

# The Association Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Iași for Romania – Republic of Moldova Border BRCT Iași

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2013 & JTS RO-MD 2014-2020



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# Presentation of the organization

In 2005, Regional Development Agency North-East and Regional Development Agency South-East set up the "Association Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Iași on Romania - Republic of Moldova Border" (BRCT Iași), an NGO with regional development objectives, established in accordance to the Law 315 / 2004 regarding regional development in Romania (art. 8, "1.1 The Regional Development Agencies within the regions where are Counties on the border can associate and form Regional Offices for Cross-Border Cooperation, for ensuring the administrative, financial and technical management for the Cross-Border Programmes").

***During the 2007 - 2013 programming period, BRCT Iași hosted the Joint Technical Secretariat for the JOP Romania - Ukraine - Republic of Moldova, and for the 2014 - 2020 period is hosting the Joint Technical Secretariat for the JOP Romania - Republic of Moldova. During 2007 - 2013, JTS supervised a number of about 100 projects (large and soft), with a total value of about 100 million euro.***



# Experiences, activities of BRCT Iași

- **Project management and monitoring:** a. Joint Technical Secretariat for the JOP RO-UA-MD 2007-2013 / JOP RO-MD 2014-2020 is working based on a Financing Contract, managed and monitored exactly as a Grant Contract under Territorial Cooperation Objective; b. monitoring of about 100 projects, totalling about 100 million euros.
- **Regional Development Strategic Planning / Programming:** Development of the Joint Operational Programme, from the Analysis part to the selection of objectives, priorities, measures. Very good experience in strategic planning, applying methodologies, prioritizing, defining indicators. Experience in RIS3 for North East Region of Romania.
- **Database of projects developed under JOP:** Strong network of local authorities and stakeholders in Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
- **Skilled and trained human resources.**



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# P2P PROJECTS 2007-2013

**P2P Cooperation was one of the three priorities of the Joint Operational Programme Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 (ENPI Objective 4 Promoting Local Cross Border People to People Actions).**

- Measures: Local and regional governance, support to civil society and local communities; educational, social and cultural exchanges.
- P2P projects were meant to involve activists, civil society and NGOs in diverse areas.
- Experience shows that the external EU border is often seen as a barrier to co-operation at the local level; however, the private entities and local administrations across the external border with the Republic of Moldova persistently tried to overcome the difficulties related to the border and address common challenges on an appropriate scale.

**The thematic of the P2P projects developed within the Joint Operational Programme RO – UA – MD 2007-2013 is very diverse:**

- Health and social services
- Education and training
- Climate change and diversity
- Cultural heritage and arts
- Social inclusion and equal opportunities
- Labor market and employment
- Institutional cooperation and cooperation networks
- SMEs and entrepreneurship
- Common identity



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# Success Stories: 1. Identify the value

Title of the action and acronym	Identify the value!
<b>Number and title of the priority</b>	Priority 3 : People to People Co-operation <i>Measure 3.1.</i> Local and regional governance; support to civil society and local communities
<b>Name of the applicant</b>	Alături de voi România Foundation
<b>Partners</b>	Ecoul Cernobilului Foundation
<b>Total duration of the action</b>	18 months
<b>Total cost of the action</b>	149,970.00 EUR
<b>Main activities</b>	<p><i>Group of activities 1</i> – Project management, coordination and communication activities</p> <p><i>Group of activities 2</i> – Establishment of two vocational therapy workshops;</p> <p><i>Group of activities 3</i> – Functioning of the vocational therapy workshops;</p> <p><i>Group of activities 4</i> – Promoting the service in the community</p>
<b>Estimated results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two vocational therapy workshops functional with Ecoul Cernobilului Foundation</li> <li>- 40 disabled young people from Republic of Moldova acquired professional abilities in one of two fields: computer use of manual book-binding;</li> <li>- 20 disabled youths from Republic of Moldova and Romania have developed abilities in fields such as arts and crafts, painting and book-binding within the creation camp developed;</li> <li>- Increased cross-border impact through project implementation;</li> </ul>



# Success Stories: 1. Identify the value

Identify the value – Alături de Voi România Foundation, Romania, and the partner from Republic of Moldova implemented an action oriented at promoting the service of vocational therapy into the community. Through the project “Identify the value”, two vocational therapy workshops- computer use and manual book-binding- were replicated within the Ecoul Cernobilului Foundation, MD, partner in the project.

