

# Electronic Bulletin: no.3/2013

The Electronic Bulletin published by the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007 – 2013, programme financed by the European Union through European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

## Projects contracted following the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals. Short interviews with beneficiaries

### Latest events with the participation of the programme structures:

- **Launching event within the project MIS ETC 2557 - “Artistic and cultural education in the context of sustainable cross-border cooperation”, Chisinau;**
- **Second Investment Forum held by Agency of Regional Development (Odessa) in Izmail, within project MIS-ETC 1214;**
- **Second Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Bucharest, 28-29.10.2013;**
- **Interact Annual Conference, Athens 12-13.11.2013;**
- **Evaluation meeting European Cooperation Day 2013, Amsterdam, 20.11.2013.**

### Large Scale Projects (LSP) status

### Preparing the new ENI CBC Programmes

**One project financed by the Joint Operational Programme Romania- Ukraine- Republic of Moldova 2007- 2013 awarded the Grand Prize at the Second Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress (EEIC), Lublin, Poland**

**Our best wishes and good health for the New Year!**

## Projects contracted following the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals.

### Short interviews with beneficiaries.

*An important step in each programme’s life is the contracting phase. The projects, selected within the second call for proposal, that offered a financial envelope of 36,000,000 EUR, are under contracting procedure or have already started the implementation. The list of contracted projects for all three priorities will be posted on the programme’s official website after the last contract will be signed. Until then we asked some of the beneficiaries about their impression at the beiging of the implementation.*

#### **Chamber of Commerce and Industry Suceava**

#### **Joint Business Support Centre – Instrument for fostering development of entrepreneurship in Ro-Ua-Md cross-border area (Jo.B.S. Center) - MIS ETC 1934**

➤ *Which are the objectives of your project?*

The project is financed under Priority 1 “Towards a more competitive border economy” and it will be implemented in partnership with Bukovinian Centre for Development and Reconstruction from



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova  
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Chernivtsi-Ukraine, State University "Alecu Russo" from Balti, Republic of Moldova and the Association for Economic and Regional Development-ADER from Suceava, Romania.

The general objective of the project is to improve the SMEs business environment in the border area using innovative solutions and promoting economic partnerships. Through this project we aim to develop a Joint Business Support Centre within our organization and the main role of it will be to assure a modern space for SMEs from the three target regions where they can promote their services and can organize trainings or economical events. The Joint Business Support Centre will offer a space for the exchange of good practices and knowledge transfer for SME's, from all three regions. This way we will create a supportive environment for SMEs in the cross-border area.

As specific objectives, the project aims to organize a research regarding the specific training needs in the cross border area and to improve the capacity development of SMEs in the cross-border region through professional training packages.

- *Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of the project?*

Our project will be implemented until the end of June 2015 and we have a very detailed activities diagram and a risk plan that will help us to achieve in time our indicators. We also rely on a good communication with the Joint Technical Secretariat that can help us to understand some of the contract terms and can lead us to a good implementation of the project.

- *Describe in few words the communication strategy for your project financed within Ro-Ua-Md Programme. How the information about project activities will be made available to the interested public?*

During the implementation of this project our communication strategy contains: 3 project launching event in each region, 3 press conferences, 42 press releases, 42 radio releases, one billboard, 1000 leaflets, 500 brochures, electronic newsletters, folders, roll-up with project presentation. We will also promote the project on the web page of each partner and on the e-learning platform that will be created during the implementation of the project.

**Business Consulting Institute, Chisinau**  
**Competitiveness Enhancement through Human Synergy in The Border Region - MIS ETC 2019**

- *Which are the objectives of your project?*

The objectives of the project are to enhance the capacities and promoting greater interaction between people and communities, to strengthen the cooperation and economic performance of the SMEs from the Romania-Republic of Moldova- Ukraine border region in order to achieve economic growth and sustainable development, to improve of the business environment competitiveness in Botosani, Iasi, Vaslui counties and Republic Moldova and Ukraine cross-border region and to establish a joint strategy to attract investments based on competitiveness, and people interaction in Botosani, Iasi, Vaslui counties, Republic Moldova and Ukraine cross-border region

The implementation of the proposed action will create the opportunity to improve SMEs competitiveness, with a positive impact on the communities and the business environment on both sides of the border, on a medium and long term.

- *Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of the project?*

The project implies several risks as political, social and economic ones, but they are moderate.

