

Newsletter Regional Development

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Members of Parliament from the Environment and Regional Development Commission on a monitoring visit to the Centre Development Region

Members of Parliament from the Environment and Regional Development Commission and advisors of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova monitor the implementation of state policies in the field of regional development and environmental protection. In this context, they carried out on Wednesday, 29 November a number of monitoring visits in the Centre Development Region. Thus, members of parliamentary delegation aimed to facilitate the dialogue with regional and local institutions, identify regional development challenges and optimize the efforts of state institutions at all levels to support fair and balanced development throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The visit of the parliamentary delegation began at the Centre Regional Development Agency (RDA), where a meeting on the achievements and perspectives for the development of priority sectors in the field of regional development was held. In this context, the director of Centre RDA Viorel Jardan informed the members of Parliament on the specifics of Agency's work and on most important results, achieved in the field of regional development in the Centre Development Region. In addition, the director told the members of the commission that in 2017 Centre RDA is implementing 19 projects, funded from

the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD). The parliamentary delegation, also, shortly attended the first meeting of the specialty Commission of the Centre Regional Development Council (RDC), where they expressed the belief that the work of the new commission and entire decision-making structure will be characterized by participative approach in decision-making with an impact in the region.

Further, the members of the parliamentary commission made monitoring visits



to a number of regional development projects, implemented by Centre RDA. The first visited projects included 'Group of producers and packing house for export marketing services' (Costesti, Ialoveni) and 'Construction of tourist and sports complex in Costesti', where the mayor of the village Natalia Petrea told the Members about the success of the projects, implemented in their locality. 'We are ambitious in completing any project, launched in the locality. After we have worked out several economic aspects and

became the first ones in the country in terms of refrigeration equipment, we also intend to engage in other community development aspects, Natalia Petrea said.

In the second half of the day, the members of the Environment and Regional Development Commission visited the construction sites of the following projects: 'Construction of local road L452 on the route: village Scoreni of Straseni rayon – village Malcoci of Ialoveni Rayon' and 'Improvement of energy efficiency in the surgical unit of Orhei Rayon Hospital'. The manager of the hospital, Elena Panciuc noted that – 'With Centre RDA support we are taking a step in decreasing the maintenance costs for the surgical unit and we hope to be an example for other institutions in this respect.'

The Members were accompanied by Dorin Andros, the State Secretary in the field of regional and rural development from the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, representatives of the 'Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova' (MLPS) project and advisors of the Parliament. The visit of the Environment and Regional Development Commission of the Parliament to the Centre Development Region took place with MLPS project support.



Co-financing partners of MLPS project:



Sweden
Sverige



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC
Agenția Europeană pentru
Dezvoltare și Cooperare

Improved services in the fields of water supply and sanitation and energy efficiency in public buildings with the European Union and the German Government support

A Financing Agreement providing for increased access of citizens of the Republic of Moldova to improved water supply and sanitation services, as well as energy efficiency in public buildings was signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union (EU).

The German Development Cooperation through GIZ and the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova signed the Grant Agreement on 'Preparation of technical design and tender documentation for construction works of selected water supply and sanitation (WSS) and energy efficiency (EE) projects in three Development Regions of the Republic of Moldova' to be implemented via 'Modernization of Local public services in the Republic of Moldova' (MLPS) project. The total budget of the Action is EUR 3.5 million provided by the European Union and EUR 325,000 provided by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Implementation of the Action is scheduled for July 2017 – December 2018.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the access of citizens of the Republic of Moldova to improved services in the field of water supply and sanitation, as well as energy efficiency in public buildings. Following the signed Agreement, the technical documentation for 10 water supply and sanitation projects and 8 projects in the field of energy efficiency in public buildings will be developed. As a result, citizens from approximately 25 localities of the Republic of Moldova will become final beneficiaries of these measures.

During the kick-off meeting for the Action, which took place in July, Aneil Singh, Head of Cooperation Section, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, said: 'By this project, our objective is to achieve tangible results for the population of the country. This action is of crucial importance and aims at developing the technical documentation concerning large-scale investments. The project orientation is towards two priority sectors, namely: quality water supply and sanitation services and energy efficiency in public buildings. The aspect of ownership and engagement of local communities and civil society in the implementation of these 18 projects is very important'.

