

Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue

Final Report

CPV Code 79952100-3

Contract No. 04 from 06.09.2017


*Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue
Connecting people, projects and institutions through capacity building*

Client
*Project implementation Unit by the Austrian Development Agency, the
project 'Danube Connects'*

Contract
*CPV Code 79952100-3
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1 Introduction

General information

The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova, the Coordination of Priority Area “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” and the Foster Europe – Foundation for strong European Regions organised the “Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue” in Chisinau (MD) on the 26th and 27th of October 2017. This event is a pilot initiative of the Donors’ Conference Framework for the Danube Region.

The Donors’ Conference Framework is developed by the coordination of Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” together with regional, national, macro-regional and international partners. The framework serves as a format that gathers project promoters and public as well as private funding organisations in order to promote communication and mutual understanding between needs and opportunities. Furthermore, the framework aims at initiating the communication among funding organisations to contribute to a better coordination. The Donors’ Conference Framework and our implemented pilot event is capitalising on the findings of the Danube Financial Dialogues and is based on the outcomes of the discussions at the first National Participation Day in Chisinau in 2016.

Background

The prepared event was a combination of the previously organised 5 Danube Financing Dialogues and the national Participation Days (in order to use the synergies of both events.)

The overall rationale of the event was to promote cooperation in the Danube Region through exchange and better coordination between project promoters and financial institutions (public and private). Based on the experiences of the DFDs, the pilot conference of the Donors Conference framework was supposed to establish connections between project promoters and EU funds as well as private donors and other public donors (e.g. development cooperation).

Metis GmbH signed responsible for organising the event and the whole project period consisted of four separate contracts.

2 Content and Overview

The new concept of Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue, which started as an idea in 2016 by merging the experiences of the Danube Financing Dialogues and the concept of the Participation days in the context of the EUSDR was implemented successfully. The need of such an event was highly supported by all participants and speakers. The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova, the Coordination of Priority Area “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” and the Foster Europe – Foundation for strong European Regions formed the right framework for a dialogue, new connections and even future potential projects to be implemented by the participants together.

For the first time, a regional Danube dialogue took place. Republic of Moldova was chosen as a priority partner country in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its eastern regional dimension, the Eastern Partnership.

The aim of the event was to bring together local and regional key stakeholders, public and private (financing) institutions, NGOs, involved in the development of capacity building on all levels of the Republic of Moldova as part of the Danube Region. This event provided a platform for discussion assessing needs and challenges of project promoters and gave an overview on different funding sources (public and private) in the Region, enhancing the capacities of cooperation between participant actors and stakeholders.

The conference was dedicated to the macro-regional initiatives and the presentations referred to the previous practice of cooperation with Danube-countries / organizations / macro-regional project initiatives.

Day 1

The host, Vasile Batca, the Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, said in his opening speech that the region shows great potential. This applies in particular to the energetic, IT and agricultural sectors in Moldova, where high expectations are held for the coming years.

Rudolf Schicker, , who together with Metis GmbH organizes the dialogue and coordinates the Priority Area 10 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, emphasised that Republic of Moldova has adopted a number of reforms, but needs to undertake further efforts in implementing its commitments under the Association Agreement with the European Union. He underlined on the important role that regionalization plays in the process of getting closer to the EU.

The support of Austria to Moldova was amplified by the speech of Mrs. Christine Freiling, who is the Austrian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

The cross-border approach broad a larger impact through the inputs offered by Mr. Daniel Ionita, who is the Romanian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

The voice of EU and the support of EU to Moldova was guaranteed by the speech of Mr. Aneil Singh, who is the Head of Operations at the European Union Delegation to Moldova and the video message recorded by Mrs. Lena Andersson Pench, the Director at the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission. The general message underlined the issue of the need to improving the communication among Moldovian stakeholders and providing ideas for developing new projects together. ” I am sure that Moldovian stakeholders will greatly benefit from this initiative, therefore it is very important that for the first time this dialogue is organised in a neighbourhood country fostering the regional integration of Moldova and Ukraine as well.

