ, as well as according to the GIZ Activity Plan for 2012 of the project "Modernization of Local Public Services" (MLPS) which were correlated with the activity plans of the MRDC and RDA North, Center and South, respectively, a series of activities within the Regional Planning and Programming component of the MLPS project were planned to achieve the following results:

- Preparation for the 2nd call for project proposals (2nd CPP);
- Informing and instructing potential applicants in regard to the specific conditions of the 2nd CPP;
- Collecting, assessing and approving the Concept Notes of the project proposals;
- Developing the concepts for updating Regional Development Strategies and elaborating Regional Operational Plans.

GIZ provided financial support and direct assistance through its regional advisors and local and international experts for the following activities:

- Modifying and updating the Applicant's Guide;
- Defining assessment criteria and developing Evaluation Grids for the

Concept Notes and the Application Forms;

- Developing a brief roadmap for applicants to guide them in the elaboration process of the Concept Notes;
- Organising and carrying out in all regions, North, Center and South, information and instruction sessions for potential applicants to the NFRD;
- Organising and carrying out in regions, North, Center and South, round tables and/or information sessions regarding the methodology for updating the Water Supply and Sanitation chapter and the Solid Waste Management chapter from the district Socio-Economic Development Strategies (SEDS);
- Developing the guide "Methodology for updating the Water Supply and Sanitation chapter from the local Socio-Economic Development Strategies";
- Completing and approving the chapter "Water Supply and Sanitation" from the SEDSs in Riscani and Cahul districts;
- Facilitating the dialogue among all stakeholders on the energy efficiency of public buildings;
- Instructing the RDA North, Center and South staff in the field of public property management.

1.1 Developing Regional Operational Plans

A new concept and a new structure for ROP 2013-2015 was approved following the working sessions and discussions with the specialists from the General Department for

Regional Development of the MRDC, as well as those from the RDA North, Center and South, at the joint meeting on April 18, 2012. These documents shall serve for RDAs and RDC as

an effective and efficient tool for attracting investments both from national and international funds with the view of implementing projects of regional scope. The implementation of this new ROP concept started as the new CPP was launched.

On March 27,2012, MRDC launched the second CPP, which has to correspond to the following priorities and measures (programmes):

Priority 1 Rehabilitation of physical infrastructure.

Measure 1.1. Rehabilitation and Construction of water supply and sewerage networks and waste water treatment plants.

Measure 1.2. Rehabilitation and modernization of existent road network and international connection points.

Measure 1.3. Development and diversification of access roads and communication networks.

Priority 2. Support for private sector development especially in rural areas.

Measure 2.1. Education of the rural population with the view of diversifying the means of subsistence and promoting non-agricultural business

Measure 2.2. Capacity development for information, consulting and support institutions.

Measure 2.3. Development of cooperation structures in marketing agricultural goods and their clustering.

Measure 2.4. Development of programmes to implement international food safety and food quality standards.

Priority 3 Improvement of environmental factors and touristic attractiveness.

Measure 3.1. Promotion of eco-friendly practices in agriculture and technologies.

Measure 3.2. Development of integrated solid waste management systems including separate waste collection and recycling. Construction of modern landfill sites for non-recyclable waste.

Measure 3.3. Reducing the effect of the variable climate and soil degradation.

Measure 3.4. Rehabilitation of touristic edifices and sites and their inclusion in international touristic circuits.

The peculiarity of the second CPP, in contrast to the first CPP organised in 2010, lies in the fact that project proposals are submitted in two stages. During the first stage, applicants are to present project's Concept Notes, including a brief project description. In order to facilitate the preparation of project's Concept Notes and subsequently a completed Application Form, GIZ provided assistance to MRDC, RDA North, Center and South in the following activities:

- Updating the Applicant's Guide;
- Developing an evaluation grid for the Concept Notes and two evaluation grids for full project proposal;
- Organising an information campaign on the second CPP in 12 micro regions.
- During the first stage, applicants had to submit project Concept Notes within 40 days from the official launch of the CPP. May 10,2012, 4:00 pm was the official deadline for the submission of Concept Notes to the RDA North, Center and South.

The following activities were organized to support potential applicants, LPA I and II, to generate ideas and frame feasible project proposals with regional impact:

- A national training for trainers event on the subject of eligibility conditions and evaluation criteria within the second CPP;
- 12 information sessions on the NFRD's second CPP for LPA I and II representatives, which were attended by a total of 693 persons (the Table 1 indicates the localities where the information sessions were held and the number of participants).

Table 1. Centralized data on the participation of the LPA I and II representatives to the information sessions

RDA	Date	Locality	Target districts	Nr. of participants
RDA North	03.04.2012	Balti	Balti, Glodeni, Falesti, Riscani, Singerei	67
	04.04.2012	Edinet	Briceni, Edinet, Ocnita	57
	05.04.2012	Soroca	Donduseni, Drochia, Floresti, Soroca	74
RDA Center	30.03.2012	Rezina	Soldanești, Rezina	54
	03.04.2012	Nisporeni	Nisporeni, Ungheni	57
	04.04.2012	Hincesti	Hincesti, Ialoveni	65
	06.04.2012	Orhei	Orhei, Telenești	66
	10.04.2012	Anenii Noi	Anenii Noi, Criuleni, Dubasari	45
	11.04.2012	Calarasi	Calarasi, Strașeni	50
RDA South	30.03.2012	Cimislia	Cimislia, Basarabeasca, Leova	65
	03.04.2012	Cahul	Cahul, Cantemir, Taraclia	38
	04.04.2012	Stefan Voda	Causeni, Stefan Voda	55

At each information event, participants were informed on the following subjects:

- General information on the NFRD and MLPS project;
- Peculiarities of the second CPP;
- Eligibility criteria for applicants, projects and costs;
- Evaluation criteria and procedures during each stage of the Call for Proposals;
- Applicant's Guide, including Concept Notes and full Application Forms;
- Projects currently being implemented and financed by the NFRD as well as pilot projects financed by GIZ.



The results of these efforts undertaken by all regional development stakeholders, i.e. MRDC, RDA North, Center and South, LPA I and II, are presented in the table below.

Table 2. Number of Concept Notes collected by RDAs and their distribution according to priorities and measures (programs).

	Priority 1			Priority 2			Priority 3			
	M. 1.1	M. 1.2	M. 1.3	M. 2.1	M. 2.2	M. 2.3	M. 3.1	M. 3.2	M. 3.3	M. 3.4
RDA North	11	15	2	4	8	0	4	5	0	6
RDA Center	19	34	1	0	12	1	3	15	0	14
RDA South	15	12	1	0	4	3	1	8	0	12

Totally, 211 CN (RDA North – 56, RDA Center – 99, RDA South - 56) were collected. With the view of assessing CN, Administrative Commissions have been created in each RDA in accordance with the Applicant's Guide provisions. By using the Evaluation grids, the Administrative Commission's members

examined and assessed each Concept Note. The evaluation results were presented to the RDC. By virtue of their legal competencies, RDCs approved the list of Concept Notes, which successfully passed the first stage of CPP. The results of the RDC meetings are presented in the table below.

Table 3. Number of Concept Notes approved by RDCs for the second stage of CPP and their distribution according to priorities and measures (programmes).

	Priority 1			Priority 2			Priority 3			
	M. 1.1	M. 1.2	M. 1.3	M. 2.1	M. 2.2	M. 2.3	M. 3.1	M. 3.2	M. 3.3	M. 3.4
RDA North	8	11	2	2	4	0	1	4	0	4
RDA Center	12	30	0	0	4	1	3	13	0	11
RDA South	11	10	1	0	4	3	1	7	0	7



Totally, 154 Concept Notes (RDA North - 36, RDA Center – 74, RDA South - 44) were approved for the second stage of CPP. The first stage, evaluation and approval of Concept Notes was completed on the May 21, 2012, with the lists of project Concept Notes being posted on the official RDA websites after approval by RDCs.

At the moment, all applicants with Concept Notes approved by the RDC have entered the

second stage, May 21 – July 19, 2012. During this period they have to prepare and submit full Application Forms. These applications will be assessed. The best of them will then be approved by the RDC and will be included in the ROP 2013-2015.

The project proposals included in the ROP North, Center and South will undergo a further evaluation by an Inter-ministerial Commission, which will present to the National Coordination Council for Regional Development the proposal for the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2013-2015 and proposal for the Government Decision regarding the endorsement of the Single Programming Document. This document will comprise all project proposals approved for implementation and will be financed from (but not only from) the NFRD.

1.2 Capacity Development of RDAs and RDCs

On one hand, Capacity development activities for the General Department for Regional Development (GDRD) staff within the MRDC, for the RDA North, Center, South, for the members of the RDC North, Center, South and LPA I and II representatives were occasioned by the launch of the second CPP. These activities served to both inform and to instruct.

A series of activities were carried out in Cahul and Riscani districts to support LPAs from these districts to prepare a water supply and sanitation chapter from the two district Socio-Economic Development Strategies (SEDS).

GIZ, within the framework of the MLPS project, provided technical assistance through its regional advisors and local experts as well as logistical and financial support for the organisation in the following activities:

#	Date	Locality	Activity	Activity Content (target group)	# participants
1	20.03.12	Riscani	Round table # 4	Updating the WSS chapter from the district SEDS (LPA I and II from Riscani district)	64
2	22.03.12	Chisinau	Information and instruction session (training of trainers)	Presenting the Action Plan for the elaboration of the ROP 2013-2015 as well as the Evaluation Grid for project CN (MRDC, RDA North, Center, South representatives and GIZ regional advisors)	39
3	25.04.12	Riscani	Information and instruction session	Analysis of the water supply and sanitation chapter from the SEDS in Riscani district: current situation, clustering options, identification of priorities and strategic objectives (LPA I and II from Riscani district)	30
4	27.04.12	Cahul	Information and instruction session	Analysis of the water supply and sanitation chapter from the SEDS in Cahul district: current situation, clustering options, identification of priorities and strategic objectives (LPA I and II from Cahul district)	83
5	03.05.12	Ialoveni	Information and instruction session	Building the capacities of the RDC Center and LPAs I and II from Anenii Noi, Ialoveni, Hincesti, Nisporeni and Straseni districts	24
6	04.05.12	Orhei	Information and instruction session	Building the capacities of the RDC Center and LPAs I and II from Dubasari, Calarasi, Criuleni, Rezina, Soldanesti and Telenesti districts	36
7	10.05.12	Chisinau	Instruction session	The application of the Evaluation Grid for CN (Administrative Commission members from the RDA North, Center and South)	19
8	28.05.12	Cimislia	Information and instruction session	Results of the first stage of the call for proposals, preparation of full Application Forms according to provisions stated in the Applicant's Guide	50

The main results of the activities listed above are:

- A total of 39 representatives of the RDA North, Center and South, of the MRDC as well as regional GIZ advisors were instructed and prepared as trainers. They subsequently organized 12 information and instruction sessions in different micro-regions regarding the second CPP for potential applicants. As a result, 211 project Concept Notes were collected.
- Representatives of the LPA I and LPA II, of the civil society and of the private sector from the two pilot districts, Riscani and Cahul, actively participated and acquired relevant knowledge of methods, tools and approaches in updating the WSS chapter from the district SEDS. The methodology developed and applied

in those two districts will serve as a guide for similar activities in other districts as well.

