

October 2019, #9



LaLaPlay choir, 130 children and Ion Lazarencu, open water swimmer joining on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention for Rights of the Child

PA  
GE **23**

## YOUTH TRANSFORMING THE COUNTRY

PA  
GE **25**

## UNDP UNITES: PEOPLE, LOCALITIES AND BANKS OF NISTRU RIVER

PA  
GE **27**

## MOLDOVA ELECTRO-MARATHON: 9,000 ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN KM



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DEAR READERS,

I am proud to join the United Nations in the Republic of Moldova and with this latest issue of the United Nations in Moldova Magazine, we celebrate the close partnership between the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations (UN). This partnership is designed to make a lasting contribution to national human rights and development priorities and to improve the living conditions of all people in the country.

Much has happened since the beginning of 2019 and the UN looks forward to continuing to provide all necessary support to the Republic of Moldova on its journey to ensure a peaceful, democratic, transparent and inclusive society, as well as a prosperous European country. We also envisage the strengthening and continuation of our already comprehensive cooperation towards realizing the national priorities as reflected in the Republic of Moldova – United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development for 2018-2022, as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals framed by the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

“ We welcome the intention of the Republic of Moldova to present its Voluntary National Review for progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development year 2020. This is a constructive step, which demonstrates the Republic of Moldova’s commitment towards Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The Voluntary National Review will highlight the Republic of Moldova’s achievements in relation to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and provide an assessment of the implementation towards the achievement of those goals. We are positive that this will be a fruitful exercise and will be an excellent opportunity to share best practices and learning for future initiatives.

In the spirit of leaving no one behind, much has been accomplished so far in 2019. In July, the UN welcomed its new generation of young professionals at the launch of its fourth edition of an Internship Program for Persons Belonging to Under-Represented Groups. To ensure that the UN is accessible to all, for the fourth year in a row, on 22 May, a UN Open House event was organized. More than 100 people, mostly school and university students, visited the UN House and learned firsthand about the work of the UN agencies and projects in Moldova. In addition, in June, the UN proudly attended the launching ceremony of the National Army’s Women’s Association. We welcome the Government’s initiative, which we are confident will contribute to empower, mobilize and enhance women’s leadership and participation in military operations and pave the way for long-term and structural gender parity.

These and many more achievements and milestones are covered in this issue of the United Nations in Moldova Magazine. We hope you will enjoy what you read and will share these stories with your networks, friends, and family.

**SIMON SPRINGETT,**  
UN Resident Coordinator in Moldova



# MOLDOVANS LEARN HOW TO OVERCOME THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE



Tomatoes growing in a greenhouse.  
Photo: ©FAO/Buletin Dorin Goian / FAO



Farm workers harvesting strawberries.  
Photo: ©FAO/Buletin Dorin Goian / FAO

Food loss and waste unnecessarily and significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and to climate change. Great amount of resources, like energy and water, is consumed only to produce food that ends up in the garbage.

But it is not only the environment that is affected. Food loss and waste reduce the availability of micronutrient-rich foods, reduce the incomes of smallholder farmers – who are the major food producers – and increase food prices for urban consumers. This affects everyone but particularly the most vulnerable. This problem has a particularly strong impact in developing countries like Moldova.

To mitigate the problem, under the implementation of SAVE FOOD programme on food loss and waste reduction in Europe and Central Asia, FAO provides support to four countries in the region, including Moldova, to develop national strategies for food loss and waste reduction. To this end, to better understand the causes and impact of the problem, FAO assessed the selected food supply chains – food loss and waste experts interviewed farmers, processors and retailers and held meetings with government officials, representatives of the public and private sectors working in food and agriculture, academia and civil society.

What was revealed through FAO assessment? One of the main problems that needs to be addressed in the country is the lack of accurate data. We don't know yet how much food we lose, how much we waste and what sectors are more vulnerable.

As for the causes, the assessment revealed that losses in the horticultural sector occurred mostly due to inappropriate agricultural practic-

es, poor road infrastructure and postharvest equipment facilities, and weak organization and cooperation among value chain actors.

Climate volatility, together with poor planning and limited market access, make another major cause of low yields and high losses at harvest.

In addition, the efforts to reduce food loss and waste at retail and consumer levels are hampered by policy barriers that impair food donations to charities and food banks.

Subsequently, FAO prepared the first draft of the National Strategy on food loss and waste reduction, congruent with the existing national strategies on agricultural development, food security, and climate change mitigation. Relevant national stakeholders will revise the document in consultations with the public. Such a transparent and participatory approach is the key to successful implementation of food loss and waste policies. The required capacity will be also developed through a series of training sessions on post-harvest handling practices and food waste reduction, and good practices will be shared and promoted via a dedicated regional SAVE FOOD Community of Practice established under the programme. The Community will also help strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to enable all interested parties to better coordinate efforts and plan interventions.

We hope that Moldova will become a leader in the region in promoting and implementing comprehensive actions to prevent and reduce food losses and waste.



Fallen apples rotting on the ground.  
Photo: ©IAEA/Louise Potterton/ FAO





# WHO RECOMMENDS HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE MEETINGS

Meetings and events are a fundamental part of work and the workplace culture. They serve as an important time for people to communicate, strategize and solve problems effectively; they may last for hours or several days and can therefore have a direct impact on the health of their participants, as well as the environment. WHO has embraced and promotes healthy and sustainable meetings by providing easily applicable examples of how to plan healthier meetings and events.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe has introduced guidelines that address four topics: nutrition (snacks, meals and beverages), physical activity, providing a tobacco-free environment, and sustainability. Each meeting is an opportunity to raise awareness – among participants, staff and service providers – of the benefits of healthy diets and regular physical activity and of using sustainable practices to protect the environment.

Leading by example, the WHO Regional Office for Europe encourages national stakeholders to introduce a healthy and sustainable environment in the meetings they organize. But not all meetings require food. When organizing a meeting, assess the length of time, time of day and number of people attending the meeting before deciding whether food should be part of the work session. If you decide that serving food is necessary, ensure that a variety of healthy options is provided throughout the event.

## Fruit and vegetables

- Fresh fruit and vegetables should be the basis of any snacks provided
- Fruit and vegetables can also be the main component of starters, side dishes and desserts. Give preference to fresh fruit and vegetables that are in season
- Avoid canned fruit, dried fruit and fruit juices from concentrate, as they are often higher in sugar and lower in fiber



## Fats and oils

- Select food that contain healthy sources of unsaturated fats, such as olive oil, sunflower oil, fish, avocado and nuts. Limit saturated fats, which are typically found in fatty meat, butter, palm and coconut oil, cream, cheese, ghee and lard; skin and trim excess fat from meat and poultry



Limit availability of drinks that are high in free sugars

- Eliminate *trans* fats by avoiding processed foods, fast food, fried food, baked goods and margarines. Read labels and ensure that *trans* fats and hydrogenated oils are not listed in the ingredients

## Whole grains

- Choose whole grain food such as steel-cut oats, brown rice and whole-wheat wraps, rather than refined grains such as white rice and white bread

## Proteins

- Choose leaner meat such as skinless poultry, rather than red or processed meat
- Seafood, unsweetened yogurt and eggs are also great sources of protein
- Be sure to include plant-based sources of protein, such as lentils, tofu, nuts, nut butter and beans, for non-meat eaters
- Opt for steamed, grilled or braised sources of protein instead of fried foods

## Desserts

- As a preference, serve cut fruit for dessert
- When other dessert options are chosen, ensure that they are low in fats and sugar
- Offer fruit smoothies or milkshakes with low-fat frozen yogurt

## Sugar

- Limit availability of foods and drinks that are high in free sugars (e.g. sugar-sweetened beverages, juice drinks and juice concentrates, honey, syrups, sugary snacks and sweets)

More details here: [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/373172/healthy-meetings-eng.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/373172/healthy-meetings-eng.pdf)



# YOUNG LEADERS FROM MOLDOVA MAKE COMMITMENTS TO REALIZE THE AGENDA OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FROM CAIRO

Thirty young leaders, members of the Local Youth Councils and Youth Centres, participated in a consultation session dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development from Cairo (ICPD). They discussed changes in the opportunities to fulfil the rights of young people in the past 25 years, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, and committed to act for change in their communities.

