

INEKO

Institute for Economic and Social Reforms



SUMMARY

OF BEST AND WORST 10 LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN MOLDOVA

OCTOBER 2018

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THIS SUMMARY WAS DEVELOPED within the project "Promoting transparency and financial sustainability of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova".

The initiative is being implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul", in partnership with the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms in Slovakia (INEKO), with the financial support of the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic (SlovakAid). The initiative aims to increase the transparency, financial accountability and quality of regional policies, state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Moldova.

THIS SUMMARY REPRESENTS the fourth edition of the series of evaluations of development policies at the local and regional level, implemented in August – October 2018. The first edition was launched in February 2018, including 13 policies – [Summary of best and worst 13 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (November 2017 – January 2018), while the second edition covered 11 local and regional policies and was presented in May this year - [Summary of best and worst 11 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (February – April 2018). And in July the [Summary of best and worst 10 local and regional measures in Moldova](#) (July-August 2018) was presented, the evaluation being at the third edition.

THE ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES in the Republic of Moldova follows aims to describe of sustainable, time-lasting practices that can be transferred to other communities, resulting in a final improvement in the quality of local and regional development policies. Thus, 10 local and regional policies are described in this publication; there are eight value-added policies that can be unique, innovative and with significant impact for the economic and social development of the Republic of Moldova, but also two measures that can cause damage and which should not be an example for the authorities that want to be modern and transparent.

THE POLICIES INCLUDED IN THE SUMMARY were identified, analyzed and appreciated with the support of a Board of Independent Evaluators selected by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul" on the basis of their administrative and research experience and who perform their activity in regional public authorities, development agencies, business, think tanks, mass - media and academia. Thus, the evaluators were invited to asses a series of social and economic local decisions and policies (regulations, privatization decisions, strategy papers, public policy concepts) proposed or adopted by local authorities in their field of attributions recognized by the law.

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation methodology has been prepared by IDIS “Viitorul” and INEKO, with the financial support of the SlovakAid.

Thus, experts of the Evaluation Board have analyzed 10 policies for local economic and social development based on two criteria: (1) quality - their acceptability and (2) their importance to society and local actors. The measurement included the estimation of the effects of these policies and local decisions on the sustainable development and well-being of the communities in which they occurred, the multiplier effects.

The measure of quality measurement included variable values from full disapproval to neutral assessment (0) to full approval [-3; +3]. Experts also assessed the impact of the measure on society and the economy, using a percentage scale [0%; 100%], noting with this indicator the degree of relevance of measurement for the local community and society as a whole.

The final scores were calculated on the basis of the average value obtained from the quality of the measure (policy) multiplied by the coefficient expressing the average value of the measure significance for the local society and the economy. The final score of the assessed measures will range from [-300; 300]. According to the methodology used, all measures can be represented on a map of relative intensities, thus indicating the contribution of experts to evaluate these measures on social and economic development.

Ranking of best and worst measures

Municipality	Quality [-3; +3]	Relevance [0%; 100%]	Final score [-300; 300]	Ranks
Chișcăreni, Sângerei rayon <i>Tourist route - "La Chișcăreni ACASĂ"</i>	2.5	82.3	202.6	I
Colibași, Cahul rayon <i>Multi-purpose sports hall in Colibași</i>	2.3	70.0	161.5	II
Sămășcani, Soldănești rayon <i>Community center "Active aging" in Sămășcani village, Șoldănești rayon</i>	2.2	70.4	151.6	III
Bălți municipality <i>Map of social services in Bălți municipality</i>	2.1	71.2	147.8	IV
Local Action Group "Plaiul Codrilor" <i>Local Resource Map of the Local Action Group "Plaiul Codrilor"</i>	2.1	70.0	145.4	V
Strășeni municipality <i>Local Strategic Plan of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Actions of the Strășeni municipality</i>	1.9	68.1	130.9	VI
Ghidighici, Chișinău municipality <i>Live meetings with the citizens of Ghidighici</i>	1.8	71.2	125.9	VII
Comrat municipality <i>The Theft Reduction Plan of Comrat Municipality</i>	1.4	59.6	82.5	VIII
Măgdăcești, Chișinău municipality <i>Family Transaction at Măgdăcești Mayoralty</i>	-1.5	57.3	-83.8	IX
Bogzești, Telenești rayon <i>Protectionism and camouflaged business. The construction empire of the billionaire mayor from Bogzești</i>	-1.6	57.7	-93.2	X

Members of the Evaluation Board

1. Aurelia Țepordei, Director of the Professional Development Department, Academy of Public Administration
2. Boris Ivasi, SRL “Hidroimpex”, Soroca
3. Diana Enachi, an economist at IDIS “Viitorul”
4. Dumitru Albulesa, Administrator of AITA (International Car Transporters Association of Moldova)
5. Igor Bucătaru, USM Associate Professor, Expert at “PROMO-LEX”
6. Igor Neaga, Regional Consultant GIZ / ADR Nord
7. Ion Beschieru, an expert in local public administration
8. Irina Ioniță, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist USAID, APM Project
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12. Ștefan Vlas, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
13. Vasile Cioaric, Program Director, Contact Center
14. Veaceslav Aftene, journalist, portal www.ialovnews.md
15. Victoria Cujbă, Head of the Public Administration Department, State Chancellery

Executive summary

The 10 best and worst local and regional development policies in Moldova implemented in August - October 2018 were identified and evaluated by members of an Evaluation Board at the IDIS “Viitorul” and INEKO invitation. The activity aims to describe sustainable, time-lasting policies that can be transferred to other communities, ultimately improving the quality of local and regional development policies.

Public policies were measured on the basis of two methodologically approved criteria, taking into account their importance for the community and their sustainability. Thus, the members of the Evaluation Board assessed and ranked the policies analyzed by (a) quality, a criterion that range between -3 and 3 and (b) the relevance of this policy for the community and economy, ie the impact it produces, using a scale percent from 0 to 100%. The multiplication of this two criteria represents the final score for each policy, which ranges between -300 and 300 points.

According to the analysis, the best five local public policies in our country refer to the touristic route launched on September 30 in Chișcăreni commune, Sângerei rayon - with a final score of 202.6 points, the multi-purpose sports hall in Colibași, Cahul rayon - 161.5 points, the Community Center “Active aging” in Șămășcani, Șoldănești rayon - 151.6 points, the map of social services in Bălți municipality, with a final score of 147.8, as well as the local resources map of the the Local Action Group “Plaiul Codrilor” in Strășeni rayon, which scored a final score of 145.4 points.

