



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. Provisional Programme Agenda

- Tuesday, 02 April 2019 - Preparatory events**

Preparatory events will take place with participation of representatives from specific organisations. As it is also the arrival day of many of the participants from abroad, the Welcome Reception will also take place for foreign participants along with specially invited in the Conference

Venue: Hotel Jolly Alon, Strada Maria Cibotari 37, Chisinau 2012,

14:00 – 18:30	1 st partnership meeting of LAGs of the LEADER transnational cooperation project "Say cheese! Balkan cheese" ; <i>(representatives from the 12 European LAGs and the 3 Moldovan LAGs are participating to this meeting)</i>
16:00 – 18:30	Meeting of representatives of ELARD members / LEADER Networks / Rural organisations with the Moldovan National LEADER Network and the National Rural Network of Moldova;
19:00 – 22:00	Welcome Reception; <i>(only for the foreign and specially invited participants in the Conference)</i>

- Wednesday, 03 April 2019 - EU-Moldova LEADER Conference day**

Venue: The Palace of the Republic, Strada Maria Cebotari 16, Chisinau, Moldova

Event manager: Ms Ana Cerneva, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova

08:30-09:30	Arrival and registration of participants / Welcome coffee
09:30 – 10.30	<u>Official opening of the LAGs open-air fair</u> <i>Participants will have the opportunity to visit the stands of the Moldovan LAGS and get familiarised</i>



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with their local identity with tasting of local products from their areas and with distinctive cultural features.

Welcome speeches:

Moderator: Ms Marina Albu, President, National LEADER Network of Moldova

10:30 – 11:00

- Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova: **Mr Iurie Usurelu**, General Secretary of State, acting Minister;
- European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development: **Mr Benoit Esmanne**;
- European Union Delegation in the Republic of Moldova: **Mr Peter Michalko**, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova;
- National Rural Network of Moldova: **Ms Aurelia Bondari**, President;

Session 1: LEADER in Moldova – what was achieved & the challenges ahead

Moderator: Ms Marta Marczis, LEADER method expert in the EU “SARD Programme”

Scope of this session is to **present the achievements** of the implementation of the LEADER approach in Moldova so far and what next steps should be taken to ensure smooth and genuine implementation of the method in Moldova.

11:00 – 12:15

- **Keynote speech: Ms Galina Petrachi**, Head of Rural Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova;
- **Presentation of the evaluation study** on the efficiency of implementing funds for local development through LEADER approach: representative of Moldovan LAGs (tbc);
- **Panel discussion** of Moldovan LAGs representatives and LEADER facilitators:
 - **Mr Mihai Caraman**, LAG member, LAG Staua Bugeac;
 - **Mr Anatolie Buzuț**, President, LAG Urmasii lui Leonardo;
 - **Ms Svetlana Regus**, Manager, LAG EcoDUZ Ialpușel;
 - **Mr Sergiu Mihailov**, Pro Cooperare Regionala;
 - **Mr Tomasz Horbowski**, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova;
 - **Ms Sabina Baciu-Danilov**, People in Need Moldova;
 - **Mr Viorel Chivriga**, IDIS Vitorul;

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12.15 – 12:45

Coffee break

Session 2. Ceremonies – Agreements for promoting LEADER in Moldova

Moderator: Mr Tomasz Horbowski, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova

Introduction: Representative USAID (tbc) & **Mr Maciej Falkowski**, President, Solidarity Fund PL.;

12:45 – 13:15

- Ceremony of the signature of the financial agreements between **15 Moldovan LAGs** and **Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova** for the implementation of pilot LEADER projects in 2019;
- Ceremony of the **signature of the territorial partnership-agreements** by 8 new **Local Action Groups** within USAID supported “LEADER Activity” project;





13:15 – 14:00

Lunch break

Session 3. CLLD/LEADER in EU after 2020

Moderator: Mr Panagiotis Patras, rural development expert in the EU project “Technical Assistance to ENPARD in republic of Moldova”;

Scope of this session is to discuss **the future of LEADER mechanism** as a tool for local development – the main scope is to deliver a strong **message to the decision-makers in Moldova** why LEADER is an effective tool for sustainable rural development and for the Moldovan LAGs what they can learn from EU LEADER initiatives.

- **Keynote speech: Mr Benoit Esmanne**, European Commission, DG AGRI
- **Panel discussion** with the participation of EU LEADER Networks/organisations;

14:00 – 15:00

- **Mr Luis Shaves**, Minha Terra Network / Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations;
- **Mr Petri Rinne**, Village Action Association of Finland;
- **Ms Kristiina Tammets**, Estonian LEADER union;
- **Mr Pal Hajas**, Alliance of Hungarian LEADER Associations (LEADER Egyesületek Szövetsége); (tbc)
- **Mr. Goran Šoster**, Slovenian Rural Development Network;
- **Mr Kim Smedslund**, European Rural Parliament, Coordinator; (tbc)
- **Mr Aris Adler**, PREPARE Network, President;
- Moderator of the panel discussion:, (tbc)