- Sixty members of the RDC and LPA I and II representatives from the Center Development Region were informed and instructed in the field of regional development policies and strategies, legal and institutional framework for regional development, the role and tasks of the RDC, regional development planning, revision and adaptation of the SWOT analysis and priorities of the Center Regional Development Strategy and management of regional projects.
- Nineteen members of the Administrative Commissions were instructed in the application of the evaluation grids. On May 18, 2012, the three Administrative Commissions within RDA North, Center and South

assessed the 211 Concept Notes. 154 of them were approved by RDCs for the second stage of the CPP, involving the preparation of full Application Forms.

- A group of 28 applicants in the South Development Region benefited during

an information and instruction session from direct consultations with local experts and enhanced their capacities in preparing qualitative project applications in the field of water supply and sanitation plus solid waste management.

1.3. Activities planned for the following three months

As the first stage of the CPP involving the collection, assessment and approval of Concept Notes is completed, the second stage follows, including the preparation and submission of full project applications to the RDA North, Center and South. This stage began on May 21, 2012, when the lists of approved Concept Notes were posted on the official RDA websites or a period of 60 days. Hence, the official deadline for submitting full project applications is the July 19, 2012, 4:00 pm.

To provide consulting assistance for applicants in preparing full applications each RDA plans to organize instruction and consulting sessions, featuring short term local experts in water supply and sanitation as well as solid waste management fields. GIZ will offer logistical, financial and consulting support through its regional advisors.

Another series of activities slated for the next quarter pertain to the elaboration of the ROP for each region – North, Center and South. Regional GIZ advisors will provide assistance and will be actively involved in preparing the content for different ROP chapters. Furthermore, they will participate actively in collecting relevant data for top priority sectors, as identified in the North, Center and South RDSs, as well as in the Applicant's Guide.

Finally, GIZ will provide financial and logistical support as well as ensure the direct involvement of available GIZ human resources in order to assist the MRDC in updating the

NSRD by introducing the priority "Energy efficiency of public buildings". A large data collection campaign will be conducted in the following 2-3 months in Moldova. Working groups will be established. The regional GIZ advisors along with RDA representatives and contracted interns will be involved in collecting and processing the data as well as act as trainers and advisors. A one day training for trainers session will be organized and followed by 10 information and instruction sessions for LPA I and II representatives in each of the 10 micro-regions, (3 micro-regions in the North Development Region, 4 in the Center and 3 in the South).

These activities aim to achieve several complementary objectives:

- Collecting and processing the data to be utilized by the Agency for Energy Efficiency (AEE) in creating a national database and updating the national strategy in the EE field;
- Introducing the priority "Energy efficiency of public buildings" in the North, Center and South RDSs;
- Updating the EE chapter from SEDSs in all districts;
- Preparing the CPP in the field of energy efficiency, which is slated to be launched by the MRDC and AEE at the beginning of the year 2013.

Chapter 2. Development of LPAs capacities for Inter-Municipal Cooperation and development of the capacities of local service providers

2.1. Development of LPAs capacities for IMC

Achieved:

In the last reporting period, five local workshops targeted for the selected LPAs from Riscani, Cahul, Soldanesti, Floresti, and Rezina were organized. The events followed the objective of identifying the level of interest and readiness for cooperation. During the workshops the beneficiaries became familiar with concepts and forms of an IMC. Detailed information on the application of IMC for SWM and WSS projects was also presented.



At the national level, the project, together with UNDP, USAID and OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is supporting the State Chancellery and MRDC in organizing the first National Conference in IMC. The event aims to make a step forward towards creating an enhanced common understanding among key stakeholders in the current situation of IMC within the framework of decentralization and regional development in the Republic of Moldova. It also aims to identify and agree on the most urgent / important issues to be addressed and actions to be taken in order to create the necessary framework to assist interested LPAs in preparing and implementing successful IMC initiatives.

As the result of the Conference, the declaration will be developed, by which all participants will agree to continue to use platforms at different levels for developing models tailor made for local needs. It is expected that a National Working Group on IMC will be created to

develop solutions and models in a coordinated way.

Planned activities for the next reporting period:

The Project will develop concepts and start implementing activities for supporting selected LPAs from Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti Rayons to cooperate for improving the solid waste management services.

Also, Cahul Rayon will benefit from technical assistance in identifying and implementing the most suitable form of organization of the WSS services in the selected villages.

The following detailed steps will be taken to support the above mentioned Rayons in developing IMC structure:

- Baseline the local needs assessment, as well the preparation of an implementation plan and master documents for institutionalizing an IMC structure.
- Status quo and capacity assessment and analysis of the institutional and legal situation in the LPAs I and LPAs II involved.
- Promotion and information campaign tailored to the specific target group (mayors, administrative staff, technicians, population) including the possible elements of advisory service for mayors and informational material (i.e. leaflets, short film).
- Step-by-step programming / implementing for establishment of IMC. The aim is to continuously

support LPAs in finding specific IMC solutions based on local needs and the already started projects for modernizing public services. For this, working groups will be created. The implementing module will be designed as an ongoing process which has to be done in coordination with central authorities. RDAs will be involved throughout the whole process.

- To develop together with GIZ experts Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for implementation of the IMC Program in Moldova.
- Study visits / exchange visits (optional module). In accordance with the knowledge and capacity gaps identified, capacity development projects in the form of “internships” / work exchange / etc. can be developed and tailored to the specific target group or person.
- Elaboration of a Moldovan-specific guidebook for creating IMC; final

module of the IMC program, created on the basis of experiences gained throughout the process and the lessons learned. A very detailed hand-on-hand on guidebook with structured explanations of all the steps to be taken. For the elaboration of the guide, a documentation system and M&E system should be developed and applied.

To achieve the above mentioned tasks, the projects will cooperate with the representatives of LPAs, central authorities, policy makers, the representatives of donor, national and international organizations and the representatives of the research and development community.

In this regard, a National working group on IMC will be created by the State Chancellery. The objective of the WG in IMC will be to develop and implement coordinated actions for developing IMC structures in the Republic of Moldova.

2.2. Development of Capacities for Local Public Services Provision

The Project completed the diagnostic analysis of the municipal companies *Apa Canal Cahul*, *Apa Canal Costesti*, *IM Regia Apa Soldanesti*. The recommendations specified in the diagnostic analysis were presented to the service providers' management teams.

Based on a Diagnostic Analysis report, *Apa Canal Cahul* and *IM Regia Apa Soldanesti* benefited from the technical support of local and international experts. A draft of the reorganization plan has been developed and will be proposed for approval by Rayon Councils.

Capacity development activities have been organized for WSS operators from Riscani Rayon, including municipal enterprises, mayors and other stakeholders. One of the activities was the workshop “Elaboration of the business plan for Apa Canal Costesti ME”. Two workshops were organized together with

the experts on April 6 and 12, 2012. All the local stakeholders benefited from the workshops. A national expert worked together with the ME administration on document improvement.



The community Tatarauca Veche benefited from the legal assistance for identifying the optimal variant in institutionalization of the service for efficient street lighting in the community. As a result, the Municipal Enterprise "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" was established on April 9, 2012.

At the Orhei Hospital, technical assistance is offered while the physical investments are being done and the Smart Energy Monitoring System is being installed. For ensuring the

proper administration of the system, the energy manager hired by Orhei Hospital is being assisted by GIZ focal point in energy efficiency and a local consultant.

Planned activities for the next reporting period:

Apa Canal Cahul will benefit from the assistance in expansion of the Restructuring Plan for the municipal enterprise and developing and implementing information and awareness campaign for its clients.

Development of the business plan for the municipal enterprise *Apa Canal Costesti, Riscani* Rayon will be prepared during the reporting period. Also, one workshop on consultation and development of the business plan will take place in June 2012. The information and awareness campaign for consumers will start in July.

The Project will assist the *Municipal Enterprise Regia Apa Soldanesti* in order to identify the best option for reorganization of the service and company, also for identifications of the options for regionalization of the service from

the city of Soldanesti to 8 villages, and then to all Soldanesti Rayon. The next step will be this assistance to the other two Rayons: Floresti and Rezina.

For capacity development of the Municipal Enterprise "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" there will be a module training prepared, "Efficient Street lighting in rural areas of Moldova". For this scope of work, a company will be involved together with local and international experts. Also, a study visit to a successful project is planned to be organised. A company / NGO / consultants will be subcontracted to prepare informational material and to conduct an awareness campaign.

For capacity development of the Orhei Hospital management a workshop on "Energy Efficiency in Hospitals - Exchange of Experience" will be conducted. At the event the Smart Energy Monitoring System will be presented. A study visit to a successfully implemented project in energy efficiency of public buildings will be done and an awareness campaign is also foreseen for the next period.

Chapter 3. Pilot Projects Implementation

Together with MRDC, the MLPS selected five pilot projects in the three sectors of WSS, SWM and EE in 2010. These projects were applied for by the LPAs from the three development regions to be financed by the NFRD. By these projects, the LPAs showed their willingness to solve the basic needs of their population in a transparent, innovative and cooperative way.

At the moment, five project managers from GIZ staff assist LPAS and RDAs in the process of initiating, planning, implementing and monitoring activities. Besides the soft activities, the localities benefit from each project with support in modernizing the communal services infrastructure. A brief description of the five pilot projects and their status of implementation are described below.

3.1. Water and Sanitation: “Water Supply and Sewage Services in the Village of Duruitoarea Veche, Commune of Costesti, Riscani Rayon”

Brief Project Description:

This project's objective is to cover the needs of the inhabitants of Duruitoarea Veche who face the problem of insufficient drinking water. There is currently no piped water and sewage service available in the village. The project aims to provide about 470 villagers (120 households) with quality water supply and sanitation services by connecting to existing systems in Costesti town and to improve this service in the community.

120,000 MDL local contributions. The local contribution is allocated from Riscani Rayon budget.