In the same way, Ulrich Kleppmann, Head of Cooperation and Economic Development, German Embassy to the Republic of Moldova said that one of the most important elements in the successful implementation of the action is: '...active par-



ticipation of all the stakeholders involved. We have all the trust that with the help of MLPS partners and of the population of the Republic of Moldova in this case we will

succeed in implementing what we have set out to do'.

'The activities under this Action will be carried out by the Regional Development Agencies with MLPS Project support', Alexandr Muravschi, GIZ/MLPS Senior National Advisor said. He also mentioned that 'a joint effort of all stakeholders involved, including of local public authorities, will be needed for the successful implementation of the Action'.

Dorin Andros, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment thanked the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, the German Government and all development partners for providing this support, especially for financing this Action, which: "...is a first stage aimed at preparing the technical documentation, still it is a very important one and requires much responsibility. The deadlines are quite tight, and there is double responsibility in this respect, as we have taken it up alongside GIZ to have documents developed in time and that these are qualitative".



The role of Local Public Administration in the Regional Development

The regional development policy has been designed to ensure a balance of development both between development regions and within them, using various mechanisms to assess disparities, and, further, applying intervention instruments in different sectors of the economy.

An obvious approach to an integrated and sustainable regional development policy is the active participation of local authorities in the development of national sectoral policies, which are a 'mouthpiece', aimed to promote local development needs. However, these needs should be substantiated, examined and integrated into a policy document, aimed to set out a single vision and agreed upon by the majority of the population to be implemented. Today, there are many sectoral policy documents in the Republic of Moldova that outline the common features of sector development, but very few of them include the territorial implementation approach and the role of local authorities in this mechanism, offering them a programming approach and more centralized and strategic planning.

Therefore, the logic of implementing regional development policies is to ensure an ongoing dialogue with local authorities of level I and level II.

The role of local authorities in the implementation of regional development policy can be defined from two perspectives:

1. as a partner of central authorities in implementing the provisions of policy documents; and,
2. in identifying the concepts of local and regional investment projects, depending on the sector and identification of the sources of their implementation.

Today, however, based on the two perspectives above, we can identify several gaps that affect the full involvement of local authorities:

- a. political differences of local political, religious and other leaders, reducing the perception of the need to promote inter-municipal cooperation;
- b. lack of an ongoing dialogue between central and local authorities (caused by various reasons and actors), reducing the ability to inform the population about policy documents, prepared in various fields, and as a result about the opportunities offered or regulations imposed;
- c. low involvement of local authorities in preparing national and regional policy documents hinders perception of a particular document and demotivates local authorities to adjust their local development plans to regional or national documents;

In order to fulfil their crucial role, namely to yield benefit for the localities they run, local authorities must implement a mechanism piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment with the support of the

German Development Cooperation through GIZ, based on 5 pillars:

1. **Integrated local planning and programming**, representing adjustment of local development plans to regional and national strategies, which will improve the capacity for dialogue between the central and local levels of governance, ensuring a single approach at the country level.
2. **Improvement of cooperation between LPAs**. This will allow preparing and implementing joint regional projects, contributing to the provision of quality public services and reasonable expenses for the population, as well as will improve the capacity to ensure the sustainability of projects.
3. **Investments to optimize service delivery infrastructure**. Currently, most funding, whether internal or external, requires the contribution of localities. Separate budgets of authorities do not allow them to collect the amounts needed for contributions, and would cumulatively make it possible to raise additional funds.
4. **Increasing capacities of LPAs and service providers**. These capacities refer not only to improvement of service providers facilities and resources, but also to improvement of management capacity (correct and efficient management, establishing tariffs, etc.).
5. **Population mobilization and awareness** is the last but not least important element of this pentagon. Public awareness must be raised starting with the development of the concept, in order to avoid in the future situations of manipulating people and clearly describe social, economic and environmental impacts as a result of project implementation. In addition, for fields such as solid waste management and sanitation services, the population should be informed on the need to connect to the services and pay fees, playing a key role in the implementation of projects.



Dorin Andros,
Secretary of State
of the Ministry of
Agriculture, Regional
Development and
Environment



Philipp Johannsen:

„Challenges could be simply turned into opportunities”

Philipp Johannsen, former GIZ country director and former manager of ‘Modernization of local public services in the Republic of Moldova’ (MLPS) project.



What were your impressions of the Republic of Moldova when you first came here in 2009 and what are your impressions now that you are leaving?