Without local support, cooperation projects will not be realised. These projects are the real motor of cooperation and regional integration. The different levels of governance depend on each other's and it's crucial that the knowledge and the institutional capacity are present at all levels. The first steps to success therefore is to bring together local and regional key stakeholders, public and private financing institutions and civil society organisations which are all involved in the development of the capacity building in this region. "

The four blocks of the first day conference were running under the mottos: 'The need for a dialogue between donors and project promoters: a regional approach within the EUSDR', 'Donors, Funding Sources, Instruments – Enhancing coordination and communication', 'Think tank on Capacity Building – Best Practice from Romania – Expert Forum Bucharest', and 'Governance, partnership and cooperation – for fostering regional development'.

Mr. Antonio Castillo, the Head of European Investment Bank Representation to Moldova and Mr. Marius Niculae who is the Project Officer at the Danube Transnational Programme gave new impetus to the already existing, but often unknown, funding sources for project promoters. Information and know-how on how to meet the needs and challenges in the Danube region, access funding and have an overview of the possibilities of innovative financial instruments were exchanged.

Other speakers contributed as well with best practice sharing and with presentations underlining the needs of the region.

Day 2

The second day of the event, "the Participation day" started with a plenary session, continuing with 3 simultaneous panels, with one moderator per panel. The event ended with a plenary session where conclusions and recommendations from each panel were presented to the auditorium. Besides the plenary session, face-to-face meetings were observed in the breaks of the working groups, were concrete innovative project ideas were discussed.

The common opinion that prevailed was that regardless of the different financing options, a project simply has to be good to survive. This two days event has shown the way forward on how to increase institutional capacity and create a fruitful ground for good cooperation in the region.

The event:

- Identified the needs of the project promoters and further stakeholders in terms of decreasing cooperation barriers
- Improved the cooperation and coordination between public as well as private donors and project promoters and initiated communication among donor organisations in Moldova
- Provided in-deph information on the updates in the Danube Strategy
- Provided know-how through best-practice examples from Romania, Austria, Germany in order to increase capacities for cooperation in regional development

Two substantially successful days came to an end – with the hope for a sequel. In his closing statement, Mr. Rudolf Schicker from the PA10 expressed his wish for a future regional dialogue to be organized. He secured the support with establishing contacts with relevant institutions interested in the continuation of this pilot initiative. In his closing

speech, Mr. Stefan August Lütgenau, Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF), being one of the co-organisers of the event pointed to the possibility of hosting the next Dialogue in Odessa, Ukraine. The first discussions in this respect are expected to be held beginning 2018.

3 Danube Financing and Capacity Dialogue in figures

In the following, the most relevant numbers for the Danube Financing and Capacity Dialogue are presented in figures. A more detailed summary of participants, institutions and participating countries is highlighted in a separate excel file (list of participants DFCBD).

The two days event hosted 90 participants in total. The initially agreed target was 80 participants.

The target country for participation was Moldova. However, participants from Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine attended the event as well. Representatives from Romanian, Slovakian, Hungarian and Bulgarian embassies attended the event.

As ranking of interested parties, the highest number of participants were coming from public authorities (35). The following category of interested bodies were the NGOs (23). Next in the ranking are the 9 companies which attended the event. 7 universities / institutes, 5 financial institutions, 3 delegates from the EU delegation to Moldova, 3 persons from chambers of commerce and 2 Priority Area Coordinators were present at the event.

Feedback questionnaires analysis (11 questionnaires were filled out by participants)

Suggestions from the participants on future organisation of events of the same format:

- More local participants;
- When another event of this type will be organized and it will be focused on environment, to take into consideration other stakeholders like Apele Moldovei, Agency Moldsilva;
- In the discussions of a potential future event to focus some presentations also on the management of the PAs in the context of the EUSDR;
- For the next events, to prepare more leave leaflets, informative papers in the coffee break area so people can take the informative material with them;
- More emphasis on practical tools, step by step guidance;
- More involvement of NGOs best practice;
- More time for questions and answers session;
- Manage the timing of the speeches in a more careful way.

