



9th Progress Report

of GIZ Project

“Modernization of Local Public Services
in the Republic of Moldova”



Reporting period: July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	8
INTERVENTION AREA 1. LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES	11
<i>Progress Review</i>	11
1.1. Results and milestones achieved in period of July 1 to December 31, 2013 by the IA 1	15
1.2. Milestones and Results to be achieved in the reporting period from January 1 to July 1, 2014	22
1.3. Challenges and Lessons Learned in the Process of Implementing of the MLPS project in the Pilot Areas	26
1.3.1. Local Planning and Programming	26
1.3.2. Inter-municipal Cooperation	26
1.3.3. Investment Measures – Technical and Financial Assistance.....	28
1.3.4. Capacity Development of LPAs and Service Providers	28
1.3.5. Community Mobilization and Citizens' Engagement in Improving Local Public Services	28
INTERVENTION AREA 2. REGIONAL PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING.....	29
<i>Progress Review</i>	29
Result A. Regional Development Agencies are Enabled to Facilitate Regional Integrated Planning.....	36
Result B. Regional Development Agencies are Competent to Effectively Support Local Public Authorities in the Project Preparation Process	38
Result C. Viable Investment Project Concepts are Based on Integrated and Participatory Planning and Programming.....	39
Result D. Local Public Authorities contribute essentially to the project preparation process	40
Result E. The State Chancellery's, Ministry for Regional Development & Constructions, Regional Development Agencies' and Local Public Authorities' capacities to implement ENPI funds and to programmes and apply for ENI are increased.....	41
Result F. Academy of Public Administration Effectively Trains Stakeholders in the Area of Regional Planning and Programming and Project Preparation	44
Result G. Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions and Regional Development Agencies are effectively monitoring their interventions with a view to results.....	45
Result H. Regional Development Institutions are Enabled to Better Communicate the Changes Achieved through their Activities.....	46
Result I. Relevant Regional Planning Documents are Gender Responsive	49

Result J. MRDC and Regional Development Agencies Effectively Manage the BMZ-Fund for Regional Development	49
Annex #1 The Structure of the Project “Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova”	50
Annex #2 Result Based Monitoring Model for Intervention Area I.....	51
Annex #3 Result Based Monitoring Model for Intervention Area II.....	52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2010 GIZ is implementing the project “Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova” (MLPS) under the commission of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The institutional counterpart of MLPS is the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC), while the main implementing bodies are the three Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

Primary beneficiaries of MLPS are the citizens of Local Public Authorities (LPAs) in the three Socio-Economic Development Regions of Moldova.

Currently MLPS currently has a commissioned timeframe for implementation from 01/2010 until 12/2015.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the conditions for local public service delivery in the Republic of Moldova through supporting the regional and local actors in linking local needs with regional and national priorities.

MLPS is comprised of two areas of intervention:

- **Intervention Area 1 – Local Public Service Delivery**
Support to RDAs and LPAs in planning, developing, implementing and managing pilot projects for the improvement of local public services
- **Intervention Area 2 – Regional Planning and Programming.**
Support to RDAs and LPAs in regional planning and programming

Apart from its institutional counterpart MRDC and the RDAs, the main partners of the project are:

- Ministry of Environment,
- Ministry of Economy,
- Academy of Public Administration,
- State Chancellery,
- Agency for Energy Efficiency,
- Regional Development Councils,
- LPAs of the 1st level and of the 2nd level (Rayons),
- Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova.

MLPS is financed by the following donors:

- Government of Germany
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Romania
- Commission of the European Union

Complementary to MLPS, the BMZ has commissioned with the Project “Fund for Regional Development in the Republic of Moldova” at the end of 2012, which provides financial means to support the implementation of investments for improved local public service delivery.

- The current budget of MLPS is 19.8 Million EUR.
- The current budget of the project Fund for Regional Development is 6.9 Million EUR.

During the reporting period from July to December 2013, the project Modernization of Local Public Services succeeded to accomplish various activities in both Intervention Areas, which are described in detail in the respective chapters of this progress report.

Within the **Intervention Area Local Public Service Delivery**, MLPS collaborated with many of the above mentioned partner institutions via the three RDAs to support various LPAs of the 1st level in seven rayons in the implementation of the following pilot projects:

- Water Supply and Sanitation in the Rayons of Riscani and Cahul
- Solid Waste Management in the Rayons of Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti
- Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings and Street Lighting in the Rayons of Soroca and Orhei

Two new pilot projects are in the process of preparation:

- Water Supply and Sanitation in the Rayon of Leova (for which 2.4 million EUR have been earmarked for investments via the project “Fund for Regional Development”)
- Energy Efficiency for the Rayon hospital of Nisporeni (for which 1.3 million EUR have been earmarked for investments via the project “Fund for Regional Development”)

The pilot projects are supported by MLPS in the following areas:

- Strategic Local Planning (support on preparing the respective chapter of the Rayon Socio-Economic Development Strategies)
- Information campaigns and awareness raising of citizens as clients of the Local Public Services
- Preparation, documentation and quality control of the public procurement via the RDAs
- Capacity development of the service provider
- Inter-Municipal Cooperation

Main findings and challenges in Intervention Area Local Public Service Delivery

All described processes are characterized by a high level of engagement of the involved institutions and substantial progress in most of the work areas.

Specifically complex challenges were encountered during the reporting process on the issue of land designation (in the case of

Solid Waste Management in Soldanesti), which required the involvement of various public institutions including the Parliament, as well as in the preparing Joint Stock Companies for inter-municipal service delivery (in the case of Cahul and Soldanesti).

MLPS was confronted with internal capacity limitations in the preparation of necessary documents for public procurement in the case of Water Supply and Sanitation investments in Cahul.

Likewise, the recruitment of a team of international and national experts to conduct the pending main element of the Feasibility Study and to initiate the chapter of the Rayon Socio-Economic Development Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation in Leova turned out to be more complicated and time consuming than had expected.

In all cases, changes in internal procedures were identified and implemented in order to address the shortcomings within the MLPS structure and in its communication with GIZ head office.

Within the **Intervention Area Regional Planning and Programming**, MLPS continued its support to all involved stakeholders in improving the Regional Operational Plans in the areas of Water Supply and Sanitation, Solid Waste Management and Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings.

According to the legal and regulatory framework in Moldova the Regional Operational Plans are part of under the responsibility of the Regional Development Councils and are being prepared by the Regional Development Agencies.

With support from MLPS, the Agencies had set up Regional Sector Working Groups in the above mentioned areas during the first half of 2013 and have facilitated various sessions with local, regional and central-level institutions for joint planning exercises during the reporting period.

By end of December 2013 five Programs (two in Solid Waste Management in the Center and North Region and three in Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings in all regions) had been subject of informal and formal consultation among all relevant stakeholders and been approved according to the procedures agreed in June 2013 with the MRDC.

As part of the five finalized Regional Programs, Possible Project Concepts have been identified, assessed, and approved by the MRDC. These concepts constitute a firm basis for the project development phase of the agreed work process in Regional Planning and Programming.

In the period July – December 2013 public consultation was done in two stages after completion of the informal consultation procedure with the responsible ministries.

The first stage consisted in publishing the Programs on RDAs' and MRDC's websites, so all stakeholders and interested people could access the document and come with proposals to improve their content. These comments were collated by RDAs and fed into the changes then being undertaken to the documents. After this the documents were presented to the Regional Sector Working Groups in a pre-final form

In December 2013, public consultation events were held in all three regions organized by the RDAs with support from MLPS, where main stakeholders participated in discussions on the draft Programs. Attendees at these events were representatives of the Central Public Authorities (Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Agency for Energy Efficiency), Local Public Authorities of the 1st and 2nd level and municipal enterprises.

The formal step that remains to be done with regard to these five programs is their formal adoption by Regional Development Councils, scheduled for February 2014.

Draft programs in the sector of Water Supply and Sanitation have been prepared and are scheduled to be finalized by mid-2014.

The importance of the Programs lies in the fact that they have real strategic, operational and potentially financial implications.

Also, they have been discussed, consulted and accepted by all the main national and regional stakeholders.

They provide a reason and a magnet for engagement of a deepened nature at national and regional levels, and between these levels.

In November 2013 GIZ and the EU signed off on a Delegated Agreement which makes substantial resources available to MLPS for work in two new sectors – regional and local regions and complementary private sector support. Work in these sectors has initiated in the first quarter of 2014.

Apart from these processes, the team of this Intervention Areas provided substantial assistance in the preparation of necessary studies and documents for the procurement of investment projects to be financed through the project "Fund for Regional Development".

At the request of MRDC, MLPS has also embarked in providing support to MRDC and the RDAs to facilitate the introduction of a stronger results-based approach in the national and regional system of monitoring and evaluation.

Main findings and challenges within the Intervention Area Regional Planning and Programming during the report period

The development of Regional Sector Programs was characterized by a relatively high level of participation and public consultation and an effective collaboration between the local, regional and national level as well as between the involved ministries.

As a general comment it is fair to say that engagement deepened over the process but

that in many cases it remains largely “reactive” rather than fully participative.

Nevertheless this has to be balanced against the time and resources available in which to elaborate the plans and the objective complexity of the issues especially when visualized within a regional context.

The level of engagement required among key stakeholders namely

- (i) line ministries
- (ii) (ii) RDAs
- (iii) (iii) donors and IFIs is now increasing.

With regard to (i) engagement is clearly increasing and with regard to (ii) it is now at a high level. But with regard to (iii) it is still inadequate and needs to be enhanced since the process of mobilizing actors to develop major projects is sustainable only if there is some prospect these can be funded within foreseeable time-frame.

Information on a potential shift to Rural as opposed to Regional Development in the

context of the upcoming EU-Single Support Framework for Moldova are at first sight not consistent with the assumptions on which MLPS has set up the Intervention Area Regional Planning and Programming, and further such decisions might seriously undermine the work that has been achieved in 2013.

The institutional ownership and the identification with all described activities of both Intervention Areas by the competent Moldovan public institutions is crucial, as MLPS can only provide assistance and support to the various processes and shall never substitute the respective partner, according to its mandate.

