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GRANT CONTRACTS CONCLUDED FOR LARGE SCALE PROJECTS

“IMPEFO – Improvement of cross – border cooperation between Moldova and Romania on Petroleum and Food Products”

On 4th of March 2013, the first Large Scale contract within the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine - Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 was signed: *“MPEFO – Improvement of cross – border cooperation between Moldova and Romania on Petroleum and Food Products”*.

The project will be implemented by the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, in partnership with National Customs Authority of Romania.

The general objective of the project is to promote efficient border management through the modernization of common cross border points between Romania and Republic of Moldova and to establish a close cooperation between the border authorities of Romania and Republic of Moldova in order to ensure a higher level of transparency, information reliability and compliance with the customs regulations for the import and export and transit of petroleum and food products.

The project will be implemented in 24 months with a total budget of about 3.5 million Euro, out of which 90 % are provided by the European Union through Ro-Ua-Md Programme.



The main results of the project are: 1 Feasibility Study, 1 Environmental Impact Assessment, 1 Technical Specification, National Central Laboratory in Chisinau built and equipped with technologies for the analysis of the petroleum and food products, 1 mobile laboratory for the Romanian authorities and 2 mobile laboratories for the Moldavian ones, Bilateral Experts Group on the compliance with the customs and excise regulations of petroleum and food products.

The final beneficiaries of the project are the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova and the National Customs Authority of Romania.

„Improvement the response capacity of Mobile Emergency Service for Resuscitation and Extrication (SMURD) through a joint integrated system for efficient monitoring and disaster consequences mitigation, in regard to population in the common boundaries Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova”

On 6th of March 2013, the second Large Scale Project contract financed under the Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007-2013, was signed: *„Improvement the response capacity of Mobile Emergency Service for Resuscitation and Extrication (SMURD) through a joint integrated system for efficient monitoring and disaster consequences mitigation, in regard to population in the common boundaries Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova”*.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania - General Inspectorate for Emergency Situation, in partnership with the General Inspectorate of Aviation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania and Ministry of Internal Affairs, Republic of Moldova. Romanian Ministry of Health also participates in this project, as associate.

The project proposes a solution to integrate the Emergency Medical Services, Resuscitation and Extrication at the cross border level between Romania and Republic of Moldova and will contribute to the improvement of the intervention capacity, of the response in emergency medical care situations for the population in the eligible area, and of the response time in the eligible area.

The implementing period of the project is 24 months and the total budget value is of approximately 6.7 million Euro, out of which 90 % are provided by the European Union through Ro-Ua-Md Programme.

Through this project, the Romanian partners will purchase: a helicopter equipped for quick interventions, whose operation will be provided by the Romanian side, a special duty machine for decontamination of personnel, field and technique, respectively special intervention equipment, while the Moldovan partner will purchase special vehicles for providing first aid, medical emergency care and extrication, vehicles for radioactive and chemical investigations, respectively for evacuation of population in case of disaster as well as portable radio communication devices.

The final beneficiaries of the project are the overall population of Republic of Moldova - 3.56 million inhabitants, but in particular population from the 12 districts bordering with Romania, representing approximately 1 million inhabitants.

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

Journalists Caravan

During the last two weeks of February 2013 a PRESS TOUR was organized within the frames of the project “Breaking the borders: mountain tourism development”, MIS ETC code 789, which is implemented with the financial support of the European Union within the Ro-Ua-MD Programme. The Applicant – Chernivtsi NGO “Business-center” in cooperation with Humanitarian Foundation “Clopot” (Romania), Chernivtsi Public and Ecologic Association “Bukvytsya” conceived an itinerary which

started from the Romanian town of Vatra Dornei and ended in Chernivtsi, the pearl of Northern Bukovyna.

The 11 days route started in Southern Bukovyna, where a complex of monasteries included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage had been visited – “Voronets”, “Moldovitsa”, “Suchevitsa”, three similar and in the same time different places of worship, which have preserved the unique interior and exterior murals until this day. The visits continued at unique places of worship in Ukraine.



Ukraine has made a pleasant impression on the reporters. Those who visited Kamyanets-Podilsky for the first time were amazed by the majesty of the Old Fortress and the beauty of the city. It was logical to include it to the Bukovinian route to which a less introduced by the tourist agencies Khotyn castle belongs.

The participants concluded that the Ukrainian part of Bukovyna is very attractive for tourists too. There are reserve areas of National nature park "Vyzhnytsky" with its rare plants and animals, with the unique spring "Luzhky", the water of which cures hemophilia patients. There are only three of such springs in Europe. Distinctive also is the authentic museum of Vyzhnytsky college of applied art.