I must admit that – like most Germans – I did not have a very coherent picture of Moldova by the time I first arrived at Chisinau airport in September 2009. From the first moment, I was received with such a healthy dose of the truly impressive Moldovan hospitality by my future colleagues and counterparts, that all my concerns were washed away immediately. I was very much impressed by the fact that Chisinau is indeed Europe’s greenest capital city.

At the same time I started to realize that this is a very diverse and multi-facetted society with many unique elements, customs and ambiguities, which for a foreigner are not always easy to decipher and to understand. When I look back, more than seven years later, I feel that these first impressions did not mislead me – there is a lot to see, to ask and to learn, and even after such a long time I am convinced that there are many things left to be discovered.

...what about the biggest challenge during these 7 years you spent in the Republic for Moldova?

To be honest, I leave with the impression that a lot of things have worked out much better than had been originally expected, and that so many more obstacles could be overcome than were anticipated. But maybe this fact itself highlights one of the biggest challenges to the socio-economic development that – in my experience – the Moldovan society faces: I often had the impression that every positive

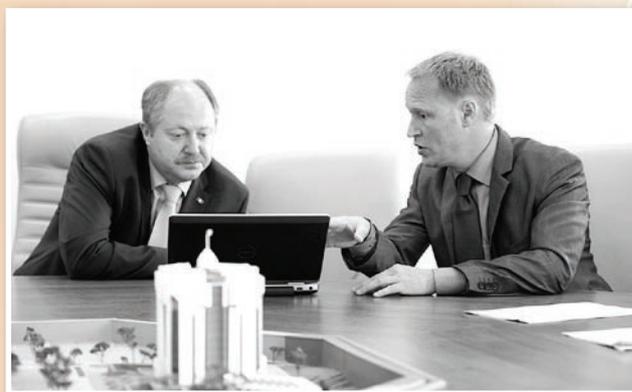
and ambitious initiative to move the country forward was immediately surrounded by an ocean of doubts, and that every optimistic and dynamic actor who dared to believe in change was instantly encircled by widespread scepticism.

Please do not understand me wrong: A critical reflection of new ideas and initiatives is absolutely crucial to minimize the risk of failure, and one should never be naïve or reckless if it comes to public investment projects. Still, there were many moments when I wished that there was a bit more confidence and an optimistic ‘yes-we-can-attitude’ around. Many experiences during the years showed that things did work out, that ideas, plans and projects that were jointly developed could actually be implemented, and that change was possible. So in the end one could say that this challenge could be turned into an opportunity.

MLPS is practically your child. What did this project mean for you?

MLPS was originally designed by a team of experts during an appraisal process in 2008 – before the implementation of the Regional Development Law had really started, and before any of the related institutions had been created. By the time the implementation of MLPS commenced in 2010, the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction had just been created, so the GIZ-project and its institutional counterpart started basically at the same time from scratch.

From the perspective of the project manager, I experienced this early phase as a very energizing and stimulating period. I believe that the common understanding helped to foster an attitude of shared responsibilities and joined ownership – both in relation to the achievements as well as for the challenges that we faced over the



years. This was crucial and laid the foundation for the success of this cooperation project.

The fact that apart from the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development many other development partners joined in the process – the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Commission – further increased the level of commitment and professionalism of all involved colleagues, both within GIZ and the Moldovan institutions.

Maybe the best way to describe the experience of MLPS from my point of view is to compare it with an expedition into uncharted territory – exciting, challenging and rewarding. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to be in charge of such a dedicated team, and I wish it all success for the years ahead.

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) is MLPS’ main counterpart. What was it like working side by side with MARDE and other partners of the project during your 7-year mandate? What were the biggest successes and also, if you could tell us where there is room for improvement in this respect?

MLPS had the opportunity to accompany the creation and consolidation of the key institutions for Regional Development, the regional agencies and councils as well as the national fund and its supervisory board. Apart from these, there are many more stakeholders with important roles and mandates, and the efficient and effective coordination of such a complex setup constitutes a demanding challenge. In my opinion it has been the biggest success of MARDE to organize and maintain



this intricate coordination and to provide all involved actors with the necessary information, orientation and guidance.

It is crucial that each stakeholder – from the citizen in a village as a member of a local committee to the Deputy Prime Minister as the chairman of the National Coordination Council for Regional Development – is aware of his or her role and mandate and is being provided with all necessary information to take sound and evidence-based decisions.