4 Recommendations parallel panels

The second day of the event started with a plenary session and continued with three parallel working panels on different subjects. These three parallel panels reflected the needs for development in Moldova and provided some insight in the strategic planning. Stakeholders presented examples of initiatives, instruments or projects. The presentations and discussions explored the potential for better coordination and communication between policy actors, donors of different funding instruments and project promoters. All presentations and pictures were distributed one week after the event took place via the following web link: <http://metis-vienna.eu/en/projects/danube-financing-and-capacity-building-dialogue/>

4.1 Parallel Panel 1 - 'Sustainability'

The Parallel Panel 1 was held under the topic of 'Sustainability' and was moderated by Mr. Valentin Ciubotaru, Executive director of the active NGO BIOS in Chisinau, Moldova.

The speakers paid special attention to the needs, strategic planning and examples of initiatives from different donors in their presentations, such as:

- Genuine participation – the best practice to achieve sustainability;
- Good practices in partnership, coordination and communication between stakeholders in tourism industries in the Republic of Moldova;
- Co-financing of tourism projects in Moldova;
- Activities and experience in achieving important strategic objectives for Moldova's agriculture;
- Promoting integrated water resources management in Moldova on tributaries of Prut river;
- Republic of Moldova – Mainstreaming environment and promoting green economy as good governance tool for mobilizing internal funds and attracting foreign investments;
- Experiences in the creation of the "Prutul de Jos" biospheres' area.

The parallel working group finalised with the following recommendations to be taken into consideration as future initiatives:

- Finalizing and approving the Roadmap for promoting the green economy in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020;
- Ensure continuity of the work of the:
 - Inter-ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Development and the Green Economy;
 - the Sustainable Development Council of the Prime Minister;
 - Designated National Authority;
 - Commissions for River Basins Management;
 - Working Groups and Commissions for implementation of Conventions to which the RM is a party;
- Integration of SD principles and green economy priorities in NDS 2030, sectorial strategies (agriculture, transport, education);
- Applying the Green Growth Indicators set to assess country performance and achieve ODD;

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- Ensuring funding for SD and Green Economy(internal, external);
 - The state must ensure a favourable climate for attracting the various funding of initiatives promoted by the associative sector. In the case of projects already attracted by NGOs, it would be salutary for the state to take the example of European countries and to apply co-financing and pre-financing instruments for projects attracted and carried out by the non-governmental sector. Alternatively, other ways to support such initiatives must be considered;
 - To stimulate scientific research, technological development, innovation and technological change, they being the most important source of structural change of the economy;
 - To allocate time and resources for participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation for a real transition in human attitudes toward the environment, and a shift in behaviour; to include all interested parties in all stages of the projects' cycle;
 - To create a learning environment in all initiatives;
 - Coordination of actions among local, national and regional initiatives and projects;
 - To develop and implement the program of measures for implementation of the provisions of the EU environmental Directives in the region.

4.2 Parallel Panel 2 - 'Inclusiveness'

The Parallel Panel 2 was held under the topic of 'Inclusiveness' and was moderated by Mr. Stefan August Lütgenau, Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF) from Austria. He is also one of the co-organisers of the DFCBD.

He underlined the idea that the concept of creating such a dialogue raised with Mrs. Daniela Urschitz from the PA 10 and Oxana Paierele last year (2016) in the house of the writers' league in Chisinau is now turned into reality thanks to the Moldavian and Austrian Partners.

The speakers of the parallel session paid attention to the social inclusion and innovation dimensions for discussion.