As the activities of MLPS are extending to new thematic areas and elevated levels of complexity and relevance, this common understanding of roles and mandates – in the spirit of cooperation – is getting more essential.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AEE	Agency for Energy Efficiency
ALRC	Agency of Land Relations and Cadastre
APA	Academy of Public Administration
BMZ	German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
BO	Branch Office
BSB	Black Sea Basin
CALM	Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CDA	Czech Development Agency
CN	Concept Note
CPP	Call for Project Proposals
DR	Development Region
EC	European Commission
EE/RES	Energy Efficiency and use of Renewable Energy Sources
ENPI	The European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
ENI	The European Neighbourhood Instrument
EU	European Union
EUREM	European Energy Manager Training Course
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
GIS	German Investment Support
GIZ	German Development Cooperation through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoM	Government of Moldova
GOPA	Gesellschaft für Organization, Planung und Ausbildung (Consulting Group)
IA	Intervention Area
IMC	Inter-Municipal Cooperation
JILD	Joint Integrated Local Development Programme
JMA	Joint Managing Authority
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JOP	Joint Operational Programme
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
LGSP	Local Government Support Project in Moldova
LPA	Local Public Administration
LPS	Local Public Services
LSC	Local Citizens Committee
ME	Municipal Enterprise
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MFAR	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
MLPS	Modernization of Local Public Services
MoEco	Ministry of Economy
MoEnv	Ministry of Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDC	Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities
NCCRD	National Coordination Council for Regional Development
NFRD	National Fund for Regional Development
NSRD	National Strategy for Regional Development
OA	Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PP	Project Proposal
PPC	Possible Project Concept
PPM	Public Propriety Management
RBM	Results-Based Monitoring
RCBI	Regional Capacity Building Initiative
RD	Regional Development
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
RGP	Ready to go Project
ROP	Regional Operational Plan
RPP	Regional Planning and Programming
RSP	Regional Sector Program
R(S)WG	Regional (Sector) Working Group
SC	State Chancellery
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEDS	Socio Economic Development Strategy
SEE	South-East Europe
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SLE	Center for Advanced Training in Rural Development, Humboldt University, Berlin
SPD	Single Programming Document
SWM	Solid Waste Management
TA	Technical Assistance
TF	Task Force
TNC	Trans-National Cooperation

ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
VPC	Viable Project Concept
WG	Working Group
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

INTERVENTION AREA 1. LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Progress Review

This chapter concerns the progress made on achieving the different Results of the **Intervention Area 1. Local Public Services** following the indicators of the project and monitoring the achievement of planned milestones. These are elaborated based on the assumption that the planned activities will lead to achieving progress in reaching the IA1 Specific Objective: ***“The Local Public Authorities effectively cooperate and manage the improvements of local public services in the selected communities in pilot Rayons”.***

The progress in reaching this Specific Objective is measured using the main Success Indicators presented below:

Success Indicators for IA1:

- Indicator 1: 25 planned pilot measures for the improvement of local public services are being implemented in the three project priority sectors. (Baseline: 2010: 0; Verification source: Implemented financing agreements) .
- Indicator 2: Local public authorities signed 70 formal agreements for the joint delivery of local public services in the three project priority sectors (Baseline: 2010: 0; Verification source: Cooperation agreements.)
- Indicator 3: In 35 communities, 50% of implemented measures in the three project priority sectors have improved access of women to

local public services. (Baseline: 2010: 0; Verification source: Representative survey in 10 communities.)

Information here relates to the timeframe July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 and to all the milestones in the 3 sectors: WSS, SWM and EE and are mostly targeted to the selected communities of the following pilot rayons:

1. Improving Water Supply and Sanitation in communities from Cahul, Riscani and Leova Rayons.
2. Improvement of Solid Waste Management Services in Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti Rayons.
3. Improvement of Energy Efficiency in street lighting and on public buildings in Soroca, Orhei and Nisporeni Rayons.

During the process of achieving the milestones MLPS project takes the opportunity to share the experience and lessons learned. The activities planned and conducted, as well as the set milestones were designed in a gender-responsive manner and prepared documents are gender mainstreamed.

The results oriented model of the reporting offers a way to orient activities and milestones along the following pattern:

- Local public authorities effectively cooperate and manage the

- improvements of the local public services;
- Men and women in the MLPS Pilot Project areas utilize new or improved services;
- Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas deliver effectively services to their inhabitants;
- Implemented investment measures have reduced environmental pollution in MLPS pilot project areas;
- Best practices / Lessons learned for scaling up are being disseminated internally and externally;
- Access of men and women to quality and affordable public services in MLPS pilot project areas has improved;
- Local public authorities are managing public assets in a sustainable manner.

All pilot projects benefit from a five-dimensional support structure where each dimension connects to specific results overall leading to effective and efficient local public services provision. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Local Public Service Improvement Model



The following **section 1.1** describes the specific Results achieved through corresponding indicators based on milestones planned and executed in the period of July 1 to December 31, 2013.

Based hereon, **section 1.2** describes planned future Results and milestones for achievement during January 1 to July 1, 2014.

The Section 1.3 summarizes the lessons learned from the implementation process.

measure the results' achievements. These Results are considered as being within GIZ MLPS sphere of responsibility.

The below results model displays the IA1 results with their indicators by which to

Table 1. Overview on the status of progress achieved for the IA1

Results	Indicators	Status (1-4) ¹
A. Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas deliver the local public services in a sustainable manner.	A1: The managerial capacities of 4 service providers in pilot project areas have improved by 30%.	4
	A2: Local public authorities and service providers maintain the quality of the provided public service as well as its delivery without major interruptions.	4
B. Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas utilize new or improved services.	B1: 80% of the interviewed residents in MLPS pilot project areas confirm the service provision has improved.	3
	B2: 80% of the service clients in MLPS pilot project areas pay regularly the monthly service fee.	3
C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved.	C1: 80% of women confirm their access to public services has improved.	3
	C2: 80% of MLPS pilot project documentation and project activities are gender responsive.	4
D: Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas deliver effectively services to their inhabitants.	D1: 50% of key employees of the respective service provider are certified to manage their area of responsibility according to quality criteria.	4
	D2: 4 service providers have elaborated plans and analyses for delivery of local public services.	3
E: Access of men and women to quality and affordable public services in MLPS pilot project areas has increased.	E1: The obligations of the Financing Agreements for handing over of the 25 pilot measures are met.	3
	E2: All MLPS pilot projects have developed implementation and/or evaluation reports.	3
F: Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas proactively cooperate with the local public authorities and the service providers.	F1: 50% of the protocols from at least 4 meetings of local citizens committees per year include decisions on public service improvements.	3
G: Implemented investment	G1: The amount of treated solid waste in MLPS pilot project	3

¹ According to the GIZ Results-Based Monitoring, MLPS uses the following scoring for measuring the progress in achieving the progress towards expected results and indicators: 4- on track, 3-small deviation, 2 – major deviation, 1 – off track.

measures have reduced the environmental pollution in MLPS pilot project areas.	areas increases from 44% in 2011 to 75% in 2014 (Habitat, p. 31). The amount of treated waste water increases from 0% to 65% in Rosu (500 out of 780 households) and from 0% to 25% in Duruitoarea Veche (30 out of 120 households) by 2014.	
	G2: Energy efficiency of public buildings involved in MLPS pilot project has increased by 30%.	3
H: The cooperation of local public authorities in MLPS pilot project areas has improved.	H1: 73 communities sign the cooperation agreement in 3 pilot project sectors (including LPA I and LPA II).	4
	H2: LPAs participate in the IMC working groups meetings on the institutionalizing the public service delivery.	3
I: Local public authorities implement pilot projects in accordance with national, regional and rayonal development strategies.	I1: All measures of LPAs in pilot project areas are implemented for SWM and WSS sectors in accordance with the updated Socio-Economic Development Strategies (SEDS).	4
	I2: Pilot project Rayons` SEDS are updated <u>in one</u> of three priority sectors in accordance with the national and regional development strategies and documents.	4
J: Local public authorities are managing public assets in a sustainable manner.	J1: 12 LPAs in pilot Rayons can register public infrastructure in the cadastre as well as investments in the balance sheet/inventory.	3
K: Public procurement specialists in RDAs (LPAs) work professionally.	K1: The three RDAs conduct the public procurement processes for all investment & infrastructure & equipment financed through the Fonds für Regionalentwicklung (German Investment Support – the Fund) according to the relevant regulations.	3
L: Best practices and lessons learnt for scaling up have been disseminated internally and externally.	L1: LPA representatives have access to the experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of future project in the 3 pilot project sectors.	3
	L2: Knowledge transfer between the MLPS Project and LPAs takes place also beyond the scope of the pilot projects.	3

1.1. Results and milestones achieved in period of July 1 to December 31, 2013 by the IA 1

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>I. Local planning and programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cooperation agreement on updating SEDS for Soroca rayon is elaborated and signed ▪ The process of updating SEDS of Soroca rayon, chapter on EE of public buildings, is initiated. ▪ Data for updating Soldanesti rayon SEDS on SWM is collected. ▪ A concept for implementation of Energy Management System for Orhei Hospital is developed ▪ A guide on SEDS updating is drafted ▪ Assistance for harmonizing the LPA I strategies with Cahul and Riscani rayonal SEDS is provided ▪ The elaboration of 2 feasibility studies for aggregated provision of WSS services for Cahul and Riscani rayon administration is initiated ▪ A concept for organizing an awareness campaign on harmonizing the local plans of LPAs in WSS sector with the WSS component of Cahul rayon SEDS is developed. ▪ 6 workshops are conducted for LPAs, NGOs and service providers on the necessity to harmonize local plans of LPAs from Cahul rayon in WSS sector with the WSS component of Cahul rayon SEDS 	<p>I: Local public authorities implement pilot projects in accordance with national, regional and rayonal development strategies</p> <p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>II. Inter-municipal cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A round table of 5 LPAs from Cahul district on cooperation in institutionalization of the Water Supply and Sanitation Service in Cahul is conducted. ▪ A working group on inter-municipal cooperation and extension of the WSS services and activities in Cahul is tracked for gender participation. ▪ A round table of representatives of 10 LPAs from the Prut cluster in Riscani rayon on establishing IMC in WSS sector has been set up to come up with / discuss proposals regarding establishing of the regional operator and analyzing the institutional set up of the service provider. ▪ 23 representatives of LPAs – level I and II – from Riscani rayon, RDA North and GIZ experts participated in 2 study visits to Romania and Poland on successful IMC approaches in organizing WSS services in rural communities ▪ IMC among localities in the area of Tatarauca Veche in Soroca rayon takes into consideration gender equity ▪ The feasibility study for SWM sector (landfill for Soldanesti rayon) is elaborated taking in consideration gender mainstreaming ▪ A study on legal/institutional forms and financial/technical forms for the SWM service provider in the region was developed ▪ Floresti, Soldanesti and Rezina rayons are provided with an assistance in adopting the legal 	<p>H: The cooperation of local public authorities in MLPS pilot project areas has improved C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>III. Investment measures – technical and financial assistance</p>	<p>and institutional form for their joint provision of SWM service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local council template decisions (on local tax and joint stock company) were adopted by LPAs ▪ Decisions on the acceptance of shares over equipment received by LPA Soldanesti and LPA Floresti from GIZ/RDA, as well as the approval to set up a joint-stock company and delegation of solid waste management service are adopted 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two projects funded by the German government are released: Rehabilitation of water treatment plant in Cahul, 470 000 Euros; Construction of sewage system in village Rosu, 720 000 Euros ▪ Tender process for the implementation of the released projects funded by German Government is launched ▪ Implementation of the project “Energy Efficient Street Illumination System in Tatarauca Veche Community” is completed and utilities are handed over to the service provider "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" ME. ▪ Street lighting system in the all 6 villages of the Tatarauca Veche commune is operational. ▪ Land redesignation from Parcani, Soldnesti finalised ▪ All the 474 platforms are constructed ▪ One renovated office for Regia Apa Soldanesti is handed over to the LPA 	<p>E: Access of men and women to quality and affordable public services in MLPs pilot project areas has increased</p> <p>G: Implemented investment measures have reduced environmental pollution in MLPs pilot project areas</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipment for ME Regia Apa Soldanesti and service provider from Floresti in amount of 8 million MDL is purchased ▪ The place for temporary Recyclables Baling Station is identified and rented ▪ A design company that will prepare the necessary documents for set up of the temporary Recyclables Baling Station is selected ▪ Renovation work at Orhei hospital for 383,445.22 Euros out of 394,500.00 Euros spent for thermal insulation of the therapy building, installation of energy-efficient windows for therapy building, renovation of internal building networks of hot/cold water supply, a sewerage system for the pediatric building, installing a Smart energy monitoring system, installation of three individual heating sub-stations, assistance for public procurement WG offered ▪ Land destination of the Parcani place for the construction of the Regional Waste Management Center is changed into construction ▪ 3 project proposals for the physical investments are elaborated for Duruitoarea Veche and Costesti localities from the Riscani rayon: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) „Construction of the sewerage system in 	

