

# Newsletter Regional Development

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## RDA ATU Gagauzia: Opportunities for development

**Regional Development Agency (RDA) of Administrative Territorial Unit (ATU) Gagauzia is a public non-profit institution for the implementation of regional development policy that works towards resolving the imbalance in the development of the ATU Gagauzia region.**

In June 2016 the RDA ATU Gagauzia was created and a director was appointed. The team was fully appointed and started its activity in September 2016.

To achieve national, economic and social development goals, there is a need to create a dynamic and competitive region. For this reason, RDA ATU Gagauzia aims to become a generator of programmes and projects for the economic and social development of Gagauzia. To identify the most promising projects, in March 2016 MRDC opened a call for project proposals. Following the projects assessment meeting of the Administrative committee, 11 projects have been included into the Regional Operations Plan 2017-2020 (with the total value of 300 mln MDL), out of which 5 have been included into the Single Programming Document 2017-2020 (worth a total of 63.4 mln MDL).

The main achievement in the field of strategic planning programmes is the development and approval of the Regional Development Strategy for ATU Gagauzia Region 2017-2020. The document has been developed with technical assistance of the German Development Cooperation through GIZ and is fully in line with national strategy and objectives outlined in the Regional Development Policy.



The RDA ATU Gagauzia plans to hold meetings with development partners of Moldova on the subject of attracting donor funds for projects that are important for the development of the region. For more productive communication with potential donors, the Agency

is working on the creation of the following sector programmes: economic development, water supply and sanitation, energy efficiency in public buildings, increasing tourist attractiveness of the region and solid waste management.

The RDA ATU Gagauzia identifies and implements funding projects along with sustainable growth and entrepreneurship incentives. Regional development project implemented by RDA ATU Gagauzia are designed

to contribute to a well-balanced development of territories to the benefit of citizens, while ensuring the socio-economic development of the region, according to commonly accepted European standards.

In order to ensure transparency and openness, the official site of RDA ATU Gagauzia was developed [www.adrgagauzia.md](http://www.adrgagauzia.md) and it is the main online source that provides reliable information on the processes taking place in the development region of the ATU Gagauzia and processes related to regional development of ATU Gagauzia.



Co-financing partners of MLPS project:



The opinions expressed in this publication belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the German Government or co-financing partners of MLPS project

# Almost MDL 1,5 billion from the State Budget are to be allocated for modernization of localities infrastructure and public services



**Vasile Bitca,**  
Minister of Regional  
Development  
and Construction

In late January 2017, by a Government Decision, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the funding of 52 new projects for modernization of infrastructure in localities of the Republic of Moldova. In this regard, in the next four years over MDL 1.46 billion will be allocated from the National Fund for Regional Development.

This year we are initiating 29 new projects. Projects related to drinking water supply

and sewage in Floresti, Soroca, Singerei, Ialoveni, Causeni rayons and ten localities in Glodeni rayon. In some localities drinking water treatment plants will be built, and in others - drinking water supply systems.

For some public institutions in the country, contributions will be made to increase energy efficiency in public buildings. These are rayon hospitals in Orhei and Cantemir rayons, health centres in Drochia, Edinet and Soldanesti rayons, the kindergarten in Hirbovat village, Anenii Noi rayon, the boarding school in Grimancauti village, Briceni rayon.

Also, in 2017 several projects for road infrastructure rehabilitation will be initiated: rehabilitation and connection of the local road L165 to the national road R20 and the regional corridor no.13, the route L392 Un-

gheni - Cetireni - Alexeevca; construction of the inter-municipal road Festelita-Marianca de Jos - Stefan Voda and connection with the national road R30 Chisinau-Causeni -border with Ukraine will be ensured.

Projects aimed at making advantage of regions' tourism potential is another priority of regional development. In this context, we will support promotion of tourism potential of Centre region by allocating around MDL 13 million in 2017 to improve tourist attractions in Straseni, Calarasi, Nisporeni and Ungheni. Also, restoration and repair works for the museum and Classics Alley in Calarasi town will be carried out and a tourist station will be arranged at Tiganesti Monastery. In Costesti village, Ialoveni rayon, a Tourist Sports Complex will be built, and in Nisporeni rayon a sports stadium will be rebuilt.

