



Visegrad Fund

V4-Moldova ECO-AGRO-FOOD – New prospect of agriculture

Moldova's example of shared kitchen offering to small producers a low threshold access to certified production facilities is of relevance to all V4 countries.

Best practices and systems supporting the local dynamism will be promoted in all partner countries. They connect farmers, agrifood producers and consumers with strong commitment on all parts. For consumers, they are a source of fresh, high-quality produce that is enriched by its history and the human relations involved, and acts to stimulate interest and educate people about food and the value of products.

Project implementation period: February – December 2022

Project partners:

- Slovenské centrum pre komunikáciu a rozvoj, n.o. / Slovak Centre for Communication and Development (SCCD), Slovakia, Applicant
- Katalyst – Agrifood Business Incubator, Moldova
- ZO ČSOP Veronica - Ekologický institut Veronica, branch: Centrum Veronica Hošťetín, Czechia
- Vox Vallis Development Association, Hungary
- Polish Chamber of Ecological Food, Poland

The project is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

Project outputs

1. **Study tour** - local farmers and agri-food producers from Moldova visit the White Carpathian region in Czech and Slovak Republic and learn about the cross-border regional mark "Tradition of White Carpathian" (*April – May 2022*)
2. **Training on European agri-food standards related to health, environment and fair trade** – training in Moldova to transfer best practices and experience of Polish agri-food producers on certified environmental food industry (*March – April 2022*)
3. **Training on environmentally friendly food packaging** – training in Moldova to transfer best practices and experience of Polish agri-food producers on innovative environmentally friendly food packaging as zero or low-waste packaging, compostable or edible packaging (*March – April 2022*)
4. **Practical workshop on innovative food products development** – training in Moldova to transfer best practices and experience from Slovakia on development of innovative healthy agri-food products without artificial additives like drying, fermentation, cooking spreads (*May 2022*)
5. **Water retention capacity of soil improved during workshop** – measures implemented on the demonstration plot of Moldovan partner to transfer best practices and experience of Hungarian

partner on applying agro-ecological methods for improving the quality of soils (*September – October 2022*)

6. **Soil structure improved during workshop** - measures implemented on the demonstration plot of Moldovan partner to transfer best practices and experience of Hungarian partner on applying agro-ecological methods for improving the quality of soils (*September – October 2022*)
7. **Handbook on new prospect of agriculture** published online – to present the possibilities to increase the environmental aspect of the rural economy based on the best practices of the project partners (*November 2022*)
8. **5 webinars streamed** – organized by each partner in local language for national public to promote agro-ecology and environmentally friendly food (*April – November 2022*)

Agroecology and related environmentally friendly agri-food industry represent a paradigm shift for agriculture in order to combat climate change, rebuild ecosystems and protect water, soil and all other resources that agricultural production depends on. Encouragement should be given to farmers who undertake to reconsider their practices and relationship with the ecosystem. Reducing chemical inputs, introducing more variety into rotation and conservation agriculture and preservation of biodiversity are steps towards an agroecological transformation of all farms in Europe.

It is often questioned, whether the agroecology and local chains have the capacity to feed the inhabitants of the world. In Europe, recent work by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) shows that it will be possible to feed all of Europe's population by 2050 through a gradual agroecological transformation, with a zero carbon emissions target.