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
	<p>village Duruitoarea Veche" (worth 123,000 Euros);</p> <p>2) „Reconstruction and modernization of waste water treatment plant in Costesti town" (worth 298,000 Euros);</p> <p>3) „Extension of the sewerage system in Costesti town" (for 442 households), (worth 334,452 Euros).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The tender process to purchase vehicles and specialized equipment for ME "Apa-Canal Costești" worth 97,000 Euros is launched ▪ The connection rate of the households in Duruitoarea Veche reaches 98%, compared to the number of the planned, and the total connection rate is 69%. ▪ An average of 90% of the beneficiaries from Duruitoarea Veche, Riscani rayon paid regularly the monthly water consumption ▪ Assistance in developing handover documents and implementation reports is offered ▪ Assistance for public procurement WG is offered ▪ Meetings of local citizens committees on the construction works are tracked for gender participation 	
		<p>J: Public procurement specialists in RDAs (LPAs) work professionally</p>
		<p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>IV.</p> <p>a. Capacity development of the Public Services Providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayors are advised in developing the SWM budgets for 2014, considering regional and national budget support options. ▪ The director of ME "TATARAUCA-SERVICE" is trained at the State Energy Inspectorate on the street lighting system maintenance with respect to worker protection. ▪ Capacity development action plan is developed for the service providers Regia Apa Soldanesti, Apa Canal Cahul and Apa Canal Costesti ▪ 2 meetings are conducted on the identification of the process of implementation of the capacity development activity plan for the WSS sector ▪ Special equipment for Regia Apa Soldanesti is bought ▪ A training on the current topic "Regional development - the social and political impact, ambitious topic news" is conducted ▪ A training on " Public Procurement" topic is conducted ▪ A training on topic "Monitoring System and implementation process for projects funded by German Government" is conducted ▪ ME "Apa-Canal Costești" is relocated into new office rehabilitated from additional German funding 	<p>A: Local public authorities and service providers deliver the local public services in a sustainable manner</p> <p>D: Local public authorities and service providers in MLPSP pilot project areas effectively deliver services to their inhabitants</p> <p>L: Best practices and lessons learned have been disseminated internally and externally</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>IV.</p> <p>b. Capacity development of LPAs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An assistance in developing handover documents and implementation reports is offered ▪ Service contract for street lighting service in Tatarauca Veche is developed ▪ Local decision on setting a local tax of MDL 10 in Tatarauca Veche is adopted ▪ 80% of the population of Rosu village is connected to water supply ▪ A guide for propriety registration is drafted ▪ A study on public propriety management is developed 	<p>A: Local public authorities and service providers deliver the local public services in a sustainable manner</p> <p>D: Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas effectively deliver services to their inhabitants</p> <p>L: Best practices and lessons learned have been disseminated internally and externally</p> <p>K: Local public authorities are managing public assets in a sustainable manner</p>
<p>V.</p> <p>Community mobilization and citizens' engagement in improving local public services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6 meetings of local citizens committees are conducted ▪ An NGO for the awareness campaign on SWM services in Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti rayons is selected ▪ An information and awareness campaign with the inclusion of the gender equality aspect in Tatarauca Veche is launched ▪ An NGO for the awareness campaign on WSS services in entire Cahul rayon is selected ▪ A site visit of journalists to the ME Apa-Canal Cahul is organized by the German Embassy ▪ A reportage on the benefits of the water supply system constructed in the Duruitoarea Veche village in Riscani rayon is broadcasted on the television channel Publika TV. 	<p>B: Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas utilize new or improved services</p> <p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p> <p>F: Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas proactively cooperate with the local public authorities and the service providers</p> <p>G: Implemented investment measures have reduced environmental pollution in MLPS pilot project areas</p>

1.2. Milestones and Results to be achieved in the reporting period from January 1 to July 1, 2014

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
I. Local planning and programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEDS chapter on SWM for the Soldanesti rayon consulted in public hearing ▪ SEDS chapter in SWM for the Soldanesti rayon approved by the Soldanesti rayon Council ▪ SEDS chapter “EE in public building of Soroca rayon” is elaborated, consulted in public hearing and approved by the Soroca rayon council ▪ 2 feasibility studies for the provision of aggregated WSS services initiated for Cahul and Riscani rayons are finalized and presented ▪ LPAs I are assisted in adopting/adjusting local WSS development plans and programs in accordance with the updated WSS chapter of Riscani rayon SEDS 	<p>I: Local public authorities implement pilot projects in accordance with national, regional and rayonal development strategies</p> <p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p>
II. Inter-municipal cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 study visit of representatives of LPAs I and II from Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti rayons on successful IMC experience in SWM sector is conducted ▪ 2 JSC from Soldanesti and Floresti rayons are registered at the state chamber of registration ▪ A company to perform the study on identifying of forms and domains of IMC among the Tatarauca Veche communes is contracted ▪ Meetings on IMC approach in the Tatarauca Veche communes from the Soroca rayon are conducted 	<p>H: The cooperation of local public authorities in MLPS pilot project areas has improved</p> <p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings on IMC and activities regarding the extension of the services area of the WSS from Cahul city to other localities from Cahul rayon took place ▪ An assistance for the local public authorities and the WSS working group of the Riscani rayon in implementation of IMC in WSS sector is provided ▪ An assistance in developing and implementing the institutionalization plan of the WSS regional operator is provided to the Riscani rayon council 	
<p>III. Investment measures – technical and financial assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water treatment plant Cahul is rehabilitated (in amount of 470,000 Euros) ▪ Sewage system in village Rosu is constructed (in amount of 720,000 Euros) ▪ Sewerage system in the village of Duruitoarea Veche, Riscani rayon, is constructed ▪ Waste water treatment plant in Costesti town, Riscani rayon, is constructed ▪ An extended sewerage system in Costesti town, Riscani rayon, is constructed ▪ An assistance in developing handover documents and implementation reports is offered ▪ An assistance to public procurement WG is offered ▪ Meetings of the local citizens committees on the construction works are tracked for gender participation 	<p>E: Access of men and women to quality and affordable public services in MLPs pilot project areas has improved</p> <p>G: Implemented investment measures have reduced environmental pollution in MLPs pilot project areas</p>
		<p>J: Public procurement specialists in RDAs (LPAs) work professionally</p>
		<p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPs pilot project areas is achieved</p>



Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>IV.</p> <p>a. Capacity development of the Public Services Providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity development action plan for the service providers Regia Apa Soldanesti, Apa Canal Cahul, and Apa Canal Costesti is implemented ▪ Organization chart, job descriptions and other documents that shall support the company operation are elaborated and implemented ▪ A practical guide on efficient street lighting in rural areas of Moldova is elaborated ▪ Training modules on "Efficient Street lighting in rural areas of Moldova" are elaborated ▪ Technical support to WSS service provider from Duruitoarea Veche on drawing up and signing of contracts with the customers is provided ▪ A billing mechanism, including endowment of the ME "Apa-Canal Costești" with billing and accounting software, is developed 	<p>A: Local public authorities and service providers deliver the local public services in a sustainable manner</p> <p>D: Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas effectively deliver services to their inhabitants</p> <p>L: Best practices and lessons learned have been disseminated internally and externally</p>
<p>IV.</p> <p>b. Capacity development of LPAs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipalities are advised regarding regional and national budget supported options ▪ Councils are supported in developing SWM budgets for 2014 ▪ Assistance in developing handover documents and implementation reports is offered to Costesti and Duruitoarea Veche communes from Riscani rayon ▪ A Guide on propriety registration is elaborated ▪ A study on public propriety management is developed 	<p>A: Local public authorities and service providers deliver the local public services in a sustainable manner</p> <p>D: Local public authorities and service providers in MLPS pilot project areas effectively deliver services to their inhabitants</p> <p>L: Best practices and lessons learned have been disseminated internally and externally</p> <p>K: Local public authorities are managing public assets in a sustainable manner</p>

Activity Area	Output/Milestones	Results
<p>V. Community mobilization and citizens' engagement in improving local public services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enlarged local citizens committee of the Costești town is set up. ▪ Local citizens committees are established in all 35 localities from Soldanestji, Rezina and Floresti rayons ▪ Meetings of local citizens committees are conducted ▪ Gender mainstreaming is taken into consideration in all pilot areas of MLPS project ▪ An awareness campaign with inclusion of the gender mainstreaming, satisfaction is conducted in Tatarauca Veche community in Soroca rayon. ▪ Conducted the survey with inclusion of gender aspect satisfaction among street lighting service users in Tatarauca Veche commune, Soroca rayon, ▪ An awareness campaign with inclusion of the gender mainstreaming satisfaction is finalized in Cahul rayon ▪ 2 meetings of the LCC on citizens mobilization and their participation in activities for improving the WSS local services organized in Costesti town, Riscani rayon are conducted ▪ An awareness campaign in accordance with the transparency requirements and the concept of the gender sensitive aspects is initiated ▪ Local citizens committees according to the gender dimension and the representativeness of the localities involved in the projects for improving WSS services from Costesti , Riscani 	<p>B: Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas utilize new or improved services</p> <p>C: Gender equity in the delivery of local public services in the MLPS pilot project areas is achieved</p> <p>F: Men and women in MLPS pilot project areas proactively cooperate with the local public authorities and the service providers</p> <p>G: Implemented investment measures have reduced environmental pollution in MLPS pilot project areas</p>

1.3. Challenges and Lessons Learned in the Process of Implementing of the MLPS project in the Pilot Areas

MLPS pilot project implementation during the period of July 1 to December 31, 2013 made positive experiences in the three sectors, but at the same time the project

team faced some challenges that are shared in the present chapter mainly in the order of the five activity areas.