Priority regional development projects have been selected based on a public contest, held from March to December 2016 by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC). After three evaluation phases, the inter-ministerial commission and international experts hired with the German Development Cooperation through GIZ support have submitted suc-



cessful projects for approval to the National Coordination Council for Regional Development (NCCRD).

In the first phase of administrative evaluation, project concepts have been analysed by a commission established at regional level. The second phase has been intended for submission of funding applications and technical documentation, where they have been examined not only by members of the regional commission, and also by technical experts hired by the development partners (GIZ). The list with priority projects was presented at the national level only after a decision was approved by the Regional Development Council (RDC) in this respect. Further on, they have been evaluated within an Inter-Municipal Commission, where compliance of the projects with the national strategies has been examined. MRDC had the role to coordinate activity of actors involved at national and regional levels, but also to monitor correctness of the process.

During projects' implementation we have encountered some challenges as well. They are related to quality of projects submitted and refer to identification of result indicators. These are the elements, without which the impact of the project cannot be evaluated and the cost - benefit analysis cannot be carried out.

Further, we plan for efficient implementation of the projects by means of a synergy of national funds, since the amount of the National Fund for Regional Development, makes up only 1% of the State Budget for the corresponding year, too little to reduce disparity in development between the regions. This is the reason why we believe that our partners' contribution and support is more than necessary in this regard.



## The role of civil society in the process of regional development

Civil society is a prerequisite of a democratic society. We live in a reality where there is a need to create a synergy of our efforts to overcome the problems faced by the society, but also to boost the economic development of the region. In this regard, the civil society can be one of the key factors in this process.

The institution of civil society is a necessary one in countries with a democratic tradition, especially in those countries, in which democracy is being built. The civil society has the right and aim to influence positively the political decisions and the country's course, be that political, economic or of any public interest in a particular region.

In the process of regional development, civil society monitors the way in which the relevant institutions shall respect their powers, but also the interests of the majority of the population. The main wealth of a country are its people. Thus, in our work we must put emphasis on what the inhabitants of the region want. Here civil society can intervene, namely, by consulting the public opinion and communicating the position of the majority.

For instance, Centre Regional Development Council (RDC) consists of representatives of civil society from every rayon of the region.

Their position is very valuable. Their voice represents the voice of the people, and we want to believe that these representatives carry out their mission with dedication and responsibility. Every decision that is taken at the meetings of RDC is discussed and approved by each member that participates in the meetings organized by the responsible Centre Regional Development Agency (RDA).

As previously mentioned, civil society undertakes the role of a monitoring agent in all of its areas of intervention. Its role in the regional development process should include the stage of establishing priorities, the selection of proposals and their implementation, as well as ensuring the sustainability of regional development projects that are carried out to increase the indicator that reveals the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the region. In other words, civil society should represent majority's opinion from that unit, by participating directly in undertaking responsibility or committing to the consequences to the degree of its participation.

Civil society must participate alongside local public authorities in identifying solutions to overcome the problems faced by the society. Civil society must be the guarantor of the contribution from the local public authority,

the latter being the most effective way to involve the direct beneficiary. In the case of development projects, ever more international partners reveal from their experience that only by involving the beneficiaries through their own contribution and input to each investment, we will succeed to empower them and to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved within regional projects.

By joining efforts, we will be able to understand better the social requirements, to set our priorities and identify real solutions to solve them. For that purpose, it is necessary that civil society consist of specialized' organisations in as many areas as possible concerning the organization and administration of the human society, as it is possible. These institutions must be aware of current policies and policy proposals to monitor the manner in which decision makers comply with the interests of the majority of the population in those areas and act in order to resolve the listed problems.



**Viorel Jordan,**  
Director, Centre  
Regional  
Development Agency

## The role of civil society in the implementation of regional development policy



**Veaceslav  
Berbeca,**

Programs researcher  
and coordinator,  
IDIS 'Viitorul'

Regional development encompasses a comprehensive and complex approach aimed to contribute to a balanced socio-economic development of regions in the Republic of Moldova. Being a relatively new area of regulation and implementation, the regional development policy was able to pass through many stages to achieve the proposed goals.

Taking into account the complexity of this process, it is natural that the civil society should play an important role in the implementation of regional policy. National legal framework has identified specific mechanisms for the involvement of civil society in the process linked to the achievement of the regional development policy. Law No. 438 of 29.12.2006 on regional development names civil society as part of the Regional Development Councils (RDCs). Unfortunately, during its work, RDCs has proved to be one of the least effective institutions participating in the realization of the regional development policy. The National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD) adopted in 2010, NSRD 2013-2015, and NSRD 2016-

2020 adopted in November 2016, stress out the role of civil society in the promotion and development of regional partnerships for the management and implementation of regional development projects.