The role of MLPS has been to provide assistance and facilitation in this multi-faceted process, without ever substituting the responsible Moldovan institutions. I believe that the ongoing restructuring of public institutions in Moldova – both on central and on local level – can significantly reduce the transaction costs and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional development process.

The Regional Development Councils and their Regional Sector Commissions have a very important role to play in this context, and I hope that the institutions on central level will provide them with the necessary support and the adequate liberty for sound decision making on behalf of the regions which they represent.

In just 7 years, from 2009 to 2016, the budget of MLPS project increased from EUR 2 million to EUR 80 million. This is one of the most successful projects in the Republic of Moldova. To what sectors the money was channelled in the past, what were the priorities so far and if possible, could you, please tell us about the future of MLPS in the following 3 years?

MLPS has been entrusted a substantial amount of public funds – money from the taxpayers in the donor countries – to provide capacity development of the Moldovan institutions responsible for Regional Development and to allow for investments in priority sectors in relation to local public services. According to the demands by the citizens of the country's development regions MLPS has focused on the following sectors: Water supply and sanitation; Energy efficiency of public buildings; Solid waste management and Local and regional roads.

In order to maximize the impact and sustainability of the interventions, all activities and investments are organized by the responsible Moldovan institutions according to their institutional mandate – without creating parallel structures. MLPS supported the har-



monization of local priorities with the strategic outlook, policy perspectives and national standards and norms on the regional level. This combination of a bottom-up and top-down approach requires a high level of commitment of the Moldovan institutions, exceptional professionalism by the national and international experts and a comprehensive set-up of checks and balances in the use of public funds.

I am convinced that the rigorous control of the financial contributions will continue to be a crucial challenge for MLPS and that it will be necessary to identify more innovative ways to increase the involvement of citizens, non-governmental organizations, journalists and – last but not least – the parliament. The key to successfully attracting many investors in regional development has been the level of trust in the supervision and control of the funds – and just as long as it takes to develop and earn this trust, just as quickly it can be squandered if corrupt practices are being discovered. Taking into consideration the massive needs to improve the delivery of public services in Moldova's development regions, I truly hope that the remarkable increase of investments in the framework of MLPS can be maintained and even further increased in the future.

Local Public Administration (LPA) is one of the key elements in the development process of a country as a whole and of communities in part. What is your advice for LPAs for them to truly become more active in promoting regional development policies and what LPAs' skills and capacities need to be improved?

I have truly enjoyed working with a number of highly motivated and committed mayors, Rayon presidents and representatives of the local administrations and councils. As they are working and living closest to the citizens

they are acutely aware of the needs, expectations and ideas of the communities which they represent and serve.

MLPS managed to promote various ambitious cases of inter-municipal cooperation, which requires a very open, structured and qualified coordination between a substantial numbers of LPAs. The objective is the joint management of local public services in a more economic and professional manner toward improved service provision of the citizens.

During this process the representatives of the involved communities learn to plan, implement and administer complex investment projects as a common team, and it promotes the understanding and appreciation of local cooperation. I believe that these experiences will be valuable in the upcoming process of amalgamation of LPAs, which from my point of view is indispensable to profoundly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local and regional development in Moldova.

Like in many countries in Europe and around the world such a territorial and administrative reform can profoundly strengthen the capacities, roles and mandates of the LPAs and fortifies their voice vis-à-vis central government and the donor community. Therefore, it is from my point of view a crucial reform which will lead to stronger and truly decentralized local institutions closest to the citizens as the beneficiaries of public services.

What is your biggest achievement in the Republic of Moldova that you would take with you and set it as an example in other countries or projects you will work in?

I have been really proud of the high level of dedication and professionalism of the team of MLPS and of GIZ Moldova in general, which I consider especially remarkable taking into consideration the fast growth in the number of staff members during the last years. Together we managed to plan, budget, implement and monitor complex assignments, incorporating substantial amounts of additional funds by many donors, while maintaining a really enjoyable and stimulating work environment with a great sense of comradeship and humour. I felt that this has been something truly precious and I hope I will strive to promote such conditions in future scenarios as well, always promoting the great experiences from the Republic of Moldova – Multumesc frumos tuturor!



