



Moldova: local government problems, challenges, opportunities

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(CALM)

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Moldova

- **Territory – 33 846 km²**
- **Population – 3 400 000**
- **GDP per capita – USD 4177**
- **Capital – Chisinau (about 800 000)**
- **Ethnic groups**
 - 69.6% - Moldovans
 - 11.2% - Ukrainians
 - 9.4% - Russians

Administrative-territorial structure

- 2nd tier of LPA - Raions (32 raions), elected by political party lists while Presidents of raions are elected by raional councils
- 1st tier of LPA - municipality level (898 communities), mayors are elected directly by people
- Autonomous region – Gagauzia
- Transnistria – special status region

Moldova



Main achievements (in last 5 years)

- Decentralization and local democracy started to be present in governmental programs as priority
- Strategy on decentralization and its action plan adopted in 2012
- 1st stage of Local public finance reform started (2015)
- The voice of LGs from Moldova becoming stronger and louder (both at national and international level): EU, CoE, CEMR, NALAS, COREAP etc.
- Progress in institutional dialog between CALM (LGs) and Central Government. LGs gain the right to participate on Central Governmental sessions.
- LGs gained the right to direct access to the Constitutional Court and to change the destination of agricultural land.
- Establishing of many partnerships with similar LGs organization (ZMOS one of the best example)

Key problems and challenges now (1)

- Poor understanding of the LG role and importance: both national and international level
- Centralization one of the main source of problems, including corruption, lack of effectiveness etc.
- At national level many declarations, strategies, plans. **BUT NO REAL ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION !** Reforms without continuity and finality!
- At the level of partners of development - from one side a lot of attention on fight with corruption, justice, economic/social development, improvement of public services etc. From another – very little understanding of situation in EaP countries, in particular about role and importance of decentralization and consolidation of local autonomy in dealing with this issues. **NO decentralization and strong local government, NO any justice, fight with corruption and development!**

Key problems and challenges 2

- A lot of competencies without transfer of resources. LGs don't need money....., they need....
RECOURCES !
- **Missing 2nd stage of the reform – liberalization of local taxes and consolidation of local revenues** - not allowing capitalization on the first stage
- **Missing property evaluation of real estate** – not allowing to capitalize on the first stage
- **Massive centralization attempts** (education, police, regional development, public procurement, etc.)
- **Correlation between decentralization/local democracy reforms and sectoral legislation** with unfunded mandates
- **Territorial fragmentation:** a problem or an advantage/chance for real democracy

Key problems (international) 3

- **Almost non-existent financial support for LGs on behalf of donors**
- **Centralized approach in basic services delivery still dominates at the donors level** despite the declarations in support of the principle of decentralization and decentralized cooperation
- **Rather weak promotion of the Decentralization, European Charter and of the local autonomy** on behalf of donors and international organizations and strong leaning towards the central governments
- **International aid provided to the central governments does not work**

Importance of the role of the international partners

- Situation is changing but still the Government listens more international partners than their own people
- Without partners is difficult to implement any reforms
- Partners' understanding of the role of LGs is very poor
- Main target audience – EU Delegation, member states, IMF, World Bank, EBRD, EIB, other donors

Priority dimensions of future cooperation

- **Lobbying for decentralization, local autonomy or policy advocacy** (both nationally and internationally)
- **Fund raising** under the conditions of extremely scarce international funds for LGs and politically partial financing available under the national public investment funds for local infrastructure

Lobbying & advocacy

- **Main focus of actions**
- **Creation of international partnerships, platforms, ideas, arguments, materials for joint lobbying and advocacy**
 - CEMR/Platforma, ALDA, CORLEAP, Congress Council of Europe, Visegrad + UA, MD, Georgia ???
- **Two dimensions for advocacy**
 - Lobbying for policies
 - Lobbying for funds
- **Communication and awareness raising for all actors both national and international, in Moldova and in EU**

Policy lobbying

- Decentralization and local autonomy – key element for national democracy
- Without addressing of these issues no funds will assure sustainability of the efforts, no moreover so capacity building, no justice and anti-corruption measures will be effective
- Understanding at EU level and much more attention than before but not yet reached the ground levels the importance of LGs
- Including of the LGs associations from Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine into EU structures dealing with LGs, regional development etc. (ex. CoR).

Fund raising lobbying

- **Direct access and eligibility to EU programs (Europe for Citizens, etc.) for LGs from Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine.**
- **Budget support for LGs and LGAs instead actual budget support for Central Government**
- **Special programs and EU funds for LGs (bottom up approach)**
- **Channeling of funds and modalities of programs administration** (direct administration by donors versus national platforms)
- **Transparency, participation in monitoring and steering structures**, impartial project selection within national public investment funds for infrastructure
- **Twinning and partnerships between LGs**

Capacity building

- Setting up an permanent platform for communication, promoting and best practices exchange of Visegrad countries and capacity building of LGA and their members in different field: public services, waste, water, Energy Efficiency, institutional development etc. (NALAS model);
- Learning by doing as a general principle for capacity building for LGA
- Development center for LGs
- Monitoring and evaluation of decentralization and LGs reforms in Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine +.
- Joint/integral communication between LGs associations
- More in-depth after reforms and demand driven trainings instead of conventional trainings

Thank You!

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Congresul Autorităților Locale
din Moldova

Chișinău
21 martie 2010

20/04/16



20/04/16





CONGRESUL AUTORITĂȚILOR
LOCALE DIN MOLDOVA

PEȘTĂRIȘ
DE LA AUTONOMIE REALĂ



CEREM SA FIE!
RESPECTAREA DEMNITATEA
SI DIGNITATEA ALESELOR LOCALI

**NU PRESIUNILOR,
SANTAJULUI SI
POLITIZARII APL!**

**PRIMARI
SUNT ALESI DIRECT
SI MERITA RESPECT!**

STOP
VORBELOR SI
DECLARATIILOR!
A VENIT TIMPUL
ACTIUNILOR
CONCRETE!

**STOP DEFAIMARI SI
PRESIUNILOR ASUPRA
ALESELOR LOCALI!
STOP CONTROALE FARA
CAPAT SI DOSARE PENALE!**

**VA ARATA
NEARATIA
ALESELOR**

**DA DESCENTE LA PRIMARI!
NU CENTRALIZARI!**

**CONGRESUL AUTORITATILOR
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Europa Libera (RFE/RL)
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LICI MOLDOVA

COMUNALĂ A AUTORITĂȚII
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REALĂ FĂRĂ DESCENTRALIZARE
NU POATE FI DEZVOLTARE
ȘI EUROPENIZARE REALĂ!



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Congresul Autorităților Locale din Moldova



**Thank You all and lets
look in the future with
trust !**

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