Victoria Botan, a young woman with locomotor disability, who moderated the discussion, challenged the group to think of the opportunities and barriers experienced by young people from vulnerable groups, especially those with disabilities, HIV/AIDS or of ethnic minorities.



Young people actively engaged in conversations about their rights and needs

The young people agreed that positive change to address the rights and needs of young people mainly in the areas of education and health has occurred since 1994 in Moldova. However, the progress has not reached all young people. Inequalities disproportionately affect adolescents and youth with disabilities, living in rural areas, from ethnic minorities and those growing up without parents.

The biggest challenge for young people continues to be access to quality information and services on sexual and reproductive health and rights partly due to the existing taboos, stigmatization and stereotypes of the society.

The issue of adolescent pregnancy and birth is still serious in Moldova. Every year, more than 2,000 young girls give birth, which is equal to the population number of several villages in the country. An early pregnancy limits girls in reaching their goals in education, personal and professional development, thus, increasing their vulnerability to violence and poverty.

**“ As a person with disability, I must say that we still face difficulties in exercising our rights. Access to health services, including reproductive health, is a fundamental human right. But it is often limited because of poor infrastructure and negative attitude. We need to promote human dignity and equal opportunities for everyone, so that no one is left behind, ”**

**VICTORIA BOTAN,**  
a young woman with locomotor disability



Victoria Botan



ICPD Consultation session





Young people commit to realize ICPD agenda

“ This happens because young people are still ashamed to talk about sexuality and reproductive health and rights with their parents and teachers. They get the information from the internet, which is not always reliable.”

**DUMITRU,**  
a Y-PEER educator

Ana, a youth worker from Ungheni Youth Centre added: “Adolescent pregnancy is a result of lack of information, sexual abuse and wrongdoing,” which needs to be further addressed.

Young people agreed that they need access to quality health education in schools, while teachers need to be prepared to talk openly about these issues. The society also needs to change attitudes, to promote

gender equality, accept the differences and treat each other with empathy and tolerance. In the end, young people were challenged to think about what they can do as individuals and as a group to change the situation in Moldova and realize the ICPD dream.

They committed to conducting awareness and advocacy campaigns, to promote empathy, to be vocal about their rights and needs, as well as to support each other.

The ICPD consultation session was organized within the Youth Summer camp supported by UNFPA, as part of the 'Joint Fund for the development of Youth Centers and strengthening participation and civic engagement among young people of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and UNFPA'.



# YOUNG PEOPLE FROM TRANSNISTRIA SAY “YES!” TO HEALTHY EATING AND MORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



Pupils from Parcani School (Slobozia rayon)



Works of pupils from Transnistrian schools

To mobilize all schools and communities to undertake concrete actions that support the adoption of a healthy diet and active lifestyle, World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with local health specialists, introduced school lessons to young people. The lively, interactive one-hour sessions are being conducted in all schools on the left bank of the Nistru River. To expand the healthy life style messages, a thematic drawing and poster competition was launched.

In total, 113 pupils from schools around the Transnistrian region participated in the competition, with a selected 27 drawings to be exposed to the public. The aim of the exhibition was to promote and support healthy behaviours of kids and adolescents. To ensure the sustainability and mobility, the drawings were printed on cardboard and will be showcased in all regional centers of the Transnistrian region.

“I’m very happy that I had the opportunity to participate in the drawing competition dedicated to the healthy life style. I like both to draw and to bike. I think people have to think more about their health status and habits,” mentioned Evghenia Paun, scholar from Grigoriopol town during the opening event of the exhibition.

The lessons, which began in late 2018, on the left bank of the Nistru River, teach the students about the benefits of different forms of physical activity; the reduction of fat, salt and sugar consumption; and the negative influence of smoking and alcohol on health. These joint activities of WHO and local health and education spe-

cialists aim to promote the understanding of healthy habits, to engage young people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, and to address the main risk factors of non-communicable diseases.

Within the framework of the project, colorful, original information packages with friendly and accessible language were also developed and promoted. It includes brochures for pupils in grades 1–4 and 5–11, and a set of colorful bookmarks depicting healthy plates of food, as well as the importance of drinking water and engaging in physical activity. The package also includes an extended guide for teachers on how to conduct the lessons.

“The European Union is happy to support the young generation in their aspiration to adopt and promote healthy life style,” said Fabien Schaeffer, project manager from the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova. “We can, in collaboration with parents and families, all do more to address the health risks factors in the frame of school activities and to enjoy positive health and wellbeing to their full potential,” he added.

This activity is part of the biennial collaborative agreement between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and WHO/Europe. The initiative is funded by the European Union’s Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme and coordinated by WHO under technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the health sector.





# GET TO KNOW THE WOMEN AIMING TO BECOME THE VOICE OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN MOLDOVA

They are determined and they know they can make a difference in their localities. They are four of the participants in the Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities who have decided to run in the 2019 local elections.

Adela Postolachi, 45, is medical worker. Following an accident, she is now restrained to a wheelchair, but she is determined to become an official who solves the issues of her locality Terebna.

Working in the medical system, I often have direct relation to patients' lives, helping them solve various personal as well as social problems. I then understood that certain problems can only be solved by holding a decision-making position. Hence, I set to create infrastructure that is accessible in terms of constructions: I want all buildings to have access ramps installed as well as I want to focus on street lights."

**ADELA POSTOLACHI,**  
medical worker

Elena Cernei, an active woman from the village of Găuzeni, district of Șoldănești has also been encouraged by her community. She wants to increase people with disabilities' knowledge of their rights. "People with disabilities should be encouraged. Today, my disability has become an ability. I have many times been discriminated against but I have realised that I have to knock on many doors in order to be an informed person." Today, nothing can stop her from pursuing her passion.

Oxana Barbu and Lilia Puzderi share the same goal, they want to make visible changes.



The Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities participants. Photo: UN Women Moldova

"At times I have been questioned why I wanted to run in the elections and what I could do for the society. But I encouraged myself," explained Barbu, resident of the town of Cimișlia. "I decided to get involved because I want to contribute to change. I want us to have more accessible space and to set up a landfill in the locality," she added.

Lilia Puzderi's ambition is to prove that people with special needs can be vocal and assert themselves.

"I know people need me and that I can do more," said Puzderi, the fourth woman, from Borogani village, Leova district. "I am trying to show the society that the person with special needs is as motivated as the rest of people and that they also have goals. We are competent to help the society regardless of where we are. My wish is to be in touch with the citizens as much as possible and help those with special needs. When I was born, people like me were marginalized and humiliated; however, with time and with the appearance of such various training programs, people develop and change. Our involvement in various activities changes the work," she added.



Adela Postolachi, one of the Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities participants. Photo: A.O. Motivatie



Elena Cernei, one of the Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities participants. Photo: UN Women Moldova



Oxana Barbu, one of the Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities participants. Photo: UN Women Moldova



Lilia Puzderi, one of the Civic and Political Empowerment Program for Women with Disabilities participants. Photo: personal archive

The Civil and Political Empowerment Program is implemented between January and August 2019 by the Moldovan Association "MOTIVAȚIE" in partnership with UN Women and is funded by Sweden.



# MOLDOVA'S NATIONAL ARMY ESTABLISHES WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



In 2019, Moldova's National Army established its first Women's Association with the aim to empower women within the military. "We are confident that this Women's Association will empower, mobilize and enhance the conditions for female participation in military operations and pave the way for long-term, structural gender parity," said then acting UN RCO Rita Columbia at the inauguration ceremony in June.

"This is a unique opportunity to support women within the army," says Colonel Mariana Grama who has been instrumental in the association's establishment. Following a long military career, she is hopeful that this new association will provide women with a support system that will include social benefits related to for example combining a military career with family life. Furthermore, she is hoping that the network will empower women to more easily be integrated in the military system, to grow in rank and to support and promote women in leadership positions within the army.

