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Closing event of the EU project “Inform, Empower and Act!”

*Venue: Hybrid format
Digital Park (tbc) and
Online via Zoom
Broadcasted online by [Privesc.eu](https://privesc.eu)
Date: 25 January 2022*

The project is co-funded by the European Union and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V.

ABOUT THE CLOSING EVENT – GENERAL REMARKS

The Event will mark the official closing of the project “Inform, Empower, Act. Civil Society for good budgetary governance in Moldova” funded by the European Union and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and implemented by the Independent Analytical Center “Expert-Grup” as lead applicant, in cooperation with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) and the Eastern European Studies Centre (EESC) from Vilnius, Lithuania.

The main objective of the event will be to present the main achievements and lessons learned of the project, as well as to discuss the challenges and opportunities for ensuring the sustainability of the action. In this regard, the event will consist of three panels. In the first panel, the project team and partners will discuss the main achievements, success stories, as well as lessons learned from overcoming various challenges related to budgetary participation, community engagement and policy advocacy, especially on the background of the “coronacrisis” and political changes. Also, in this panel, the independent final evaluation report will be presented, which will serve as an analytical and evidence-based background for these discussions. The second panel will be more visionary, as the participants will discuss about future of budgetary participation in Moldova, given the experience of the project discussed during the first panel. Namely, there will be discussed opportunities for ensuring the sustainability of the action through institutionalization of project tools (e.g. participatory budgeting instruments) and undertaking the ownership by LPAs and/or CSOs over the tools and activities implemented throughout the project. The third panel will be dedicated to the discussions among main donors and development partners about their plans to work on issues related to participatory budgeting, which will open the floor for discussing the ideas about ensuring the continuity of the project.

The event will gather project regional partners and beneficiary LPAs, but also policy makers, local public authorities (LPAs), civil society organizations (CSOs), donor community, opinion leaders and academia in order to engage in strategic dialogue on fostering the budgetary transparency, participation and inclusiveness in Moldova. The event also welcomes stakeholders from other countries, mainly from Central and Eastern Europe, in order to share their practical experience and lessons learned after the implementation of various tools and approaches of budgetary participation – insights that could inspire the relevant stakeholders in Moldova in this regard as well as anchor them towards the right directions in terms of implementation of budgetary participation mechanism.

Last, but not least, similarly to the annual forums on budgetary participation, the event will facilitate the formulation of policy recommendations, based on the panel discussions, on promoting various tools and approaches of budgetary participation. It will also serve as a platform for policy advocacy aimed at promoting the necessary policies and reforms in this regard, taking into account the project results and experience of the project partners and stakeholders from other countries.

II TARGET AUDIENCE

STATE INSTITUTIONS

- Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and, in particular, the Parliamentary committees „Economy, Budget and Finances” and „Control Commission of Public Finances”
- Government of the Republic of Moldova
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Economy
- Local Public Authorities that were selected as beneficiary of the project (20 LPAs from North, Center, South and Gagauzia regions of Moldova (i.e. Bălți, Soroca, Drochia, Sîngerei, Florești, Strășeni, Călărași, Rezina, Telenești, Șoldănești, Cahul, Cimișlia, Leova, Cantemir, Sălcuța commune, Ceadr Lunga, Vulcănești, Baurci commune, Tomai commune, Gaidar commune)).

CIVIL SOCIETY

- Regional partners of the project (CSOs “AZI”, “Caroma Nord”, “Contact”, “Habitat”, “Institute for Rural Initiatives”)
- CSOs that are active in the area of participatory budgeting (e.g. IDIS Viitorul, Transparency International)
- Members of the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- CALM

DONORS’ COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- EU Delegation
- KAS
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- UN Country Team
- UNDP
- USAID
- Embassy of Netherlands
- GIZ
- Embassy of Germany
- US Embassy
- Embassy of Romania
- Embassy of Sweden
- Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova

OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

- Academia representatives (e.g. Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Institute of Economic Research of Moldova).
- Representatives of EU and other development partners funded projects implemented the regional and local levels
- Mass media (e.g. Radio Free Europe, Logos Press, Moldstreet, ProTV, Agora, TVR Moldova, Moldova 1, Canal Regional, etc.).

