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## EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY, CELEBRATED IN CHISINAU



*The results of several projects implemented within the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova 2014–2020, funded by the European Union, were presented during a unique interactive public event organized in Chisinau.*

*The event with the slogan "Overcoming the borders for increased cooperation" was organized on the occasion of the 10th edition of the European Cooperation Day by the Branch Office of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme, hosted by the Office for External Assistance Programs Management.*

*We invite you to find out in this newsletter how the European Cooperation Day 2021 was marked in the capital of the Republic of Moldova.*

### High officials, present at the event



The Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova H.E. Jānis Mažeiks inaugurated the event. “Each program supports the priorities of cooperation between the member states of the European Union and its neighbouring countries, whereas the results of the projects are visible throughout the country”.

His Excellency, the Ambassador, mentioned that the cooperation programmes bring improvements to areas such as education, culture, research, economic and social domains, security and regional development, giving as an example the inauguration of the museum at the Capriana Monastery and ongoing rehabilitation works of the Soroca Fortress.

Mr. Marius Ciprian Toth, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romanian Embassy in the Republic of Moldova, said during the event that the program contributes to the implementation of cooperation projects in various fields, emphasizing the importance of large-scale projects implemented by public institutions and recalling the example of SMURD, a project with a significant impact in the Republic of Moldova, but also mentioning the added value of smaller projects regarding the improving the lives of local communities on both banks of the Prut river. Mr. Toth also expressed his hope for the continuity of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the coming period.

The event was also attended by representatives of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, ministers and state secretaries from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, several beneficiaries of projects from both banks of the Prut river, as well as the representatives of donor community in the Republic of Moldova.



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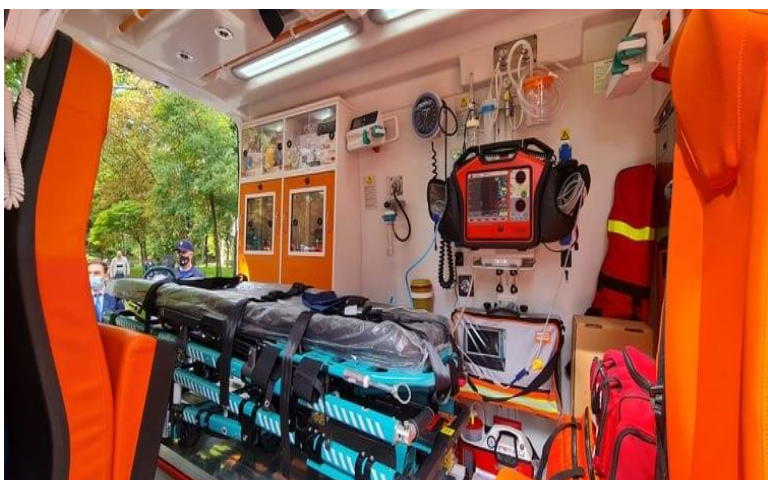
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## Presentation of equipment acquired with support from the European funds

Several beneficiaries of the cross-border cooperation projects, such as the departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, NGOs, public authorities, displayed during the event the results achieved, products and equipment purchased from the European funds in 21 projects out of about 80 supported by now.



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### Cycling race

The 10th edition of European Cooperation Day was also marked by a cycling race. It took place on the Chisinau–Capriana–Chisinau route and was organized in partnership with the [Club of Amateur Cyclists of the Republic of Moldova](#) and the [Chisinau Urban Cycling](#).



Around 50 amateur cyclists attended the race, taking part in a trip to the Capriana Monastery, where they had lunch and were acquainted with the ENCAMO project (2SOFT/2.1/76 code), implemented within the Joint Operational Programme Romania–Republic of Moldova 2014–2020.

With the financial support of the European Union, the first religious museum was set up at the Capriana Monastery, having an ecclesiastical heritage discovered after archaeological research.



The cross-border cooperation with the Moldova Museum Complex from Iași conducted, among others, to the joint use of high-performance immersive digital equipment, training and education for the heritage conservation and capitalization.



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**We celebrated together in a creative, fun, cheerful way!**



The event promoting cross-border cooperation included a series of interactive activities for adults and children, games and simulations, award competitions, sharing of information and promotional materials. In the specially designed place for creation, visitors gave free rein to imagination and painted the logos of this day on canvas bags.



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Full of energy, emotions and enthusiasm, participants at the event admired the show involving several police dogs from the General Inspectorate of Border Police and the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova. They displayed their skills, performing actions at the command of the instructors, rewarded with applause.



## Memories of the day in instant pictures

Almost 300 photos of the beneficiaries and visitors with the logos of the programme and the EU were taken and shared within the Selfie Box area, built in the media corner.



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### European Cooperation Day celebrated online

European Cooperation Day continued to be celebrated online by distributing videos containing success stories of Romania-Moldova cooperation projects, setting graphic images, issuing press releases, organizing interviews, testimonials etc.



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Victor Poede, officer for information, communication and promotion within the Joint Technical Secretariat of the JOP RO-MD 2014–2020 said: “The heroes of this day, of the European Cooperation, are the beneficiaries of projects, who worked in the adverse context of the pandemic. The results obtained showed that regardless of the conditions, the cooperation works.

All the project beneficiaries in the European Union faced difficult implementation environment.

The Managing Authority and all the structures of the program worked together with the beneficiaries to identify specific solutions, to adapt and to overcome obstacles, generated by the pandemic. We have proven that we are strong, and we will be so in the future. We have reasons to be optimistic. During this period, the Managing Authority, together with all the program structures, has been working hard in a joint fashion with all the partners from the Republic of Moldova in order to set up the new cross-border program for the period 2021-2027. There are clear financing prospects for some areas, including, among others, environment and green energy, education, health, tourism, and strengthening the capacities of local administrations. We are all motivated to benefit from these opportunities for the border area between the Romania and the Republic of Moldova”.



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*We thank all those who supported us in organizing the 10th edition of the European Cooperation Day in Chisinau. We hope you enjoyed your time with us during the event.*



The Branch Office of the Joint Technical Secretariat is hosted by the Public Institution “Office for External Assistance Programs Management”. We encourage you to contact us at the email address [romd.helpdesk@ogpae.md](mailto:romd.helpdesk@ogpae.md).

At the same time, in order to be up to date with all the news within the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova 2014-2020, you can access [www.ro-md.net](http://www.ro-md.net).



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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.