As the first female Colonel in Moldova, Grama knows what she is talking about. Today she is the Head of Foreign Relations Department and even though a lot has improved since her first days in the Army, she recognizes that "we still need to work harder" to promote and mainstream the gender equality principles and policies in the day to day life of the National Army. "There is still stereotypical thinking like that an army career is not for women."

"My friends were shocked," says 34-year-old Major Elena Milcenco about breaking the news of her aspirations to join the army. Also involved in the establishment of the association, she highlights the importance of not only looking at the number of women but also focus on ensuring that women gain an influential voice. To her, the participation of women in military operations is crucial, "it provides a different perspective," which is essential to see the full picture. To her, this association is a step in the right direction.



UN Women and UNDP continue to support the Ministry of Defence through for example capacity building activities and the realization of the Ministry's Action Plan in support of the National Programme on implementation of the Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security.





# MARINA IORDACHI: "POLICE BIKE PATROLLING BRINGS US CLOSER TO PEOPLE AND LETS OUR CITY BREATHE"

A police bike patrol unit was launched in Chisinau in 2017 with the support of the U.S. Government.

"By patrolling on a bike, we promote a healthy lifestyle. It is very important for us to be close to citizens, to respond promptly to their requests for assistance in parks areas, for example, where access service cars is more restricted. Patrolling on a bike allows us to hear any rustle, any movement, any noise or talk," says Marina Iordachi, commander of the police bike patrol officers from Chisinau.

Marina admits that the idea of patrolling on a bicycle seemed initially to be a piece of cake: "When I was called for the first time by my superior who told me that we will start patrolling on a bike, I was thinking he was joking. After 2-3 months, some meetings were organized, where a U.S. instructor was present, and so I realized that it is something serious. [...] Before we started patrolling on bikes, I thought that it was easy-I get on a bicycle and go patrolling." The trainings she benefited from meant a lot of theoretical knowledge, but also practical skills. Marina understood why she was complaining before on joints and back aches: because of the wrong posture. She learned to master the bicycle, which she no longer sees as an accessory, but as an organic part of herself:

"What I noticed from my own experience is that the bicycle is part of the body, if I pull myself back I have to pull the bicycle back as well, or if I take a step forward I have to go with it a step forward. It's like a working partner, we're a team."

Marina, as well as her colleagues who benefited from the trainings, now knows how to execute various manoeuvres that seemed once impossible, such as cycling on stairs or roaming through the crowd. She knows how to defend herself, ensure people's security and neutralize those who violate the public order. All while manoeuvring the bike.

Due to her perseverance, Marina became the commander of the police bike patrol unit from Chisinau. Now she is the one training her peers from other cities in the Republic of Moldova. She says that her position comes with responsibilities. As a commander, she has to maintain the team spirit: "When you communicate not like a boss but as a friend, your colleague is more prone to tell you what the issues are, you have to understand everybody, to assess the situation, and of course I am proud to be a police woman and a leader of the police bike patrol unit. It gives me more confidence."

She thinks bike patrols bring the police officers closer to the community they serve:



Marina Iordachi, commander of the police bike patrol officers from Chisinau. Photo: Denis Rusu/UNDP Moldova

**“** I have personally noticed that the relationship between us and the citizens has changed, and citizens are more open to talk to us, to ask for our help. There were cases when we were at cycling tours or patrolling in parks on very high temperatures, so they approached us, served us with a bottle of water, asked if we did not get tired of working for so many hours. They were interested in our work as police bike officers.”

**MARINA IORDACHI,**  
commander of a police patrol unit

Marina's greatest desire is to buy her own bicycle: "I like to promote a healthy lifestyle, because a police officer has to be physically fit." Sport is part of Marina's life, who also holds the title of arm-wrestling champion of the General Police Inspectorate.

Marina would like more colleagues to exchange their cars for bicycles: "Of course I would come with a request to the employees who are already working as police officers and to those who want to become police officers - to give a chance to bicycles, to be part of our team, the team of police bike officers, so as to promote a healthy lifestyle together. Let go of the cars a little bit, to let the city breathe a little and reduce the amount of gas emissions."

Police bike patrol units are also operational since 2019 in Balti, Cahul, Cantemir and Leova and were created with the support of the U.S. Government and UNDP within the project "Support to Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova". The assistance provided by the project is to support the implementation of the community police concept, as well as to increase the level of trust in the police.



# IANOȘ PETRAȘCU, A THEATER DIRECTOR WHO TACKLES SOCIAL ISSUES DIFFERENTLY

**Known for the creation of the M.A.D.E Theater and for staging shows of social character, Ianoș Petrașcu is a theater director who tackles social issues differently.**

Ianoș Petrașcu's arts path started with the dream of becoming an artist, a dream that has developed into the opportunity of teaching others.

"In fact, since I was a child, I have liked everything that happens on stage and, as each teenager or youngster, I had a dream - to become an artist. My drama teacher encouraged me to try to apply to the film school and I have been falling in love with theater ever since.

Everything that happens in the artistic area in Moldova is related to the drama theater but corporality (theatre technique that consists of using your body instead of your words to convey a message) is not tackled. This got me thinking and, together with several colleagues, I decided to set up the M.A.D.E Theater, one in which the body of the actor speaks."



Ianos Petrascu, the play director. Photo: UN Women Moldova



Discussions after the play, in Rezina. Photo: UN Women Moldova





Libera Performance in Chisinau.  
Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Ramin Mazur



Libera Performance in Chisinau.  
Photo: UN Women Moldova/ Ramin Mazur

The role of actors in this type of theater is not simple. In addition to having to express emotions for the audience, this must happen without them uttering a word.

“This is what in fact we find out in public theaters of any religion or political affiliation, of various cultures, on the entire globe.

After learning that theater had an education role, another phenomenon I faced was a discussion with some colleagues who shared experiences from their childhood, some pleasant but many unpleasant ones too. I wanted to speak about what happens to us when we are little and what repercussions such actions have for children, and I understood that some things are missed out or few talk about them because they feel uneasy or were taught it was something shameful when they were children.

The actors who perform on the stage in fact are professional dancers. They knew what it was like to be a dancer but it is different when you have to get into character. Some of them said, “This is how I felt, too”, “I’ve seen this, too,” “I don’t want this to happen again.”

The documentation for “Free Woman” was difficult because women were afraid to talk. I was very glad

that some of them were very open from the very beginning. One woman said, “I am very happy that men start to listen to us.”

“I noticed that when people step into the auditorium, they come with the feeling that they are attending a class again and are wondering what else they will be told; however, their feeling changes and we see the audience empathize with the actor/actress.

Unfortunately, we have not had many cases of boys admitting to having faced violence. First of all, there is a stereotype, especially in our country, that if you hear a man say he has also been confronted with violence, people would think him weak.”

The end of the tour of the M.A.D.E crew with the show “Free Woman” does not mean the end of the discussions about the problems present in our society.

“I think it is possible to change people’s prospects. We have tried to tackle the problems that hurt us. Each show also includes other problems that highlight the issue of violence. We would also like to talk about a very relevant and important issue for Moldova, a pressing one, which is inter-ethnic solidarity.”

The documentary show “Free” was first performed in Chişinău on 3 December 2018 and last time in Rezina on 8 May 2019. The show was produced by the M.A.D.E Theater (Movement, Art, Dance, Emotion) in partnership with the Civic Association “Vesta” and UN Women Moldova, and was funded by Sweden.



# TWO SOLAR TREES GENERATING GREEN ENERGY INSTALLED IN CHISINAU



Solar trees in Chisinau. Photo: UNDP Moldova

Two solar trees that generate photovoltaic electricity were installed in the capital city of Moldova. Chisinau's inhabitants can now, for free, charge their mobile devices, computers, electric bicycles; have access to Internet and relax. In the evenings, the trees light up the surroundings due to the stored sun energy during the day. The solar trees are under 24-hour video surveillance. The initiative belongs to the United Nations Development Programme and is being implemented in partnership with the Chisinau City Hall.

// The installation of these solar trees is funded by the UNDP's Global Innovation Facility, within a regional project which includes the capitals of Serbia, Tajikistan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We are glad to bring innovation to Chisinau."