III. PROGRAMME

Working Language:	<i>Romanian. Translation is provided to Russian and English.</i>
Venue:	<i>Hybrid format: Digital Park (Mihai Viteazul St 15, Chișinău 2004) and via Zoom online platform</i>
08.30 – 09.00	<i>Registration of participants (Zoom room open)</i>
09:00 – 09.25	Welcome remarks <i>HE Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova (video message) – tbc</i> <i>HE Natalia Gavrilă, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova (video message) – tbc</i> <i>Dumitru Budianschi, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova (tbc)</i> <i>Dumitru Alaiba, Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (tbc)</i> <i>Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova</i> <i>Stephan Malerius, Deputy Head & Desk Officer Department EU Projects, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (tbc)</i> <i>Viorel Furdui, Executive director, Congress of Local Public Authorities (tbc)</i> <u>Moderator:</u> <i>Adrian Lupușor, Executive Director of Expert-Grup and Team leader of the project “Inform, Empower, Act. Civil Society for good budgetary governance in Moldova”.</i>
09.25 – 09.30	<i>Short break to invite the speakers of the next panel – Background video (gingle)</i>
09.30 – 11.00	Panel 1. Main achievements, challenges and lessons learned from promoting budgetary participation in Moldova
09.30 – 09.35	<i>Video intro about the key project results (3-5 minutes) - tbc</i>
09.35 – 10.55	Speakers: <i>Tatiana Savva, Coordinator of the project “Inform, Empower, Act. Civil Society for good budgetary governance in Moldova”, Expert-Grup</i> <i>Gheorghe Caraseni, independent evaluator of the project</i> <i>Valentina Casian, Mayor of Strasen (tbc)</i> <i>Tatiana Costev-Coșuleanu, Executive Director, Institute for Rural Initiatives (IRI) (tbc)</i> <i>Valeriu Rusu, Executive Director, Agency for Regional Development „Habitat”, regional project partner, Center</i> <i>Serghei Neicovcen, Executive Director, Center “CONTACT”</i> <i>Rodica Frecautanu, Executive Director, AO “Caroma Nord”</i>

	<i>Tatiana Seredenco, Executive Director, AO „AZI”.</i> Moderator: Iulian Groza, Program director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms Key questions/issues for discussion: • What were the main project activities and results? • What are the main conclusions of the independent project evaluation? • What tangible changes did the concept of participatory budgeting bring at the local level? • What are the key challenges for promoting budgetary participation at the local level, and how to overcome them? • Is there enough political leadership for promoting budgetary participation at the local level?
11.00 – 11.25	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.25 – 12.45	Panel 2. The future of budgetary participation in Moldova
11.25 – 11.30	<i>Video Voxes (3-5 minutes) – tbc</i>
11.30 – 12.30	Speakers: <i>Nicolae Dandis, Mayor of Cahul (tbc)</i> <i>Iurie Gangan, Mayor of Florești (tbc)</i> <i>Nina Cereteu, Mayor of Drochia (tbc)</i> <i>Stanislav Ghilețchi, Deputy Executive Director, IPRE</i> <i>Giovanni Allegretti, International consultant on budgetary participation</i> <i>Project coordinator, Comunitatea Mea</i> <i>Project coordinator, EU4Moldova</i> Moderator: Stas Madan, Program director, Expert-Grup Key questions/issues for discussion: • How to inspire the policy makers, LPAs and communities for a more transparent, open and inclusive budgetary process? • How can budgetary participation contribute to local development? What are the positive experiences and lessons learned so far? • What are the opportunities for donor coordination in order to further promote budgetary participation? • What Moldova can learn from relevant international experience in promotion of budgetary participation?
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.45	Panel 3. Donors and Government of Moldova on the future of

	Speakers: <i>Representative of the EU Delegation (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of the World Bank (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of USAID (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of the Embassy of Sweden (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of GIZ (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of the Embassy of Poland (tbc)</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Adrian Ermurachi, Team leader, Good governance and Rule of Law Program, IPRE <u>Key questions/issues for discussion:</u> • What are the plans of donors in Moldova with regards to public finances and budgetary governance, at the central and local levels? What actions are planned related to budgetary transparency and participation? • How to improve the donor coordination in this area? What actions are expected from the Government? What are the opinions regarding the creation of a donor coordination platform dedicated to budgetary governance? • What should be the role of LPAs and CSOs in the donors' projects on budgetary governance?
14.45 – 15.00	Key conclusions and the ways forward <i>Adrian Lupușor</i>, Executive Director of Expert-Grup and Team leader of the project "Inform, Empower, Act. Civil Society for good budgetary governance in Moldova"