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Programming process for the new ENI CBC programmes Romania-Ukraine and Romania–Republic of Moldova 2014-2020

Cross border cooperation at the external borders of the European Union (EU) continues to represent a top priority for the European Union, during the 2014-2020 programming period. In this framework, the cross border cooperation between the three countries involved in the Joint Operational Programme Romania- Ukraine- Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 will continue, but in bilateral format: Romania- Ukraine and Romania- Republic of Moldova.

The development potential of these countries will be strengthened and enhanced by applying the instruments and principles of the new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) which aims to create „an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness between EU Member States and its neighbours”, having as main target the following strategic objectives:

- (A) to promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders;
- (B) to address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security;
- (C) promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital.

The European Commission set a threshold of 60 million EUR for the Romania- Ukraine Programme and 81 million EUR for the Romania- Republic of Moldova Programme. In each of these programmes, 30% of the allocated funds will be used to finance Large Infrastructure Projects through direct award, 10% will be necessary for technical assistance, while 60% will be used for financing regular projects selected after call for proposals.

The Committees entrusted with the programming activity for the two programmes, namely the Joint Programming Committees gathered in March to discuss over the list of Large Infrastructure Projects to be financed through the programmes, appointment of all competent authorities as it is required by the EU regulations and the financial allocation for the selected thematic objectives.



Only few steps remained until the programmes will be submitted to the European Commission:

- approval of the final list of Large Infrastructure Projects to be included in the programmes;
- strategic Environmental Assessment finalization and inclusion of its conclusions and recommendation in the programming documents;
- management and control system at programme and project level.

More information on the selected thematic objectives, priorities, eligible areas and financial allocation on domains for both programmes can be found by visiting www.ro-ua-md.net.

Branch offices in Ukraine support projects at local level and are involved in the 2014-2020 programming process

Ukrainian beneficiaries and partners from Odessa and Chernivtsi regions, involved in projects implemented through RO-UA-MD Programme and stakeholders from Ukraine who would like to find out more information about the 2014 – 2020 programming period, can always address to the experts within the branch offices.

In order to be better prepared and to offer the appropriate support, the branch office's experts attended, in March, a new training session that was carried out in Suceava, Romania, at the Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation considering the changes occurred within the two teams, the signing of new contracts and the intercrossing moment of the programming period that we face off.

In the next period the branch offices will continue to carry out information activities and support for beneficiaries within the programme area, but they will also be involved in preparation of the future Romania-Ukraine Programme 2014-2020:

The organizations hosting the two branch offices, namely Non-Government Youth Organization "Association "We Plus" Odessa and Bukovinian Agency of Initiatives and Development Chernivtsi can be easily reached in the city centres of Odessa and Chernivtsi, or may be contacted using the following contact details:

Branch Office in Odessa

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Participation of the programme structures in events dedicated to economic and business development (Suceava and Chernivtsi)

On March 2015, the programme representatives participated in two important events dedicated to economic and business development in Chernivtsi and Suceava.

The first event, Romanian – Ukrainian Economic Forum, took place in Chernivtsi and it was organized by the Romanian General Consulate in Chernivtsi. This event gathered together businessmen, tour operators, local and regional administrations, representatives of NGOs from both sides of the border, and other stakeholders.

Her Excellency Ms. Eleonora Moldovan, General Consul of Romania in Chernivtsi, said: "Today we begin a fruitful collaboration and work in order to implement all agreements between our countries. It's the first step to a deep economic cooperation and we want it to achieve practical importance. We hope that this forum will provide a solid foundation for the beginning of a constructive and friendly dialogue, as it should be between two neighboring and friendly nations".

The second event, held in Suceava, was the Conference "Grants for your business" with the purpose to present, in a practical version, potential national and European sources of grants for 2014-2020. The event was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Suceava and addressed both entrepreneurs and persons responsible for the management of the companies in Suceava, and associations that support the development of SMEs.

During both above mentioned events, the programme representatives underlined the perspectives on cross-border cooperation in the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine 2014- 2020, with a special focus on supporting the development of entrepreneurial environment.