It is important to note that civil society has been active and got involved in promoting the objectives of regional development policy.

Firstly, we should highlight the role of promoting the objectives of regional development policy in the Republic of Moldova. We refer here to the activities that have been carried out by civil society organizations together with the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC). These events were carried out specifically in 2009 when significant efforts were made with regard to the initiation and promotion of regional development policy in the Republic of Moldova, especially with the creation of the institutional system and the adoption of secondary and tertiary legal framework for regional development policy implementation.

Secondly, it's about the cooperation between civil society organizations and local public administrations (LPSs). In this context, we refer to the fact that civil society organizations have implemented several projects to strengthen the capacities of the LPAs with respect to the development and implementation of projects. This measure is especially

important in terms of participation of LPSs in the development of projects financed under the Single Programming Document (SPD). Civil society also played an important role in the drafting of policy documents such as the Strategy for Socio-economic development Strategy for ATU Gagauzia by IDIS 'Viitorul' in 2017.

Thirdly, we should mention the active participation of civil society organisations in the implementation of regional development projects. In this regard, we may point out the Energy and Biomass Project in the Southern Region, financed by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), implemented by civil society organizations in partnership with LPA. In the same context, we should refer to the projects under the EU strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR), where the role of civil society organisations was and is very important.

Fourthly, we must highlight the role of monitoring that is carried out by the civil society with regard to the implementation of regional development policy in the Republic of Moldova.

In conclusion, we must acknowledge that civil society plays an important role at all stages of the implementation of the objectives of regional development policy in the Republic of Moldova.

# Eleonora Graur:

**„RDC has to become an essential platform for the process of planning and implementing regional development projects”**

Eleonora Graur is the President of Rezina Rayon as of June 2011. Previously she worked as university lecturer in State Agrarian University of Moldova and as an associate researcher in the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (this activity is being carried out up to the present day). Also in the period 2008-2011 she was the Head of the Directorate of Information Systems, Standards and Educational Records with the Ministry of Education and Youth. In 2006 she became Doctor of Economics. She is the author of several scientific publications, as well as a monograph on ‘The mechanism of financing of small and medium enterprises in the Republic of Moldova in the context of EU integration.’ In September 2015 she was elected President of the Centre Regional Development Council.

**Mrs Graur, what is a Regional Development Council (RDC) and what is needed for its highest capacity operation?**

The Regional Development Council (RDC) is a deliberative body, consisting of 52 members, representing 13 rayons in the Central Development Region: Presidents of districts, mayors within their respective development regions, delegates of the Association of Mayors; representatives of the private sector and civil society. To a large extent, RDC contribute as decision-makers to the functioning of the National Coordination Council of Regional Development (NCCRD), the key strategic decision-making actor at the national level in the area of regional development, encompassing leadership of the line ministries, of the RDCs and one representative of the private sector, delegated by each RDC.

Thus, RDC is the most important decision-making structure at the regional level. Composition of the Council is aspiring to reconcile the interests of the protagonists who

have various ‘action logic’. In my opinion, RDC, from the operational point of view, should get more active in motivating its members (particularly representatives of LPA of the first level, representatives of the private and voluntary sector). The fact that RDC is holding ordinary meetings on a quarterly basis limits the possibility for members of the RDC to fulfil their monitoring function of RDC’s activity, and some members of the RDCs still do not realize fully their role and responsibilities within these institutions. In my opinion, it would be necessary to regulate the mechanism of cooperation of members of the RDC beyond ordinary or extraordinary meetings. This initiative was recently launched by our partners from the German Development Cooperation through GIZ.

**The idea of the RDC is a borrowed one. We have several examples: Romania, Sweden, Poland, etc. Could you tell us how these structures operate in other countries and what is their role?**

Those good practices carried out by European countries in the field of regional development can be and should be followed by us, being less experienced in this field. Of course, this approach proves to be effective and constructive in so far as it is adapted to the local legal and institutional needs and specificity, and to the degree of domestic capabilities and expertise, that needs to be continuously developed.