After the public acquisition process, the contracts with the author of the project (“BONCOM” LLC) and the technical supervisor (Intreprinderea Municipala “Comanditar UNIC” Balti) were signed by RDA North.

The official launching of the project took place on November 22, 2012. Construction began in December 2011.

Achievements:

Physical investments

The project provides for the construction of 7.5 km of water pipes and 3.2 km of sewerage pipes.

Currently, 1,500,000 MDL has been recovered and the RDA North accepted this part of construction. Water pipes were constructed. The sewerage system is under construction. The two pumping stations are not finished yet.

In October 2011, the procurement process to select the construction company was launched. Seven companies applied. “VALIS” LLC met all the requirements requested in the tender and offered the best price. It was selected and a contract was signed. The contract amount is 2,240,000 MDL, including

In order to assure participatory monitoring, the working sessions with the main stakeholders were organized. There were six working sessions organized with representatives of the construction companies and RDA, wherein the difficulties of starting the construction were discussed.

Improving the management of the public service

During this period capacity development activities have been organized for WSS operators from Riscani Rayon, including municipal enterprises, mayors and other stakeholders. One of the activities was the workshop “Elaboration of the business plan for Apa Canal Costesti ME”. Two workshops were organized with the experts on April 6 and 12, 2012. A national expert worked with the ME administration on document improvement.

Planning, Monitoring and Management

The main goal of updating the Chapter on WSS of Riscani Rayon's SEDS is to give a clear orientation for the local participants on how to ensure people's access to quality and affordable water and sanitation services.



The SEDS updating used an innovative planning methodology, which involves local and national priorities in the water supply and sanitation sector, while local priorities were set by the local communities in the participatory way.

The following has been achieved:

- Establishing local consensus. The methodology was discussed and accepted by the Rayon council. A working structure was created at the

local level named Local Team, which includes representatives of LPA I and II, WSS operators, civil society and the state decentralized services (Centre of Health, Ecology Agency).

- Establishing the national priorities (based on the national public policy) and local priorities, reflects the pressing needs of the communities. Setting priorities took place in a participatory way in several events: the focus group discussions and the Round Tables No.1, No.2 and No.3 Which ensuring the active involvement of local participants.
- Data collection took place simultaneously with participatory activities organized to provide necessary support for established application prioritization criteria. At this stage local institutions were involved (LPA, Centre for Public Health) and national institutions (National Centre for Public Health, Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre).
- Data analysis aimed to determine the final prioritization of investment options in accordance with established priorities, the technical possibilities and reasons based on the effective management of WSS service delivery. Data analysis was performed by a national and international team of technical WSS experts.
- Water supply and sanitation options were discussed in the Round Table 4 with the Local Team and all the mayors in each district. Proposed water supply options were based on the possibilities of connecting to safe drinking water and effective service management solutions with IMC.

- Specific objectives and an action plan for 2012 - 2017 were developed in the Round table 5 by the Local Team with assistance of the experts. At this stage it was important to identify the training activities of all participants in the WSS field (LPA I and II, WSS operators and consumers) to implement the WSS component of the Rayon SEDS.

Lessons Learned:

Physical investments

The presence of the technical supervisor in the field is very important for quality monitoring. In the Republic of Moldova the professional level of specialists is low; they do not have enough experience and responsibility even if they are certified by the state for specialized services. In the frame of this project, a technical expert was contracted to perform a field monitoring visit every month.

Four monitoring visits have been conducted to date by the technical expert. It was useful for improvement of the work at the site and for establishing the quality standards for a



technical supervisor. Following this intervention, the construction company has improved the quality of work as well as the updating process of documents related to construction.

Planning, monitoring and management

One lesson learned in the planning process is to ensure that necessary data is available. Also, there are several particular recommendations to be taken into account:

- The data source
- The mechanism of data collection
- The reliability of the existent data
- The key representatives from the local institutions should be involved in research / consultation
- Identification of the right solution for water supply and sanitation at the district level requires clear guidance from the Ministry of Environment. The national vision for water supply, service management, and regulatory requirements should be clear from the beginning of the planning process

Based on these lessons learned, we can propose the following:

- It is necessary to establish a list of public information data to be placed on the websites of the ministries and public authorities, to afford them easy access to all the data.
- The consultation process with local stakeholders must be accompanied by a process of information and training on the main topics of WSS and planning.
- WSS options should take into account the needs of neighboring Rayons. Possibility of WSS should be examined at the regional level. RDA could serve as a platform to create IMC between local communities and LPA II.

Plan for the next three months:

Physical investments

Construction of the WSS system: As of July 20, 2012, 7.5 km of the water supply network and 3.2 km of canal network will be put into operation. In this period, 80 households will be connected to the water supply system. By the end of the month all the population will be able to be connected to the service.

The already established local Steering Committee, which has a supervising and coordination role for the project's activities, was assisted in organizing their regular meetings.

Improving the management of the public service

For developing the business plan for the ME "Apa Canal Costesti", one workshop on consultation and development of the business plan will take place in June 2012.

Planning, monitoring and management

- Drafting of the SEDS, Action and Monitoring plan. These documents will be proposed to Rayon Council for approval.
- Public consultation and approval of SEDS, WSS by the Rayon Council.
- Feasibility study development for the priority cluster will start after approval of the SEDS, WSS component by the Rayon Council.

3.2. Water and Sanitation: "Water Supply Services in the Village of Rosu, Cahul Rayon"

Physical investments: Water System

The construction of the water pipe was resumed after the technical break due to bad weather conditions from December 25, 2011 until March 15, 2012). By the end of the reporting period, 67% of the construction was accomplished. The finalization of construction work is scheduled for July 2012.

Physical investments: Sewerage System

In 2011, the Romanian Government approved 200,000 Euro for the extension of this project. The mayoralty from Rosu organized a CPP in December 2011 to select a design company to develop the technical drawings for the new sewerage system. The design company was contracted by the mayoralty of Rosu based on allocation of 200,000 MDL from the local

budget. The technical drawings for the sewerage system were updated with the hydrological study. The documents will be presented by the end of June 2012.

Improvement of the public service management

The development of the study on the reference situation was completed by the NGO "Craion Contact Cahul" in March 2012. The reference study provides the necessary information regarding the needs of the Apa Canal Cahul for improvement of its services provision.

Planning, programming and management

The main goal of updating Cahul Rayon's SEDS, the chapter on WSS, is to give a clear orientation for the development of the WSS supply so as to ensure people's access to quality care and affordable water quality services.

SEDS updating used an innovative planning methodology which involved using local and national priorities in the water supply and sanitation sector. Local priorities were set by local communities in a participatory way.

To date the following has been achieved:

- Establishment of local consensus. The methodology was discussed and accepted by the Rayon Council. A working structure - Local Team – was created at the local level. It includes representatives of LPA I and II, WSS operators, civil society and the state decentralized services (Centre of Health, Ecology Agency)
- Establishing local priorities and national priorities (based on the national public policy) in response to the pressing needs of communities. Setting priorities was held in a participatory way in several events: the focus group discussions and the Round Tables No.1, No.2 and No.3. This ensured the active involvement of local participants.
- Data collection took place simultaneously with participatory activities organized to provide necessary support for established application prioritization criteria. At this stage local institutions were involved (LPA, Centre for Public Health) and national institutions (National Centre for Public Health, Agency for Cadastre and Land Relations).
- Data analysis aimed to determine both the final prioritization of investment options in accordance with established priorities and the technical possibilities and reasons based on the effective management of WSS services delivery. Data analysis was performed by a national and international team of technical WSS experts.
- Water supply and sanitation options were discussed in Round Table 4 with the Local Team and all the mayors in each district. There were water supply options proposed based on the possibility of connecting to safe drinking water and effective service management solutions based on IMC.
- Specific objectives and the action plan for 2012 - 2017 were developed in the Round table 5 by the Local Team with expert assistance. It was important to identify the training activities of all participants in the WSS field (LPA I and II, WSS operators and consumers) in order to implement the WSS component of the Rayon SEDS.



Assessment and Monitoring:

Weekly working meetings were organized involving the main local stakeholders, the representatives of the construction company

and RDA South. During the meetings, the difficulties were discussed that are associated with beginning the construction and execution of the aqueduct according to the plan.

The presence of the technical supervisor in the field is very important for quality



monitoring. GIZ contracted technical experts for monthly field monitoring visits. The visits were useful for the improvement of the work at the site and for establishment of the quality standards for the technical supervisor. Following the recommendations of the expert, the construction company improved the quality of works and updated the documents related to construction.

Lessons Learned:

Physical investments

The presence of the independent technical supervisor in the field is very important for the quality monitoring. In the Republic of Moldova, the professional level of the local specialists is low. They do not have enough experience or responsibility, even if they are certified by the state for specialized services.

Improvement of public service management

For a successful capacity building process, it is important to start with training needs assessment.

One of the main conditions of the capacity building program is the availability of the local residents to participate in the training.

Planning, Monitoring and Management

In the process of updating the SEDS WSS chapter several aspects were identified in order to replicate this exercise in other districts:

- In the planning process it is necessary to be guided by third parties outside the community, such as strategic planning experts. The involvement of those responsible for WSS at national, regional and local levels is welcome.
- Legal support is very important to unify the planning process, especially for linking strategies at national, regional and local levels (very important for RDA). Collection of the local data requires more time. People who collect the data should be trained in this field.
- In the research / consultation key representatives from the local institutions should be involved who know the information and have the decision power.
- Identifying the right solution for water supply and sanitation at the district level requires clear guidance from the MoEnv. The national vision for water supply, service management, and regulatory requirements should be clear from the beginning of the planning process.

All activities and events related to this project have a large scale dissemination and are available in various mass media sources: the web pages of the Romanian and the German diplomatic missions, the local and international media.

Planned activities for the next three months:

Physical investments



The construction of the water pipe in Rosu village depends on the weather conditions. Putting the WSS system into operation is rescheduled for July 2012.

The construction of the sewerage system in Rosu village: Scheduled for August 2012.

Improvement of the public service management by expansion of the restructuring plan for the municipal enterprise "Apa Canal Cahul": based on recommendations included in the Economic Analysis Report "Water Canal Cahul". An action plan will be developed in order to improve water management service.

Information and awareness campaign for consumers: RDA South will contract a company from the South region to prepare and organize the information and awareness campaign. The selection will be based on the set reference terms according to transparency requirements. The tender process will be organized in the third quarter of 2012.

Planning, programming and management

Updating the WSS Chapter of the Cahul Rayon SEDS:

Rayon SEDS: The Planning Guide in the field of water supply and sanitation will be prepared in the next period. The WSS supply solutions for the district of Cahul will be identified and proposed for discussion by the local stakeholders. The chapter on WSS of the SEDS of Cahul Rayon will be updated, discussed in public hearings and approved by the District Council.