Session 3. Networking and Cooperation

Moderator: Ms Aurelia Bondari, National Rural Network, President

- “Networking and Cooperation of LEADER groups in EU”: **Ms Maria João Botelho**, European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), President;
- **Presentation** of the Moldovan **National LEADER Network: Ms Marina Albu**, President;
- Signature of the declaration to join **ELARD by the Moldovan LEADER Network**;
- **Cooperation** between **Moldova** and **Romania** on LEADER approach: **Mr Alexandru Potor**, National Federation of LAGs in Romania (FNGAL), President;
- Signature of the partnership agreement between Moldovan **National LEADER Network** and **National Federation of LAGs in Romania**;
- Presentation of the TNC project “**Say cheese! Balkan cheese**”: **Mr Sotiris Bolis**, LAG “Parnonas SA”, Greece;
- Signature of the partnership agreement between **EU** and **MD LAGs** for the TNC project “**Say cheese! Balkan cheese**”;

15:00 – 15:45





Session 4. Parallel workshops

(due to rooms capacity limited places are available)

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| 15:45 – 16:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Room 1: LEADER approach & the added value for the local territory.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Facilitators: Ms Kristiina Tammets, Estonian LEADER union / (tbc), Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova; |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Room 2: How to make better Local Development Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Facilitators: Mr Petri Rinne, Village Action Association of Finland; / (tbc), People In Need Moldova; 3. Room 3 : Cooperation and Networking under LEADER method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Facilitators: Mr Luis Shaves, Minha Terra Network / Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations, / (tbc), Pro Cooperare Regionala; |

Plenary Session -Workshops conclusions:

Moderator:, (tbc)

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| 16:30 – 17:00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rapporteur Workshop 1: Mr Goran Šoster, Slovenian Rural Development Network; 2. Rapporteur Workshop 2: Mr Pal Hajas, Alliance of Hungarian LEADER Associations (LEADER Egyesületek Szövetsége); 3. Rapporteur Workshop 3: Mr Aris Adler, PREPARE Network, President; |
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17:00 – 17.15	<p>Closing remarks: Mr Iurie Usurelu, General Secretary of State, acting Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova</p>
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17:15 – 18.30	<p>Coffee break</p>
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18.30 – 22.00	<p>Departure from the venue by buss - Dinner for international and vip guests at Orcheiul Vechi – The Stone Age Restaurant (Epoca de Piatra);</p>
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Thursday, 04 April 2019 - Field visits to LAG territories and to LEADER local pilot projects

- *Field visits organised by three (3) Moldovan LAGs in partnership with Moldovan Investment Agency (TBC) / full day programme prepared by the LAGs in the respected territories;*
- *Departure by bus from The Palace of the Republic (Chisinau) to the LAG territory and back to Chisinau in the evening;*
- *Estimated capacity of participants in each group up to 20 people;*

- a) **Discover the beauty of Nistru river** – LAG Serpentina Nistrului: visiting 2/3 projects implemented by LAG Serpentina Nistrului in 2018 and cultural / touristic programme;
- 1 hour by bus from Chisinau (tbc)

The "The Danube Delta Magic Meadow" is a very charming touristic route, where its 9 communes will captivate you with their beauty. You're going to step on a journey full of magic and interesting facts. This particular area, the Lower Prut, is included in UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

You will also find yourself at a cross-cultural place, where the Moldovan border meets the Ukrainian one. And, oh, the cultural program will be full of wonders - it will taste delightfully thanks to the local pastries. You will also enjoy the local eco-cheese products and visit an enticing furs exhibition.

All in all, you will be a part of this important process of preserving traditions and developing the local community through the LAG projects we support!





- b) **Lunca Prutului de Jos –The Danube Delta Magic Meadow** – visiting 2/3 projects implemented by LAG Lunca Prutului de Jos in 2018: masterclasses and program;

– 3 hours by bus from Chisinau (tbc)

Do you feel it? The freshest breeze of a morning boat trip? Or the appetizing flavour of a fish zeama*? If you envisioned this, you already are captivated by this touristic adventure. Embark on this route and visit beautiful historic sites, such as the Varnita royal manor of Charles XIIth of Sweden, a XIXth century church or an ethnographic museum full of wonders.

Sink into the depths of nature, by visiting the Telita landscape reserve!

Were you interested in how the customs services work? The Speia village has a customs post since Stephen the Great voivode's era and it is still an accessible gate to our neighbours. So, you'll see it working before your very eyes.

You should know that the beauty of Dniester will never leave your soul, especially after you find out more about the projects carried out within our LAG.

**Zeama is a traditional Romanian and Moldovan fish or chicken soup. It is said that our grandmothers cook the most flavourful and mouthwatering zeama.*

- c) **Undiscovered mosaic of Moldovan South** – visiting 2/3 projects implemented by LAG Gagauz Korafhari and LAG ECO Bugeac and LAG Kilim Bugeac and LAG ECO Duz Ialpuget– 2 groups;

– 2 hours by bus from Chisinau (tbc)

This is the most colorful experience you will have on a Moldovan realm!

The projects carried out across four Southern LAGs are building the basis for the absolutely fantastic cultural identity the regions has - the dishes are delectable, the local costumes are on point and the heritage is very rich.

The LAGs villages are scattered all over the Gagauzian region, gathering cultural hints from everywhere. The Mill Museum wears the face of a legend, while the local manors carry on a historical value.

Would you like to taste some placintas*? We bet you would, because they are the perfect fusion of wonderful taste and pleasant flavours of the South. The eco-products are very popular and you will get to acquire those perfect herb fusions good for your mind and soul.

This amazing experience will always have a special place in your heart!

**Placinta is a traditional pie, cooked out of tasty dough with creamy cheese mixtures, veggie blends or fruit mashes.*

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2. 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;



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