



Independent experts recommend the abrogation of the Reform Strategy of central public administration and the approbation of a new strategic document, according to a report supported by Soros Foundation Moldova

CHISINAU, April 29, 2011. The Reform Strategy of central public administration (CPA) is an outdated document which has to be abrogated. The Law on CPA must be finalized and approved. The Law on transparency in decision making process requires certain changes and the process of elaboration of the new law on civil servants' wages has to be finalized. These are just some of the recommendations of the report "The Reform of Central Public Administration in R. Moldova: Performance Evaluation of the Implementation", elaborated at the initiative and with the financial support of the Good Governance Program of Soros Foundation Moldova by a group of independent experts, coordinated by the consultancy company Business Consulting Institute.

The aim of the evaluation was to analyze the results obtained in the implementation process of the Reform of central public administration in the period October 2009 – November 2010, as to elaborate a set of recommendations for the enhancement of the positive impact of actions in this area. The Study has found that the objectives of CPA Reform have been „partially” achieved, while the impact of actions taken in the organization and operation of CPA authorities is appreciated as being „satisfactory”.

FAVOURABLE RESULTS OF CPA REFORM

According to the experts, as a result of implementing the reorganization actions, there has been finalized the process of formal division of functions of policies elaboration and those of implementation, the last ones being transferred to subordinated public institutions. Thus, one of the three objectives of the section "CPA Reorganization" in the CPA Reform Strategy formally has been fully achieved.

At the same time, the reporting system has been simplified, the experts noting that some of the reports have efficiency indices for financial resources use. In the evaluation period there have been undertaken certain activities to optimize the instruments of policies coordination with the budget planification process and also there have been initiated actions to restrict new objectives which are not financially covered.

FAILURES OF CPA REFORM

The report "The Reform of Central Public Administration in R. Moldova: Performance Evaluation of the Implementation" states that in the analyzed period there has not been formulated a well defined and medium term vision on CPA organization, neither the reorganization actions, the methodological base, the implementation and the finality of this process.

The need of approving the law on central public administration is much discussed and the project of this law was consulted with the experts of the SIGMA Program of OECD and the European Union and re-approved by competent central bodies. However, the law has not been finalized and approved.

Concerning the legal framework for ensuring the transparency of the decision making process, the experts have also established in the evaluation period that it continues to be deficient. At the same time, according to the result of the analysis of implemented questionnaire, the absolute majority of public servants do not consider that they have a decent salary and associate this factor to the increase of corruption in public service. Thus, the reform in the pay system of civil servants is a major priority in CPA.



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THE EXPERTS RECOMMEND

Having in view the conclusions above, the group of independent experts has formulated a set of recommendations, aiming to guide future actions of CPA reformation in order to obtain better results:

- Abrogation of the Reform Strategy of central public administration as outdated document.
- Making a new exercise of functional analysis of central public administration in order to determine major problems affecting its efficiency and reformulate the objectives of CPA reform, as a cost-efficiency analysis of CPA.
- Elaboration, basing of the results of the analysis, of a new document concerning the CPA reform in which to define clearly: the concept and actions of reorganization, improvement and simplification of decision making process, of ensuring an efficient management of human resources and public finances.
- Completion and approval of the Law on Central Public Administration.
- Approval of procedural rules of policies elaboration, approval, monitoring and evaluation.
- Evaluation of institutions' coordination activity of public policies and structures of strategic partnership between the Government and civil society.
- Modification of the Law on transparency in decision making process.
- Approval of the Regulation on procedures for ensuring access to information for the uniform application of the stipulations of Law no. 982-XIV of May 11, 2000 on access to information.
- Establishing an integrated information management system within the Government.
- Development of the information platform for intranet use as current method of communication between Directions and planning of work meetings.
- Reformation of the remuneration system of civil servants, completion of the elaboration of the new wage law for civil servants to ensure decent salaries and attract professional employees in this area.
- Synchronize the process of evaluation of civil servants' performances with the remuneration system reform.
- Create an evaluation system of CPA performances reported to the amount of allocated financial resources, which would include the vision, constitutive elements, implementation instruments and methods of analysis of data and/or results.
- Development of capacities of budgetary planning, elaboration and implementation of budgets based on programs, including the organization of training courses, the increase of capacities of analysis, evaluation and reporting of implementation of budget within programs.

CONTEXT

In the Republic of Moldova, the Reform of Central Public Administration (RCPA) started in 2006. The Reform aims to create a modern and efficient system of central public administration, in accordance with principles of good governance applied by EU countries and members of the European Council. This means achieving through optimal costs better results in the administration process, which would allow taking into account citizens' interests and rights. As a result of the Reform, it is expected for the central public administration to become more innovative, flexible and efficient, to have a public and transparent operation and the responsibility mechanism to determine a positive image of it.

The implementation of CPA Reform is based on the policies document „The reform strategy of central public administration in the Republic of Moldova”, approved in 2005. The document initially provided an implementation period in 2006-2008. But at the end of the year 2008 it was considered that it is necessary to continue the reforming actions, though a new plan of implementation actions has not been approved and the old one has not been updated. Thus, at present the implementation period of CPA Reform is undetermined.