- The two vocational therapy workshops established in Chisinau- Republic of Moldova allowed 60 disabled young people acquire professional abilities in one of two fields: computer use and manual book binding. The action contributes to the objectives of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova, falling within the measure 3.1, support to civil society and local communities, while promoting the principle of equal chances of the beneficiaries with HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities.
- The team of the Republic of Moldova partner managed to improve the essential skills related to the service of vocational therapy in Republic of Moldova, ensuring the first steps toward the development of services of social economy. This is particular relevant for the programme area, since 5% of the population in Republic of Moldova have a disability, while approximately 13,000 invalids are children and young people who have not yet turned 18.
- The project had directly contributed to the development of an unique service in Chisinau, primary for the social and professional integration of disabled people, a service that can be further developed through the establishment of other workshops in fields such as tailoring, decorative objects etc, just like the Romanian project leader developed in time. The community awareness of the importance of cross border cooperation, with direct results for the groups at risk, was increased through the action.

As a conclusion, the project Identify the value of the Romanian project leader replicated a successful programme in Romania with clear results in Republic of Moldova; over 60 young people, HIV/AIDS infected or with other disabilities, managed to acquire new skills and abilities in different fields in order to become employable and autonomous. The investment in young disabled people represents an investment for the future with great cross border impact, while also laying the ground for the future social economy in the cross-border area.



# Success Stories: 2. The charm of the Theatre

The title of the action	The charm of the Theatre
<b>Number and title of Priority</b>	Priority 3 “People to people co-operation” Measure 3.2. Educational, social and cultural exchanges;”
<b>Name of the applicant</b>	Lipovăț Local Council, Romania
<b>Partners</b>	Soroca District Council, Public institution, Republic of Moldova
<b>Total duration of the action</b>	18 months
<b>Total eligible cost of the action</b>	148.070,00 EUR
<b>Main activities</b>	GA 1- Project management, coordination and communication activities GA 2- Establishing the theatre groups, preparing a play to be stage and promoting the play by a caravan GA 3 – Organizing the cultural event in Republic of Moldova and in Romania
<b>Estimated results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two young amateur theatre groups (18 people)</li> <li>- 3000 people – members of local communities interested in artistic and cultural events held in common</li> <li>-30 people – project partners who will benefit from long-term strengthening of cross-border cooperation in the cultural field</li> <li>- Two plays performed in the partner communities</li> <li>- The border and local promotion of two young amateurs’ theatre groups</li> </ul>



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# Success Stories: 2. The charm of the Theatre

Lipovăț Local Council, Romania, and its partner Soroca District Council, Public institution, Republic of Moldova implemented an action entitled “The Charm of Theatre”, a project which established two amateur theatre groups and staged two plays performed both in Lipovăț and Soroca.

The cultural agenda created the opportunity for the two communities to come together, to learn about each other’s cultural values and to share their experience in organizing cultural events.

- 18 talented young people from Lipovăț village and from Soroca district made up two amateur theatre groups, each one coordinated by specialists, performed two plays (one apiece) in the partners communities. The project encouraged socio-cultural potential of the border area by fostering contact between Romanian and Republic of Moldova partners, eligible in the program.
- “The charm of Theatre” promoted theatrical art as a form of communication and social events between young people from both sides of the border by setting up theatre groups and by presenting theatrical events. The project encouraged young people to practice amateur acting and to raise young people’s interest for culture using drama and local art personalities’ example as an alternative to existing cultural offer.
- The project implementation allows cross-border collaboration in a new area-at the theater. The project seeks to cultivate youth's love for beauty, for art, for theater, thus diversifying the cultural offer. The aim is to attract young people to an area of knowledge of the cultural values across the border, driving the desire to get involved in the cultural life of communities and ensuring a permanent exchange of culture and tradition.