- *Describe in few words the communication strategy for your project financed within Ro-Ua-Md Programme. How the information about project activities will be made available to the interested public?*

The information about project activities will be made available to the interested public in the promotion campaign. Its main purpose is to communicate that the project is co-financed by the European Union and to disseminate project information at local, regional and cross-border level.

Promotional events will be held and information materials will be printed and disseminated (the Investor's Guide, posters, leaflets). Articles about the key project activities will be published in local, regional and national mass-media.

**Chernivtsi City Public Organization "Business Center"**  
**"ECO-CARPATHIANS-Eco-Business Development in Border Carpathians as Chance for Better Economic Competitiveness" – MIS ETC 1603**

- Which are the objectives of your project?*

The overall objectives are (a) to promote cross-border cooperation between mountain area, in production and marketing of farm products, of traditional handicrafts and eco-tourism in order to develop a solid eco-economy through consolidation of small businesses (b) to development an eco-destination in cross border area (a common eco-tourism brochure will be produced) and to improve the knowledge about eco-tourism at EU standards, best practices transfer, development of thematic



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trails in all three areas (in RO, UA, MD), (c) to improve competitiveness across the mountain economy, through innovative start-ups businesses, based on eco and green economy principles (d) to improve the mountain infrastructure through thematic trails in all three areas (RO, UA, MD)

- *Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of the project?*

We hope that the project will be implemented according to the schedule and we will achieve the indicators.

- *Describe in few words the communication strategy for your project financed within Ro-Ua-Md Programme. How the information about project activities will be made available to the interested public?*

It's planned to invite representatives of Mass media on press-conferences that will be organized in each county. Moreover, among project activities is creation and broadcasting short promotion film about the region, organizing festival and placing billboards about the festival. Also we plan to inform public about the events organized in a framework of the project through participation in round-tables and other events organized by other organizations etc.

We will try to use all possible tools that will help us make project more visible and inform society about achieved results.

### **Launching event within the project MIS ETC 2557 - "Artistic and cultural education in the context of sustainable cross-border cooperation", Chisinau, 6 November, 2013**

Music College "Stefan Neaga", the beneficiary of the project MIS ETC 2557 "Artistic and Cultural Education in the Context of Cross border cooperation" has organized the official project launching action on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The project is aiming to strengthen the cultural links between three neighboring regions of partner countries.

Over 350 students and guests (Local Public Administration, Central Public Administration, Music and Artistic Education Institutions, NGO, Media and all College Teachers), were invited to attend the opening ceremony for the first project implemented by the Artistic Vocational Institution in Moldova.

The audience of 308 students, all College students and other 46 guests, from Governmental and Parliamentarian officials, also representatives of Romanian Embassy in Chisinau, Local Public Administration, Central Public Administration, Music and Artistic Education Institutions, NGO, Media and all College Teachers, enjoyed the performance of the Choir Gloria that started the event with singing the Universal Students Anthem „Gaudeamus.”

Among the high officials that honored with their presence was Mrs. Monica Babuc, Minister of Culture, who has expressed his sincere congratulations underlining also the common culture, past, traditions, roots and the opportunity of promotion at regional and European level with the EU support.

Another important guest that participated to the launching event was member of the Parliamentarian Committee for Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sport and Mass Media, Dr. Ghenadie Ciobanu. In his congratulatory remarks he mentioned: „Through

Art and Culture we can ensure a different and better quality of life. This project has at its aim to



contribute essentially to this cause. I'm convinced that this team, this prestigious institution will succeed in fulfilling the objectives of the Project on all its stages. Let this beginning to be lucky one and open door for many other cross-border cooperation projects.”

Dr. Leonid Bujor the representative of the Prime Minister Office said: „Let me pass to you all the sincere congratulations on behalf of the prime-minister Iurie Leanca. H.E. expressed his utmost support to the extraordinary project. Today's event is held at 3 week distance from the Vilnius Summit, as another obvious expression of the European aspiration of the Republic of Moldova”.

The Launching Event was closed with fantastic performance of the „Rapsozii Tineri” Orchestra lead by Mr. Panainte, which offered to the attending audience unforgettable emotions.