Planned activities on updating Cahul SEDS, WSS component:

- Drafting of the SEDS, Action and Monitoring plan. These documents will be proposed to the Rayon Council to be approved.
- Public consultation and approving of the SEDS, WSS by the rayon council.
- Feasibility study development for the priority cluster will start after approval of the SEDS, WSS component by the Rayon Council.

Study development is planned on the most optimal legal and institutional form of the local services provision. In the meantime, the needs assessment activities will be organized. The already established local Steering Committee, which has a supervising and coordination role for the project's activities, was assisted in organizing their regularly scheduled meetings in the form of trainings and logistics.

3.3. Solid Waste Management Pilot Project Implementation: “Expanding Integrated Waste Management Towards Rural Areas Located in the Ciorna River Basin”

Brief Project Description:

The basin of the Ciorna River is heavily polluted for a distance of 23 km due to

uncontrolled solid waste storage and due to pollution of small effluent rivers passing through the villages of Parcani, Glingenii,

Mihuleni, Oliscani, Sestaci and Sipca from the district of Soldanesti and the village of Lipceni from the district of Rezina. Ground waters in these villages are polluted as well. Ciorna River's pollution affects 14,844 inhabitants.

Overall project goal is to decrease the environmental pollution by expanding the integrated management of waste collection and storage for Soldanesti city plus the 7 villages located in the basin of the Ciorna River.

Project objectives are:

- Strengthening technical capacity of waste separation and expanding the sanitation service for the villages located in the basin of Ciorna River: the villages of Parcani, Oliscani, Sestaci, Sipca, Mihuleni, Glingenii from Soldanesti Rayon and the village of Lipceni, Rezina Rayon;
- Development of Phase 1 landfill sites for 8 localities with a development perspective of another two phases: Phase 2 for all Rayons of Soldanesti and phase 3 for three Rayons: Soldanesti, Floresti and Rezina;
- Increasing waste management capacity of LPAs in the 8 communities located in the basin of the Ciorna River: Parcani, Oliscani, Sestaci, Sipca, Mihuleni, Glingenii in Soldanesti Rayon and village Lipiceni, in Rezina Rayon;
- Building awareness and educating people on separate waste collection.

Expected project results:

By the end of the project, a modern sanitation service will operate in 8 villages located in the basin of the Ciorna River with the intention of becoming a regional service. 14,844 people in

eight localities will benefit from the expanded sanitation service. 16 permanent jobs and 50 temporary jobs will be created. 14,844 people will be informed and trained, including 3000 pupils and 200 teachers.

Achievements:

Physical investments

In the reporting period, IPS Iprocom was assisted by an international expert in SWM to help them improve and correlate the design with the European minimum obligatory standards in the development of the sanitary landfills. The company's staff had the opportunity to learn from the international expert about sanitary landfill design. Also, the international expert incorporated several design changes which are according to the European directives for environment. Iprocom then finished the technical drawings, which were transmitted to the Projects and Construction Expertise and Verification Service.

It was agreed with GIZ partners, especially



with MRDC and MoEnv that construction of the sanitary landfill at Soldanesti will be done with the financial support from the Ecological Fund, NFRD and GIZ. By the end of the technical expertise GIZ Moldova, jointly with LPA from Soldanesti, planned to have the application prepared for submitting to the Ecological Fund for financing the construction works for the landfill and procurement of the equipment.

At the same time, GIZ focal point for SWM jointly with LPA of Soldanesti and the

international expert, prepared the Concept Note for the new CPP to NFRD for the next year. This application requested financial support from NFRD for just the second part of the construction and procurement of equipment (co-financing). The Concept Note was successfully submitted to the RDA Center. After the first evaluation, from a maximum 48 points possible, the Concept Note for the project from Soldanesti got 45.2 points ranking it among the top. The next step is to prepare the full Financing Request for NFRD and submit it by July 19, 2012. All the technical drawings of the feasibility study will be presented if the amount of the proposed construction will be more than 5 mil. MDL. The joint focal point for SWM sector and LPA from Soldanesti city have already started to prepare the full package of documents to be submitted in time to the RDA Center.

Also, in this time period GIZ Moldova assisted the selected company Globeco International. The company is preparing the technical drawings for the recycle yard in the city of Soldanesti. The recycle yard will permit to an increase in the quantity of collectible recyclable materials (paper, glass and plastic) from all Soldanesti Rayon. No doubt the collection of recyclables will have a direct impact on reducing the volume of waste disposal at the landfill. Currently the technical drawings for the recycle yard are 90% ready. The construction of the recycle yard will be included for financing from the NFRD next year.

Improving the management of the public service

The Municipal Enterprise "Regia Apa Soldanesti" was assisted by the SES expert in SWM, giving some recommendations to the

LPA and to the enterprise staff on how to improve the service.

The municipal enterprise and the LPA were assisted according to the recommendations from the diagnostic report. The next mission of the international expert is planned to assist and support the Municipal Enterprise and LPA from Soldanesti as related to the reorganization of the service / company that will give future opportunity for ME "Regia Apa Soldanesti" to become a regional company which can provide service in the whole Rayon and also to be able to cover the Rayons of



Floresti and Rezina. GIZ Moldova and the international expert jointly organized three Round Tables in the three Rayons of Soldanesti, Floresti and Rezina about SWM Projects on the topic "Introduction to challenges and opportunities of an Inter-Municipal / Inter-Rayonal Cooperation (IMC and Regional approach)".

All three roundtables were successful and the general conclusion was that these three Rayons are ready to collaborate based on common IMC approach. Next steps will be to establish two mixed working groups for the Legal / Institutional and Financial / Technical aspects of developing an IMC Structure. All aspects will be discussed in the working groups.

Planning, Monitoring and Management

For the next semester, the plan is to start the activities related to updating the SEDS, SWM chapter for Soldanesti Rayon, then continue them Floresti and Rezina Rayons. The regional planning process should ensure the strategic vision on the development of the sector and should help the local authorities to develop their own plans in accordance with the National Strategy for Waste Management, which provide regionalization of the service. At the moment, a MoU is prepared on this specific approach and in one month it will be discussed with all stakeholders. It will be signed before the start of activities.

Planned activities for the next three months:

Physical investments

After receiving the technical expertise for the Soldanesti landfill, the technical design and the application will be submitted in 2012 to the National Ecological Fund for financing part of the construction work and procurement of the specific equipment for the landfill. A full financial requirement for the NFRD will be submitted by July 19, 2012, for the construction of the recycle yard and the procurement of the equipment for the landfill, as well as for logistics in micro-region Soldanesti.

At this same time, the technical drawings for the recycle yard will be finalized.

Other planned activities:

- Submitting the documents for the Environment and Technical expertise.
- Facilitating the Steering Committee activity: organizing meetings on the coordination, preparation and logistics of the project.

One more aspect will be assessment of the LPA from Floresti Rayon in the preparation of a full financial requirement for the NFRD in the procurement of logistics, preparation of the technical drawings for the construction of the recycle yard and the transfer station for the Floresti Rayon and for the extension of the SWM service from Floresti city through the 12 villages in Floresti Rayon.

The financial request will be harmonized with the Soldanesti project. This will permit the extension of the SWM service from Soldanesti to other localities be coordinated with Floresti and Rezina. A harmonized IMC SWM service will prove efficient and will provide a great opportunity for regional SWM service in all three Rayons.

Improving the management of the public service

The international expert will assist the Municipal Enterprise "Regia Apa Soldanesti" identify the best option for reorganization of the service and the company, plus assist in the identification of the options for regionalization of service from the city of Soldanesti to the 8 villages, followed by all of Soldanesti Rayon and finally to Floresti and Rezina Rayons.

The establishment of two mixed working groups on Legal / Institutional and Financial / Technical aspects will permit creation of a joint vision in three Rayons on SWM service. The mixed groups would be made up of representatives of the three Rayons plus representatives of the central and regional stakeholders. The working groups will give an opportunity for the future regionalization of the SWM service in an IMC approach.

Planning, monitoring and management

The elaboration of the SEDS for Soldanesti Rayon with scale up activity for the Floresti and Rezina Rayons will begin. A MoU for the specific activity with all stakeholders from the sector will be signed in June 2012. Within the MoU all the obligations, attributes and role of

each stakeholder in the process of the actualization of the SEDS was specified.

Participation is foreseen in the work group for SWM sector established by the MoEnv. Participation of all sector participants is expected in order to help improve the sector policy and specific documents related to the SWM as prepared by the MoEnv.

3.4. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources: “Energy Efficiency Improvement of Orhei City Hospital”

Brief Project Description:

The project aims to increase the energy efficiency of the district hospital in Orhei.

Three other districts benefit from this hospital's services, thus it could be considered the regional level institution.



On May 30, the BMZ Minister Dirk Niebel, together with 35 German delegates, including public servants, business representatives and journalists, made a site visit to Orhei.

The visit was organized in partnership with the Moldova Social Investment Fund (MSIF), which contributed to the installation of a solar collector system for hot water generation. A joint leaflet pointing out the chain of investments attracted by the hospital administration was developed by GIZ and MSIF. It was distributed to the participants. The visit was widely covered by national and local media.

"Republic of Moldova depends on imported energy and the budgets of the public institutions are modest. That is why it is crucial to make energy economical and optimize the expenses. I am sure that this success story will be replicated by other hospitals".

(Dirk Niebel, Minister of Development and Economic Cooperation)

"This visit represents a unique opportunity to fortify the durable partnership between Germany and the Republic of Moldova. I am impressed by the achievement of the energy efficiency Orhei project and I hope that this will have a regional impact".

(Marcel Raducan, Minister of Regional Development and Construction)

"We are glad that thanks to this pilot-project we managed to make considerable economies at energy and re-direct this resources to the treatment and rehabilitation of the patients".

(Elena Palanciuc, Orhei Hospital Director)

Achievements:

Physical investments

Changing of external windows of the Prenatal Centre (maternity block of buildings) of Orhei regional hospital



During this period, 100% of 267 windows and doors (782 m²) were replaced. The procedures of verifying the actual volume of work done and signing of the minutes of acceptance of work executed in May 2012 will be signed only on June 13, 2012.

At the end of March the first invoice of work executed by the economic agent, FreMod Plast SRL, was presented amounting to a sum of circa 341,4 thousand MDL which comprised 42% of the total contract sum of 807 thousand MDL.