In the case of our Romanian colleagues, the situation is very similar in regard to the purpose and tasks of the RDCs. The difference would be the composition of Romanian RDCs, because the private and voluntary sector’s representatives are not a part of them. They can be invited, if needed, but are not entitled to vote. In Sweden, for example, RDC has much broader powers, similar to those of our RDAs, i.e. from strategic planning and analysis to the coordination of project implementation with regional impact.





**RDCs in the Republic of Moldova, as well as the regional development process, are still in their early stage. In your opinion, what is the mission of these institutions in our country and what value will they add in terms of regional development projects?**

In 7 years since the creation of the RDAs in the Republic of Moldova, I would not use the term 'early' or 'infancy' stage, but rather a 'young' or 'teenage' period. This is the period when you need to self-assess the impact of the efforts made so far, when you see where and how you should put more emphasis in the future, what negative experience must be left behind, what needs to be reformulated and improved, especially now, just prior to the planned Central and local administrative reform.

In this context, I consider that RDCs should become the key element that links the RDAs, as a regional institution in charge with planning and implementation, with the decision makers of national level (NCCRD); the supra-community made up of representatives of communities working on reducing intra-regional disparities and improving living conditions for our citizens, so that they want to stay in their homeland, given the tangible opportunities for personal and community development. At the same time, I see the RDC as a platform that could gather at the same table all stakeholders from the private and the non-profit sector, whose expertise and experience can provide an essential added value to the process of planning and implementation of projects with regional impact.

**How do you convince people, representatives of LPA and other regional development partners, that this area is a priority development and provides opportunities for municipalities and regions?**

New National Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova is based on the development of the regions of the country. This fact involves good communication and implementation of various projects

from the Development Regions. These projects eventually lead to strengthening of the infrastructure, improving living conditions of locals, increasing level of community's development. I think that a leader who cares for the people who elected him, there is no need for arguments to convince him/her that it is worth to implement a specific project, which will produce changes for the better in the community.

**What are the major challenges you encounter in the process of identifying and selecting projects?**

First and foremost, it's about the pointless insistence of some applicants. The same goes for submitting obsolete projects, not complying with the provisions of the Regulation on writing and submission of



projects, lack of community's contribution in the event of a winning project. We had cases when applicants have assured us that they had the respective contribution, which later proved wrong. This issue has generated delays or even has led to the impossibility of implementing the winning project.

**Procedure is carried out when deciding which project shall be submitted for funding?**

When selecting projects for funding, we take into account the established priorities, the necessity of implementing the project and, of course, his quality.

**How do you see the contribution and the role of development partners in supporting and assisting RDCs?**

Any support from development partners contributes essentially to achieving a goal, when it derives from the actual needs and national specifics. Openness, flexibility and expertise of our partners was constantly helpful in the

activities carried out by RDC. We believe that with such support, we will have the capacity to strengthen our activities, and therefore, their results. This will directly contribute to the development of the Republic of Moldova, the improvement of living conditions and living standards of its population.

**What powers do you think a RDC should be entitled with to succeed in the development of villages in a region?**

It takes empathy, identification of the real needs of citizens to develop any region. In addition, an essential factor for ensuring good regional governance RDC is the transparency of the decision-making process, which means not only free access to the flow of information, but also timely provision of the possibility of monitoring and participatory involvement of all groups directly or indirectly interested in regional development. Another key skill is the analytical capacity which is especially needed at different stages of projects selection. Last but not least, flexibility and ability to mediate between different local/regional actors are important, without which it is impossible to ensure both efficiency and confidence in the RDC.

**If you were to list the main priorities and thus regional development projects for the Centre region for the next 4 years, what would they be?**

I consider that we cannot divide the projects into more and less important ones. All projects, if they are consistent and well-grounded, have a substantial impact on a segment of the population. I will, however, mention a few of the 11 new projects approved in the Single Programming Document (SPD): 'Rehabilitation of the transport infrastructure on the route L392 Ungheni-Cetireni-Alexeevca', 'Improving the energy efficiency of surgical block of the PMSI Orhei Rayon Hospital', 'Supporting the business development at the initial stage by creating a Business Incubator in the village of Slobozia Dusca (Criuleni rayon), and 'Improving tourism infrastructure of the Centre region'.



# Regional Development as cross-cutting, multidisciplinary and horizontal topic



**Matija Derk,**

*EU High-Level Adviser on Regional Development, MRDC*

Regional development is always difficult topic to discuss. This is mainly due to lack of understanding what regional development actually means in terms of management and governance.