Support of the Romanian Government granted to the Republic of Moldova in the field of regional and local development: successes and future prospects



Daniel Ionita,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Republic of Moldova

Romania strongly supports Moldova's European integration goal based on bilateral Strategic Partnership, a document, signed between the two countries in 2010. European integration is the only way to consolidate democracy and the rule of law and to ensure security, stability and prosperity. We are convinced that the Moldova's advancement on its European path will

have lasting and sustainable effects, with direct and positive impact for all citizens. The Romania – Moldova Joint Intergovernmental Commission is responsible for coordinating the entire bilateral support mechanism.

An important aspect pursued by Romania refers to the strengthening of public institutions in the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure resilience to internal and regional challenges and enable both strengthening democratic development and adhering to the principles of the rule of law and the functioning of the market economy. To this end, the Republic of Moldova has, over the past 10 years, been for Romania the priority state of official development assistance, and this approach will certainly be maintained in future, as long as Chisinau authorities strongly follow the European path. Practically every sector in the Republic of Moldova has benefited or benefits from Romania's assistance.

Romania has actively contributed to the projects, designed to support national and local regional development policies for the communities of the Republic of Moldova. A successful example is the project, implemented together with our partners from the German Development Cooperation through GIZ, which aimed at building the water supply system in the Rosu commune, Cahul rayon. The sanitation system in the same locality is currently under construction.

The Government of Romania has, also, provided important support to ag-

ricultural producers from the Republic of Moldova, so that they can benefit from the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU. In this regard, it is necessary to mention the project, implemented within 2014-2015, together with our strategic ally, the USA, on building a fruit packing house in Costesti commune, Ialoveni rayon. This project has, also, received financial resources from the National Fund for Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova (FNDR). In 2017, another Romania-funded project aimed to increase the capacities of honey producers from the North of the Republic of Moldova was completed, so that they could export their products to the EU market. As part of this project, we have developed a strong partnership with the North Regional Development Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE).

In addition to the projects, supported by Romania in the field of regional development, we encourage regional and local public authorities, academics and civil society to take active part in the projects, carried out as part of European cross-border cooperation programs, such as the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova 2014-2020 and the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020. In this regard, we stress the importance of early identification of possible partners in Romania from the cross-border counties participating in these programmes. At the same time, Romania



supports the more active participation of Moldovan authorities in the projects of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). As a co-founder, along with Austria, of this initiative, we believe it very important to develop joint projects designed to promote economic development by complying with the rules to protect environment and natural habitats in the regions located in this important river basin.

Any process of providing assistance entails establishing direct contacts with international, national, regional or local partners, from which they have much to learn. Our experiences allowed us to gain knowledge we want to share with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova. Thus, first of all, we stress the importance of promoting inter-municipal cooperation more actively, helping to create opportunities for the development of most attractive and cost-effective services for citizens. Secondly, the experience gained during the projects focused our attention on the need for full implementation by the Republic of Moldova of the European standards in construction for all types of works. In this way the Moldovan village and town dwellers could benefit from most modern solutions to build infrastructure for public services, be it waste management, water supply and sanitation, public roads or street lighting systems. Last, but not least, it is important to know what you want to achieve in order to adequately attract not only the necessary material resources, but especially human resources, able to implement any project with utmost transparency, according to European standards.



Launch of a new project together with Polish partners for urban development

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment has been working for more than 6 years with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Poland in order to exchange best practices and develop capacities in promoting the regional development policy. The partnership has proved to be fruitful because, as a result, a new project 'Supporting the public administration of the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of the regional policy through integrated and sustainable urban development' was launched on 6 July 2017. After the amendment of the legislation (additions were made to the Law on administrative-territorial organisation no.764 of 27 December 2001) another eight Moldovan towns have acquired the status of municipality. This is the first project for towns to benefit from direct development assistance.

The project will be carried out during 2017-2019 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Poland and the Information Centre for Local Authorities/Representation of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. This is the sixth project funded as part of the assistance programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

The project aims to improve the system of regional policy implementation through the development of towns, with greater emphasis on renewal measures as an important tool of urban and strategy development. The urban renewal entails active participation of local communities, thus,



they should not only be the beneficiaries, but also should come up with and, subsequently, implement the solutions.

As part of the project, technical assistance and advice at national and regional level

for the development of Moldovan towns will be provided. At the local level, through advice, urban renewal programmes will be developed and demonstration projects will be implemented. This project will be implemented in three stages:

1. First, working groups, composed of representatives of municipalities, regional development agencies and the Ministry will be set up and will be pre-



Oxana Paierale,
Head of Policy Analysis,
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pared supporting documents, based on which the project will be implemented.

