

A network for regional development between Latvia and Moldova

Support the Latvian regional planning approach in Moldova, paying special attention to the development of local public-private partnerships and business promotion.



The partners



Association «Latvian Rural Forum» (LRF) and member organisations
www.lf.partneribas.lv



Association «Pro Cooperare Regionala» (ProCoRe)
www.procore.md



How did it start?

In spring 2014, the *Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia* invited «Latvian Rural Forum» to enrich already existing cooperation between Latvia and Moldova.

«Latvian Rural Forum» found «Pro Cooperare Regionala» as the most suitable partner from the ones suggested by the Northern Development Region in Moldova.

A productive cooperation between both organisations created links between public administrations and NGOs as well as between members and rural inhabitants in Latvia and Moldova.

Why cooperate?

- **Expand international contacts**, making possible both to raise the resources available for the activities and to **learn from each other**.
- The exchanges provide **new ideas and inspiration** for further work with the associations' target audiences.
- Develop a **better understanding of the functioning of society and the development prospects** for both the European Union and Eastern Partnership context.
- Practice-based information about the Latvian experience has helped colleagues from Moldova to see the positive and negative aspects of everyday work in the EU context. This is important when thinking about Moldova's integration into the EU.

Activities:

June 2014 - November, 2015: **Regular exchange of experiences in travelling workshops in Latvia and Moldova** (9-16 participants in each group), seminars, visits of experts.

October 2015: the **Day of Latvia** and the **Forum of Economics** will be organised in Moldova with the support of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Rural schools – multifunctional centres

This initiative looks for new, creative and effective ways of taking advantage of existing resources in rural schools (teachers' knowledge, buildings, materials etc.) to create meeting and activity places for all local community members.

Moldovan partners are looking for ways to find solutions in the frame of existing legislation to use rural schools' resources in more effective ways and also thinking about legislative change.

Latvian partners have the chance to revise their previous work in this field, learn how to present themselves and gain new ideas for community work.

Internships are planned in the project partners to promote the development of such multifunctional centres and the effective use of resources at national level and in the frame of future cooperation.

Cooperation agreement

On 18 December 2014, a cooperation agreement between the «Latvian Rural Forum» and the Moldovan «Pro Cooperare regionala» was signed to continue the NGOs' long-term cooperation in promoting civil dialogue, community development, rural development and regional development.

The cooperation agreement aims at promoting activities such as:

- **Exchanging knowledge and experience**, promoting new activities and capacity building;
- **Strengthening the cooperation in areas of common interest and supporting new initiatives and projects** between the NGOs, their members and partners;
- **Promoting and supporting public-private partnerships working on community-led local development** principles for the development of rural areas and small towns;
- Supporting the parties' **involvement in international activities**, helping the parties to identify areas for strategic cooperation;
- Joint conferences, seminars, meetings, study visits and other measures;
- ... **promoting sustainable community development in rural areas and small towns in Latvia and Moldova.**



“Participation in this cooperation project gives us a unique opportunity to share experience and find potential partners for further projects at local level between LAGs.”

“It's a great chance to see how public and private partnerships work, what are the principles and challenges for cooperation on local level and how can we do it better.”