1.3.1. Local Planning and Programming

In the pilot-project „**Improvement of Water and Sanitation Services in Riscani Rayon**” lessons learned concerned the local planning and programming process. This process is complex and, in addition, requires collection of primary data on the situation in the field and their comprehensive analysis. Experts’ involvement was required at this stage to ensure basic correctness and representativeness of the data being able to be transcribed into useful information. Also important is the direct involvement of beneficiaries - local authorities and local WSS providers. Their role is to ensure the promptness and precision of the data collection, as well as to suggest ideas in compliance with the specific local needs.

At the same time informing and involving the LPAs at all stages of development of the feasibility study leads to a deeper understanding of the local constellations - their strength and weaknesses. Cooperation stimulates the establishment of a strong work basis to jointly identifying appropriate solutions. Additionally, at the next level, tackling challenges through inter-municipal cooperation requiring leaner resources and efforts, conjugated to a starting consensus that it would be more feasible in the middle and long term to deliver required services and a higher efficiency of the result.

1.3.2. Inter-municipal Cooperation

Collaboration between mayors of communities in the pilot project „**Improving integrated solid waste management in Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti rayons**”, in order to identify ways of regionalization and provision of joint public services, appears to be related to a series of questions in need for solution. These concern especially legal cooperation forms, cadastre registration, valuation of goods of the members and others. These questions require further investigations and expertise in order to develop alternatives for discussion with stakeholders on national and local level.

of the SWM pilot- project from in Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti rayons on establishing the local tax and creation of the JSC in Soldanesti and Floresti shows that between mayors and Local Councils members is lack of communication and is a different perception of the findings, which conduct to refuses on adoption of the necessary decisions. The process of adoption of the Local decisions on local tax and establishing of JSC have to be permanently assisted by the experts in the plenum of the Councils meetings.

Adoption of the Local Decisions by the Local Councils from the partners localities

As an example: the establishment of Joint Stock Company with municipal members is rather complex and requires serious resources. Therefore, Moldovan legislators

might develop a new form of enterprise that will offer the possibility to LPAs to provide joint public services. Recent discussions path a way into this direction and the project is contributing with its experiences.

In the pilot-project „**Improvement of Water and Sanitation Services in Riscani Rayon**” was organized an exposure visit to Iasi (Romania) to study the forms of organisation of WSS services and inter-municipal cooperation. The following conclusions can be presented:

The Romanian system is based on the development and expansion of infrastructure or of the management from the metropolitan area to rural communities, for example in Iasi County and other counties (Cluj, Constanta, Sibiu, etc.).

The principle observed in Romania – development of the rural WSS systems around big agglomerations and cross-subsidizing WSS in rural areas from the urban ones – is mostly not applicable in Moldova due to lack of strong urban centers (lack of a “Metropolitan Area” with over 100,000 inhabitants). In addition, the population of Moldovan cities may not always support the principle of solidarity with the rural population (related to the service price level). One can outline here that the cost of water services in Moldovan rural communities is already equal to or exceeds the similar cost in Romania.

Lessons learned from the visit to Poland in the same pilot-project:

- **Inter-municipal cooperation in Poland.** The Polish system of local governments has a well-established legal basis of inter-

municipal co-operation. When a local government enters into inter-municipal cooperation, it has to decide on what tasks will be performed by the Union and what will be the source of financing. The selected task and rights are transferred from local governments to the Union. Thus, when a Union is created in order to provide WSS services, the task of WSS services is transferred to the Union, allowing the Union to select or create a regional operator, regulate services, approve tariffs and collect fees. In this way, the Union is treated as another tier of local government with a sector focus.



- **Investment policy in Poland.** The investments in WSS infrastructure are made based on strategic planning and correlation with the other community needs: roads, solid waste collection, green spaces, street lighting, etc. A wastewater system is considered effective if minimum 80 to 120 inhabitants per 1 km of pipe are connected to it.
- **WSS sector for rural areas in Poland.** Unlike in Romania, where rural systems develop around metropolitan cities, the regional WSS systems in Poland are based

on a mix of urban and rural municipalities. The popular legal form of the WSS operator is the limited liability company. The local public administration authority participates in the monitoring and decision-making on the operation

of the service operator through the inter-municipal cooperation union, which are typically created during the planning stages of a major investment project or programme.

1.3.3. Investment Measures – Technical and Financial Assistance

In the pilot project Pilot - Project „**Improving integrated solid waste management in Soldanesti, Rezina and Floresti rayons**“, the land destination re-designation from agriculture into construction destination took longer compared to initial plans due to the fact that the Institute for Design and Territorial Organization took the opportunity to start the process only after the monies for their contract came onto their account and the

process of approving and transferring finances from LPAs to the various different contractors takes considerable times too. At the same time, the Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre did not manage to send the cadastre files for changing the land destination to line ministries for approval during the expected period, adding to further delays.

1.3.4. Capacity Development of LPAs and Service Providers

LPAs and Service Providers require permanent assistance from advisers and experts on Capacity Development and Service provision. This challenge appears in all pilot-projects. A capacity needs

assessment was therefore completed. On the basis of individual service provider's needs a capacitating program is prepared.

1.3.5. Community Mobilization and Citizens' Engagement in Improving Local Public Services

Implementation of rayonal projects on an IMC basis requires the involvement of each local council. In many cases it is sufficient to inform a mayor or the assembly of rayonal mayors.

In order to contribute effectively to a change in a policy field, e.g. waste management, more efforts might be needed to discuss with the local councils and to involve also the respective line ministry to a stronger degree.

INTERVENTION AREA 2. REGIONAL PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

Progress Review

This chapter presents the progress on achievements reached during the period 1 July – 31 December, 2013 on Results A - I, according to the GIZ Results based M&E System related to the Intervention Area 2 (IA2): Regional Planning and Programming (see Annex 3). These are elaborated based on the assumption that the planned activities will lead to achieving progress in reaching the IA2 Specific Objective: “Regional and Local Public Authorities effectively plan strategic investments in the three priority sectors (water and sanitation, solid waste management and energy efficiency of public buildings)”.

The progress in reaching this Specific Objective is measured using the main Success Indicators presented below:

Success Indicators for IA2:

- Indicator 1: The three Regional Development Agencies have facilitated the development of viable project concepts in the priority sectors with a total value of €170 Mio. (Baseline: 2010: 0;

Verification source: Project concept documents presented.)

- Indicator 2: 70% of stakeholders from 30 Local Public Authorities involved into local planning and programming express their satisfaction with the facilitation capacities of Regional Development Agencies (Baseline: 2012: 34%; Verification source: Survey carried out by the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova in 2012 and 2014)
- Indicator 3: 75% of project concepts facilitated by Regional Development Agencies are scrutinized in terms of environmental impact considering national regulations. (Baseline: 2010: 0; Verification source: Project concept documents, GOPA assessment grid.)

The overview on the status of progress achieved during the reporting period 1 July – 31 December, 2013 is presented in the summary table below:

Table 2. Overview on the status of progress achieved for the IA2

Results	Indicators	Status (1-4) ²
A. Regional Development Agencies are enabled to facilitate	A1: 80% of all viable project concepts in the three sectors are in accordance with the respective regional	4

² According to the GIZ Results-Based Monitoring, MLPS uses the following scoring for measuring the progress in achieving the progress towards expected results and indicators: 4 – on track, 3 – small deviation, 2 – major deviation, 1 – off track.

Regional Integrated Planning	development strategy as well as the elaborated vision, action plan and criteria set out in the respective Regional Sector Plan	
	A2: 7 of 9 Regional Development Agencies' planning staff are certified for being able to facilitate Regional Planning and Programming processes	3
B: Regional Development Agencies are competent to effectively support Local Public Authorities in the project preparation process	B1: 7 of 9 Regional Development Agencies' project management staff are certified as competent for all stages of facilitation of project development process	3
	B2: 70% of stakeholders from 30 Local Public Authorities involved into Local Planning and Project Development express their satisfaction with the facilitative project preparation support by Regional Development Agencies.	4
C: Viable investment project concepts are based on integrated and participatory planning and programming	C1: The three Regional Development Agencies have facilitated the development of viable project concepts in the three priority sectors with a total value of 170 Mio Euros.	4
	C2: 70% of all involved LPAs agree to be part of a Solid Waste Management service area within an Inter-Municipal Cooperation (IMC) framework / An additional amount of 30% of LPAs join Water and Sanitation service areas within IMC framework.	4
D: Local Public Authorities contribute essentially to the project preparation process	D1: LPAs are the main partner in 80% of all projects developed within MLPS.	3
E: The State Chancellery's, Ministry for Regional Development & Reconstruction, Regional Development Agencies' and Local Public Authorities' capacities to implement ENPI funds and to programme and apply for ENI are increased	E1: 10 staff members from the MRDC, State Chancellery and RDAs are trained to work in accordance with the requirements of the shared management system.	4
	E2: Relevant staff of 100 LPAs received trainings and consultations on project development and implementation within ENPI and ENI programmes	4
F: Academy of Public Administration effectively trains stakeholders in the area of regional planning and programming and project preparation	F1: 6 of 8 APA interns are certified to be able to apply theoretical and practical skills in regional planning and programming	4
	F2: 100 LPA staff has been trained by qualified APA staff on Regional Planning and project preparation according to the criteria set out in the curricula	4
G: IA3/GIS (German Investment Support) - Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions and Regional Development Agencies are effectively monitoring their interventions with a view to results.	G1: The three RDAs installed a Results Based Monitoring System for all infrastructure investment projects financed through the Fund for Regional Development	4

H: Regional Development Institutions are enabled to better communicate the changes achieved through their activities.	H1: 100% of all MRDC and RDA staff makes use of the new Management Information System.	3
I: Regional planning documents are gender responsive.	I1: All viable project concepts developed take into account the gender dimension.	3
J: IA3/GIS - MRDC and Regional Development Agencies effectively manage the BMZ-Fund for Regional Development	J1: The MRDC and the three Regional Development Agencies used 90% of financial resources provided through the Fund for Regional Development for infrastructure measures in the three priority sectors.	2

The progress in achieving the IA2 specific objective, results and milestones is planned through the implementation of a core stream of activities related to the regional planning and programming in 3 regions (North, South and Center) in 3 sectors (Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS), Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings and street lighting (EE), Solid Waste Management (SWM)). Results A – D are relevant to GOPA 2 Team work, while other results, E – I, are not in the immediate sphere of its responsibility.