**ALEXANDRU ROTARU,**  
project manager,  
"Moldova Sustainable Green Cities".

The Chisinau City Hall, a partner of the initiative, has ensured the landscaping of the space hosting the solar trees, including the pavement of the ground. The solar trees are installed on the Grigore Vieru and Mircea cel Batran avenues. The locations and design

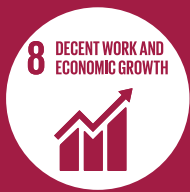
of the solar trees' areas were proposed and validated by residents of Chisinau, following several selection stages, being subsequently approved by the Chisinau City Hall. The inhabitants of the capital were invited to propose design ideas for the solar trees' area. "I am delighted that innovative technologies reach the Ciocana sector, the youngest sector in the city, which is open to innovations. I want to create an avenue of innovations in the sector I administer," noted Sinilga Scolnic, praetor of Ciocana sector.

The design of the solar tree has the potential to become a model of ecological technology. The vertical and cascade placement of photovoltaic leaves reduces the area of land needed to install photovoltaic panels in their classical form.

"Although Chisinau has infrastructure issues and services to solve, it does not mean we have to stop the innovation in the city. The solar trees are not only a beautiful urban furniture, they make people's lives more comfortable, and last but not least, promote eco-friendly technologies," said Nicolae Balaur, former praetor of Riscani sector.

The initiative is funded by the Global Innovation Facility, co-funded by Chisinau City Hall and implemented by the innovatory laboratories of the UNDP: Green City Lab and MiLab. The Wi-Fi connection is provided by Starnet, and the video surveillance is provided by Orasul Protejat.





# EMPLOYERS TO RECEIVE SUBSIDIES FOR EMPLOYING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND UNEMPLOYED FROM VULNERABLE GROUPS

Two programs to facilitate employment were launched in July 2019 by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP) and the National Employment Agency (NEA), with the assistance of the International Labour Organization (ILO) project "Promotion of Youth Employment." The two pilot projects, implemented over a six-month period, will provide employment subsidy for socially vulnerable people and for employers for the creation or adaptation of jobs for persons with disabilities. 135 persons aged 18 - 35, at risk of social exclusion, including unemployed people with disabilities registered with NEA will become beneficiaries of the program.

“ These two active measures are part of the action plan designed by the new law on employment promotion and unemployment insurance and the National Employment Strategy for 2017 – 2021. They are aimed at reintegrating persons from the categories at risk of social exclusion, promoting the employment of persons with disabilities, who are at present practically outside the labour market, as well as strengthening the collaboration between employers and NEA.”

**ALA NEMERENCO,**  
Minister of Health,  
Labour and Social Protection

According to Raisa Dogaru, NEA director, the institution will take into account the labour force demand and supply, and the economic areas with an acute shortage of labour. It will select the economic entities and job seekers to be included in this two programs. Within the first program, the economic entities willing to employ

unemployed from vulnerable groups, will benefit from monthly subsidies equal to 30% of the average monthly wage for six months, for every hired unemployed person hired. This program assists the following categories of unemployed: persons released from detention, victims of human trafficking, persons struggling with substance abuse, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups. The subsidy will be granted for partial compensation of unemployed wage.

Within the second program, employers who will create or adapt jobs for persons with disabilities will benefit from a 50% compensation of the cost for creating or adapting the work place. The amount of subsidy will not exceed the amount of 10 months average wage.

Ludmila Iachim, Executive Director of the Association "Motivație" said that although there are several laws in Moldova that guarantee the rights of people with special needs on the job market, the majority of employers avoid hiring them. "We hope that these programs will stimulate the employment of persons with disabilities and deconstruct the stereotypes that all people with special needs are incapable and not worth hiring. They often turn out to be good professionals, talented and responsible employees."

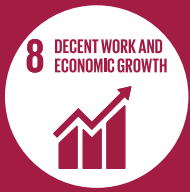
The two subsidy pilot programs will be implemented with the financial and methodological support of the ILO, within the project "Promotion of Youth Employment". This is but one example of how ILO in Moldova aims to generate more decent jobs for the population, especially for youth from vulnerable groups, highlighted Violeta Vrabie, ILO Project Coordinator. ILO has offered \$150 000 for the implementation of the two pilot programs.



Ludmila Iachim: These programs will stimulate the employment of persons with disabilities.



135 persons will become beneficiaries of the pilot programs.



# ILO LAUNCH FIRST LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT IN MOLDOVA TO CREATE MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN CAHUL RAYON



Honey producers from Cahul district



Craftsman from Cahul district

Creation of decent jobs for young people exposed to social exclusion, new and growing businesses, on-the-job training for the unemployed, association building-- are just some of the benefits for the Cahul residents with the implementation of the Local Employment Partnership (LEP), an initiative of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Project "Promotion of youth employment," piloted for the first time in the Republic of Moldova.

The initiative, launched in April 2019 in Cahul, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, the National Confederation of Employers, the National Confederation of Trade Unions and the Cahul Rayon Council, with the participation of local partners, is an innovative model created by the European Union. It is based on 'negotiated' planning, meaning multiple local stakeholders concerned with labor market challenges in their community create partnerships to find solutions adapted to local circumstances.

The LEP in the Cahul Rayon is designed and implemented under the aegis of the tripartite







Craftsman from Cahul district

Territorial Commission for Consultation and Collective Bargaining, a social dialogue platform that brings together representatives of the local public authority, local trade unions and employers' associations. This platform acts as a catalyst; convenes relevant labor market stakeholders, identifies the territory's key employment challenges and suggests concrete actions that would directly address the barriers to job creation and transition from informal to formal employment.

The President of the Commission, Vlad Casuneanu, explained that the reduced opportunities for economic development and employment, migration and poverty caused problems on the local labor market. "The tripartite Territorial Commission for Consultation and Collective Bargaining facilitated the preparation of LEP Cahul by mobilizing support of relevant partners to achieve shared employment objectives for the rayon. Through this partnership, we

will create better conditions for the social-economic development of the rayon, with an important impact on employment and formalization of the labor force," said Cașuneanu.

**“** The Partnership is aimed at creating around 264 jobs and launching about 106 start-ups in sectors with job-creation potential in beekeeping, creative industries and crafts. Around 670 persons from Cahul Rayon, including individuals at risk of social exclusion, will benefit directly from the project's opportunities and around 1,000 people in the community will benefit indirectly,**”**

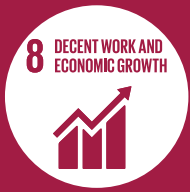
**VIOLETA VRABIE,**  
ILO project coordinator.

Local producers, beekeepers and craftsmen, as beneficiaries of the partnership, who participated in the fair organized at the project launch conference, welcomed the initiative. Dumitru Zaporozjan, a craftsman, said: "With this partnership, we will be able to diversify our range of products according to customer needs and find new outlets."

Implementation envisages the involvement of about 20 public and private partners at national and local level, including civil society organizations, financial institutions, educational and training institutions, the employment service, producers' associations, enterprises and investors. The total cost of the LEP is 403,771 USD (183,912 USD from the ILO and 15,400 USD from local actors). The Organization for the Development of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Sector will contribute with 204,459 USD through national grant schemes. It will support business development and enterprise creation by vulnerable young people.



Local producer from Cahul district



# PROFILING OF MOLDOVAN LABOUR MIGRANTS CONDUCTED IN SIX DESTINATION COUNTRIES

The Moldovan labour migrants working in Poland, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Israel and Spain were selected as target groups for the current research conducted by a team of sociologists within the UNDP Migration and Local Development Project (MiDL) funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, implemented by IOM.

The Profiling of Moldovan migrants involved in temporary labour migration or circular migration schemes entails a pioneering and a comprehensive field research of the Moldovan labour migrants to further inform evidence-based policy making. Specifically, the current research is supporting the national stakeholders' efforts to improve the policy and legal framework in the field of circular migration, including the efficient regulation of private recruitment agencies facilitating the employment of Moldovan labour migrants abroad to ensure the enforcement of national legislation and the protection of Moldovan women and men labour migrants' rights at all stages of migration.

