

**INEKO**

Institute for Economic and Social Reforms



[www.viitorul.org](http://www.viitorul.org)

# SUMMARY

---

## OF BEST AND WORST **10** LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN MOLDOVA

---

February 2019



**INEKO**

Institute for Economic and Social Reforms



[www.viitorul.org](http://www.viitorul.org)

# SUMMARY

---

---

# OF BEST AND WORST **10** LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN MOLDOVA

---

---

Purpose of evaluation:

November 2018 – January 2019



[www.viitorul.org](http://www.viitorul.org)

**INEKO**

Institute for Economic and Social Reforms

**The Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) “Viitorul”** is the legal successor of Fundatia Viitorul (Viitorul Foundation) and, overall, preserves the traditions, objectives and principles of the foundation among which: building democratic institutions and developing a spirit of effective responsibility among policy makers, civil servants and citizens of our country, strengthening civil society and criticism, promoting the freedoms and values of an open, modern and pro-European society. IDIS “Viitorul” is a research, training and public initiative institution, which works in several areas related to economic analysis, governance, political research, strategic planning and knowledge management. IDIS serves as a joint platform bringing together young intellectuals concerned with the success of the transition towards market economy and an open society in Republic of Moldova.

**The Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO)** is a non-governmental nonprofit organization established in support of economic and social reforms which aim to remove barriers to the long-term positive development of the Slovak economy and society.

*Any use of excerpts or opinions of this study authors should contain a reference to Public Policy series and IDIS “Viitorul”.*

For more information on this publication or subscription to IDIS publications, please contact Media and Public Communication Service of IDIS “Viitorul”.

**Contact adress:**

10/1 Iacob Hancu St., Chisinau, MD-2005, Republic of Moldova

Tel.: (37322) 21 09 32

Fax: (37322) 24 57 14

[www.viitorul.org](http://www.viitorul.org)

# PURPOSE OF EVALUATION

**This summary was developed within the project "Promoting transparency and financial sustainability of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova".** The initiative is being implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul", in partnership with the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms in Slovakia (INEKO), with the financial support of the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic (SlovakAid). The initiative aims to increase the transparency, financial accountability and quality of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova.

This summary is the fifth and final edition of the series of policies and actions of public interest initiated or implemented locally between November 2018 and January 2019. The first edition was launched in February 2018, including 13 policies – [Summary of best and worst 13 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (November 2017 – January 2018), while the second edition covered 11 local and regional policies and was presented in May this year – [Summary of best and worst 11 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (February – April 2018). And in July the [Summary of best and worst 10 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (May-July 2018) was presented, the evaluation being at the third edition. The fourth edition of the [Summary of best and worst 10 local and regional measures in Moldova](#),

implemented in August – October 2018, was presented in November 2018.

The assessment of local and regional policies in the Republic of Moldova follows aims to describe of sustainable, time-lasting practices that can be transferred to other communities, resulting in a final improvement in the quality of local and regional development policies. Thus, 10 local and regional policies are described in this publication; there are eight value-added policies that can be unique, innovative and with significant impact for the economic and social development of the Republic of Moldova, but also two measures that can cause damage and which should not be an example for the authorities that want to be modern and transparent.

The policies included in the summary were identified, analyzed and appreciated with the support of a Board of Independent Evaluators selected by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul" on the basis of their administrative and research experience and who perform their activity in regional public authorities, development agencies, business, think tanks, mass - media and academia. Thus, the evaluators were invited to assess a series of social and economic local decisions and policies (regulations, privatization decisions, strategy papers, public policy concepts) proposed or adopted by local authorities in their field of attributions recognized by the law.

# EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation methodology has been prepared by IDIS “Viitorul” and INEKO, with the financial support of the SlovakAid.

Thus, experts of the Evaluation Board have analyzed 10 policies for local economic and social development based on two criteria: (1) quality - their acceptability and (2) their importance to society and local actors. The measurement included the estimation of the effects of these policies and local decisions on the sustainable development and well-being of the communities in which they occurred, the multiplier effects.

The measure of quality measurement included variable values from full disapproval to neutral assessment (0) to full approval [-3; +3]. Experts also

assessed the impact of the measure on society and the economy, using a percentage scale [0%; 100%], noting with this indicator the degree of relevance of measurement for the local community and society as a whole.

The final scores were calculated on the basis of the average value obtained from the quality of the measure (policy) multiplied by the coefficient expressing the average value of the measure significance for the local society and the economy. The final score of the assessed measures will range from [-300; 300]. According to the methodology used, all measures can be represented on a map of relative intensities, thus indicating the contribution of experts to evaluate these measures on social and economic development.

## RANKING OF BEST AND WORST MEASURES

MUNICIPALITY	QUALITY [ -3; +3]	RELEVANCE [ 0%; 100%]	FINAL SCORE [ -300; 300]	RANKS
<b>Ungheni municipality</b> The green education and urban development program «Adopt a public space»	2.6	88.8	229.0	I
<b>Ciorești (Nisporeni rayon), Dolna and Micleușeni villages (Strășeni rayon)</b> The tourist route «Dor de Codru»	2.6	86.3	222.5	II
<b>Congaz, ATU Găgăuzia</b> «Gagauz Sofrasi» - the first Gagauz ethno-tourist complex in the Republic of Moldova	2.4	83.3	201.7	III
<b>Cărpineni, Mingir, Negrea, Sofia, Bălceana and Voinescu, Hâncești rayon</b> Modern waste sanitation management service in Hâncești rayon	2.4	82.1	198.6	IV
<b>Carmanova, Tiraspol municipality</b> The House of Culture in Carmanova, renovated with the EU support	2.3	86.3	194.1	V
<b>Șerpeni, Anenii Noi rayon</b> Modern sports complex in Șerpeni village, Anenii Noi rayon	2.0	74.2	148.3	VI
<b>Băhrinești, Florești rayon</b> «Băhrinești – the village with 12 mayors»	1.9	66.3	127.2	VII
<b>Chișinău municipality</b> Online platform for monitoring the activity of the public administration in Chișinău – «Alo Capitala»	1.6	69.2	109.3	VIII
<b>Căușeni town</b> Possible conflict of interests at Căușeni: Town Hall concludes contracts with the company of the wife and the father-in-law of the mayor	-2.1	75.8	-157.7	I
<b>Chișinău municipality</b> Fake purchases at the Chișinău Town Hall	-2.4	77.5	-187.6	II

# MEMBERS OF THE EVALUATION BOARD

1. **Aurelia Țepordei**, Director of the Professional Development Department, Academy of Public Administration
2. **Boris Ivasi**, SRL “Hidroimpex”, Soroca
3. **Diana Enachi**, Economist at IDIS “Viitorul”
4. **Dumitru Albulesa**, Administrator of AITA (International Car Transporters Association of Moldova)
5. **Igor Bucătaru**, USM Associate Professor, Expert at “PROMO-LEX”
6. **Igor Neaga**, Regional Consultant GIZ / ADR Nord
7. **Ion Beschieru**, Expert in local public administration
8. **Irina Ioniță**, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist USAID, APM Project
9. **Liubomir Chiriac**, Executive Director IDIS “Viitorul”
10. **Ludmila Botnariuc**, secretary of administration, Public Relations Section, Orhei Rayon Council
11. **Octavii Ivanov**, Consultant-coordinator, Local Development, CALM
12. **Ștefan Vlas**, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
13. **Vasile Cioaric**, Program Director, Contact Center
14. **Veaceslav Aftene**, Journalist, portal [www.ialovnews.md](http://www.ialovnews.md)
15. **Victoria Cujbă**, Head of the Public Administration Department, State Chancellery

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 10 best and worst local and regional development policies in Moldova implemented in November 2018 – January 2019 were identified and evaluated by members of an Evaluation Board at the IDIS “Viitorul” and INEKO invitation. The activity aims to describe sustainable, time-lasting policies that can be transferred to other communities, ultimately improving the quality of local and regional development policies.