Thus, besides the fact that Chișcăreni is well known for the Festival of Sarmale and Pies organized annually, the village has all the chances to become a tourist attraction in Moldova. The touristic route “La Chișcăreni - ACASĂ” will allow visitors to discover the history and beautiful places of the village. *“The impact of this local policy is long-term, and it is about attracting investments, creating jobs and boosting the socio-economic development of the commune”*, believes Diana Enachi, member of the Evaluation Board. Moreover, the new tourist route in Chișcăreni develops rural tourism, it has a huge potential for development. The main points of interest are historical monuments of Nicolae Casso’s boyar, hiking tours in forest areas, a handicraft center, as well as four agro-boarding houses with full tourist services. The idea of creating the tourist route belongs to the Village Hall and was supported by the contributions of the natives.

Another policy that has become possible thanks to the natives is the multi-purpose sports hall from Colibași, opened in August. Thus, the building of the former cinema was renovated by reorganizing the interior space. The sports hall has an area of about 200 square meters and includes spaces built according to the latest technologies. In addition to space equipped with gym machines, citizens of different ages can practice other activities: sports dances, free fighting, athletics, gymnastics, etc. *“It impresses the inhabitants effort, which denotes the developed civic spirit and initiative of the locality”*, considers Igor Bucătaru, member of the Evaluation Board.

In order to provide an active life for elderly people, the Șămășcani Village Hall from Șoldănești rayon, in partnership with HelpAge International, opened on August 10 the Community Center “Active aging”, which is one of the first institutions of this kind in the rayon. *“This institution is a concrete practice with direct beneficiaries; a model worthy to be followed and replicated in other municipalities in the country”*, says the members of the Evaluation Board, Veaceslav Aftene. The community center, which is located in the old building of the local kindergarten, provides access to social, educational and recreational activities for at least 300 elderly people in the local community, thus supporting their social integration.

The members of the Evaluation Board also assessed two negative policies that show certain violations of the principles of transparency. There are two cases that were highly publicized in media, but which must be appreciated by the competent institutions, namely the possible conflict of interest in the decisions of the Măgdăcești Village Hall to acquire the building for the kindergarten and the construction empire of the mayor from Băgzești, Telenești rayon.

The fifth edition of the Summary of best and worst local and regional development measures is due to be launched in February 2019.

Description of measures that received a positive assessment

I TITLE: TOURIST ROUTE - “LA CHIȘCĂRENI ACASĂ”

Information sources: Chișcăreni Village Hall, Sângerei rayon, <http://www.md.undp.org/> and <https://guvern24.md/>

The measure pursued by the local public authority - Local policies for the development of tourism potential

CONTEXT

Chișcăreni is a famous village thanks to the Festival of Sarmale and Pies organized annually in the municipality. Also, the village is known thanks to the historical monuments of national importance: “Novițchi ‘s boyars mill” and “Movila lui Casso”. According to history, Casso’s mansion was built after a model of a castle on the bank of the Seine, having as an architect Alexandru Bernardazzi.

As there are many folk craftsmen in the commune who weave carpets, embroider, sculpt wood, intertwine and there are rural households dealing with rabbits, quails, bees and places for fishing, the Chișcăreni Village Hall and the Association of the Natives from the village decided to capitalize on the local tourist potential.

As a result, a new tourist route was launched in Chișcăreni on September 30, namely “La Chișcăreni - ACASĂ”, which reveals the history and beautiful places of the locality. The launch event took place at the 5th edition of the Festival of Sarmale and Pies, unique in Moldova, which contributes to the promotion of the image of the locality, of the national traditions and gastronomy.

The idea of setting up the tourist route belongs to the Chișcăreni Village Hall and was supported by the contributions of the natives who contributed with 12,000 lei, the Government of Switzerland through UNDP (420,658 lei), DVV International (98,000 lei) and investments of the owners of the pensions in the amount of 243,600 lei. The creation of the tourist route in Chișcăreni is one of the 14 local economic development projects carried out by the local and local authorities within the project “Migration and Local Development”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland.

ACTIVITIES

The main attractions in Chișcăreni are historical monuments from Nicolae Casso boyar (1839-1904), tourist stops in forest areas, a handicraft center, as well as four agro-boarding houses with complete tourist services, namely “Casa din Vale”, “The rustic house”, “La bunica” and “Albinuța”, places they can visit and where the tourists and visitors arrived in Chiscareni.

Thus, tourists can admire the surroundings from the height by climbing Casso’s Movila. In the same way, you can take carriage rides, and the “Albinuța” house will be able to benefit from bee-keeping therapy and the massage produced by the vibration of the beehive. Those who want to fish or relax can do it at special places near lakes and forests. The route is complemented by the services provided by the four agro-tourist boarding houses, the agricultural activities to which tourists can get involved and the ecological pieces prepared by the village households. Local guides are represented by the specialists from the Dialog Center and the students from the „Nicolae Casso” High School.

BENEFICIARIES

The inhabitants of Chișcăreni commune - 5,625 people (according to the Village Hall data), tourists, public institutions, tourist boarding houses and entrepreneurs from the community and from Sângerei rayon.

IMPACT

The project “Promoting the tourist potential of Chișcăreni”, in which the tourist route was created, offers new opportunities for its socio-economic development, which concentrates the efforts of all on the development of the agro-touristic and economic sector.

The tourist route in Chișcăreni will help to create jobs, attract investments and create conditions for the locals to stay at home. According to Silvia Țurcan, the mayor of Chișcăreni commune, *“the project creates a beneficial environment for local economic development. Beneficiaries include not only agro-tourist boarding houses, but also six other local businesses included in the route as visiting points, which is an opportunity to stimulate and support local producers”*.

COMMENTS

Capitalizing on local tourism potential has a number of positive effects on the entire community. The impact of this local policy is long-term, and it is about attracting investments, creating jobs and boosting the socio-economic development of the commune. Moreover, the new tourist route in Chișcăreni develops rural tourism and it has a huge potential for development. The positive effects of politics don't stop here. By creating new jobs, increasing budget revenues, promoting the community and national traditions, attracting tourists, developing infrastructure and ensuring decent living conditions, both local entrepreneurship and citizens are encouraged to remain in the locality and to contribute directly to its development. Moreover, the involvement and financial contribution of natives and local entrepreneurs demonstrate the importance and viability of this project to develop tourism potential. *“Very inspired and appreciated. A practice that involves as many people as possible in the community and creates a good name for that community”*, said Veaceslav Aftene, member of the Evaluation Board.