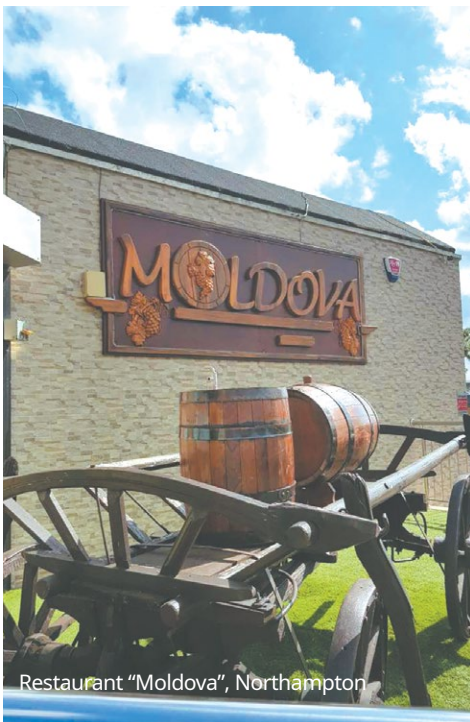
The in-depth research aims to clearly define the demographic and socio-economic profile of Moldovan labour migrants, understand their experience, motivation, needs and encountered challenges, recognition and use of formal and informal qualifications and skills, further plans, as well as identify determinants and possible incentives for return and reintegration.



Meeting with the Cornelius Ltd management team

The relevant disaggregated data is being collected through survey questionnaires and focus group discussions among Moldovan labour migrants, as well as by in-depth expert interviews with officials from Moldovan institutions, private recruiting agencies, diaspora groups and activists, foreign employment agencies from six destination countries, as well as experts from relevant national and international organizations.

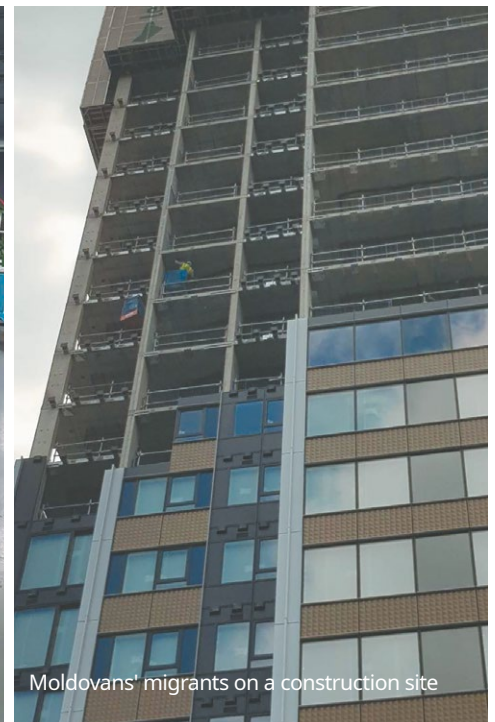
It is expected that the research results including conclusions and policy-oriented recommendations of the in-depth analysis will be available and validated in Chisinau during December 2019.



Restaurant "Moldova", Northampton



Interviewing of the migrants on a construction site, Canteen



Moldovans' migrants on a construction site



# UNIDO COUNTRY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN MOLDOVA



Launching of UNIDO Country Program

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Moldova launched a Country Programme (CP) covering the period from 2019 to 2023 to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Setting up the strategic vision for engagement and partnership between the two parties, the CP will contribute to fostering smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through the promotion of a knowledge-based, competitive and resource-efficient industry.

“UNIDO’s CP will serve to develop engagement and partnership relations for sustainable industrial development,” said Iulia Costin, General State Secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova. “It focuses on ensuring a lasting contribution to the efforts, actions and priorities identified by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the process of ensuring a sustainable economy and the implementation of state policies.”

“The CP will help Moldova increase its industrial productivity, stimulate entrepreneurship and encourage knowledge and innovation. In order to enable the Programme to contribute to the envisaged transformative change and bring about an impact of scale for the benefit of Moldova and its people, we look forward to mobilizing funds and leveraging dynamic partnerships with various development

partners and stakeholders,” stated UNIDO Programme Officer Solomiya Omelyan.

“ The Programme will provide timely technical assistance for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which will comprehensively complement the ongoing UN support in the country. We are confident that UNIDO’s five-year programme will support the Government in addressing some of the most pertinent challenges for Moldovan citizens, including persistent unemployment and large-scale migration.”

**DIMA AL-KHATIB,**  
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.  
at the launch event.

Through technical cooperation, the CP will help enhance industrial competitiveness, market access, innovation and investment promotion and promote productive employment for rural communities and entrepreneurship development, as well as sustainable energy and environmental management. The launch event on 14 May gathered more than 80 participants including representatives of the Government, UN, bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as business associations.



# UN LAUNCHES FOURTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR PERSONS BELONGING TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS



Launching of the Internship Program



Participant of the launch event



Olesea Peraan, National Coordinator, Human Rights Office

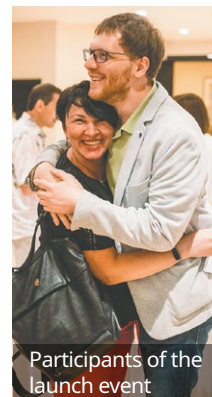
In July, the UN welcomed its new generation of Diversity Interns at the launch of its fourth edition of the Internship Program for Persons Belonging to under-represented groups.

“Having stayed at home for a while, I am excited to get involved, meet interesting people and assist others while following my path,” says Eugenia, one of the interns who will participate in the 4 - 6-month program.

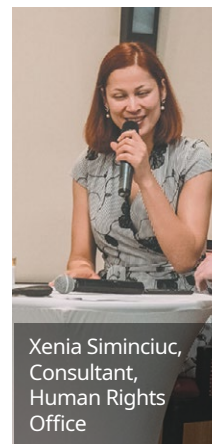
Since the initiative was launched in 2016, 37 individuals belonging to under-represented groups, including people with disabilities, people belonging to ethno-linguistic and religious minorities, people living with HIV/AIDS have joined the UN Team as interns.

The aim is to empower UN interns to participate in the labour market but also to make the UN family in Moldova more diverse and inclusive. As a result, today, over 20 former interns are employed in various public and private institutions and Civil Society Organizations whereas UN House is one of the friendliest setting for persons with various types of disabilities.

The ambition is that this commitment to fight stigma and discrimination will encourage more actors within NGOs, public authorities, business entities, media outlets and other organizations to consolidate their diversity efforts and publicly commit to contributing to a more inclusive and equal society for all.



Participants of the launch event



Xenia Siminciuc, Consultant, Human Rights Office



Intern

The program is part of the UN's overall commitment to promote diversity and equal rights for everyone.





# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO THE MOLDOVAN PARLIAMENT



The Guide title

A visually impaired person is testing the Guide of the Parliament in Braille

Testing the first information material printed in an easy-to-read, easy-to-understand format, intended for people with intellectual and learning disabilities. Photo: Parliament of Republic of Moldova

The accessibility of the infrastructure of public institutions and of the information developed is one of the preconditions for people with disabilities to have equal opportunities of engaging in their activities and for development and civic participation.

Securing the accessibility of physical and information infrastructure is one of the priorities of the UN Office on Human Rights (OHCHR).

For this purpose, it is for the first time in Moldova that people with sensory (visual and hearing) disabilities, with the OHCHR support and guidance, have engaged in testing and assessing the level of accessibility of the physical and information infrastructure of the Moldovan Parliament.

To this end, an evaluation group made up of six persons with various types of disabilities (physical, visual, hearing) have undertaken a study visit (User Safari – visit to assess the level of accessibility) within the institution. At the end, the evaluation group offered recommendations on the measures to be taken by the Parliament so that all its spaces, internal and external, became accessible to all people irrespective of their type of disability.

