



EAST EUROPE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

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ACRONYMS

ACA	Anti-Corruption Alliance
CAS	Consumer Assistance Service
CEC	Central Electoral Commission
CPD	Center Partnership for Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Denmark's development cooperation, area of activity under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
DPO	Disabled Peoples' Organisation
EEF	East Europe Foundation
IPC	Independent Press Council
LPA	Local Public Administration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SE	Social Enterprise
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation Agency
YB	Youth Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following narrative report reflects the activities implemented by East Europe Foundation (Fundatia Est-Europeana) from 01 January to 31 December 2018.

During the reporting period EEF awarded and managed 96 grants to Moldovan NGOs, using the joint contribution of the Sweden, European Union, Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and Oak Foundation. Apart from the grants, EEF-M provided technical assistance to relevant partner NGOs and facilitated cooperation and dialogue between civil society and the government. During the project implementation, EEF-M worked and coordinated closely with the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), line ministries, Local Public Authorities, and international organizations, such as EU Delegation to Moldova, OSCE Mission to Moldova, UNDP Moldova, UN Women, Council of Europe, UNICEF, EBRD, and others.

Rooted in the principles of human rights and gender equality, the program entails six interconnected components, which are implemented through a combination of grants, technical assistance and direct operating activities.

Major results achieved:

This year EEF enabled **four NGO platforms** representing Roma (“Roma Voice” Platform), Youth (CNTM), Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and Older People (“Active Ageing” Platform) to **implement ambitious oversight, advocacy and engagement strategies**. CSO networks successfully influenced the implementation and design of national and local public policies. The networks carried out three types of interventions: (i) monitoring implementation of 10 selected public policies; (ii) mapping and influencing emerging public policies; (iii) solving specific issues faced by constituents in communities through joint advocacy and mobilization.

CSO networks made significant strides to influence the emerging policies. These efforts entailed a four-step process: (a) policy mapping; (b) selecting priority policies; (c) analysing the selected policy from the perspective of inclusion; (d) assertive dialogue with decision-makers. During the second semester, the targeted CSO networks produced 62 policy analyses to emerging policies.

CSO networks advocated by local authorities to solve specific issues faced by their constituents. Tangible results have been achieved in nine of the twelve communities targeted by the CSO networks. The advocacy entailed a three step process: (i) joint problem identification; (ii) designing the local advocacy plans; (iii) implementing the advocacy plan.

Within the EU-funded project **“Civil society contributes to the economic and social development in Moldova”** a large number of policy notes and position papers were developed to advance implementation of DCFTA: during the reporting period were elaborated 21 position papers and advisory notes on different issues faced by private sector. Most of them resulted in technical meetings with the participation of EBA members and Public Institutions related to the mentioned topics. Several advisory notes were approved in the Parliament in first reading. The others have resulted in technical meetings where the proposals mentioned in the paper and other solutions were discussed, or amendments and peculiarities in implementing the Government decisions have been put into discussion. All of the initiatives have resulted in meetings or additional meetings was decided to take place for further discussions, and only one Advisory note had no reply from the recipient.

The outcome of the submitted advisory notes and position papers mentioned above is presented as follows: 3 Advisory notes on Draft Laws were accepted in first reading of Parliament; 1 – approved by Law; 1- still has no reply; 1 amended version was rejected by the private sector; 2-amended the regulations; 13-under examination.

The Press Council is effectively reaching out to media consumers, encouraging them to report cases of media misconduct. EEF supported the secretariat of the Press Council to ensure the exercise of its key responsibilities: examining complaints, working with media to promote the media ethical standards. In 2018, the Press Council Secretariat was operational and assisted in organizing and conducting the public competition to select the new composition of the Press Council for 2019-2021.

6 meetings of the PC were held, during which 37 complaints were examined covering a total of 59 media outlets in the Republic of Moldova. In all cases, appropriate decisions were taken that were brought to the attention of the editors concerned.

People freely express their views on key public issues through the Community journalists' platform.

The portal www.stiripozitive.eu produced and promoted a total of 82 media topics, one third of which are successful stories and community-based topics. The total number of topics published in 2018 was 507. Stiripozitive.eu site registered an increase of the monthly visitor users up to the 199,880 (May 2018) and up to 7,006 likes on Facebook at the moment. During the project implementation, the Stiripozitive.eu portal was the media partner of the Women 4 Leadership project and the "Women Build Bridges Over the Nistru River by Addressing the Practical Issues" initiative.

European Interactive Center from Comrat offered the possibility for up to 1600 citizens of 4 localities from Gagauzia to enjoy a mobile Exhibition “Open Democracy” that reflected on EU values. That was another way to encourage people to be part of a critical thinking process.

79 young people (46 girls and 33 young men) became participants of 4 Discussion Clubs within the framework of the project in Kongaz Village, Comrat, Ceadir-Lunga and Svetly settlement.

83 young people (58 girls and 25 young men) took part in informational meetings and learned about the possibilities of the Pro-Europa Center and Euroclubs.

With funding leveraged from the EU and co-funding from Sweden, in 2018 EEF started the implementation of the project **“Civil society advocacy for inclusive and fair elections in Moldova, compliant with EU and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations and human rights commitments”**. The action is a joint effort of East-Europe Foundation, Pilgrim Demo from Gagauzia, Union of Young Roma “Tarna Rom” (hereinafter Civic Association “Tarna Rom”) and Center Partnership for Development (hereinafter CPD), combining capacities and experience in the field of promoting inclusive and fair elections. The project started with comprehensive review of electoral legislation, practices and internal regulations of political parties from the perspective of inclusion. These findings and evidence-based recommendations were used in the first dialogue event with politicians, MPs, Central Electoral Commission from Chisinau and Gagauzia, conducted during the first year of project implementation. The dialogue efforts resulted in limited feedback and commitment from political actors. However, the Central Electoral Commission expressed openness to work on drafting legal amendments after the 2019 Parliamentary Elections.

EEF made significant strides to enable the civil society to advocate for free, fair and inclusive elections. With project support, in April 2018 the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections

resumed its activities. Since then, this strategic network that brings together over 35 national and grass-roots NGOs developed and widely disseminated 12 position papers addressed to decision-makers, electoral authorities, judiciary. Preparatory work was conducted to launch six advocacy projects at national and local level in January 2019.

The project partners encouraged under-represented groups to run as candidates for the local elections. As a result of the Women's Leadership program, 52 women participants from 43 localities are determined to run as candidates. Around 25% of the 97 participants in the trainings for Roma said they are determined run as local councillors. Similarly, around 20% of the 96 participants of the Just Act training for prospective leaders in Gagauzia mentioned their intention to run as candidates.

In 2018 EEF targeted to strengthen local governance and empower CSOs to address local problems in ways that benefit all community members. Pursuant to a thorough selection process of three targeted districts (Cahul, Causeni and Soroca) EEF and CPD conducted capacity building work for CSO and LPA representatives on key good governance elements such as access to public interest information, social accountability and transparency in the decision-making.

The capacity building activities, along with the dialogue with district authorities, contributed to the **establishment of District Participation Councils (DPCs) in Cahul, Soroca and Causeni**, bringing together 33 grass roots CSOs from these regions. These citizens' participation mechanisms were institutionalised and acknowledged by district authorities through their official decisions. With project support the 33 CSOs members of the District Participation Councils developed comprehensive advocacy plans focused on influencing and overseeing key public policies adopted by district authorities.

CSOs in three districts are mobilised and work to promote greater responsiveness of local authorities towards community needs. CSO members of the District Participation Councils in Soroca, Cahul and Causeni started to analyse the draft decisions issued by the district authorities and to engage in assertive dialogue with local decision-makers. Despite these results, the established participation mechanisms are still fragile and continuous efforts are required to keep all members of the DPCs actively engaged.

In partnership with CPD necessary preparatory activities were made to enable 10 CSOs and 30 Local Initiative Groups to design and implement meaningful mobilisation efforts for improved participation and livelihoods.

Although at this stage, the local policy influencing impact is limited, the **observed positive behaviour changes of the local public authorities pave the way towards further enhanced responsiveness towards community needs.** Specific bridging results are outlined below: EEF and its partners are mobilized to foster sustainable partnerships and capacity of civil society actors on both banks of Nistru river through the establishment of cross-river platforms of cooperation at community level.

In order to transfer good practices in community development, social service delivery, consumer protection, youth engagement, social entrepreneurship and respect for human rights, East Europe Foundation assessed the existing tools. In this context a tool was adapted - the Guidebook "Community Mobilization for Empowerment of Vulnerable Women and Men". The Guide is expected to play a role in explaining and promoting the benefits of community mobilization. Meanwhile, a special training course on advocacy was developed by the selected expert and the Guide on Advocacy for CSOs adapted for the specifics of the region from the left bank.

Discussions were held to involve left bank CSOs in various coalitions and some networks expressed their openness to involve CSOs from Transnistria. In this regard, 2 organizations from Tiraspol joined the Alliance of Organisations for people with disabilities (AOPD). Thus, the Transnistrian organisations were actors in the process of Advocacy Plan 2019 that was adopted at the Alliance General Meeting in December 2018.

As a result of the meetings with coalitions and platforms from the right bank of the Nistru River, joint discussions were held with 5 National Inclusive Platforms (representing Roma, elderly, youth, people with disabilities, gender equality platform), which are products created within “Joint Equal Opportunity Initiative”, implemented by EEF from the financial resources of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This kind of activities led to increased intensity of synergies at the level of different projects and donors.

Capacity Building Modules for CSOs from both banks of Nistru River were developed, comprising five main domains, such as Communication for CSOs, Fundraising and financial aspects, project management, advocacy, CSOs management and sustainability, etc. All components of this programme have been used in capacitating the actors of civil society from within this project.

Prioritized consumer assistance NGOs are actively using consumer rights complaints mechanisms to empower communities. A significant increase of responsibility of food operators, both from the supermarket networks in Balti municipality, as well as from the small shops in the North, Center and South regions. Food operators, as a result of the complaints submitted by CASes, began to provide consumers with labels or information about products sold in bulk (pelmeni, hencale, frozen vegetables, frozen fruits). Until this achievement, such practice did not exist (only the product name was displayed). After the Center applied the practice of notification regarding this matter, the information on the content, the date of manufacture and the expiry date began to be displayed.

The results of consumer rights awareness campaigns have begun to be palpable: consumers seeking legal aid from the CAS North, as well as from the one from the Center and one from the South of the country.

During the reporting period 3 legal experts offered legal services in collaboration with the Centers for Consumer Assistance, covering petitions from North, Center and South part of the country. Thus, there were undertaken 549 - complaints referring to various issues like: inappropriate labeling / lack of price / expired product / misleading date of manufacture / excess nitrate content (2). In this context the experts spent 2446 hours and 6 hours for other activities (meetings, proposals).

During the reporting period two monitors were regularly in the field taking samples for various food products analysis: there were 90 analysis (physical - chemical) on nitrates in vegetables and fruits in 2018. 60 analysis were carried out on 12 pastry products for microbiology indicators and physical – chemical indicators.

EEF continued its work on advocating for a safer food and protected consumers. In December 2017, EEF conducted the monitoring of dairy products on the Moldovan market. 126 products were tested in an independent laboratory to make sure the producers respect the food safety and quality standards. A large awareness raising campaign was conducted and proposals were submitted to state authorities to change the quality requirements for dairy products. Thus, all technological processes should be indicated on the label, including use of milk powder or any other additives. The first results of the monitoring were not encouraging and made public by the Laboratory in January of 2018. The National Agency for Food Safety organized a common meeting with the Representatives of East Europe Foundation, Center of Applied Metrology and Certification” (CMAC), dairy producers and media, where they took into account the results and started their own repeated laboratory tests to compare the results of EEF.

The media created a wave of materials about the assessment, which lead to serious implications of NAFS. After the “Diary scandal”, recommendations were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture,

Regional Development and Environment regarding to the Draft Government Decision on the Approval of Quality Requirements for Milk and Dairy Products.

https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr13_172.pdf

Meanwhile, 2 Consumer Assistance Centers were created in the Transnistrian region (Rybnita and Tiraspol). Comprehensive work was done in order to make the services offered by the centers known amongst citizens and state structures. Thus, both centers have launched their activities and started the informational campaigns. As a result, both Centres consulted on consumer legal aspects over 385 persons. An increased cooperation between the Centres and state referent authorities was noticed by having common discussions within 2 round tables.

2 newly created Consumer Assistance Centres from the left bank took part in two common meetings with Consumer Assistance Centres from the right bank and shared experiences.

Considering the rather new concept of consumer assistance offered by CSOs on the left bank of Nistru River, it takes assiduous efforts to change stereotypes of consumers in regard to claiming their rights, that is why % of beneficiaries who rated with “excellent” or “good” the services created in targeted communities will be calculated when the mechanism will be fully functional.

EEF implements the **YouthBank programme** in Moldova from 2009 and has supported the creation and growth of 11 YouthBanks from 11 regions across the country by partnering with 10 civil society organizations. Over the last 6 years, EEF has helped establish 7 new YouthBanks based on the experience of the other 3 developed in the period 2009 - 2012. Thus, by the end of 2018 YouthBank Moldova network counted 10 YouthBanks coordinated by 179 young people. Involvement in YouthBank offers young people experiences and responsibilities that foster lifelong community involvement. It combines a number of the elements that are currently being strongly promoted in policy initiatives.

Over the last 6 years, the local YouthBanks had the potential to channel young people’s enthusiasm into positive activity, to provide valuable learning experiences, boost confidence and widen horizons.

Since its inauguration in Moldova, YouthBank has had direct impact on the lives of over 100,000 young people from more than 100 rural and urban communities across the country. From just 36 young people involved in civic association in 2012, there were 3740 young people by the end of 2018. Equality and non-discrimination are among the key principles guiding all youth banks’ activities. Thus, at least 40% of the current Youth Bank members are from vulnerable groups (ethnic and linguistic minorities, people with precarious social and economic backgrounds, deprived rural areas, children of migrant parents, young people with disabilities as well as young people living in the security zone along the Nistru river). Marginalized and socially excluded young people can gain a sense of achievement, feel listened to and construct positive responses to the factors affecting their lives.

YouthBank Moldova has reconfirmed for the 8th year that it is a proficient platform for community engagement of young people, including those from marginalized groups. These young people are equipped by EEF and local partners with a wide range of transferable skills that enhance not only their capacity to negotiate but boosts their educational and employment prospects. As a result, they take initiative by implementing local small-scale projects and support their peers in advocating for a more enabling environment for young people to exercise their rights. EEF offers small groups of young people modest funding to support their ideas for action and change, by encouraging such voluntary action, many young people who are currently failed by the system, or disengaged can be inspired to become active citizens.

In all of the 10 YouthBanks across Moldova including Transnistria region there are well trained initiative groups made up mainly by young people with few adults who are implementing local initiatives, projects and small grants programs, thus participating in youth-driven decision-making and community development. Their creative perspectives, dynamic spirit and contagious enthusiasm are transforming the shape of their community and living up the community life. The

YouthBank program has contributed significantly to the increase of voluntary engagement of young women and men in community development initiatives. Youth engagement across the YouthBank network has spiked from approximately 1000 youth in 2013 to more than 35.000 youth by the end of 2018.

EEF has partnered with reliable local civil society organizations from Ialoveni, Varnița, Cahul, Ștefan Vodă, Orhei, Soroca, Rîșcani, Bălți, Sangerei, Dubăsari and Bender in building and consolidating the YouthBank network. YouthBank coordinators and the teams of young people learned to manage a YouthBank through a range of activities based on non-formal education methods, spanning from trainings, workshops, study visits and youth among others. EEF encourages young grantmakers to be both creative and solution orientated in their analysis of ways of approaching personal, social, economic, cultural, environmental and other difficulties their peers are experiencing.

Involving young people in grant-making makes them more aware of the needs and aspirations of their local community and the ways in which they can make a difference. YouthBank members are trained to cooperate and work as a team taking all the relevant decisions for themselves.

Finally, young people are empowered to develop their competencies and to engage their peers in small projects and initiatives in their towns and villages.

To assist the YouthBank members develop the skills, insights, knowledge and understanding to undertake this work, a programme of training backed up by on-going support is constantly provided by EEF and local coordinators.

EEF aimed at expanding **eTwinning** to a wider number of teachers, even to those who are inexperienced in the use of ICTs, and, at the same time, at increasing the number and the average quality of projects.

In the period of 2017-2018 PSA Moldova focused its activities on wider promotion of eTwinning throughout the country, together with providing to teachers a variety of trainings on different levels and different content, to meet almost every teacher's needs as far as implementation of innovative methods of learning is concerned. Through online and on-site learning events with easy reach to all teachers in different regions of Republic of Moldova, including Transnistrian region, PSA reinforced ICT tools relevance in schools, encouraged new schools and teachers to join the programme, provided tools and events assuring search of partner and finally actively fostered new projects establishment.

Support to teachers has shown to be a key aspect to keep teachers motivated and active in eTwinning. The main activities conducted for this purpose were onsite general support, online training events and support to individual projects to improve and develop teachers' ICT skills, and by this eventually enable digital tools' practical application in the classroom. Also, at national or regional and local level events, the project quality and project method of pedagogical work were promoted.

As a result of such an approach, the number of teachers who participated in eTwinning and ICT trainings significantly increased. Based on the results eTwinning has achieved it can be concluded that the program is gradually embedding in the school life in Republic of Moldova. Teachers have learned a better use of ICT in teaching, learned how to cooperate with pupils and teach them more effectively. Projects also help the weaker pupils to show their talents and skills. They enable pupils to learn about other European nations and adopt the ideas of collaboration and solidarity with others.

Selected grass-roots NGOs in targeted communities are successfully running **social enterprises** to address the situation of vulnerable groups. In 2018, 11 social enterprises were funded, with an additional 6 to be created in 2019. Vulnerable people in targeted communities benefit from employment opportunities and better social services, thus on the left bank of Nistru River EEF offered grants for creating Legal Assistance Centers under the "Building Bridges,

Facing Challenges” project in the previous reporting period. Based on the results above, the following CSOs are funded: Center for Legal Initiatives, Legal Information Center Vialex, Alliance for Public Health. In this regard, 243 legal assistance services were provided in various fields, and clients of the Legal Assistance Centres improved their path towards solving a legal personal matter. Another 48 legal consultations were provided by the mobile legal visits in Dubasari and Grigoriopol and 8 consultations were offered through on-line legal help.

4 NGOs from Moldova were selected to implement initiatives meant to improve the quality of lives for the vulnerable groups from the Republic of Moldova. This action was carried out through a Grants competition on this topic.

Thus, 4 community centers for elderly people were repaired in Chisinau where 24 type of services for massage therapy were carried out for 150 unique participants. 291 elderly people are part on regular basis of various programs for socialization and the maintenance of mental health of single elderly people. Up to 896 visits were carried out to lonely elderly people within this project. Another community center was fully repaired and equipped in the Schineni Village, where sports, literature and dance became possible for vulnerable children and families from the village, but also for pupils from the whole community. It is worth mentioning that this project was cofounded by the Local Public Administration in the amount of 50% of the total budget of the project, which is a rarer practice.

42 children and young people with special needs from 5 localities benefited of home medical therapy, due to the Mobile Therapy Team, that had the possibility to offer various health services using the procured special adapted car for this purpose.

Another initiative – La La Play Voyces gathered together in a choir 20 children and adolescents, 10 girls and 10 boys aged 12-17 years from 10 rayons of the Republic of Moldova that were selected and helped improve their music capacities and self confidence through a summer camp and a National Concert Symphonic Pop.

In the same time, efforts have been made to contribute to the improvement of access and quality of community services offered by CSOs in Transnistria. 2 Social Entrepreneurships will be established on the left bank of the Nistru River as a result of the Grants Competition held in December, 2017. The grants will start in spring of 2018.