The participants were informed about the fact that the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine 2014-2020 contains sufficient elements leading to the conclusion that cross-border programmes can support business through the development of partnerships and networks and create a favorable business environment. Moreover, the development of joint research activities and studies in the field of environment, dissemination, cooperation and networking between organizations of the two countries in the field of theoretical research can also involve the entrepreneurs. Exchanging experiences and best practices between organizations from both sides of the border of Romania and Ukraine are also helpful for business environment.

The programme representatives provided also details about the eligible area of the new programme, the indicative calendar, financial allocation and clarification on how the business representatives may be involved.



WE ARE IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS AT THE BORDERS: THESE ARE OUR STORIES

Increase of life activity safety in the valley of the river Prut (MIS ETC 751)

Every year, Ukrainian, Romanian and Moldovan settlements and people located along the river Prut, are suffering of dramatic raising of the water level.

The most notable example of recent years are the floods on the river Prut in the Novoselytsia district in August 2006, July 2008 and June 2010, when Novoselytsya district was recognized as one of the worst-hit area in Ukraine.

Analysis of these unfortunate events pointed out the lack of adequate public warning systems and appropriate tools to help people during the disaster.

During a meeting with Romanian partners, information about the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine - Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 was brought to our attention, and it was obviously that the problems could be solved.

After reviewing the programme, the Novoselytsya District State Administration with the help of partners from Romania and Moldova who had similar problems in the settlements located along the banks

of the Prut, the project “Increase of life activity safety in the valley of the river Prut” was drafted, approved and implemented.

Important project activities during the period of implementation of the project were held, like: acquisition and transfer of the technical tools for protection in emergency situations; setting up volunteers squads and providing specific trainings in order to act in emergency situations; equipping information centers with sirens and loudspeakers, and establishing LAN connection with the help of private providers, in order to share relevant information; increasing the environmental awareness through the distribution of printed materials; press conferences in the countries of Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; installed rack hydro posts in villages of Mamalyha, Marshyntsi, Mahala; the works for the bank protection (192 m) in the Tarasivka village; establishing an annual festival competition among volunteer squads for emergency situations fighting.



Improvement the response capacity of mobile emergency service for resuscitation and extrication (SMURD) through a joint integrated system for efficient monitoring and disaster consequences mitigation, in regard to population in the common boundaries Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova

(MIS ETC 989)

Medical care and emergency situations are part of any society everyday problems. This represents a field which will never stop functioning, a field that comes in favour of people. The project addresses to one of the most urgent needs identified as a good preparation for emergencies that may endanger the environment and population in the Programme area.

The project proposes a solution to integrate the Emergency Medical Services, Resuscitation and

Extrication in the cross border region between Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, the project brings an important contribution to the improvement of the intervention capacity, response in emergency medical care situations for the population and improvement of the response time in the cross-border area.

The leading partner General Inspectorate for Emergency Situation (Ministry of Administration and Interior), along with its partners: General Inspectorate



of Aviation – IGAv – RO and the Ministry of Internal Affairs/Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service – CPESS-MD (Republic of Moldova), aim through this action to improve the prevention and management of emergency situations, to upgrade the planning and coordination of human and specialists and to enhance the management of material and financial resources.

The project is based on the following principles that reflect the professionalism of the specialists involved in the action, along the cross-border area: territorial and administrative organization, decentralized

responsibilities, correlation of the necessities with the resources, cooperation, legal framework and solidarity between partners on the both sides of the border.

This is a project for saving lives, which brings into our attention that emergencies and medical issues have no borders. Probably the most important feature of the action is that, investments, basically, are focused on life safety infrastructure which directly does not generate income but comes in favour of individuals living in the cross-border area.



Medieval Jewelleries: Khotyn, Soroca, Suceava – Mejkss (MIS ETC 1098)

More and more people choose to travel and visit “un-traditional” destinations that meet a demand for interesting experiences and quality tourism services, being interested in discovering new places in Eastern Europe.

The targeted region is considered to be the most beautiful and rich in monuments related to the famous historical past of the region, the most popular being the medieval citadels of Moldavian Principality, built in the period 14-15th Century: Soroca, Suceava and Hotin.

The project implementation is especially concerned in stopping the degradation of the monuments of built-cultural heritage of the cross border region, namely the medieval fortresses of Soroca, Suceava and Hotin.