In the opinion of the Evaluation Board members, the initiative to develop rural tourism in Chișcăreni could be stimulated by forming an association or a cluster between localities that could bring new opportunities.

Scores: **QUALITY [+2.5]** **RELEVANCE [82.3%]**

II TITLE: “MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS HALL IN COLIBAȘI”

Information sources: Colibași Village Hall, Cahul rayon, page <http://www.md.undp.org> and platform <https://guvern24.md/>

The measure pursued by the local public authority - Policies to promote the sport and healthy lifestyle

CONTEXT

The village of Colibași from Cahul rayon is one of the largest rural communities in the southern part of the Republic of Moldova with about 6 000 inhabitants. All locals were affected by the lack of conditions for engaging in sports activities and general physical development, which contributed to a continuous decrease in the citizens' health. In this respect, the members of the Colibași Natives Association, in partnership with the Village Hall and the entire local community decided to implement the project “Better conditions for promoting healthy living in Colibași” and to create a modern multifunctional sports hall, first of this kind in the villages of the southern part of the country.

Today, the 6,000 inhabitants from Colibași and neighboring villages have access to recreational public services and practice more sports in the new multi-purpose sports hall, that was opened in the community on August 31, during Diaspora Days. The multi-purpose sports hall is the first of three projects made with the support of the natives of Colibași. The creation of the hall was made possible by the financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland in the amount of \$20 thousand, the contribution of local authorities (approximately USD 4,500) and local people (almost 15,000 USD), as well as other partners and donors.

ACTIVITIES

The idea of the project emerged in 2016, through extensive consultation with the natives of the village of Colibași, in the desire to create conditions for a healthy living for the inhabitants. The action was included in the action plan of the Natives Association. Thus, the building of the former cinema was renovated by reorganizing the interior space, but also the capital's repairs to the building, says the mayor of the village, Ion Dolganiuc. According to Cornel Inje, the president of the Association of Natives, the project was largely based on volunteering and financial contributions from natives living away from home. Also, a video spot for information and a higher degree of transparency was created.

The multi-purpose sports hall has an area of about 200 square meters and includes spaces built according to the latest technologies. Thus, in addition to space equipped with fitness machines, local people of different ages can practice other activities: sports dances, athletics, gymnastics, etc.

IMPACT

Solving the problem of lack of sports conditions for children, young people and adults in the village of Colibași contributes to the positive effects on the health of the village population, such as the reduction of juvenile delinquency, especially among children and teenagers whose parents are gone because children are more motivated to practice different sports genres, to the detriment of other harmful activities.

COMMENTS

Creating the conditions for practicing sport is, of course, a welcome policy for any locality, given the lack of recreational activities and training in sports activities at the level of rural communities. Thus, the opening of the multi-purpose sports hall in Colibași is of particular importance, having positive effects

on community health and long-term contribution to local socio-economic development. *“In a healthy body, a healthy mind!”*, encourages Ștefan Vlas. The multi-purpose sports hall keeps the young people in the village, develops the locality, promotes healthy living and helps to promote the image of the village. Positive is the implementation of this initiative by consulting the community and the natives abroad. The financial contribution from natives is an impact on transparency in decision-making and consultation with citizens about community needs. It impresses the locals’ effort, which denotes the developed civic spirit and initiative of the locality. *“The Colibași village initiative is a wonderful and useful initiative, especially as the village of Colibași is a vibrant and active locality with many people left at home”*, says Irina Ioniță.

The impact of this policy could be diminished if other urgent needs for the community were not taken into accounts, such as access to water and sanitation, road infrastructure and the social one. Also, unfortunately, the policy is not easily replicable because it requires additional resources for a service that appears necessary only when other needs are met. It’s a great example, but hard to follow. At the same time, the members of the Evaluation Board believe that providing citizens with quality services for spending their leisure time and sports should be a normal policy of a public administration.

Scores: **QUALITY [+2.3]** **RELEVANCE [70.0%]**

III TITLE: COMMUNITY CENTER “ACTIVE AGING” IN SĂMĂȘCANI VILLAGE, ȘOLDĂNEȘTI RAYON

Source of information: Regional TV channel <https://impulstv.com>

The measure pursued by the local authority - Policies to promote older people’s participation in the social and economic life

CONTEXT

In order to provide an active old age for the elderly, the Mayoralty of the village of Șamășcani from Șoldănești rayon opened on August 10 the Community Center “Active aging”, which is one of the first institutions of this type in the rayon. The center, located in the old block of the local kindergarten, was created at the initiative of the Active Seniors Initiative Group with the financial support of the Sămășcani Village Hall and the Red Cross in Switzerland through the project “Aging and Health”, implemented by HelpAge International.

ACTIVITIES

The community center provides access to social, educational and recreational activities for at least 300 elderly people in the local community, thus supporting their social integration. The newly created conditions facilitate the weekly participation of at least 40 elderly people, children, young people and adults at the Gastronomic Club, the Theatrical Club, the Handicraft and Sports Club, and the actions aimed at implementing and promoting active and healthy aging. Also, through the activities carried out within the Center, it develops and promotes volunteering among the elderly, all actions aiming at the implementation and promotion of active and healthy aging. For this purpose, in the Community Center, conditions for young women’s housewives, craftsmen to develop their activities were created

“The community center for the elderly is a socialization and communication center to get out of the house and spend time together and be active in the community. Potential beneficiaries of the center are 250 elderly people and young people are also involved in Center activities. We plan to have four activities a week: one day we will be running the Theater Club, the other day - the Artistic Club, and at the Sports Club we think we will hold twice a week and the ladies up to 40 years will have access”, says the Mayor of Sămășcani, Lilia Gavrilan.

BENEFICIARIES of the “Active aging” Community Center are older people in the village of Sămășcani, but also the community, represented by 1 502 inhabitants (according to the census of 2004).

IMPACT

The services provided by the Community Center “Active Aging” aim to improve the quality of life of elderly people in the village of Sămășcani, to prevent their institutionalization by developing alternative services; combating the risk of social exclusion of older people with an impact on raising their quality of life and promoting the participation of the elderly in social life. The center is to become the second home for the elderly in the village, a home full of joy and positive emotions; a center that will reduce social isolation and increase life expectancy. The center will become a friendly place for the elderly, will stimulate active participation in community life and help improve health.