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## Second Investment Forum held by Agency of Regional Development (Odessa) in Izmail, within project MIS-ETC 1214, 9-10 October, 2013

The Second International Investment Forum «Danube+» within the project MIS-ETC 1214 «Creation of favourable investment climate in border regions of Ukraine and Romania» financed under the Joint Operational Programme Romania- Ukraine- Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 took place in Izmail city, on 9-10<sup>th</sup> of October 2013. The event was organized by the NGO «Agency of Regional Development» (Odessa, Ukraine) together with Iasi County Council (Iasi, Romania).

More than 300 representatives of authorities and SMEs from the cities of Ukrainian Danube region, namely Kiliya, Bolgrad, Vilkoovo and Reni participated at the Forum.

Within the framework of the Forum presentations on investment potential of Izmail, Reni, Kiliya, Bolgrad districts and Izmail city were conducted and trainings on marketing support of attracting investments process for the heads of enterprises and SMEs of all

districts of Ukrainian Danube region were organized.

Entrepreneurs and guests of the forum got unique opportunity to get expert advice on attracting investments and preparing investment proposals in accordance with European Commission standards free of charge. All participants had the opportunity to communicate with key experts in investment sector, present their projects and receive consultations. Discussing legal aspects of registration of foreign investment and presenting the catalogue of investment projects elaborated within the project implemented within Ro-Ua-Md Programme were the key aspects which attracted attention of numerous participants.

Participation at this kind of forum events undoubtedly will contribute to development of business partnership with foreign investors in Ukraine.



## Second forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Bucharest, 28-29 October, 2013

The Government of Romania and the European Commission organized in Bucharest, at the Parliament Palace, the second forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Forum. Over 900 invitees from the political, academic, associative and business environments in the 14 countries, as well as from other states attended this forum.

The Forum in Bucharest provided an adequate framework for meetings and substantive contacts between stakeholders in the Danube region and its results showed the interest of the countries involved in an intensified European territorial cooperation, which in turn would show in economic growth and more jobs in all states participating in the Danube Strategy (EUSDR).

During the forum, the Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta underscored the importance of translating the Strategy into pragmatic projects, bridges linking the countries crossed by the

Danube, projects that should turn to good account the transport and economic development opportunities. "Sharing the same vision of the region's development, we wish to be able to speak in the coming years of a prosperous Danube region, a region of growth," stated the head of the Romanian Government.

The European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, spoke of the fact that the EUSDR is already producing effects: "400 projects have already been channeled through the priority area coordinators, worth 49 billion Eur. These macro regions are already proving that they can create added value." Moreover, the European official stated that efforts need to be made to improve competitiveness in the region and efficiently pursue the goals of the next financial programming stage. "Member states must take into account the Danube Strategy as they plan the next generation of



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova  
CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

regional policy programmes. We have already seen some good examples in Partnership Agreements. Now we need to ensure that the Operational Programmes for 2014-2020 take the Danube Strategy fully on board. And looking further ahead, it is for the regions and states of the Danube to reflect together on what is needed in the longer term. This Forum is an opportunity to think about the future. Get involved, not only in the plenary sessions, but in the workshops, and the side events!" said Johannes Hahn.

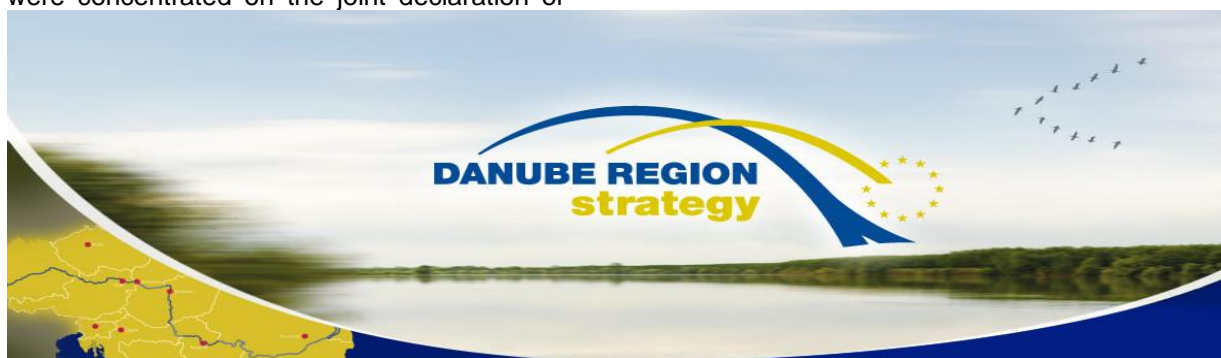
The forum comprised three Plenary sessions, with key EUSDR actors reflecting on the state of play and future outlook: 1) *Stronger in the world: The Danube Strategy as driver for growth, jobs and global impact*, 2) *Stronger together: The Danube Strategy balancing economy and ecology*, 3) *Financing the Danube Strategy*. Four parallel thematic workshops were developed, providing a space for an interactive exchange of experiences and opinions on issues such as ownership of the EUSDR, its multi-level governance, effective implementation of initiatives and possible funding sources.