The Lead Partner (District Council Soroca) along with the full involvement of its partners Local Council of Soroca Town, Suceava Municipality and the National Historic Architecture Reserve of Hotin Fortress, managed to partially restore the Medieval Fortress of Soroca.

Under the major activities of the project, the following expected results can be endorsed:

- The sustainable recovery of the cultural heritage of the cross-border region;

- The development of the related infrastructure;
- The integration of historical cross-border monuments within the international tourist attractions;
- The direct involvement of local stakeholders in the development process of the touristic potential of the cross-border region.

The project is having also an enormous contribution to the diversification of tourist offer at both urban, district/ regional and national levels, improvement of tourist services quality via their adjustment to European quality, growing of notoriety level of the fortresses at national and international level, increasing of capitalisation rate of cultural and natural tourist potential of the towns and the region, involvement of the community in the process of capitalization of the common natural, historic and cultural patrimony.

Finally, through its activities and continuity, the project can be promoted as an example for other Moldovan, Ukrainian and Romanian cross-border regions in the field of cross-border tourism development.





**Internationalization and Networking of SMEs and business support structures in the cross border area –
InterNet
(MIS ETC 1192)**

It's been almost a year since the implementation of cross-border project between Ukraine, Romania and Republic of Moldova in the sphere of small and medium enterprise development has been finalized. However, results of its activities create a positive effect not only on the development of business relations between entrepreneurs and business support structures from abovementioned countries but also SME development across Odessa region (Ukraine), Galati county (Romania) and Cahul district (Republic of Moldova) in general.

From the very beginning, the main project activities aimed at creation of Business Support Network which successfully operates, facilitates the establishment of business contacts between border area businessmen, fully supports regional business support organizations with obtaining new and updating already existing knowledge and skills through present.

Business Support Network (BSN) got a big boost in the scheme of things and was able to put into practice cross-border mechanisms aimed at establishing and improving business links between small and medium enterprises across the border.

The next step implemented within the project was selection process of 30 companies working in agriculture, transport and IT. Numerous activities were organized for these companies in order to establish new business relations in border regions and promote export products on foreign markets. Also, promotional materials were elaborated for these companies. As a result of the activities carried out within the project, entrepreneurs from Odessa region are still collaborating with the partners from neighbouring countries and successfully export their products to foreign markets.

Towards promoting the business using IT tools there was a transboundary B2B Portal launched - cbb-portal.com. The portal helps every user to obtain information regarding all stages of business establishment and development: starting from answering the question about how to become an entrepreneur and start your own business to step by step procedures of market development. In addition, B2B Portal contains special database of companies and their business proposals making it easier to search partners and products needed for business of any kind.



Protection of borders against threats posed by homeless animals (MIS ETC 1537)

When many people aspire for the same thing, their idea begins to come true.

An amazing example of this is the project MIS ETC 1537 "Protection of borders against threats posed by homeless animals", that aims to reduce and prevent the spread of dangerous infectious diseases that are transferred by stray animals and are a dangerous for people and animals in the boundary areas. Also the preventing uncontrolled breeding of domestic and homeless pets and providing sanitary welfare were important for the targeted area: Chernivtsi oblast (Ukraine), Suceava County (Romania) and Balti region (Republic of Moldova).

Due to the complex approach, many project activities that focused on factors of emergence of homeless animals were implemented by the Department of Housing and Communal Services of Chernivtsi City Council as lead partner and Proanima Suceava Association, City hall of Balti Municipality, Chernivtsi Regional Nongovernment Organization "Protection of animals", Bucovinian Center for Development and Reconstruction, as partners, in the last 18 months:

- Education - informational materials are developed and actively disseminated, awareness campaign is held;
- Legislation – policies and program of retention and treatment of animals are

developed and adopted, researches are conducted as well;

- Sterilization, vaccination – veterinarians are trained, mobile clinic is purchased, work of sterilization center is organized, which has already sterilized and vaccinated 1000 homeless animals and the same amount is planned, sterilization and proper animal care among pet owners is popularized;
- Work with the pet owners – walking areas are equipped, taming courses will be held, registration and identification of electronic chips is in the process, pet`s festival has been held, and information campaign aimed at increasing of the pet owners responsibility level has been organized.
- Shelters and adoption – the technical project is drafted, and a shelter that will perform a function of sterilization center and the adoption of animals is being built.