During this period, an addendum to the contract was signed between the Center RDA and FerMod Plast Ltd.; additional work was identified – of plastering, grouting work for the window slopes. The total cost of this work was estimated at a sum of circa 110,5 thousand MDL. This work was not included in the initial cost estimate. The Orhei Hospital owner – Orhei District Council – made an official request with the no. 02/1-21-185 dated May 14, 2012. According to the established rules this additional addendum to the contract shall be approved by the Public Procurement Agency.

Installing the Smart Energy Monitoring System

The concept for energy monitoring of the hospital was redesigned. This work was made with the support of local and international

consultants. The final draft concept was presented within the workshop to the Orhei Hospital and Orhei District Council administration on May 31, 2012. During this workshop different types of the system were examined. The hospital administration expressed their wishes to have the fully automated energy monitoring system. The experts explained and proposed different alternatives taking into consideration the available funds.

It was decided to build a system within the available funds but with the possibility to be upgraded to the automatic system. A plan of action for this process was established and agreed on. At present the hospital has to determine the location of meters for electricity, heat and water. This work is being performed by the newly hired hospital energy manager with the support of the local consultant.

Improving the management of the public service

For Installing the Smart Energy Monitoring System the following was done: For proper administration of the system the energy manager was hired by Orhei Hospital. He is assisted by GIZ focal point in energy efficiency together with a local consultant.

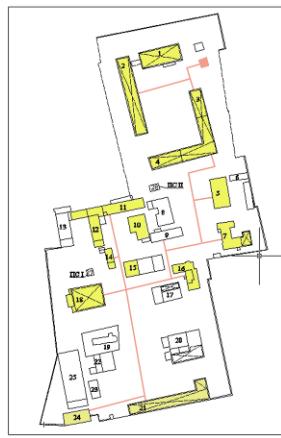
Planning, Monitoring and Management

The study “Determining the Energy Efficiency Measures Needed to Improve the Situation in Orhei Hospital” was conducted to identify energy saving opportunities in Orhei Regional Hospital and to estimate / calculate savings from identified projects.

The following projects were identified and agreed on to be elaborated in this study:

- Project 1: Improvements of building complex 1, 2 (therapy unit).
- Project 2: Improvements of building complex 3, 4 (maternity unit).
- Project 3: Improvements of building complex 16 (consultation unit).

- Project 4: Improvements of building complex 18 (pediatric unit).
- Project 5: Optimization of heat production (boiler houses).
- Project 6: Optimization of the heat distribution system (district heating system 1).
- Project 7: Introduction of a monitoring system for natural gas, electricity, fresh water, heat energy.
- Project 8: Optimization of the electricity supply system (transformer stations).



proposed.

Lessons Learned:

Physical investments

- Hospitals represent special public institutions, especially maternity wards. The work in the maternity buildings needs to be agreed on in advance, but even in doing this it is necessary to reserve additional time. Such measures will ensure smooth project implementation. It is worth mentioning that the interest of the entrepreneur shall be considered. The entrepreneur wants to finish the investment in a timely manner in order to carry the escrow of approximately 100 thousand MDL for a reasonably short time.

Improving the management of the public service

- Energy efficiency is becoming one of the very important issues in Moldova and especially in public institutions. Because of scarcity of funds the hospital management is looking for implementing measures to cut energy consumption. Therefore, there is a need for knowledge and dedicated specialists to address these issues.

Plan for the next three months:

Physical investments

Changing the external windows of the Prenatal Center

- Finalize the additional works for the replacement of external windows and doors of the Prenatal Centre.
- Monitor the works.
- Elaborate the property transfer contract.

Installing the Smart Energy Monitoring System

- Finalize the concept and scheme of the Hospital Smart Energy Monitoring System.
- Develop the tender for hiring the company to install the meters. Sign the contract with the winner and start the installation work.
- Contract the technical supervisor for installation work of the energy monitoring system in Orhei District Hospital.
- Contract a short term expert (the back stopper) for the verification and quality control of the energy monitoring system in Orhei Hospital.

Improving the management of the public service

- Prepare and conduct the workshop “Energy Efficiency in Hospitals - Exchange of Experience”; present the

- Smart Energy Monitoring System and results in a public event.
- Hire the company / experts to develop the training course “Energy Efficient Management in Hospitals”; start the course development.
- Prepare and carry out the study visit to a successfully implemented project site in the energy efficiency field related to Orhei Hospital.
- Contract company / NGO / consultants for the elaboration of informational materials; develop the

design of the informational and awareness materials.

Planning, monitoring and management

- Develop concept and management plan for energy efficiency at Orhei Regional Hospital.
- Facilitate the Steering Committee for project implementation activity: organizing the project coordination meetings, preparation and logistics.

3.5. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources: “Energy Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community”

Brief Project Description:

The project envisions installation of a street illumination system on the main streets and public institution buildings in each of the six villages in Tatarauca Veche community. About 2.2 thousand inhabitants will benefit from this Project.

Achievements:

Physical investments

In March the specifications for tender selection of a topographical, geodesic prospecting and technical design company were drafted. On March 23, 2012, the IM “Biroul de arhitectura si sistematizare” from Balti was selected to perform the work. The contract was signed on March 29, 2012.

The official launch of the project “Energy Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community” took place on March 26, 2012. It was held in the hall of festivities and ceremonies at the secondary school "Eva Gudumac" in Tatarauca Veche community. This event was attended by 54 participants, representing the project partners and other stakeholders, municipalities from the regional MRDC, GIZ, RDA North, the Agency for Energy Efficiency, the mayor of

Tatarauca Veche, local councilors, administration of Soroca Rayon and media.



During this event the general project presentation was made and future plans were shared with the participants.

The technical project design with the topographical and geodesic prospecting was completed, and verified by the Projects and Construction Expertise and Verification Service along with short-term experts.

Improving the management of the public service

The Financing Agreement between the GIZ, MRDC and ARD North provides a total amount of 50 thousand Euros. The first installment of 25 thousand Euros was transferred to ARD North on March 20, 2012.

The mayor of Tatarauca Veche accepted the request for the registration of the Municipal Enterprise "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" on March 6, 2012. Acceptance was based on the legal assistance report to identify the optimal variant of institutionalizing efficient street lighting service in the community Tatarauca Veche.

At the workshop held on March 23, 2012 entitled "Activity of the Working Group on Implementation of the Project "Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community" there was discussion about the activities needed for the company to be registered.

In a decision on 09th of April 9, 2012, the Soroca Territorial Office of Registration Chamber IM "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" was registered and a certificate was issued.

Planning, Monitoring and Management

A workshop was held on May 10, 2012. The subject "Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community" incorporated technical and practical aspects of both the implementation of the network and the operation of the public lighting service. The mayor of Tatarauca Veche, the director of the IM "TATARAUCA-VECHE", local councilors, members of the implementation group, representatives of civil society and the director of the design company attended the event. Their active participation stressed current implementation difficulties as well as probable future ones which may influence the sustainability of the project.

As a result, it was agreed that a survey in all 6 villages of Tatarauca Veche would take place by the end of May 2012. The survey would involve the local mayor, the director of the municipal enterprise, local councilors and representatives of the civil society. They would assess electricity consumption by the streetlights and the identify the lighting locations (apart from the central square and public buildings).



The perception by people of all ages of the objectives and goals of this is an important factor for its sustainability. Thus, on May 17, 2012, the "Eva Gudumac" secondary school hosted a workshop to inform pupils of gymnasium "Eva Gudumac" about the local project "Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community". Teachers and 43 pupils attended the event.

Lessons Learned:

Physical investments

It is important to study the current situation in a territory before initiating a project. The physical implementation of the street lighting project in most of the rural localities in the Republic of Moldova foresees that the execution of the electrical networks and the installation of lighting go together with electrical distribution networks who own the pillars which carry the electricity to the consumers in the territory.

As a result, the electricity distribution companies charge a fee for use of the electricity pillars. This directly influences the cost of street lighting service which is paid for by local public administrations and inhabitants of the community.

So, it is necessary to negotiate these issues with electricity distribution companies in the territory. Regardless of the source of funding, decisions to grant any projects should draw particular attention to the abilities of the mayors and mayoralty to implement them. These abilities are manifested through organizational and financial budgeting, successful implementation of other projects, conducting opinion polls in the locality, availability of people, and their financial ability to pay services.

Improving the management of the public service

In order to ensure the success of the project there is need to familiarize the population of rural localities about street lighting and the objectives of the project. Directly or indirectly, it is necessary to involve each inhabitant of the locality (example: through taxes or fees).

Information about all activities and events related to the project must be readily available to each inhabitant.

It is important to include public street lighting service in the list of these other public services:

- a) water supply
- b) heat supply
- c) waste water treatment
- d) sanitation and greening
- e) providing local public transportation
- f) administration of public and private housing

This should be done through amendments to the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, in Law No. 1402 from 24.10.2011 on household public services. This will empower the local public authorities to develop this service and will guarantee the rights and non-discriminatory access to the service for each inhabitant.

Planning, monitoring and management

Assistance to the Rayon administration in updating their strategic documents of the EE sector is foreseen. Applying the principle of IMC for more efficient public services is also considered. This makes possible the regionalization of these services, including street lightning. This also makes the operational costs more efficient.

Plan for the next three months:

Physical investments

Preparation of tenders is foreseen for the volume of work and materials, plus announcement of the acquisition of work for networks of street lighting and installation of lighting with electric energy metering and control. The company winning the tender will be contracted for the installation work to be carried out.

Improving the management of the public service

- Contracting a company as well as local and international experts for preparation of the module training "Efficient Street lighting in rural areas of Moldova".
- Contracting a company as well as local and international experts for drafting a practical guide to efficient street lighting in rural areas of Moldova.
- Preparing and conducting study visits to a successful project in the field of street lighting.
- Contracting a company / NGO / consultants for the preparation of informational materials; developing the design of publicity, awareness and information.
- Developing a business plan for the MoEco; Assisting in its implementation.

Planning, monitoring and management

To facilitate the Steering Committee of the project, the following activities will be carried out: organizing meetings for the coordination and monitoring of the project; monitoring and supervision of construction work; organizing work / installation; organizing assessment teams; contracting technical experts; training and logistics.

Chapter 4. Cross-Cutting Issues

4.1. Public Procurement

The GIZ project's activities on public procurement refer to monitoring of fulfilment of the Financing Agreements along with technical assistance and capacity development in public procurement. In the report period progress was achieved in implementation of the pilot project and fulfilment of the Financing Agreements. The GIZ public procurement action team assisted the partners in performing public procurement activities. Information is presented below on the progress and achievements in these two areas.