2. Further, the local elected representatives and other specialists will be trained and will receive advice in implementation urban renewal related of good practices.
3. In the third stage, the towns will develop specific project concepts and will participate in the call, organised by the Information Centre for Local Authorities/Representation of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment cooperates with the relevant institution from Poland based on the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in regional development signed between the Ministries of both countries, on 18 February 2010, in Warsaw.

„The road that unites us..”

Luminita Netedu,

*Specialist in Communication,
South Regional Development Agency*

15 thousand citizens from Sagaidac, Batir, Mihailovca, Selemet, Porumbrei, Suric, Codreni and Satul Nou localities from Cimislia rayon can now boast with a better road heading to the country's capital. The 'Reconstruction of the Sagaidac – Porumbrei M3 road (asphalt variant)' project has been financed by the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD) and aimed at reconstructing 2.68 km of road to improve regional and local transport infrastructure.

Viorica Mogoreanu from Sagaidac village, Cimislia rayon, with degree in psychology, is currently working as a manager at Casa Concordia in Chisinau. Previously, she worked at her native village school. But, since the dwellers of Sagaidac and neighbouring villages got a better access road to the capital, she, like many other villagers, has found a job in Chisinau.



'It takes me 25-30 minutes every day to reach the outskirts of Chisinau. The road is very good. This is why it is easy and fast to travel on such a road. It may seem hard to believe but, in the morning, because of traffic jams, it is harder to get from the outskirts of the city to my job than from my home in Sagaidac to Chisinau', Viorica Mogoreanu tells us calmly and optimistically.

She also said that, in previous years, when the Sagaidac-Porumbrei road had not been built yet, it took her two hours, passing through Cainari, Causeni, whichever road was safer at that time, to get from her place to Chisinau. Especially in winter it was difficult for the dwellers of this village, but also for those in neighbouring villages: Satul Nou, Selemet, Suric, Codreni etc. to reach the country's capital to see a doctor, go shopping or elsewhere.

Aurel Buzilan from Satul Nou village of the same rayon, like many of his neighbours has built a greenhouse in order to earn a living. He earns his bread growing vegetables and market-garden crops, which



he sells in season either in the rayon centre or in the capital. 'If previously I had to sell my products exclusively in the Cimislia agricultural market, now, since it is much easier and faster to go to Chisinau due to this new asphalted road, I sell my goods there. Especially, since I can get a better price for my home-grown crops. In addition, I have much more customers now', the vegetable grower is boasting.

Ioana Leorda, the mayor of Sagaidac village, tells us that the said road was repaired in 2013-2014, as part of the 'Reconstruction of the Sagaidac–Porumbrei M3 road (Chisinau-Cimislia-Vulcanesti-Giurgulesti border with Romania with the length of 2.68 km, Cimislia rayon investment project, implemented by the South Regional Development Agency (RDA) and funded by the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD).



'It has been a great success for us to submit our project on the rehabilitation and development of road infrastructure to South RDA, during the second call for proposals, announced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, and obtain funding. It is to mention that in it's time that portion of the road needing rehabilitation was in a state of total ruin and hindered access to the M3 National Road not only for 2500 Sagaidac villagers, but also for about 12 thousand of those living in the neighbouring villages', the mayor said.

'Although the road was to a certain extent repaired in 2000 by covering it with a layer

of gravel, it had deteriorated again, shortly thereafter forcing the villagers to bypass it whenever they needed to reach the national road, which leads to Chisinau', Ioana Leorda added. The project's regional impact has eventually become a decisive factor in the allocation of financial resources by the central authorities in the amount of MDL 16 million from the NFRD.

Thus, the road construction works began on 7 October 2013 and on 11 September 2014 it was already commissioned. It should be mentioned that, although, the duration of the Sagaidac–Porumbrei road construction project was 24 months, this was actually completed in 8 months.

Maria Culesov, director of South RDA, also confirms that this project is a success. 'Now, whoever needs to use this road, cannot but note the impeccable quality of the road. The drivers enjoy driving on such a road surface. We wish that every place in our country has a road of such quality, so that the citizens might be safer in traffic, have easier access to the national road network and a higher standard of living'.

Finally, it also should be mentioned that this project has been successfully implemented not only thanks to the persistence of a female mayor, but also due to the good cooperation between local public authorities, the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, and the South Development Agency, who have created better conditions for the social and economic development of the localities.

