

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015 Ecorys Polska conducted an **evaluation of the projects being carried out as part of development aid in Moldova.**

The evaluation covered projects carried out in the years 2012-14. The main aim of the evaluation was to formulate conclusions concerning the factors which have the largest impact on the effectiveness of Polish development cooperation and to present recommendations concerning activities planned for the upcoming years. The analysis covered projects being carried out by Polish government institutions, local governments, non-governmental organizations as well as the Solidarity Fund and as part of the Small Grants system by the Embassy in Chisinau. The evaluation of the projects was based on the following criteria: relevance, utility, sustainability, efficiency, effectiveness.

Polish initiatives complied with the policy of reforms being conducted by Moldova, whose aim was to strengthen the ties with the European Union. Continuation of the effects can best be seen in the projects associated with the development of agriculture and entrepreneurship in the rural areas. This does not only apply to initiatives being taken by the administration but also by Polish local governments and non-governmental organizations. Most of the projects were well tailored to the needs of the recipients, due to vast knowledge of situation in Moldavia and experience of the coordinators.

Achieved results remained sustainable, due to the strong commitment of Moldavian partners. In addition, having fresh experience in transformation, Poland, as a supporter, is perceived as being more authentic than other countries.

Effects of the project concerning the creation and operation of an Information Centre for the local authorities in Ialoveni underwent a special analysis. The evaluators highly appraised its activities.

Projects being carried out as part of the Small Grants system were relevant, utilizable, efficient and sustainable, however, their relationship with the anticipated goals of the Polish development policy should be increased in the future.

Some of the recommendations made for the upcoming years are:

- ➔ in projects carried out by public administration the focus should be put on supporting the creation of individual legal acts and supporting the implementation of existing law on the local level, and on a gradual withdrawal from projects focusing on increasing the competencies of employees of institutions;
- ➔ support to entrepreneurship in rural areas and the implementation of ecological technologies should be continued;
- ➔ supporting fight against corruption should be launched;
- ➔ implementation of systemic solutions improving the performance of projects and cooperation with project providers, including performance of multi-year projects and increase the scale of projects in terms of duration and scope of activities;
- ➔ increase of the potential of Polish organizations operating in Moldova;
- ➔ increase the involvement of the Polish Embassy in Chisinau in implementing Polish aid projects;
- ➔ further support to operations of the Information Centre for the local authorities in Ialoveni;
- ➔ higher engagement of Polish business in development projects;
- ➔ improvement of informational and promotional activities concerning the Polish development policy as well as individual projects;
- ➔ phasing-out of projects supporting democracy in Moldova;

➔ improvement of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and projects providers.