Cross-border cooperation has a great value for the project, because not only project partners are able to share their experiences, but also the borders disappear, both interstate and communicational, for everybody who supports this project and wants the problem of homeless animals solved.



Promoting sustainable production and implementation of good practices in the bovine farms from Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine cross-border region (MIS ETC 1549)

People nowadays are constantly trying to overcome and react to the problem of the food quality they consume. Over the past years we witnessed the sustained efforts of farmers and individuals to ensure a high quality of the agricultural products.

The project is trying to cover one of these specific problems of our modern society by bringing a series of new elements consisting in the support of

innovation and good practices in the field of bovine farms from the cross-border region. There is also a constant need for the improvement of bovine livestock so as to increase and improve the meat and milk production in the cross-border area.

The leading partner "Ion Ionescu de la Brad" University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Iasi, in partnership with the Romanian



Cattle Breeders Association – Iasi branch, the Agrarian State University in Chisinau, and the Agrarian State University of Odessa aimed at the promotion of sustainable and implementation of good practices in the bovine farms from Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine cross-border region through the creation of three research labs, a portal for the transfer and access to information on the modern and sustainable technologies from the field of production and production systems for breeders, producers, processors from the cross-border region, two research centres, two pilot farms that will be interconnected and supply the input information for the Ukrainian partner that will use the data to determine the quality of food products.

The changes aimed by the project results refer to the redesigning of production processes and food safety so that the negative effect on the environment and society will be decreased. All project activities sustain the process of ensuring a high quality of milk and meat in accordance with the EU standards.

The eco-farms set up by the project will become a local model for bovine growing in a sustainable manner and will be an important step in improving the quality of life of individuals living in the cross border area.



**NOT FOR SALE – Say stop to human trafficking
(MIS ETC 1939)**

Working for to benefit of people located in the border area means finding solutions for their problems and difficulties. One of the current issues in recent years is the human trafficking among young or disadvantaged people or persons with disabilities.

In order to help, inform, prevent and save lives, *Organization Save the Children, Suceava Branch* as lead partner and *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Moldova, JUNACT Nongovernmental Organization from Cahul, Moldova, Romanian Youth League "JUNIMEA" from Chernivtsi Region, Ukraine, National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, Romania*, as partners implemented the project **NOT FOR SALE – Say stop to human trafficking**. The project brought together more than 300 professionals interested in preventing and combating human trafficking, 100 peer leaders' volunteers and more than 100 persons at risk to be trafficked in the cross border area: Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Assuming the peer to peer education method, the volunteers held more than 50 information activities in the benefit of more than 2,770 people. The information campaigns were centred on lowering the degree of vulnerability of the young in front of human trafficking and on the familiarization of the teenagers

with regard to the existence of the trafficking risk. Successful and innovative methods were used: learning based on experience (experiential learning), use of interactive methodologies and of drama – translating theory into practice.

The workshop camp for the peer leaders' volunteers was a wonderful exchange of experience for the teenagers involved in the public awareness activities conducted within the educational institutions from the border area. The workshop camp included people of various nationalities, cultures, ideologies, etc. who share their experiences in the activity of realization the information campaigns in the educational institutions.

The project is a great example of youth-adult partnership: is about young people and adults working together to achieve the goals. Youth-adult partnerships arise from the organization's conviction that young people have the right to participate in developing the project that serve them and to have a voice in shaping the policies that will affect them.

Having a common border implies a common responsibility and the project proposed a common solution for the human trafficking problem, which was highly appreciated by all the people involved.





**To preserve the past is to create the future
(MIS ETC 2317)**

Bucovina Museum, together with the Regional Museum of Folk Architecture and Life, Chernivtsi, Museum of History and Ethnography Bălți and Suceava County Council have implemented, over a period of 18 months, the cross-border project “To preserve the past is to create the future”, MIS- ETC 2317.

The project has stimulated and strengthened cross-border cooperation between museums and facilitated the transfer of good practices aiming to reduce isolation and to deepen professional and social skills of collections curators. The digitization of heritage in museums had a positive and direct effect on the target group, reducing workload, improving the quality of work, ensuring easy access to the digitized content, thus fostering an increased access of people to cultural heritage.