In Chernivtsi, the tour ended. The ensemble of the Residence of Orthodox Metropolitans of Bukovyna and Dalmatia – present central premises of Yuri

Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University had been visited. It took 18 years for this complex which has been taken under the protection of UNESCO to be built.

In total the press tour was attended by 20 reporters (representatives of the newspapers, internet editions, touristic magazines, radio and TV) from three countries (Ukraine, Romania and Republic of Moldova).

The representative of the Chernivtsi Branch Office of the Joint Technical Secretariat accompanied the group of reporters in Ukraine and familiarized them with the purpose and goals of the Ro-Ua-Md Programme, main projects and the purpose of their implementation.



International Conference "Conservation and restoration of the cultural heritage: best practices"

The International Conference "Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage - model of best practice in Soroca Town" took place in Soroca, on 15th of February 2013. The event has been one of the activities foreseen within the project "Medieval Jewelleries: Hotin, Soroca and Suceava", MIS ETC Code 1098, implemented by the Soroca District Council in partnership with the Mayorality of Suceava Town and the State Reservation of History and Architecture "Hotin Fortress". The project includes renovation works of three medieval fortresses: Suceava, Soroca and Hotin. The total amount of the project budget is about 3,2 million Euro, the grant of the European Union being 2,7 million Euro.

The conference aimed to highlight the monuments to be valued and preserved. It was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, the Regional Office Chisinau, the Association of Euroregion "Siret-Prut-Nistru", the Mayorality of Suceava Town, the State Reservation of History and Architecture "Hotin Fortress", the District Council and the

Mayorality of Soroca Town. Five experts from Suceava, Iasi, Botosani, Vaslui and Galati counties have presented their experience of renovating different types of cultural and historical heritage of Romania. They have presented valuable studies, talked about historical importance of the monuments to be renovated within the project and emphasized that the interest in history still plays a major role and can be considered as a bridge for future cross border collaboration. In particular it was agreed that the conference is very important for the simple fact that it offers an excellent platform for exchanging views between partners and specialists. For example, the experts working in rehabilitation of Suceava Fortress are willing to share their tremendous and very precious experience. A special attention within the conference was given to excavation techniques used by Romanian experts, which brought a special added value to the project due to the fact that these techniques could be used in rehabilitation of other historical places located in the Programme area.



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The Moldovan and Ukrainian partners reached one of the goals of the conference - to emphasize that all the historical values have to be preserved and promoted beyond the project by concluding that there are many other interesting locations as churches, fortresses, protected areas that could become national parks in the future.

It is worth mentioning that the event was not just a presentation of the project activities, but turned into a broad discussion with many opinions and new proposals that arouse a sense of optimism in close collaboration apart from those related to the implementation of the project.

The rehabilitation works within the Soroca Fortress have already started and the full reconstruction of the fortress is to be completed in 2014.



Investment Forum “Danube +”

International Investment Forum “Danube +” held in Izmail city, Odessa region was one of the most important events within implementation of the project “Creation of favourable investment climate in border regions of Ukraine and Romania” MIS-ETC 1214. The project implemented by the beneficiary Agency of Regional Development in Odessa along with project partners from Romania and Republic of Moldova is financed under Priority 1 – “Towards a more competitive border economy” within the Joint Operational Programme “Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013”.

During the event, the applicant together with the Romanian partner (Regional Council, Iasi) presented to the participants the Regional Consulting Center (RCC) which has been established within the project implementation period. The Center’s main activity consists in offering consultations for foreign organizations interested in implementation of investment projects on the territory of Odessa region. The two-day event included one workshop and one training for local entrepreneurs and farm managers from Ukrainian part of Danube border

area aiming at attracting foreign investors and interacting with the representatives of international investment facilities.

The participants were informed about investment potential of Ukrainian Danube region, results of the project implementation, significance of strategic planning for economic growth of any region and practical experience of investments’ attraction in European countries.

The International Investment Forum “Danube +” proved to be successful considering the positive feedback, great number of participants having demonstrated great interest in the issues touched upon within the Forum and vivid discussion held after presentations. Two trainings devoted to investment proposal calculation were held within the practical part of the Forum. After being involved in the trainings, participants of the Forum were awarded by the certificates confirming successful completion of training and seminar “Foreign investment attraction”.

According to the project implementation schedule the Second International Investment Forum is foreseen for the second semester of 2013.



INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION EVENTS ATTENDED BY JTS/ BRANCH OFFICES

Training on PRAG procedure for procurements within the grant contracts

On 25-26 February 2013 a training on the application of the PRAG provisions was organized for all Moldovan institutions involved in the implementation of the CBC projects of both ENPI CBC Programmes, namely Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 and Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2007-2013.