Public policies were measured on the basis of two methodologically approved criteria, taking into account their importance for the community and their sustainability. Thus, the members of the Evaluation Board assessed and ranked the policies analyzed by (a) quality, a criterion that range between -3 and 3 and (b) the relevance of this policy for the community and economy, ie the impact it produces, using a scale percent from 0 to 100%. The multiplication of these two criteria represents the final score for each policy, which ranges between -300 and 300 points.

According to the analysis, **the best five local public policies in our country refer to the green education program “Adopt a public space!” from Ungheni - with a final score of 229.0 points, the “Dor de Codru” tourist route in the Center region of Moldova - 222.5 points, the ethno-tourist complex from the village of Congaz, which opened its doors for visitors in November 2018 - 201.7 points, the modern waste management service in Hâncești rayon, with a final score of 198.6 points, and the Cultural House in the village of Carmanova, renovated with European support, a policy that earned a final score of 194.1 points.**

Thus, public spaces in Ungheni will become more attractive thanks to the green education and urban planning program “Adopt a public space!”, inspired by the Town Hall of Cluj-Napoca from România. The program implies the adoption of a three-year public space by any economic agent, public institution or non-governmental organization in Ungheni for

the purpose of its arrangement and maintenance. Institutions that will adopt a public space will develop their own landscaping projects, plant decorative trees and flowers and decorate them for holidays. *“The initiative in Ungheni is a unique initiative in the country and is based on an innovative concept that deserves to be replicated, promoted and followed. The concept will create new connections and collaboration between local government and other local actors, such as the private sector and civil society”*, says Diana Enachi, member of the Evaluation Board. For the successful implementation of the program, the Ungheni Town Hall will sign a cooperation protocol with each institution that will adopt a public space, and in the case of non-compliance with the commitments, the land will be proposed to others for “adoption”.

The Central region of our country is also a remarkable tourist destination. In this sense, Ciorești (Nisporeni rayon), Dolna and Micleușeni (Strășeni rayon) villages created the “Dor de Codru” tourist route. The route includes six tourist routes: ecological, fishing, cultural, gastronomic, historical-religious and sports. In this sense, many picturesque places, secular treasures, popular craftsmen and agro-tourist boarding houses are among the 20 objectives included in the route launched at the beginning of November 2018. At Ciorești visitors can admire the works of the famous craftsman Zaharia Triboi, the only popular craftsman in Moldova, which creates objects of black ceramics, Micleușeni guest can taste the famous honey from the “The House of Honey”, and at Dolna will visit the Conch-museum and the cellar of the boyar Zamfirache Arbore-Ralli. The project was carried out with financial support from the government of Switzerland, local authorities and natives. *“On the one hand, the new tourist route is an important project that will develop community spirit within localities and inter-communal relations, less developed skills. On the other hand, it is premature to talk about the quality of the project because it is only at the initial stage”*, believes Igor Bucătaru, member of the Evaluation Board.

Another policy that highlights the tourist potential is the first ethno-tourist complex in the Gagauz style in the Republic of Moldova, entitled “Gagauz Sofrasi”. The ethno-touristic complex opened on 6 November 2018 in the village of Congaz, includes four traditional peasant houses with clay walls and reed roof, a museum, a wine cellar, a restaurant with a national-style patio, a mini-hotel, and a festive hall. Visitors to the “Gagauz Sofrasi” complex can get to know the traditions and history of the countryside enjoy traditional Gagauz cuisine and the best wines in the area and even participate in gourmet workshops. The complex can accommodate up to 20 people and is built entirely of organic materials. *“This project contributes to the promotion of ethno-cultural and*

*tourist traditions, adding value to the economy of Congaz village”*, considers Ștefan Vlas, member of the Evaluation Board. The “Gagauz Sofrasi” complex was built with the European support.

The members of the Evaluation Board also assessed two negative policies that show certain violations of the principles of transparency. There are two cases that were publicized in media, but which must be appreciated by the competent institutions, namely the possible conflict of interest in Căușeni, where the Town Hall signs procurement contracts with the wife and father-in-law of the mayor Grigore Repeșciuc, but also the falsification of the public procurement acts by the Town Hall of Chișinău municipality.

# DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES THAT RECEIVED A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT

I

## THE GREEN EDUCATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM “ADOPT A PUBLIC SPACE!”

Information source: **Ungheni Town Hall**, <http://ungheni.md/>

The measure pursued by the municipal authority

*Municipal policies for the modernization of the urban infrastructure*

### CONTEXT

Public spaces in Ungheni neighborhoods will become more attractive thanks to the green education and urban planning program “Adopt a public space!”, launched by Ungheni Town Hall at the initiative of the Resource Center for Local and Regional Sustainable Development (CRDDL). A decision in this regard was approved at the extraordinary meeting of the Ungheni Municipal Council on December 28, 2018. The idea of the program, to be completed in the period 2019-2021, was inspired by Cluj-Napoca Town Hall, a town twinned with Ungheni.

### ACTIVITIES

The program involves the “adoption” of public space over a three-year period in order to plan and maintain it. The space to be adopted can be located near the institution that “adopts” it or it may be another green space (a square, alley, etc.) selected from the list proposed by the Town Hall of Ungheni municipality. Institutions wishing to “adopt” a public space will develop public landscaping projects “adopted”, will purchase and plant spring decorative trees, shrubs,

flowers, grass, etc., and will decorate them during the winter holidays.

During January this year, the Town Hall of Ungheni will draw up a list of public spaces that will be proposed to the institutions and, after a preliminary cost analysis, they will communicate the decision about the public space they want to “adopt”. Between March and April 2019, organizations wishing to participate in this program will develop the “adopted” public space plan. The arrangement plan should include proposals for concrete activities on the “adopted” space arrangement and the calendar of works on months. This plan will be presented as soon as possible to the Commission for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the program “Adopt a public space!”.

For the successful implementation of the program, Ungheni Town Hall will sign a cooperation protocol with each economic agent, public institution or non-governmental organization that will manifest its intention to participate in the program. After the public space is handed over, the institutions involved in the program can start the proper arrangement: planting, irrigation, maintenance - activities that could be carried out as early as spring - summer this year. In

this respect, the first collaboration protocol under the “Adopt a Public Space!” program was signed on 18 February 2019 with the JCI Ungheni Association. The space adopted by JCI Ungheni is located in Central Park and has an area of 2 500 m<sup>2</sup>. It includes three playgrounds of the Children’s Little Town “Little Cluj”. Besides organizing and maintaining the public space, JCI Ungheni members want to organize and conduct a series of outdoor events. This is the Family Days project that aims to promote active leisure time in the family.

It is also important to mention that construction works or profit-making activities cannot be carried out on the territory of the “adopted” public space. These lands are not alienated and continue to remain public property. If the organizations that have “adopted” a public space do not respect their commitments, the collaboration protocol with these institutions will be cancelled and the land will be proposed to others for “adoption”.

## **BENEFICIARIES**

The inhabitants of Ungheni, 30,804 people, the visitors and tourists of the municipality, the natives who live abroad, the Town Hall of Ungheni, the economic agents, the public institutions and the NGOs from the municipality.