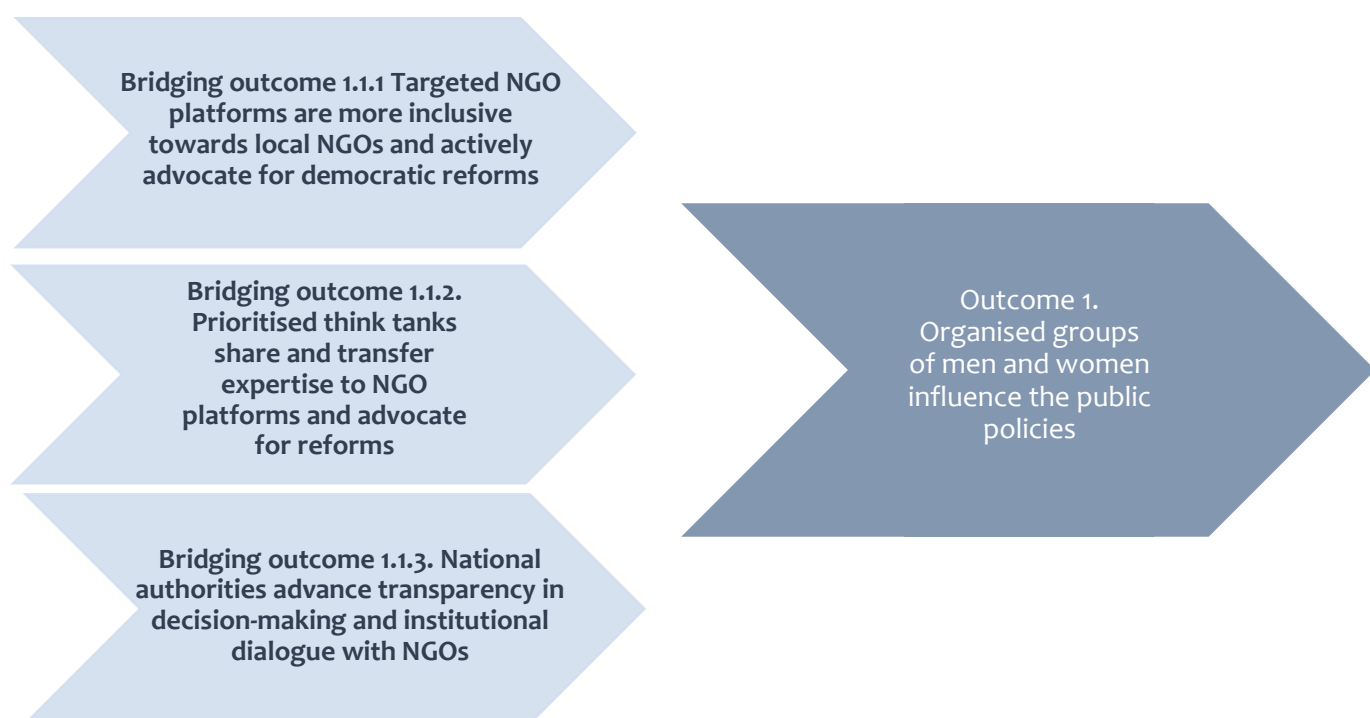
All the efforts oriented towards supporting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups presume the support of Local Public Authorities. Most of the projects either have policy, financial or in-kind support from the authorities.

1.1. CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

Theory of change

Civil and political rights and democratic governance are better ensured when men and women have access to pluralistic information, freely articulate their needs, are capable to link them to appropriate policy initiatives, and are properly represented by decision-makers through free, fair and inclusive elections. Targeted support to gender equality organisations is essential to integrate gender perspective in public policies and increase gender representation in politics.

Outcome and related bridging outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

With funding leveraged from the Swiss Cooperation Office, in 2018 EEF enabled **four NGO platforms** representing Roma (“Roma Voice” Platform), Youth (CNTM), Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and Older People (“Active Ageing” Platform) to **implement ambitious oversight, advocacy and engagement strategies**. CSO networks successfully influenced implementation and design of national and local public policies. The networks carried out three types of interventions: (i) monitoring implementation of 10 selected public policies; (ii) mapping and influencing emerging public policies; (iii) solving specific issues faced by constituents in communities through joint advocacy and mobilisation.

Monitoring reports on the implementation of 10 selected public policies contributed to the formulation of corrective measures for the concerned duty-bearers. At this stage, CSOs networks influenced implementation of three targeted policies:

Up-scaling Inclusion of Youth:

The Youth network monitored the National Strategy for the Development of Youth Sector 2020. The findings and recommendations were made public on 19th of November and submitted to the

Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. As a result of the policy dialogue, the decision-maker accepted six out of 14 formulated recommendations: three recommendations concerning participation of young people, two recommendations on the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, one recommendation on access of young people to the labour market. The acceptance of these recommendations may have a tangible impact on young people, which represent around one third of the Moldovan population.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in UTA “Gagauz Yeri”:

The Alliance of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) monitored the implementation in Gagauz region of the Objectives 5 (Participation) and 6 (Accessibility) of the Program on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The findings and corresponding recommendations were presented in December. As a result of this evidence-based dialogue, the AOPD members established a stronger collaboration with the authorities of Gagauzia. The Gagauz authorities initiated the changes to their web site to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. In addition, 20 electoral servants participated in a simulation exercise of inclusive elections, conducted in partnership with INFONET NGO. In addition, the construction agencies were informed by the main architect of the region on the observance of construction standards.

Mainstreaming disability in the National Employment Strategy

AOPD monitored the implementation of the National Employment Strategy from the perspective of the rights of persons with disabilities at national level and at local level, in Criuleni district. The findings of the report were presented to relevant national and local authorities. As a result of the monitoring effort, AOPD was included in the working group responsible for the elaboration of the Action Plan for 2019. The meaningful implementation of the Action Plan will advance the employment opportunities for over 100000 persons with disabilities all over the country.

CSO networks made significant strides to influence the emerging policies. These efforts entailed a four step process: (a) policy mapping; (b) selecting priority policies; (c) analysing the selected policy from the perspective of inclusion; (d) assertive dialogue with decision-makers. During the second semester, the targeted CSO networks produced 62 policy analyses to emerging policies. Examples of influenced policies are summarised below:

Perspective of vulnerable groups mainstreamed in the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”

In June 2017 the Moldovan Government initiated the development of the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” (NDS “Moldova 2030”). CSOs platforms representing persons with disabilities older people, Roma and youth actively participated in the consultation process and in the thematic working groups responsible for the design of the Strategy. In 2018 the four platforms thoroughly analysed the ten strategic pillars of the draft public policy and provided joint recommendations from the perspective of vulnerable groups. Joint advocacy contributed to mainstreaming vulnerability during the drafting and approval process and avoiding the usual, “top-down” approach. As a result, the document approved by the Government recognizes the vulnerability of persons with disabilities, older people, Roma, youth and other vulnerable groups. The NDS “Moldova 2030” was adopted by the Moldovan Parliament in December 2018.

The perspective of youth and women mainstreamed in the Law on political parties

In 2016 the Moldovan Parliament passed amendments to the Law on political parties introducing a public funding scheme whereby up to 0.2% of the state budget will be allocated to political parties as follows: 50% - proportionally, based on performance registered in parliamentary elections; 50% - 50% - proportionally, based on performance registered in local elections.

In 2018 the youth network and CPD analysed the Law on political parties. The document argued that the current public scheme does not contribute to the inclusion of such under-represented groups such as women and youth and advocated for the corresponding amendments of the law. Continuous advocacy work contributed to MPs accepting these recommendations. The amended law provides that 10% will be distributed proportionally to political parties that comply to the 40% gender quotas in single mandate electoral districts; 5% - proportionally, based on the number of youth effectively elected; 5% - proportionally, based on the number of youth effectively elected. Arguably, these amendments will contribute to increased political representation of women and youth, hence more inclusive policy debate.

Persons with disabilities mainstreamed in the Strategy on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking

The Alliance of CSOs for Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) analysed the draft Strategy on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking. The analysis underlined that although persons with disabilities are vulnerable to human trafficking, the draft policy document does not take into consideration preventive special measures towards this group and provided corresponding recommendations. As a result, the adopted policy document provides for engaging specialists working with persons with disabilities in the awareness and preventive activities. This approach will lead expanding the accessibility of information on human trafficking among the persons with disabilities

Prospects for reducing pay gaps in the public sector

In 2018 the Government initiated the draft law on Law on the Unitary Pay System in the Public Sector. CPD conducted a comprehensive analysis of the draft law and proposed a set of recommendations including (i) the formula for the calculation of the salary for public employers and (ii) the requirement of periodic evaluation of public occupations from the perspective of gender equality. Decision makers accepted these recommendations. The provisions will contribute to increased salaries for public employees and prevent gender pay gaps in the public sector.

CSO networks advocated by local authorities to solve specific issues faced by their constituents. Tangible results have been achieved in nine of the twelve communities targeted by the CSO networks. The advocacy entailed a three step process: (i) joint problem identification; (ii) designing the local advocacy plans; (iii) implementing the advocacy plan. Specific results achieved during this reporting period are outlined below:

AOPD:

AOPD mapped the socio-economic policies adopted in 2017-2018 by the Edinet District Authorities with the view to implementing the Strategy on socio-economic development of Edinet district. Subsequently, AOPD analysed them from the perspective of inclusion of persons with disabilities and presented the findings to the district authorities. The recommendations were mainstreamed in the 2019 Action Plan on the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Edinet District. Meaningful implementation of the policy will improve the livelihoods for around 6500 persons with disabilities living in the district.

In Drochia district, public transportation is not accommodated for persons with disabilities. As part of the local advocacy plan, AOPD submitted a complaint to the Equality Body. The latter issued a Decision on 26 October 2019 recommending to the authorities in charge to amend the legislation and practices with the view to ensuring accessibility of public transportation in the district. The advocacy effort could improve access to public transportation of 3458 persons with disabilities living in Drochia district.

Active Ageing:

Active Ageing mobilisation efforts determined older people in Raspopeni village to identify and articulate the major issues affecting their lives in the community: (i) lack of water and sewage, (ii) insufficient financial allocations for the social protection for at risk elderly aged 75+. The advocacy work initiated by the Platform with district and local authorities led to increased financial allocations for at risk older people. In addition, access to water and sewage was included on the agenda of the district council, Regional Development Agency Centre and Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

In Soldanesti, after a round of public debates, older people identified the following issues: (i) quality of medical services, (ii) discrimination of elderly by medical workers, (iii) limited access to medical institutions, (iv) lack of public transportation in town. As a result of advocacy efforts conducted by network's members with LPAs and administration of district hospital, the latter committed to work on doctor's code of ethics and to introduce binding non-discrimination behaviour. Town authorities included the issue of public transportation on the local agenda for 2019. The implementation of these commitments will improve access to healthcare and transportation services for around one third of the population from Soldanesti.

In Basarabeasca (villages Carbetovca, Iordanovca, Sadaclia, Abaclia) as a result of the mobilization activity, the community identified insufficient means of public transportation for whole community but especially for elderly from the villages of Carbetovca, Iordanovca, Sadaclia, Abaclia, Isrlia to access rayonal services. Platform constituents organized public debates involving mayors from all of communities, district authorities as well as representative from National Transport Agency.¹ As a result of the pressure exercised by the local mobilization team, district authorities created a working group² aiming to analyse costs of such services and means to solve transportation issues.

Youth:

In Ocnita, the youth network established and capacitated an inclusive Youth Advocacy Group, comprising 21 young people (9 boys, 12 girls). They were instrumental in addressing the most pressing issues faced by youth in their district. The group began by mapping and voicing the current problems faced by the young people in the district, including lack of youth spaces, insufficient volunteerism opportunities, lack of infrastructure for sports and leisure. The association where these young people are volunteering, AO "Paradis", capitalised on these efforts and, with the financial support from Polish Aid, assisted the local authorities to develop a revitalization plan for Ocnita town that took into account the youth issues. Continuous advocacy efforts of the Youth Advocacy Group convinced the district authorities to allocate resources for the establishment of a Youth Center. Ocnita District Council provided 50% of needed resources (178.000,00 MDL) while the other share was covered by a project funded by the EU Delegation to Moldova. The empowered Youth Advocacy Group is currently actively engaging with local authorities to implement other commitments for youth included in the revitalisation plan.

In Basarabeasca a youth mobilization group set up with project support [comprising 32 young people, including 24 girls and 8 boys] advocated for increased budget allocations for youth. The advocacy campaign included submission of petitions, articles in the local media and other public actions public to document their actions. Although at this stage the youth budget remains unchanged, local councillors promised to allocate money if additional resources are identified.

Roma voice:

¹ <https://bas-tv.md/ro/accesul-la-transport-public/>

² <http://basarabeasca.md/ro/2018/11/обсуждение-проблемы-общественного-т/>

In Cania, Cantemir district, the “Roma Voice” local monitor contributed to the identification of most vulnerable Roma persons and addressing identified needs. Five Roma families were empowered to demand access to social protection services. Three Roma children with hearing impairments received assistive devices due to the intervention of the Roma voice Network. In addition, advocacy efforts determined local authorities to demand funding for a community mediator. The institutionalised Roma mediator will contribute to improving access to welfare services for around 135 Roma living in the community.

In Riscani town, approximately 400 Roma live in poverty, with limited access to healthcare, services, employment, education. As a result of Roma mobilisation and advocacy efforts, the vulnerable Roma were empowered to claim social security benefits. In partnership with Roma Voice, local authorities developed and approved a local plan designed to support the Roma community.

Within the EU-funded project “Civil society contributes to the economic and social development in Moldova” a number of policy notes and position papers were developed to advance implementation of DCFTA: during the reporting period were elaborated 21 position papers and advisory notes on different issues faced by private sector. Most of them resulted in technical meetings with the participation of EBA members and Public Institutions related to the mentioned topics. Several advisory notes were approved in the Parliament in first reading. The others have resulted in technical meetings where the proposals mentioned in the paper and other solutions were discussed, or amendments and peculiarities in implementing the Government decisions have been put into discussion. All of the initiatives have resulted in meetings or additional meetings was decided to take place for further discussions, and only one Advisory note had no reply from the recipient.

The outcome of the submitted advisory notes and position papers mentioned above is presented as follow: 3 Advisory notes on Draft Laws were accepted in first reading of Parliament; 1 – approved by Law; 1- still has no reply; 1 amended version was rejected by the private sector; 2-amended the regulations; 13-under examination.

Challenges

One of the challenges faced by the project team is the worsening environment for CSO operation and the deteriorating democracy:

- Law enforcement agencies did not react to the threats against human rights CSOs, launched by one of the political leaders.
- Civil society organisations expressed concerns about the eroding democracy in Moldova and disproportionate reactions of the authorities regarding the peaceful assemblies from 26-27 August.
- In November 2018, pursuant to a special investigation of alleged involvement of a foreign foundation in political funding, the Moldovan Parliament passed a special report that recommends to the Government to propose legal amendments on the funding of political parties and non-commercial organisations. Some CSOs expressed concerns that such recommendations pave the way for silencing the critical CSOs that are primarily funded by foreign donors.

Another challenge is the deficit of transparency in the decision-making process at national and local level. During the pre-electoral period, national and local authorities sought to meet the deadlines, adopting many key policies without public consultations.

Activities

Capacity assessment of targeted CSO networks.

During April-June 2018 the project team conducted a capacity assessment of targeted CSOs networks. The activity was designed to assess the extent to which the project managed strengthen their capacity to (i) advocate for inclusive policies and to (ii) conduct implementation oversight. The CPD team launched the on-line questionnaire aiming at identifying the level of knowledge and practical experience in the field of assessing and monitoring a public policy from the perspective of the vulnerable groups. The networks shared their experience regarding their advocacy experience gained and delivered during October 2017 – May 2018 period. The final score regarding the progress/regress achieved by the networks in the field of promoting more inclusive public policies will be identified in July-August 2018, after organizing individual meetings with each network.

The previous capacity assessment and self-assessment efforts, conducted during May – June 2017, pointed that further capacity building interventions are required to advance the advocacy capacity of each CSO network to the higher level. Specific capacity building areas expressed by the participants included methodological guidance for policy analysis, data analysis, communication and outreach.

The third capacity assessment of targeted CSO platforms highlights significant disparities and specific capacity needs. Three out of four platforms managed to achieve better results in mainstreaming the vulnerable groups' need into strategic documents developed by the decision makers, being assessed with the *Intermediary or Consolidate* levels. The platforms still need support in improving their analytical and advocacy expertise, especially in developing impact assessments reports, in developing inclusive public policies and in influencing the decision making process.

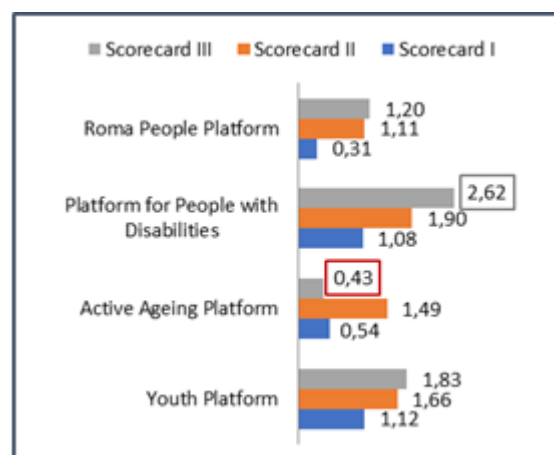


Figure 1: The progress achieved by the platforms in advocacy area, 2016 – 2018

Figure 1 shows that AOPD succeeded to achieve the best progress in interacting with the decision makers and in submitting recommendations to the project laws (from the intermediary level to the consolidate one).

Active Ageing Platform registered a considerable decrease in comparison with previous two results (from the intermediary level to the incipient one). This can be explained by the fact that the questionnaire was not filled in by the secretariat of the platform (Help Age International), who has the main expertise in the advocacy field. This also points to the need to provide tailored assistance on analytical and advocacy to individual members of the Platform, who are primarily specialised in service delivery.

Training and coaching for CSO networks.

In 2018 the project team focused on policy analysis, communication and outreach. These thematic areas were drawn from the careful examination of advocacy plans submitted by CSO networks in December 2017 and from the previous capacity assessments. Exploring the lessons learnt during the previous periods, the training sessions were followed by individual coaching sessions with each network.

Monitoring and assessment of public policies from the perspective of inclusion:

The workshop sought to enhance the skills of most active members of the targeted networks in monitoring public policy implementation, analysing the relevance and evaluating level of implementation of public policies. Organized on the 25th of January 2018, the activity was attended by 16 CSOs representatives (5 men, 11 women).

During the workshop, Alexei Buzu, the facilitator of the workshop, proposed to the participants a methodology for monitoring selected public policies. Each methodological guideline was discussed in depth based on specific examples drawn from relevant public policies. At the end of the event, all the participants representing the four CSO networks got practical tasks with specific deadlines.

After the event, EEF and CPD conducted follow-up sessions with each network, supporting them to undertake the tasks assigned at the end of the workshop. As a result of the workshop and follow-up sessions, the participants were equipped with methodological guidance for monitoring selected public policies. Currently all networks are using the methodology in monitoring the selected public policies.

Synergies to influence the National Development Agenda “Moldova 2030”:

The purpose of the activity was to facilitate the joint analysis of the draft National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” from the perspective of inclusion. Organised on the 4th of April 2018, the activity was attended by 19 CSOs representatives (16 women and three men).

During the workshop, Andrei Brighidin, the facilitator of the workshop, proposed to the participants a methodology for reviewing the draft policy document from the perspective of inclusion, equal opportunities and human rights (See the training Agenda, list of participants and handouts in Annex 2). The methodological guidelines were discussed in details based on specific examples. The participants prioritized six out of 10 strategic objectives of the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” and pursued to the joint analysis based on the proposed methodology. At the end of the event, all the participants representing the four CSO networks got practical tasks with specific deadlines.

After the event, EEF and CPD compiled the analyses conducted by each group within the agreed deadline. The joint document was submitted to the working groups responsible for the prioritized strategic objectives.

Workshop on communication and visibility:

The goal of the event was to improve the visibility, communication and outreach capacity of the targeted networks. Organised on the 24th of May 2018, the activity was attended by 23 participants (20 females and 3 males).

The training was followed by practical assignments to each network – developing communications and visibility plans. The training facilitator has been working with each network in order to reach maximum action visibility.

Mobilising CSO networks and local organizations to develop [and implement] advocacy and oversight plans.

Pursuant to the preparatory work conducted during the previous year, in January 2018 the targeted networks proceeded to the implementation of their advocacy plans. EEF and its partner CPD worked individually with each network to facilitate the implementation process. The partners also conducted quarterly coordination meetings, focused on facilitating experience sharing, mutual learning and synergies among members.

