

Chisinau, November 16-19, 2010 – 36 public servants from different Moldovan institutions: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry; Centre for Legal Approximation; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Health; State Agency on Intellectual Property; State Chancellery as well as experts from Croatia, Netherlands and Belgium met in Chisinau within the framework of a specialized training programme "*Negotiating with the European Union: Agriculture and Rural Development*".

This was the fourth targeted training provided by United Nations Development Programme in 2010 for the Moldovan public authorities involved in the negotiations of Association Agreement. Previous trainings focused on: key qualifications in negotiating with the European Union; the harmonization of economic and trade policies, with over 123 public servants, participants in the negotiation process trained in negotiation, communication, and managerial skills.

The purpose of the trainings was to improve functional (negotiation, communication and managerial skills) capacities to enable the negotiators and their respective teams to deal with the institutional, procedural set-up of the European Union and the content subject to the Agreement (general and sector-specific EU knowledge).

"It is crucial that individuals involved in the negotiation process have strong technical and EU knowledge and understanding, capacities and specific skills, including, but not limited, to negotiation, knowledge of the *acquis communautaire*. Also important are functional skills such as analytical expertise or excellent planning capacities to effectively handle the large volumes of information regarding the national interests and positions. We will continue to support Moldova's aspirations for European Integration as well, and realize the importance of achieving closer cooperation in social, economic and cultural development" stated Ms Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova at the closing session of the event.

The event was organized within current UNDP project "Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration"(Project Component: Capacity Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the Negotiation Team in the process of negotiation of the Association Agreement with European Union – financed by the Swedish International Development Agency).

The project has the overall objective of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration so that it can exercise its functions in a more efficient manner, operate transparently and fulfill its European Integration commitments. The project component (Capacity Development of Moldovan Public Authorities for European Integration) is aiming to develop capacities of Moldovan institutions in relation to EU Integration, with immediate focus on negotiating the Association Agreement with the European Union and implicitly its implementation. Assistance is focused on: creation of the appropriate institutional capacity within the Moldovan public administration; strengthening the national negotiation and expertise individual capacity; development of the implementation capacity.

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