## **IMPACT**

The “Adopt a public space!” program is an innovative approach to civic activism and community involvement. Although in Ungheni some economic agents and institutions take care of public spaces, the Ungheni Town Hall intends to do this in an organized manner, coordinated with the urban planning specialists. Thus, on the one hand, the community actors will have the unique opportunity to participate directly in the modernization of the urban space and will put the shoulder to improve the aesthetic aspect of the town. On the other hand, a beautifully arranged and care-

free space will be an element of promoting the image of the organization that has adopted it.

Through this program, the Ungheni municipality aims to modernize and ensure better maintenance of green spaces and other public spaces within the town. And for the public recognition of the efforts made by them, the Town Hall commits to installing placards with a thankful message on the “adopted” public space.

## **COMMENTS**

The initiative to adopt a public space by an institution, company or organization in Ungheni is a unique initiative in the country and is based on an innovative concept that deserves to be replicated, promoted and followed. The initiative is an important step towards modernizing urban space, and citizen involvement in managing public affairs demonstrates that green education continues to be a topic for the communities in our country. In this sense, this concept will create new links and collaboration between local government and other local actors, such as the private sector and civil society.

According to Irina Ioniță, a member of the Evaluation Board, the initiative to adopt a public space in the city of Ungheni is a very useful practice which, besides improving the environment and the aesthetics of the city, contributes to the sense of belonging of its inhabitants, who become more careful to maintain the work done and to clean public spaces. And Ludmila Botnariuc says: *“Europe starts with me and me. From you and us comes the change”*.

The program of adopting a public space will help improve the sanitation, the aspect of the town and will encourage citizens to maintain order and cleanliness in public spaces. Also, the program will create a competitive feeling for both the institutions that will adopt the public space, the community in Ungheni, but also for other local authorities in Moldova. An idea of developing the initiative could even be the organization of a yearly competition to designate the most beautiful space.

Although the program in Ungheni is a useful one, a less positive aspect of the initiative, in the opinion of the members of the Evaluation Board is the fact that sustainability is not ensured, or there is no clarity what will happen to the public spaces adopted

after the completion of the three years of green education and urban planning program “Adopt a public space!”, says Diana Enachi. Respectively, the quality of the program will be evaluated only after implementation.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.6]** **Relevance [88.8%]**

---

Information source: **United Nations Development Program (UNDP) website in Moldova:**  
<http://www.md.undp.org>

The measure pursued by local public authorities:

### *Intercommunity policies for the development of tourism potential*

#### **CONTEXT**

Three villages in the center of Moldova joined together to create the “Dor de Codru” tour route, inaugurated at the beginning of November 2018. Tourists will visit Ciorești, Dolna and Micleușeni to admire the picturesque places, the beauty of Codrii and the works of the craftsmen. They will also be able to take a break at the hostels in the area. Therefore, many picturesque places, secular trees, popular craftsmen and agro-tourist boarding houses are among the 20 objectives included in the route. The project was carried out with financial support from the government of Switzerland, local authorities and natives.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

The Ciorești-Dolna-Micleușeni area has great potential for tourism development, but it was untapped. Due to lack of money, the beautiful and historic places in these three localities could not be renovated and promoted as tourist destinations. But by opening the “Dor de Codru” tour route, communities will grow economically, and locals will have a stable source of income. The route includes six tourist routes: ecological, fishing, cultural, gastronomic, historical-religious and sports.

The huge wooden gate, which is nine meters high and five meters wide, is the first tourist attraction, but also

the business card of Ciorești commune in Nisporeni rayon. This is where the road goes to other destinations. And so that tourists do not get lost, a route map is also installed here. Also in Ciorești village visitors will be able to admire the works of the famous craftsman Zaharia Triboi, the only popular craftsman in the Republic of Moldova who creates black ceramic objects. And at Iuliei Axente boarding house in Ciorești, tourists can taste the area’s specific cuisine and benefit from accommodation services. In the village of Vulcănești from Ciorești commune, inhabited predominantly by Roma, tourists will be able to learn more about customs and traditions at a camp-like museum under the open sky.

On the same touristic route, in the village of Micleușeni from Straseni rayon, guests can taste the famous bee honey from “Casa Mierii”, known for curative properties. Here, tourists can see how honey is made and even can taste it directly from apiaries. “We have four kinds of honey, including fruit honey, with nuts, almonds, plums, pollen, all of our own production. We hope that from now on, tourists will visit us and buy products from us from our own apiary”, emphasizes the owner of “House of the Honey”, Victor Ciolacu.

There are several historical monuments in the village of Micleușeni, including the Romanian Heroes Cemetery. “We also have a cemetery of the Romanian heroes who fell in the Second World War. A capella where everybody can put a candle in the memory of the fallen

heroes was build”, says Ion Dima, Mayor of Micleușeni village. Also included in the tourist route is the Parșovia Mîrza Museum of Craftsmanship, where the stitching demonstrations and the traditional carpet tissues can be admired.

And in the village of Dolna from Strășeni, the visiting card of the locality is the Museum conch and the cellar of the boyar Zamfirache Arbore-Ralli, as well as the spring and glade of Zamfirei. According to the legend, in these places, the Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin met his beloved Zamfira. “*We are convinced that the promotion of the local tourist objectives in our area of Codru is very beneficial for the development of the locality. We worked a lot. We want to have as many tourists as possible*”, emphasized the Mayor of Dolna village, Romeo Ciocină.

Among other touristic sights included in the project, there are other attractions: different water basins, the Hand of the Hill, Dealul Morilor or Râpa Ciorii. In the Nisporeni rayon, tourists can find the highest hill in the Republic of Moldova, located in Bălănești, and the oldest monastery in Vărzărești. Here is also one of the most beautiful Hincu monasteries, a potter’s hearth and many other objects. On the hill of Răcătău from Cioarești, which is the second highest hill in Moldova, tourists will be able to ski and admire the surroundings.

The inter-municipal Association “Dor de Codru” was also created within the project to coordinate tourism promotion activities in the area. The new tourist service also provides for the promotion of local products, traditional cuisine, folk groups in the online environment.

Through the initiative to create the tourist route, the communities in Dolna, Micleușeni and Cioarești have proposed to consolidate the tourism brand of the region by creating a modern infrastructure, new public services tailored to tourists, supporting cultural activities that can increase the number of tourists in the region.

**The beneficiaries of the “Dor de Codru” tourist route** are primarily the six thousand inhabitants of

Dolna, Micleușeni and Cioarești villages, entrepreneurs, representatives of local public administrations, guests and tourists who will visit this region.

## FUNDING

Creating the “Dor de Codru” tourist route is a project initiated by local and native authorities with the support of the UNDP “Migration and Local Development” project. For the development of the tourist route, the Government of Switzerland granted \$ 50,000, local governments have allocated about \$ 22,000, and the natives donated over \$ 8,000.

## IMPACT

The new tourist route will open prospects for tourism development, both in Strășeni district and throughout the country. The tourist route will increase the attractiveness of this region, bring new jobs and encourage talented people to start a new business. A larger flow of tourists will stimulate the inhabitants of the three communities involved to develop additional services and products, generating additional revenue for the six thousand inhabitants of the villages of Dolna, Micleușeni and Cioarești. Therefore, many families will be able to provide a decent income at home without the need for migration abroad.

According to the Mayor of Micleușeni, Ion Dima, this project represents a great challenge for all those involved in its implementation. The launch of the project means developing inter-community relations between the three communities, creating new jobs, attracting tourists. “*We wanted to make our villages as attractive as possible, that the beauty of our places is known by as many people as possible*”, said the Mayor of Micleușeni.