At the same time, to ensure access for people with visual and intellectual disabilities to public information on Parliament's activity, for the first time, at the suggestion and with the support of OHCHR, the Guide of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova was published in Braille language and in the format "easy to read, easy to understand".

The "easy to read, easy to understand" version of the Guide was tested with a group of about 70 people with learning difficulties and intellectual disabilities from five social centers for people with disabilities across the country.

**“** We appreciate the efforts of the Parliament of Moldova of becoming more inclusive and accessible, in terms of architecture and information, to people with disabilities. We are happy that we can support them in this process. I urge all partners and public institutions to take actions in view of becoming more accessible to all people, including people with disabilities.”

**OLESEA PEREAN,**  
National Coordinator  
on Human Rights, OHCHR.



# MORE LIGHT FOR CHILDREN

A first-time exhibition of 60 artistic photographs, made by the children who serve their sentence at the Goian penitentiary, was inaugurated in Chisinau. In a laboratory specially set up in Goian penitentiary, 12 boys aged 14-18 years, with the help of experts, discovered the magic of photographic art. Children practiced the art of photography in its classic formula: film and photo lab for development.

"I was fascinated by the classical photography on film. It's like a spell! At home we had a shoe box of old photos of our distant relatives. Men with moustaches and in military clothes, children in school uniforms, a priest with a large cross on his chest. I want to see them again. With other eyes, the eyes of a professional photographer," says one of the young photographers.

Social reintegration through arts is a less traditional response to the need of education for the children in detention, providing a reliable alternative solution to their social exclusion and isolation.

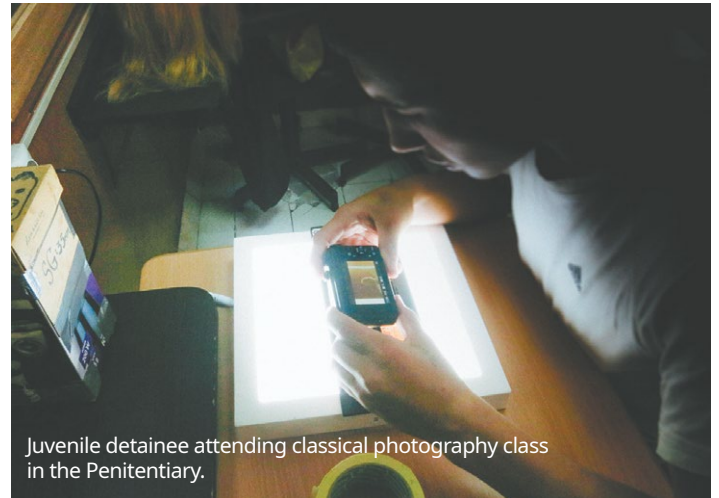
**At a time when millions of young people around the world are celebrating the advances in global connectivity, these children should not remain invisible and mute. Even though their physical space has narrowed, last year their horizons have widened due to connecting them to the world through a photography darkroom."**

**DESIREE JONGSMA,**  
UNICEF Country Representative in Moldova.

The photo exhibition proved the advantage of the more creative approaches in the education and social reintegration of young people in detention.



Juvenile at the window of unfinished church building in Penitentiary 10, Goian.



Juvenile detainee attending classical photography class in the Penitentiary.



Works of children from the Goian Penitentiary

"Photography does not only show facts – it contains stories, awakens feelings and shares the emotions of a photographer when they press the shutter button. Visual arts, especially photography, offers a new meaning to life and fuels hope. It is a new, simple and effective way for the detained children to feel part of the society," says Doina Dumbrăveanu-Munteanu, director of the Association for Documentary Photography "A-DOF".

Boys from the Goian Penitentiary also benefited from 25 interactive training sessions on visual arts and photography.

"I did not know that a bunch of light rays in contrast to the simple shadows of objects can express so many feelings," says one of the boys. I try to study this simple phenomenon and I notice so many unusual things: the passing of time, the changes of my mood. Once, it seemed to me that I could write a poem about all of this, but I was embarrassed of the others... Here we are not supposed to be sentimental."

The children worked in conditions that are below the minimum of a classical photographic studio. They used single-use, inexpensive cameras equipped with 35 mm film, with very little technical maneuvering opportunities, to document their life, express concerns and emotions.





# YOUTH TRANSFORMING THE COUNTRY



Group photo at the National Youth Forum on the occasion of the International Youth Day.

Young people developed a Call for Actions addressing their education, skills and employment, proactive civic and political participation.

On the International Youth Day, the National Youth Council with the support from the Government of Moldova and UNICEF Moldova organized a National Youth Forum. About 90 young people participated in the event.

**“ The way young people will get involved and participate will determine their life over a few years. So, it is very important to have a common effort to get the results we want,”**

**MAIA SANDU,**  
the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

The purpose of the Forum was to establish a dialogue between the young people and the Government. Valeriu Drăgălin, the President of National Youth Council, stated: "Authorities must understand that young people are the resource that they can effectively use. On the other hand, young people need to be aware that each of them is valuable and should participate in public life."

The Secretary of State in the field of youth and sport, Adrian Băluțel, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science declared that the Ministry "plays an important role in coordinating youth policies at government level and in further communication with young people." He mentioned: "We would like to accelerate cooperation with youth organizations. They are also the voice of young people, and the solutions proposed by participants regarding the problems they face will be taken into consideration."

"Young people can be courageous and resourceful. The UN Youth Strategy 2030, as well as the Generation Unlimited global partnership, specify



Youth from all over the country banded together to engage in order to transform the country for advancing quality education, relevant skills for employment, civic and political participation.

that youth development and youth engagement are cross-cutting issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," said Margarita Tileva, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Moldova. She found the recommendations from young people to be very practical and noticed that such a large presence from the Government indicated its commitment to continue the dialogue and to cooperate with youth.

During the group work, participants identified problems and recommendations regarding the discussed topics, which later were presented at the panel discussion to the Ministries' representatives. Further, the full list of recommendations will be shared with other relevant decision-makers and will be made public.

This Forum on the International Youth Day proved to be a promising affirmation from the Government to cooperate and to take into account youth opinions. It was a big step in encouraging youth meaningful participation and moving towards a sustainable future. The initiative is in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy, launched during the 73rd session of the General Assembly last year, which seeks to strengthen and increase commitments at the global, regional and national level to meet young people's needs, help them realize their rights, and recognize their positive contributions as agents of change.



# CHISINAU SIGNS PARIS DECLARATION TO END AIDS EPIDEMIC IN CITIES

On 31 May, Ruslan Codreanu, the Acting Mayor of Chisinau, signed the Paris Declaration to end the AIDS epidemic in cities. He committed the city to achieving the 90-90-90 targets by 2020, whereby 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are on treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads.

“Achieving 90-90-90 will be difficult, but it is never too late to start making the necessary changes to improve people’s lives and health,” Codreanu said. “Today, the city authorities commit to significantly increasing the coverage of the residents of Chisinau with HIV prevention, testing and treatment services, with the aim of ending the AIDS epidemic and concentrating efforts on programmes for key populations,” he added.

Codreanu explained that the programme will focus on additional HIV testing and treatment for approximately 750 people living with HIV and the provision of HIV prevention services for key populations.

“Chisinau must move quickly, not only to reach 90-90-90, but also to eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV and key populations, which remains a significant barrier.”

**SVETLANA PLAMADEALA,**  
UNAIDS Country Manager for the Republic of Moldova

Chisinau already supports a range of HIV prevention programmes for key populations, including harm reduction and opioid substitution therapy



Ruslan Codreanu, Acting General Mayor mun. Chisinau, and Svetlana Plamadeala, UNAIDS Country Manager



programmes for people who inject drugs, rapid HIV testing and condom distribution for sex workers and their clients and condom distribution among gay men and other men who have sex with men.

Chisinau is the seventh city in eastern Europe and central Asia to sign the Paris Declaration, which since 2014 has been signed by more than 300 cities worldwide.

According to government estimates, there are about 3,200 people living with HIV in Chisinau.

“Today, we witness what can be achieved through political will. It is of paramount importance to us that the Paris Declaration is not another declarative statement but is followed by the adoption of the municipal HIV programme, with specific and measurable goals and roles and a budget,” said Ruslan Poverga, General Director of the Association Positive Initiative.