COMMENTS

The “Active Aging” community center in Sămășcani village is more than welcome, given that elderly people are one of the most vulnerable social categories and are often forgotten. For rural localities, especially in

the Republic of Moldova, these practices must be an example to follow. “*The socio-economic situation in rural areas, migrations that have reached worrying odds and pensions below subsistence level adversely affect the lives of older people and the quality of their lives. Thus, the initiative in the village of Sămășcani implies a major impact on the situation of the elderly in the locality, all the more so as it involves young people and other representatives of the community*”, believes Diana Enachi, member of the Evaluation Board. Similar centers as in Sămășcani are also useful in big towns, where the work of social workers and staff of these centers is sustainable, especially from a salary point of view.

Therefore, encouraging the active participation of the elderly in the social, economic and cultural life of the community and practicing various cultural and recreational activities, promotes active and healthy aging. In the long run, the effects multiply: increases life expectancy, improves community health and quality of life for older people in the village.

Scores: **QUALITY [+2.2]** **RELEVANCE [70.4%]**

IV TITLE: MAP OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN BĂLȚI MUNICIPALITY

Source of information: Bălți Town Hall

The measure pursued by the municipal authority - Accessibility policies for social services for the community

CONTEXT

Starting July 2018, Bălți municipality has a new and useful tool, namely the Map of Social Services. The map can be accessed by both citizens and local authorities. This map is necessary to know how much the social services network in Bălți is being developed, which is the capacity of the existing services and which groups of beneficiaries are addressing each social service. The process of developing the map of social services was a participatory one, focused on dialogue between different specialists. At present, there are 27 social services in Bălți municipality, for which 15,824.6 thousand lei were allocated in 2017 from the municipal budget.

The map of social services was created within the project “Development of social services in the Republic of Moldova in the period 2017-2019” implemented by the People in Need and Caritas organizations in the Czech Republic and implemented with the support of the Czech Development Agency. The map of social services is also available for the Soroca and Dubasari rayons, created within the same project.

ACTIVITIES

The idea of the social services map in Bălți municipality comes to access the social services in Bălți, with proposals and solutions for adjusting the communication and functioning framework of social services; and/ or the creation and piloting of new low-cost services with major benefits and impact.

[The map of social services in Bălți](#) includes information about the social institutions on the territory of the municipality, the services provided by them, addresses and contact details. Therefore, the social services financed from the municipal budget, services financed from the state budget, including special destination (as the adoption service) as well as public services with mixed financing, are presented on the map.

Thus, with the help of the map we find out that 17 social services are provided in the municipality of Bălți (among which family house, social canteen, transport compensation etc.) and nine community centers (for children at risk, for homeless people, for the elderly, for people with mental health problems, victims of domestic violence, etc.). For example, if we visit the Temporary Placement and Rehabilitation Center for children in Bălți we find that 104 people benefit from the social services of this center. At the same time, we find out that from compensation for transport in Bălți municipality benefits from 6 888 persons and the payment of compensation is made from the state budget account by special purpose transfers. We also find out that 448 vulnerable people eat at the social canteen and 832 elderly people from Bălți municipality benefit from the social care service at home.

BENEFICIARIES

The inhabitants of Bălți municipality - 151,300 people (according to the Town Hall data).

IMPACT

The map of social services in Bălți municipality contributes to better inform the general public about the activity of social services in the municipality; monitoring and evaluation of social services by citizens,

transparency of the local administration act and increase the level of trust towards the local administration. The impact of viewing public services on an interactive map can be traced over the long term and will focus on the development of results.

COMMENTS

The Map of Social Services in Bălți municipality is an innovative tool that can be accessed free of charge by anyone interested in information about the social institutions in the city and the contact details, the social services provided and their beneficiaries. The impact of this useful policy is high considering the benefits and impact on the entire community, especially as it contributes to the accessibility of social services and does not require major financial interventions. The open access of citizens to data on the provision of social services eliminates the risks of corruption in this vulnerable sector and makes the activity of social service providers more efficient. The participatory process of mapping the social services map is also positively appreciated, attended by various local, current and potential beneficiaries of social services.

“I consider a necessary policy that should be implemented in all municipalities. It would be good if there is an LED screen in the Town Hall of the Bălți municipality, so that the map can be accessed by the vulnerable persons, who are social services, who do not have access to the internet in their everyday life “, says Irina Ioniță.

However, in order to become a successful practice, the Map of Social Services in Bălți must become known to all beneficiaries of social services and promoted intensely among citizens. And, according to Veaceslav Aftene, the map of social services is a quite abstract tool to understand its practical utility.

Scores: **QUALITY [+2.1]** **RELEVANCE [71.2%]**

V TITLE: LOCAL RESOURCE MAP OF THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP “PLAIUL CODRILOR”

Information source: “Plaiul Codrilor” Local Action Group (Strășeni rayon)

The measure pursued by the Local Action Group members - Local community development policies

CONTEXT

In order to increase the level of civic participation and good governance at local level through effective cooperation between representatives of civil society, the public and private sector involved in local development, local public authorities and communities in four localities of Strășeni district (villages Vorniceni, Dolna and the communes of Lozova and Micleușeni) joined their efforts and created in 2017 the Local Action Group (LAG) “Plaiul Codrilor”. The “Plaiul Codrilor” LAG is linked by a route, geographical area and local identity that are common. The LAG’s objectives include developing a competitive business environment; revitalizing communities and improving the quality of life; promoting local identity. The LAG is the “engine” of operation under the LEADER approach (Links between actions for the development of the rural economy).

In order to harness natural resources and the environment and develop a competitive and viable economic environment for those living on the LAG territory, a map of local resources was drafted in July. The map of local resources is very important in identifying and articulating the vision of community and territory development, thus becoming a very useful regional tool in order to be able to view the collected information as much as possible or to promote the LAG “Plaiul Codrilor” subregion. The map was developed with the support of the UK Government through the Good Governance Fund, implemented by People in Need Moldova and Solidarity Fund PL Moldova.

ACTIVITIES

[The Local Resource Map](#) is a local development planning tool that LAG members use to analyze the development potential of the sub-region. The local area map of the “Plaiul Codrilor” LAG contains the most useful information about villages within the Local Action Group, information about communities, tourist attractions, existing public institutions, emergency services, cultivated agricultural crops and nature reserves. Thus, on the map, we can find over 100 resources of various types. Among them we can see the nature reserve “Codrii” with the legendary oak of Stefan cel Mare; the cemetery of the Romanian heroes in the village of Micleușeni; 94 fountains or ensembles of folk music and dance (“Lozioara” from Lozova, “Rotunda” from Vorniceni or “The ancestors” from Micleușeni) that lead the region’s fame.