In turn, the mayor of Dolna village, Romeo Ciocină, stressed: “*It is important that the Moldovan localities are promoted and appreciated, especially as they are of rare beauty, being surrounded by Codri. We*

want to highlight the beautiful places and cultural objectives of the three localities”. In this context, Dumitru Mirza, the president of the Ciorești Natives Association, believes that the localities included in the “Dor de Codru” inter-municipal tourism project have a rich Moldavian treasury with picturesque places, talented people who have inherited the quality of combining work with creation. *“It is necessary to promote the craftsmanship our people practice, to capitalize on what is most beautiful and to pass on to the next generations”*, he said.

## **COMMENTS**

Capitalizing on local tourism potential has a number of positive effects on the whole region of Strășeni rayon and the creation of inter-community services in the field of rural tourism is a practice that is worthwhile to follow. The long-term impact of this policy includes attracting investment, creating jobs and boosting socio-economic development. The creation of the tourist route is a strategic measure of promoting the tourist objectives in the central area of the Republic of Moldova, by promoting the craftsmanship,

the development of the community spirit and the inter-municipal relations, the less developed skills in our communities, considers the members of the Evaluation Board, Ștefan Vlas and Igor Bucătaru.

The positive effects of politics do not stop here. By creating new jobs, increasing budget revenues, developing infrastructure and ensuring decent living conditions, both local entrepreneurship and citizens are encouraged to remain in the locality and to contribute directly to its development. Moreover, the involvement and financial contribution of natives and local entrepreneurs demonstrate the importance and viability of this project to develop tourism potential, says Diana Enachi.

However, the members of the Evaluation Board consider that it is still premature to observe the impact of the policy. Also, the new attractions of the “Dor de Codru” tourist route require permanent promotion to inform and attract potential tourists and visitors, which implies additional financial and human resources. If these issues are ignored and the funding is suspended and the human staff is not attracted, the sustainability of the policy will diminish significantly, according to Ludmila Botnariuc.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.6]** **Relevance [86.3%]**

---

Information sources: **Support for agriculture and rural development in ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia (SARD) Programme** - <http://sard.md>, <http://gagauzinfo.md>

The measure pursued by the local authority:

### *Local policies for the development of the Gagauz tourist potential*

#### CONTEXT

The first ethno-tourist complex from the Republic of Moldova, entitled “Gagauz Sofrasi” (translated as Gagauz table) was inaugurated on 6 November 2018 in the Congaz village of Gagauzia. The complex was built with the support of a EUR 18.5 thousand grant from the EU through the SARD programme, implemented by UNDP Moldova.

The ethno-touristic complex includes four traditional houses with clay walls and reed roof, a museum, a wine cellar, a restaurant with a national-style patio, a mini-hotel, and a festive hall. The owner of the complex is Ana Statova and employs 14 inhabitants of the village of Congaz.

#### ACTIVITIES

The interest in national traditions nowadays is greater than ever. Coming to another country, people want to get acquainted with history, culture, cuisine, learn traditions, reach the objects of everyday life a hundred years ago, become invaluable. *“In the 1990s, everything collapsed, people threw old things, carpets and woven towels to the trash. I am very sorry to lose the culture, pride and work of our grandparents. When I lost all my relatives, I decided to leave a room in my untouched house and make a museum there. Nobody then understood me”*, says Ana Statova.

Inspired by the big weddings held in Gagauzia, Ana Statova decided in 2010 to open the first festive hall in Congaz: *“The wedding is the only event that gathers all of them. The Gagauz are very welcoming people. Some guests, coming from abroad, used to ask, “Where can we get out of here?” And the idea of a hotel came to my mind”*.

The project of a true traditional ethnic villa has in the meantime managed to be supported by the EU and the idea turned into a business. *“People in the locality contributed with the objects of their ancestors they found at home and came up with tips on architectural elements. Until today we complete the villa with so much love. God sends me people who still want to keep our traditions”*, says the owner. The name of the complex is translated as “Gagauz table”, a three-leg round table, behind which the entire family can stay.

Today, Congaz village is proud with a complex that reproduces the atmosphere and charm of traditional peasant houses: lobster stoves, small wooden windows, shingle and traditional wool rugs. The reed roof and the walls of clay and straw make the four houses of the complex cool in the summer and warm in the winter. As a result, visitors to the “Gagauz Sofrasi” complex can get to know the country’s traditions and history, enjoy traditional Gagauz dishes and the best wines in the area, and even participate in gourmet workshops. The complex can accommodate up to 20 people and is built entirely of ecological materials. The architectural elements imitate, in the smallest

detail, the lives of the people in the region 100 years ago. The only differences are the bathroom and modern sanitary groups.

The museum, which Anna Statova built in memory of her mother and grandmother, is opened in a small house where the family lived once. Here, for example, we can discover that by the 1970s, the Gagauz brides opted for brightly colored dresses in exchange for the white dress.

Those four traditional houses are perfect for organizing a wedding, but also for rest. The houses are miniature museums because exposed carpets and curtains were woven, sewn and embroidered by the Gagauzian ancestors. Each house includes wooden furniture and wool bedding, all in Gagauz style. In turn, wine tastings take place in the newly-prepared wine cellar and traditional dishes are served on the terrace. Culinary specialties such as shorpa, a very spicy sheep's soup, or bulgur - a kind of pilaf with lamb, tomatoes, carrot, onion and red pepper - make the delight of local and foreign tourists.

*“Our guests say that time has stopped here. I hope that future generations will keep what our ancestors left us as an inheritance. Our region boasts its own traditions and it is very important that they are promoted”,* says the owner Ana Statova.

**The beneficiaries** of the Gagauz-style ethno-tourist complex in the Republic of Moldova are not only the inhabitants of Gagauzia and the whole of Moldova, but also the guests from abroad. Representatives of the Congaz national style are visited by representatives of dozens of countries around the world. *“Hundreds, maybe a thousand people visited the complex. Every day both new visitors and loyal guests come. Even if we do not have a page on the Internet yet, people find each other. I would like people to spend at least two, three days in Gagauzia”,* tells the owner of the ethno-tourist complex, Ana Statova.

## IMPACT

This ethno-tourist complex demonstrates that tourism is a niche with great potential, not yet explored in the Republic of Moldova. The complex is not only a perfect resting place for local and foreign tourists, but also a unique tourist attraction for ATU Gagauzia and the whole country.

## COMMENTS

Municipalities from the Republic of Moldova need investment to ensure sustainable local economic development, and this example in Gagauzia shows that European funds make a visible contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. By creating the first ethno-tourist complex in the Gagauz style in the country, the necessary conditions for the development of the infrastructure and the attraction of the local tourists, as well as the foreign ones inherited by the traditions, the culture, the traditional cuisine, are ensured. And with the development of tourism potential, new jobs are created, the risk of migration is diminished, human potential is being harnessed and the local economy develops. *“This project contributes to promoting ethno-cultural and tourist traditions, adding value to the economy of Congaz village,”* says Ștefan Vlas, member of the Evaluation Board.