The projects selected within both ENPI CBC Programmes are in the contracting phase or just started the implementing process. In this context, and having in mind the complexity and novelty for Moldovan institutions concerning PRAG rules the training session on the application of the PRAG provisions has been organized aiming to avoid possible miss spending/ineligible costs related to acquisitions within the projects.

Representatives of the relevant national institutions (Ministry of Finance, State Treasury, and Agency of Public Procurements) and of the Joint Technical Secretariat within the Ro-Ua-Md Programme also have participated to the training.

The participants were highly motivated, and actively participated in the training. Due to the large amount of information, focus was put on key messages related to principles, sequencing and legal commitments resulting from contract implementation. Participants were also very interested in the dissimilarity between the PRAG rules and the national legislation. In this light the participants have agreed in common to follow the recommendations of the National Authority and stick to the procedures foreseen by the PRAG as it concerns the secondary procurements within the grants. The national institutions involved in the financial management of the projects have shown a supportive attitude in this respect.

This training also offered the opportunity for share possible challenges to be faced by the implementation teams to avoid ineligible expenditure, particularly in grants contracts implementation.



The 4th meeting of Interact ENPI Communication Managers



Communication managers of the JMAs and JTSs of ENPI CBC programmes met in Brussels on 13-14 February, for the first time in 2013. The meeting was organized by INTERACT Programme - Interact ENPI CBC project.

The Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 was represented by Mrs. Lorena Popescu, Information and Publicity Officer within the Regional Office for Cross border Cooperation Iasi



and Mr. Bogdan Tanasa, Information and Publicity Officer within the Regional Office for Cross border Cooperation Suceava. Together with the other participants, the two JTS officers approached important issues as: capitalisation methodologies, visibility of programmes' achievements, preparation of communication strategies in future programmes, latest developments of KEEP. This database might be very useful for Ro-Ua-Md Programme's stakeholders being developed as an online tool and internet portal that uses, gathers and ensures the transfer of knowledge of both INTERACT and European Territorial Cooperation programmes. More information about KEEP instrument may be found by accessing <http://www.territorialcooperation.eu/>.

One other important point on the meeting's agenda was European Cooperation Day 2013. The same as the first edition from 2012, ECDay will be celebrated on 21st of September and the surrounding weeks. The goal of European Cooperation Day is to improve the visibility of European Territorial Cooperation, to disseminate its outcomes and to highlight how cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation projects are reducing obstacles and disparities. Considering that all programmes included in the current multi-annual financial framework 2007-2013 are in an advanced progress, it is the moment for the projects to make known their results and achievements to the broader public.

The Interact ENPI CBC representatives presented their initiative to use the help, on a voluntary basis, of a national coordinator for the countries where events for ECDay will be organized. The national coordinator for ECDay will gather information from all ETC Programmes regarding local events organized for ECDay. The national coordinator designated for Romania is from the Regional Office for Cross border Cooperation Timisoara..

Previous to the meeting, a comparative analysis of communication in the current ENPI CBC programmes had been done and the results were presented within the meeting. It is relevant to underline one of the comparative analysis results, namely the necessity for the beneficiaries to submit a communication plan in the contracting phase. Along with a close co-operation with the management structures, the communication plan is considered to be very useful for the beneficiaries to implement in a correct manner the communication and visibility actions.

Each time the members of the ENPI CBC Communication Managers Network are in the same place, it is a great opportunity to share experience and prepare future communication activities.

FOR INFO:

- ✚ The **8th meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee** took place in Bruxelles on 11th of April 2013. Among others the JMC members from the three participating countries were called to discuss on the evaluation process of the project proposals submitted under the 2nd Call for Proposals, the Large Scale Projects (LSP's) within the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 and the future programming period 2014-2020. Ms. Bodil Persson, Deputy Head of DEVCO CBC was also present as representative of the European Commission. Summary of the decisions taken by the JMC will be communicated through the Programme's official website.
- ✚ In the framework of EC-funded external aid contracts and in case of missions requiring an overnight stayaway from the base of operations, the applicable rates to the per diems must not exceed the scales detailed on http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/index_en.htm. The last update for **per diem rates** has been done on 15.12.2012.
- ✚ **EU Neighbourhood Info Centre** is one of the main communication tools of the ENPI Information and Communication Support Project, launched by the European Commission in January 2009 to make more known the relationship between the EU and its Neighbours in the Mediterranean and in the East. Useful updated information can be found about the Eastern Partnership and financing opportunities in the partner countries (Ukraine and Republic of Moldova) by visiting the project web page <http://www.enpi-info.eu/index.ph>.
- ✚ The Joint Managing Authority of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 changed its name from Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism to **Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration**. The new name will be used on communication and promotional materials as well as for officially addressing the Joint Managing Authority.