Nevertheless, all those activities have been oriented toward achieving the results A – I, according to the GIZ Results based M&E System, taking into consideration already dynamic and fast changing context related to a complex set of issues such as decentralization, regional development, EU integration as well as other positive and unforeseen changes in the project environment.

Although in mid-November 2013 GIZ and the EU signed the Delegated Agreement for implementation of Pilot Regional Development Programme enabling the project to proceed to Scenario B³, all

project's activities have been performed in the frame of Scenario A, because until the close of the current reporting period no document, related to Scenario B, had been signed yet by GIZ and by GOPA (GOPA 2 international and national experts form the major sector teams of the IA 2).

The following results, related to outcomes A – D, according to the GOPA 2 ToR, the following progress have been achieved during the second half of 2013.

By end of December 2013 internal rough drafts in English existed for three WSS regional plans. A further five plans (two in SWM and three in EE in public buildings) had been transformed into "Program" format as requested by the MRDC, been subject of informal and formal consultation among all relevant stakeholders and been approved according to the procedures agreed in June 2013 with the MRDC. Moreover, "Possible Project Concepts (PPCs)" have been identified, assessed, and approved by the MRDC for these five programs and considered by Regional Working Groups (RWGs). These constitute a firm basis for the project development phase of work. Indeed, the sole formal step that remains to be done with regard to these five

³ Under this Scenario Regional and Local Roads rehabilitation is supposed to be the 4th priority sector in the frame of the MLPS project, along with

WSS, SWM and EE of public buildings priority sectors included under Scenario A.

programs (in the format they now are) is formal adoption by Regional Development Councils in February 2014.

This represents very substantial progress since for the first time in these sectors it establishes an agreed starting point - based on all relevant policy, strategic, legal, financial and practical considerations at national level as well as regional needs – for “on the ground project work”, development work. In short, a mechanism has been found and agreed by which to transpose relevant national policy directions into actions on the ground. Not only is this unprecedented in Moldova but to the best of the Consultant’s knowledge and experience the case is rare if not unheard of within any regional development process in Central and Eastern Europe in recent years.

The documents are substantial while, in the case of SWM, clearly falling short (as was always accepted) of the level of planning that might be implied by the term “master plan”. The same remark also applies to the WSS Regional Plans which are in draft. But they provide a clear pathway towards operational and institutional progress in the short and medium term – of a concrete nature – which is broadly in line with strategic directions.

The importance of these documents also lies in the fact that:

- They have real strategic, operational and potentially financial implications
- They have been discussed, consulted and accepted by all the main national and regional stakeholders.

- They provide a reason and a magnet for engagement of a deepened nature at national and regional levels, and between these levels.

They are, however, not perfect and with more time, it is possible that certain elements may have been of better quality, certain forms of engagement more deep and so on: however in the view of the Consultants, this would not have added anything significant to the wider process.

The elaboration process of these five programs however has taken longer than was foreseen (perhaps ambitiously) by the GOPA 2 Team. Specifically:

Definition and reaching agreement of the process, methods and criteria for possible project identification took almost three months in the case of Energy Efficiency, and although retrospectively this appears reasonable given the complexity and innovative nature of the challenge, this was not adequately foreseen in time-frames given by the GOPA 2 ToR.

Internal agreement within the wider MLPS project with regard to specific points of the Solid Waste Management Programs was difficult and took much longer than foreseen.

The now ready English language version of the Draft WSS Programs represent very substantial documents and point towards a medium term practical perspective which has been missing in this sector to date. As of the end of December 2013, informal discussions jointly held with Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions and Ministry of Environment suggested agreement may be more easily obtained than has to date been assumed.

In the EE sector an initial 96 project ideas (3 per district/rayon) were identified according to processes, methods and criteria agreed in advance with the MRDC and AEE. All of these ideas were subject to an initial desk assessment and 2 were retained from each rayon. These were then discussed with the owners (representatives from the relevant institutions) in a series of interactive workshops, each with around 4-8 project teams. In the end 33 were retained for further work. However, it is likely that a significant number of the approximately 63 remaining project ideas do have potential and would constitute a useful starting point for any donor seeking to identify a further possible pipeline of possible projects in this sector. The total potential budget of these PPCs is nearly EUR 60 million.

Participative Approach - Public Consultation

The development of Regional Sector Programs was characterised by a relatively high level of participation and public consultation. By participation we understand something more than simply “presence” or “involvement”. We refer to a form of engagement – beyond the purely passive or reactive whereby relevant stakeholders actually influence proposed actions and outcomes and the resources to realise them. As a general comment it is fair to say that engagement deepened over the process but that in general it remains “reactive” rather than fully participative as defined.

By public consultation we understand a form of engagement with regard to inputs into the Programs which involves actors beyond the regional sector working groups (who are, by definition, more fully engaged throughout the entire process). It

is also more than the “informal consultation” agreed involving Ministries and national agencies which was undertaken according to a procedure pre-agreed with MRDC.



Thus, after completion of the informal consultation procedure with Ministries for RSP on EE and SWM in September – October 2013, Public Consultation was done in two stages. The first stage consisted in publishing the Programs on RDAs and MRDC websites, so all stakeholders and interested people could access the document and come with proposals to improve their content. These comments were collated by RDAs and fed into the changes then being undertaken to the documents. After this, the documents were presented to the regional sector working groups in a pre-final form (they had also seen earlier drafts). On 17, 18 and 19 December, public consultation events were held in South, North and respectively, Center region where main stakeholders could participate and be involved in discussions.



Attendees at these events were representatives of the Central Public Authorities (Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Ministry

of Environment, Ministry of Health, Agency for Energy Efficiency), Local Public Authorities I & II levels, RDA, municipal enterprises, representatives of public buildings (relevant to EE sector). In total,

around 220 persons were involved in public consultation events. The events were organised by RDAs with assistance from the GOPA Consortium and GIZ RPPs.

Table 3. Public consultation events (no. of participants, institutions)

Region	Sector	No. of participants		Institutions					
		Men	Women	Central Public Authorities	LPA I&II	RDA	GIZ/GOPA	Public buildings	Others
North	EE & SWM	55	37	3	41	16	8	16	8
Center	EE & SWM	47	29	5	35	14	12	3	7
South	EE	35	15	3	28	7	6	2	4

A report of the proceedings and follow up to the public consultation will be finalised in early January 2104. The final versions of the Regional Sector Programs have been submitted to MRDC and will be presented to Regional Development Councils for approval in February 2014.

German Investment Support

Projects preparation for the German Investment Support was one of unforeseen activities the Project's Team, especially the GOPA 2 Team, had to undertake during the reporting period.

Conditions under which work in this area has been carried out was far from ideal: nevertheless the objective of ensuring enough good projects to absorb the promised funds had been met to a very large extent by June 2013. Nevertheless the finer details of completion have proven painfully slow as the team has sought to handover projects to AoI1 for implementation.

Table 4. Current state of projects preparation for the GIS with regard to the handover to Intervention Area 1

Project code and title	Approval GIZ Construction	Handed over to IA 1	State of progress 31/12/13
001-WSS-N Sewage system Duruitoarea Veche	No	No	Documents finalized and uploaded; it is viewed as part of the Costesti system = 001 WSS-N+ 002 WSS-N + 003 WSS-N
002-WSS-N Procurement of vehicles for Apa Canal Costesti	Yes	Yes	Finalised
003-WSS-N Renovation of Waste Water Treatment Plant from Costesti town	No	No	Has been completely redesigned approved by the State Inspectorate; Tender book done

004-WSS-S Sewage system village Rosu	Yes	No	Needs to be reviewed, technical design company will submit results by the end of January
005-WSS-S Rehabilitation of Drinking Water Purification Plant Cahul	Yes	Yes	Finalised
006-WSS-N Construction of the backbone aqueduct Leova Iargara	N/A	Yes	Further Feasibility Study to be developed
007-EE-C project in the Regional Hospital Orhei	No	No	Tender book to be developed
008-EE-C project in the Nisporeni Hospital	Yes	No	This project was initially proposed to be financed only by half (insistence of the ministry) and approved by that time; has to be resigned. Detailed cost specification and tender book to be developed
007-WSS-N-Sewer Extention Costesti town	No	No	Demand scan and tender book under development (project was additionally added to the German agreement)

A large number of EE in public buildings projects were originally identified in order to absorb the allocation monies. However, to date only two have been accepted for funding (see table above). Nine others are at an advanced stage of elaboration (2.99 according to our system of tracking) and cannot be progressed further in the absence of a clear perspective of public funding. All nine could be brought to ready to go/procure stage within an estimated six months – if money is made available to fund them.

In practice this means that already in this sector we are now faced with a situation where there are more ready or near ready projects that monies available or soon to be available. The shortfall is currently in the region of 11,460,562 Euros and this will become larger as projects are elaborated in the next phase of Regional Planning, unless action is taken in coming few months by the donor community and MD authorities.

Approach to gender mainstreaming

Consistent with proposals in GOPA Inception Report and with the GOPA technical proposal, the GOPA 2 team has sought to take account of gender issues in its work.

In the reporting period we have:

- Addressed the gender issue in discussion in all Regional Sector Working Groups (EE, SWM, and in past few months, WSS)
- Scrutinised use of EE buildings presented as possible project concepts in terms of use on a gender basis
- Continued to monitor our own activities in terms of gender.
- Nevertheless it is now time to adopt a more comprehensive approach and with the shift in several sectors to project development this will be pursued more vigorously. A gender specialist will be recruited to the team in 2014.

Result based M&E System in practice

Below we present the status quo on progress in achieving the Results (Outcomes) A - I according to the Results Based M&E System applied to the MLPS project.

Outcomes A-D (see below) are largely dependent on the successful elaboration of regional programs in (currently) three sectors and in three Development Regions - in cooperation with Project's partners - and the identification of Possible Project Concepts as an annex to each. The Possible Project Concepts should then be developed into Viable Project Concepts (if possible) and finally into Ready to go/ready to Fund Projects.