However, for maintaining and sustaining the services offered within the “Gagauz Sofrasi” ethno-tourism complex, permanent financial sources are needed, which can be provided both through external and local financing, as well as through the provision of tourist services. Similarly, for the development of local tourism and the attraction of a large number of tourists, rural infrastructure needs, especially road, to be rehabilitated, which can be done by local authorities in the village of Congaz.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.4]** **Relevance [83.3%]**

---

Information sources: UNDP website in Moldova: <http://www.md.undp.org> and the platform <https://guvern24.md/>

The measure pursued by local public authorities:

### *Intercommunity waste management policies*

#### CONTEXT

Six localities in Hâncești rayon will be cleaner thanks to modern waste sanitation and joint waste management service. It will serve over 22 000 inhabitants of the villages of Cărpineni, Mingir, Negrea, Sofia, Bălceana and Voinescu. The improved sanitation service was launched in October at the Caravan of Cleanliness event - with the signing of the intercommunity cooperation agreement, the presentation of the new procurement technique and the signing of the first landfill contract in one of the partner localities in the project. Through this initiative, local governments and natives have joined forces to get rid of the growing illegal dumping that affect the environment and the beauty of their native places.

#### ACTIVITIES

The creation of inter-community waste management and joint waste management service was possible due to the reorganization of the municipal enterprise “Cărpineni Services” in an inter-community waste disposal service. Previously, the municipal enterprise was not equipped with the appropriate modern technology to meet the requirements. This is because only in the village of Cărpineni waste disposal services are provided for 400 households and 110 economic agents, and the two tractors available to the company

were hardly able to collect the waste twice a month. The situation was even worse in the Mingir, Negrea, Sofia and Voinescu villages, which do not even have specialized waste disposal services. That is why local governments have decided to solve this problem with the support of both donors and natives.

Thus, with the implementation of the project “Cross-border rural network for a clean environment”, it was possible to reorganize the municipal enterprise “Cărpineni Servicii” in intercommunity service for waste storage and disposal. The garbage will be transported with a modern car to the polygon located outside the Cărpineni commune. This will increase the waste collection capacity. As a result, about 40 unauthorized landfills that currently exist on the territory of the five localities will be able to be liquidated and will not pollute the waters that reach the wells.

Therefore, a modern car was purchased, as well as pubs for households and businesses. Soon, an ecological polygon will be constructed with a surface and volume that will allow waste disposal for a period of 15 years. The first 200 bunkers purchased within the project have already reached the village of Cărpineni, and in order to benefit from the service, the inhabitants will have to sign a contract with the Village Hall. Temporarily, the collected waste will be temporarily deposited at the three existing dumps in the village of Cărpineni.

**The beneficiaries** of the policy are over 22 000 inhabitants of the villages of Cărpineni, Mingir, Negrea, Sofia, Balceana and Voinescu from Hâncești rayon.

## FUNDING

The total budget of the project “Cross-border rural network for a clean environment” is of 290,015 Euro. Of this amount, 162,587 Euros were provided by the European Union, as a grant, through the Moldova – Ukraine - Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation (EaPTC), implemented by the German Development Cooperation through GIZ. 43,000 Euro represents the grant provided by the Government of Switzerland through UNDP Moldova. The contribution from local budgets is about 28,000 Euro, the one from the district council - 17,500 Euro, NGO “Speranța” - 6,000 Euro, and 3,000 Euro is the amount collected from the natives of the six villages.

## IMPACT

The waste management service allows for an extensive area of intervention to have cleaner localities. Until recently, the municipal enterprise “Cărpineni Services” was unable to provide waste disposal and

storage services according to industry standards, especially for several localities, thanks to the project, this service will be optimized and streamlined.

## COMMENTS

Unauthorized dumping and lack of efficient waste management is a major problem faced by many of the localities in the country, either due to the lack of financial resources or waste management policies. The launching of the modern waste sanitation and waste management service by six localities in Hancesti district is a good practice and can be considered by other authorities as well. Practice is valuable also due to the active involvement of local authorities and natives. *“Modern service sanitation and waste management in Hâncești region increases the efficiency of waste management and is a positive example for further regionalization of all public services”*, says Ștefan Vlas.

At the same time, the common problems of rural communities can be more efficiently solved by implementing common solutions that ultimately translate into more advantageous use of services for citizens. However, according to Irina Ioniță, the service requires permanent monitoring and re-evaluation after the construction of the ecological polygon in Cărpineni.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.4]** **Relevance [82.1%]**

---

Information source: UNDP website in Moldova: <http://www.md.undp.org>

The measure pursued by the authority:

*Local community development policies through confidence building actions on both banks of the Dniester River*

### CONTEXT

After a long time, the inhabitants of the village of Carmanova on the left bank of the Dniester River celebrated on November 4, the Saint Patron's day at local House of Culture. The edifice was renovated with the financial support of the European Union, provided by the Program Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP Moldova.

### ACTIVITIES

The Cultural House in the village of Carmanova meant for many people a beginning of creation. However, for almost half a century of history of a two-story building with an area of 1 800 m<sup>2</sup>, accumulated problems are solved that have not been solved for decades. The institution of culture, built in 1972, has never been repaired. In the nineties, the heating system completely deteriorated and, since 1991, there was no sewage or water supply in the House of Culture. *"Because the thermal regime was not maintained, plaster was peeling off the walls and ceilings; paintings, costumes and other things were decaying and could not be repeatedly used in exhibitions"*, says Natalia Stoian, head of the Cultural House. In such difficult

conditions, it was practically impossible for the House of Culture to perform concerts.

But for the first time in 28 years, during the cold season, the holidays in the locality can be organized in modern conditions. The cultural institution was connected to the aqueduct, sewage networks and is equipped with a modern heating system; the rehearsal rooms and the small concert hall will be renovated. As a result, all the inhabitants of the village, from the age of five to 60, enjoy better conditions. There are ten creative clubs in the Culture House, including painting, dancing, singing, hand-made creation, etc.

Thanks to close relationships with artist groups from the right bank of Dniester, the Carmanova House of Culture will become a regional creation center. It will host concerts and other artistic events with the participation of bands from both banks of the Dniester River. Thus, in order to consolidate the links with other localities in the country, including those from the Transnistrian region, many of the missed events such as "Mărțișor" or "From the Middle Ages" festival will return to the new cultural home. And for the first time in 1992, various folk festivals will be organized among the inhabitants of both banks of the Dniester, such as "The talent pallet", "The roots", etc.

Annually, there are about 100 events in the Cultural House in the village of Carmanova, which are visited by over 4,000 spectators.

**The beneficiaries of the policy** are the inhabitants of the village of Carmanova and the villages on the right bank of the Dniester river, but especially children and adults who are part of various artistic bands and creative clubs, but also for those who attend cultural events.

### **IMPACT**

Currently, Carmanova village has the opportunity to host various cultural events, which can be met by the inhabitants of both banks of the Dniester. Under the new conditions, cultural events and creative clubs will take place at the Cultural House in Carmanova. The House of Culture will once again become the visiting card of the locality. At the same time, the project will also help to build confidence between the inhabitants of both sides of the Dniester River through their involvement in joint cultural activities.

### **COMMENTS**

Cultural activities must be a business card for any community in the Republic of Moldova, and their organization requires infrastructure to be developed. The initiative in the village of Carmanova, a place on the left bank of the Dniester River, is a welcome one in a locality that does not have a place to carry out various cultural and artistic activities. According to Boris Ivasi, a member of the Evaluation Board, the new Cultural House in the village of Carmanova is an obvious example for the other communities in the country, and Ștefan Vlas, in turn, believes that the project will contribute to the development of common cultural activities and will inspire the confidence of the inhabitants of the left bank of the Dniester in the possibilities of the EU.