Individual meetings with networks:

CSO network	Mobilization activities
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Youth	<p>The individual meeting was conducted on the 19th of February 2018 in the premises of CNTM. The meeting helped to clarify the methodology for monitoring targeted policy documents and deadlines for the draft reports. The network identified the members who will be primarily responsible for collecting data and compiling reports.</p> <p>In addition, synergies were identified with CPD on elaboration of common recommendations regarding draft law on financing of political parties.</p>
AOPD	<p>The individual meeting with AOPD was held on the 14th of February in the premises of AOPD. Members were supported to identify monitoring tools for the selected policy documents. The network identified the members who will be primarily responsible for collecting data and compiling reports.</p> <p>Pursuant to the request of AOPD members, on the 2nd of May 2018 a training on statistical data was conducted for 24 members of the network.</p>
Roma Voice	<p>The initial meeting with the network was held on February the 16th of February. The activity focused on clarifying the methodology for monitoring targeted policies. A monitoring group was set up, with clear deadlines, responsibilities on data collection and compilation of reports. The partners actively participated in subsequent monthly meetings of the network.</p>
Active Ageing	<p>The individual meeting with network members was conducted on the 16th of February. The network agreed on monitoring methodology and distributed data collection tasks among members.</p>

Issue-based events for CSO networks

Preparatory efforts were made to achieve joint partnerships during the next reporting period. EEF facilitated the issue-based interaction among the four CSO networks, District Participation Councils and local consultants on national and local budgets and policy influencing. The first issue-based event, conducted on 25 October, focused on *budget analysis from the perspective of social inclusion*. Eugenia Veverita, an outstanding expert on public finance management, initiated the 48 participants [representatives of 4 national platforms and representatives of 3 District Participation Councils from Soroca, Causeni and Cahul as following: (28) women, (20) men, (22) urban, (26) rural] on budgetary cycle, the regulatory framework, criteria of money disbursements for budget programs, sources of information about the national and local budgets. Analysis the information posted by the Ministry of Finance. Additionally, local organizations received skills allowing them to further examine local budgets from the perspective of specific policies and gender sensitive principles.

A second issue-based event, focused on policy influencing practices, was conducted on the 17th of December. The event facilitated the exchange of information among 43 participants, representatives of platform networks, local organizations from Soroca, Causeni and Cahul. CPD and the four platforms presented their achievements and challenges in analysis and influencing of public policies. The experience of Youth Centre Dacia from Soroca was also show-cased.

Annual Inclusive Public Policy Forum

The Annual Inclusive Public Policy Forum was conducted on the 14th of June. The goal of the event was to facilitate joint vertical and horizontal advocacy for a more inclusive National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” (NDS). The forum brought together 70 participants (37 rural/33 urban,

including 3 CSOs from the Transnistrian region): civil society organizations from 3 targeted districts, targeted CSO networks together with their local constituents, State Chancellery and donors.

During the event the participants worked in selected groups (economic rights, social rights, civil and political rights, environmental rights). Based on a simple methodology developed by EEF the participant examined NDS objectives from the perspective of inclusion and human rights. The findings and recommendations were presented to decision-makers during a plenary session. Subsequently, the participants compiled a document with recommendations, submitted to the State Chancellery and Expert-Group for further consideration.

Position papers to advance Moldova path towards the implementation of DCFTA were developed by civil society organizations lead by the European Business Association. The following position papers and advisory notes were developed:

1. Position paper regarding the difficulties of wall nuts exporters onto the EU Market;
2. Position paper expressed by big employers with the view to tertiary education in Moldova;
3. Position paper in order to improve tertiary education in RM;
4. Position Paper in order to improve the implementation of dual education in Moldova;
5. Position Paper regarding proposals to the draft law on advertisement (Currently at the initiative of Council Of Europe in Moldova there is a draft law under development on advertisement. Considering that this is a quite complex process EBA has participated in a number of meetings organised by the team of experts (Council of Europe) and collected issues from private sector in this regard. All the issues have been included in the att Position Paper);
6. Position Paper on proposals to the draft law regarding energy efficiency (The goal of the position paper is to present certain proposals to the draft of the Law on Energy Efficiency coming from renewables operators);
7. Position Paper on abolishing certain documents/veterinary certificates when importing animal origin goods in Moldova (The position paper presents concrete proposals to simplify certain veterinary certification at the import of animal origin goods in Moldova. Following the presentation of the Position paper to ANSA they organised a meeting with various business operators (importers, processors suppliers etc) in order to discuss proposals and identify solutions to the issue);
8. Position Paper on identifying solutions for the import of meat (raw material), specifically by meat processors (The Position Paper is focussed on concrete proposals for making the import of meat in Moldova from EU more transparent and reduce the costs for local meat processors on the whole value chain. Additional technical meetings have been organised in this regard with Ministry of Economy, ANSA< Adviser of the PM Mr. Eremie Priseajniuc etc. The solution is under development);
9. Proposals on amending and supplementing Government Decision on approving the Regulation on monitoring and calculation of the depreciation of fixed assets for tax purposes (The Goal of the position paper is to present for consideration the proposals given by the private sector. The table attached to the letter comprises amendments to articles and chapters of the Draft Law, with relevant comments);
10. Proposals to the modification and supplementing the Fiscal Policy and other legislative and normative acts for 2019 (The Goal of the position paper is to present for consideration the proposals of modification of the Fiscal Policy for 2019. The proposals consist in modifications of expressions with comments on why these modifications are important

for the sector or specific activity. The proposals have been gathered from the banking sector and members from other sectors as well);

11. Position Paper on Draft Law on Advertisement (The paper comprises proposals referring to outdoor advertising. It draws attention on its outdated form which manifests on weak correlation between the advertising industry and the public and private sectors. Also it specifies that the implementation of the mentioned document will turn difficult for small locations and that implication of international experts is required. For reference, are given several examples of European countries experience).
12. Position Paper on Identifying solutions regarding the overcoming of current situation in the domain of meat import (The paper contains possible solutions for the meat processors in RM, the economic activity of which has been lessened as result of EU given quota completion. Each of these solutions are based on arguments from the business activity of the private sector itself, with exact stats and numbers, in order to show the gravity of the formed situation. The numbers are showing also the taxes implied to meat processors, and in this regard is suggested also to organize a meeting with the Ministry of Finance);
13. Position Paper on applicability of Fiscal Policy for 2018 – 2019 (The paper contains a list of amendments planned to be operated in the legislation of RM, which are proposed to be discussed in a potential meeting with public authorities. The amendments have been gathered in closed cooperation with the private sector and vary in the sectors of their applicability);
14. Position Paper on proposals on modification supplementation of the Government Decision nr. 289 from 14.03.2007 for approving the Regulation on evidence and calculation of depreciation of fixed assets (The paper comprises proposals like adding phrases to chapters, adding new headings, including provisions or revising subpoints in chapters, each of these being motivated with relevant arguments on the domain of application);
15. Advisory note regarding the Draft Law on food safety, 1.10.2018
16. Amendment of the Government Decision regarding the situation of the waste management in Republic of Moldova, 31.10.2018
17. Advisory note on the amendment of the Law no 231/2010 on the domestic trade, 12.11.2018
18. Advisory note on deficiencies in applying the national legislation related to the prevention and combating of money laundering and financing terrorism, 13.11.2018
19. Amendment of the Government Decision regarding the tariffs for payments charged by National Agency for Food Safety at the border control for food safety, Common EBA AmCham letter
20. Advisory opinion on Draft Law on the National Centre for Personal Data Protection, 23.11.2018
21. Proposal for amendment referring to the trade barriers faced by private sector related to the import of food products of non-animal origin, 7.12.2018.

The outcome of the submitted advisory notes and position papers mentioned above is presented as follow: 3 Advisory notes on Draft Laws were accepted in first reading of Parliament; 1 – approved by Law; 1- still has no reply; 1 amended version was rejected by the private sector; 2- amended the regulations; 13-under examination.

Within the same project, as per project plan, HelpAge should provide expert support to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for the development of the Life Long Learning Strategy by identifying and selecting an expert for the process of strategy development. Due to changed priorities of the Ministry of Education where more focus is put on providing transportation for school children by the start of the new school year, the Strategy development process was moved to the last quarter of 2018 against initially planned mid-year timeframe. On 26 March 2018 HA participated in a meeting with the Life-long learning Service of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for the development of the Life Long Learning Strategy. The meeting aimed to explore possibilities for HA's participation in the working group on strategy development and inquire if any technical expertise is necessary beyond already existing one. Because the Working Group had not been yet set up by the time the project was approved, there was currently a small technical team of 2 experts working on the first draft of the Strategy. In quarter 2 the inter-ministerial Working Group will be set up and the possibility to be part of the Group may appear. HelpAge will monitor the situation to cease the moment and provide technical expertise in the area of life-long learning to support the Strategy development.

On 25 October 2018 HAI participated at the second meeting with the Life-long learning Service of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for the development of the Life Long Learning Strategy (see Annex 35_Letter of Invitation from MECR 25.10.2018). The meeting aimed to discuss about HA's participation in the working group on development of the Life Long Learning Promotion Program and about necessary technical expertise that HA could offer. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova showed its interest and readiness to launch the process on developing the mentioned program and promised to create a working group within the following month, a member of which will be HAI.

1.2. ENCOURAGING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND CRITICAL THINKING

Theory of change:

Civil and political rights and democratic governance are better ensured when people have access to pluralistic information, freely articulate their needs, are capable to link them to appropriate policy initiatives, and are properly represented by decision-makers through free, fair and inclusive elections.

Component 1.2. Encouraging active citizenship and critical thinking

Theory of change:

Access to unbiased information and freedom of expression are ensured if media self-regulatory bodies such as the Press Council actively empower media consumers to recognize and report media misconduct, and if people (community journalists) are enabled to freely express their views through ICT and active debates conducted by European Interactive Centers.

EEF will strengthen the capacity of the Press to better reach out to media consumers. EEF will build capacities of selected community journalists to promote freedom of expression and access to information. Work will be conducted to upscale capacity of the European Interactive Centers to conduct popular debates that encourage critical thinking.

Bridging and impact outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

The Press Council is effectively reaching out to media consumers, encouraging them to report cases of media misconduct. EEF supported the secretariat of the Press Council to ensure the exercise of its key responsibilities: examining complaints, working with media to promote the media ethical standards. In 2018, the Press Council Secretariat was operational and

assisted in organizing and conducting the public competition to select the new composition of the Press Council, thus there is a new composition of the Press Council for 2019-2021.

6 meetings of the PC were held, during which 37 complaints were examined covering a total of 59 media outlets in the Republic of Moldova. In all cases, appropriate decisions were taken that were brought to the attention of the editors concerned.

The Press Council Secretariat has provided ongoing advice to media consumers interested in journalists' obligations and how to complain on ethical standards infringements by journalists and media outlets.

The Press Council Secretariat has provided public communication on the activities of the Council through the website www.consiliuldepresa.md and the Facebook. During the reporting period, there were published:

- 4 articles and 3 decisions on the web page;
- 8 posts on the Facebook page;
- the total impact of FB is of 2547 people;

The Press Council organized and held on 11 February 2019 a roundtable entitled "In the electoral campaign we choose ... journalistic deontology", to which were invited journalists, editors, media experts, representatives of the media regulatory structures, other interested persons. The purpose of the event was to promote the observance of the deontological norms in the electoral campaign for the Parliamentary Elections the Republic of Moldova. Twenty-four people attended the talks and sent a public message encouraging objective journalism during the elections.

People freely express their views on key public issues through the Community journalists' platform.

Support citizen's journalism initiatives:

The portal www.stiripozitive.eu produced and promoted a total of 82 media topics, one third of which are successful stories and community-based topics. The total number of topics published in 2018 was 507.

Stiripozitive.eu site registered an increase of the monthly visitor users up to the 199,880 (May 2018) and up to 7,006 likes on Facebook at the moment.

During the project implementation, the Stiripozitive.eu portal was the media partner of the Women 4 Leadership project and the "Women Build Bridges Over the Nistru River by Addressing the Practical Issues" initiative.

European Interactive Center from Comrat offered the possibility for up to 1600 citizens of 4 localities from Gagauzia to enjoy a mobile Exhibition "Open Democracy" that reflected EU values. That was another way to encourage people to be part of a critical thinking process.

Fifteen young people from 8 settlements of Gagauzia and Bessarabka were selected by the project team and took part in the camp of youth leaders. 8 girls and 7 boys aged from 15 to 19 years (from 8 educational institutions) developed the competences of youth leaders, learned about human rights, civic activism and leadership, youth policy and work of youth centers, and expanded their knowledge of European integration processes and European standards of youth work through non-formal education through participation in the camp "Youth ProEurope Leaders".

79 young people (46 girls and 33 young men) became participants of 4 Discussion Clubs within the framework of the project in Kongas Village, Comrat metro station, Ceadyr-Lunga, Svetly settlement.

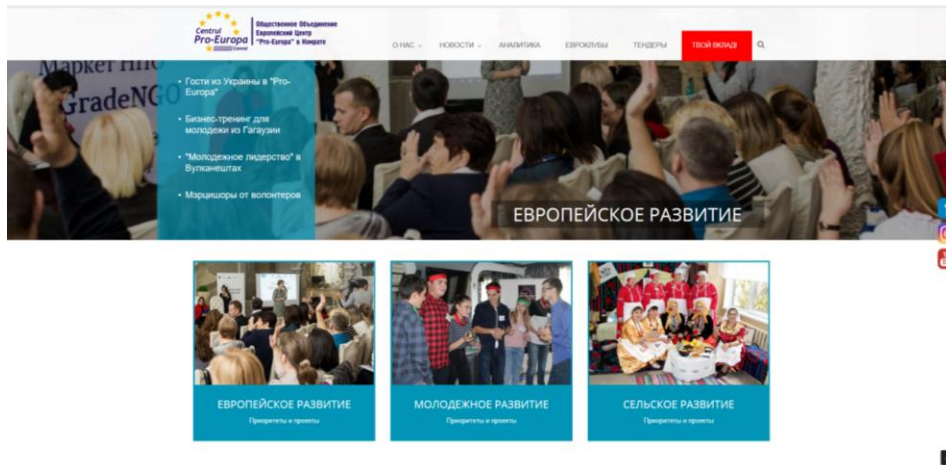
83 young people (58 girls and 25 young men) took part in informational meetings and learned about the possibilities of the Pro-Europa Center and Euroclubs;

27 selected volunteers (20 girls and 7 boys) of the Euroclub Comrat and representatives of the youth community took part in an information meeting at the Center's office and learned about the opportunities and educational programs from the EU. Also one drawing contest was held on

the theme “Discover colorful Gagauzia for tourists!” For children 6-14 years old and 1 essay competition on the topic “European development - a source of growth of the tourist potential of Gagauzia?” For young people 15-23 years old. The drawings were compiled in a 500 copies of the desktop calendar. A total of 208 children and teenagers took part in the drawing competition, of which 168 girls and 40 boys;

8 children took part in the essay contest, of which 3 are boys and 5 girls; 217 copyright drawings and 8 essays were submitted to the contests. 217 drawings were exhibited in the hall of the Art Gallery for public viewing.

8377 residents of Gagauzia got access to information about the project’s activities, opportunities, programs and prospects from the EU on the Center’s website.



Challenges and lessons learnt during 2018:

The year of 2018 was a challenging year for the Press Council, due to a longer period of elections within the new composition of the Council. Most of the complaints will be analysed in 2019. These points to the fact that there is room for scaling up the work of the Press Council to better reach out to Media Consumers.

A key challenge for 2018 continued to be as it was in the last period - to manage in an unbiased way the complains that came from media. Moldova’s democracy remains at the crossroads. The lack of citizen voice and responsiveness of government to the citizenry is a major threat to Moldova’s halting but as yet unconsolidated democracy. EEF should strive to identify innovative solutions that will galvanise people’s voice and bring people’s concerns at national level.

The European Interactive Center in Comrat pointed to a certain level of people’s scepticism towards the EU values. The debates continue to provide the opportunity to people to discuss a myriad of development options and identify the corresponding pros and cons.

Summary of activities:

During the reporting period, the **Press Council** Secretariat was operational and assisted in organizing the work of the Press Council:

In November 2018, the mandate of the composition of the Press Council expired. Thus, according to the Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat has announced a public competition for the selection of the new composition of the Press Council for the period 2019-2021. The selection announcement was published on December , 2018 on the web page and on the Facebook Press Council page, was sent by e-mail to the editorial offices of the media institutions, was published in three national newspapers (Jurnal de Chişinău, Ziarul de Gardă , Ekonomiceskoe obozrenie - Logos Press) and on three news and information sites, including two from the Gagauzian autonomy (Unimedia.info, Gagauzinfo.md, Nokta.md), the deadline was 30 December 2018. The announcement the selection of members of the Press Council was also published by other

media and communication platforms. Since an insufficient number of applications have been filed by the deadline, the contest has been extended to January , 2019.

Meanwhile, the Press Council Secretariat has taken steps to delegate its representatives to the Selection Commission under the Regulation to the People's Advocate Office, the National Council of NGOs, the Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sports and Mass Media Commission of the Parliament of the Republic Moldova - structures that have to delegate one representative to the Selection Commission, two other members of this committee being representatives of the founders of the Press Council. Finally, the selection committee was delegated by the founders - Nadine Gogu (Center for Independent Journalism) and Alexandru Canțir (Press Freedom Committee), by the People's Advocate Office - Natalia Vișanu, from the National NGO- - Sergiu Neicovcen, from the Parliamentary Media Commission - Sergiu Cornețchi.

The Committee for the Selection of the Members of the Press Council met on February 22, 2019. After examining the files and evaluating the candidates, the Commission members approved a decision by which all nine of the above candidates were selected in the composition of the Press Council of the Republic of Moldova for February 2019 to February 2021,. The first meeting of the Moldovan Press Council will be held in March 2019.

6 meetings of the PC were held, during which 37 complaints and self-complaints were examined covering a total of 59 media outlets in the Republic of Moldova. In all cases, appropriate decisions were taken that were brought to the attention of the editors concerned.

Success Stories:

- February 2018: The Press Council mediated a conflict situation between the interim mayoralty of Chisinau Silvia Radu and TV8 on the rules of interviewing minors. Both Silvia Radu and TV8 have requested mediation and expertise from the Press Council in interviewing the minor child of Silvia Radu;

- March 2018: a group of journalists moved to Turkey on behalf of the MedicalPark Clinic, that travelled to make a journalistic investigation, to produce promotional journalistic materials. The Press Council recommended journalists and editors of the Moldovan media institutions to oppose the attempts to influence the honest and objective journalistic act. The Council decision was accepted by some media institutions involved in this case;

- In a few cases, media outlets reacted immediately after the Press Council transmitted notifications of some ethical deviations (after the Press Council intervened, the Bloknot-Moldova.md portal withdrew an article from the site and apologized to the protagonist.

Two journalists' professional guides were published on the issue of conflict of interest in journalism and the coverage of cases of rape and sexual harassment.

Press Council organized and held the fourth edition of the National Prize for Journalism Ethics and Deontology and the fourth edition of the Moldovan Media Forum

Public communication on the activities of the Press Council took place through the Press Council webpage, but also through the Facebook. Thus, during the reporting period, 4 articles were published in the "News" section of the Press Council website; 3 Decisions adopted at the Press Council meeting of 23 November 2018 were published in the "Decisions" section, and on Facebook were published 8 posts to the subject of professional journalism ethics and deontology, which had a total impact of 2547 people.

During the reporting period, three news stories on the activity of the Press Council and the norms of journalistic professional ethics were disseminated:

- "The journalists of the year 2018 ";
- "Extended Competition for Selection of Members of the Press Council";
- "In elections, journalists are urged to choose professional deontology."