The specific results of the Bucharest forum were concentrated on the joint declaration of

the Danube foreign ministers, the conclusions agreed upon and the main directions of action to be followed by the ministers of regional development, who met for the first time on the occasion of the Danube Forum. It was agreed that ensuring the financing resources from European funds in the next period for the Danube Strategy is essential and to accomplish this it is necessary to embed the goals of the Strategy in operational programs, and also to earmark funds from national and regional budgets, to attract private funds and determine greater involvement of the financial institutions.

As Mr. Omar Al-Rawi, representative of the City Council of Vienna, announced, Vienna will be the host of the 3rd Forum of the EUSDR, next year.

Five new large scale projects have started the implementation after signing a grant contract with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration of Romania, the Managing Authority of the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007 – 2013. Here it is a short presentation of the projects.



## Interact Annual Conference, Athens, 12-13 November, 2013



The 6th INTERACT ENPI annual conference, organised together with DG DEVCO and the EEAS, took place on 12-13 November 2013 in Athens, in a crucial moment both for the present and the future of cross-border cooperation at the EU's external borders. In light of the topics discussed and in order to allow for targeted discussions, representatives from both member states and partner countries participated at this conference.

The generous agenda offered the floor for extensive discussions about the ENPI CBC programmes including facts and figures picturing the implementation status, outcomes of the Result Oriented Monitoring Missions undertaken for CBC programmes, some lessons learned and preliminary results. Increasing capitalisation of the results

achieved or about to be achieved by the ENPI CBC programs, celebration of 2013 European Cooperation Day among member and partner countries were subjects of great interest among the participants.

The annual conference was also an ideal platform to receive first-hand information about the next programming period 2014 – 2020. The European Neighbourhood Instrument strategy, the current state of negotiation of the ENI Regulation and key features of the updated ENI CBC Programming Document were presented to the participants. It is expected that ENI regulation and Common Implementing Rules to be adopted early in 2014, while the programmes will have to wait until the summer of 2014 for the Programming Document; on the other hand, the new joint operational



programmes must be submitted to the European Commission, by the end of 2014.

Important aspects concerning implementation of the future ENI CBC programmes (e.g. main changes to the implementing rules, important updates on the future management and control systems, feedback after consultations held during the summer with all the partner countries in what concerns their new and extended responsibilities) were pointed out by the representatives of the European Commission and Interact.

Three parallel workshops with special focus on responsibilities to be fulfilled by the participating countries were organised in order to properly respond to all the needs and put into practice the lessons already learnt by the CBC programmes. It was a practical exercise allowing participants to take a step back and put into perspective all the challenges and difficulties that programmes had to cope with since 2007-2013 financial exercise has started.

## Evaluation meeting European Cooperation Day 2013, Amsterdam, 20 November, 2013

Representatives of the cross-border and trans-national programmes implemented all over Europe together with INTERACT and Interact ENPI staff gathered on 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2013, in Amsterdam, for the follow up meeting of the 2013 European Cooperation Day campaign.

Participants were given the opportunity to share their results and discuss the future format of the European Cooperation Day.

It turned out that among the 61 cooperation programmes involved in this year's campaign, Ro-Ua-Md Programme was very active with a total of 14 local events and 1 online contest organized within the period 10-28<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify the useful communication instruments which can be adapted for the next year's campaign. As for 2013 and the following editions of the European Cooperation Day, here are some important features to be capitalized: ECDay mobile application for a better approach within "I Am part of It" campaign, use of social media channels - Facebook and Twitter, involvement of the beneficiaries, use of storytelling, etc.

The meeting ended with group discussions over the date and format, internal communication and preparation of the events with the view to follow the same scope: to inform about the benefits of cooperation, to attract media and to involve stakeholders, beneficiaries and general public.