1. Financing Agreements

- In May 2012, the Company FerMod Plast Ltd. finished the construction work of the project "Increasing the energy efficiency of the District Hospital of Orhei". The results of the construction work were presented to the delegation of the German Ministry of Development and Economic Cooperation led by the Minister, Dirk Niebel on May 29 – 30, 2012. The next phase of the project is public procurement for installation of the smart measuring system. The GIZ public procurement action team will assist the RDA in developing and organizing the tender document.
- In May 2012, the Company IM Biroul Arhitectura si Sistematizare Ltd. completed technical drawings for the project: "Efficient street illumination system in the community of Tatarauca Veche, district of Soroca". The technical drawings are subject to approval by the Projects and Construction Expertise and Verification Service in the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction. After approval a tender will be organized for selecting a company to do the installation work.

- The construction work by the Company Izodrom Gaz Ltd. within the framework of the project "Providing potable water to the citizens of Rosu village, district of Cahul" are in the process. There were fourteen kilometres of the water pipe constructed to connect the city of Cahul with the village of Rosu. Constructing the pumping station completed that part of the project. Now the individual household connections can be done. The Financing Agreement's first progress report will be submitted to the GIZ Headquarters in Eschborn, Germany at the beginning of June 2012. The second payment for completing the construction work will be made after approval of the report.
- In May 2012 the second payment was made based on the first progress report "Water Supply and sewerage system in Duruitoarea Veche village, district of Riscani".

2. Technical assistance and capacity development

- In the report period the GIZ public procurement action team assisted the RDAs' partners, project partners and local public administration authorities with issues of public procurement by reviewing and consulting on the tender documentation for the project "Efficient street illumination system in the community of Tatarauca Veche, district of Soroca".
- The GIZ public procurement action team has been working jointly with the Agency for Public Procurement on preparation of the Public Procurement Guide Book for entrepreneurs. The structure of the PP Guide Book was discussed and agreed with the Agency for Public Procurement and the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The first draft of the Guide Book was elaborated on and submitted to the

3. Planned activities. There will be continued technical assistance and capacity development towards consolidation of RDAs and MRDC capacities in public procurement areas such as:

- Providing technical assistance in the field of public procurement to the PP specialists of the MRDC and RDAs;
 - Reviewing and consulting on the Public Procurement processes of all projects funded by the GIZ;
 - Participating in the Public Procurement processes of the RDAs. The public procurement process in the RDA North is planned for the coming months. It will include participation in the evaluation of tenders, developing recommendations for evaluation, tender selection, and support in signing the contract with the tender winner ;
- Finalizing the Project Procurement Guide Book for entrepreneurs. Organizing the discussion session with members of Regional Development Councils North, South and Center as well as with the entrepreneurs who participated at the Project Procurement of the RDAs in preparations for both the Guide Book and the tender documents; Publishing the Project Procurement Guide Book for entrepreneurs.
 - Organizing the regional training sessions for entrepreneurs with Chamber of Commerce and Industry on preparation of tender documents; Distributing the Project Procurement Guide Book to the entrepreneurs;
 - Organizing needs driven trainings on public procurement and financial management for Project Procurement specialists from MRDC and RDAs.

4.2. Public Property Management

According to the European Charter on Local Self-Government, property and property rights form one of the basic principles of local self-government. Local self-government should have the necessary property for performing its functions to deliver basic services to the population. The local self-government should have full rights over the property it possesses to exercise autonomy in deciding how to deliver basic services. The GIZ MLPS project works towards building the foundation for public property management of local public authorities in Moldova.

During the period of transition to the market economy several stages in the reform of public property rights have been implemented in Moldova. Significant progress has been made, but there are still issues that need to be addressed. An example is the insufficient regulation of relations between the property

GIZ project. The public procurement action team will review the draft.

- This resulted in a workshop with participation by the representatives of MDRC and RDAs in March 2012. In the workshop the list of issues for further study was identified.

of state and property of LPAs. In light of the insufficiencies, it was decided in consultation with the MRDC to identify problems in establishing property rights and the transfer of them to LPAs in regard to the property funded by the NFRD and GIZ.

This resulted in a workshop with participation by the representatives of MDRC and RDAs in March 2012. In the workshop the list of issues for further study was identified.





Following the recommendations of the workshop, two studies on public property and property rights for the infrastructure financed by NFRD and GIZ were contracted and carried out:

Study on establishing and transferring property rights for the infrastructure funded by NFRD and GIZ

The objective of the study was to analyze the legal framework of property rights, determine how to establish what is the property and how to transfer the property rights to LPAs for infrastructure funded by NFRD and GIZ.

The findings of the study reveal that gaps in the property rights legal framework do not allow formulation of specific methodological / practical recommendations to establish what is property nor does it allow transfer of property rights to LPAs regarding infrastructure. The study makes recommendations for amending the definition of property and property rights legal framework.

Study on administrative acts and registering of property regarding the infrastructure funded by NFRD and GIZ

4.3. Consulting assignments and staff recruitment

In the report period the staff of the Project was expanded by 7 people. The new project structure is presented in Annex 1. In March 2012, the Office Manager and the Accountant were hired through a public competition, as were representatives of RDAs and MRDC: 4 advisors for Regional Planning and Programming for the 3 RDAs (North, Center and South) and one for the MRDC. The

The objective of the study was to analyze the legislative and administrative framework of the public infrastructure created during the implementation of the five pilot projects under the GIZ project MLPS.

The recommendations and conclusions of the study may also be applied to the projects financed by NFRD and other funds. They refer to specific administrative measures necessary for proper registering of the new infrastructure.

Planned activities

Based on the recommendations from the above mentioned studies, several regulations/instructions must be elaborated on and adopted by MRDC and RDAs. And amendment needs to be made to the national legal framework on the property and property rights. A round table will be organized in order to discuss the development of the regulations/instructions. The round table will be a platform for discussion between relevant stakeholders.

After adoption of the regulations / instructions, a set of workshops will be held for the RDAs and LPAs involved in the regional development projects financed by NFRD and GIZ. At the workshops, the participants will be trained in the regulations / instructions. After the training, the experts will prepare a report highlighting the outcomes of the subjects discussed during the training. The guideline on the steps of registering and managing a public infrastructure will be developed and disseminated to the LPAs.

Communications Officer and the Project Receptionist were also hired in March 2012. In April 2012, an advisor was hired for the Capacity Development for Regional and Cross-border Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova project. The advisor works within MRDC and is responsible for the implementing the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.

II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR REGIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Brief Project Description

The project "Capacity Development for Regional Development and Cross-Border Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova" is primarily oriented towards the improving the capacities and competencies of the local and regional public authorities, organizations from the Northern Development Region of Moldova and the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC).

This technical support is aimed at increasing these partner institutions' and organizations' conceptual understanding of Regional Development within Moldova and in South-Eastern Europe. It also aims to increase technical and administrative capacity in the preparation and realization of effective use of support financed by the EU's Cross-Border Cooperation and Trans-National Cooperation programs as well as the Moldovan National Fund for Regional Development.

Currently there is insufficient experience in developing and implementing investment and capacity development projects in Moldova. The number of consulting companies with this experience is limited. So cooperation with the LPA and newly created regional structures is under-developed causing a gap between the LPA development needs and corresponding activities. The budgets of national and/or international development programs are increasing substantially year by year (EU CBC / TNC Programs financed under the EU-

Cohesion Policy and the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in the current financing period 2007- 2013). Further increases can be expected in 2014. The limited capacities of local and regional structures and the insufficient absorption capacity of LPA lead to a high number of lost opportunities. There is urgent need to improve the quality of activities in the existent institutions in order to increase the possibilities and potential of the EU CBC TNC and national programs which are implemented in Moldova. Improvement is also needed in the requirements regarding policy, administration and civil society in the regions. The Moldovan regional and local level administrative capacities are not satisfactory for the realization of the defined goals and objectives. Strategic use of the available funds for financing local and regional development measures in the target region(s) is an essential aspect of the project.

The purpose of the project "Capacity Development for Regional and Cross-border Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova" is to improve the capacities in regional development and competencies of the regional and local public authorities, the private sector and civil society organizations from the Northern Development Region of Moldova. Equal to that purpose is the preparation and realization of effective

cooperation between the different stakeholders, Central Government and potential cooperation partners in neighboring countries.

The project refers to two components:

- Technical assistance to the North development region for project identification and preparation as well as participation in CPP
- Technical support to MRDC for short-term specific requests

Objectives:

- Strengthen capacities of local participants in the regional

development concept and Cross-Border Cooperation.

- Contribute to the establishment of partnerships and develop cooperation on local, regional, national, cross-border and transnational level.
- Improve the competencies of Moldovan organizations to identify, formulate and implement regional projects.
- Identify and develop key projects for the region.
- Promote the EU programs in the region.

Activities History

Exact starting date of activities: December 2011

During December 2011 – January 2012 four training sessions were organized for the Center and South regions of Moldova. These sessions focused on project cycle management of EU financed CBC projects with a view to the second CPP launched under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013. The training program "Development of Cross-Border Projects", organized within the project "Capacity Development of Regional and Cross Border Cooperation in Moldova", was divided into four sessions, two theoretical and two practical.

In the period between training sessions assistance was offered by the service provider and GIZ experts in identification of the project ideas, development of the project proposals, and creation of regional and cross-border partnerships. Twelve Concept Notes by

participants from the training program were submitted for the second CPP launched under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013.

In April 2012, GIZ, in collaboration with MRDC, has decided to assist the Branch Office Chisinau (country contact point) by hiring two senior experts to implement the activities to be undertaken in the period April - September 2012. This decision insured the smooth and efficient running of the cross-border program in the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The newly adopted EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) provides an overall framework for parts of the South East Europe Program area, aiming to foster both integration and integrative development. The strategy's proposed action plan needs a strong commitment from the countries and stakeholders. The commission will regularly review the progress. As a result, actions and projects will be updated or replaced as they are completed. There is an emphasis on an integrated place-based approach. It is and

explicit EU objective to promote territorial cohesion through good links between urban and rural areas, fair access to infrastructures and services, and comparable living conditions. In Moldova, the national structure for implementing the EUSDR consists of an inter-ministerial Working Group (steering committee) chaired by the National Coordinator of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, who is the vice-minister of regional development and construction.

The inter-ministerial Working Group consist of experts who are members of the Priority Area Steering Groups of the EUSDR. The general secretariat is confident in the ministry's specialists from the international relations and

investments division and regional development department. An advisory board consisting of representatives from the non-governmental sector, private sector and local public administration will be created to ensure an efficient dialog and expert advice on the projects and activities. With MRDC acting within its RDA as the central public administration institution responsible for regional development policies in the country, it will promote inclusion of the EUSDR relevant actions. In this respect, GIZ, in collaboration with MRDC, hired a full-time advisor to offer support to the vice minister in the implementation of the EUSDR from April to November 2012.