Very often regional development is perceived as a separate sector with responsibility to promote investments in regions. Such view represents very narrow understanding of extremely

broad topic. Regional development is not a sector, it is rather a territorial view on provision of services, developing adequate infrastructure and continuous search for new opportunities and potentials for the benefit of people living in regions and local communities. We should make an effort to look at regional development as cross-cutting, multidisciplinary and horizontal topic.

One additional and very important issue to be addressed is lack of understanding what the difference between Regional and Rural Development is. Most of the time these two areas are perceived as one and the same and often no distinction between them is made. However, there is a difference between them and it is quite important. Properly explaining the distinction between the two will

take too much time and I hope there will be another opportunity to do so in near future.

Very often regional development is perceived as a policy area which interferes with sectors and sectoral policies. Any development requires clear focus and prioritization in line with overall longer term goals not only of regions, but more importantly on national level. There is never enough money and there never will be, that is why strategic planning and prioritization is critical. The key question we all should ask ourselves is: how can regions best contribute to overall socio-economic development and prosperity of the country? By asking this question we are not only looking towards achievement of broader national goals, but are positioning regions as important contributors to development

projects are actually of high importance for the country as a whole. As a consequence, it will lead to alignment of national budget to allocate funding for regional projects in relevant sectors.

Currently available sources of funding to promote regional development, institution and capacity building in regions and local communities are very limited. Even if allocation for regional development is suddenly doubled, it will still not be enough to cover all needs of Moldovan regions. Because the access to funding will remain one of the biggest challenges for Regional Development in short and mid-term perspective, it will be of high importance to stimulate local and regional partners (beneficiaries) to actively engage in all programmes and funding opportunities available to them.



In order to achieve that we need to focus our efforts on building expertise and operational capacity to identify needs, prepare projects and initiatives. Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC) in close collaboration with Regional Development Agencies (RDA) already work on improvement of capacity of local beneficiaries through education and transfers of knowledge, however efforts in this respect should be significantly increased. Perhaps Moldova should also consider additional

ways to better utilize National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD) in order to support capacity building, ensure part of co-funding for donor funded projects and preparation of regional project pipeline.

of national plans and policies. This way you look to increase understanding of line ministries in respective sectors (economy, transport, environment, education, employment, culture) that strategic regional



**Rodica Rotari,**

*Specialist, Regional Statistics Department, MRDC*

## The Dictionary of Regional Development

**Monitoring** is the process of regular collection and analysis of information in order to support the decision-making process by those entitled to do so, while ensuring the transparency in decision making and providing a basis for future action. Monitoring and evaluation represent activities that are carried out during and after the implementation of the programmes and projects of regional development, pursuing the degree of achievement of the objectives proposed and their impact on the level of socio-economic development and the living standards of the population. The main purpose of the monitoring process is the implementation phase, the analysis and identification of possible deviations from the goals initially set.

**Evaluation** is a tool for estimating the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness of the financial assistance provided, of the impact and sustainability of the results achieved in the implementation of regional development policy. During assessment, the information presented in the monitoring stage is being used and it aims at formulating final conclusions with regard to the results obtained in the implementation of regional development policy. The assessment encompasses a number of criteria, and namely: checking if the results of the implementation of programmes and projects are in line with those laid down at the stage of formulation; analyzing the relationship between the costs of obtaining the expected results and the budget planned in the stage of formulation of programmes and projects; observing the compliance to the content of activities and terms set out in the implementation plan.

# The Republic of Moldova will continue to benefit from increased assistance of the Czech Republic

Attracting international investment and inviting development partners for co-financing of projects in the Single Programming Document (SPD) for the 2017-2020 and the Regional Operational Programmes (ROP), is a priority for the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC).

An increased interest for the financing and implementation of projects in the Republic of Moldova comes from the Government of the Czech Republic. Thus, 2017 begins with a thorough collaboration between MRDC and the Czech Development Agency.

On January 25, 2017 the project 'Implementation of Eurocodes in Moldova and increase the access to standards', financed by the Government of the Czech Republic, was launched. This project will be jointly conducted during 2017-2018, and its aim is to support the use of Eurocodes for construction works and structural construction products, relevant in the European Economic Area.