## Large Scale Projects (LSP) status

### **1. The prevention and protection against floods in the upper Siret and Prut River Basins, through the implementation of a modern monitoring system with automatic stations – EAST AVERT**

The Romanian Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change will be for a period of 22 months the lead partner within this large scale project that will handle a budget of 9,278,000 EUR from which 8,318,200 EUR represents EU funding.

As **general objective**, the project, that gathers 8 partners from all three countries,

aims to protect the border areas in the upper Siret and Prut River Basins against the flood risk, other natural dangerous hazards of water cycle and accidental pollutions and to reduce the environmental, economic and social vulnerability of targeted localities from the border region against flood risk.

The water authorities (Water Basins Authorities) from Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, the representatives of environmental protection institutions (local and regional Environmental Protection Agencies, Non Governmental Organizations) and political authorities from the Ministry of Environment



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova  
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and Climate Change and the Ministry of Health from Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldavia, which are implicated in the flood risk management, prevention of natural or manmade disasters, real time information dissemination represent the **target group** of the project.

Among the **main results** of the project are: the development of a modern integrated monitoring and warning system to protect localities and population living in the border areas of Prut and Siret River Basins; long-term development of the integrated approach to prevent and protect localities and population against floods, by a strategic land development planning taking into consideration the flood hazard and vulnerability/risk maps; elaboration of the „River Basin Protection Plan against ice-floods, hydrological drought, accidents occurred at the hydro technical constructions” through the cooperation of the responsible stakeholders on the territory of Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova; the improvement in the management of the floods, accidental pollutions in the river basin and quality of the water resources, for the prevention of emergency situations; the adjustment and implementation of the national strategy for the fight against flood risk.

Through these actions, the local authorities from the areas with high vulnerability in case of flood events or related potential pollution events will be better protected, and also a better protection of the cultural, historical and natural protected areas patrimony within these river basins will be ensured.

## **2. Cross border infrastructure (communication infrastructure between Romania and Republic of Moldova)**

The Romanian Ministry of Transportation, represented by “Telecomunicatii CFR” together with the Ministries of Internal Affairs from Republic of Moldova and Romania and the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications from Republic of Moldova is implementing this 23 months project with a total budget of 5,225,000 EUR.

The **general objective** of the project is to increase cooperation capacity of the information exchange on the public authorities of Romania and Republic of Moldova cross border area, trough the implementation of an integrated communication system.

Main **expected results** of the project are: the development in Republic of Moldova of one Radio Communication backbone between Chisinau - Cahul and Chisinau - Palanca, the Romanian Digital transmission network between Iasi and Galati upgraded, 2 interconnections of the networks in an

integrated telecommunication system in two direction: Iasi - Chisinau, and Galati – Giurgiulesti, one integrated communication system established in the eligible area, 11 people trained in project management, 10 people trained in specific technical fields that will ensure maintenance and management of telecom.

As a first step the project has established the project teams for each partner. In the coming period the Procurement and installation of equipments by the Lead Partner and Procurement and execution of works by Partner 1 (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Rep. of Moldova); are planned to be performed these equipments will lead to the upgrade of the digital transmission of the existing network on the Romanian side and the establishment of radio communication backbone on the Moldavian side of the border which will be linked with the Romanian network.

## **3. Interconnection gas pipeline between the Natural Gas Transmission System of Romania and the Natural Gas Transmission System of the Republic of Moldova on the Iasi (Romania) – Ungheni (Moldova) direction**

The project is implemented by the National Agency for Mineral Resources from Romania, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova.

The **general objective** of the project is to ensure a higher level of energy security for the Republic of Moldova and for the eastern part of Romania by diversifying the sources of gas supply.

The project will be implemented in 17 months with a total budget of 26,496,378.27 Euro, which 7,000,000.00 Euro (26.42%) are provided by the European Union through Ro-Ua-Md Programme.

Economic agents, household consumers, providers of essential social services, as medical assistance or child care, of educational activities or other social services and charitable will benefit from the **main results** of the project are: ensured energy security within the cross-border region Iasi - Ungheni, improved infrastructure conditions to increase the socio-economic development of the border region, attractive investment and economic condition for revitalization of industry sector in Ungheni District and Iasi County areas, installed interconnection high pressure gas pipeline Ungheni-Iasi.

Günther Oettinger, the European Commissary for Energy together with the Romanian and Moldovan Prime Ministers participated at the inauguration ceremony of the works for the pipeline.