In order to raise awareness of the public opinion and the journalistic community about the importance of journalists' observance of ethical norms during the election campaign, the Press Council organized on February 11, 2019, a public round table called "In Campaign we choose ...

journalistic deontology", to which journalists, editors, media experts, representatives of the media regulatory structures, other interested persons were invited. Media experts Viorica Zaharia, Nadine Gogu and Aneta Gonța referred to good practices and bad practices of reflecting the electoral campaign, presented examples of journalists' violation of journalistic deontology, but offered solutions to avoid violations and examples, good practices in the country and abroad. Publishers and editors of some media institutions - Evghenii Șolari from Newsmaker.md portal, Victoria Dumbravă from Agora.md portal, Aneta Gonța from "Ziarul de Gardă" weekly, told about some practical aspects that journalists should take into account the balanced coverage of the electoral campaign, and Dragoș Vicol, chairman of the Audiovisual Council, assured that the regulatory authority is monitoring the media institutions. The event sent a public message encouraging objective journalism during the election. Twenty-four people attended the discussion.

www.stiripositive.eu:



3 team members of the portal write news and produce multimedia products on regular basis. 507 topics published in 2018, one third of which are success stories and community initiatives stories. There were 3 concepts and 3 types of web banner developed for promoting the portal. There were 7,006 likes on Facebook registered and 530 people on OK.ru, 609 trackers on Instagram, a total of 792 photos placed, 824 subscribers on the Youtube channel / newsstands. Eight 8 articles placed on blogs.

During the implementation period of the project, Stiripositive.eu portal was the media partner of the "Women 4 Leadership" project. At the same time, the Stiripositive.eu portal has been exclusively dedicated to the on-line promotion of the Diaspora magazine "MOLDOVA from anywhere": <https://goo.gl/MiWVyk>

Statistics for 2018

Total user visits per year: 3124079
Total search engine visits per year: 214184
Repetitions per year: 3544243

European Interactive Center:

A 3-day camp of youth leaders "Youth ProEurope Leaders" was organized and held (the period of autumn holidays); 45 applications were submitted from representatives of the youth community to participate in the youth camp and 15 young people from 8 settlements of Gagauzia and Bessarabka were selected by the project team and took part in the camp of youth leaders. 8 girls and 7 boys aged from 15 to 19 years (from 8 educational institutions) developed the competences of youth leaders, learned about human rights, civic activism and leadership, youth policy and work of youth centers, and expanded their knowledge of European integration processes and European standards of youth work through non-formal education through participation in the camp "Youth ProEurope Leaders". 3 non-formal education experts acted as trainers (2 coaches from the municipality of Chisinau, 1 coach from the mun. Komrat) of the youth camp.

2 representatives of the youth community spoke in the "Hour Speak" block and told about their success story and career growth from volunteers to working in European projects. The meetings were held in the format of a lively dialogue; 2 representatives of the youth community (from Slovakia and France) spoke in the "Guest of Evening" block and told the participants about the international experience of participating in educational programs in different European countries. Within the framework of the youth camp, 1 evening of board games was organized for self-knowledge, the development of logic and creative abilities, one evening during the camp 1 viewing of European cinema was organized with discussions and discussions with the project team. The project team developed 1 partnership agreement with camp participants to hold discussion clubs for the duration of the project. 8 partnership agreements were signed with the camp participants, based on the number - 15 children (participants will hold discussion clubs in pairs, and 1 participant - independently). At the end of the youth camp, participants received 15 diplomas that confirm training in the field of non-formal education and youth work;

4 Discussion Clubs organized by the participants of the youth camp "Youth ProEurope Leaders" for the youth community were 79 young people (46 girls and 33 young men) became participants of 4 Discussion Clubs within the framework of the project in Kongas Village, Comrat metro station, Ceadyr-Lunga, Svetly settlement. 7 young people spoke at the Discussion Clubs and held an informational meeting with the support of the project team, while 4 topics were presented during the Discussion Clubs - "Volunteering and youth opportunities." The speaker informed the participants of the meeting about educational projects in Gagauzia, Moldova and internationally, and also indicated Internet resources for searching for youth opportunities. He also shared his own experience of participation in intercultural exchange in Switzerland and the Erasmus + program in Russia. In addition, he spoke about participation in the youth camp "Youth ProEurope Leaders" and volunteer experience at the Pro-Europa Center;

"Human rights and building a democratic community". The speakers gave a brief insight into the history of the formation of human rights postulates, outlined the main doctrines of modern times, guarding the observance of human rights, and outlined 30 basic human rights. These gained knowledge was reinforced by participants in practical tasks, the purpose of which was to destroy stereotypes and the knowledge of their rights through their display on paper. In addition, attention was focused on the importance of the activity of young people in building a democratic society;

"Civic activism." Together with the participants of the event, the speakers identified the qualities of a leader. Subsequently, each of the young people figured out which of these qualities they possess. It was also noted that the development of leadership qualities requires active participation in various programs, projects and competitions. Thus, the organizers approached the subject of writing CVs and motivational letters, which are often a prerequisite for participation in projects. The guys learned about the basic elements of the CV and the content of the motivation letter. In conclusion, a video was shown about the successful example of civic engagement in Brazil;

"Books and self-education." The meeting discussed the goals and methods of self-education, including books, audio books, podcasts, trainings, and the search for a mentor (mentor) in a particular area. Participants were told about the importance of time management and useful practices for the proper allocation of time.

There was a list of websites and mobile applications for language learning and self-development, as well as the top 20 books recommended for reading. In addition, as part of the discussions, videos were shown about the benefits of reading and about interesting facts from the lives of people who have succeeded through self-education;

Two volunteers of the European Volunteer Service (France, Spain) and 1 Peace Corps volunteer took part in the Discussion Club and told about the experience in volunteering and activities in Gagauzia;

- 1 teacher of the Turkish Lyceum in s.Kongaz spoke with words of support and motivation for young people to actively participate in society, 1 representative of the Kongaz City Hall spoke in support of young people and called for participation in the youth council at the local government; 1 cinema volunteer club was organized by Comrat Euroclub, which shows films in English with Russian subtitles. Thus, young people were given the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge in a foreign language;

15 film screenings were conducted during the reporting period for volunteers and representatives of the youth community on topics of human rights, humanity and family values; More than 130 young people visited the film club and took part in discussions on the subject of watched films; European Interactive Centre Comrat organized 1 cinema club, with movies with English with Russian subtitles. Thus, young people were given the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge in a foreign language as well;



The topics of the films were human rights, humanity and family values.

1 set of volunteers announced at 3 Euroclubs of Gagauzia with the aim of involving new young people to participate in the activities of the center. Thus, information on the opportunities and programs provided by the EU, standards and values of European development will cover a larger number of the youth community in the autonomy; 74 forms submitted in 2 formats (google-form and paper version) for the participation of young people in volunteer activities of the Center and Euroclubs;

- 4 informational meetings were held with potential Euroclub volunteers in 3 locations (Comrat, Ceadir-Lunga, Vulcanesti); 83 young people (58 girls and 25 young men) took part in informational meetings and learned about the possibilities of the Pro-Europa Center and Euroclubs; 1 meeting with selected Comrat volunteers from the Euroclub organized in the office of the Center with the participation of 3 volunteers of the European Volunteer Service (EVS);

- 27 selected volunteers (20 girls and 7 boys) of the Euroclub Comrat and representatives of the youth community took part in an information meeting at the Center's office and learned about the opportunities and educational programs from the EU;

- 3 representatives of the Pro-Europa Center took part in the information meeting of the Erasmus Moldova office in Comrat State University and informed over 100 students about the project's opportunities and activities of the Center;

- 1 performance on Volunteer Day (December 5) on public radio. The discussion focused on the importance of volunteering and its benefits;

- 3 people took part in the discussion on public radio: the Comrat Euroclub volunteer, the Pro-Europa Center Executive Director and the Pro-Europa volunteer from Slovakia;

- 1 meeting of Euroclub volunteers was held at the office of the Center "Pro-Europa" on the occasion of the Christmas and New Year holidays;

15 volunteers of Euroclubs took part in the meeting, within which a quiz about European Christmas traditions and competitions was held;

- 1 film screening of the film "Plastic Ocean" was held at the office of "Pro-Europa" with a discussion of the global problem of ocean pollution; 17 Euroclub volunteers took part in film screening and discussion. The guys presented their vision of solving the problem of ocean

pollution. Volunteers were informed about the “Presence of the Future” competition, which also reveals the opinion of young people on the solution of this environmental problem;

- During the reporting period, 1 drawing contest was held on the theme “Discover colorful Gagauzia for tourists!” For children 6-14 years old and 1 essay competition on the topic “European development - a source of growth of the tourist potential of Gagauzia?” For young people 15-23 years old. 1 meeting of the competition commission for the selection of drawings and essays was organized with the participation of 6 representatives of state structures; 4 members of the competition commission took part from the Main Department of Education of Gagauzia, the Main Department of Youth and Sports of Gagauzia, the Main Department of Culture and Tourism of Gagauzia and the House of Creativity in Comrat; Developed 1 design layout of the desktop calendar with drawings and quotations of essay participants of the competitions; 500 copies of the desktop calendar were printed, which are distributed among administrations, educational institutions and autonomy libraries; 208 children and teenagers took part in the drawing competition, of which 168 girls and 40 boys;

- 8 children took part in the essay contest, of which 3 are boys and 5 girls; 217 copyright drawings and 8 essays were submitted to the contests; children from 11 settlements, including the town of Kagul, took part in the competition. The participants from Cahul are natives of the settlements of Gagauzia; Children from 21 educational institutions of the autonomy took part in the competitions; 1 award ceremony was organized for the participants of the drawing and essay competitions in the Art Gallery under the General Directorate of Culture and Tourism of Gagauzia. 45 people took part in the award ceremony from 8 settlements of Gagauzia. 217 drawings were exhibited in the hall of the Art Gallery for public viewing. Developed 4 mock-ups of diplomas for rewarding participants of drawing and essay contests, as well as encouraging teachers who have contributed to the contests of drawings and essays. 27 sets of gifts for prize-winners of drawings and essay competitions were purchased and presented. Created 1 new version of the official website of the Center Pro-Europa;

The new version of the webpage was created and 2 sections on the new website "Euroclubs" and "Analytics" were launched. Thus, 19 news and articles about events and activities of 3 Euroclubs published on the website and on social networks; 4 analytical articles were published on the Centre's website; 4 experts were involved in writing analytical articles; 4 topics were raised in analytical articles that demonstrate the analysis of Moldova's path in European development. 8377 residents of Gagauzia got access to information about the project's activities, opportunities, programs and prospects from the EU on the old version of the site.

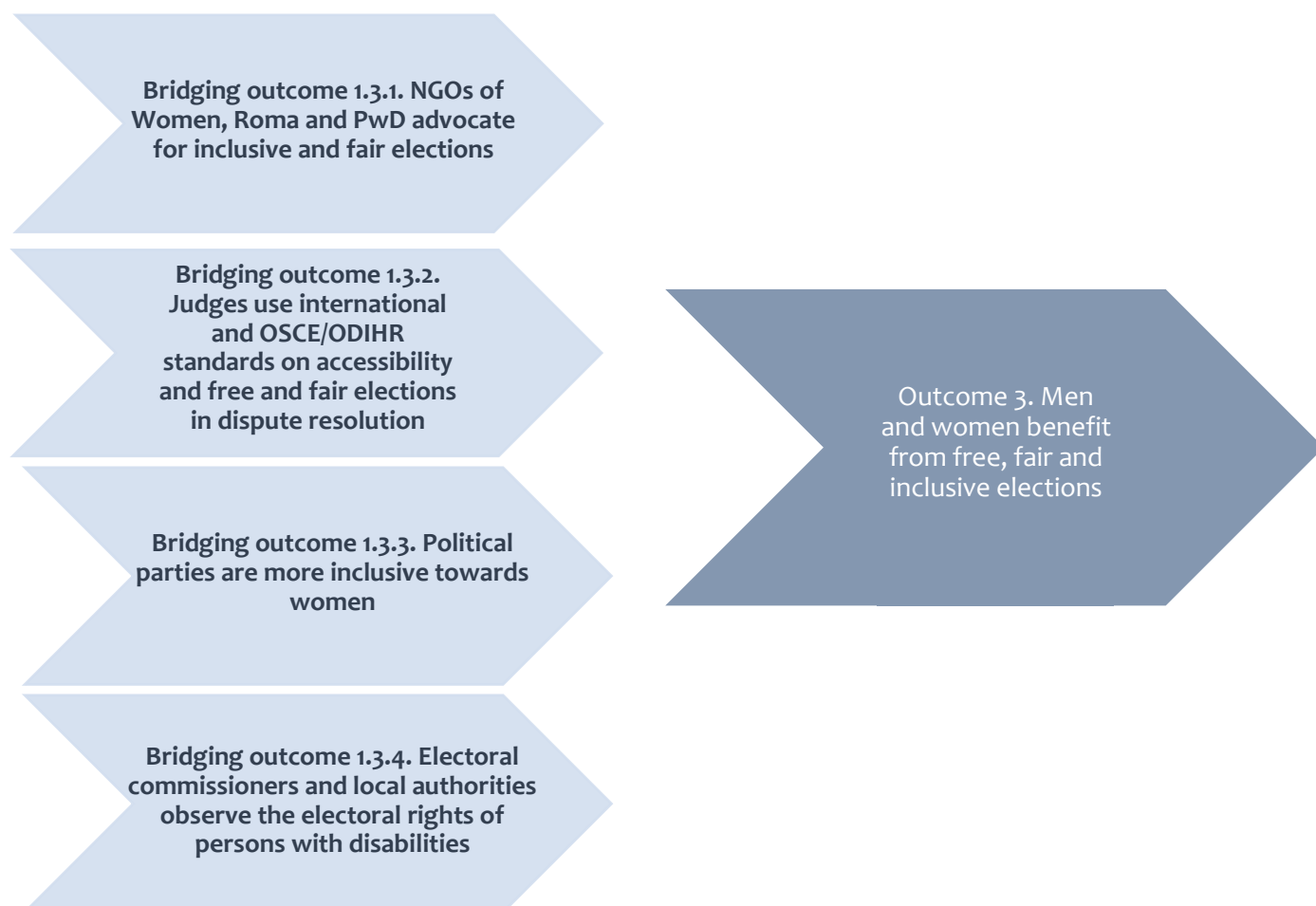
1.3. FREE, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS

Theory of change

Elections are fairer if active NGOs of Women, Roma and PwD demand meaningful inclusion of under-represented groups, and if other key stakeholders, such as political parties, judges and electoral commissioners abide to corresponding election standards. Empowering gender equality activists to promote placement requirements in the legislation on quota is essential for strengthening representation of women in elected decision-making bodies.

EEF will work with NGOs, supporting them to coalesce and upscale advocacy for inclusive and fair elections. EEF will also facilitate dialogue with political parties, electoral and local authorities to ensure equal opportunities and fair electoral participation of under-represented groups: women, persons with disabilities, Roma. EEF will work with judges to strengthen their knowledge in the area of international election standards, including accessibility and equal opportunities.

Outcome and related bridging outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

With funding leveraged from the EU and co-funding from Sweden, in 2018 EEF started the implementation of the project “Civil society advocacy for inclusive and fair elections in Moldova, compliant with EU and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations and human rights commitments”. The action is a joint effort of East-Europe Foundation (hereinafter EEF), Pilgrim Demo from Gagauzia, Union of Young Roma “Tarna Rom” (hereinafter Civic Association “Tarna Rom”) and Center Partnership for Development (hereinafter CPD), combining capacities and experience in the field of promoting inclusive and fair elections.

The project started with comprehensive review of electoral legislation, practices and internal regulations of political parties from the perspective of inclusion. These findings and evidence-based recommendations were used in the first dialogue event with politicians, MPs, Central Electoral Commission from Chisinau and Gagauzia, conducted during the first year of project implementation. The dialogue efforts resulted in limited feedback and commitment from political actors. However, the Central Electoral Commission expressed openness to work on drafting legal amendments after the 2019 Parliamentary Elections.

EEF made significant strides to enable the civil society to advocate for free, fair and inclusive elections. With project support, in April 2018 the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections resumed its activities. Since then, this strategic network that brings together over 35 national and grass-roots NGOs developed and widely disseminated 12 position papers addressed to decision-makers, electoral authorities, judiciary. Preparatory work was conducted to launch six advocacy projects at national and local level in January 2019.

The project partners encouraged under-represented groups to run as candidates for the local elections. As a result of the Women’s Leadership program, 52 women participants from 43 localities are determined to run as candidates. Around 25% of the 97 participants in the trainings for Roma said they are determined run as local councillors. Similarly, around 20% of the 96 participants of the Just Act training for prospective leaders in Gagauzia mentioned their intention to run as candidates.

Challenges

The change of the electoral system from a proportional to a mixed system was one of the most controversial and heavily debated subjects in the country. The mixed electoral system, adopted by the joint vote of PDM, PSRM, and members of the European People’s parliamentary group, was strongly criticized by civil society, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary opposition parties, and international organizations, including the Venice Commission. This electoral modification will likely disadvantage under-represented groups, extra-parliamentary parties and encourage electoral corruption.

Activities

Workshops in Chisinau with political actors

The goal of the workshops is to facilitate the dialogue between NGOs and political actors for the inclusive political participation. The workshops are interlinked with other project activities.

EEF conducted the first workshop on 12 September 2018. The activity was structured around two thematic topics:

- Presentation of the analysis of the Moldovan electoral law from the perspective of inclusion: this session examined the compliance of the Moldovan electoral and related legislation from the perspective of equality and non-discrimination, EU and OSCE/ODIHR

recommendations and Moldova's human rights commitments. The session started with the expert's presentation of the analysis of the Moldovan electoral law from the perspective of inclusion and corresponding recommendations. Subsequently, the participants had the opportunity to articulate comments and recommendations on improving the electoral legislation from the perspective of inclusion.

- Presentation of the analysis of the regulations and practices of political parties from the perspective of inclusion: this session considered the inclusiveness of Moldovan political parties' regulations and practices. The expert presented the findings of the analysis along with recommendations designed to improve the political participation of under-represented groups. After the presentation, the participants had the opportunity to address questions, provide comments and formulate recommendations to political parties for improved political participation of women, Roma and other ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and other under-represented groups.

The activity was attended by 44 participants, representatives of the following institutions and organisations: political parties, Central Electoral Commission, Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, Central Electoral Commission of Gagauzia, international organisations and diplomatic missions accredited in the Moldova, independent experts, NGOs members of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, media.

Despite sustained efforts, not all invited political actors participated in the event. Even those representatives of political parties who confirmed their presence attended only the first session. However, the findings of the analytical documents will be referred to in the future activities that will be conducted within the project.

Review of the internal regulations and practices of political parties from the perspective of inclusion.

Pursuant to an open competition, a company was hired to examine the current regulations and practices within political parties, with due attention to the following groups: men and women; Roma and other ethnic groups, persons with disabilities. The selected company, "Strategicus Consulting" Ltd, looked into the following dimensions: (i) the extent to which political actors' regulations provide for the inclusion of vulnerable and under-represented groups; (ii) the extent to which, in practice, the political parties manage to include these social groups. The company reviewed the parliamentary and active extra-Parliamentary political parties that were assigned with significant percentages in opinion polls. The findings were presented to political actors in the 9th month project implementation, as initially planned (see Activity 1.1.1). The document was translated into Russian and English, ensuring accessibility of information for various ethnic groups and for development partners.

Guidelines for political parties on mainstreaming inclusion in their regulations and practices.

The goal of this activity is to assist the political actors in mainstreaming equality and non-discrimination in their activities. Pursuant to the review of the internal regulations and practices of political parties from the perspective of inclusion, the selected company developed recommendations for political parties on practical implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The guidelines focus on the following groups: (i) men and women (gender equality), (ii) inclusion of persons with disabilities; (iii) inclusion of Roma and. The recommendations are integral part of the Review of the internal regulations and practices of political parties from the perspective of inclusion, translated into Russian³ and English.⁴

³ <http://eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1095&rid=1333&l=ru>

⁴ <http://eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=984&rid=1334&l=en>

Review of the national election law from the perspective of rights, inclusion, and equal opportunities

The goal of this activity was to identify the legal barriers to political participation of women, Roma, Gagauz minority, persons with disabilities. The company selected to carry out the review, “Strategicus Consulting” Ltd., conducted a thorough review of the national legislation against the international and regional human rights and electoral standards. Specifically, the company examined the compliance of the Electoral Code of Moldova, Law on political parties and related legislation with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Framework Convention on National Minorities, the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document and other international and regional democratic commitments. As agreed with the EU Delegation during the monthly coordination meetings, the review was presented to national authorities, independent experts, political parties, academia, during the workshop with political actors, held on 12 September 2018 . The final document was translated into Russian⁵ and English.⁶

The findings and recommendations of the review will be explored during the advocacy efforts planned for the second year of project implementation.