Also, on 16 March 2017, the pilot project 'Development of Strategic Planning in the North-



ern Region' was finalized. It was decided that it would be appropriate to multiply its experience in other regions. Thus, the project will be expanded in the development regions South and ATU Gagauzia. The project's goal is to use modern methods of strategic planning in order to promote investment opportunities in regions. The results of this project will allow to proceed to a higher level of projects implementation, while the use of geospatial data will facilitate the development of a new type of strategic planning.

In the period 2017-2019 another project in the field of territorial planning will be implemented with the support of the Czech Government. Its purpose is to support sustainable urbanization process and increase capacity for the sustainable planning and management of cities and towns.

At the end of March, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Moldova, Zdenek Krejci, jointly with the representatives of the public institutions from the Czech Republic, convened at a meeting at MRDC, to discuss about Cooperation Programme of the Czech Republic with Moldova for 2018-2023. The Czech party expressed its willingness to support the balanced regional development in our country and to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities. Cooperation Programme Document of the Czech Republic with Moldova for 2018-2023 will serve as legal basis for the implementation of projects in the upcoming five years.

## The first meeting in 2017 of the MLPS Steering Committee

In late January, members of 'Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova' (MLPS) Project Steering Committee met in the first working session this year.

The event was attended by ministers from the Government of the Republic of Moldova, representatives of the State Chancellery, Regional Development Councils (North, Centre and South), directors of Regional Development Agencies, Congress of Local Public Administrations (CALM) management, heads of diplomatic missions - partners of MLPS project, as well as MLPS project representatives.

The session was officially opened by Octavian Calmic, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Chairman of MLPS Steering Committee who thanked development partners for the support provided to the Republic of Moldova in Regional Development and underlined that: 'In the context of latest developments in Regional Development, I would like to inform you that the Parliament of RM has approved in October 2016 the National Strategy on Regional Development (NSRD) for 2016-2020. This strategic document is one of the main strategies for the Government of RM in promoting the European integration agenda.'

Ulrike Knotz, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Moldova and co-chairs of MLPS Steering Committee mentioned that: 'A competent and accountable local public administration is essential for the society. These elements are crucial for a policy with an objective to improve citizens' lives, increase their trust and provide them with a realistic perspective at home, rather than abroad. We hope and believe that MLPS project could make an important contribution in this respect and also in the general decentralisation and subsidiarity process.'

All donors of the project and namely: Daniel Ionita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Republic of Moldova; Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary /Head of Delegation European Union to the Republic of Moldova; Signe Burg-

staller, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden to the Republic of Moldova; Simone Giger, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova have reiterated their readiness to provide support to the Government of the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, the development partners have emphasized the fact, that they will have a zero tolerance approach towards corruption phenomenon in public procurements.

At the event, Signe Burgstaller announced the recent signing of the additional co-financing between the Government of Sweden and Germany in the amount of SEK 35 million.

Philipp Johannsen, GIZ Country Director and MLPS Project manager, presented the intervention areas, the progress and main challenges of the project during 2016, as well as activities planned for the next three years.

The project 'Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova' (MLPS) is implemented by the German Development Cooperation through GIZ and is financially supported by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Swedish Government, the Romanian Government, the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



# “Pearl of Hincesti”: Tourist complex Manuc Bey

## Brief history

Hincesti city takes pride on one of the most beautiful locations in the Republic of Moldova, the Manor of Manuc Bey. Located in the West, upon the Hincesti Hill, the location includes a few buildings: the Palace of Manuc, Administrator's House, House of Countess Dolgorukii, Hunting Castle and the Watchtower. Even though the manor is named after Manuc Bey, a merchant and diplomat of Armenian descent, it was not built by him, but by his descendants. The entire complex is a monument of architecture entered in the Register of Monuments of Culture of the Republic of Moldova.

## Correlation of local, national and international funds

Before 2012, all the edifices located in the territory of Manuc Bey Manor were in an advanced state of degradation, "... as after the war, some ruins, among which grass and bushes were growing", according to Tudor Placinta, "with the only exception of Hunting Castle." The photos displayed in the Castle's Museum confirm Mr. Placinta's words, who is a Specialist at the Culture and Tourism Directorate with the Hincesti District Council, and a man who knows all the history of the Manor.

For the restoration of the Manuc Bey Manor more resources and funds were attracted, both local and national, but also international ones. Viorel Jordan, the Director of Centre Regional Development Agency (RDA) says that "... the restoration of the tourist complex Manuc Bey has all the chances to become an example of success in which local, national and international funds have been synergized and related very efficiently."

