



## **Civil servants mobility program – Moldova 2015**

Prague 18 – 24 January 2016  
Budapest 22 – 27 November 2015  
Warsaw & Lublin 29 November – 5 December  
Bratislava 1 – 5 February

### **Report**

Taking into consideration the preferences of partners in Moldova, as well as in the V4 countries, the pilot project of Civil servants mobility program – Moldova was divided in two parts. While first two groups (each consisting of three Moldovan civil servants) arrived in Budapest and Warsaw in November 2015, other two groups visited Prague and Bratislava only in January-February 2016. The postponement of the part of the program to 2016 was consulted with and approved by the International Visegrad Fund and did not have any negative impact on the implementation of the Civil Servants Mobility Program – Moldova.

### **Prague, 18 – 24 January 2016**

**Participants:** Andrei Sava, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Rodica Ciochina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Cristina Croitor, Ministry of Defence

The focus of three Moldovan civil servants was on dipomacy and foreign policy, as well as on administration and political context of foreign policy. The participants were chosen in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Moldova, above all based on their affiliations. Program of the visit was created by a team of Institute of International Relations employees and co-workers.

The visitors arrived in Prague on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> in the evening. The official part of the visit started on Tuesday morning, with official welcoming at the Institute for International Relations. The program participants met with IIR director Petr Kratochvíl and his deputy Michal Kořan. They were introduced into basic issues of Czech political scene as well as into the visit program and its purpose.

During the next day the participants met with Radomír Špok, executive director of Europeum – Institute for European Policy and Michael Romanov from the Metropolitan University. In the afternoon the group of Moldovan civil servants visited Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Section of European Affairs, where they met with Counselor Michaela Chrtová, as well Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, where they opportunity to talk to Senator Hassan Mezian

The third day started with the visit of the Moldovan Embassy and meeting with chargé d' Affaires ad interim Mrs. Gherasim. The program continued with the visit of the Aspen Institute

(meeting with Deputy Director Maria Staszkievicz) and Association for International Affairs (meeting with research director Vit Dostal and his colleagues).

On the next day the list of visited institutions included Parliamentary Institute, Parliament of the Czech Republic (meeting with Martin Kuta), Office of the President of the Czech Republic (meeting with Petr Pirunčík, expert on Central and Eastern Europe) and Polish Embassy (meeting with Deputy Ambassador Jaroslav Strejzek).

The fifth day of the program of Moldovan civil servants started at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Department of Security Policy (meeting with Alena Obrusníková). The participants also had opportunity to meet Martin Svárovský from the Policy Planning Department, Marek Pavlík and Šárka Stráhalová from the Department of Central Europe. In the afternoon they visited the Department of South-Eastern Europe.

### **Budapest, 22-27 November 2015**

**Participants:** Denis Bejan, Ministry of Economy, Olesea Bordan, Ministry of Economy, Cristina Jandić, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

The program in Budapest was organized by the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) together with the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID). The topic of the training program was small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As SME sector plays an important role in boosting employment, supporting economic growth and encouraging innovation, the aim of the program was to provide professional information on the circle of institutions, promotion policy and incentives used in Hungary for improving domestic and international competitiveness of SMEs.

For providing a comprehensive picture with practical, useful information, the organizers invited number of leading experts from ministries (Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of National Development, Prime Minister's Office), from National Bank of Hungary (NBH) and Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Directors of background institutions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – such as the Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA), EXIM and the Hungarian National Trading House – also presented the SME related activities of their organizations. As Germany is the largest investor and trading partner of Hungary, a meeting with the Head of Economy Section of the German Embassy in Budapest was organized for the delegation. Providing a business point of view on start-ups, competitiveness and cross border cooperation of SMEs, associate professors from Corvinus University of Budapest and Edutus College together with an expert from Design Terminal were also invited to hold lectures for the participants.

The professional program covered a wide range of topics, including state policies, management of EU funds, taxation system, economic development, international competitiveness, as well as economic diplomacy, with the aim of sharing Hungarian experiences in these areas. The delegates had the opportunity to visit the ministries, the NHP and the Embassy of Germany in Budapest and the IFAT hosted the remaining lectures. Participants listened to 3-4 presentations per day.