- Trends in Moldovan Migration 2010 to 2015 – underlined an integrated overview for Moldovan migrants and their families;
- Trans-sectoral Cooperation;
- Social inclusiveness in the framework of Sustainable Development;
- Facilitating access to finance for small and medium-sized farmers enterprises via microfinance institutions;
- Experience of Lozova village to integrate migrants into community development, including the development of the Local Development Strategy for 2016 – 2020;
- Challenges and Opportunities of insurance companies in Moldova.

As conclusions of this parallel panel, must be underlined following ideas. Currently, Moldova has to meet a number of challenges at the same time. Transformation, building up infrastructure soft (education) and hard (transport, energy water) social and economic development, legal stabilization, political stabilization, defining its place in Europe – all must be taken into account. This process involves a wide variety of actors inside and outside the country. Administration and Government, the parties and the parliament and the judiciary, business, academia, and civil society and not least the citizens themselves.

From the set of challenges, Moldova needs both income generating investments as well as non-profit making social investments. To keep the country stable and further develop it as nation in this turbulent times a balanced approach considering both aspects is needed.

While the investment in a professional training for youngsters that finished school may pay off within a short time in qualified investment, resulting in better jobs, resulting in higher income resulting in less migration etc. etc. – the Government should not forget to build the human and the social capital to reach out to the people with their burning problems and to rebuild or foster cohesion within the country.

The social and human capital was and is the very basis of the economic success of nations like Switzerland, Austria or Sweden, that were more or less poor countries at the turn to the last century. This was compared to rich oil nations like Saudia Arabia and Norway and was asked the question why they developed so differently. (While one country has a female prime minister, the other will allow women to drive cars from next March 2018 on).

One aspect that is common to all challenges is the need for a certain quality and quantity of financing. This is why was jointly developed the concept of a Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue encompassing all kinds of stakeholders:

- the national ministries and agencies
- the EU and UN programs
- the private business sector
- and the civil society sector.

The civil society sector is a token for their important role especially in building up the soft capital so much needed in Moldova. As concluding remarks, was stated that Moldova needs to not only align the funds and coordinate on sides inside and outside of the country, but it also needs to align and coordinate the actors and the various levels of the societies engaged.

This must be done consequently in an open, transparent and regular manner with a well-placed communication strategy to get the citizens informed and on board the DFCBD can pave the way to success. This is wanted for Moldovians and its people - a successful and peaceful development in a wider European framework.

4.3 Parallel Panel 3 - 'Growth'

The Parallel Panel 3 was held under the topic of 'Growth' and was moderated by Mr. Franz Tödting who is Professor of multi-level governance and development at the University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria.

The aim of this panel was to explore needs and barriers for sustainable regional growth in Moldova, and to provide insight for strategic planning and for a better coordination between involved actors. There were five presentations and a lively discussion to the following topics: Barriers and disparities for growth and development from a regional perspective, evolution of microbusiness and policy for SMEs, human capital and capacity building in the public administration, design and implementation of regional innovation centers, and problems of governance and cross border cooperation between Ukraine (Odessa) and Moldova. The following key findings and conclusions could be drawn from the presentations and discussions:

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- The regional divides are strong in Moldova, in particular between the capital region of Chisinau and the rest of country which is mostly rural and peripheral. These rural regions are lacking good infrastructure in transport and ICT, and they have a low accessibility to services such as schools, universities, business- and social services. The potential for growth is therefore low in these regions. This situation could be improved through a planning- and policy approach that targets well the specific needs and the potentials of these areas, and that integrates successfully the various economic- and infrastructure sectors. A concentration of such efforts in medium-sized cities seems to be useful.
 - Microfirms and SMEs can be dynamic drivers of growth and indeed, there has been strong growth of such firms and employment in Moldova in recent years. However, this growth was strongly concentrated in the capital region and in a few selected sectors such as IT. In general, SMEs face many growth barriers such as lack of finance, inadequate infrastructure and regulation problems. Recommendations for improving the situation should focus on the regulatory environment (clear and less regulation), tax reductions for SMEs and start-ups, and an improvement of infrastructure (ICT, incubators, education). The establishment of innovation centers in medium sized centers such as Balti, and the cooperation between universities, business and government, is therefore considered as a promising approach.
 - Raising the human capital and qualifications of the population and of employees, including those in the public sector, should be another priority. This helps to improve the business- and administrative processes, and might support innovation in the Moldovan economy and in politics. Good existing efforts were reported for the administrative sector in this regard, but a broadening of such efforts to other sectors of the economy and society seems to be needed. Problems that have to be dealt with include an adequate payment scheme for the qualified personnel in the public sector in order to avoid too much out-mobility and corruption. The expansion of and participation in international student exchange programs is regarded as a useful tool to learn from leading countries and education institutions, and to bring in foreign know-how in many fields.
 - For a small and less developed country such as Moldova the engagement in cooperations and networks can be another useful instrument for mobilizing external resources, experience and knowledge. This applies both to firms (business networks) and to the public sector and NGOs (policy networks). In particular cross-border networks are useful for coordinating infrastructure networks (in transport, communication etc.), development plans for nature reserves (Danube delta), and for overcoming problems of peripheral location. There are some good efforts and examples both with actors in Ukraine and Romania, and also the Danube region strategy process has helped to setup cross-border cooperations. A further strengthening of such activities is therefore suggested.

5 Follow-up and recommendations Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region aims to boost the development of the fourteen Danube countries and to support smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. With the launch of the Strategy, the question of how to implement its goals and how to finance the actions planned became highly relevant. In this context, there is a clear need of a Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue in Moldova. There is a continued need for networking facilities for project promoters and assistance to develop projects relevant for the implementation of the EUSDR (for both the private as well as the public sector). For both, early stage financing instruments for project developers are needed. On this basis possible ways for future implementation of the pilots will be discussed.

Recommendations for the follow up of the event in Moldova

The participants have received with great interest the idea of the Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue. They have found it as an opportunity to discuss in depth the issues of the Strategy in order to make a change for better coordination and communication to achieve higher impact of performed activities.

Change is most successful when the effort is driven by commitment. Participation of all layers of stakeholders catalyses the synergies and potentials behind the commitment and how this commitment can be translated into a significant action.

The participatory approaches in project development and implementation ensure sustainability and higher impact. That is why all donors currently require active participation, engagement of all stakeholders, including local people, communities, CSOs, researchers in project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue served as ideal platform to discuss EUSDR issues, including needs and challenges from different point of view, to share lessons learnt, good practices, the problems faced and the ways to overcome them.

The event served as a powerful tool to generate information and knowledge and assist in making choices and decisions. Big outcomes may be born out of small inputs, if the views, opinions and concerns of all stakeholders are taken into account.

As the Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue was a pilot project, now raises the question about the continuation of these initiative and under what form.

The Recommendations summarizes future potential implementation models for the Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue.

Our proposal is to develop a slightly new strategy for the same concept with the following main ideas for future events:

1. Organize a series of regional workshops (RW) in the major cities of Moldova (Balti, Cahul, Ungheni, Orhei) under same title, ending with one final conference in Chisinau
2. Focusing on specific topics (go regional)
3. Addressing more specific target groups
4. Involving new partners, more stakeholder in the preparation

The new concept of the DFCBD aims to foster discussion and exchange information around the implementation of the EUSDR in Moldova and of new models for public service delivery between cities, regions and project developers in Moldova.

Every RW will have a specific thematic focus linked to the priority axes of the EUSDR. Every session will always have a three dimensions- innovation, policy and finance.

- Current topic (thematically linked to the Priority Areas of the EUSDR)
- Topic with importance in the regional context
- To be well matched with the target group

Possible topics: waste management, water treatment, (cross-border) mobility and multimodality, housing, labour market issues across borders (recognition of diplomas, social security etc), health (health concepts for a wider region, access to health services etc), smart city strategies (exchange between cities, export of technologies etc), disaster risk management and resilience,... .