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#### 4. Feasibility Study on Synchronous Interconnection of Ukrainian and Moldovan Power Systems to ENTSO-E Continental European Power System

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Economy of Republic of Moldova, in partnership with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment of Romania and Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine.

The **aim** of the project is to support the connection of UA/MD electrical network with ENTSO-E CE electrical network through analyzes of the technical, organizational and legal possible obstacles.

The implementing period of the project is 22 months and the total budget is 7,067,376.80 Euro, which 6,360,639.12 Euro (90%) are provided by the European Union through Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007-2013.

The **main results** of the project are: enhanced utilization of border crossing energy network and increased electricity interconnection, fostered locally based activities in the fields of power generation based on renewable energy sources building, operation and maintenance, network development and maintenance, encouraged SMEs in the area in the fields of power generation based on renewable energy sources building, operation and maintenance and of services for network building and maintenance.

Among the **final beneficiaries** of the project are the Ministry of Economy of Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment of Romania and Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine.

#### 5. Inventory, Assessment and Remediation of Anthropogenic Sources of Pollution in the Lower Danube Region of Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova

The project will be implemented by the Odessa State Department for Environmental Protection of Ukraine, in partnership with Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea of Ministry of Environmental Of Protection from

Ukraine, Institute of Market Problems and Economic and Ecological Research, National Academy of Sciences from Ukraine, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration from Romania, Association for Cross Border Cooperation Lower "Danube Euroregion" Galati from Romania, Eco Counselling Centre, Galati from Romania and Environmental Pollution Prevention Office of the Ministry of Environmental of Moldova from Republic of Moldova.

The **overall objective** of the project is to reduce the environmental impact of chemical dumps and wastewater discharges in the Lower Danube region as well as enhance environmental monitoring of soil and water pollution and make the information publicly available.

The project will be implemented in 36 months and the total budget is 5,819,540.00 Euro, which 5,181,782.42 Euro (89,04%) are provided by the European Union through Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007-2013.

The project will deliver the following **improvements** for the inventory, assessment and remediation of anthropogenic sources of pollution in the Lower Danube Region of Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova: increased capacity and experience for cross-border cooperation, as well as management of EU- funded projects; GIS created of sources and types of soil and water pollution in the Lower Danube region; WWT facilities established in Vilkovo, capable of treating 900m<sup>3</sup>/day, expanding the coverage from 1,200 to about 8,200 people; equipment for monitoring and reducing pollution procured, installed and operational; regional centre for ecological studies set up in Odessa; design of a centre for management of hazardous waste in Chisinau; risk assessment undertaken for sources of soil and water pollution in the project area; cross-border strategy for remediation of high risk sources of pollution formulated and put in place; public information service web site operational and at least 400 stakeholders participated in project workshops, seminars and conferences, raising awareness concerning issues of soil and water pollution.

The final beneficiaries of the project are: consumers, educational organizations (schools, universities), elderly people, local authorities, research organizations.



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova  
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## Preparing the new ENI CBC Programmes

The European Commission and the European External Action Service has already officially launched the ENI CBC 2014-2020 programming exercise, inviting the Programmes stakeholders to start the programming process. Despite on-going uncertainty over the timing of the regulatory framework, countries are already starting to prepare the future programmes.

### ➤ Legal Framework

The new ENI Regulation laying down the provisions for the future of cross border cooperation were adopted by the College of Commissioners on 7 of December. The approval of the ENI Regulations and Implementing rules is scheduled for early 2014.

### ➤ Special geographical conditions.

The new ENI CBC Programmes will be established for *land borders*, covering the territorial units corresponding to NUTS level 3 along the land border; for *maritime borders*, covering the territorial units corresponding to NUTS level 3 along maritime border; *around a sea basin*, covering the coastal territorial units corresponding to NUTS level 2. In addition, programme may extend to include adjoining regions, as well as major social, economic or cultural centres, if there is a real benefit for the core eligible areas.

### ➤ List of Programmes

The next generation of ENI CBC programmes will include 17 programmes (12 land border, 1 sea-crossing and 4 sea basin). Most of the programmes are a continuation of the previous co-operation under the 2007-2013 ENPI Programmes, while some trilateral programmes have been spited into bilateral once at the request of the governments of the countries concerned. As well, one new programme, Mid Atlantic, will join the ENI CBC family.

