

Moldovan CALM – ready to learn from the experience of Slovakia

In October the members of CLPA (The Congress of Local Public Authorities) had the opportunity to learn from the experience of Slovakia in the field of local finance. How did the mayors of Slovakia succeed in obtaining clear instruments of tax base strengthening and how did they represent their ideas so as to benefit from clear financial instruments free from misunderstandings and in the interest of the communities and to what extent the used tactics can be applied in the Republic of Moldova? These are cardinal questions to which there were identified answers in the framework of a genuine exchange of experience between the representatives of LPA Association from Slovakia (ZMOS) and CLPA members.

During the experience exchange, the CLPA experts as well as the Moldovan mayors introduced the guests into the peculiarities of the Local Public Authorities (LPA) activities and the main directions targeted by CLPA, which is a representative association of the LPAs from the Republic of Moldova. Subsequently, there was organized a meeting that highlighted the most important issues and challenges of LPAs in the context of the current socio-political situation. Thus, there were raised and discussed various issues, particularly those related to the local public finance system, the decision-making process at the level of associations, services provided to members in the field of local public finance, performance-based budgeting at the local level etc.



Slovakia – comparable to the Republic of Moldova

At the beginning of the meeting, the Executive Director of CLPA – Viorel Furdui said: "With the support of our colleagues from Slovakia we have launched a project that focuses on local public finance. Through its implementation we aim several basic objectives: to get acquainted with Slovakian experience in the field of local public administration, to create a service under the tutelage of CLPA in the field of finance so that the mayors would benefit from useful advice and recommendations whenever needed. Thus, with the help of CLPA, we will be able to identify the problems more easily, formulate consolidated proposals for amending the laws and promote them together on a central level. This service will also help us be more prepared when we will have the opportunity to discuss with the Ministry of Finance."

Thanks to this project, they will be able to reach all 32 districts where they will organize meetings with the mayors, during which experts in finance will provide consultations and trainings on related problems, especially considering the fact that in 2016 there will be largely implemented the program budgeting, a new aspect that we have to understand, know how it works and what benefits it offers.



Why Slovakia? Viorel Furdui said it clearly: "Because Slovakia is a country that is comparable to the Republic of Moldova – by size, by population, by the similar past. We had, practically, the same starting point, but the Slovaks are many steps ahead us in terms of implementation of reforms in LPA. Although we speak different languages and the local public administration system is on a different level of

development, there is a certain compatibility and a sincere openness which we have to make use of and that could help us advance on the way of reforms.”

Financial autonomy – a golden dream of any mayor

The session of questions and answers were part of the exchange; the mayors who were present at the meeting were eager to know how the Slovakian LPAs managed to strengthen their capacity and what steps were taken for obtaining the decisional and financial autonomy which is a golden dream of any mayor. The informal communication was a real plus of the meeting, resulting in the identification of new priorities for CLPA which will certainly crystallize into concrete proposals addressed to the central authorities.

The project ‘Strengthening the CLPA capacity in public finance’ is going to be implemented (from September 2015 to October 2016.) by the Congress of Local Authorities from Republic of Moldova in partnership with the Association of Local Authorities from Slovakia (ZMOS) and the Association of financial officers of the Local Public Administration from Slovakia (AKE SR) and is funded by the Regional UNDP Office for Europe and CIS countries.