### **Warsaw & Lublin, 29 November – 5 December**

**Participants:** Valeriu Iasan, Svetlana Staver and Sandu Samatailo, the Agency of Intervention and Payments in Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova

The visit to Poland was organized jointly by the Center for Eastern Studies in Warsaw and Institute of East-Central Europe in Lublin. It should be noted that the important role in the organization of stay was played by Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau, and in particular by councilor Joanna Bojko. The main topic of the visit were the issues related to the support of agricultural development, including among others methods of obtaining credits for the agri-food sector (inc. food processing and storage) and technical aspects of servicing development aid dedicated for agriculture development.

The official program of the visit began on Monday (30 November) when the delegation conducted a meeting with Waldemar Sochaczewski, Director of the International Cooperation Office in Agricultural Market Agency, and former advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova on behalf of the European Union and the UNDP. During the meeting various topics were raised including (among others) the problems with obtaining external financing by Moldovan farmers and impact of prolonged political crisis prevailing in Moldova on the development of the agricultural sector in the country. Issue of the role of the state in facilitating contacts between Moldovan farmers-investors and foreign manufacturers of agricultural machinery as well as processing and storage equipment was also discussed. Then, the delegation held a meeting with analysts of the Center for Eastern Studies (OSW), during which, among others, the impact of corruption on the functioning of Moldovan structures responsible for the development of the agricultural sector and its financing was discussed. The meeting was chaired by Kamil Calus, head specialist on Moldova in the OSW. The first day of the visit ended with working dinner with HE Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Poland Iurie Bodrug, during which he shared with delegates his knowledge about the perception of the key problems of Moldovan agricultural sector in Poland.

On the second day of the visit (1 December) Moldovan delegation traveled to Lublin. Immediately after arrival, the guests met with Robert Żyśko and Jacek Warda from the Department of Strategy and Investors Service Office of the City of Lublin, who presented the strategy of Lublin in the national context, and then held a lively discussion on how to draw up such strategies for the other cities (in Moldova). The next part of the visit to Lublin was a tour around the Old Town and to the Lublin Castle followed by the working dinner which was attended also by representatives of the City of Lublin, Lublin Voivodeship Marshal's Office and the Catholic University of Lublin academics . On the same day evening Moldovan guest attended the Great Gala held within the premises of Lublin Philharmonic on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Lublin Business Club. Gala was an opportunity for the Moldovan visitors to establish contacts and hold discussions with representatives of local business (including Andrzej Kita - soon-to-be Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Lublin) and to become familiar with the model of functioning of business clubs in Poland.

In the morning, December 2, there was a meeting with Dorota Skwarek from the Regional Policy Department of the Marshal Office of Lublin, who familiarized Moldovan delegation with the way the provinces in Poland operates in the European context and referred to the development plans of the Province of Lublin, including cross-border cooperation. After that the delegation held several hours long meeting with representatives of the local companies producing agricultural machinery: Sipma, Ursus and Maszyny Rolnicze Batyra.

On the fourth day of visit within the premises of the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) Moldovan delegation took part in a seminar with representatives of ministries and institutions dealing with issues related to development credits servicing, including those dedicated for agriculture. Among them: Arkadiusz Goc from the Department of Guarantees of the Ministry of Finance, Elżbieta Bodio - Deputy Director of the Department of Promotion and Bilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy and Przemysław Zasieczny - head of the Department of servicing the liabilities and receivables at Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego. The seminar was also attended by Rafał Sadowski, an OSW analyst at the Department of Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova.

The meeting was also attended by Vlad Nastase specialist for Economic Affairs in the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Warsaw.

On the last day of stay Moldovan guests paid a visit to Mazovian Agricultural Advisory Centre (MODR). During the meeting Wojciech Rzewuski, deputy director of the Centre explained to the members of the delegation the essence of the functioning of the Agricultural Advisory Centers both in Warsaw and across the country. He discussed the scope of its tasks and presented methods used by the Centre to help farmers (including through assistance in preparing business plans and obtaining financing). Meeting proved that setting up a system similar to the Polish Agricultural Advisory Centers in Moldova could have a positive impact on the development of agriculture in this country as it would make it easier for the farmers to implement new investments and production technologies. At noon, the Moldovan delegation participated in a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The discussion, which was led by Monika Tyska - Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department - was devoted to a broad spectrum of issues related to the role of international cooperation in supporting the development of agriculture and its modernization. Agnieszka Szelałowska, director of the Department of Finance, familiarized Moldovan delegates with technical aspects of carrying out the state procurements among foreign producers willing to provide agricultural technology and equipment to the Moldovan market. Agnieszka Wojciechowska, head of the Department of CIS countries in the ministry also participated in the discussion. Opinions expressed by Dorota Śwircz from the Polish Exporters Association was very important as well for the Moldovan guests, as they could gain knowledge about the problems that affects foreign companies on the Moldovan market. The last item on the agenda of Moldovan delegates was a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which the guests met with representatives of, among others, Department of Development Assistance, Eastern Department and Economic Cooperation Department.