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# Success Stories: 3. Cross Border Pictures

Title of the action and acronym	Cross-Border-Pictures
<b>Number and title of the priority</b>	Priority 3: " People to people co-operation" <i>Measure 3.2.</i> Educational, social and cultural exchanges
<b>Name of the applicant</b>	Asociatia pentru Integrare si Dezvoltare Comunitara- INDECO, Iasi, Romania
<b>Partners</b>	Youth public organization " Molodyi Ruh", Public organization, Ukraine Centrul de Resurse pentru Adolescenti si Tineret, Public organization, Republic of Moldova
<b>Total duration of the action</b>	12 months
<b>Total cost of the action</b>	165 200,00 EUR
<b>Main activities</b>	GA1 Project management, coordination and communication activities GA2 Organizing the picture contest GA3 Unfolding the itinerant workshop ( developing abilities in image processing) GA4 Realization of the tourist guidebook GA5 Organizing the exhibition and results dissemination
<b>Estimated results</b>	-Stimulation of the creativity and competitiveness of at least 100 young people from Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova -Development of the abilities and competences in capture and processing touristy pictures of 21 young people from the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova cross border area -Consolidation of the partnership between the organizations involved implementation and assuring the activities continuity.



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# Success Stories: 3. Cross Border Pictures

The project's main idea was to support cultural exchanges for young people interested in photography and to stimulate the creative potential, while involving them in the tourism sector-promotion of the destinations and services. The overall objective was to develop the cultural exchanges between groups of young people interested in photography from the Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova cross border area and tourism promotion.

- There have been chosen young people interested in photography because they are communicative and eager to bound and have friends, they are creative and see the environment with different eyes and they need support and creativity stimulation. The local community and service sector in general and the tourism sector in particular are the final beneficiaries of this project.
- The tourism promotion can't be made without adequate materials. The guidebook drafted through the project was a real help for the touristy structures managers, promoting the same time the three countries as well as the young creators that provided the printed images. The activities of the project have improved the competitiveness and performance of young people interested in photography, strengthening relationships among young people interested in the same field and facilitating personalized cultural exchanges, contributing to the promotion of their creative potential.

In addition, this project has created a strong cross-border partnership that develops cultural activities, youth exchanges to promote young people with high creative potential.



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# Success Stories: 4. Eco-Agri-Net

<b>Title of the action and acronym</b>	Cross-Border Ecological Agriculture Network, “EcoAgriNet”
<b>Number and title of the priority</b>	Priority3 : People to People Co-operation <i>Measure 3.1.</i> Local and regional governance; support to civil society and local communities <i>Measure 3.2.</i> Educational, social and cultural exchanges
<b>Name of the applicant</b>	Public Association Cutezatorul
<b>Partners</b>	-Euroconcept, NGO, Botosani, Romania -Community Development Centre Iasi, NGO, Romania - Bucovinian Center for Development and Reconstruction, NGO, Ukraine - AGROinform Federation, NGO, Republic of Moldova -Local Public Authorities Association “Rural Nord”, NGO, Republic of Moldova
<b>Total duration of the action</b>	12 months
<b>Total cost of the action</b>	167 484,00 EUR
 <b>Main activities</b>	<i>Activity 1</i> – Project management, coordination and communication activities <i>Activity 2</i> – Sensibilization and information campaign <i>Activity 3</i> – Creation of cross-border network of trainers in ecological certification domain <i>Activity 4</i> – Promotion of European experience and innovations in ecological agriculture domain
 <b>Estimated results</b>	-Permanent network established among partners -A trainers cross-border network created in the field of initiating of the ecological certification -Improvements of PPs ' project management skills in cross-border projects, due to know transfer



# Success Stories: 4. Eco-Agri-Net

Public Association Cutezatorul (Republic of Moldova) and its 5 partners from Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine implemented an action called “Cross-Border Ecological Agriculture Network, “EcoAgriNet” contributing to the improvement of economic and environment situation of cross-border regions. The project focused on **developing ecological agriculture** among the local stakeholders from target area (Botosani, Iasi, Vaslui, Galati – Romania, 16 districts in Republic of Moldova; Chernivetska - Ukraine).