Project activities included three experience exchanges attended by the cultural heritage collections curators from the three museums involved in the project. During the three information sessions and 17 workshops, which were held in Suceava, Chernivtsi and Balti, the collection curators developed new skills and acquired new knowledge and best practices in preserving and protecting movable cultural heritage. An edition of 300 copies of the “The good practices guidelines for collection curators on preserving the mobile cultural” were drawn up and represent a tool that allowed heritage curators to use new techniques and working procedures in heritage conservation.

Equipment procured from project budget led to the digitization of 57,632 pieces of heritage and monitoring of 34,701 pieces of heritage from 24 heritage collections storerooms of partner museums in the project. A museum heritage digitization and management information system was set up, and led to meeting the objectives of the new Framework

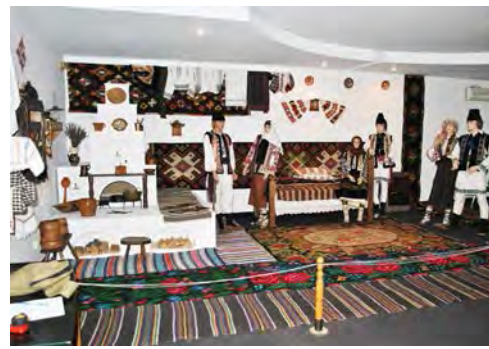
Programme for the cultural and creative sectors 2014-2020 of the European Commission - Creative Europe - which recommends the EU Member States to intensify their efforts and use all resources in digitizing cultural material, encouraging the digitization of EU culture.

In view of promoting the cultural heritage held by the partner museums, four types of catalogues - Furniture, Folk Costumes, Pottery, Interior Textiles - were developed, edited and printed in 12,000 copies; these catalogues valorised the ethnographic collections of folk costumes, pottery, traditional furniture and interior textiles - the common heritage of the three partner museums which were distributed free of charge during the three temporary exhibitions - Ethnographical Interferences - held successively in Suceava, Balti and Chernivtsi, as well as to visitors of the three museums.

In the border area, the project results contribute to the creation and development of a common cultural cross-border cooperation environment, of an active intercultural dialogue and of a network of museums leading to a better communication and networking between cultural actors. Together, the members of the trilateral cross-border museum network were able to significantly improve those fields considered priorities for museum work, receiving benefits in digitizing museum heritage: the preservation and monitoring of collections storerooms, the cultural - educational valorisation of heritage through the development and dissemination of four types of collection catalogues (Furniture, Folk Costumes, Pottery, Interior Textiles) with a circulation of 12,000 copies.

The project aimed to bridge cultural institutions - museums on both sides of the border and to strengthen human relationships by organizing joint activities aimed at protecting, valorising and promoting the cultural heritage on both sides of the border.





**“Cross- Border Ecological Agriculture Network, “EcoAgriNet 2”
(MIS ETC 2401)**

The project target area has a great potential for ecological agriculture and its development will considerably contribute to the boosting of the agricultural sector of the cross-border area, enabling the agricultural producers to increase their businesses and incomes in a durable manner. Not only that the local culture in the agriculture domain will be strengthened by the farmer’s skills, but the level of consumption of ecological products will be increased as well.

The activities of the project are relevant to the people living in the cross-border area because they are oriented to help them through constant trainings and exchanges of experience in the ecological agriculture domain between people facing common problems along the border region.

In order to promote the culture of organic products, the project activities ensured an information campaign and, during the implementation period individuals, starting from farmers to normal consumers, have had the chance to take part in different workshops related to the direction upon which technology to choose in order to raise the

production of organic products in the cross-border region.

The lead partner, „Public Association Cutezatorul” from Chisinau, along with its partners, Euroconcept Association Botosani-Romania, NGO Community Development Centre Romania, Bucovinian Center for Development and Reconstruction Ukraine and Public Association National Agricultural Federation in the Republic of Moldova worked together in providing a positive image of the possibility to change the European market in the matter of ecological agriculture and promotion of the advantages of ecological products consumption.

Following the purpose of raising awareness regarding the importance of the production and consumption of healthy and ecological food in the cross-border area, farmers, local stakeholder, individuals living in the cross-border area, have in this moment the opportunity to recognize the importance of ecological agriculture, and in the same time, to maintain the sustainable results of the project activities.