The map covers the territory of four local communities: the village of Dolna - 1 155 inhabitants, Lozova commune - 6 597 inhabitants, the village of Micleușeni - 2 343 inhabitants, the village of Vorniceni - 5 220 inhabitants, together 15 315 inhabitants. The territory is characterized by many common features, such as the picturesque relief with plateau and plains in the area of Moldavian Codri, economic activities with a strong influence of viticulture and fruit growing, inhabited mainly by Bessarabians who have a rich cultural heritage. Several meetings of working groups have been organized in the charging process with the participation of LAG members and other local stakeholders. And one of the purposes of these meetings was to identify local resources, to raise awareness, to capitalize and promote the micro-region.

BENEFICIARIES of the local resource map are community leaders, public associations, local public authorities, more than 15,000 citizens and people interested in a particular community within the LAG and the entire micro-region.

IMPACT

Resource mapping contributes to the formulation of vision and development priorities with an emphasis on what exists in the community, on the strengths of the community and territory group in Strășeni rayon. Also, the realization of this map advises cooperative relations between various local actors, features of the area.

The map of local resources is an important means of long-term tourism promotion, representing a personal passport of the micro-region, as well as for every visitor visiting the four communities. Through this, LAG members want the region's territory to become known for the developed infrastructure and public services, tourist activity and the diversity of economic activities.

COMMENTS

Mapping local resources by analyzing the development potential of the regions is a very good tool for planning local and regional development alike. Developing the map aims at increasing the level of civic participation and good governance at the local level through effective cooperation between representatives of civil society, the public and private sector involvement in local development, local public authorities and communities in four localities of Strășeni rayon (Vorniceni, Dolna and the Lozova and Micleușeni). This practice of local leadership attracts local and foreign tourists, which creates favorable conditions for entrepreneurial activity, diversification of economic occupations, as well as for the socio-economic development of the region as a whole, is highly appreciated.

“The local resource map of the territory of the GAL from Strășeni is an important community policy that is worthy to follow; an instrument for cooperation and good governance of local resources, as well as the promotion of the micro-region”, highlights Igor Neaga. The local resource map has great potential to attract homeless people and investors. Such a document can benefit both citizens, entrepreneurs, especially those who want to promote local tourism, as well as public institutions and potential donors. In addition, people can easily find out what's interesting in their localities and neighborhoods.

However, one need not be neglected is the need to develop the infrastructure in order to fully benefit from the positive effects of the initiative.

Scores: **QUALITY [+2.1]** **RELEVANCE [70.0%]**

VI TITLE: “LOCAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF INTEGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIONS OF THE STRĂȘENI MUNICIPALITY”

Source of information: Strășeni Town Hall

The measure pursued by the municipal authority - Municipal policies for prevention and combating corruption

CONTEXT

In 2016, the Strășeni Town Hall applied and was selected to participate in the project “Promoting Integrity and Anti-Corruption at Local Level in the Eastern Partnership Countries: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine”, implemented with the support of UNDP. The project aims to promote an innovative methodology in the Republic of Moldova and the other participating countries to prevent the phenomenon of corruption in the local public administration. The methodology has been successfully applied since 2008 to 12 countries and 30 town halls in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe, included in multidisciplinary books and textbooks, and recognized internationally through the UN Public Service Award 2011.

Thus, one of the results of the project is the Action Plan on Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Strășeni, launched in September 2018. The Plan is also an instrument for prioritizing the activity of local public authorities in the prevention and treatment of corruption risks, planning and monitoring, identification of needs and strengthening institutional capacities in order to achieve the policy objectives set out in sectoral, national or regional policy documents, in particular the National Strategy on Integrity and Anti-Corruption for 2017-2020 (approved by Parliament Resolution No. 56 of March 30, 2017). The document was elaborated through a strategic and participatory approach and involved representatives of local government, entrepreneurs and members of civil society, analyzing vulnerability to corruption activities and developing solutions for preventing and fighting the corrupt behavior.

ACTIVITIES

The Integrity and Anti-Corruption Action Plan in Strășeni 2018-2020 was developed using the “Integrity Islands” methodology, which is based on a strategic approach and a participatory process. Thus, at the diagnostic (preliminary and extended) stage, all activities within the local authority were analyzed, the most vulnerable activities (September-December 2016) through the questionnaire method were identified, and at the stage of developing the solutions - solutions and strategies for addressing vulnerabilities developed and the strategic plan prepared (January - June 2017).

In order to identify the most vulnerable activities in corruption, Robert Klitgaard’s formula was applied: Corruption (C) = Monopoly (M) + Discretion (D) - Transparency / Accountability (T). Therefore, in the preliminary general diagnosis phase, officials individually assessed the level of monopoly, discretion and transparency of 33 activities and services provided by the Town Hall. According to the results of the assessment, 79% of the activities were identified as vulnerable to corruption (26), in particular, waste management, municipal enterprise management, public lighting and public water and sewerage services. In the extended diagnostic phase, the degree of vulnerability to corruption by the external environment was assessed and 300 citizens of Strășeni were questioned in this respect. According to the results of the external evaluation, the most untransparent and vulnerable to corruption activities within the Strășeni municipality were the land fund administration; human resource management and control of economic activities. Subsequently, based on the same formula, the solutions included institutional changes aimed at reducing the monopoly in the provision of public services and the delivery of goods; limiting discretion in decision-making; increasing transparency and accountability to citizens.

The Strășeni Town Hall's vision regarding the prevention and treatment of corruption risks for the next three years is: *“The Town Hall of Strășeni is a model of integrity and efficiency of the local public administration, acting transparently and in the community interest in the decisions taken, in the public services rendered and all activities carried out”*. The realization of the vision will be ensured by establishing and approving by each actor both the internal (leadership, officials, local councilors) and external (private, civil society) of a set of principles to guide them in their work, says the Integrity Plan.