### **Bratislava, 1 – 5 February 2016**

***Participants:*** Radu Rogovei, Deputy Head of Road Development Department; Andrei Slanina, Senior Consultant of Road Transport Department and Sergiu Vatamaniuc, Senior Consultant of Road Transport Department

The study visit of Moldovan civil servants was organised by the Central European Policy Institute, Slovak Foreign Policy Association and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic.

The seminars were divided into two parts: practical and theoretical. Most of the theoretical lessons took place at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic. They focused on various topics, e.g. the Slovak Republic within the European Union, the plans for sustainable mobility, preparation processes, the cycling transport development in the Slovak Republic, public transport financing by EU funds, information on the projects, legislation in the Slovak Republic, experience with granting of EC vehicle type-approval, the road technical inspections, bus transport and business in taxi services. Furthermore, other seminars were held at the National Council of the Slovak Republic with focus on a brief overview of the Accession Negotiation Process of the Slovak Republic to the EU. Moreover, the experts have visited several laboratories, namely the Transport Research Institute in Žilina, Technical vehicle inspection (SLOVDEKRA) and the Institute of Transport Technology and Engineering Design at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Finally, the representatives from Moldova met with the representatives of the International Visegrad Fund and exchanged their perspectives of the programme and several practical suggestions in order to further improve the

programme. The seminars have successfully covered all topics which were in details discussed with the Moldovan representatives in advance.

The participants have expressed their satisfaction with the level of seminars, speakers, face-to-face meetings with professionals and visits at the laboratories in Bratislava and Žilina. In particular, they have acquired important information in terms of EU harmonisation and EU acquis through the seminars and informal discussions at the Ministry of Transport. The obtained knowledge will be eventually presented, discussed and implemented at the Ministry of transport and road infrastructure of Moldova as well as country's legislative. Moreover, discussions with the businessmen working in the transport industry have helped them to understand the advantages and disadvantages of Slovakia's membership in the European Union and more importantly the opportunities which Slovak businessmen have gained since 2004. Particularly, the guests have expressed their interest in hearing the possible solutions of problems which are similar to current difficulties in Moldova. Through the seminars at the universities, the guests have learnt that the membership in the EU has represented the advantage not only to businessmen but also to universities. All universities and their laboratories were involved in various EU projects which have resulted in international recognition and even more possibilities. The experts from the Ministry were particularly interested in a possible cooperation between Slovak and Moldovan universities. Finally, the speakers, businessmen, researchers and other participants were kindly surprised by the participants' activity and acquired knowledge of the Community acquis.

### **Feedback from participants**

Concerning the program, the participants expressed their contentment with the whole composition of the visit, above all with visiting various range of institutions, beginning with official governmental, ministerial and parliamentary bodies, going further into various think-tanks.

The participants have recommended to continue with the Civil Servants Mobility Programme as the seminars and meetings have met their expectations. Moreover, the experts have recommended to offer such opportunity to other colleagues either from Moldova or other EaP countries and even increase the number of participants to 4-5 per each study visit. Feedbacks received from the delegates showed that the program also provided a unique opportunity for them to learn from each other. They were open for building long-term professional relationship with the organizers too.

Also, some participants (namely those who visited Slovakia) have suggested to make the study visits as a more complete package, i.e. the representatives from one Ministry would visit all V4 countries in order to obtain experience and practical information from other V4 countries and therefore share the comprehensive knowledge with their colleagues in details.

Other recommendations to the main organizer/IVF:

- It would be very helpful to develop a concise *written concept* on the Civil Servant Mobility Program. Such a concept will be helpful especially while addressing potential speakers and lecturers.
- In practice some delegates would like to save money from their daily allowance and complain about the catering. Furthermore, visiting different institutions is more complicated and time consuming than hosting the delegations and the lecturers in a meeting/conference room. Therefore, it would be useful to increase the size of the expense of catering and at the same time to reduce the daily allowance in the budget.
- The CSMP is usually a single event for the participants and there is no information on follow-up. Introducing a mechanism for aftercare would help to establish long-term partnerships between the hosts and the delegates.