Achievements in the Reporting Period

Development needs assessment A MoU was jointly developed and signed between the Ministry of Regional



Development and Construction (MRDC), the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova (APA) and (GIZ). This cooperation aims to enhance the process of implementing the regional development policy through capacity development of LPA I and II, RDAs and RDC.

Estimated results of the planned activities are:

1. The training program of the Academy of Public Administration (APA) be assessed and

updated in accordance with the current evolution of regional development policy.

3. The curriculum for a training course on Regional and Local Planning and Programming be developed and implemented jointly by APA and MRDC. This course will be dedicated to the representatives of the LPA I and II from Republic of Moldova, RDAs' staff and RDC members. The curriculum will be developed on the basis of existing programs. All parties of the memorandum will be involved in this process..

4. Training of Trainers (ToT) program be organized for specialists involved in implementing the training course on Regional and Local Planning and Programming.

5. Organize as needed trainers for the information sessions and trainings in the regions.

In this report period the Working Group was set to coordinate the activities and further

develop the relations between the partners in delivery and promotion of regional development policy. The group developed and used the action plan to achieve the objective of the memorandum. Currently, the materials for the training program "Management and elaboration of programmes / projects" are being analyzed. The working meeting to discuss the concept of the training program along with proposals for improvement will be held on June 7, 2012.

On March 23, 2012 the Association of the Graduates of the Academy of Public Administration (APAAG) affiliated with the President's Office of the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with the partners, organized the final conference of the project "Fostering Local Public Administration towards EU Standards and Best Practices".

To foster collaboration in training LPAs on project development



and management GIZ offered a grant of 3.000,00 Euros to the APAAG for the "Fostering Local Public Administration towards the EU Standards and Best Practices" project. In a MoU signed between GIZ and APAAG, it was noted that GIZ will financially contribute to the 10% co-financing requirement of the project. It is primarily financed by the Joint Operational Program Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013, Priority 3 "People to People Co-operation", Measure 3.1 Local and regional governance.

This local subsidy was intended exclusively for contribution to:

1. Organization of the training of trainers program on project management in the period June 27– July 1, 2011 .The training will take place in Iasi, Romania and will bring together representatives of the APA under the President's Office of the Republic of Moldova, the APAAG affiliated to the President's Office of Republic of Moldova, the Center for Assistance to Public Authorities Chisinau, the Regional Development Agencies from Moldova, the Regional Training Centre for Local Public Administration in Iasi, Romania, and the Agency for Regional Development, Odessa, Ukraine. Participants will be actively involved in the discussions. Practical activities will be focused on: main principles of project management, writing the project proposals, steps and processes of project management, project visibility, monitoring and evaluation. Participants will also take part in the exercises filling in the application form. The training is intended to fortify theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and developed required competencies for filling in application forms and proposals. The participants will also learn how to identify and minimize the risks that are part of the implementation process of the projects, plus the mechanisms that can be employed in monitoring and evaluation.

2. Elaboration of two guidebooks:

- Best practice models guidebook for project elaboration and writing. This guidebook contains the baseline ideas for management of projects, a funding application, the logical matrix, common mistakes in writing projects and examples of projects successfully implemented in the Republic of Moldova and partner countries;
- The applicant's guidebook for project writing from theory to practice. It contains elements for LPA

fundraising, practical advice on identification of project ideas, financiers, plus creation of viable partnerships.

- The purpose of the project "Fostering Local Public Administration towards the EU Standards and Best Practices" has many facets. It was to promote European Standards in cooperation between the Training Institutions in the field of the Public Administration of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, to strengthen the training capacity, and to provide the public servants of Local Authorities with development resources to improve the quality of public services for efficient and competent public administration.

The project objectives are:

1. Establishing a partner's network toward developing systematic methods and procedures for continuous training of trainers programs;
2. Creating an integrated and permanent training system within training institutions in the field of Public Administration;
3. Improving the capacities of local public servants and public service managers/providers in the use of better governance principles;
4. Developing the capacities of the local administration for project elaboration and implementation, promoting agreements and partnerships, leveraging public sector investments by identifying funding opportunities, and developing projects for infrastructure improvement.

On May 30, 2012 the MoU was signed between the Falesti District / NGO „CUTEZATORUL” and the GIZ. Falesti District was selected as a lead partner in

implementation of the CBC project “Cross-border Improvement of Solid Municipal Waste Management in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine” under the first CPP for the Joint Operational Program Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013. In this partnership GIZ will contribute 10% of the co-financing requirement, offering a grant of 619.520 MDL to Falesti District and 40.000 MDL to NGO „CUTEZATORUL”.

The purpose of the project is to improve municipal solid waste management by establishing proper management of solid waste in the cross-border area Romania-Ukraine-Moldova.

The project objectives are:

1. Reducing the volume of solid waste at landfills in project target regions;
2. Improving the state of environment in the project target regions;
3. Increasing the level of public awareness by way of information on waste management in the project target regions;
4. Promoting cross-border cooperation between authorities and the public.

Support for the implementation of the EUSDR

The Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova was appointed in November 2011 as the national authority responsible for the coordination of the EUSDR. The National Coordinator, in the person of the Deputy Minister, coordinates the activity of the Steering Group, which is composed of 13 priority area experts who represent relevant institutions for the eleven priorities of the Strategy.

Some of the main challenges in this process are:

- Poor operational structure for an efficient implementation process;
- Insufficient visibility;
- Passivity and low participation by the inter-ministerial group of experts in events and activities related to the Danube Strategy.

Lack of efficient communication among the inter-ministerial group of experts. Expected outputs of GIZ support for the National Coordinator in the context of EUSDR are:

- The Republic of Moldova actively implements the EUSDR;
- Elaborate the national action plan;
- Offer relevant support to the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction in the EUSDR implementation process.



The GIZ advisor facilitated a meeting of the inter-ministerial group on May 4, 2012. Main responsibilities in the implementation process and potential challenges were emphasized. To improve the implementation process of EUSDR in the Republic of Moldova there was elaboration on concept papers with recommendations to the national coordinator regarding the communication strategy, stakeholder's involvement, operational structure enhancements, and partner cooperation. For better planning of the EUSDR events at the coordination level it is important to detail a timeline that contains the reporting deadlines, meetings, etc. In this

meeting the timeline was constructed and presented to the national coordinator. Subsequently it was presented at the meeting of the priority area experts of the EUSDR in order to facilitate the coordination process. There is also a need to collect relevant information regarding the EUSDR activities. The reports of the priority area experts to the national coordinator are an indispensable part of the coordination process. The reporting procedures were elaborated and priority area experts were notified.

In the reporting period a detailed guide for the Priority Areas Experts was created, based on the European Commission's recommendations. The guide suggests the main actions to be considered, their role in the implementation process, types of activities, etc. The guide was developed and presented during the third meeting with the priority area experts. Also, a list was constructed of relevant funding opportunities eligible for the Moldovan public authorities, NGOs, and private companies that comply with the context of the EUSDR.

As mentioned above, the operational structure of the EUSDR in the Republic of Moldova has imperfections that make the coordination and implementation process difficult. The experts of the priority areas are not familiar with the mechanisms that can be employed to enhance implementation of the strategy. The recommendations in this sense consist of improvements to the operational structure make it more efficient and productive. It was suggested that each representative of the relevant institution create a sub-group at the institution level and cooperate closely with the stakeholders (civil society, private sector, academic institutions, experts from other countries, etc.). The official letters requiring the formation of working groups at the institution level were signed by

the national coordinator and were sent to the inter-ministerial group. These sub-groups should facilitate the process of implementation and coordination of the relevant priority. A letter comprising the recommendations regarding the operational structure and matrix of the EUSDR implementation in the Republic of Moldova was sent to the Prime Minister. The letter contained necessary proposals for approval by Governmental Decision: the mandate of the national coordinator, operational structure / organization chart, EUSDR action plan, determine the supervision and reporting mechanisms regarding the EUSDR implementation. Creation of working groups within each institution involved in the EUSDR implementation was proposed. And lastly, to improve the visibility and communication, each institution involved should create a EUSDR dedicated menu on the web page. To support the priority area experts in implementation of the EUSDR, the GIZ advisor launched an initiative to organize meetings with each institution involved. The goal was to explain to the national coordinator the requirements of the reports, proposals for the action plan, and further activities within the strategy. As the coaching/tutoring proposal to the priority area experts was launched, a meeting was requested by experts from the Priority Area (PA) 1: To improve mobility and multimodality. In this meeting the details concerning the reporting procedures, action plan, communication, sub-group formation, etc. were explained. The meeting was organized with representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Roads Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, discussions were held with the experts from the Ministry of Economy and Academy of Science.

The action plan should be one of the main documents at the national level toward the implementation of the EUSDR in the Republic

of Moldova. The draft action plan was elaborated and presented during the third meeting with the priority area experts. Additionally, an official letter was sent asking the priority area experts to submit the relevant proposals for the EUSDR priorities that are being coordinated by their institution.

There was another recommendation to the national coordinator to organize monthly meetings with the inter-ministerial group of experts. The meetings with the priority area experts represent one of the main mechanisms of the EUSDR coordination process in the Republic of Moldova. At the inter-ministerial meeting organized on May 17, 2012 the priority area experts were provided with the necessary guidelines to get them actively involved in the implementation process.

Finally, in the reporting period, the GIZ advisor has agreed with the EUSDR national coordinator to start preparations for the Danube Day in the Republic of Moldova. This entails organizing a meeting with the priority area experts, representatives of the RDAs and the stakeholders. The Danube Day is an initiative that aims to raise public awareness regarding the opportunities provided by the Danube River and the necessity for sustainable development.

Support for the Branch Office CBC Chisinau in implementation activities

To ensure good project implementation, necessary assistance has been offered to management structures and project beneficiaries / partners.