Recommendations for the Governmental reform in Moldova

As for the strategic planning of Moldova, the capacity building will be improved only by aligning national strategies to the macro-regional priorities that match real needs in Moldova, pooling resources through mainstream programmes.

These priorities should stem from the Moldovan reforms and obligations vis-à-vis EU-legislation, finding these could be done with the help of line ministries in Moldova adding best practices and articulate macro-regional added value (concrete results). This will help to identify and distinguish between strategic priorities vs specific priorities. The Government must organize a Monitoring & Evaluation system – to make things transparent and measurable, upon which the stakeholders can use an Action plan for future priorities-setting: not forgetting the different perspectives, such as the bottom-up and government-driven and professional perspectives.

The overall prerequisite for success is structured governmental cooperation and the sustainability of started actions and the continuation of the started actions even after governmental change through instructing the public administration bodies.

The guiding principle should be the one of Multi-Level Governance. Possibly, the reform-implementing actors should undertake some efforts to bring forward the macro regional strategies -perspective in conversations with relevant authorities, as the part and parcel of country strategy. Seen from this broader, people-engagement-based political perspective, might shift their mind-set from the current position of “persuade me” to a more collaborative one, “how can I play my part”. For any actor to understand her “part”, a clearer picture of roles and responsibilities, as well as the place one has in the system, is desirable.

This said, structured governmental cooperation is an important perspective as such. This might include

- Inter-institutional cooperation;
- Coherent use of Monitoring & Evaluation system that enables regular reporting of results (specific and policy development-related) that clearly show the reform value added to the existing results recorded on national level;
- Integration on some planning level; systematic links/conversations international experts for the best practices transfer.

Annex 1. Agenda

Programme for the Danube Financing and Capacity Building Dialogue

Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, Mitropolit Varlaam 77 Street, Chisinau, MD

Day 1 –Cooperation, partnership and financial opportunities

Thursday 26th October 2017

09.00-09.30	Registration
09.30-10.15	Welcome and Opening (Conference room -Sala mare) Vasile Batca , Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova Rudolf Schicker , PA10 „Institutional Capacity Building“Coordinator EUSDR Christine Freilinger , Austrian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova Daniel Ionita , Romanian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova Aneil Singh , Head of Operations, European Union Delegation to Moldova Lena Andersson Pench , Director at the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission (video message) Moderator: Herta Tödtling-Schönhofer , Managing Director Metis GmbH
10.15-11.15	Conference Block 1 – The need for a dialogue between donors and project promoters: a regional approach within the EUSDR Alexander Karner , Head of Country Office at the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau, „Cooperation and synergies for the Danube Region “ Oxana Paierle , Head of the International Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the RM, „Synergies between existing policies and programmes “ Stefan August Lütgenau , Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF), „Alignment of funding and alignment of actions „ Iulia Petuhov , Executive Director Moldova Investment and Export Promotion Organization, „Overview on the business climate in Moldova “
11.15-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-12.45	Conference Block 2 – Donors, Funding Sources, Instruments – Enhancing coordination and communication Antonio Castillo , Head of European Investment Bank Representation to Moldova, „Cooperation of EIB with Danube-countries“ Matija Derk , EU High Level Adviser for regional development, „Attracting investment funding to regions - regional development perspective “ Marius V. Niculae , Project Officer, Danube Transnational Programme, „Danube Transnational Programme - financing instrument in the Danube Region “