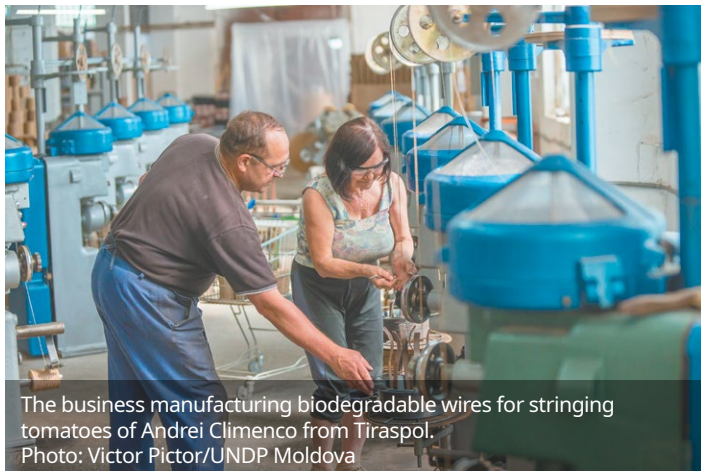


Signing of Paris Declaration





# UNDP UNITES: PEOPLE, LOCALITIES AND BANKS OF NISTRU RIVER



The business manufacturing biodegradable wires for stringing tomatoes of Andrei Climenco from Tiraspol. Photo: Victor Pictor/UNDP Moldova

Today, a total of 320,000 people across the country benefit from better services as a result of efficient job matching of UNDP partnership with the local and regional authorities based on the principle of “leaving no-one behind.”

All communities from the Gagauz autonomy and Taraclia district have enjoyed improvements in their social-economic infrastructure including reconstructions of bridges, parks and repair of water supply pipes.

The cooperation with private companies in these regions has led to the creation of 180 new jobs bringing other opportunities as well. For instance, a milk collection point that serves three localities – Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Cișmichioi and Etulia – was set up thanks to the cooperation between the EU Support for Agriculture and Rural Development program and a local company specialized in cheese production. As a result, small producers have obtained access to lab services and to a fridge for keeping the milk, and the company has preserved its capacities of producing organic cheeses.

Since 2009, circa 200,000 persons on both banks of the Nistru River have obtained access to services and better living conditions through the reparation of sport gyms, medical facilities, culture centers and schools.

As part of the EU Confidence Building Measures Program, a firemen and lifeguard station was opened among others in the village of Copanca, district of Căușeni, which also covers 4 localities administered by Tiraspol. Over 1,500 jobs have been created and over 155 initiatives involving communities, local authorities, civil society and business organizations have been implemented. Young women from vulnerable families have learned to sew, children have participated in sports competitions and doctors have attended trainings. Overall, UNDP has worked with over 70 communities on both banks of the Nistru River within the program that is now at its fifth phase of implementation, having a total budget of circa 33.7 million Euro.

Within another UNDP project funded by the Swiss Government “Migration and Local Development” a connection bridge between migrants and their native communities has been constructed. Around 10,000 Moldovans who work abroad have contributed to local development projects. The migrants, reunited in native associations, have funded the construction or repair of water supply pipes and sports grounds, roads and schools in their villages of origin. Other initiatives such as the tourist route created among the villages of Ciorești, Dolna and Miclăușeni are expected to generate revenues for people in the respective localities. It also includes other initiatives such as guest houses, the pottery school and the Roma camp. UNDP made sure that this project would continue by lending its model to the Moldovan authorities. Consequently, the government program DOR was established to further involve migrants in local development initiatives.



Launching of the tourist route Dor de Codru. The house of the potter Ceramica Triboi in Ciorești, Nisporeni. Photo: UNDP Moldova



Opening of the multidisciplinary neighborhood sports ground in Telenești, set up with the locals' support. Photo: UNDP Moldova



Fire station in Copanca, Căușeni. Photo: UNDP Moldova

# A FORMER TEACHER MADE HER DREAM COME TRUE AND STARTED A HONEY BUSINESS

People who compel admiration are those who do things others are afraid to do. They go parachuting, scuba diving, traveling or... make their dreams come true.

One such person is Natalia Porhun from the village of Speia, district of Grigoriopol. She studied pedagogy and worked as a teacher for many years but was always fond of bees.

**“ I grew up among bees. When a pupil, I could hardly wait for summer to come so that I could help my father in the apiary. Later, when a pedagogy student, the first thing I did when coming home was to go see how the bees were doing.”**

**NATALIA PORHUN,**  
apiarist

One day, the moment came to make a radical change. She gave up the comfort of her school and started a new business in apiculture. She was helped by her parents' and grandparents' experiences – this trade had been passed down from generation to generation in her family – as well as by the EU Confidence Building Measures Program, implemented by UNDP, that offered a grant for her innovative idea.

Until then, all apiarists in the district of Grigoriopol on the left bank of the Nistru River and in the neighboring villages on the right bank of the River harvested the honey manually through a laborious process. The former teacher taught a lesson of ingenuity to her former competitors, turned all of them into customers, and earned their admiration. She used the money received from the European Union to buy an electric centrifuge, a light truck and a generator, which were all assembled in a mobile unit for automatized honey extraction.

Porhun now harvests the honey in her own beehives and moves her mini workshop wherever it is needed.



Business of Porhun family

“This enables me to provide services to other apiarists as well, including on the right bank of the Nistru River,” the entrepreneur says.

Porhun's invention also makes work easy for those who practice pastoral apiculture i.e. move the hives from one spot to another as various plant species are blooming. The truck comes where the apiary is located, the honeycombs are placed in the centrifuge and the honey pours directly into the container in which it is packaged.

The business has three employees with no spare time during the summer because the requests won't stop coming. This equipment can help squeeze one ton of honey per day. The money Porhun earns is reinvested in the apiary. In this way, thanks to the European Union grant, she has considerably increased her honeybee farm. The apiary produces various types of honey – buckwheat, acacia, coriander etc. – as well as pollen, royal jelly and other bee products that are in high demand. Through intermediaries, certain products also reach stores in the US, Italy and Germany.



The mobile centrifuge of Natalia Porhun of the village of Speia on the left bank of the Nistru River

Porhun is one of over 70 youths on both banks of the Nistru River who have received European Union grants for starting or developing a business under the EU Confidence Building Measures Program, implemented by UNDP.



# MOLDOVA ELECTRO-MARATHON: 9,000 ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN KM



Expedition's organizers wished to show in the motorcade of participating cars the entire current range of electric cars available on the Moldovan market. Photo: piataauto.md

In the first electric car expedition, 3-7 July, nine cars of different brands and models, but with 100% electrically powered propulsion, traveled 1,000 km each across Moldova.

The aim of the marathon was to promote environmentally friendly mobility, to show the real capacity of electric cars and to present the achievements of the electromobility sector in Moldova. The electric car of the Sustainable Green Cities Project – financed by the Global Environment facility (GEF) and implemented by UNDP Moldova, in partnership with Chisinau City Hall – was part of the expedition fleet.

“The demand for electric cars is getting higher every year and there is a need to develop the charging infrastructure. Thanks to the partnership between the UNDP, the Government of Moldova, Chisinau Municipality as well as local strategic partners, we aim to increase the efficiency of the transport system, and to speed up the use of low-emission cars,” stated Dima Al-Khatib UNDP Resident Representative.

The route of the marathon covered cities such as Chisinau, Orhei, Soldanesti, Floresti, Balti, Calarasi, Lapusna, Hincesti, Cimisia, Comrat, Causeni and Anenii-Noi. The electric cars were charged at the EV public sockets which were meanwhile installed on several national roads in Moldova. An extension of 20 new charging stations is expected to be installed later this year, thanks to a partnership between UNDP and the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

“It's my first car and I chose an electric one. Economical, speedy, innovative, ecological – these are the arguments that have made me choose an electric car. I like new experience, that's why I enrolled in the marathon,” says Adelina Iucal, one of the marathon participants.