- Small-size farmers, NGO’s and Local Public Administrations represented the target group, having as final beneficiaries the population from rural localities in Republic of Moldova (around 500 000 people), in Romania (150.000 people from counties of Botosani, Iasi, Vaslui and Galati - Romania) and in Ukraine (100.000 people from Chernivetska oblast).
- Project activities involved **Trainer of Trainers** activities in 12 districts from Republic of Moldova and stressed the benefits of producers by using existing management and financial methods in this sector. The newly established Cross-Border Network of trainers provided expertise for the initiation of ecological certification process and the promotion of best agricultural practices, while identifying needs and barriers that the eco-producers must cope.
- The Cross-Border Network of trainers in ecological certification supports synergism between the agricultural business support organizations and farmers in cross border area, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project as well as the improvement of the socio-economic condition of the Programme Area.



# Succes stories: 5. A trans border approach to cultural heritage management and valorization

Title of the action and acronym	A TRANS BORDER APPROACH TO CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND VALORISATION
Number and title of the priority	Priority 3: People to People Cooperation <i>Measure 3.2. Educational, social and cultural exchange</i>
Name of the applicant	The National Arts Museum of Moldova
Partners	Municipality of Munteni de Sus, Local Authority, jud. Vaslui, Romania C.A.A.P., NGO, Moldova Moldavian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce, Moldova
Total duration of the action	12 months
Total cost of the action	170 700,00 EUR
Main activities	GA 1 - Project management, coordination and communication activities GA 2 - Project preparation: set up, kick off meeting and mobilization GA 3 - Implementation: training and internship GA 4 - Pilot initiatives in heritage valorization GA 5 - Institutional networking
Estimated results	-Cultural heritage sites (of the two countries) have been assessed, catalogues, valorized with improved conditions by the end of the project -One common pilot art exhibition organized during the second phase and presented at the finalization of the project at the Museum of Arts of Chisinau, together with the final conference - 30 experts in the field of art conservation, cataloguing, management and valorization trained and inserted in the national professional networks.



# Success stories: 5. A trans border approach to cultural heritage management and valorization

The **National Arts Museum of Moldova** implemented a project entitled “A trans border approach to cultural heritage management and valorization” in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova and Munteni de Sus, Romania, over a 12 months period.

The action launched a **trans border training programme in the field of conservation, cataloguing and valorization of the cultural heritage** for 30 experts from museums, cultural institutions and graduating students. The professional skills of the personnel from the museums and cultural institutions were improved through a comprehensive and integrated approach to the field of cultural and art heritage. The experts shared techniques of art conservation, restoration, cultural management, cataloguing, practices of intervention and environmental risk condition. On the other hand, the training programme integrated other dynamics related to the sector, such as the economic perspective, cultural tourism development, management of the public services and policies.

The strong partnership among different public cultural institutions and the fair participation of personnel and students from the two countries reinforced cross border educational cooperation as well as a multicultural environment in the programme. Relevant outputs included the assessment of the cultural heritage sites of the two countries, including cataloguing, and valorization with improved condition by the end of the project, common pilot art exhibition in Chisinau, Museum of Arts, cataloguing the art and heritage of the museums from Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) and Muntenii de Sus (Vaslui County, Romania).

At the local level, the project build up capabilities and opportunities to promote sustainable social development, in line with the major objectives of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013.



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# Lessons learned

CB dynamics - People to people project sought to integrate participation of various groups, such as youngsters, professionals and social activists, generating genuine cross border societies.

Human rights issues were also addressed by transferring the Romanian experience in terms of protected workshops for disabled people to Republic of Moldova, laying the grounds for the future social economy in the cross border area.

Culture and heritage provided strong cross border cooperation, mobilizing large groups of citizens and experts. Differences in cultural background of the beneficiaries proved to be less relevant than the will to promote art, culture, heritage or tourism.

There is a huge potential for successful people to people projects in the future; although the following CBC Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova does not have a ``dedicated`` P2P priority, there is still enough financing available for soft projects.



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# Conclusions

- Smaller scale CB projects increased local ownership of the Programme, offering tangible, visible results for the beneficiaries.
- Improving visibility for the results of the P2P projects generate grassroots support for European cooperation. Results of CB cooperation include new forms of tourism, entrepreneurship, commonly developed businesses networks, enhanced teamwork between professionals in social assistance, heritage, art and culture.

The border with Moldova is a typical example of Eastern periphery of the post Soviet space, where citizens and civil society are well ahead the political system in terms of ``Europeness``, short-circuiting the borders in various ways, including smart use of ENI financing.



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# Thank you!

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