



Local development strategies and infrastructure projects with financial support from the European Union

General information about the project

The project „*Promoting PPI as an efficient mechanism for community empowerment and sustainable local development*” was launched by Business Consulting Institute in March 2013 and will be carried out until July 2014. It is implemented in partnership with Orhei and Telenesti local governments, with financial support from the European Union.

The project comes to strengthen the capacities of non-state actors and local authorities for cooperation and sustainable development. Civil servants and local councilors, civil society and private sector participate to its activities.

It introduces new concepts in Moldova: *Community Driven Development* and *Participatory Planning and Implementation*, which support communities’ local development through their human capital.

Financial support is to be offered for the implementation of 4 local infrastructure projects in Orhei and Telenesti Towns. The problems faced by these communities are defined by their citizens.

For this purpose, 4 focus-groups were organized in each of these towns, which offered the framework in which people named local problems and most appropriate solutions. Implemented projects will help overcome weaknesses and will create infrastructure, offering access to better services. Within focus-groups the participants were informed about the concept of *Participatory Planning and Implementation* and the importance of their participation to decision-making, which means acceding to living conditions corresponding to their expectations. Focus-groups were attended by local authorities, private sector, civil society and vulnerable groups.

Project financed by:



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Business
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Institute

in partnership with



Orhei
Mayorality



Telenesti
Mayorality

Local development strategies for Orhei and Telenesti Towns

The experts of the Institute for Urban Development and the members of the Local Participatory Councils have prepared local development strategies for Orhei and Telenesti Towns, for 2014-2020.

Strategy development was the second stage of the experts' work tasks. An initial audit was carried out in these towns and Socio-Economic Profiles were established. The Profiles measure the level of development and refer to social and human potential, vulnerable groups, economy, natural resources, civil protection, demography, social institutions, enterprises, capacity of local authorities and civil society to influence local development.

The main objective of these strategies is correlated with local government's role, to coordinate public and private entities' actions for urban development. These documents propose a set of programs, actions and projects to achieve defined strategic objectives.

The mission of these communities and local authorities is to support Orhei and Telenesti in **becoming European towns, with modern infrastructure, involved population, having access to education and information, with developed industry and conditions favorable to business development.**

Population has an essential role in local development, which they should understand and assume.

The strategy document prepared for Telenesti bases upon the Local Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Telenesti Town for 2012- 2016. Orhei Town didn't have a strategy and it was defined within this project.

They were coordinated with district and other regional, national and international strategic documents:

- ✓ The Development Strategy for the Central Region 2010-2016 and the sectoral development strategies;
- ✓ Moldova 2020 – National Development Strategy and the national sectoral strategies;
- ✓ The Unique Program Document and the Regional Operational Plan 2013-2015;
- ✓ The National Environment Strategy 2013-2023;
- ✓ The National Energy Efficiency Program 2011-2020;
- ✓ The Government Activity Program „European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare 2013-2014“;
- ✓ Agenda 21 and Millenium Development Goals;
- ✓ EU 2020 Strategy.

The strategies are flexible and can be adapted to new development opportunities and national and regional development programs.

Objectives of local development strategies

The strategies were conceived as working instruments for local government, to plan and manage urban development and to increase the efficiency of the main local actors.

Strategy execution means achieving the following objectives:

- ✓ Accessible and quality services;
- ✓ Infrastructure improvement and extension of services;
- ✓ Dynamic and competitive economic activity;
- ✓ Environmental quality improvement;
- ✓ Good management of available resources;
- ✓ Good governance and efficient management.

Public hearing and consultations on strategies

In order to consult citizens and to learn about their opinion, the strategies were discussed within public hearings, at the end of December month (on December 18 in Telenesti and December 24 in Orhei). In a final stage, the strategies were presented to the Local Councils for approval.

Infrastructure projects to be implemented in Orhei and Telenesti were discussed in public consultations, on the same days.

Strategies take into account existing deficiencies and communities' needs. The projects for the two towns were defined by their citizens, who will be able to support their implementation.

The following projects will be realized:

- ✓ **in Orhei, the public lighting system will be extended and video cameras will be installed in public spaces;**
- ✓ **in Telenesti playgrounds will be created; the second project option is to be decided.**

The implementation period is 6 months. These projects will improve infrastructure, will offer access to better services and will contribute to socio-economic development.

They are financially supported by the European Union. The beneficiary towns will also collect funds and citizens will be able to make a financial contribution. Their participation will make them feel that these are their achievements and will raise their involvement.

Residents' contribution to solving current difficulties, defining project ideas and realizing them will offer a model of *Participatory Planning and Implementation* to be used by other localities.

Activities planned for the last project stage

In the next stage, last summer's trainees will have the opportunity to make a study visit to Poland, organized with the PAUCI Foundation's support. This country has a good experience in applying the project concepts, which are supported by the Law on Local Self-Government, adopted on March 8, 1990.

A Manual of Procedures about *Community Driven Development* and *Participatory Planning and Implementation* will be edited in the final stage, presenting the methodology for the inclusion and accountability of public authorities, civil society, private sector and vulnerable groups in the decision-making process, as premise for democratic reforms and sustainable development.

The closing conference will present project results and is to be attended by beneficiaries and members of neighboring communities which would want to learn from achieved experience.