

PRESS-RELEASE

Chisinau, February 1, 2017

Moldova – Ukraine 16 cross-border cooperation teams receive grants from European Union

Chisinau, February 1, 2017- leaders of 16 cross-border partnerships gathered together in Chisinau, Moldova, for solemn signing ceremony of the grant contracts under the Moldova – Ukraine Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme.

16 awarded projects are almost proportionally distributed among three priorities defined by the Moldova – Ukraine Programme, namely: improving the living conditions of local communities, addressing common cross-border challenges, education, culture and sport. The overall amount made available by the EU under the Moldova-Ukraine Programme is 3.3 million EUR.

"The European Union will provide grants for local public authorities from our country and Ukraine to develop jointly cross-border projects. I congratulate the authorities who signed today grant agreements. We also recognize that the sources of the National Fund for the Regional Development are insufficient to contribute to the economic development of local communities. In this regard we rely heavily on the collaboration with development partners, including the cross-border cooperation programs, as an opportunity to expand relations and cooperation between the EU and Eastern partners", said Minister of Regional Development and Construction, Vasile Bîtca.

Aneil Singh, Head of Cooperation at EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, mentioned during the event: ***"We would like to congratulate all sixteen selected projects, which are co-funded by the EU for the amount of 3.3 million EUR. They will help develop joint solutions to common social and economic development challenges. They will also contribute to strengthening the cross border contact between local authorities, communities and civil society organizations, and consequently develop closer ties between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine".***

"Cross-border cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine will cover all areas of citizen life and create a favorable environment for the priorities and joint actions development between central and local authorities, local communities and NGOs from both countries. We have the experience of other Eastern Partnership countries who managed to implement joint actions for the development of their countries and strengthened cross-border cooperation", said Erikas Jankauskas, team leader, Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme.

"Through joint actions with the Ukrainian partners, we want to promote gastronomic heritage in the Lower Danube region, as an added value of regional strategies for sustainable tourism development and their integration into local, regional, national and European policies. By implementing this project we will be able to become members of the European network of Regional Culinary Heritage", mentioned Valeriu Ajder, Director of Agency for Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration. The Agency for Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration from Cahul and NGO "Agricola" from Odesa will implement jointly one of the EU awarded projects.

"Today's signature ceremony is an important milestone in the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme Moldova – Ukraine and is the starting point for the implementation of the 16 selected projects. The representatives of the EU, of the National Authorities from Moldova and Ukraine, of GIZ as Managing Authority, of the Support Programme, and, of course, the Beneficiaries have come together to highlight their common goal of a successful project work in the target regions", said Erk Roeloffs, Director of the Managing Authority of Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation (EaPTC) Programme.

Also, during January 30 – February 3, an introductory training for successful applicants will be held in Chisinau. Participants of the training will receive a general overview and practical tips related to grant contracts and methods for implementation of projects as well as financial and procurement rules, visibility and communication

issues, reporting and monitoring requirements, and also specific national requirements of each country. The training also provides for individual consultations on grant management issues for grantees.

The award ceremony and training are jointly organized by the EaPTC Support Programme with the EaPTC Managing Authority - GIZ.

Background: the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme's (EaPTC Support Programme) goal is to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders of Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area. It is as well aimed at strengthening the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to EaPTC is 12.5 million EUR.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative aims at closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

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The Programme is implemented by the Altair Asesores led Consortium.
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The European Union is made up of 28 countries and the people of those countries. It is a unique political and economic partnership founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights. Over more than fifty years we have created a zone of peace, democracy, stability and prosperity on our continent while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The EU looks to share its values and achievements with neighbouring countries and peoples and those farther afield.