Strategic objectives to achieve the vision included 1. Efficiency in the use of public money by ensuring transparency, competition and accountability in public procurement procedures. 2. Developing modern mechanisms for streamlining the issuance of certificates and building/demolition permits; 3. Improving the quality of the sanitation service by increasing the transparency and efficiency of the SM “Strășeni Public services”; 4. Ensure efficiency and transparency in the management of the Strășeni municipality's land fund. The actions included in the Plan are related to the development of the electronic register of permissive acts; publication of annual procurement plans, participation notices and procurement results; publication of monitoring reports on the execution of public procurement contracts; delimitation and registration of all land - public property; endowment of garbage with software to manage itinerary, location, working time and waste disposal; developing the web page and publishing the annual activity report of the “Strășeni Public services”; the elaboration of several sections on the Mayor's website reports “unauthorized construction/ illicit trade”, “reports a case of behavior affecting the sanitation of the town”, etc.

THE BENEFICIARIES of this policy are all 22,177 citizens (according to data provided by the Town Hall), specialists, public servants and local officials, public institutions and representatives of the business community in Strășeni.

IMPACT

The expected impact from the implementation of the long-term corruption prevention and treatment plans in Strășeni municipality consists of 1. Ensuring an efficient, transparent and integrated local public administration; 2. Providing high-quality public services to citizens; 3. Transparent and efficient use of public resources; 4. Improving the image of public administration and increasing the trust of society; 5. Ensure institutional conditions for a sustainable development process.

COMMENTS

Local anti-corruption policies are of major importance given the disastrous effects of the corruption scourge on sustainable socio-economic development. The strategic approach to preventing corruption risks at the local government level, used by the Town Hall of Strășeni, has a far greater impact than a punitive approach. The methodology used in the elaboration of the Anti-Corruption Action Strategy and Action Plan is based on a strategic, on the other hand, participatory approach. Practically, this translates into the involvement of local actors, both in the process of diagnosing the most vulnerable activities to corruption, and in developing solutions to the identified risks. The identified solutions come to eliminate or reduce the risks of corruption through actions to increase transparency and accountability of decision-makers and officials, as well as by reducing the degree of monopoly and discretion in decision-making.

The Strășeni Town Hall is the only local authority that has developed an Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan through a broad participatory process without having a legal obligation in this respect. Such an integrity analysis should be applied in every municipality in the Republic of Moldova, the Town Hall of Strășeni being a local authority known for its efforts with minimal resources to make the local administration work. *“The impact of this policy is a major one, benefiting the entire community in Strășeni. It translates into*

quality public services, the transparent use of public resources according to the needs of the municipality, the provision of institutional conditions for a sustainable development process and a responsible, efficient, transparent and integrated public authority vis-à-vis the citizens and the private sector”, considers Diana Enachi.

On the one hand, the Local Integrity Strategic Plan and anti-corruption actions of the Strășeni Town Hall represents an important community policy aimed at reducing corruption in local public administration. And, on the other hand, the members of the Evaluation Board consider that the fight against corruption is a legal obligation of all local public authorities that have to become a permanent action. Also, the usefulness of the Strategic Plan will be seen in time, after concrete and visible results will be produced for the citizens of the municipality.

Scores: **QUALITY [+1.9]** **RELEVANCE [68.1%]**

VII TITLE: “LIVE MEETINGS WITH THE CITIZENS OF GHIDIGHICI”**Information source:** Ghidighici Village Hall, Chişinău municipality**The measure pursued by the local public authority - Transparency policies and the involvement of civil society in the local decision-making process****CONTEXT**

Facebook has become one of the main channels of communication between local officials with citizens. There is no exception for rural mayors who use this method to answer citizens' questions or to promote their achievements. Thus, the Ghidighici Village Hall decided that the over 5,000 inhabitants need to be properly informed and involved in what is happening in the community they live in. In this regard, one of the most attractive means of information and communication, but also to ensure the transparency of the Ghidighici Village Hall, are the audiences or live meetings with the citizens, initiated by the mayor of the village, Serafim Isac, on his official Facebook page.

ACTIVITIES

Once a month, after work hours, from 19.00 to 20.00, Serafim Isac connects live on his Facebook page to communicate with citizens about the socio-economic situation of the locality and to answer the villagers' questions. The live broadcast includes two parts: for 15-20 minutes, the mayor makes a retrospective of the town hall's activity lately, tells the villagers about the town hall's achievements and plans for the future, and Serafim Isac responds in two parts to the villagers' questions. At the same time, the mayor also responds to the critics of the villagers, in order to identify the motivation and desire for change in the locality. *“People ask for anything. I was trying to answer all my questions how deaf it would not seem. I always have to tell the citizens and many topics to discuss, from asphaltting roads, installing tombstones, or upgrading the sewer system at the gymnasium in the village”*, says Serafim Isac.

The first online audience took place on June 30 on the official website, followed by two more in July and October. Each intervention lasts around 60 minutes, gathers over 1.6 K views. Today, the mayor has an overwhelming number of over 4,000 Facebook friends, including residents from abroad, who are following the Mayor's activity.

THE BENEFICIARIES of this transparency policy are all citizens of the village of Ghidighici, 5,051 people (according to the 2014 census).

IMPACT

Through the new channel of direct communication with citizens, information on local government activity is better known to the citizens of the village of Ghidighici, and the disseminated information is received much faster by citizens. Also, very importantly, is that the village mayor receives feedback from those who watch and participate in live meetings. According to Mayor Serafim Isac, this communication on the Internet is an efficient one and about 90% of the inhabitants are involved in the issues discussed, while others criticize the activity of the local administration.

Once citizens are informed, the local public authority encourages the community to take the initiative and together to find the best solutions for local development and improvement of public administration. On the other hand, for the mayor's office, knowing the needs of the inhabitants and receiving feedback on certain activities or services is an advantage, so try to use the most attractive means of information.

COMMENTS

Transparency and participation in the decision-making process are an imperative and a principle for any public authority that must be respected. But the way and the channels through which they are provided make the difference. For example, the classical information panel in front of a city hall is no longer present, and electronic tools are getting more and more accessible, and more practical. The example demonstrated by Mayor Serafim Isac is a very viable and necessary one in terms of rapid digitization of society. *“It is a step-by-step and very interactive practice; an impressive practice and should be replicated in as many communities as possible”*, says Veaceslav Aftene.

The importance of this policy is even greater as it ensures the participation of many citizens, the activities regarding the activity of the Village Hall are better known, and the disseminated information is received much faster by the inhabitants. The use of online channels encourages the participation of both citizens living in the community, young people going to study in other cities, and diasporas. The effects of this policy will translate into a greater degree of involvement of the community, civil society and diaspora in the decision-making process and the financial support of local development projects.