Training for members of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections

The two-days training was conducted during 23-24 August in Chisinau and was attended by 18 participants, selected on a competitive basis. The Training achieved the following objectives: (i) increased understanding of the participants of the meaning of inclusive political participation; (ii) enhanced understanding of the benefits of inclusive political participation; (iii) good practices acquired on promoting political participation; (iv) developed abilities to design a comprehensive advocacy campaign (plan) for promoting inclusive political participation. The trainers used the examples of successful experiences at national level, such as the advocacy campaign for gender quotas.

During the event EEF also shared with the participants the findings of the analyses of legislation and political parties’ practices and internal regulations from the perspective of inclusion.

Support to the Secretariat of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections

The goal of this activity is to enable the members of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (Coalition) to advocate with public authorities for inclusive and fair elections. To this end, a sub-grant was awarded to ADEPT - the organisation elected by the Council of the Coalition to host its Secretariat. The sub-grant to the Secretariat of the Coalition includes, but will not limited to, the following activities: (i) facilitating communication among the members, with due attention to information on inclusive elections; (ii) conducting formal and informal meetings with decision-makers to advance legal amendments (described in Activities 2.2.2 and 2.2.3); (iii) developing position-papers on the specific situation of under-represented groups; (iv) conducting press-conferences underlining barriers to political participation of specific social groups; (v) conducting public actions, including collection of signatures, innovative flash mobs, and others; (vi) engaging the Coalition Members in the election monitoring from the perspective of inclusion. The sub-grant to the Secretariat was awarded on the 2nd of April, covering the period April 2018 - March 2019.

To date the coalition assisted by the Secretariat (ADEPT) managed to conduct the following key events:

⁵ <http://eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1095&rid=1332&l=ru>

⁶ <http://eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=984&rid=1335&l=en>

- Press-conference on 08 May announcing the re-launching of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections and Coalition Members presented the CHARTER FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, which entails a set of electoral standards concerning authorities, electoral contestants, and the mass media. These standards serve as guidelines for the Coalition in monitoring and assessing future electoral events.⁷
- Briefing with donors on 11 May 2018. The event was held in the premises of the Regency hotel with donors and international diplomatic missions accredited in Chisinau. During the event the Coalition members shared their assessment of the electoral environment prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections.⁸
- Public Appeal, addressed on 14 May 2018 to the Coordinating Broadcasting Council to monitor the TV stations Prime TV, Canal 2 and Publika TV from the perspective of ensuring pluralism of opinions.⁹
- Public Appeal, on 19 June 2018, regarding limited transparency in the process of adoption and abusive content of the CEC Decision no. 1694 of 12 June 2018 on Amending and Supplementing the Regulation on the Status of Observers and the Procedure for their Accreditation.¹⁰
- Statement on invalidation of the election of the mayor of Chisinau Municipality, issued on 22 May 2018.¹¹
- Statement on the eroding democracy in the Republic of Moldova, issued on 25 June 2018.¹²
- Position paper on the necessity for a constitutional court statement on criteria for invalidating elections, issued on 19 July 2018.¹³
- Public request addressed to the constitutional court on the status of the petition concerning the invalidation of local elections, issued on 10 September 2018.¹⁴
- Opinion on regulation of electoral campaigning, issued on 14 September 2018.¹⁵
- Proposals for ensuring voting rights for diaspora, issued on 21 September 2018.¹⁶
- Position paper on the Decision of inadmissibility Petition Nr. 106b/2018 concerning the review of certain provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, issued on 27 September 2018.¹⁷
- Public Appeal to the President of the Republic of Moldova to submit for reassessment the law that cancels election day silence, issued on 26 November 2018.¹⁸

⁷ <http://alegeliber.md/en/coalitia-civica-pentru-alegeri-libere-si-corecte-si-a-relansat-activitatea-2422.html>

⁸ <http://alegeliber.md/en/discutie-cu-comunitatea-donatorilor-pe-marginea-alegerilor-parlamentare-2018-2515.html>

⁹ <http://alegeliber.md/en/apel-catre-cca-cerem-monitorizarea-posturilor-prime-tv-canal-2-si-publika-tv-2451.html>

¹⁰ <http://alegeliber.md/en/apel-public-privind-modificarea-procedurii-de-acreditare-a-observatorilor-in-alegeri-2532.html>

¹¹ <http://alegeliber.md/en/declaratie-cu-privire-la-neconfirmarea-legalitatii-alegerilor-locale-noi-pentru-functia-de-primar-general-al-municipiului-chisinau-2536.html>

¹² <http://alegeliber.md/en/declaratie-cu-privire-la-erodarea-democratiei-in-republica-moldova-2546.html>

¹³ <http://alegeliber.md/en/necesitatea-sesizarii-curtii-constitutionale-pentru-a-se-expune-asupra-criteriilor-care-pot-duce-la-invalidarea-alegerilor-2577.html>

¹⁴ <http://alegeliber.md/en/apel-catre-curtea-constitutionala-statutul-sesizarii-pe-marginea-invalidarii-alegerilor-locale-2626.html>

¹⁵ <http://alegeliber.md/en/opinia-coalitieii-pe-marginea-reglementarii-agitatiei-electorale-2642.html>

¹⁶ <http://alegeliber.md/en/proponeri-pentru-asigurarea-drepturilor-speciale-ale-alegatorilor-din-diaspora-2657.html>

¹⁷ <http://alegeliber.md/en/cc-a-declarat-inadmisibila-sesizarea-prin-care-se-cere-interpretarea-criteriilor-care-pot-duce-la-invalidarea-alegerilor-2690.html>

¹⁸ <http://alegeliber.md/en/reexaminarea-legii-prin-care-se-anuleaza-interdictia-de-a-face-agitatie-electorala-in-ziua-alegerilor-2716.html>

- Appeal to the Central Electoral Commission to launch a Code of Conduct in the electoral campaign and ensure proper monitoring of its implementation, issued on 17 December 2018.¹⁹
- Opinion on the draft Code of conduct in the electoral campaign, issued on 26 December 2018.²⁰

Advocacy sub-grants competition for NGOs

The goal of the activity is to enable NGOs to advocate with national and regional authorities (Gagauz) for inclusive and fair elections. On the 2nd of October 2018 EEF launched the call for proposals soliciting from NGOs projects proposals that:

- Promote inclusive political participation of persons with disabilities, women, Roma, other under-represented ethnic groups;
- Engage marginalised and under-represented groups in overcoming barriers to political participation;
- Facilitate communication between political actors and prospective candidates belonging to under-represented groups;
- Develop and expand platforms of NGOs to generate support for legal amendments on inclusive political participation;
- Engage relevant decision-makers and stakeholders around inclusive political participation;
- Are implemented in partnership with other NGOs;
- Are implemented by organizations active in one of Moldova's regions.

By the 1st of November EEF received 16 applications. An independent Panel of Experts, set up in compliance with EEF program procedures, reviewed the applications on 23 November and recommended for funding seven projects, outlined below:

NGO	Title of the Project	Beneficiaries
INFONET Alliance	Advocacy for inclusive elections, democratic progress and electoral inclusion of persons with disabilities	Persons with physical disabilities
Moldovan Institute for Human Rights (IDOM)	Contribution to inclusive political participation for the 2019 parliamentary elections regarding the respect of the electoral rights of persons with mental disabilities placed in psychiatric and psycho-neurological institutions	Persons with mental disabilities
Center for Consultancy and Civic Education	Encouraging political inclusion from the perspective of gender and ethnicity. Presenting the social advantages of Roma involvement (especially women) in the decision-making process	Roma men and women
ProCommunity Băhrinești	It's Your Chance	Women and, diaspora
A.O. "Femeia pentru Societate Contemporană"	Equal chances for women in elections	Women candidates

¹⁹ <http://alegeliber.md/en/apel-catre-cec-pentru-lansarea-si-supravegherea-codului-de-conduita-in-campania-electorala-2726.html>

²⁰ <http://alegeliber.md/en/opinia-calc-pe-marginea-proiectului-codului-de-conduita-in-campania-electorala-2736.html>

Media birlii – Uniunea Media	Shaping public opinion among the inhabitants of Gagauzia through education and awareness raising during the 2019 parliamentary elections	Youth and journalists from Gagauzia
University Legal Clinic in Balti	Inclusive Elections 2019	Persons with mental disabilities, youth, women

Monitoring elections from the perspective of inclusion

Monitoring the Parliamentary elections

During the reporting period EEF and partners made the necessary preparations to monitoring the Parliamentary elections scheduled for 24 February 2019 from the perspective of inclusion. Pursuant to a competitive selection public request for proposals EEF identified two national consultants that will monitor elections from the perspective of inclusion: (i) Ms. Natalia Cojocar – inclusion of persons with disabilities; (ii) Dr. Ion Duminica – inclusion of Roma.

The first monitoring reports were made public under the auspices of the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections in January and February 2019.

Election leadership program for women in 50 targeted localities

The goal of this activity is to empower at least 100 women from 50 selected localities to stand as candidates and demand inclusive elections. Based on the 2015 local elections result statistics, CPD worked in localities where the representation of women is the lowest at the national level. CPD promoted the Election Leadership Program by engaging with political parties, local CSOs and Local Public Authorities.

The selection process was competitive, based on individual applications. CPD received around 150 applications. Before starting the Election Leadership Program each participant went through a comprehensive needs assessment.

The Election Leadership Program was provided in three training modules: Political Leadership, Effective Election Campaign, and Successful Public Speaking. These modules shall be delivered in four rounds. Each round included approximately 25 participants. To date CPD managed to conduct three rounds. The fourth round will be delivered after the 2019 Parliamentary Elections.

Each Training Module was delivered in the following standard form: (i) training sessions (2 days) – within these session participants will gain basic theoretical inputs, (ii) practical assignment (2-3 weeks) – participants had to implement a practical assignment as it relates to the module main theme (for example for the second module participants will have to develop a pragmatic election campaign action plan).

The following experts, selected on a competitive basis, delivered the modules:

Political Leadership – Eugenia Iurco,

Successful Public Speaking – Viorica Mocanu

Effective Election Campaign – Valeriu Paşa.

Round III:

Dates	Module	Participants
10-11 August	I. Political leadership	23 women
03 November	I. Political leadership - evaluation	13 women
14-15 September	II. Successful Public Speaking	20 women
17 November	II. Successful Public Speaking - evaluation	14 women
12-13 October	III. Effective Electoral Campaign	16 women
24 November	III. Effective Electoral Campaign - evaluation	14 women

Round II:

Dates	Module	Participants
22-23 June	I. Political leadership	25 women
07 July	I. Political leadership - evaluation	21 women
13-14 July	II. Successful Public Speaking	23 women
28 July	II. Successful Public Speaking - evaluation	20 women
17-18 August	III. Effective Electoral Campaign	20 women
09 September	III. Effective Electoral Campaign - evaluation	20 women

Round I:

Dates	Module	Participants
20-21 April	I. Political leadership	22 women
5 May	I. Political leadership - evaluation	14 women
25-26 May	II. Successful Public Speaking	20 women
9 June	II. Successful Public Speaking - evaluation	18 women
15-16 June	III. Effective Electoral Campaign	18 women
30 June	III. Effective Electoral Campaign - evaluation	18 women

Roma leadership program

The goal of this activity is to empower over 100 Roma persons from 44 targeted localities to stand as candidates in the local elections for the first time. Tarna Rom worked in the 44 localities most populated by Roma. The Roma leadership program is being implemented in three stages: (i) Organising 5 regional meetings with Roma representatives from 44 communities; (ii) Training for 100 prospective Roma candidates; (iii) Facilitating meetings between trained prospective candidates and political actors.

Organising 5 regional meeting with Roma from 44 communities

Tarna Rom began by raising awareness of the participation rights of Roma and discussing about the current situation. The organisation organised eight regional meetings with Roma from targeted communities. The one-day regional meetings took place in the following localities:

- Briceni and Soroca, on 9 June 2018;
- Edineti and Balti, on 16 June 2018;
- Calarasi and Orhei, on 03 June 2018;
- Donduseni and Riscani, on 17 June 2018.

The meetings had the format of an informal discussion with the Roma community, whereby Tarna Rom presented the Roma Leadership program and the application modality. The meetings facilitated community outreach and paved the way to informed participation in the training activities. Information about the leadership program was also be disseminated in the respective communities through information posted by Tarna Rom volunteers in most populated places, such as marketplaces, post office, mayoralty.

Training program for 100 Roma from 44 communities

Following the selection of 100 successful Roma applicants, the Election Leadership Program managed to provide the first two training modules: Political Leadership and Effective Election Campaign.

The first training module, titled “Roma Political Leadership”, was delivered by Dr. Ion Duminica. The second module, titled “Effective Electoral Campaign, was delivered by Cristian Saulea and Victor Nicolaescu.

Each Training Module was delivered in the following standard form: (i) training sessions (2 days) – within these session participants will gain basic theoretical inputs, (ii) practical assignment (2-3 weeks) – participants had to implement a practical assignment as it relates to the module main theme.

Module I. Roma Political Leadership

Dates	Trainer/facilitator	Participants (men, women)
28-29 July	Dr. Ion Duminica	25 (9 women, 18 men)
04-05 August	Dr. Ion Duminica	23 (11 women, 12 men)
11-12 August	Dr. Ion Duminica	22 (10 women, 12 Men)
18-19 August	Dr. Ion Duminica	21 (14 Women, 7 men)

Module II. Effective Electoral Campaign

Dates	Trainer	Participants (men, women)
01-02 December	Cristian Saulea, Victor Nicolaescu	21 (8 women, 13 men)
08-09 December	Cristian Saulea, Victor Nicolaescu	24 (11 women, 13 men)
15-16 December	Cristian Saulea, Victor Nicolaescu	21 (10 women, 11 men)
22-23 December	Cristian Saulea, Victor Nicolaescu	25 (12 women, 13 men)

School of young political leader for 100 young and civic political leaders from Gagauzia

During the reporting period Pilgrim-Demo organized the School of young political leaders from Gagauzia “Just Act” (hereinafter Just Act). Just Act was organized in three trainings (for 30-35 participants each and mentorship program where participants could develop their practical skills. In the Just Act school participated 96 young civic and political leaders from Gagauzia and other regions of the Republic of Moldova belonging to the national minorities²¹. Training program of the school developed knowledge among the participants in field of team building for election/political/civic campaign related activities; identification of community problems and proposing solutions based on the participatory/community engagement method; and developing an election campaign plan and message box.

Second part of the school was a mentorship program where participants with the mentorship support of the school trainers could develop their practical skills on the topics of the Just Act school. The mentorship program was organized after each training where participants had two hours with each trainer/mentor to consult and get their advice while doing homework related to the topics of the Just Act School.

Thus, Just Act school developed among the participants the knowledge and practical skills necessary for the political participation at the local level.

²¹ Initially, the Just Act school was envisaged only for young political leaders from Gagauzia, however due to the insufficient interest from young people from Gagauzia and interest from other regions, Pilgrim-Demo decided to expand the program to other regions and of the Republic of Moldova, including Transnistria and invite young people belonging to national minorities. Thus, in the Just Act school participated young people from Gagauzia, Balti, Transnistria and Chisinau.

The profile of participants of the Just Act School: young people aged between 18 and 35; civic activists; members of the political parties; members of the local village and city councils.

Trainers/mentors were selected as a result of the open tender. Thus, were invited most experienced and knowledgeable candidates among those who expressed their interest to work as trainers/mentors in the Just Act school. Among the trainers of the school were:

- Vitalie Spranceana, a trainer/mentor of the module on identifying and solving the community problems based on the participatory method;
- Serghei Lisenco, trainer/mentor on team building;
- Cristian Saulea, trainer/mentor on election campaign management.

The trainings were delivered as follows:

Training 1

Module title	Date	Participants
Module 1: Team building	17.06.2018	26 (21 men, 5 women)
Module 2: Identification and solving the problems based on the community engagement method	18.06.2018	26 (21 men, 5 women)
Module 3: Election campaign	19.06.2018	26 (21 men, 5 women)

Training 2

Module title	Date	Participants
Module 1: Team building	9.08.2018	39 (17 men, 22 women)
Module 2: Identification and solving the problems based on the community engagement method	10.08.2018	39 (17 men, 22 women)
Module 3: Election campaign	11.08.2018	39 (17 men, 22 women)

Training 3

Module title	Date	Participants
Module 1: Team building	11.10.2019	30 (16 men, 14 women)
Module 2: Identification and solving the problems based on the community engagement method	12.10.2019	30 (16 men, 14 women)
Module 3: Election campaign	13.10.2019	30 (16 men, 14 women)

One of the goals of the activity was to help young political from Gagauzia to develop their knowledge and skills that will help them to get into the local politics and thus increase the representation of the young people belonging to the national minorities (in this case young people from the Gagauz community) in the local politics. One of the indicators demonstrating the success of this activity is a number of the participants running as candidates in upcoming elections.

To identify how many participants of the Just Act school intend to participate as candidates in upcoming elections (parliamentary, Bashkan elections and general local elections) Pilgrim-

Demo used evaluation forms. Thus out of 96 participants 17 said that they most likely will run for the elected position; 19 said that probably they will run for elected position. Rest of the participants said that this is less probably.

One of the participants, Ivan Radov from Vulcanesti is already in the list of candidates nominated by the Partidul Nostru for upcoming parliamentary elections due on 24 February.

Based on face to face and group discussions that Pilgrim-Demo staff had with the participants who most likely and probably will run for elected positions we can say that most of them most likely and probably will run for general local elections. Most of those who intend to run for the elections do have political experience or are members of the political parties.

2.1. COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Outcome:

Organised people in targeted communities successfully advocate for responsive governance and address basic needs.

Theory of change:

Sustainable Development Goals and basic social needs (rights) in targeted communities are better addressed if local NGOs actively mobilise people to (i) constructively engage with duty bearers, (ii) oversee local authorities' performance, (iii) define and addressing most stringent community needs.

EEF will work with NGOs, equipping them with community empowerment and mobilisation tools. Local authorities will be actively engaged in all community mobilisation process to ensure sustainability of the efforts. The program will mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and social rights in all processes, including planning, participatory implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Bridging and impact outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

In 2018 EEF targeted to strengthen local governance and empower CSOs to address local problems in ways that benefit all community members. Pursuant to a thorough selection process of three targeted districts (Cahul, Causeni and Soroca) EEF and CPD conducted capacity building work for CSO and LPA representatives on key good governance elements such as access to public interest information, social accountability and transparency in the decision-making.

The capacity building activities, along with the dialogue with district authorities, contributed to the **establishment of District Participation Councils (DPCs) in Cahul, Soroca and Causeni**, bringing together 33 grass roots CSOs from these regions. These citizens' participation mechanisms were institutionalised and acknowledged by district authorities through their official decisions. With project support the 33 CSOs members of the District Participation Councils developed comprehensive advocacy plans focused on influencing and overseeing key public policies adopted by district authorities.

CSOs in three districts are mobilised and work to promote greater responsiveness of local authorities towards community needs. CSO members of the District Participation Councils in Soroca, Cahul and Causeni started to analyse the draft decisions issued by the district authorities and to engage in assertive dialogue with local decision-makers. Despite these results, the established participation mechanisms are still fragile and continuous efforts are required to keep all members of the DPCs actively engaged.

In partnership with CPD necessary preparatory were made to enable 10 CSOs and 30 Local Initiative Groups to design and implement meaningful mobilisation efforts for improved participation and livelihoods.

Although at this stage, the local policy influencing impact is limited, the **observed positive behaviour changes of the local public authorities pave the way towards further enhanced responsiveness towards community needs.** Specific bridging results are outlined below:

Soroca:

The DPC from Soroca advocated successfully for livestreaming the District Council session. During the autumn winter session, the DPC organised livestream debates on 21 selected subjects from the agenda of the District Council.²²

To date the DPC Soroca influenced one draft decision of the DC that concerned allocation of a portion of public land for construction of a private diagnostic centre. The DPC argued that such decision is illegal because it did not observe specific procedures especially public tender. As a result, the decision was withdrawn by the District Council, creating preconditions for increased civic oversight and fair distribution of public goods.

Causeni:

District Participation Council from Causeni successfully advocated for organisation of public consultations on district budget for 2019. Such consultation process was conducted for the first time in Causeni.