	<p>Claudia Singer, Project Manager, PA10 Coordination, <i>“Lessons learned from project support in the Danube Region – The Danube Project Support Toolkit”</i></p> <p>Aurel Lozan, GEF (Global Environment Facility) / SGP (Small Grants Programme) National Steering Committee Moldova, <i>„SGP in Moldova: with small grants to great impacts “</i></p> <p>Anna Gherganova, PA9 Coordinator, <i>“Cooperation and coordination within PA9 of the EUSDR ”</i></p> <p>Moderator: Alexander Karner, Head of Country Office at the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	<p>Conference Block 3 – THINK TANK on Capacity Building – Best Practice from Romania – Expert Forum Bucharest</p> <p>Sorin Ionita, Expert administrative reforms and capacity building <i>Lessons about the public administration reform and capacity building from Romania</i> <i>Types of regional assistance projects and how Moldova can boost absorption</i> <i>SWOT Analysis of EUSDR in Moldova</i></p>
	<p>Tatiana Udrea, Expert Cross Border Cooperation Office, State Chancellery <i>„Cross border cooperation: past best practices and future new opportunities “</i></p>
15.30-15.45	Coffee Break
15.45-16.30	<p>Conference Block 4 – Governance, partnership and cooperation – for fostering regional development</p> <p>Igor Studennikov, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies, Odessa; Member of the DCSF Executive Committee, <i>„Cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova: achievements, opportunities and problems “</i></p> <p>Valeria Ieseanu, Programme Specialist, Inclusive Growth Cluster Lead, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), <i>„The importance of strong partnerships across public, private and non-profit sectors on national, regional and global levels in advancement of sustainable development “</i></p> <p>Viorica Cerbusca, Director „ResponsibleBusinessGeneration, “Moldova, <i>„Responsible Governance for a healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem “</i></p> <p>Moderator: Herta Tödtling-Schönhofer, Managing Director Metis GmbH</p>
16.30-16.45	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p>Rudolf Schicker, PA10 „Institutional Capacity Building“ Coordinator EUSDR</p>