And although the experience in the village of Ghidighici is useful and worthy of being replicated, the impact is to be felt in time. At the same time, a policy risk is the lack of access to such social media sources of all categories of citizens who could be excluded from this process, including the elderly. In this respect, it is recommended to use other sources of communication and information for community members without access to social media.

Scores: **QUALITY [+1.8]** **RELEVANCE [71.2%]**

VIII TITLE: “THE THEFT REDUCTION PLAN OF COMRAT MUNICIPALITY”**Source of information:** Comrat Town Hall**The measure pursued by the municipal authority - Municipal policies for ensuring public order****CONTEXT**

In order to reduce by the end of 2019 the number of thefts in Comrat municipality by 80%, the Town Hall has developed an Action Plan for the fight against delinquency. The plan, approved at the end of September, was drawn up for the period 1 June 2018 - 31 December 2019 by members of the Community Security Council of Comrat. The Community Security Council was set up in 2017 with the support of the project “Promoting civil society involvement in strengthening community security”. The project is being carried out by the Institute of Public Policies in collaboration with the General Police Inspectorate (PGI) of the Republic of Moldova and financially supported by the State Department of the United States of America.

The social significance of the theft problem is also confirmed by the results of the opinion poll on the activity of the police and the community security issues 2018 carried out by the Institute of Public Policies among the inhabitants of Comrat. About 40% of respondents confirmed their concern about theft, and also noted the need to jointly implement the necessary measures to address it. According to the Comrat Police Inspectorate of ATU Gagauzia, in the eight months of 2018, 58 offenses (the theft category) were registered in Comrat, including in public places. The thefts from enterprises, households and public places were recorded, the total amount of damages being 623 thousand lei. During the same period last year, 70 crimes were recorded in this category, and the damage amounted to 1 million 508 thousand lei.

ACTIVITIES

The Theft Reduction Plan was developed by joint efforts of the local public authority and public institutions (Comrat Town Hall, General Police Inspectorate, public institutions and community members) and reflects the actions needed to combat thefts and crimes. The overall objective of the Plan is to reduce the number of thefts in the public places of Comrat by at least 80% by the end of 2019. To this end, the members of the Community Security Council intend to increase the level of information about the methods by the end of 2018 prevention and necessary actions in case of theft by at least 70%. And by the end of 2019, Comrat municipality aims to reduce by 75% the number of minors in organizing and committing thefts in public places.

Therefore, in the next two years, an information campaign will be launched in Comrat for informing the inhabitants of the town about the ways to prevent thefts and how to act in case they are witnesses of a crime. According to the Town Hall, meetings with representatives of local public authorities, school heads, social workers, representatives of business and civil society, volunteers and police officers will be organized in order to make the population aware of the need for preventive behavior, in which the problems that exist at the community level will be identified and debated. An educational program will also be implemented to reduce the number of children and adolescents involved in the theft of public places. At the same time, the community aims to install 20 video cameras in the busiest places in the town and to open a monitoring center.

THE BENEFICIARIES of the policy are the community in Comrat: 20,113 inhabitants, Comrat Town Hall, PGI Comrat, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and economic agents in Comrat.

COMMENTS

Ensuring public order and security is the responsibility of the authorities to citizens and society in general. However, the arguments of the authority to act only on thefts are not clear. However, the range of criminal offenses includes other deeds as equally dangerous for society, which must be prevented and countered. The Theft Reduction Plan of Comrat is more a necessary measure than a community policy that, once realized, would also become an example for other cities that face high crime. The measure implies, in the opinion of the members of the Evaluation Board, more risks, such as video camera damage, lack of financial resources and the sustainability of actions. *“20 video cameras are better than nothing, but the Town Hall of Comrat can do more”*, believes Irina Ioniță, member of the Evaluation Board.

And although the measure is considered to be positive, its impact is still quite vague, especially since the measure is barely planned and there is more on paper. Implementing the actions included in the Theft Reduction Plan will be the best indicator for the policy assessment.

Scores: **QUALITY [+1.4]** **RELEVANCE [59.6%]**

Description of measures that received a negative assessment

I TITLE: “FAMILY TRANSACTION AT MĂGDĂCEȘTI MAYORALTY”

Source of information: Ziarul de Gardă: <https://www.zdg.md/> Article published on August 16, 2018

The measure violated by the local public authority - Possible conflict of interest in the decision of the local public administration to purchase the real estate for the kindergarten in the village Magdcești

The local public administration in Măgdăcești, Criuleni rayon, paid 1,6 million lei to buy the building of the former village school, which has been in the cradle for many years, even from the primary family. The Măgdăcești Village Hall decided to pay for this property a price five times higher than the price for which it sold the current husband of the mayor 12 years ago. On May 10, 2018, Măgdăcești Village Council approved the purchase of a building in the center of the village for the construction of the kindergarten “in order to provide quality educational services and the institutionalization of 120 children”. The amount of the transaction voted by 10 of the 15 local councilors was 1.6 million lei. Shortly on June 4, 2018, a sale-purchase contract was signed. On the same day, the land of 20 acres and the building of nearly 761 m.p. were registered on behalf of local public authorities.

The husband of the mayor bought the building in 2006 with 300 thousand lei

The 1.6 million lei came from the accounts of the Măgdăcești Town Hall, in the accounts of the mayor’s family, the seller being Victor Cojocaru, the husband of Liubei Cojocaru, the mayor of the village of Măgdăcești since 2011. He acquired the land and the building in 2006, following an auction, paying approximately 24,000 USD, equivalent to 300,000 lei at MDL/USD in January 2006. Thus, 12 years later, Cojocaru obtained a profit of approximately 1.3 million lei from the transaction with the Village Hall headed by his wife. In addition to being a businessman, Victor Cojocaru is also a district councilor of Criuleni. He maintains that family ties had no attribution to the business and that neither he nor his wife had influenced the councilors to vote for the building and the land of the former school.

The object was valued at 1.58 million lei

The mayor argues that all possibilities have been analyzed and it has been decided that the authorities buy the building of his family. “The councilors had to find solutions and, foolishly, the director or head of the proposed study: the mayor, can you sell it? What plans do you have with that building, you can sell the old school. It’s in the center of the village, there are all conditions, water, sewage ... I said I did not solve this question because it’s the husband’s building. When she was bought, I was not enrolled, and she was only registered with her husband. I told them we had other plans with that building. Someone proposed us to make an asylum for the elderly, and we agreed, believing it would be an asylum for the elderly in the village, but we were given other conditions. I said we do not need anything”, says the Mayor, stressing that his family would not benefit from the transaction. According to the evaluation study carried out by the Vlascom Agency, the land and the building purchased by the Village Hall were valued at 1.58 million lei.