Cahul:

DPC Cahul advocated by the District authorities to conduct public consultations on the budget. As a result of the consultation process, the authorities committed to allocate resources for increasing accessibility of educational institutions.

EEF and its partners are mobilized to foster sustainable partnerships and capacity of civil society actors on both banks of Nistru river through the establishment of cross-river platforms of cooperation at community level.

In order to transfer good practices in community development, social service delivery, consumer protection, youth engagement, social entrepreneurship and respect for human rights, East Europe Foundation assessed the existing tools. In this context a tool was adapted - the Guidebook "Community Mobilization for Empowerment of Vulnerable Women and Men". The Guide is expected to play a role in explaining and promoting the benefits of community

²² <https://www.facebook.com/euparticip.md/>

mobilization. Meanwhile, a special training course on advocacy was developed by the selected expert and the Guide on Advocacy for CSOs adapted for the specifics of the region from the left bank. The material was shared with the 24 participants within the training held in January 2018. According to the participants' evaluation held after the training, quantitative estimations of the training were calculated, graded from 1 (low) to 5 (high). The participants on average marked with 4.58 organization of information and ideas exchange; 4.84 were attributed for methods and techniques used. A general overview of the quantitative and qualitative results are presented in the Advocacy Training Report.

Discussions were held to involve left bank CSOs in various coalitions and some networks expressed their openness to involve CSOs from Transnistria.

In this regard, 2 organizations from Tiraspol adhered to the Alliance of Organisations for people with disabilities (AOPD). Thus, the Transnistrian organisations were actors in the process of Advocacy Plan 2019 that was adopted at the Alliance General Meeting in December 2018.

As a result of the meetings with coalitions and platforms from the right bank of the Nistru River, joint discussions were held with 5 National Inclusive Platforms (representing Roma, elderly, youth, people with disabilities, gender equality platform), which are products created within "Joint Equal Opportunity Initiative", implemented by EEF from the financial resources of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This kind of activities led to increased intensity of synergies at the level of different projects and donors.

A Capacity Building Manual for CSOs from both banks of Nistru River was developed, comprising five main domains, such as PR for CSOs, Fundraising and financial aspects, project management, advocacy, CSOs management and sustainability, etc. All components of this programme have been used in capacitating the actors of civil society from within this project.

Trainings

5 trainings for up to 80 CSOs on piloting participatory governance and participatory needs assessment tools were organized. Main topics covered by the trainings were: CSOs services based on Human Rights and Gender Equality Principles, Monitoring of the Local Public Administration activity, Community and Social Services of CSOs, CSOs fundraising techniques, Social Entrepreneurship.

According to the expert evaluation of the participants the following quality scores were identified:

- Seminars included in the curriculum have raised the interest of participants.
- The expectations of the participants were very well defined and result-oriented.
- 100% of the participants confirmed that their expectations were fulfilled.
- The themes chosen for the training program were very well chosen because they were based on the needs assessment previously elaborated.
- 100% of participants have confirmed that the themes have a practical application.
- Nearly 53% of participants confirmed that they had learned a lot new and 46% new.
- Nearly 93% of participants confirmed that they can apply the knowledge acquired in their organization.

Study Visits

5 study visits were organized for up to 80 CSOs. Each visit was oriented towards sharing experience in the following fields: CSOs services, with emphasis on legal assistance; social entrepreneurship, consumer protection, youth banks and youth participation in decision making, services provided by CSOs for vulnerable people.

After the training course on advocacy a number of CSOs are expected to participate in policy formulation through CSOs Coalitions (indicator to be measured in the period to come).

2 Centres for Consumer Assistance, 2 Social Entrepreneurships, 2 Youth Banks and 3 Legal Assistance Centres were established on the left bank of Nistru River as a result of the 4 Grants Competitions finalized in December 2017.

During spring of 2018, a Grants Competition for Consortia Projects was launched. As a result, of the selection process, 13 consortia initiatives received financial support after passing the due diligence of EEF. The results of this grants competition will be evaluated when the reports are due (next reporting period).

Prioritized consumer assistance NGOs are actively using consumer rights complaints mechanisms to empower communities. A significant increase of responsibility of food operators, both from the supermarket networks in Balti municipality, as well as from the small shops in the North, Center and South regions. Food operators, as a result of the notifications submitted by CAsE, began to provide consumers with labels or information about products sold in bulk (pelmeni, hencale, frozen vegetables, frozen fruits). Until this achievement, such practice did not exist (only the product name was displayed). After the Center applied the practice of notification regarding this matter, the information on the content, the date of manufacture and the expiry date began to be displayed.

The results of consumer rights awareness campaigns have begun to be palpable: consumers seeking legal aid from the CAS North, as well as from the one from the Center and one from the South of the country.

Local authorities in targeted communities are more responsive to the needs of targeted vulnerable groups and consumer protection institutions are effectively addressing consumer complaints.

During the reporting period 3 legal experts offered legal services in collaboration with the Centers for Consumer Assistance, covering petitions from North, Center and South part of the country. Thus, there were undertaken 549 - complaints referring to various issues like: inappropriate labeling / lack of price / expired product / misleading date of manufacture / excess nitrate content (2). In this context the experts spent 2446 hours and 6 hours for other activities (meetings, proposals).

During the reporting period two monitors were regularly in the field taking samples for various food products analysis: there were 90 analysis (physical - chemical) on nitrates in vegetables and fruits in 2018. 60 analysis were carried out on 12 pastry products for microbiology indicators and physical – chemical indicators.

Meanwhile, 2 Consumer Assistance Centers were created in the Transnistrian region (Rybnita and Tiraspol). Comprehensive work was done in order to make the services offered by the centers known amongst citizens and state structures. Thus, both centers have launched their activities and started the informational campaigns. As a result, both Centres consulted on consumer legal aspects over 385 persons. An increased cooperation between the Centres and state referent authorities was noticed by having common discussions within 2 round tables.

2 newly created Consumer Assistance Centres from the left bank took part in two common meetings with Consumer Assistance Centres from the right bank and shared experiences.

Considering the rather new concept of consumer assistance offered by CSOs on the left bank of Nistru River, it takes assiduous efforts to change stereotypes of consumers in regard to claiming their rights, that is why % of beneficiaries who rated with “excellent” or “good” the services created in targeted communities will be calculated when the mechanism will be fully functional. EEF continued its work on advocating for a safer food and protected consumers. After the “Diary scandal”, recommendations were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment regarding to the Draft Government Decision on the Approval of Quality Requirements for Milk and Dairy Products. In December 2017, EEF conducted the monitoring of dairy products on the Moldovan market. 126 products were tested in an independent laboratory to make sure the producers respect the food safety and quality standards. A large awareness raising campaign was conducted and proposals were submitted to state authorities to change the quality requirements for dairy products. Thus, all technological processes should be indicated on the label, including use of milk powder or any other additives.

https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr13_172.pdf

The first results were not encouraging and made public by the Laboratory in January of 2018. The National Agency for Food Safety organized a common meeting with the Representatives of East Europe Foundation, Center of Applied Metrology and Certification” (CMAC), dairy producers and media, where they took into account the results and started their own repeated laboratory tests to compare the results of EEF.

The media boosted with materials about the assessment, which lead to serious implications of NAFS.

NAFS, EEF, Dairy Producers met shortly after the results of the analyzes were made public:



Media clipping on the Dairy Products Analysis:



<http://tv8.md/2018/02/07/video-ansa-cauta-vinovatii-in-scandalul-lactatelor-producatorii-vizati-in-raport-au-fost-anterior-amendati/>

(starting with 0.37”)

Challenges

One of the key challenges is the limited observance of transparency requirements. This entails significant delays in issuing draft decisions of the District/Rayon Councils at least are 14 days prior to adoption. Consequently, interested parties, including the members of the District participation Councils, do not have sufficient time to provide meaningful input and democratically influence decision from the perspective of inclusion.

EEF interventions in three targeted districts brought about some signs of improvement. For the first time in the last five years, district authorities from Causeni conducted public consultations on the budget for 2019. In Soroca the local public authorities started to livestream the district council debates. District authorities in Cahul showed commitment to follow transparency requirements.

Another challenge is lack of financial resources at the local level to address community needs. Greater responsibility should be commensurate with greater authority and financial autonomy. The current financial crisis along with slow progress towards financial decentralization may prevent the local governments from taking over or from implementing social services or recommendations that will emerge pursuant to the initiatives that will be implemented by the beneficiary NGOs in 2018. At the local level, there is greater opportunity for accountability because municipal and regional officials represent geographic districts. However, citizens currently are not well-informed or skilled in ways to hold local government accountable for progress on issues that concern them most, such as their children's future, prices, unemployment and poverty. The potential for decentralization and the opportunity for more control of resources at the local level through the passage and implementation of the Law on Local Public Finances would place resources where citizens have more opportunity to exert influence.

A new challenge appeared due to a great publicity of the activities conducted by consumer assistance centers and by the team of lawyers and inspectors. As some very big companies were concerned by the analyses on diary products, many allegations appeared in media related to some potential interests of EEF to interpret the results in a certain way. EEF was very transparent and responded to all questions coming from media. Although some efforts were made to discredit the foundation, consumers showed trust and the echo of the "Diary scandal" can be heard even one year later.

Summary of activities:

Capacity building for CSOs and local authorities

In order to reach out to a greater maximum number of potential participants, a call for participation was developed in Romanian and Russian and shared through www.civic.md and sent to all organizations mapped by the local consultants (Activity 2.1.3). During the reporting period EEF delivered 3 training modules in each targeted district (See the Agendas, lists of participants and handouts in Annex 6). The details on the thematic modules, dates and number of participants are summarised in the table below:

	SOROCA	CAUSENI	CAHUL
Access to information and administrative transparency: precondition for citizens participation	17 th of April 27 participants	18 th of April 30 participants	19 th of April Total: 22
Social accountability for equal opportunities	18 th of June 26 participants	29 th of May 24 participants	30 th of May 13 participants

Community mobilization for inclusive public policies	06 th of June 30 participants	07 th of June 32 participants	08 th of June 28 participants
TOTAL participants	39 participants (13 LPAs, 26 CSOs)	40 participants (20 LPAs, 20 CSOs)	32 participants (14 LPAs, 18 CSOs)

Each thematic module was followed by a specific assignment. Assignments included: conduct assessment of administrative transparency in your locality, analyse the rayon budget compared with the provisions of the rayon Strategy, set up an inclusive advocacy groups in your community.

Subsequently, EEF and CPD worked to build capacities of around 53 CSOs in the area of local advocacy agendas, civil society and activism. On 27, 28 and 30th of July CPD conducted practical trainings for 53 NGOs in targeted districts on designing local agendas. The workshops were followed by a practical assignment of mapping issues that should be addressed in a prior way; identifying duty-bearers; designing engagement plans.

EEF conducted a practical workshop on civil society activism during 7-8 November in Chisinau. During the event 45 CSO representatives were exposed to successful practices of projects implemented in Moldova focused on civic activism, civic participation, community mobilization, advocacy, achieved by EEF, JILD, MIDL, and other actors. The participants also benefitted from detailed information about the opportunities provided by the USAID funded project “My community”. The facilitators involved training participants in practical assignment on how to solve a local problem using advocacy tools such as mapping stakeholders, tools of communication and dialog with local and national authorities, advocating for gender equality, inclusion of marginalised people. Workshop participants also received detailed information about the grants competition launched within the program.

Pursuant to the grant competition EEF received 21 project proposals. The EEF Panel of Experts selected 10 beneficiary CSOs that will start mobilisation work by March 2019.

Mobilizing local CSOs to create the Local Participation Councils;

In order to mobilize local actors to create local participation councils, EEF hired 3 consultants in 3 districts (Soroca, Causeni and Cahul). The mapping exercise helped to reach out to the active CSOs in the region, informing about the current opportunities and support in the establishment of the District Participation Councils.

Pursuant to thorough preparatory work, joint workshops were conducted with active participation of district authorities, local CSOs and media (see the Agendas and the lists of participants in Annex 7).

Căușeni	Cahul	Soroca
Launching event: 24 th of April	Launching event: 25 th of April	Launching event: 26 th of April
Number of participants: 38	Number of participants: 49	Number of participants: 38
CSOs - 23	CSOs – 16	CSOs 20
LPAs - 15	LPAs – 33	LPAs 18

During the events, district level authorities expressed their openness to set up consultative bodies that aim to facilitate citizen participation in the decision making process. The project consultants presented draft regulations of the participation councils that were subsequently examined by the participants. After the event, public calls were launched by each District

Council, inviting all stakeholders actively engage in activities of participation councils. The developments in each of the district participation council are summarised below:

Soroca	Pursuant to the launching event ²³ , 7 CSOs officially expressed their interest. The members of the council held two meetings (28 th of May, 6 th of June) and settled the following issues: finalized the regulation of the District Participation Council, discussed the advocacy plan for the 1 st year, elected the Secretariat of the District Participation Council – CRT “Dacia”.
Căușeni	After the launching event ²⁴ , 11 CSOs applied for membership. The members met on the 7 th of June and discussed the regulations of the Council, elected the secretariat – APT Tighina and the chair – Mr. Ion Oboroceanu.
Cahul	The Council was launched on 25 April ²⁵ and consists of 15 leading CSOs. The first meeting was conducted on the 24 th of May. The members approved the regulation and elected Contact center to host the secretariat of the Council. The regulation proposed by the members was voted by the Rayon Council on the 28 th of June.

Subsequently, EEF team made the necessary preparatory work for enabling the District Participation Council to start the analysis and advocacy work.

Supporting creation of inclusive initiative groups to address community development issues

EEF and CPD advanced the mobilisation work in 30 selected communities where no CSOs exist. After a complex mapping and mobilisation process 30 community teams were set up. Each team selected an informal leader. There is at least one man in each team, and for the first time in the history of Mentoring Programs, 4 men have been appointed as community leaders. National opinion polls show that, usually, men are more reluctant to be involved in social activities (to be members of NGOs, initiative groups etc.).

The project team team studied the learning needs of people selected in the mentoring program. As a result of the analysis, the team made changes to the initial training plan, including additional topics related to inclusion processes, inclusive local policies, social entrepreneurship, advocacy campaigns and lobbying, etc. In this context, the CPD team will adjust the budget accordingly in order to meet the learning needs of community teams, as well as to be able to organize follow-up sessions after the trainings.

During 14-15 December the project team conducted the first training module on "Leadership for inclusive community development". Agenda included topics about inclusion; what does an inclusive community look like; gender equality in an inclusive society; community leadership; the role of the team within the community leadership activity. The attendance was 100%, including 6 men. Total participants: 30 (24 women, 6 men) from rural areas from the districts of Soroca, Causeni and Cahul.

Consumer assistance in food safety

Three NGOs managing the centers for Consumer assistance have fulfilled the following activities:

²³ The official announcement is available online at <http://www.soroca.org.md/index.php/home/anunturi?start=27>; see also the news report available online at https://observatorul.md/social/2018/04/26/45240_consiliu-raional-de-participare

²⁴ The official announcement is available online at <http://www.causeni.md/in-atentia-ong-urilor-din-raion>

²⁵ The official announcement is available online at <http://cahul.md/apel-catre-reprezentantii-ong-membrii-grupurilor-de-initiativa-si-reprezentanti-ai-mediului-de-afaceri/>

CAS Center

- 395 cases related to food have been recorded in the given period
- CAS Center sent 240 notifications to the economic operators, 2 notifications to the public institutions and 1 reference for the court. As a result of the notifications, 7 answers were received from the economic operators. Out of the 395 registered cases, 392 were through the hotline.
- Two draft normative acts elaborated and submitted to public consultations by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure: 1) the draft law for the amendment and completion of some legislative acts (including the law on consumer protection), 2) Draft Government Decision approving the National Crisis Management Plan in the Food Sector
- Submissions and recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment to the draft Government Decision on the Approval of Quality Requirements for Milk and Dairy Products were submitted.

CAS North

- In 2018, CAS Nord carried out 48 screening / verification activities for food operators in Balti and the northern part of the country during the information campaigns made during the current year and visited 53 stores in Balti and localities in the north of the country.
- Information campaigns on social networking on consumer safety and rights. 15 articles to promote CAS and www.alegesanatos.md. Total viewers statistics so far show a coverage of 4,125 FB users who became acquainted with the news about project activities.
- 1 public lecture dedicated to the International Consumer Protection Day (March 17, 2018, with the participation of 71 young people, 9 information campaign in Bălți municipality; 5 information campaigns in the north of the country (Rîșcani, Floresti, Glodeni and Edinet, Singerei);- 1 Information campaign in Chisinau municipality, within the NGO Fair;
- A minimum of 300 people were informed and distributed 300 informative materials, thus- 3852 consumers were informed;
- There were 204 violations detected, while 99 notifications sent to the competent institutions and food operators from Balti municipality and north of the country;

CAS Cahul

- 5 round tables on food safety with 169 participants informs.
- 4 volunteer clubs carried out with 27 volunteers
- 63 notifications on violations.
- 12800 informed consumers

Activities carried out within the “Building Bridges, facing challenges”:

Based on the results, 2 CSOs received grants:

1. Center for Legal Initiatives
2. Legal Assistance Center “Spravedlivosti”

Consumer Assistance Centres: Rybnita and Tiraspol.

Comprehensive work was done in order to make the services offered by the centres known amongst citizens and state structures. Thus, both centres have launched their activities and started the informational campaigns. As a result, both Centres consulted on consumer legal aspects over 385 through the hot line. An increased cooperation between the Centres and state referent authorities was noticed by having common discussions within 2 round tables.

2 newly created Consumer Assistance Centres from the left bank took part in two common meetings with Consumer Assistance Centres from the right bank and shared experiences.

Considering the rather new concept of consumer assistance offered on behalf of CSOs on the left bank of Nistru River, it takes assiduous efforts to change stereotypes of consumers in regard to claiming their rights, that is why % of beneficiaries who rated with “excellent” or “good” the services created in targeted communities will be calculated when the mechanism will be fully functional.

- Conduct assessment of needs for CSO professionals involved in the project
- The mapping of the CSOs from the left bank carried out within the previous period was used to involve the actors in the project activity. Using the study on the needs assessment on the Civil Society Organizations from the left bank of the Nistru River, the themes for the next training activities were spotted and confronted with the ones initially stipulated in the project proposal and used for further Capacity building programme, but also for elaborating the Grants Competitions Calls for Proposals. The identified the needs and recommendation are premises that helped in the initiatives scoped to upscale the capacities of the CSOs.
- A Capacity Building Manual for CSOs from both banks of Nistru River was developed, comprising five main domains, such as PR for CSOs, Fundraising and financial aspects, project management, advocacy, CSOs management and sustainability, etc. All components of this programme have been used in capacitating the actors of civil society from within this project.
- After having the Capacity Development Program Document, a Community of Practice portal is in process of being created.
- 5 trainings for up to 104 CSOs on piloting participatory governance and participatory needs assessment tools were organized. Main topics covered by the trainings were:
- CSOs services based on Human Rights and Gender Equality Principles (October 3, 2018), Monitoring of the Local Public Administration activity (October 8, 2018), Community and Social Services of CSOs (October 15, 2018), CSOs fundraising techniques (October 22, 2018), Social Entrepreneurship (October 25, 2018). In this regard, Sergiu Neicovcen, the expert that elaborated the Capacity Building Programme through the partner of the project (EPD) was contracted by EEF to conduct this activity.
- organized meetings with CSO policy networks.
- After the list of coalitions compiled in the previous reporting period repeated discussions were held with 5 networks to involve CSOs from the left bank in their activities started.
- In this regard, 2 organizations from Tiraspol adhered to the Alliance of Organisations operating in the field of people with disabilities (AOPD). Thus, the Transnistrian organisations were actors in the process of Advocacy Plan 2019 that was adopted at the Alliance General Meeting in December 2018.
- 2 organizations from Tiraspol adhered to the Alliance of Organisations operating in the field of people with disabilities (AOPD). Thus, the Transnistrian organisations were actors in the process of Advocacy Plan 2019 that was adopted at the Alliance General Meeting in December 2018. As a result of the meetings with coalitions and platforms from the right bank of the Nistru River, joint discussions were held with 5 National Inclusive Platforms (October 18, 2018) (representing Roma, elderly, youth, people with disabilities, gender equality platform), which are products created within “Joint Equal Opportunity Initiative”, implemented by EEF from the financial resources of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. This kind of activities led to increased intensity of synergies at the level of different projects and donors.

