



02-04 April, 2019
Chisinau | Moldova



EU-Moldova LEADER Conference

"Building rural prosperity for people!"

Promoting community led local development initiatives in Moldova

2, 3 & 4 April 2019, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

1. Event identity:

Date	2, 3 & 4 April 2019 – 1 st day (02/04) Preparatory events, 2 nd day (03/04) Conference day & 3 rd day (04/04) field visits
Participants	Approx. 350 people, including representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MARDE; – EU Commission (DGNear, DG Agri); – EU Delegation in Moldova; – State Chancellery / other Ministries; – Major stakeholders: (AIPA, ADRs, Members of Parliament, public organisations and institutions, donor organizations, LEADER method facilitators, farmer organisations); – EU Organizations / rural Networks (ELARD, European Rural Parliament, PREPARE Network, ERCA, ARC2020, etc.); – National LEADER Networks from EU member States; – National Rural Networks from EU Member States; – 25 Moldovan LAGs; – EU LAGs;
Venue	The Palace of the Republic (Maria Cebotari 16 street, Chisinau, Moldova)
Working language	English
Translation	EN-RO-RU
Location	Republic of Moldova - Chisinau (preparatory day and 1 st Conference day) and in selected LAG territories (2 nd day-field visits)





2. Organisers

The event is organised by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment** of the Republic of Moldova and the **Moldovan National LEADER Network** and **National Rural Network of Moldova** with the support of the **European Union**.

3. List of Partners

The Conference is organised in partnership with the following institutions and organizations which support the implementation of the CLLD / LEADER method in Moldova with the financial aid of several donor programmes:

A/A	Key partner	Donor aid
1	Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova	Polish aid & USAID
A/A	Partner organization	Donor aid
1	EU "SARD programme" – (Support for Agriculture and Rural Development in ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia)	EU funded under ENPARD Programme
2	Asociatia Obsteasca Pro Cooperare Regionala	HEKS Eper - Moldova
3	CRAION CONTACT-Cahul	HEKS Eper - Moldova
4	People in Need Moldova	British Embassy Chisinau (UKaid)
5	"IDIS" Viitorul	Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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4. Event brief:

LEADER is an EU initiative, a method and programme instrument to support locally-driven rural development interventions to reinvent rural areas and create local jobs. The first LEADER programme started in EU Member States in 1991. The key actors of all local **LEADER/Community-Led Local Development initiatives** are the so-called **Local Action Groups (LAGs)** formed by local partners in a bottom-up way. LAGs are responsible for local governance in development and represent local authorities, businesses and civil society. LAGs decide on the territorial planning of their activities, establish formal partnerships, prepare and agree on integrated local rural development strategies (LDSs), identify and implement local development actions. The **LEADER approach** is based on **specific principles**, which are implemented simultaneously: "Go local" by implementing the territorial, bottom-up and partnership approach; Focus on integrated development, sustainability and inclusiveness. The development process is managed locally; networking and cooperation ensure mutual benefit from the experience.

Implementation of the **LEADER approach in Moldova started in 2015/2016** with the involvement of different partners and with the support of several donors, including the EU funded "SARD" Programme in the south part of the country (Gagauzia and Taraclia), the Pro Cooperare Regionala and HEKS-Eper MD in the north of the country. The first Moldovan Local Action Groups were launched in 2017/2018 and up to now more than 25 LAGs, covering approximately 30% of the Moldovan rural areas.

Several LAGs, with a total budget of approx. 0.5 million Euro, have managed local development calls and implemented more than 160 pilot local projects in 2108.





The **National LEADER Network of Moldova** includes as members, all Moldovan LAGs, LEADER-like initiatives and organisations that facilitate the process of implementation of the LEADER approach in Moldova. The LEADER Conference will also mark the **official launch** of the **National LEADER Network of Moldova**, which was created in late 2018 on the initiative of several partners, including: The Moldovan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Development and Environment, the EU Delegation in Chisinau, the EU-SARD Programme, CRAION CONTACT-Cahul, Pro Cooperare Regionala, HEKS Moldova, PIN Moldova and the Solidarity Fund PL.

The main goal of the event is to **present and promote implementation of the EU rural development approach – LEADER / CLLD in Moldova.**

The Conference will assemble approx. **25-30 Moldovan Local Action Groups** and will provide **networking opportunities**, both at national and EU level and an **open-air fair** for the sale of the local products of the LAG members, as well as **field visits** to the selected Moldovan LAGs territories.

Within the framework of the Conference, the following side-events are planned:

- Signing of the formal **LAG Partnership Agreements** by the members of 8 new **Moldovan Local Action Groups** created within USAID supported “LEADER Activity” project;
- Signature of the financial agreements between **15 Moldovan LAGs** and **Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova** for the implementation of pilot LEADER projects in 2019;
- signing of the **official declaration** by the Moldovan National LEADER Network to **join the** European LEADER Association for Rural Development (**ELARD**);
- Signing of the **partnership agreement** between **12 EU LAGs** and **3 Moldovan LAGs** (LAG Serpentina Nistrului, LAG Movila Magurii and LAG Bugeac Kilim) for the implementation of a trans-national cooperation project under LEADER 2014-2020 with the title “**Say cheese! Balkan cheese**” project;
- signing of **cooperation agreement** between **National LEADER Network of Romania** and the **National LEADER Network of Moldova**;
- signing the **financial agreements** between **Moldovan LAGs** and the **Solidarity Fund PL** in Moldova for financing LEADER activities in 2019;
- presentation of the **evaluation study** about LEADER in Moldova;

On the last day of the event **three (3) optional field visits to selected Moldovan LAGs** will be organised for the participants to discover the beauty of Moldovan rural zones as well as to present the results of the LEADER activities in Moldova in 2018 (success story pilot LEADER projects).

This multi-cultural event gathering people from different rural regions of Moldova will be organized in the very centre of Chisinau, at the Palace of the Republic. The open-air-fair will demonstrate the distinctive characteristics of almost all Moldovan LAGs and the field-visits will help reduce urban, rural, ethnic and political barriers and show **how rural Moldova can be revitalised** and how it can become a **source of inspiration for other EU partners.**

5. List of participants at the event

- Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE);
- Representatives of Moldovan government and Parliament;
- EU Delegation in Moldova and EU Commission representatives (DGNear, DGAgri);
- Paying Agency (AIPA);
- Decision makers and administration of relevant districts;





- Representatives of the EU countries and development partners (Managing authorities, National LEADER Networks, EU Rural Networks, EU LAGs);
- Representatives of approx. 30 LAGs, representing LAs, local business and CSO representatives;
- National LEADER Network of Moldova;
- National Rural Network of Moldova;
- Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova, (CALM) ;
- Farmers Associations (FARM, National Federation of Farmers of Moldova, UniAgroprotect);
- National and international donors and NGO representatives working in rural areas: EU “SARD prorgamme”, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, Asociatia Obsteasca Pro Cooperare Regionala, CRAION CONTACT-Cahul, People in Need Moldova, “IDIS„Viitorul, HEKS Moldova, UKaid, USAID;
- Local cultural group members from eight LAG territories;
- National and regional mass media;