The institution that can determine whether Liuba Cojocaru was in a conflict of interest when the Village Hall he is leading bought the building from the mayor’s husband is the National Integrity Authority. More in the article “[VIDEO/ Tranzacție în familie la Primărie](#)”

COMMENTS

Such transactions by local authorities demonstrate the complete lack of integrity and the obvious use of public functions in personal or family interests. The impact of this action is a major one, the fraudulent use of public resources directly affects every citizen. This transaction damaged the local public budget, the public interest was violated, and citizens were denied the right to benefit from public resources for the needs of the community. To discourage such actions, personal involvement should be held accountable and public money recovered, Diana Enachi believes. Another member of the Evaluation Committee, Igor Neaga, considers: *“Mayor of Măgdăcești and local councilors came to the local public administration with a common purpose - to manage the local budget under the «good intentions» for the community, in common goals and interests for them”*.

The personal, family interests that have been put above the community interests in which they have been elected represent a sufficiently negative practice and probably according to the Evaluation Board is also found in other localities in the country.

Scores: **Quality [-1.5] Relevance [57.3%]**

II

TITLE: “PROTECTIONISM AND CAMOUFLAGED BUSINESS. THE CONSTRUCTION EMPIRE OF THE BILLIONAIRE MAYOR FROM BOGZEȘTI”

Source of information: The portal www.moldovacurata.md. Article published on September 17, 2018

The measure violated by the local public authority - Protectionism and conflict of interest in the public procurement process

The family of the Bogzești village, Telenești rayon Mayor, Vasile Ozun, owns three construction companies that are constantly winning tens of millions of contracts in public procurement contests. A firm is passed into papers on its own name, one on the son and the other on the former wife's name. Recently, the Competition Council made all three of them with hundreds of thousands of lei for cartel arrangements. The fines have not changed anything. At least two companies continue to participate in public procurement contests. Another firm, the son of the son, is the only one to win the auctions for construction works at Bogzești village hall. The law says that such a relationship is a conflict of interest.

Mayor Vasile Ozun heads Bogzeti Mayoralty already in the fourth term. The villagers say that he lives in Chisinau and commutes commuting. In the [declaration of personal income and interests](#), Vasile Ozun shows that he owns only one company - Oztor LLC and also shows dividends for 2017 - almost 2 million lei. The company was administered in 2017 by a person named Alexandru Graur. “Oztor” SRL enjoys the trust of several public institutions both in Chisinau and in the districts, because, as can be seen from the database of the Public Procurement Agency, they constantly offer contracts for the provision of construction services and reconstruction of buildings and roads.

Two other companies connected to Vasile Ozun are “Eurodeviz”, founder and administrator - Vitalie Marandici, the son of the mayor, and “Ozun-Cons”, where the founder is former wife Zinaida Ozun and administrator - mayor of the mayor's wedding, Dumitru Diacenco, who is a local councilor at Bogzești. This company benefits from millions of lei contracts at different state institutions. “Eurodeviz” owned by the mayor's son, Vitalie Marandici, is the only company that mayor Vasile Ozun entrusts to provide construction services in the village. Only in 2017, Eurodeviz awarded two contracts. One - for thermal rehabilitation works of the gymnasium building in the locality, of 2, 6 million lei, and the second - of 987 thousand lei for the “reconstruction of the Volunteer Firemen Removal from Bogzești village”.

Three companies, the same headquarters. Understandings and refusal to be subject to control by the Competition Council

The evidence that the three firms have the same command center is a 2017 [decision of the Competition Council \(CC\)](#). The institution started controlling after it was suspected that the three companies acted concertedly in the case of two auctions organized in 2012. When CC inspectors visited the headquarters of the company “Ozun-Cons” (company written on the name of the former wife), Vasile Ozun was there, “in his office” and would have forbidden the access of inspectors. We quote from CC decision: “At about 10:40, the founder of Oztor LLC, Vasile Ozun, left his office in the same room and approached the inspection team members. The employee of the Competition Council informed him that on the basis of the Order of the President of the Competition Council no. 08 of 16 May 2017 and on the basis of the Order of the President of the Competition Council no. 09 from 16.05.2017, is to carry out the inspection at the headquarters of “Oztor” SRL and “Eurodeviz” SRL, which operates in (...). In turn, Ozun Vasile

opposed the inspection, misleading the members of the inspection team, as these companies did not work at this address, even though the chief accountant of the company “Oztor” SRL and “Eurodeviz” SRL - (...). Also, in the respective office there were visible accounting documents of “Oztor” SRL on the work tables, and on the wall of the room there was a diploma issued to the administrator of “Oztor” SRL, Graur Alexandru, on behalf of the team”, noted CC inspectors. Subsequently: “Oztor Vasile, the founder of” Oztor”, banned the inspection of the subdivision of the above-named company, registered in the Fiscal Service database, announcing that it will pay the fine for obstruction”. Inspectors also noted that during the visit, in the yard of Ozun-Cons headquarters, they noticed and filmed traces of burned documents that contained the names of the three firms.

The article can be read on [Conflicte de interese, protectionism și afaceri camuflate. Imperiul de construcții al primarului milionar din Bogzești.](#)

COMMENTS

Fictitious companies, collusion, cartels and other mitigating practices in public procurement generate millions of millions of loss for local budgets and deprive citizens of quality public services. By directing procurement contracts and public money to their own businesses, the Mayor of Bogzești defies the law and all the principles of good governance in the public sector. Such illegal activities must be punished by competent bodies, and embezzlement public money - returned to the budget. The impact of such activities is a major and devastating one, as each citizen, every taxpayer and member of the community suffers from them.

Regretfully, the case of protectionism in the Bogzești village procurement process is, according to Igor Neaga, a member of the Evaluation Board, a common situation for the Republic of Moldova. “*The law against local elected representatives is applied selectively, with no serious consequences for them. Local budgets are a source of income for some local elected or interest groups*”, believes Igor Neaga. The members of the Evaluation Board, therefore, consider the policy to be a negative one, the disapproval of which should have the most extensive impact to discourage such practices from the initial phase.

Scores: **QUALITY [-1.6]** **RELEVANCE [57.7%]**

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