A part of the work for the restoration of the "Pearl of Hincesti", according to many locals, were and still are funded by the project "Opening a tourist route (Vama Veche Lăpuşna) through the restoration of historic heritage, the Manor Manuc-Bey" from Hincesti town, the Geto-Dacian location from Stolniceni village". The project is implemented by Centre RDA and has a budget of 23.5 million MDL, accessed through the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD).

Another source of financing, also important in restoration of buildings of the Manor, was the grant of over 2 million EUR, provided by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova 2007-2013. The local community has contributed to the renovation of the Manor with approximately 240 thousand EUR.

## A few steps to success

So far, reconstruction works of the Administrator's House and House of Ionita Iamandi were covered by the NFRD. For the near future it is planned to restore the underground passages of the Manor and arrange exhibitions there. Also, the reconstructions of the Lookout Tower and the Stable building are planned. On the territory

of Manor a museum will be opened. According to Mr. Placinta, "it will be located in the House of Ionita Iamandi". Also in this building there will be dining rooms and two symmetrical underground spaces, created to attract tourists.

## Tourism, culture and history

Even though the works have not been completed yet, Tudor Placinta tells us that tourists do not have patience to wait for the official launch of the complex. Last year the tourist location was visited by approximately 16 thousand tourists. "Most tourists are from our country," says our guide "... however, every fifth is a foreigner". Our guide assures us that there are records about those who visit Manuc Bey Manor.

As in the case of all tourist destinations, the entry on its territory and visits to the most important buildings is ticket-based. Tickets can be purchased at the entrance of the Complex. Until the other day, prices were "... 20 MDL for adults, 10 for students, and free entrance for children". However, quite recently new prices for tickets were approved, says Mr. Placinta. According to him they will be as follows: "200 MDL for foreigners, 100 MDL for adults who are citizens of the Republic of Moldova, 50 lei for students, and free for all children. They were calculated based on the needs to maintain the Complex, utilities, do minor renovations when necessary and many, many more", he says.

The Manor of Manuc Bey will likely become one of the unique objectives in our country. The interest of tourist agencies in the last period confirms this fact. "Future success depends on how we manage the tourist objective. The most important is to have a framework policy, corresponding to requirements", says Mr. Placinta.



## Manuc Bey is not only a tourist attraction, it also promotes education

Manuc Bey Complex is also a cultural and educational object. In other words, it is a multifunctional location. For example, in the Palace, at the third floor there was opened the public library "Antonie Plamadeala", which contains several reading rooms for children and adults, and a computer room with Internet connection. "Anyone can have access to computers. Students come here and do their homework, looking for information, making lecture notes", says Ms. Olesia Sirbu, head librarian and the "books' chief", as she was introduced to us by a group of children who were entering the library.

The renovation of this cultural tourist attraction has "...incontestable national value, both creating economic advantages, and can serve as a starting point to a better knowledge of the history and culture of the country, but also of Hincesti rayon", Silvia Chirila said, the guide who took us on a tour in the Hunting Castle.

## Impact and relevance

The project will have a beneficial impact on the final beneficiaries, especially because it will solve problematic situations that affect them. Maria Luchian, a specialist in the development, implementation and monitoring of projects with the Centre RDA told us that "... the relevance of Manuc Bey Complex lies in the fact that the renovation will bring great benefits to the Centre region but also to the district and the city of Hincesti, by creating new jobs and new business ideas that will emerge." According to her, "renovation of some national tourist destinations will be ensured, which will lead to the accumulation of more financial means in local budgets and thus to economic benefits for the region and municipality".



## Details on the project

**"The opening of the tourist route (Vama Veche Lăpuşna) through the restoration of historic heritage, the Manor "Manuc-Bey" in Hincesti town, the Geto-Dacian location from Stolniceni village"**

<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Hincesti Rayon Council, Hincesti rayon, Moldova;
<b>Financed by:</b>	National Fund for Regional Development
<b>Implemented by</b>	Centre Regional Development Agency
<b>Total project value</b>	23 500 000 MDL
<b>Implementation period</b>	2013-2017

Other sources of financing for the renovation of the tourist complex Manuc Bey, besides NFRD:

- The European Union through Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova 2007-2013 has provided a grant of 2,144,688 EUR.
- The contribution of local authorities amounted to 238, 351 EUR.