At the same time, the members of the Evaluation Board consider that it is important that such projects aimed at improving the quality of public services are necessarily consulted with community members because the citizens are those who have to decide whether or not this is a priority for their village or are others more stringent.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.3]** **Relevance [86.3%]**

---

Information source: UNDP website in Moldova: <http://www.md.undp.org>

The measure pursued by the local authority

### *Policies to promote the sport and healthy lifestyle*

#### **CONTEXT**

One of the most modern sports complexes in the country was inaugurated in October in Șerpeni village, Anenii Noi district. The complex was built instead of an abandoned building that was rehabilitated under the EU-funded “Support to Confidence-Building Measures” program and implemented by UNDP.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Practically, every inhabitant of Șerpeni village does sport. The inhabitants of Șerpeni practice many sports genres. There are four football teams in the village - seniors, juniors and veterans, but also a team of girls. Unfortunately, there is only the gym at the school and a stadium in the village. For this reason, young people were needed to find other training facilities. And because the passion for sports is too high in the village of Șerpeni, the inhabitants decided to remedy the problem of the lack of sports conditions. They gathered nearly 50,000 Euros and earned another 200,000 from the EU. The locals, headed by young people in the village, have found an abandoned building and for several weeks have even prepared the land for the builders.

The reconstruction of the complex began in 2016. The decision to attract investments for the sports complex was taken after a public consultation to which all the

inhabitants of the village were invited. As a result, people in the village have been involved in demolition and waste disposal. *“The villagers supported the initiative from the beginning. The complex is built on the foundation of an old building where trees were growing”*, says the Mayor of the village, Elena Nicolaev. The complex is located in a construction that has been abandoned for a long time - about 20 years.

Today, at Șerpeni, not only athletes from the locality, but also from other villages in Anenii Noi and from the left bank of the Dniester can train. The sports complex will be able to host regional competitions of football, volleyball, basketball and various types of fights. Traditionally, volleyball and basketball tournaments are organized in the locality, as well as free wrestling. Thanks to the new sports complex, the training, as well as the sports competitions will be organized throughout the year.

**The beneficiaries** of the new sports complex are the over 3.5 thousand inhabitants of Șerpeni village, but also from other villages in the Anenii Noi rayon, as well as from the left bank of the Dniester River.

#### **FUNDING**

The sports complex was built with the EU support within the Support to Confidence Building

Measures programme, implemented by UNDP. The works cost 200 thousand euros and were offered by the EU with the contribution of local public authorities. The Village Hall allocated 960 thousand lei, plus works worth 87,400 lei for the construction of the complex.

## IMPACT

The modern sports aims in creating modern conditions for practicing sports in the village of Șerpeni and in nearby localities. This will solve the difficulties faced by the four football teams in this village, creating a favorable environment for the development of the sport. Another positive thing that will benefit the inhabitants is a performance hall where the Greek-Roman style battle, as well as other sports related to the field of fighting, can be practiced. New sport conditions will contribute positively to the health of the population, reducing juvenile delinquency, especially among children and adolescents whose parents are abroad, as children are more motivated to practice different sports, to the detriment of other harmful activities. The project also establishes platforms for strengthening cooperation relations between both sides of the Dniester.

## COMMENTS

Initiatives to promote the sport and healthy lifestyles, especially the development of the infrastructure needed to practice sport by young people and children, are always welcome in rural communities in the Republic of Moldova. In this case, the construction project of the sports complex in Șerpeni village is a very important one, especially because the potential beneficiaries, the young people and the inhabitants were involved in the implementation of the project, according to Diana Enachi. The initiative also makes a visible contribution to creating the conditions for promoting the locality and young athletes, believes Ștefan Vlas, member of the Evaluation Board.

Sport is an activity that is generally recommended for any person, regardless of age. But one of the categories for which young people should be of maximum interest. The sport will improve the quality of life of young people in Șerpeni village and will discipline them. Another positive effect that sport will have on young people in the locality is the reduction in chances for them to develop dangerous habits, such as smoking or alcohol consumption. *“Healthy mind in a healthy body”*, says Ludmila Botnariuc. Although the construction of the sports complex is a beneficial initiative, according to the Evaluation Board, its impact will be observed only over time.

---

Scores: **Quality [+2.0]** **Relevance [74.2%]**

---

Information source: **Băhrinești Village Hall, Florești rayon**, <http://www.primariabahrinesti.md>

The measure pursued by the local public authority:

*Local policies of transparency, good governance and citizen participation in the decision-making process*

## CONTEXT

Băhrinești village is also called “Village with 12 mayors”. This is because every month in the 12th of the year, one inhabitant of the village volunteers as a mayor, finding solutions and better understanding what it is like to be at the helm of a village. It goes from house to house and talks to people about the problems and shortcomings they have. Practice is information, consultation and involvement of citizens in decision-making. Citizens do this unpaid work because this work results in solving community problems.

The idea came, according to Mayor Feodosia Bunescu, from the need to communicate with every inhabitant of the locality, but also to organize activities, to collect the contribution for projects, to enjoy certain citizens, to select the beneficiaries of projects, etc. The practice in Băhrinești is not found in another locality, being unique and innovative.

## ACTIVITIES

The 12 mayors of the sectors have a certain task every month. They communicate to Mayor Feodosia Bunescu about the problems of the sector, and this

activity is voluntary. Every month new people are asked to get involved in this practice. The mayor has a meeting with them and they get familiar with all the current projects, but also with the problem they have to deal with. Thus, sectoral mayors manage in half a day to provide local government with answers about the situation in the village and the problems of the 658 households from the village.

For instance, in January, sectoral mayors select the beneficiaries of the local social canteen. In December, they performed the role of 12 Santa Claus and offered New Year gifts to each family. Also, sectoral mayors have made a teaching book for young people whose authors are 128 elderly people in the village. Currently, volunteer mayors are conducting an opinion poll among residents on citizens’ willingness to participate in the sanitation project. This practice also involves a delegation of the mayor’s attributions to the citizens.

Every year, 144 people are sector mayors and the 2 000 inhabitants are informed about community and local government activities.

Beneficiaries of this policy are all inhabitants of the village of Băhrinești, but also representatives of local public administration.

## **IMPACT**

The activity of the sector mayors facilitates the work of the local public administration and involves the citizens in the decision-making process, increases the citizen's responsibility, improves the communication between the local public administration and the citizens and strengthens the citizens' confidence in the mayor's office.

## **COMMENTS**

The "Village with 12 mayors" is a unique and innovative practice that, of course, deserves to be taken over by other local authorities. Practically, it is an example of involvement, communication, and collaboration between the administration and the citizens, taking responsibility and solving real

problems of the community through collaboration between the administration and the citizens-mayors for a month. According to Diana Enachi, "*this model generates active involvement of the community in identifying solutions to community problems and increased citizen confidence in the administration. Other local authorities should be inspired and take on this good local practice in Băhrinești*". At the same time, the member of the Evaluation Board, Liubomir Chiriac, considers that the practice in Băhrinești village is an efficient tool for involving citizens in the local decision-making process.

On the other hand, the members of the Evaluation Board consider that ensuring transparency is a legal obligation of all local public authorities, and "*the activities of sector mayors are the duties of local counselors and volunteers. The mayor is only the executor of the Local Council decisions*", believes Boris Ivasi.

---

Scores: **Quality [+1.9]** **Relevance [66.3%]**

---

Information source: Chișinău Town Hall, <https://www.Chișinău.md/>

The measure pursued by the municipal authority:

### *Policies for the transparency of the activity of the local public administration*

#### CONTEXT

All information on the activity of the Chișinău Town Hall, its institutions and its enterprises will be able to be accessed more easily, with information and concretization from the first source. This task is assumed by the information platform "Alo Capitala", launched on December 7, 2018. The portal aims to publicize online the activity of the local public administration and to facilitate the communication between the municipal authorities and the citizens by the daily placement of the public interest information.