These outputs are very significant, will generate positive changes in themselves

Result A. Regional Development Agencies are Enabled to Facilitate Regional Integrated Planning

As indicated in the previous Progress Report, the evolution of work in this area is positive: from an initial situation where RDAs were somewhat passive, they rapidly and pro-actively sought an enlarged role by March 2013 and since then were involved in both, the preparation and delivery of Regional Sector Working Groups' workshops, which elaborate the key elements of each Regional Sector Programs.

In practical terms, the RDAs not the GIZ consultants chair and facilitate the work group meetings and are increasingly involved in coaching the participants during exercises designed to identify key elements of each section of the Programs. In the period July – December 2013 6 workshops for Regional Sector Working Groups in WSS, 2 in SWM and 3 on EE were carried out in the regions and in

and will require substantial adaptation by many institutions. Indeed it is evident already that the process to agree the Regional Sector Programs and Possible Project Concepts already has the effect of compelling ministries to cooperate with each other.

Nevertheless, in the course of the current reporting period, it has become clear that current results model insufficiently captures the complexity of activities, outputs and results and the interplay within them in the wider cooperation network, and already discussions have taken place with a view to its revision early in 2014.

general RDAs have played a very strong and successful role in these events. A further three major public consultation events each with up to four internal workshops was also carried out and was strongly facilitated by RDAs (see below).

Moreover, RDAs were also involved in the special EE workshop at which Potential Project Concepts were discussed between experts and their owners. A base-line study⁴ carried out in December 2012 and

⁴ Regional Development Agencies Capacity Assessment Report, December 2012. This study noted that RDAs had not been involved in a detailed regional sectoral planning process but they had some experience (from wider regional development planning) of using relevant tools and processes for analysis and for visioning. It noted that RDAs in the past had been more involved in facilitating LPAs with project development especially with regard to the Second Call for Project Proposal for the NFRD (2012). They had some experience and competence in facilitating

January 2013 identified that RDAs had themselves had never fully animated planning in detailed sectors (as opposed to wider development) and set as an outcome that they be able to do so by around start of 2015.

The level of engagement between ministries – especially in a spontaneous and continuous manner – needs to be enhanced if the full possibilities and benefits for regional planning are to be realized.



Indicator A1: *80% of all viable project concepts in the three sectors are in accordance with the respective regional development strategy as well as the elaborated vision, action plan and criteria set out in the respective regional sector plan.*

Milestones for indicator A1:

December 2013 - 3 EE Regional Sector Plans and 2 SWM Regional Sector Programs for each region are discussed and agreed by MRDC, RDAs, RDCs and other relevant fora.

project conceptualization, outline design, elaboration and finalization. The Assessment recommended, among other things, that there is a need for further complementary work to “vision” what a RDA would look like that fulfilled or functions implicit in the results model as above and that a more detailed study on RDA medium term functions be carried out.

3 EE Regional Sector Plans and 2 SWM Regional Sector Plans were turned into programmes and have undergone public consultations. They were agreed with MRDC, MoEnv, MoEco, AEE, RDAs and Regional Sector Working Groups. The approval by RDC is postponed for February 2014. 3 Internal WSS drafts were developed and sent for peer review within GIZ.

At this stage, 5 PPCs worth around 60-70 MEUR were developed for SWM and 33 PPCs for EE, out of which 2 EE PPCs, worth 2.239 million EUR, were approved for GIS funding. Additionally, in EE there are a further 66 PPCs worth EUR 51.9 million which cannot be progressed within MLPS/GOPA 2 work plan, but could constitute a good starting point for an additional project pipeline to be developed by donors or other agencies. A further 9 VPCs in EE worth around EUR 11.46 million are parked and awaiting prospective financing before the finalisation stage.

The number and complexity of issues of practice and policy that has been discussed within regional working groups is probably without precedent in Moldova. Stakeholders provided inputs and ideas in WSS on the basis of study of maps, they fed into fiches that provided an overview of the situation in their rayon. The case of WSS is almost unique since the unreliability of data and failure over many years to establish a shared overview at national or regional level, required a very careful process within working groups to obtain an understanding and consensus for action. In other sectors the prevailing national policy frameworks and established practice provide more stability. It remains however to be seen whether the emerging consensus at

regional level can fully be sustained at national level.

Figure 2. Evaluation summary of sector workshops of RSWGs (June-December 2013)

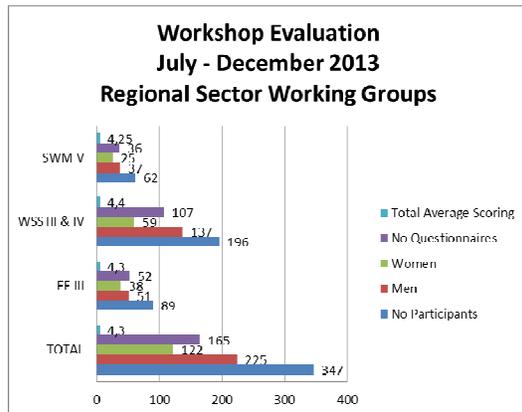
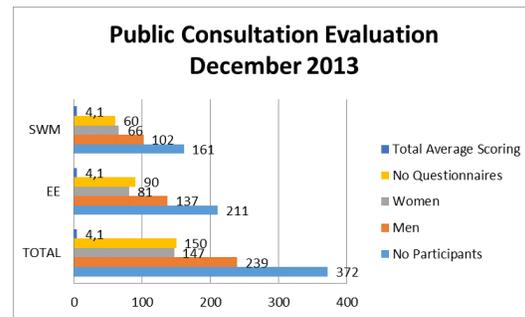


Figure 3. Results evaluation summary of public consultation events (December 2013)



Indicator A2: Seven of nine RDA's planning staff are certified as being able to facilitate regional planning and programming processes.

Milestones for indicator A2:

December 2013 - Regional Sector Planning Review initiated

Regional Sector Planning Interim Review is initiated. All interviews with counterparts are complete and substantial feedback provided on the RSP process, capacities developed/not developed, as well as policy implications. The draft RSP interim review report is under development and shall be submitted in February, 2014.

Result B. Regional Development Agencies are Competent to Effectively Support Local Public Authorities in the Project Preparation Process

Project development will logically follow from the identification of Possible Project Concepts towards the end of the regional planning process. As such, this activity was not scheduled to be active at this point.

Nevertheless as indicated in Table 4, substantial work has been undertaken with relation to German investment support in the inception period especially but also since then. This is addressed separately at the end of this section.

Indicator B1: Seven of nine RDA's project management staff are certified as competent for all stages of facilitation of project development process.

Milestones for indicator B1:

December 2013 - Acquired competencies are validated through involvement in facilitation of project development processes; RDA staff is trained in the basics of appropriate and proportional practice relative to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

Certain RDAs staff has developed their capacity to support project identification in EE, SWM. Some relevant RDAs staff feel they could undertake project identification process as it was done in EE.

Indicator B2: 70% of stakeholders from 30 Local Public Authorities involved into Local Planning and Project Development express their satisfaction with the facilitative project preparation support by Regional

Development Agencies. (= BMZ Success Indicator 2 of MLPS Intervention Area 2)

Milestones for indicator B2:

December 2013 - *RDAs involved in part facilitation of six workshops and two wider consultations on Regional Planning.*

RDAs involved in facilitating workshops at which various possible project concepts are accepted for further work. All RDAs were involved in the facilitation of 2 EE x 3 regions and 1 SWM x 2 regions.

Result C. Viable Investment Project Concepts are Based on Integrated and Participatory Planning and Programming

This outcome was not intended to be reached by this stage and indeed, relevant activities have scarcely begun. It should, however, be noted that many of the projects under GIS originated from previous work undertaken under Area of Intervention 1 and were developed within a strong participatory framework.

Indicator C1: *The three RDAs have facilitated the development of Viable Project Concepts in the three priority sectors with a total value of EUR170 million.*

Milestone for indicator C1:

December 2013 - *EE PPCs are discussed and agreed with MRDC and RSP working group members.*

EE PPCs and SWM PPCs were discussed and agreed. (see above).

Indicator C2: *70% of all involved LPAs agree to be part of a Solid Waste Management service area within an Inter-Municipal Cooperation (IMC) framework / An additional amount of 30% of LPAs join*

Water and Sanitation service areas within IMC framework.

Milestone for indicator C2:

December 2013 - *LPAs involve actively in discussions and consultations of 5 RSPs (3 EE and 2 SWM)*

The comments and feedback from LPAs were integrated in the matrix.

LPAs have participated in all 4 SWM, 6 WSS and 6 EE regional workshops. By the end of December, most of the districts (rayon) of Moldova had participated in the workshops. Also, some mayoralities and service providers have taken part in the workshop (Apa-Canals for WSS and mayoralities increasingly for SWM).

LPAs provided inputs in discussions and provide data upon request. They provided verification and feedback on expert inputs and proposals. They have engaged in structured discussions with comments and questions. They have reported back to their institutions.

Result D. Local Public Authorities contribute essentially to the project preparation process

Since activities related to this outcome were not intended to be advanced by this stage, then progress is limited. However this will rapidly change as the process of project concept identification, consistent with the regional plans, accelerates in next quarter.

Indicator D1: *LPAs are the main partner in 80% of all projects developed within MLPS*

Milestone for indicator D1:

December 2013 - *80% of all agreed PPCs in EE and SWM are developed with LPAs involvement.*

100% of all agreed PPCs in EE and SWM are developed with LPAs involvement and in total this means that all 32 districts and up to 100 municipalities have been involved (this does not count in the number of municipalities that were present in the public consultation events). However, at the next stage, the participation of LPAs needs to be intensified and deepened, especially in quality and also with regard to LPA1 entities. This however will be possible given the nature and logic of the next phase.

To make sure that representatives of relevant LPAs are seriously engaged (e.g. EE managers from relevant districts, relevant officials from institutions and RDAs specialist in the area) - they should be part of the project team. In SWM, the

project team would be around the SWM zone.

In 2014, the GOPA 2 team plans to ensure the delivery of the following main outputs: EE and SWM programs are approved by Regional Development Councils from regions North, South and Center.

The WSS regional sector plans are transformed into programs and undergo informal and formal consultations, as well as approval in Regional Working Groups and with line ministries, final approval from the respective RDCs.

In EE, The work is started on the 33 PPCs with the view to bring them to the stage of viable project concepts. The TA team expects in the position to propose a number for VPCs to the MRDC and the proposed inter-ministerial structure in the second quarter, 2014.

In SWM, the TA team envisages starting work on 3 PPC (commensurate with 3 SWM zones); these may advance at different speeds. The next stage of work will essentially involve Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Assessment.

In WSS, the process of identification of PPCs will soon begin along with informal consultations on the regional sector programs.

