



5 February 2016

Moldovan Mayors together to build ethical governance

Moldovan Mayors exchanged views on their day to day challenges and their roles and responsibilities: *“We are mayors 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and we as mayors, should lead our communities by example. Ethical values like responsibility, honesty, respect, correctness, professionalism are the key to our success. The better we inform our citizens about the work we are doing, the better the chance that change will be accepted and moreover, that the introduced changes succeed”* stated the participants, who have committed to implement concrete initiatives at local level, in the area of ethics. They will share experience on the work that has been developed in April 2016 in Kiev, Ukraine, with peers from the EaP countries during a regional seminar on Public ethics: from vision to implementation at local level.

The 22 mayors that participated in this second workshop “Mayors, leaders for change” organised in Chisinau from 2-4 February 2016 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in close co-operation with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), were all selected to reflect balanced gender, territorial and political representation.

This workshop is part of a peer-to-peer programme which aims to provide mayors with a platform for exchange on local democracy. The first part of this workshop was organised in October 2015. This second part focused more on local values and ethical behaviours, providing the mayors with the skills to plan effectively and strategically. The mayors shared best practices, and their knowledge of good governance and ethics policies, with peer colleagues and Congress members Angelika Kordfelder, Germany (L, SOC) and Saša Paunović, Serbia (L, SOC). The peer-to-peer approach will set the ground for future networking and pilot initiatives.

While addressing the 22 mayors, Pirkka Tapoila, Head of the European Union Delegation to Moldova, emphasised the role of mayors as trusted actors on local level and the will of European Union to support initiatives of local authorities.

Jose-Luis Herrero, Head of Office of the Council of Europe in Moldova, reflected on the Charter of the local self-government and its 30-year anniversary, reminding the present mayors on the importance of its principles enhancing democratic governance.

This workshop is the fourth country-based event organised within the thematic programme “Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance”. This programme is funded jointly by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, through the Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) for 2015-2017 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. Targeted co-operation activities aim at reinforcing the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries to put domestic reforms into effect in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Moldova joined the Council of Europe on 13 July 1995 and ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No.122) on 2 October 1997. Countries which have ratified the Charter are bound by its provisions. The Charter imposes compliance with a minimum number of rights, which are the European bedrock of local self-government. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures respect for these principles.

Contacts: Ion Beschieru, Programme Manager, Strengthening Institutional Frameworks for Local Governance Programme, +372 81591799; Ion.BESCHIERU@coe.int
Marité Moras, Head of Unit, Co-operation Activities, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe, + 33 650392907; Marite.MORAS@coe.int

For further information:

<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

<http://www.coe.int/t/congress>