#### ACTIVITIES

The "Alo Capitala" portal is an informational site about the life of Chișinău. The public can find news about authorities' achievements and initiatives, and public administration, important decisions, and reports on key events and new town projects. The web page contains several structured menus: From the first source; interviews; as well as modules: Town Hall, Chișinău Municipal Council, Sector Prefectures and Municipal Enterprises.

Another format for reflecting the activities of the municipality and solving the problems of the citizens of Chișinău will be the broadcasting of live broadcasts and podcasts on various issues. According to Andrei Jicol, the initiator of the project, communication will be done both online and offline, via the LEDs that are in the town: "We will communicate in newscasts on the

radio, we will bring "Alo Capitala" into a magazine and a radio show".

**Beneficiaries** of the transparency policy are the 670 thousand citizens of Chișinău municipality, Chișinău Town Hall, employees of public institutions, economic agents from the capital, journalists and other stakeholders interested in the activity of the public administration in Chișinău.

#### IMPACT

The "Alo Capitala" portal is a good practice in the field of corruption prevention at the level of Chișinău Town Hall and municipal enterprises. The portal includes interactive information and monitoring tools that can be tailored to the needs of capital realities for different media consumers, starting with the town's citizens, civil society, and ending with public sector employees. Thus, the portal provides the public with the opportunity to inform and monitor the activity of the local public administration, as well as to report online certain events or violations.

#### COMMENTS

Transparency in decision-making is one of the principles of good governance in the work of local government. This involves consulting, informing and stimulating the active participation of citizens in the

decision-making process. Therefore, the information published on the Chişinău public administration publicity platform “Alo Capitala” is current and necessary and this project will develop the level of confidence of the city’s inhabitants towards the town hall and will increase the transparency in the decision-making process. However, part of the public information on the portal can easily be found on the Chişinău Town Hall website as a double effort. *“The information is fragmentary and difficult to assimilate, and the platform does not provide access to the decision-making process within the Chişinău Municipal Council”*, says Vasile Cioaric, member of the Evaluation Board.

*“The concept is not completed and the attractive and innovative elements for the public are not obvious. It*

*is not clear who will provide the financial support for the portal’s maintenance and sustainability”*, asks Irina Ioniţă. Also, another member of the Evaluation Board, Igor Bucătaru, argues that the information platform “Alo Capitala” must be strongly promoted to become known among the inhabitants and has a greater impact on the decision-makers and the citizens of Chişinău.

And for the added value of the idea, it would be good to publish online opinion polls in which citizens will be exposed on different aspects of the activity of Chişinău Town Hall and the Municipal Council, assess the quality of public services or come up with policy recommendations for developing economic and social development, proposes Diana Enachi.

---

Scores: **Quality [+1.6]** **Relevance [69.2%]**

---

# DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES THAT RECEIVED A NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT

I

## POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AT CĂUȘENI: Town Hall concludes contracts with the company of the wife and the father-in-law of the mayor

Information source: **The portal [www.moldovacurata.md](http://www.moldovacurata.md). Article published on November 8, 2018 by Viorica Zaharia**

The measure violated by the local public authority:

*Possible conflict of interest in the public procurement of leisure services and street lighting*

Căușeni Town Hall has concluded contracts worth almost one million lei in the last two years with the companies managed by the mayor's wife and his father-in-law. One of the companies entertains the children of the city, giving them access to the slides, and another - provides services for the street lighting. Purchases were made through public competitions. The mayor argues that the documents have been endorsed by the Public Procurement Agency and that, thus, the transactions were legally qualified, but refused to give copies of the publications' reports to the "Moldova Curată" portal.

Grigore Repeșciuc is Mayor of Căușeni since 2011. His wife, Aurelia Repeșciuc, is a counselor in Căușeni town council and is founder and **manager of three companies: "Galaxia-Parc" SRL, "Mihasi-Test-Auto" SRL and "Mihasi" SRL**. Besides, she states in the wealth declaration and the fact that she is employed at the company registered in the name of her father, Gheorghe Cămeșciuc, "Dragoș Cămeșciuc" SRL. **The most important income the mayor's family would have from the "Mihasi-Test-Auto" company, which in 2017 brought dividends worth 270 thousand lei, according to the wealth statements of both spouses.**

### **Street lighting assurance services from the mayor's father-in-law**

The official website of the Public Procurement Agency shows that in 2017 Căușeni Town Hall concluded two contracts with the company "Dragoș Cămeșciuc" whose founder and administrator is Gheorghe Cămeșciuc, mayor's father-in-law. A contract is for the provision of "auto services for the street lighting service", and the second - for "service of public service in the city of Căușeni".

The following year, 2018, two other contracts were concluded with the same firm for the same type of service. In total, in the two years, "Dragoș Cămeșciuc" company concluded with Căușeni Town Hall contracts amounting to 786 thousand lei.

### **The mayor's family company entertains the children of the town**

On February 13, 2018, the Mayor's Office concluded a contract with the mayor's wife, "Galaxia-Parc", for "recreational services and activities for the children in Căușeni for 2018". The contract amount is 130 666 lei.

At auction “Galaxia-Parc” was the only bidder. The “Moldova Curată” portal asked Căușeni Town Hall copies of the reports of the procurement contests, but also the decisions of the City Council, which decided to purchase these services. *“Yes, they are such contracts. But if I go through auctions, there is no problem. It is your opinion that it is a conflict of interest, we have another vision, but we will provide you with a written answer”*, the mayor said.

**The legal regime for declaring and resolving conflicts of interest is supervised and verified by the National Integrity Authority. The “Moldova Curată” portal will notify this institution to verify whether the mayor Grigore Repeșciuc violated the legal regime of the conflict of interests when concluding contracts with family businesses.**

*The entire article can be read on „Posibil conflict de interes la Căușeni: Primăria orașului încheie contracte cu firmele soției și socrului primarului”.*

## **COMMENTS**

Conflicts of interest in the process of awarding public procurement contracts are a fairly common phe-

nomenon. This also happens because of the specificity of the country, on the one hand, we have many contracting authorities, and on the other hand a small number of companies active in the procurement market. In particular, this phenomenon is specific for local public authorities and small localities where the economic activity is quite low. It is important to be properly managed if they cannot be avoided. However, the public authority has the obligation to take all the necessary measures throughout the application of a public procurement procedure in order to avoid situations likely to cause a conflict of interest, according to Diana Enachi, member of the Evaluation Board.

The practice of the Căușeni Town Hall, which concludes public procurement contracts with companies managed by the mayor’s relatives, is a bad practice that damages the public budget and is contrary to public procurement legislation. This is a flagrant case and a flagrant violation of procedures that require investigation from responsible authorities, and those within the authority who admit such practices are held accountable.

*“Congratulations to those who detected possible violations. The result of the investigation will be a lesson for other mayors in the country”*, says Boris Ivasi.

---

Scores: **Quality [-2.1]** **Relevance [75.8%]**

---

Information source: AGER: <http://ager.md/>. Article published on December 27, 2018, by Ala Revenco

The measure violated by the local public authority:

### *False acts in the public procurement process*

In December 2018, the General Housing and Communal Directorate in Chișinău signed with the economic agent “Pro-Mapix” SRL two contracts for a total amount of 59 328 lei (VAT included) for the purchase of urban furniture, namely Contract no. [MD-2018-11-07-000115-1-11/78-C/18](#) for 5 baskets for cigarette hooks in the total amount of 29 940 lei, or 5 988 lei/unit and, Contract no. [MD-2018-11-07-000115-1-12/78-C/18](#) for three bicycle parking facilities for a total of 29 388 lei or 9 796 lei/unit.

