

Summary of the results of the project implementation

E DUrabil! Engaging the community in supporting education

The major goal of the project was to strengthen local capacities that support educational reforms in the Republic of Moldova. The approach combined the research and the applicative-experimental dimensions. The project focused on: building capacities of local initiative groups that would act locally to increase the quality of education; assessing the impact of socio-educational interventions; promoting experiences in the reform of education by engaging community members.

The actions of the project were aimed at strengthening the activism of the members of four rural localities: Bădragii Vechi (Edinet), Fîrlădeni (Căușeni), Sireți and Lupa Recea (Strășeni). The localities benefited from support in several dimensions: identifying and building teams of community members (Local Initiative Groups - LIG) who have the potential of informal leaders; training of LIG members within thematic seminars dedicated to the methodology of elaboration and management of community projects, to the ways of accessing of direct funds and obtaining financing sources; developing and implementing by LIG of mini-projects meant to help solve socio-educational problems identified in each locality, with the financial support of the project; using of Photovoice as a participatory action strategy.

The problems identified in the four localities were partially solved by implementing the mini-projects:

- Developing opportunities for the socio-educational integration of children in the village of Lupa Recea;
- Promoting aesthetic education and harnessing the local cultural heritage in Fîrlădeni;
- Harnessing the potential of community members by organizing activities on the topics of ecological education and career guidance in the village of Sireți;
- Promoting a healthy way of living through the Education and Sports Center in the village Bădragii Vechi.

Strengthening of activism was achieved through the process of continuous facilitation, assistance, guidance, support and promotion of initiative groups and capacity building at local level. Implementing the provisions of the mini-projects had an impact on the professional orientation of young people by creating circles of interest, open to a wider and larger audience with respect to gender, social status, cultural status, etc.

The project has succeeded in sensitizing local public authorities to create opportunities for supporting education at the local level and increase the socio-performance of the school. At community level, the sustainability of the project results is based on: the creation of structures for the governance of initiatives (NGO "Center for Education, Communication, Development and Creativity Sireți"; NGO "Pro Femina", Fîrlădeni, Căușeni; The Association of Parents and Teachers from Bădragii Vechi; NGO "Viitor Plus", from Lupa Recea); the creation of functional partnerships with educational institutions and public authorities; the elaboration of strategies for the development of the aforementioned associations; harnessing the potential of locals who left their communities with the purpose of guiding the careers of young people; the promotion of the products manufactured, of the activities of the workshops etc. At the inter-community level, the project has a positive impact on sustainable development by creating communication platforms between the initiative groups, making a name for the organizations at the district or republican level and obtaining financing for projects.

Under the conditions of lifelong learning and continuing education, the role of non-formal and informal education rises considerably. The socio-educational actions accompanied by sociological research allowed a better understanding of the mechanisms and factors that influence the activism of community members and their commitment to supporting education. The scenarios of intervention appropriate to the Moldovan socio-educational reality, already tested, can be reproduced in other localities as well. The integrated analysis of qualitative and quantitative data allowed to ascertain that the project achieved its targets, with the result assessment being positive.