Day 2 –Participation Day**Friday 27th October 2017**

09.30-10.00	Registration and Coffee					
10.00-10.30	Opening Session (Conference room (Sala mare)) Moderator: Natalia Moghilda , Expert in European Programmes, Transnational cooperation					
	Welcome and setting the scene Oxana Paierele , Head of the International Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the RM, „ <i>Progress in EUSDR promotion. Next steps.</i> “ Anatolii Usatfi , Ex EUSDR National Coordinator, Vice Minister at the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, „ <i>Achievements in EUSDR implementation. Opportunities for investments in infrastructure projects.</i> “ Valentin Ciubotaru , Executive Director, NGO BIOS					
10.30-15.30	PARALLEL PANELS – Needs, strategic planning and examples of initiatives from different donors These three parallel panels reflect needs for development in Moldova and provide some insight in strategic planning. Donors present examples of initiatives, instruments or projects. The presentations and discussions should explore the potential for better coordination and communication between policy actors, donors of different funding instruments and project promoters. <table><tr><td>PW 1: SUSTAINABILITY: Creating resilience <i>Conference room 1 (Sala mare)</i> Chair: Valentin Ciubotaru, Executive director, NGO BIOS</td><td>PW 2: INCLUSIVENESS: Social inclusion and innovation <i>Conference Room 2 Begonia</i> Chair: Stefan August Lütgenau, Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF)</td><td>PW 3: GROWTH: Making the most of public investment - governance and cooperation <i>Conference Room 3 Blu Lounge</i> Chair: Franz Tödtling, Professor multi-level governance and development at the University of Economics and Business, Vienna</td></tr></table>			PW 1: SUSTAINABILITY: Creating resilience <i>Conference room 1 (Sala mare)</i> Chair: Valentin Ciubotaru , Executive director, NGO BIOS	PW 2: INCLUSIVENESS: Social inclusion and innovation <i>Conference Room 2 Begonia</i> Chair: Stefan August Lütgenau , Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF)	PW 3: GROWTH: Making the most of public investment - governance and cooperation <i>Conference Room 3 Blu Lounge</i> Chair: Franz Tödtling , Professor multi-level governance and development at the University of Economics and Business, Vienna
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	<p>Background, context and strategic planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valentin Ciubotaru, Executive Director, NGO BIOS „<i>Genuine participation – the best practice to achieve Sustainability</i> “ • Gabriel Mărgineanu, President of the Patronate Associations of Tourism Industries from Republic of Moldova (APIT) • Marina Miron, Project Manager at the Association for Tourism Development in Moldova, „<i>Co-financing of tourism projects in Moldova</i> “ • Dumitru Drumea, National Coordinator „Global water partnership “, „<i>Experiences in the creation of the 'Prutul de Jos' biospheres area</i> “ 	<p>Background, context and strategic planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulrike Bruederle, Director IASCI, implementing agency of NEXUS Moldova, an integrated service provider for Moldovan migrants and their families. „<i>Trends in Moldovan Migration 2010 to 2015</i>” • Stefan Barth, Co-founder and Managing Director of Agapedia Germany, „<i>Trans-sectoral Cooperation</i> “ • Svetlana Andries, Programme Manager, UN Women Moldova, „<i>Social inclusiveness in the framework of the SDGs</i> “ 	<p>Background, context and strategic planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugen Roșcovanu, President of the Asociation SMEs Moldova (AMB), „<i>Evolution of microbusiness in the Republic of Moldova and the necessities for sustainable development of the Country</i> “ • Aurelia Țepordei, Director of the Professional Development Department, Academy of Public Administration of Moldova, „<i>Contribution of the Academy of Public Administration to the Consolidation of the Capacities of the Public Authorities</i> “ • Igor Studennikov, Executive Director of the Centre for Regional Studies, Odessa; Member of the DCSF Executive Committee, „<i>Building a multi-level governance and coordination system to make Ukraine an active participant in the Danube Strategy process</i> “
12.30-13.30	Lunch		
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrei Isac, President AO EcoContact „<i>Mainstreaming environment and</i> 	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vasile Mirzenco, Executive Director of the National Farmers Federation of Moldova, 	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Igor Cojocaru, Alecu Russo University, „<i>Concept of regional</i>

	<p><i>promoting green economy as good governance tool for mobilizing internal funds and attracting foreign investments.“</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamara Leah, Deputy Scientific Director at the Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection „N. Dîmo“, <i>„Activities and experience in achieving important strategic objectives for Moldova's agriculture“</i> • Iuliana Cantaragiu, Expert at the National Environmental Center (NEC), <i>„Promoting integrated water resources management in Moldova on tributaries of Prut river“</i> 	<p><i>„Facilitating access to finance for small and medium-sized farmers enterprises via microfinance institutions“</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liliana Dobler, Specialist of attracting investments and writing projects, Lozova Commune's Town Hall – <i>„The experience of Lozova village to integrate migrants into community development, including the development of the Local Development Strategy for 2016 – 2020. “</i> • Malcoci Veronica, Director General GRAWE CARAT, <i>“Challenges and Opportunities”</i> 	<p><i>innovation center Balti as best practice in Moldova“</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liliana Ivanova, Director Ukraine Odessa State Administration Danube Center for Sustainable Development, <i>„Experience in implementation the cross-border, large-scale project under the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova “</i>
15.30-16.30	<p>Closing Session (Grand Hall floor 2)</p> <p><i>Conclusions of the 3 parallel panels presented by the Chairs of the panels</i></p> <p>Valentin Ciubotaru, Executive director, NGO BIOS</p> <p>Stefan August Lütgenau, Director of Foster Europe, Foundation for Strong European Region (FEF)</p> <p>Franz Tödtling, Professor multi-level governance and development, University of Economics and Business, Vienna</p> <p>Concluding remarks:</p> <p>Rudolf Schicker, PA10 „Institutional Capacity Building“ Coordinator EUSDR</p>		

Annex 2. Photos





Annex 3. List of participants

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