The circumstances of organizing this procurement procedure are at least controversial, not to say dubious. During the examination of the annexed documents of the procedure, several strange moments were identified, as well as serious violations of the legal framework:

- The technical specification of the urban furniture required for purchase is extremely short and actually represents the sketches (according to an individual project) of the cigarette hook and the bicycle parking facility. The estimated purchase amount and the price of each unit of urban furniture procured through the procedure concerned far exceed the market prices for such goods.
- Significant divergences regarding the date of signing the contract and the commencement of the contract period:
  - Both contracts are dated December 5, 2018, but in contradiction to this, in p. 12.7. of the contracts is mentioned: The present contract

represents the will of both parties and is signed today, December 10, 2018.

- On the SIA RSAP MTender website, it is indicated that the contracts were uploaded on the system on December 4, 2018, the date of signing is indicated - 11 December 2018, and the beginning of the contract period - 10 December 2018. Thus, the execution period of the contract began one day earlier than signing it, but also seven days later than the contract publication in the Mtender system.

The most serious infringement found in the respective purchase procedure for urban furniture consists of the fact that the winning agent “Pro-Mapix” SRL presented false documents. For the sake of clarity, we specify that the package of documents, presented by “Pro-Mapix” SRL, actually belongs to another economic agent - “Doban-Plus” SRL.

*The entire article can be read on „[Achiziții cu acte false la Primăria mun. Chișinău](#)”.*

### COMMENTS

Public procurement is nothing more than spending from public budgets allocated to some town hall or community needs. Therefore, the legislation provides for these resources to be used in compliance with the principles of good governance, including

transparency, legality, efficiency, and effectiveness. Awarding a procurement contract in violation of one of these principles means damaging public and public interest budgets. Through this fraudulent practice, the Chişinău Town Hall violated the principles mentioned above, and the acceptance of false documents in the acquisition process is a violation of the law. *“Falsifying acts in the public procurement*

*process is a bad practice for any local public authority”*, believes Ştefan Vlas.

The law stipulates that the public authority has the obligation to exclude from the award procedure of the public procurement contract any tenderer who presents false information. Moreover, these illegalities must be brought to the attention of the law enforcement authorities.

---

Scores: **Quality [-2.4]** **Relevance [77.5%]**

---

# CONCLUSION OF THE ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Dozens of local socio-economic initiatives, projects and policies implemented by local authorities in Moldova in 2018 became the subject of five publications that highlight sustainable, time-lasting practices that can be transferred to other communities, resulting in a final improvement in the quality of local and regional development policies.

Local and regional policies in Moldova have been identified and appreciated as good or bad by the members of an Evaluation Board created within the project "Promoting transparency and financial sustainability of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova". The project is implemented by IDIS "Viitorul", in partnership with the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms in Slovakia (INEKO), with the financial support of the SlovakAid program.

More than 50 public policies gathered from all corners of the Republic of Moldova, including Gagauzia and Tiraspol, were measured on the basis of two methodologically approved criteria, taking into account their importance for the community and their sustainability. Thus, the members of the Evaluation Board assessed and classified the policies analyzed by (a) quality, a criterion that ranges from -3 to 3 and (b) the importance of this policy for the community and economy, ie the impact it produces, using a percentage scale from 0 to 100%. And multiplying the two criteria is the final score for each policy, which ranges between - 300 and 300 points.

In this respect, over the course of a year, policies have been identified and analyzed that have pursued the transparency of local governance, modernization of urban infrastructure, sustainable economic develop-

ment, promotion of tourism objectives and modernization of public services.

Thus, **the top three best local and regional policies in the Republic of Moldova, evaluated by the Evaluation Board and implemented by the local public authorities in 2018, refer to the green public education in Ungheni "Adoptă un spațiu public!" (229 points), the "Dor de Codru" tourist route created with the support of the "Migration and Local Development" UNDP project and appreciated by 222.5 points by the members of the Evaluation Board and the tourist guide of the Soroca rayon, launched in May 2018 (218.5 points).**

As regards the division of policies by region, the Center area is the most active in this regard. As a result, 22 localities from the central districts of the country were described in summaries of the best and worst policies in 2018, 11 - in the North region, and nine in the northern part of the Republic of Moldova. Note that some localities have been identified in the analysis with two or more policies, both positive and less, such as Chișinău, Chișcăreni, Ungheni, Colibași from Cahul rayon, Telenești, Strășeni, Cărpineni commune (Hâncești rayon), Căușeni town and Bălți municipality. From this list, the top three were the Chișcăreni, Ungheni and Colibași commune, which demonstrate that the Moldovan communities are proud and champions of the local change we meet both in the north of the republic and at the center and south of the country.

At the same time, the members of the Evaluation Board offered an appreciation to negative measures that show certain violations of the principles of transparency and can cause harm to local communities.

They referred in particular to cases of conflicts of interest, abuse, fraudulent management of public patrimony and serious violations in the procurement process. Therefore, the most frequently described articles referred to the municipality of Chişinău, namely the Chişinău Town Hall - which falsified several acts in the public procurement process and the Village Hall of Truşeni, where the corrupt involvement of the local elected representatives in the process of alienation of public land. The case in Truşeni was considered the most negative practice in 2018, achieving a score of 204, 3 points. Although these cases were considered by the members of the Evaluation Board as negative, their gravity and the legal power of the violation can be ascertained only by the National Integrity Authority and other responsible institutions.

Therefore, the assessment of local and regional policies in the Republic of Moldova has once again demonstrated that civic monitoring of public administration authorities is necessary and beneficial in virtue of the overall mission to improve the quality

of decision-making processes and to empower the actors involved. And because local authorities are an important link to the national decision-making process, being closer to and better acquainted with citizens, they need to continue and operate in a transparent, open, integrated and professional manner.

The local public administration authorities in Moldova are responsible for developing, designing, adopting, implementing and executing their own public policies. In this context, the purpose of public policies and governance is to ensure prosperity and competitiveness in an economically sustainable way, social welfare, public order and security, and environmental protection. And the quality of public policies can only be assessed by reference to efficiency, ability to respond to identified needs at a community level. Public policies must be accessible, understandable and socially legitimate. To achieve this performance, local authorities need to develop a good strategic vision and invest in sustainable and efficient development.

---

*This assessment of local and regional policies in the Republic of Moldova in 2019 was done within the initiative "Promoting transparency and financial sustainability of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova". The initiative is being implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul", in partnership with the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms in Slovakia (INEKO), with the financial support of the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic (SlovakAid). The initiative aims to increase the transparency, financial accountability and quality of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova.*

---

IDIS is an independent multi-issue think tank, established in 1993 as a research and advocacy think tank. It undertakes applied field research in political sciences and economic analysis, governance and law, maintaining a number of social networks on social policy analysis, decentralization, EU and Russia policies, 'frozen conflicts' and trade.

IDIS owns a group of intertwined professional clusters, organized into thematic areas. IDIS allocates major resources to combine sectorial studies with active networking and advocacy, usually via networks of clients, allies, and stakeholders, in several public mobilization projects). Thus, IDIS is 'tanking' its ideas, although it uphold a significant amount of analytical products, in various fields of political, social and economic interest. IDIS is not a politically-affiliated think tank, and refutes partisan connections.

IDIS continues to play an important role in assisting policy-makers in Moldova to comply with their institutional responsibilities, build up consensus on the national priorities, bringing the country into a normalcy fit to reforms and European values.