The electric cars participating in the marathon discover the beautiful itineraries of Moldova. Photo: piataauto.md

- FAST FACTS:**
- From 54 to 200 increased the number of cars registered in Moldova, four times over the last 12 months, making 200 the same size as 20 below.
  - 20 electric car charging stations are currently registered in Moldova, the majority installed in Chisinau. 12 of which are public charging stations.
  - 20 new public charging stations will be installed by UNDP Moldova on the main urban routes by the end of 2019.

The Moldova Electro-Marathon is organized by PiataAuto.md, in partnership with the UNDP-GEF “Sustainable Green Cities” project, Kaufland, Orange Moldova, Mastercard, EWA Motors, with support provided by Renault, BMW, Jaguar, Nissan.



The electric car of the UNDP-GEF Sustainable Green Cities Project. Photo: piataauto.md



# WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AIR WE BREATHE

Air pollution is not always visible but its effects are damaging. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 91% of the planet's inhabitants breathe polluted air, which causes 7 million deaths per year.

"About 9 out of 10 persons in the world breathe polluted air, or this phenomenon is a global public health emergency and requires our immediate action. Each year, 7 million deaths are due to exposure to polluted air, which causes strokes, heart diseases, lung cancer, chronic and acute respiratory diseases, including asthma. Children, women and persons working outdoors are the most affected ones. To protect our health, we need to overcome air pollution together," says Stela Gheorghită, Coordinator of Public Health Emergency Programs at the World Health Organization Office in Moldova. At present, air quality is monitored in the Free Air Quality Lab that has eight land monitoring stations (six in Chişinău and two in Bălţi). The data on the level of air pollution are collected three times per day and used to prepare daily and monthly reports.

The pollutants with negative effect on public health are nitrogen and sulphur dioxides, ozone and the particulate matter (of 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter). The particulate matters penetrate into the lungs through the airway and then into the blood system, causing cardiovascular and respiratory problems. Based on the WHO recommendations, the National Public Health Agency uses a gas analyzer for monitoring such particles, which measures the concentration of the particulate matter in the air indoor and outdoor as well as a gas chromatograph for determining the organic solvents in the air outside and at the workplace.

Another initiative has been the installation of sensors for measuring air quality on the main streets in five districts of Chişinău. The equipment monitors the air pollution level 24/7 and supplies the data to a web portal in real time.

This smart equipment was installed by Orange Moldova as part of a grant program launched by the Moldova Sustainable Green Cities Project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the Global Environment Facility.

"The sensors monitor a number of air pollution indicators in line with the ISO standard 37120:2018 "Sustaina-



The fourth edition of the Environment Festival in Chişinău was dedicated to air quality and reduction of pollution, and took place on 7 June.

ble cities and communities – indicators for city services and quality of life". The sensors are connected to the Internet and transmit the data collected to a dashboard in real time. The information on the pollution level and its evolution in time is updated each minute," says Andrei Preaşca, Corporate Sales and Post Sales Services Director, Orange Moldova.

The equipment will measure the following parameters: nitrogen (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), the particulate matter (according to the EU requirements for calculating the air quality index), the noise level, air temperature, pressure and humidity. The particulate matter

(PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are fine particles generated by the industry, traffic and house heating.

The exact locations were selected in partnership with the State Hydrometeorological Service. This is the first network to measure and visualize air quality in Chişinău in real time.

**“** Polluted air is a determining factor in the generation of multiple respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. At the same time, many air pollutants cause the global heating, for instance, the carbon produced by diesel engines and emanated by the open burning of wastes. It is important to know the level of pollutants in the air in order to develop programs for preventing air pollution and for taking actions to reduce air pollution. Data accessibility in real time will also be useful to people who will be able to avoid certain areas or time intervals with a high level of pollution,**”**

**INGA PODOROGHIN,**  
Program Specialist at UNDP Moldova

The sectors generating the highest air pollution in the country are energy, transportation, housing i.e. households. Efforts should be targeted at reducing the pollution sources and at replacing them with environment friendly technologies, the quoted persons stressed.





# 30 KILOMETERS OF PEACE AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Ion Lazarencu arrives in Molovata, Dubasari rayon, after an 8 hour and 47 minutes swim along Nistru River.



La La Play Choir, 130 children, are welcoming the open water swimmer Ion Lazarencu Tiron.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Molovata Village in Dubasari District hosted a unique activity. Ion Lazarencu Tiron, the Moldovan open water swimmer who managed to swim the seven channels, also called Oceans Seven challenge, swam 30 km along Nistru to promote peace and children's rights.

The route started at six o'clock in the morning near Jora de Mijloc Village and took longer than eight hours. Swimmer's security on the route was ensured by the Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service. Lazarencu arrived at Molovata Village at around 2.30 p.m., being welcomed by more than 100 children, who applauded the swimmer's performance and sang 'Imagine' by John Lennon.

"For our continuity, we must understand that we need peace," said Ion Lazarencu Tiron. When asked if he would ever abandon open waters

swimming, Ion Lazarencu said: "I will continue it my whole life. Peace begins with us."

"We can help stop intolerance and hate, so that all children feel safe - at home, in school, and in the community. There is no better way to build a future than through children because they are the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow," said Desiree Jong-sma, UNICEF Country Representative.

"Creation of a child-friendly environment for good development, an environment without violence, abuse and neglect is the obligation of each adult. We can provide children the necessary conditions and climate only through our - adults - assumed involvement. Today's event, the beautiful act of Mr. Ion Lazarencu Tiron, is an urge to promote peace, tolerance, and inclusion," said Maia Banarescu, People's Advocate for Child's Rights in the Republic of Moldova.



Children from the La La Play Voices Choir are waving at Ion Lazarencu Tiron congratulating him for his achievement.



Ion Lazarencu Tiron is swimming along the Nistru River, 30 km, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



# CIVIC INITIATIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE SUPPORTED WITHIN A NEW UNFPA PROJECT



Public event for project launch



Puzzle assembly

Personal development, vocational guidance, violence prevention in schools, online safety, and environment are just some of the project's themes proposed by young people from 23 districts of the country. The proposals were presented during the launch event of the project "Strengthened Participation and Civic Engagement Among Young People in Moldova" funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



Puzzle with key elements in youth development

The project is part of the Joint Fund for the Development of Youth Centers and Strengthened Participation and Civic Engagement of Young People in the Republic of Moldova for 2017-2022. The Joint Fund worth about USD 1.5 million and was set up by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR) and the UNFPA in 2017. In 2018, the Swiss

Government joined the Joint Fund with an additional financial contribution of USD 1 million.

More than 20 local initiatives have been developed by young people with the support of the Youth Centers and education experts and will be implemented in the communities by the end of this year.

"We thought to set up youth councils in five villages, so that they engage actively in decision-making. There are two or three groups of young people who are active and try to change things," said Dorina Chislova, a young woman from Ocnîța.

Present at the event, the Minister of Education, Culture and Research, Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei underscored the importance of involving young people as well as the community in solving the youth issues in their localities: "Project sustainability is crucial and can be ensured not only by funds and funding, but also by community engagement, mobilization of stakeholders and resources."

Ion Calalb, manager of Leova Youth Center spoke about the project which aims to inform youth about the safe use of Internet with the objective to inform up to 500 young people aged between 12 and 16 in six localities of Leova district.

**“ Our goal is to help build an inclusive, peaceful and democratic society, with engaged people. Investing in young people is the first step in this process, ”**

**RITA COLUMBIA,**  
UNFPA Representative in Moldova

Stefan Butscher, Deputy Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office, said that the new project was part of the Local Government development area and aimed at strengthening the citizen-state relationship. "However, this can be achieved by enhancing the potential of youth workers and local public authorities to motivate and facilitate youth engagement," Stefan Butscher specified.

The event culminated in assembling an enormous puzzle that represented the key project messages, such as participation, volunteering, rights, equal opportunities, healthy behavior, mobilization, and decisions. The puzzle was assembled by young people, authorities, specialists and development partners to promote team spirit and the importance of joining efforts to reach a common goal.







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