Result E. The State Chancellery's, Ministry for Regional Development & Constructions, Regional Development Agencies' and Local Public Authorities' capacities to implement ENPI funds and to programmes and apply for ENI are increased

For the 2014-2020, the Republic of Moldova will be eligible for the CBC Programmes financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument and Eastern Partnership Instrument. Further are presented the eligible CBC Programmes:

- **Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin**, funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The program will support soft and infrastructure projects. For this programme, the European Commission will provide



approximately 80 million Euros.

- **Joint Operational Programme Romania – Republic of Moldova**, financed by the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The program will support in particular investment projects with evident cross-border impacts. For this program, the European Commission is discussing to allocate a budget of approximately 60-70 million Euros.
- **The Danube Transnational Cooperation Program**, financed by the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The program will

support transnational impact development projects, with the following thematic objectives: research, technology development, innovation, environmental protection, resource efficiency, promoting sustainable transport and infrastructure, enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration.

- **Territorial Cooperation Programme for the Republic of Moldova - Ukraine**, financed Eastern Partnership Instrument. The program will support soft projects with cross border impact. The program budget will be approximately 4 million Euros.

The programming process for the ENI CBC Programmes has already begun and it is very difficult and comprehensive one, since it requires a high level implication from the Partner Countries and major reforms to be implemented in terms of those areas considered by the European Commission as crucial for implementation of “Shared management principle”, namely: programme management, control system, programme audit and recovery process. Thus, in this respect, the GIZ is supporting the national working group on programming for the next ENI CBC Programmes 2014-2020 in order to strengthening the capacities and set up the shared management system.

Indicator E1: *Ten staff members from the MRDC, State Chancellery, and RDAs are trained to work in accordance with the*

requirements of the shared management system.

Milestones for Indicator E1:

December 2013 – *Training on the management of CBC and ENI funds & on principals of the future programming conducted for target group (MRDC, SC, RDAs).*

In the reporting period, were organized three working group meetings where discussed different important aspects, such as: geographical coverage of the Programmes, Programmes management, the role of Moldovan institutions involved in the programming process, method to select the thematic priorities for next ENI CBC Programmes, etc.

For the next ENI CBC Programmes 2014-2020, European Commission proposed for discussions 3 strategic and 10 thematic objectives. Each CBC Programme will focus on a minimum 1 strategic objective and maximum 4 thematic objectives. Following the discussions within the working group several activities have been undertaken in order to identify the priorities according to the country needs:



- *Thematic objectives 1. Business and SME development* (Strategic objective A: Promoting economic and social development in the regions on both sides of borders);

- *Thematic objectives 6. Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and disasters prevention/management* (Strategic objective B: Solving the common problems as environment, public health and security);
- *Thematic objectives 7. Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of transport and communication networks and systems* (Strategic objective C: Promotion of better conditions and modalities for facilitating the mobility of people, goods and capital);
- *Thematic objectives 3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage* (Strategic objective A: Promoting economic and social development in the regions on both sides of borders).

Indicator E2: *100 representatives of the LPAs received trainings and consultations on project development and implementation*

Milestones for Indicator E2:

December 2013 – *3 trainings on the management of CBC and ENI funds & on principals of the future programming conducted and 35 consultations on project development and implementation conducted.*

During September - October, State Chancellery (Regional Office for CBC Programmes) with support of the GIZ has carried out 8 public consultations events all over the country.

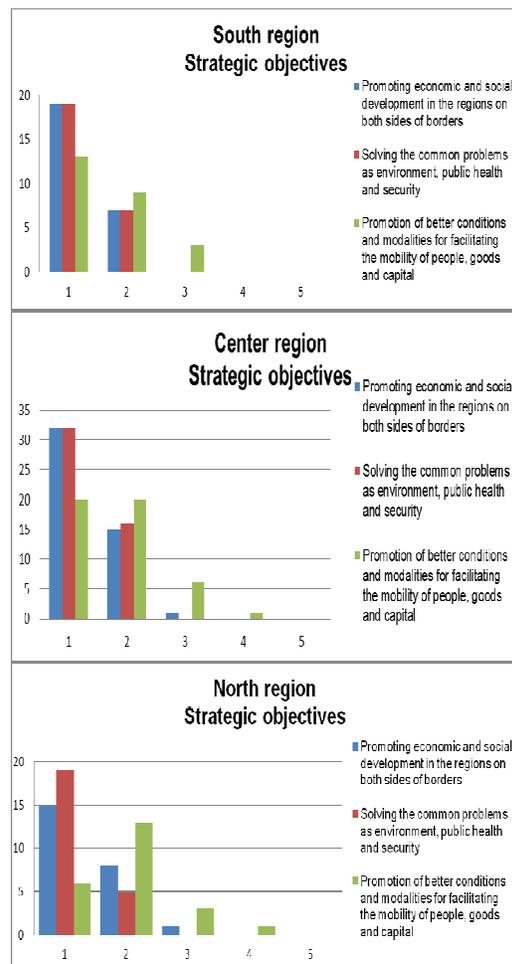
As a result 202 potential beneficiaries and partners have been involved in the discussions.

During the events the participants have been informed on the current situation of the ENPI CBC Programmes 2007-2013, the opportunities within the next ENI CBC Programmes 2014-2020 and the most important points discussed were the potentials priorities and projects to be included in the next ENI CBC Programmes.

The electronic version of the questionnaire has been sent to the recipients of the mailing list (almost 500 records).

The results from the regions were as following:

Figure 4. Regional individual consultations breakdown



Analysis of public consultations results were also taking into consideration following aspects:

- Priorities stipulated into the national and regional strategies.
- The most request areas by the Moldovan applicant/ partners within the current ENPI CBC Programmes.
- Priorities of regional initiatives where Moldova is taking part.
- Priorities of the EU Strategy.
- The external assistance offered by developments partners, in particular at the local level.

After detailed analysis of these issues, the priorities were discussed and approved by the National Working Group on programming.

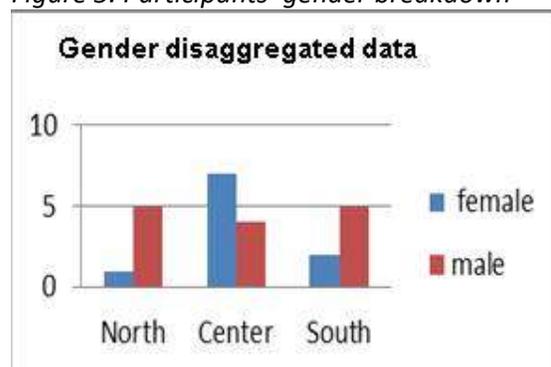
On 18.12.2013, the training on the implementation of transnational cooperation projects funded under ENPI was conducted. The purpose of the training was to provide relevant information about the implementation of the projects financed under the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013. Participants were the beneficiaries within the fifth (additional) call for proposals. From the additional ENPI call for project proposals under South East Europe Programme were submitted seven applications from Moldova and six of them were selected for financing. This is a very favorable number of projects, considering the slightly different conditions of this special call.

GIZ supports Regional CBC Office to provide advice to beneficiaries and partners within CBC projects by mail, phone and within different meetings. The most frequent questions are related to the procedures of project implementation

according to programme documents, national legal issues, etc.

All addressed questions are registered within a helpdesk register and sent to programmes structures for information. A data base with almost 2000 records has been created, thus all programme news are sent regularly to all potential beneficiaries. During reporting period were provided 24 individual consultations.

Figure 5. Participants' gender breakdown



Result F. Academy of Public Administration Effectively Trains Stakeholders in the Area of Regional Planning and Programming and Project Preparation

Within the Intervention Area II, eight students from Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova (APA) have the possibility of enhancing their knowledge and practical skills in regional development planning and programming under the sector workshops which serve as a forum for them. Throughout this process, eight students participate in the regional sector planning workshops which cover three sectors and three regions (Energy Efficiency – seven students; Solid Waste Management – three students; Water Supply and Sanitation – four students)

Indicator F1: 6 out of 8 APA interns are certified to apply theoretical and practical skills in regional planning and project development

Milestones for Indicator F1:

December 2013 – Site visits to MLPS pilot projects organised; Topic for thesis of APA interns are developed.

In the period 11-12.07.2013, students and professors from APA visited Regional Development Agency North and pilot projects “Efficient street illumination of Tatarauca Veche village, Soroca rayon” as well “Eco-sanitation in rural areas of Costesti-Stinca, Riscani rayon”. Students were acquainted with the role of Regional Development Agencies in Moldova, regional development management, as well as activity of RDA North since 2010. Later, they observed steps of the pilot project implementation having seen renovated objects. Six out of eight students have chosen themes for master's license related to implementation the regional development policy.

Indicator F2: 100 LPA staff has been trained by qualified APA staff on Regional Planning and project preparation according to the criteria set out in the curricula

Milestones for Indicator F2:

December 2013 – Curriculum on regional development at the APA adjusted

In the reporting period, the piloting of the “Regional development” course for Local Public Administration representatives has been implemented. Twelve LPAs participated in training course, which were trained by 17 trainers. The piloting has been successful and participants left with a high degree of satisfaction (based on the APA questionnaires) and interest to have the opportunity to continue such professional development programs in the future. The piloting phase has also been unique for the trainers as well. This program brought together trainers from Academy for Public Administration,

Ministry for Regional Development and Constructions, and Regional Agencies for Development. It was a great blend of theory and practice, and a good balance between different approaches.

The curriculum document, the facilitator’s toolbox, and the participant’s course toolbox has been elaborated by the working group which consists of representatives from the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC), the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Moldova (APA) and GIZ.

Result G. Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions and Regional Development Agencies are effectively monitoring their interventions with a view to results

Indicator G1: The three RDAs installed a system of Results Based Monitoring for all infrastructure investment projects financed through the Fund for Regional Development

Milestones for Indicator I1:

December 2013 - *Individual assistance on the first steps of creating an RBM system delivered (in accordance with the Action Plan of the M&E Analysis)*

As a follow-up to the assessment of the M&E system applied at the national and regional levels and the agreed action plan with MRDC and RDAs, MLPS embarked in providing capacity development activities related to RBM. The Workshop I on Results Based M&E in investment projects for MRDC and RDAs has been carried out successfully during 16-17 August, 2013 with: 1) participation of 27

representatives from RDAs, MRDC, GIZ (of which, 12 women and 15 men) and 2) average evaluation scoring by the participants of 4.72. The Workshop II on RBM was extended to EE and SWM areas and successfully delivered during 8-9 October, 2013 with 1) participation of 25 representatives from MRDC, RDAs, GIZ (of which 9 women and 26 men) and 2) overall average scoring of 4.65.