On May 22, 2012, the State Chancellery held public consultations regarding the aspects reflected in the guide to the national requirements in Republic of Moldova relevant to implementation of projects financed under ENPI CBC Programs. The guide shows the

issues related to project registration, project start-up, project implementation, project audit and project reporting, plus the legal acts and required forms. About 50 stakeholders (project beneficiaries and relevant public institutions) participated at the consultation event discussing all the issues reflected in the above mentioned guide as well as existing problems and possible solutions. BO experts explained the logistical issues and made presentations on the following topics: opening a bank account, receiving and transferring money into and outside of the Republic of Moldova; foreign currency exchange; project accounting requirements; recruiting staff for project implementation; subcontracting national experts; subcontracting international experts; calculating and accounting the salary for the project personnel; paying travel costs and per diem to Moldovan and foreign experts; administrative costs; calculating and accounting for project office space; ownership of equipment; investments; intellectual property; project results; visibility and communication issues. Approximately 80 institutions are involved in the CBC projects, either as beneficiary or partner. This number may increase in the future, based on RM performance in the last CPP. It is necessary to have the support of the national authorities in order to adjust the legal framework of program requirements. Following the public consultations it was decided to write a follow-up paper to be circulated to all relevant stakeholders (national authorities, program structure) in order to solicit solutions to current challenges. Also, a platform for collaboration and communication between institutions and beneficiaries will be created to prevent failures during implementation and to protect the interests of national institutions in the programmes. The article regarding the public consultation has been drafted and uploaded on the State Chancellery web site.

The event has been organized with financial support from the GIZ, RCB / UE project and "Support to State Chancellery" UE project. The needed support has been provided to Moldovan partners from the first CPP, Joint Operation Program (JOP) Black Sea Basin (BSB) in order to be included in the Annex 1. of the Governmental Decision 246 on how to apply the zero VAT to delivery of goods and services to the country for technical assistance and investment projects. The list of Moldovan partners has been made and sent to State Chancellery's attention. The draft regulation on the appeal procedure within the JOP BSB 2007-2013 has been analyzed and relevant comments have been provided to the National Authority to support the management structures of the program. The Joint Monitoring Authority (JMA) for BSB JOP came with the proposal to increase the available ENPI financing for the second CPP within BSB JOP. These relevant comments have also been submitted to National Authority. Additionally, the comments on the amendment of the financing agreements between Moldova and the European Union for the Joint Operational Programs "Black Sea Basin" and "Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova" have been sent to the attention of the National Authority.

BO experts participated at the round table of the national experts on EU Strategy for the Danube region. The presentation regarding CBC projects which are complying with the Danube Strategy was drafted and presented during the event. BO experts assisted projects with information activities as needed using visibility guidelines. The visibility and communication materials were checked and corrected that were submitted by the projects: "Cross-Border Ecological Agriculture Network" (EcoAgriNet); "Acting together for a better environment – attitude and involvement"; "A trans-border approach to

cultural heritage management and valorization”; project financed under the BSB Program “Agroinform”. The visibility rules and the templates for visibility materials were provided daily to project beneficiaries and partners.

Some of the information activities have been performed on a regular basis, such as: contribution to the update the Romanian / English version of the Programmes website; ensuring the ENPI CBC visibility, including assisting projects with visibility guidelines whenever necessary; constantly update of contact details of organizations, institutions and authorities as would be applicants, beneficiaries and / or stakeholders of the Programme, and media to the databases managed by the JTSs.

The annual conference organized by the South East Europe (SEE) Program will take place on June 29, 2012 in Bologna, Italy. The link between the present and the future of territorial cooperation must be ensured. The conference aims to be a forum where a mixture of political and thematic discussion would bridge the Program results to the future challenges. The conference will bring together up to 400 participants, including practitioners, representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, government officials and experts from the SEE countries, representatives of international organizations, academia, and potential project developers. BO experts began preparatory activities to ensure participation of the Moldovan delegation in this important event.

The Annual Conference within the BSB JOP will be held in Chisinau. The BO experts along with the Joint Technical Secretariat (JOP BSB) have begun to coordinate the logistical aspects of the event with respect to: tentative schedule of the event, location, list of participants, etc.

Relevant support has been provided to the Evaluation and Monitoring Committees in relation to the ENPI CBC Programs implementation (JOP BSB, TNC SEE). A written procedure with relevant comments for the approval of the large scale projects “Improvement the response capacity of Mobile Emergency Service for Resuscitation and Extrication (SMURD) through a joint integration of systems for efficient monitoring and disaster consequences mitigation, with regard to population in the common boundaries of Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova” plus “Cross-Border Infrastructure (communication infrastructure between Romania and Republic of Moldova”, was drafted by BO experts and submitted them to the attention of the National Authority / JMC (Moldovan members). As well, comments on the work plan and Technical Assistant budget for the year 2012 within the TNC SEE has been drafted and submitted to the attention of the National Authority / Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)(Moldovan members).

The BO experts ensure the participation of JOP BSB at the JMC meeting on May 14-16, 2012 to approve the technical and financial report for the second CPP. The comments on the technical and financial reports have been drafted and sent to the attention of JMC (Moldovan members). The report regarding the discussion and the decisions made during the JMC meeting has been drafted and sent to the attention of the State Chancellery.

The required assistance has been provided to the contracting authority and to the evaluators nominated by the Moldovan authority for assessing applications with an external (Moldovan) component. Clarifications have been provided to the State Chancellery regarding the application with reference number 1/1/87, Local Council of Ulmu Village, “Improve the accessibility in the

cross-border area Ialoveni – Vaslui by connecting the region to the European transport network – access E581". And 8 project proposals of the third CPP by TNC SEE have been analyzed.

Assistance has been provided to the contracting authorities to perform the formal eligibility check (screen for administrative compliance applications). A BO expert participated as internal assessor for Priority 3 in the second round of the administrative check for the second CPP within the JOP Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova, as internal assessor for Priority 3. About 1060 Concept Notes were submitted in the second CPP. The administrative check started on February 27, 2012 (Iasi – Priority 3, Suceava – Priority 1 and Priority 2). The Branch Office experts were delegated to act as internal assessors. After verifying 475 Concept Notes, there were about 200 clarifications requested that needed to be checked and analyzed prior to decision. Consultations were provided to all interested eligible partners. Presentations on the general CBC Programs and implementation mechanism of the CBC project were delivered within the training

session for the staff of the State Chancellery (Policies, Strategic Planning and Foreign Aid Division). It was organized by the project "Support to the State Chancellery". Participation has been ensured in the meeting with the Ministry of Internal Affairs on issues related to participation in CBC Programs and other instruments financed by the EU.

Preparatory work has been done to ensure participation in the first fair of the regions in South East Europe 2012. The aim of this event is to gather all relevant representatives from regions in South Eastern Europe who are regional authorities, local authorities, diplomatic core, companies, civil society organizations, international organizations or respective guests to present outstanding achievements in their field of domain. The main topic of this event is to establish long-term cooperation among different stakeholders on the regional level in SEE through the transfer of ideas, knowledge, and experience in regional development. During the event the Moldovan experience regarding the implementation of the CBC projects will be presented by the BO expert.

ANNEXES

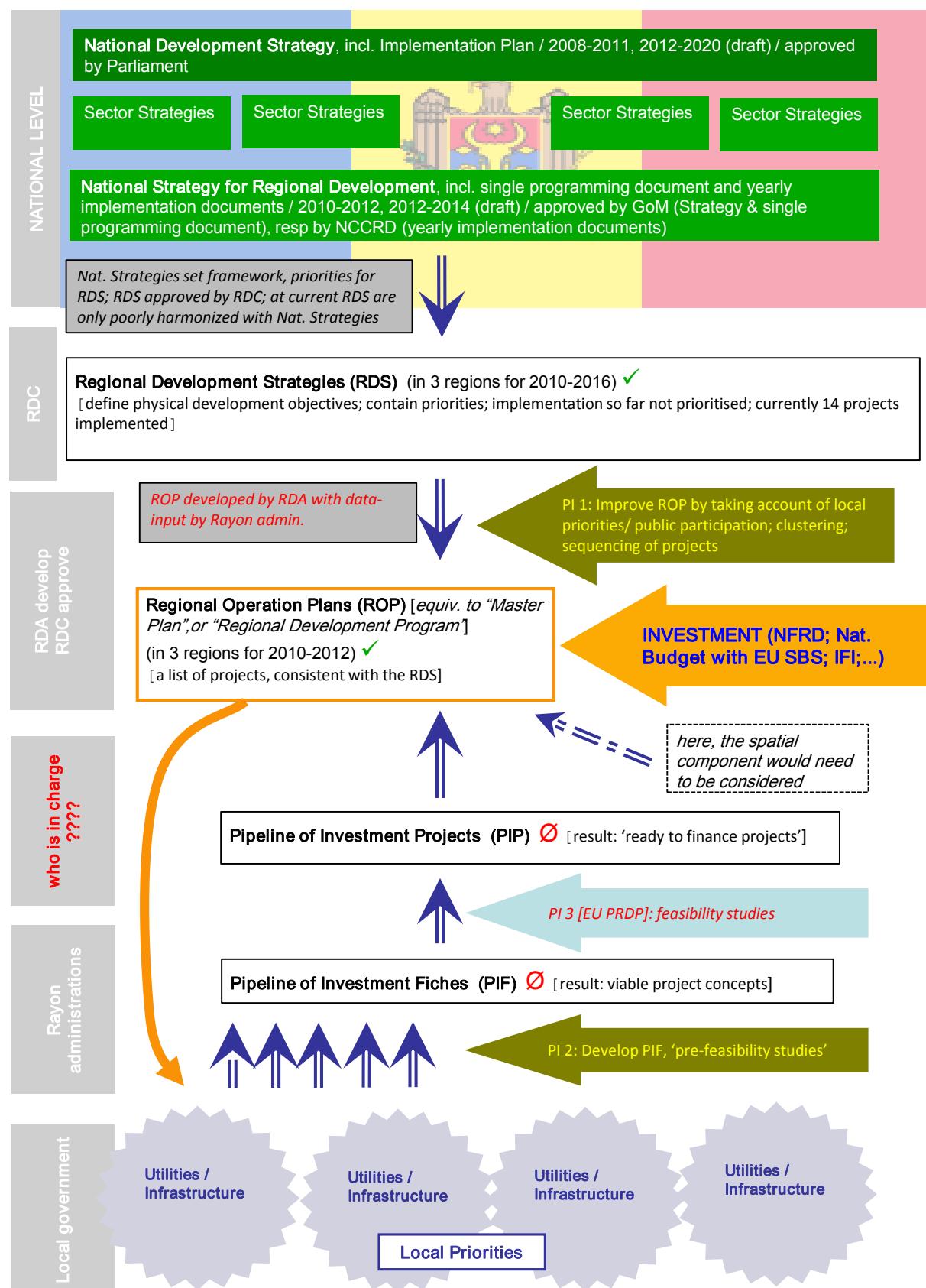
Annex #1 The Structure of the Project “Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova”

GIZ Project: Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova



Organization chart
May 2012

Annex #2 Flowchart Regional Planning and Programming



Annex #3 Project Pipeline