### ➤ Strategic and Thematic Objectives

For the next ENI CBC Programmes 2014-2020, European Commission proposed for discussions 3 strategic and 10 thematic objectives. Each CBC programme will focus on minimum 1 strategic and maximum 4 thematic objectives. Within this framework, it will be the task of local programme partners to analyse the needs in the programme area and to identify thematic objectives and priorities which are relevant to their local circumstances.

### ➤ Shared management principle

The programming process for the CBC ENI Programmes will be very difficult and comprehensive process since it requires a high level implication from the Partner Countries and major reforms to be implemented in terms of those areas considered by the EC as crucial for implementation of "Shared management principle", namely: programme management, control system, programme audit and recovery process. In this respect, Partner Countries have to set up a reliable counterpart system that will support the Managing Authority in the implementation of the Programme on its territory.

### ➤ Budget allocation

The budget to be allocated for ENI CBC Programmes most probably will be close to 5% of total ENI financial envelope, because of the big pressure on budget notably from Syria crises. Because of the needs and absorptive capacity of the sea basin programmes, an increase of budget proportion for these programmes is foreseen.

### ➤ State of play

Countries are already started to prepare future programmes. Joint Programming Committees (JPCs) of 16 programmes have been already set up. To date, 13 Managing Authorities and 5 Audit Authorities have been appointed. While waiting for the consolidated version of the programming document, several issues have been already discussed by the JPCs: core and adjoining regions, thematic objectives and Large Investment Projects. For the Romania-Ukraine and Romania-Republic of Moldova ENI programmes, the Romanian Ministry of Development and Public Administration was appointed as managing Authority.

The way to new generation of CBC Programmes is very challenging and offer new opportunities and perspectives. Only the common understanding of the responsibilities and the performance of the relevant activities by all participating countries will lead to the expected result.



Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova  
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## A project financed by the Joint Operational Programme Romania- Ukraine- Republic of Moldova 2007- 2013 awarded the Grand Prize at the Second Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress (EEIC), Lublin, Poland

In frameworks of the Second Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress (EEIC) organized in Lublin, Poland on 1-6 of October 2013 it was conducted the Contest for the best projects of cross-border cooperation. The main objective of this contest is to develop cross-border cooperation and to exchange good practices and experiences in the field of project initiatives of development nature implemented in the area of Eastern Europe.

One Grand Prize and Honourable Mentions were given in each of the 7 categories of the Contest (good governance, civil society, culture, tourism, education, corporate social responsibility, social innovations). In the category "tourism" the Grant Prize has been awarded to the Project "Breaking the Borders: Mountain Tourism Development" with MIS ETC cod 786 co-financed by EU through Joint Operational Program Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013. The Project was implemented by Chernivtsi City Public Organization "Business Center" (Lead partner) in cooperation with Humanitarian Foundation "Clopot" and CRPYEO "Bukvitsa". The EU grant of the project is EUR 334 645,05.

This project has been implemented in order to improve the socio-economic development of rural regions, stimulate the emerging of new cross-border touristic enterprises, present the common touristic potential of Bukovyna for the communities, facilitate the cross-border cooperation and relations between the people, government and business sector in the mountain rural territory, orientate the communities of rural territories and local administrations to the interconnection of cultural traditions and tourism, strengthen the cross border exchange of cultures and ideas.

During the project implementation (May 03, 2012 – October 02, 2013) all the planned results have been achieved. Training for the Ukrainian trainers of the rural mountain tourism, opening of the informational center in Chernivtsi, 157 persons trained by the new Ukrainian specialists in the field of mountain rural tourism, 144 persons attending Suceava county for experience exchange, a competition for the best cross-border touristic route among youth, a "caravan of journalists" which took the winning route are the main results of this project. Moreover, about 30 persons started the activity of personal rural farming, and the existing entrepreneurs have extended their range of services.

The project "Breaking the Borders: Mountain Tourism Development" played a significant role for improvements in the sector of rural mountain tourism in Bukovyna. It has demonstrated the potential which is ready to be used and the direction of development. The use of cross-border experience is another necessary factor for effective progress of rural regions and small entrepreneurship.



### Our best wishes and good health for the New Year!



*As always, at the end of the year, we are thinking about our achievements and, above this, to our future and how to face new beginnings.*

*We make promises ourselves and to our beloved ones, wishing everyone to be stronger, healthy and lucky.*

*The entire "family" of the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Ukraine - Republic of Moldova 2007 - 2013, wishes you to enjoy every moment and to be blessed in the years that will come.*

***Happy New Year 2014!***



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