- Changes of the Adhering Applications Forms of these 5 platforms are being introduced that will lead to an easier access of the CSOs from the left bank to these entities. (the result of this process will be reported in the next period).

Besides the on-site activities and the forum to be created on the Community of Practice platform, 5 study visit were organised for up to 80 CSOs. Each visit was oriented towards sharing experience in the following fields: SCOs services, with emphasis on legal ones; social entrepreneurship, consumer protection, and youth banks and youth participation in decision making, services provided by CSOs for vulnerable people.

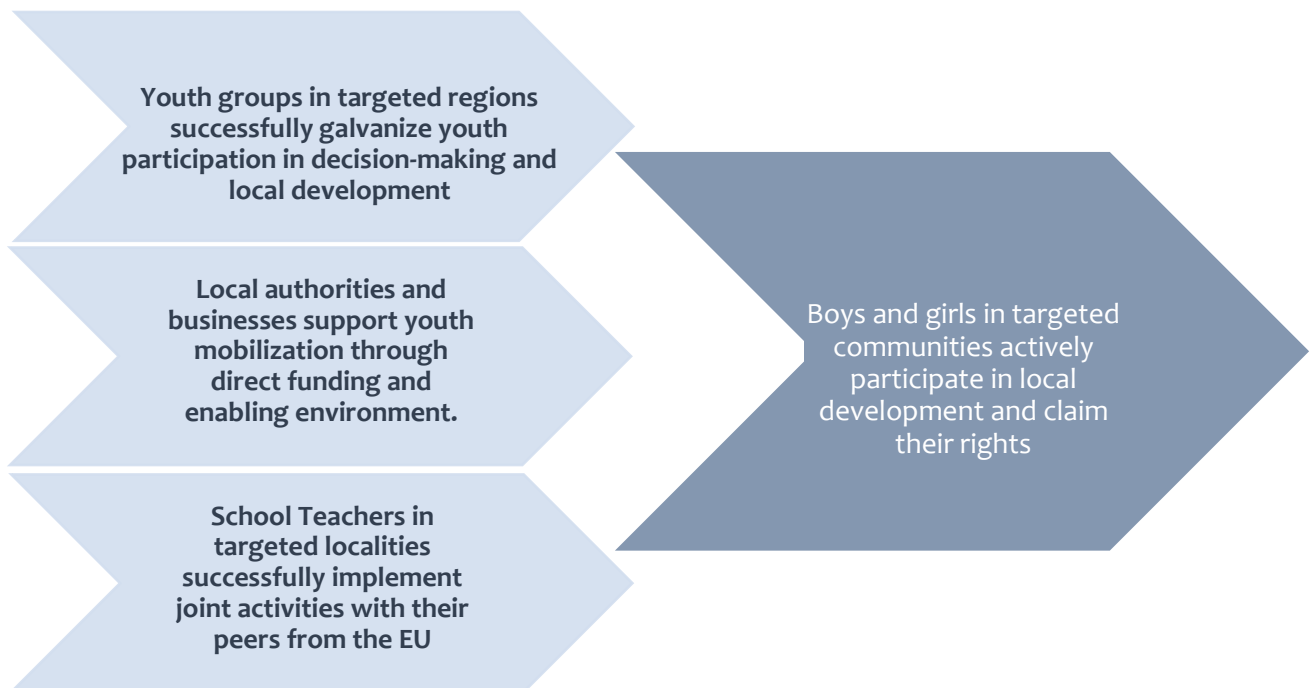
2.2. YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Theory of change:

Youth active participation in local development is advanced if youth NGOs actively empower boys and girls to engage in community assessment, fundraising, outreach, grant-making and if local authorities, businesses and school teachers ensure a corresponding enabling environment.

EEF will create an arena in which concepts such as equality, human rights, diversity and mutual understanding can not only be explored and learnt about by young people but in which they can seek to construct and take concrete action. In order to achieve this, EEF will equip selected NGOs with YouthBank tools and guide them through all youth bank cycles. The YouthBank tool will be adjusted and complemented with the Gender mainstreaming tools. This will ensure a meaningful engagement of boys and girls in YouthBank activities. This approach will also ensure an environment free of prejudice and discrimination. The Foundation will also work with local authorities and businesses to facilitate resource mobilisation for YouthBanks.

Bridging and impact outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

East Europe Foundation strives to change the perception of YouthBank as a tool of giving out grants, moreover, YouthBank is a development programme, which build young people's self-esteem and confidence and provide them with an opportunity to learn new skills in leadership, team-work, decision-making, problem-solving, communication, empathy development, negotiation, report-writing, presentation skills, event management, interview skills and lots and many others.

EEF endeavors to develop leadership opportunities, build capacity among the young grant makers and to create opportunities for grant aided youth led groups to engage in self-help and community action.

EEF implements the YouthBank programme in Moldova from 2009 and has supported the creation and growth of 10 YouthBanks from 11 regions across the country by partnering with 10 civil society organizations. Over the last 6 years, EEF has helped establish 7 new YouthBanks based on the experience of the other 3 developed in the period 2009 - 2012. Thus, by the end of 2018 YouthBank Moldova network counted 10 YouthBanks coordinated by 179 young people. Involvement in YouthBank offers young people experiences and responsibilities that foster lifelong community involvement. It combines a number of the elements that are currently being strongly promoted in policy initiatives.

Over the last 6 years, the local YouthBanks had the potential to channel young people's enthusiasm into positive activity, to provide valuable learning experiences, boost confidence and widen horizons.

Since its inauguration in Moldova, YouthBank has had direct impact on the lives of over 100,000 young people from more than 100 rural and urban communities across the country. From just 36 young people involved in civic association in 2012, there were 3740 young people by the end of 2018. Equality and non-discrimination are among the key principles guiding all youth banks' activities. Thus, at least 40% of the current Youth Bank members are from vulnerable groups (ethnic and linguistic minorities, people with precarious social and economic backgrounds, deprived rural areas, children of migrant parents, young people with disabilities as well as young people living in the security zone along the Nistru river). Marginalized and socially excluded young people can gain a sense of achievement, feel listened to and construct positive responses to the factors affecting their lives.

YouthBank Moldova has reconfirmed for the 8th year that it is a proficient platform for community engagement of young people, including those from marginalized groups. These young people are equipped by EEF and local partners with a wide range of transferable skills that enhance not only their capacity to negotiate but boosts their educational and employment prospects. As a result, they take initiative by implementing local small-scale projects and support their peers in advocating for a more enabling environment for young people to exercise their rights. EEF offers small groups of young people modest funding to support their ideas for action and change, by encouraging such voluntary action, many young people who are currently failed by the system, or disengaged can be inspired to become active citizens.

In all of the 10 YouthBanks across Moldova including Transnistria region there are well trained initiative groups made up mainly by young people with few adults who are implementing local initiatives, projects and small grants programs, thus participating in youth-driven decision-making and community development. Their creative perspectives, dynamic spirit and contagious enthusiasm are transforming the shape of their community and living up the community life. The YouthBank program has contributed significantly to the increase of voluntary engagement of young women and men in community development initiatives. Youth engagement across the YouthBank network has spiked from approximately 1000 youth in 2013 to more than 35.000 youth by the end of 2018.

EEF has partnered with reliable local civil society organizations from Ialoveni, Varnița, Cahul, Ștefan Vodă, Orhei, Sorooca, Rîșcani, Bălți, Sangerei, Dubăsari and Bender in building and consolidating the YouthBank network. YouthBank coordinators and the teams of young people learned to manage a YouthBank through a range of activities based on non-formal education methods, spanning from trainings, workshops, study visits and youth among others. EEF encourages young grantmakers to be both creative and solution orientated in their analysis of ways of approaching personal, social, economic, cultural, environmental and other difficulties their peers are experiencing.

National Level Capacity-Building

EEF and local partners adds to the skills, knowledge and experience of young people by resourcing and equipping them through training, informative sessions and mentorship, learning by doing and evaluation so that the outcomes belong to them.

Young people had the opportunity to develop their knowledge about marketing, IT, social media tools, human rights issues and violence prevention among others. In addition, they improved their skills in terms of leadership, decision-making, project cycle management, fundraising, grant administration, etc.

Involving young people in grant-making makes them more aware of the needs and aspirations of their local community and the ways in which they can make a difference. YouthBank members are trained to cooperate and work as a team taking all the relevant decisions for themselves.

Finally, young people are empowered to develop their competencies and to engage their peers in small projects and initiatives in their towns and villages.

To assist the YouthBank members develop the skills, insights, knowledge and understanding to undertake this work, a programme of training backed up by on-going support is constantly provided by EEF and local coordinators.

eTwinning

EEF aimed at expanding eTwinning to a wider number of teachers, even to those who are inexperienced in the use of ICTs, and, at the same time, at increasing the number and the average quality of projects.

Promotion

In the period of 2017-2018 PSA Moldova focused its activities on wider promotion of eTwinning throughout the country, together with providing to teachers a variety of trainings on different levels and different content, to meet almost every teacher's needs as far as implementation of innovative methods of learning is concerned. Through online and on-site learning events with easy reach to all teachers in different regions of Republic of Moldova, including Transnistrian region, PSA reinforced ICT tools relevance in schools, encouraged new schools and teachers to join the programme, provided tools and events assuring search of partner and finally actively fostered new projects establishment.

Support to teachers

Support to teachers has shown to be a key aspect to keep teachers motivated and active in eTwinning. The main activities conducted for this purpose were onsite general support, online training events and support to individual projects to improve and develop teachers' ICT skills, and by this eventually enable digital tools' practical application in the classroom. Also, at national or regional and local level events, the project quality and project method of pedagogical work were promoted.

As a result of such an approach, the number of teachers who participated in eTwinning and ICT trainings significantly increased. Based on the results eTwinning has achieved it can be concluded that the program is gradually embedding in the school life in Republic of Moldova. Teachers have learned a better use of ICT in teaching, learned how to cooperate with pupils and teach them more effectively. Projects also help the weaker pupils to show their talents and skills. They enable pupils to learn about other European nations and adopt the ideas of collaboration and solidarity with others.

Challenges

The level of Transnistrian youth involvement in the decision making process at the community level was significantly increased by launching the concept of Youth Banks in the region. Thus, 2 Youth Banks were created in the region with an emergent participation of 35 young people involved. In order to start youth initiatives at the local level, the partners from the region are capacitating the youth, namely 4 initiative groups, to map and identify local needs. To calculate the level of satisfaction regarding the services for youth beneficiaries and communities, there is a need to launch the Small Grants Competitions, that are planned for the next reporting period.

With a track record of more than 10 years of responsible engagement in local community development, YouthBanks are emerging as an important actor alongside the LPAs in terms of policy-making and local governance. The concept of participatory grantmaking puts greater decision-making power in the hands of youth who hold a specific type of expertise that local public officials will probably never have. Nevertheless, this model can also be threatening and challenging. As the concept is still a new one for Moldova, youth and adults alike, still have many technical and operational issues to solve, such as cost effectiveness and conflict of interest. Organizational/institutional change takes time and for small NGOs that are not explicitly set up within or in support of a wider social movement, the thought of community leadership within their own decision making structures may be rather overwhelming. Nevertheless, community organizations and LPAs can engage together in systematic processes and identify hybrid models can range of formal and informal mechanisms of youth participation. A few practices tried out so far include youth advisory groups, focus groups, on-going consultative committees to direct support of youth-led initiatives. So far, young people were part of formulating Local Development Strategies in cities like Ialoveni, Varnita, Soroca, Cahul. In 2018, there are 116 working partnerships based on trust between LPAs and young people that are yearly renewed. On one side, this ongoing collaboration generates sustained youth participation in acknowledging their interest and needs into policies and local development opportunities. On the other side, the LPAs become more transparent, inclusive and accountable to their constituencies (and future voters). Due to these partnerships, young people in the communities where YouthBanks are operating are learning to advocate for larger investments in youth-led community development initiatives. There is still much room for innovation and experimentation in the field of participatory grantmaking.

EEF promotes two types of YouthBank volunteerism – among young people and among host civil society organizations that contribute space, equipment, mentoring, networks in YBs operations, without much influence on decision-making. EEF works at ensuring that continuous effort is taken to assess, document and share the good practices and lessons learned from the YouthBank network in Moldova due to a high turnover of youth involved in the administering the YouthBanks year after year. Together with a growing community of other grant operators, at EEF we are looking at increasing the transparency and accountability of our funding models to the people directly affected by our grants. At the same time, we are recognizing the added value of leveraging the knowledge and insights that are already present in the community. EEF would like to see this trend continuing in the future.

In eTwinning project, the main challenge is getting teachers to participate in projects and to convince them that it might not have to be extra work, just another and inspiring way to complete the curriculum.

Another big challenge is keeping registered teachers interested and encouraging them to take part in groups and discussions, online courses, network, search for partners and start projects, as well as stimulating quality approaches and good documentation practices in projects.

A new challenge was to identify and to provide support to teachers from Transnistria to access eTwinning projects and encourage them to cooperate with teachers from the right bank and from other European countries for the creation and implementation of joint teaching projects.

Activities

In 2018, so far the YouthBank program has had a significant impact at the community level by supporting more than 3700 young people involved in implementing 125 projects, equipping them with key life skills and offering a platform, which allows them to participate in shaping the environment around, and thus contributing to local development processes.

In 2018 the YBs managed to raise almost 46.000 USD to supplement their local funds and finance small-scale projects initiated by youth, implemented by youth and aimed at the benefit of their peers. The YouthBanks continue to raise their profile as valid partners and change agents and to engage Central and Local Public Authorities, local businesses and individuals to promote the model of youth-led development.

The YouthBank network is improving at diversifying their sources of financial support and some of them have managed to attract funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, local public authorities, local businesses and donations from individuals. One indicator of impact is that Comparing to 2012 when the support of LPA was limited to mere logistical support, in 2018 Central and local government bodies have allocated 35.000 USD more than 75% from the total amount destined to youth initiatives. In 2018, each YouthBank had an average of 2.000 USD for their Small Grant Programs. Slowly, but surely the awareness of the local business communities is growing regarding the benefit of the YouthBank model in their localities. Last year, the local entrepreneurs have given around 7.000 USD to support youth led projects and activities, comparing with the first years when their support was limited only to in-kind contributions. Thus, over the 10 years history of YouthBank Moldova, LPAs and businesses alike have acknowledge that putting resources in the hands of a group of thoughtful, committed young people can empower them to collaboratively take decisions, build community connections and foster youth participation through applied learning. As a result, young people are equipped and motivated to actively participate as informed and competent citizens in their own communities and wider society.

In this process, young people gain important practical experience that will prove useful as employees in the labor market and as citizens in public life. The partnerships between LPAs and businesses, on one side, and young people, on the other, have created fortunate occasions for building avenues of collaboration and trust and for breaking down stereotypes between adults and young people.

In 2018, there were 48 fundraising events conducted including the food sales, charity events, movie nights, donation boxes, door-to-door campaigning, face painting, parties and concerts among others. A successful example is YouthBank Soroca who collected around 1200 USD during 12 fundraising events in 2018.

The number of grants awarded by YouthBank increased substantially from 19 supported initiatives in 2012 to 217 project proposals submitted in 2018. Out of those, 125 projects were financed and successfully implemented by the 140 initiative groups. Total number of young people involved is 3740 including secondary beneficiaries from in 80 counties from Moldova, including Transnistria and security zone near Varnița on both banks of the Nistru river. In 2018 alone, YouthBank program has registered about 5216 young people as direct beneficiaries and

an estimated 42000 as indirect beneficiaries of implemented projects living in urban and rural areas.

Projects financed through the Small Grant Program were mainly in the fields of culture and recreation, sports and healthy lifestyle, learning and education, ecology and climate change and social issues. The results last of year's Small Grants Program have reinforced the fact that by offering young people the opportunity to design and implement projects by themselves has a direct impact on their engagement in their communities.

A successful story was the organization of the International Youth Bank Initiative Gala by the Youth Bank Cahul. The event involved young people from the Youth Bank International network - Ukraine and Latvia, as well as from Youth Bank Moldova - Ialoveni, Varnița and Cahul. The event provided participants with the opportunity to share experience with their fellows from the International Youth Bank network and to learn from their best practices. During the event, the Youth Bank Cahul presented the most successful results and the achievements regarding the implementation of the Small Grants Program, 5th edition.

The performances of the Youth Bank Cahul were highly appreciated by other community actors, economic agents, LPA members and volunteers attending the event.

EEF is keeping its focus on further consolidating the YB Network, increasing its sustainability and by creating networking opportunities for young people around the country involved in the YouthBanks, including the Transnistrian region. Thus, over 100 young people gathered to develop their competencies, exchange information and draw inspiration from each other's work by participating to the YouthBank Summer School organized by EEF during July 8-11, 2018 in Leordoiaia, Calarasi Rayon. EEF designed the event in order to offer participants space and opportunities to make new friendships, set up networks of common interests, regardless of the region in which they are residing, to encourage young people's involvement in the community life, and to take active roles in helping others.

It is for the first time when 2 newly established Youth Banks from the left bank of Nistru River attended the event, along with the teams of the YouthBank Program covering 9 rayons from the right bank of Nistru River. During the Summer School the participants were engaged in various team building exercises and joint decision-making activities. The youngsters also learned how to set priorities, to develop strategic thinking and techniques of solving conflicts through negotiation and effective communication. The team of trainers from Nicolae Dumitrescu Academy organized discovery treasures challenges and various game exercises to overcome obstacles. In addition to the training activities, young people were invited to participate in media literacy sessions, robotics and entrepreneurial learning platforms.

The two newly funded Youth Banks in Transnistria participated in a study visit organised within this project that was held on October 23, 2018 at Youth Bank in Orhei, which offered a comprehensive overview of the practical aspects undertaken from within the interior of the Bank, especially at the initiative group's level. The participants exchange opinions and experience and set further cooperation mechanisms.

Other study visit for Transnistria was held on October 26th, 2018 at Floare de Cireș in Razeni village, Ialoveni, a very wide experienced Social Entrepreneurship with successful results along the time since its creation. The participants raised their capacities on how to start a Social Enterprise, how to involve vulnerable people in such an activity, what are the perspectives from the income point of view and other economical and legal aspects.

The study visits comprised participants from both banks of Nistru River.

For each visit an application of participation was required. If the number of applications was not quantitatively enough, the Partners of the project from the left bank were directly involved

towards orienting efforts to collect the enough number of participants, by accessing them internally, disseminating the announcement widely and by contacting them.

A specially designed training on managing youth banks was organized for Transnistrian CSOs (10 participants) interested in the field on the Youth Banks on the left bank started to operate.

Creating Collaborative Opportunities

YouthBank Moldova is a member of the YouthBank International network from 2015 and receives valuable insights and perspectives from other regions of the world practicing YouthBank.

YouthBank International exists to support the development of YouthBanks network and enhance the capacity of country-wide networks. It provides a one stop shop for all individual YouthBanks and their members across the world by offering them practical support. It is a knowledge hub that provides access to information, materials, advice, networking contacts, opportunities to participate in seminars and conferences, and much more.

Regional YouthBank Conference for the Black Sea and Central and Eastern Europe

Together with other 58 participants representing YouthBanks from different countries, 2 YouthBank members and YouthBank Program Coordinator attended Regional YouthBank Conference in Istanbul in period of 27th - 30th November. Participants had the opportunity to open up new opportunities and creativity in development and capacity building to realise the broader mission of the YouthBank International network. The group of participants benefited of techniques in order to increase the level and quality of collaborative practice between local and national networks in 2019. Besides, an external perspective from Egypt on 'Moments of Change' using the YouthBank approach has been detailed. The International Conference has been organized in association with YouthBank International and financial support of C.S. MOTT Foundation and King Baudouin Foundation.

The YouthBank Program has proved its worth through its network of youth-led grant-making programs within host organizations, which channel money into projects that are ultimately improving the quality of life in the local communities of Moldova. It is both an established model and a process tailored to the needs of every implementing country of working with young grant-makers that encourages and trains them as they develop essential life skills as well as increase their employability capabilities. Local YouthBanks are working due to the active participation of young people for young people regardless of their identity and social status. The elements that make it a unique program are that it puts money directly into the hands of young people who decide on how it will be spent and the support of the communities within which the YouthBanks operate. Thus, the YouthBank Program is much more than a grant-making scheme – it is a model for development and social change. EEF tends to nurtures a future leadership of young adults and stimulates new ways of involving young people as decision-makers. YouthBank uniquely combines a vast range of experiences and opportunities within a single initiative.