Individual assistance was initiated on Cahul pilot project (including GIS components for Rosu and Cahul). An RBM workshop around Cahul project was delivered successfully during 12-13 December, 2013 with: 1) participation of 21 representatives from MRDC, RDA South and LPAs from Cahul and Rosu (of which 14 men, 7 women).

While these capacity development activities were overall successful, still there are some challenges in ensuring the integration into the RBM into the national and regional M&E system, as well as improvement of capacity of LPAs in applying RBM in the regional/local development projects.



Group exercise on RBM Step 1 – Rosu and Cahul Pilot projects

Result H. Regional Development Institutions are Enabled to Better Communicate the Changes Achieved through their Activities

Indicator H1: 100% of all MRDC and RDA staff makes use of the new Management Information System.

Milestones for Indicator H1: MIS and videoconferences system functional; Support for adequate media network to promote RD

Background: Based on the Strategic Program of Technological Modernization of the Governance (e-transformation), adopted by the Government Decision 710 from 20.09.2011, the Government of the RM implements a common technological platform, which includes a component of document management system, developed for the use of ministries, agencies and other subordinated institutions. Accordingly, SIGEDIA was procured, which ensures the automatization of the working process, including reception, processing, and storage of documents. At the beginning of the implementation, this system was piloted for five ministries: Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Industry, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, plus the State Chancellery.

In August 2012, the Prime Minister of the RM, decided to include other three ministries in the pilot project, including the MRDC, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Education. On August 6, 2012, MRDC addressed a letter to GIZ Moldova project, asking for financial support to include the three RDAs in the pilot for SIGEDIA (SIGEDIA for the RDAs is known as SIADR).

Progress of SIADR design in the reporting period:

- An agreement with the Electronic Governance Center on free hosting for MIS was signed on July 17. At a meeting on August 19, the Electronic Governance Center has assured the RDAs that the free access to M Cloud will be for free since the end of 2014. By the middle of 2014, the modality of

- financing M Cloud will be agreed with the Ministry of Finances.
- The significant deviation occurred because of the changes related to SIGEDIA for the 8 ministries and the State Chancellery, which involve the ELO standard for its clients: ELO web client and ELO Java client etc, in order to increase functionality, being also more user-friendly. This solution seems to be more durable, specific personalization in the code being not necessary.
 - The company who designs the MIS is to submit an action plan, which shall not overcome March 2014, when the new version of SIGEDIA will be piloted for MRDC.

December 2013 - Partnership of media partner / network, trainings for counterparts' staff done

Background: In 2013, MLPS is to contribute to the communications capacity development of its counterparts with:

- a. Training delivered to communication specialists of the MRDC and RDAs for media, giving interviews, design and online promotion – till September 2013
- b. Training for journalists on RD delivered: reporting about the area – till November 2013
- c. Support for adequate media network to report on RD – till February 2014

A. Training delivered to communication specialists of the MRDC and RDAs

The training took place in September 13-14 for 30 participants, and tackled the subjects:

- Writing for media: for press release to a newsworthy story
- From a routine press conference to an outstanding media event
- Delivering public presentations
- Speeches and elements of rhetoric
- Non-verbal and para verbal language: controlling your body to shape your message
- Public image: language, dress code, attitude (managerial communication)
- Between personal PR and institutional PR: what is the public interest?
- Online tools to enhance internal communications and promote the institution: skype, social media etc.

On September 17, 2013, MRDC wrote a thank-you letter, pointing out the effectiveness of the training.

B. Training for journalists on RD delivered

The event took place in August 1-3, 2013, for 20 local and national journalists. The participants attended lectures, were engaged in individual and group work, so as performed site visit to regional development projects, in order to document and interview key parts and then develop a media piece, analyze it in joint session. Another exercise was to interview a regional development public servant, and to analyze the relevance of questions and answers.



As a result of the training, 3 media articles based on the site visits were published. On August 6, 2013, MDRC submitted a thank-you letter to GIZ and on August 12 asked for a continuation with a series of similar training for different groups of journalists.

C. Support for adequate media network to report on RD

A call for proposals for a local subsidy for Promoting Regional Development on Media Agenda was launched on July 23, 2013. Together with MDRC, on August 8, from 3 offers, the proposal of the Association for Independent Press (API) was selected.

Period of implementation of the local subsidy: September 2013-February 2014.
Planned activities:

1.1. Organizing and developing special “press club” debates in Chisinau municipality and in headquarter towns of Regional Development Agencies (RDA), and inviting journalists, regional development experts, public officials, participants to RDA-implemented projects, etc.

1.2. Organizing site visits for journalists to regions where RDA projects are implemented, in order to publicize specific examples of regional development activities.

2.1 Writing and editing some “syndicate articles”, prepared by API in a centralized manner, on the topic of regional

development in Republic of Moldova, and publishing them in newspapers, on newspaper websites and information portals.

3.1. Selective monitoring and analyzing the coverage of regional development issues by mass-media in the view of developing a set of recommendations meant to improve public communication in the sector.

3.2. Providing communication-focused consultancy for specialists of Regional Development Agencies.

The kick-off meeting took place on September 5, 2013. Also, a cooperation agreement API-MRDC was signed October 7, 2013. All planned activities were carried out according to the agreed action plan.



In the reporting period, two site visits to regional development projects of the journalists were organized. As a result, the successes and challenges in the implementation of the local initiatives were promoted in local and national newspapers, TV and radio stations.

On November 4, 2013, API organized a press club in the Development Region North, which was attended by 17 journalists, who were initiated in the activity of RDA North and met the RDA staff, so as beneficiaries of the projects.

The first syndicate article was dedicated to a business promotion regional development project and was published in 2 national and 5 local newspapers and 3

online media. The second article covered a solid waste management project and the third one – a road project.

By carrying out these activities, regional development related impact on communities become more acknowledged by the public.

Result I. Relevant Regional Planning Documents are Gender Responsive

Indicator I1: All Regional Sector Plans and Viable Project Concepts developed take into account gender dimensions

Milestones for Indicator I1:

December 2013 - Gender dimension is taken into account in the 5 regional EE of public buildings and SWM Regional Sector Programs (RSPs). EE and SWM Project Proposals Concepts (PPC) under consideration are analyzed from the gender dimensions.

Drafts of three Regional Sector Programs (North, Center and South Development Regions) of EE of public buildings and two in SWM sector (North and Center) have been finalized ready to be discussed with Project partners. In all RSPs gender issues are taken into account by including

separate chapters (paragraphs) based on relevant data.

In the EE of public building sector 104 Project Proposals Concepts have been collected from 32 districts; all PPC have been examined also from the gender dimensions point of view by using gender relevant basic data collected on public buildings; 62 – have been accepted for further analysis and 33 have been selected for being transformed into Viable Project Proposals.

In the SWM sector the same activity – PPC development, will start in 2014 due to the complexity of this sector.

Participation of men and women in all project's activities has been tracked.

Result J. MRDC and Regional Development Agencies Effectively Manage the BMZ-Fund for Regional Development

Indicator J1: The MRDC and the three Regional Development Agencies used 90% of financial resources provided through the Fund for Regional Development for infrastructure measures in the three priority sectors.

Milestone for December 2013: Certified invoicable expenditure for projects amounting to 2 million Euros.

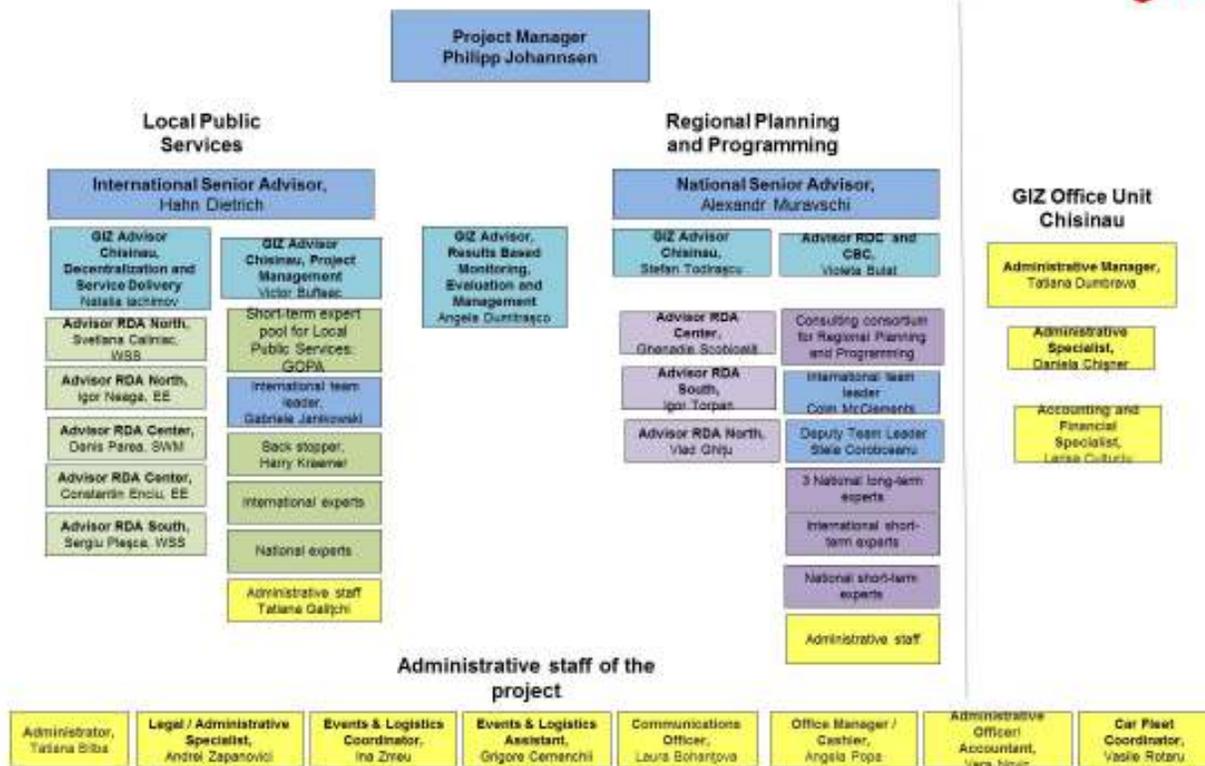
By November, 2013, out of 4.9 million transferred to MRDC, only 30,000 Euros (for staff salaries mainly) were transferred and spent by RDAs.

In context of GIS Fund, 2 EE PPCs developed with GOPA 2 support are approved for GIS funding. The 2 tendering process which was initiated for 2 GIS funded projects (Rosu and Cahul) were cancelled.

ANNEXES

Annex #1 The Structure of the Project “Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova”

GIZ Project: Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova



Organization Chart

Annex #3 Result Based Monitoring Model for Intervention Area II