	YB members	vulnerable groups members	decisions adopted by the YBank members	nr. of participants at social-cultural actions	nr. of financed projects	nr. of total areas involved in projects	nr. of initiative groups	nr. of direct YthBank beneficiaries	nr. of indirect YthBank beneficiaries	the amount collected during fundraising events, USD
YB Cahul	23	4	5	100	7	6	7	860	8000	3543,76
YB Ialoveni	22	9	2	100	41	20	41	276	20000	13693,06
YB Orhei	15	13	5	400	14	10	20	620	1300	3506,88
YB Sorooca	20	6	6	3492	17	12	17	1780	5638	4041,00
YB St. Voda	15	3	11	1850	11	10	11	1000	3000	3348,82
YB Varnita	15	27	13	547	10	8	11	90	341	8902,24
YB Riscani	13	3	12	500	18	7	18	90	1500	5411,76
YB Balti	28	7	9	500	7	4	11	500	3000	3208,82
YB Dubăsari	15	1	11	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
YB Bender	13	3	13	400	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	179	76	87	7890	125	77	140	5216	42779	45656,35

eTwinning

The main activities implemented:

1. Promotion of the opportunities offered by eTwinning Plus

PSA was responsible for raising awareness of eTwinning throughout the country, in particular by organizing promotional activities, helping teachers to set up and carry out their projects, rewarding eTwinning Schools for their successful participation in eTwinning projects, organizing specific training sessions for teachers and ensuring that the program evolves in a way that fits the particular needs of local schools.

2. Provision of technical and pedagogical support to participating schools:

PSA supported teachers and schools accepted into the program during the whole time in order to ensure a better use of the portal and to ensure the quality of projects to be implemented. In this respect, a helpdesk service, created in 2014, operated 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. The helpdesk answered requests from schools and teachers via different means: Internet, email, phone or in person. A green phone line was maintained and was used as one of the means to offer consulting. The helpdesk offered advice on the use of the portal and on pedagogical issues as well.

In the same time, a team of 7 Ambassadors continued to support teachers and the schools to create connections and to develop quality projects. The team work on request and provided direct advice to the eTwinning implementation team, supported in assessing the schools and also participated in monitoring and evaluation of the projects developed by the participating schools. The consultants offered also advice to the participating schools and teachers and encouraged them to develop quality projects and to involve as much as possible pupils in their efforts. In the same time, teacher's consultants conducted each month trainings.

3. Ensuring safety and quality of eTwinning projects

- **Monitoring registrations and adequate user behavior on the eTwinning platform:**

This way, the PSA conducted a pre-registration survey about the teacher's background and technical availability of the school to be part of eTwinning. After registration, PSA invited the new teacher to attend the training for beginners. Afterwards teachers' activity on the portal was constantly monitored and necessary feedback was offered.

- **Monitoring of the quality of eTwinning projects:**

To ensure the quality of eTwinning projects was one of the main goals of the PSA. In this respect, all realized projects have been monitored from the perspective of the quality and advice for improvement. PSA staff regularly checked project blogs and gave feedback to the participating schools.

The PSA adopted a pro-active attitude in fostering the quality and the pedagogical value of eTwinning projects. PSA supported teachers to develop creative and innovative projects, to use TIC tools in implementing eTwinning projects and to introduce project-based approaches while teaching.

Another goal of the action was to encourage teachers to design and implement quality eTwinning projects. In this respect, all realized projects were monitored from the perspective of the quality and advice for improvement will be given. PSA staff, together with the helpdesk and the team of consultants monitored the project blogs and gave periodic feedback to teachers and schools. To encourage schools and teachers to get involved in eTwinning, a national eTwinning Quality Label was agreed with the MoE to be recognized with credits.

4. Coordination with the CSS, with other PSA and NSS:

PSA closely cooperated with the Central Support Service to discuss all the details of the project implementation, ways and means of improving and extending participation. The National Project Coordinator stayed in touch with CSS staff, provided updates on the project state of play in the country, send period reports and information when requested. Also, the Support Manager informed the CSS about the technical and pedagogical issues encountered by the users. The PSA staff took part to the 2 bi-annual Management meetings and in 2 Working Group meeting organized by the CSS.

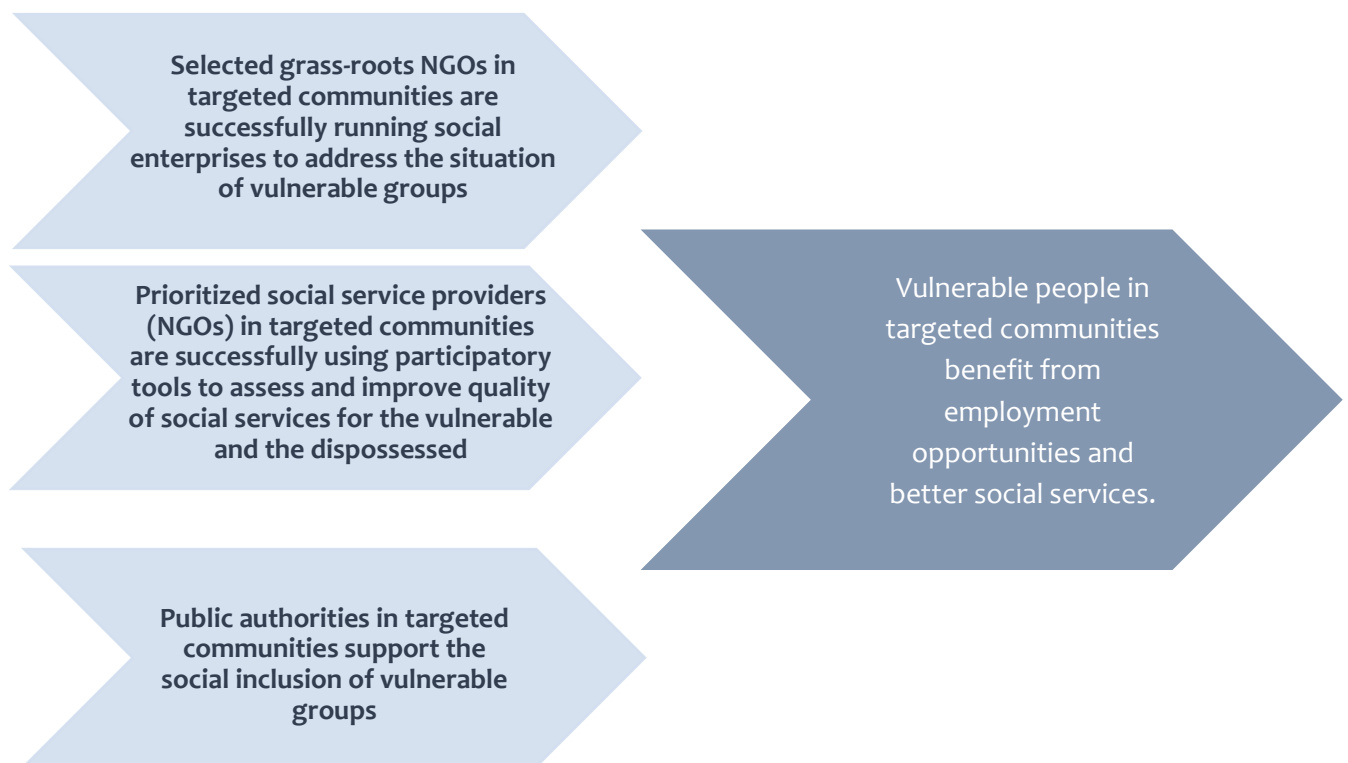
2.3. SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Theory of change:

Vulnerable groups' access to employment opportunities and improved social services are ensured if NGOs increasingly use the Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Tools, Inclusive Community Service Assessment (ICSA) Tools in addressing vulnerability, and if duty-bearers ensure a proper environment for SE operation and proper funding for inclusive and acceptable community services.

EEF will work with grass-roots NGOs, equipping them with relevant Social Entrepreneurship and ICSA tools. Expedite efforts will be made to advance dialogue between vulnerable groups, NGOs and duty bearers to ensure that services and opportunities are institutionalised and supported by local authorities.

Bridging and impact outcomes



Progress towards bridging outcomes

Selected grass-roots NGOs in targeted communities are successfully running social enterprises to address the situation of vulnerable groups. In 2018, 11 social enterprises were funded, with an additional 6 to be created in 2019.

Public authorities respect, protect and fulfill the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups. Vulnerable people in targeted communities benefit from employment opportunities and better social services, thus on the left bank of Nistru River EEF offered grants for creating Legal Assistance Centers under the “Building Bridges, Facing Challenges” project in the previous reporting period. Based on the results above, the following CSOs are funded:

1. Center for Legal Initiatives
2. Legal Information Center Vialex
3. Alliance for Public Health

In this regard, 243 legal advisory services were provided in various fields, and clients of the Legal Assistance Centres improved their path towards solving a legal personal matter. Another 48 legal consultations were provided by the so-called mobile legal visits in Dubasari and Grigoreopol and 8 consultations were offered through on-line legal help.

The citizens of the region increased their level of legal literacy through the legal informational articles – up to 450 readers for due reporting period. Another method of literacy improvement was the special posts on legal issues that raised the number of readers to 1252, and over 1700 accesses of the internet resources.

100 pupils of the high schools in Grigoriopol and Dubasari increased their legal literacy through legal special classes. Other 40 youth representatives participated in legal thematically based events – legal quests.

4 NGOs from Moldova were selected to fulfil initiatives meant to improve the quality of lives for the vulnerable groups from the Republic of Moldova. This action was carried out through a Grants competition on this topic.

Thus, 4 community centers for elderly people were repaired in Chisinau where 24 type of services for massage therapy were carried out for 150 unique participants. 291 elderly people are part on regular basis of various programs for socialization and the maintenance of mental skills of single elderly people. Up to 896 visits were carried out to lonely elderly people within this project.

Another community center was fully repaired and equipped in the Scineni Village, where sports, literature and dance became possible for the vulnerable children and families from the village, but also for pupils from the whole community. It is worth mentioning that this project was cofounded by the Local Public Administration in the amount of 50% of the total budget of the project, which is a more rare practice.

42 children and young people with special needs from 5 localities benefited of home medical therapy, due to the Mobile Therapy Team, that had the possibility to offer various health services using the procured special adapted car for this purpose.

Another initiative – La La Play Voyces gathered together in a choir 20 children and adolescents, 10 girls and 10 boys aged 12-17 years from 10 rayons of the Republic of Moldova that were selected and helped improve their music capacities and self confidence through a summer camp and a National Concert Symphonic Pop.

Challenges and lessons learnt

Despite the achieved progress, the social entrepreneurship field is still at its inception period in Moldova and is not even officially recognized by national legislation, thus there is still a long pass towards a dynamic and developed social economy. Despite the optimistic expectations, the established business are still depending on additional support besides the generated commercial income. There are still gaps in managing a social entrepreneurship, if referring to the left bank of Nistru River, where cooperation at various state levels is sensitive.

Although Moldova is a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the progress towards its implementation is very slow. The National Strategy on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities expired in 2013 and no other policy document was developed. A number of legal amendments enforcing the rights of persons with disabilities are pending Parliament approval. On the other hand, DPOs are extremely focused on service provision rather than on advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities. Further efforts should be undertaken to combine the two aspects of CSO work.

Summary of Activities:

Social entrepreneurship

The goal of the social entrepreneurship component is to create better employment and social opportunities for vulnerable groups in Transnistrian region, through social enterprises, which will be run by CSOs.

In the project funded by European Union focused on Economic Development, between 27th of March-06th of May 2018 a call for proposals was announced to create social enterprises and 15 CSOs to be selected to run those social enterprises. The goal of the social entrepreneurship program is to create better employment and social opportunities for vulnerable groups, through social enterprises, which will be run by CSOs. A number of 23 representatives of CSOs applied within this competition. At the experts' panel meeting held on 23rd of May 2018 were recommended for financing 10 CSOs. However, after due diligence procedures a number of 9 CSOs was selected for sub granting. These CSOs are the following: EtEco from Tiraspol, the social enterprise is in village Glinoe, district Slobozia; Homecare from Chisinau, the social enterprise will be set up in Rosietici village, Floresti district; Angelus Moldova Foundation from Chisinau, the social enterprise will be set up in Isacova, Orhei district, the Association of Deaf Children from Chisinau, the social enterprise will be set up in Cimişeni village, district Criuleni; Health Centre from Transnistria Region, Media Centre from Transnistria Region, Association of Business Women from Balti; Positive Initiative NGO from Chisinau, but the social enterprise will be set up in village Bereozchi, district Anenii Noi; "Childhood for Children" Fund from Transnistria Region. On 19th of December 2018 was organized grant seminar with these CSOs. At the grant seminar the CSOs were trained how to report financially and narratively. In addition, were explained procurement rules and visibility/communication rules of EU.

In order to select six more CSO for creation of social enterprises, EEF invited all interested CSOs to attend info sessions in which additional and explicative information about application procedure and budget application was disseminated. Thus, during December 2018 (03, 04, 05, 06 December 2018) were organized five info sessions in Cahul (1), Balti (2), Chisinau (3). A total number 96 of CSOs participated at these info sessions. As a result, EEF received 49 applications for grant competition on social enterprises. Further in 2019, due diligence procedures will be done and six CSO will be contracted.

It is worth to mention that all CSOs which will create social enterprises will benefit of high quality business consultancy from BDC and G&P consortium. Because the grants competition was held in late December 2018 the delivery of business consultancy was established for the year of 2019.

Inclusive and acceptable social services

- 4 NGOs from Moldova will be selected to fulfil initiatives meant to improve the quality of lives for the vulnerable groups from the Republic of Moldova. This action was carried out through a Grants competition on this topic.
- Thus, 4 community centers for elderly people were repaired in Chisinau were 24 projects for massage therapy were carried out for 150 unique participants. 291 elderly people are part of regular basis of various programs for socialization. Up to 896 visits were carried out to lonely elderly people within this project.
- Another community center was fully repaired and equipped in the Scineni Village, were sports, literature and dance became possible for the vulnerable children and families from the village, but also for pupils from the whole community. It is worth mentioning that this project was cofounded by the Local Public Administration in the amount of 50% of the total budget of the project, which is a more rare practice.

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- EEF announced the Grants Competition to create sustainable basic community services in Transnistria : (<http://eef.md/index.php?pag=news&id=1025&rid=1290&l=ro>). The Experts Panel was held on September 27, 2018 and selected 11 potential organizations. The East Europe Foundation was in the process of due diligence and signed grant contracts at end of 2018. By the deadline set on August 10, 2018 a total number of 26 proposals were received. As a result, of the selection process 11 community services initiatives received financial support after passing the due diligence of FEE. The results of this competition grants will be evaluated when the reports are due (next reporting period).

CROSS- CUTTING ACTIVITIES

EEF Program approach

In 2018 EEF continued the program approach consisting of operating programs and strategic grant-making. Operating programs maintained the organisation's focus on advancing human rights, empowering organised rights-holders and strengthening linkages between civic groups, constituencies, public authorities. They did so in the following ways: (i) EEF built capacities and supported initiatives of NGOs that empower and engage people in decision-making; (ii) EEF served as a convener among stakeholders on an issue, bringing various groups together to improve collective action; (iii) through operating programs, EEF leveraged the small achievements of individual activities and programs by many actors for long term, sustainable impact in the following fields: civil society participation and oversight, inclusive elections, building bridges between NGOs on both banks of Nistru River; fostering economic and social development; (v) the EEF operating programs sought to increase synergies between impact outcomes and corresponding components.

To contribute to the achievement its mission, EEF supported demand-driven projects that fall within EEF's programmatic or mandate areas. EEF program officers guided organizations through the grants process, helping them to build and mobilize constituencies, run public outreach campaigns and strengthen the organizational administrative systems.

In pursuing its development goal, EEF in Moldova followed its commitments to integrating human rights, gender equality, European integration in its work.

Human Rights Based Approach to Development

EEF made progress in integrating human rights in all its priorities. The Civil Society and Oversight Program empowered four groups of NGOs to advocate for more inclusive policies. In their policy advocacy efforts, these groups continuously used the international human rights standards and principles of information, participation and empowerment, equality and non-discrimination, accountability. Under the Free, Fair and Inclusive Elections program the consortium of NGOs on inclusive elections (EEF, Tarna Rom, Pilgrim Demo and CPD) made significant strides to advance the rights of under-represented groups in compliance with the international human rights commitments of Moldova and joint ODIHR/OSCE and EU election observation reports. The Youth and Education program empowered and supported teachers involved in piloting the "Human Rights Education" curriculum in Moldovan schools.

Gender equality

EEF worked to ensure that women, as much as men, have a real voice in all institutions, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence the decisions that will determine the future of their families and countries. EEF actively engaged with CPD to mainstream gender equality in all interventions. As part of the Free, Fair and Inclusive Elections Component, over 60 women from the regions with least representation of women have been empowered to stand as candidates in the upcoming local elections. Necessary preparations were made to enable the Gender Equality Platform to actively fight violence against women during the elections and raise public awareness of gender equality issues. EEF also leveraged funds from OAK Foundation to advance the fight against domestic violence, especially in the regions where such services do not exist.

Specific interventions were made to ensure equal opportunities for girls and boys in the Youth Banks projects. Due to more targeted interventions, the percentage of boys engaged in youth steering committees increased from 25% in 2015 to approximately 40% in 2018. Confidence building programs are also sensitive to gender equality.

Jointly with CPD, EEF made significant strides to identify gender-based inequalities and formulated proposals for addressing them. The Equality Gap Report, compiled in 2018, identified inequalities in living livelihoods, health and labour market along such criteria as gender, disability, age, Roma.

EEF made expedite efforts to implement the integrated gender equality perspective within the Strategic Plan 2017-2020, in compliance with the gender audit, conducted in 2016. Every component of the Strategy combines the three gender mainstreaming approaches: integration of the gender dimension, special measures, and policy dialogue for gender equality. The Strategic interventions mainstream gender equality, and refer to the following two types: delivery of gender equality results through project components; facilitation of the transformation of gender norms and stereotypes through projects.

Contribution to EU Integration

Through this action EEF contributed to bringing the Republic of Moldova closer to the EU. In 2018 the EEF's partners in the Free, Fair and Inclusive Elections component actively interacted with the Venice Commission and made reference to the Moldova's commitments under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The Consumer protection program also made reference to EU standards in force. Other interventions, such as eTwinning plus facilitated joint activities between Moldovan teacher and their peers in the European Union.

The commitment to eliminate stigma and discrimination towards particularly marginalized individuals and groups represented integral part of the EEF efforts. The EEF employee, delegated to the Moldovan Equality Body for a second mandate in 2018, continued to actively examine complaints on discrimination and contribute to the adoption of corresponding decisions and recommendations.

Inclusion of Transnistrian region

Building on linkages with other projects and initiatives, EEF made efforts to expand its development efforts in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. In 2018 EEF set up two Youth Banks in the region, advanced the social entrepreneurship model, promoted consumer rights, and worked to build vigorous watchdog NGO coalitions.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2018

Program areas	Budget, USD	%
Program 1: Civil and political rights and democratic governance		
Component 1.1: Civil Society Participation and Oversight	485.565	12,98%
Component 1.2: Encourage active citizenship and critical thinking	61.744	1,65%
Component 1.3: Free, fair and inclusive elections	183.243	4,90%
Program 2: Socio-economic rights and sustainable local development		
Component 2.1: Community mobilization for responsive local governance	1.006.522	26,91%
Component 2.2: Youth and Education	1.072.382	28,67%
Component 2.3: Social Inclusion of vulnerable groups	799.370	21,37%
Sub-Total Program budget	3.608.826	96,49%
Sub-Total Administrative budget	131.234	3,51%
Total budget	3.740.060	100,00%
Donors	Budget, USD	%
European Union	2.657.578	71,06%
Government of Sweden	625.678	16,73%
Swiss Development Cooperation Office	443.972	11,87%
Others	12.832	0,34%
Total budget	3.740.060	100,00%