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“Civic monitoring of the Police reform in Moldova” Project

The Republic of Moldova needs profound reforms in many areas. One of these areas includes the activity of the internal affairs bodies and Police as institutions mandated to protect the rights of the people. From a historic perspective, the reforms in this area have undergone a long-lasting process of restructuring and modernization. On December 18, 1990 the Parliament adopted the Law on Police, followed by the adoption in 2010 of the Government decision "For the approval of the Concept of Reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs" - the first public policy document that identified the main problems of the internal affairs system. Some of these issues were addressed through the adoption in 2012 of the Law no. 320 on police activity and police status. Still, a lot of problems remained to be tackled and therefore, on May 12, 2016 the Government adopted the Police Development Strategy for 2016-2020.

In the same context, in 2016 the EU Delegation and the Government of the Republic of Moldova signed a financing agreement for the “Support for police reform”, including a complementary support for Police reform watch.

The project “Civic monitoring of the Police reform in Moldova” implemented by Promo-LEX Association is built upon the watchdog role of the civil society organizations during the implementation of the reforms, as well as on the citizens’ right to participate in the decision making process. The action is consistent with the EU Budget Support Programme for the above indicated strategy. The proposed action has analogies in Moldova. Promo-LEX have earlier conducted the monitoring of the justice sector reform and have extensive experience in monitoring different reforms in the country.

The main objective of the action is to strengthen the accountability, efficiency and transparency of the Police Reform in the Republic of Moldova.

The **specific objectives** proposed for the achievement of the project goal are outlined below:

- 1) Civic monitoring and evaluation of the reforms and activities laid out in the Strategy of Police Development 2016-2020 and the EU Budget Support Programme 2017-2020 allocated for the implementation of the respective strategy;
- 2) Ensuring public transparency and accountability with regard to the process and outcomes of the Police Reform in Moldova;
- 3) Facilitating the increase of public trust in Police through capacity building, civic education, monitoring and outreach activities carried out by local NGOs as well as by Promo-LEX (through its nationwide network of monitors and local coordinators) around the targets/outcomes and good practices resulted from the implementation of the police reform.

The action also seeks to address two cross-cutting objectives:

- Safeguarding and promoting the transparent and efficient management of public funds and expenditures involved in the Police Reform;
- Ensuring the gender sensitiveness of the public policies proposed/adopted as part of the Police Reform through monitoring and advocacy instruments.



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The target group of the action is composed of the following bodies and institutions:

- General Inspectorate of Police,
- Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- Civil society organizations, including the local organizations,
- Media organizations.

First of all, the action will target the implementing authorities (Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Inspectorate of Police) that need not only direct, financial support for the implementation of the Police reform but also neutral external opinion on the milestones and achieved outcomes. The external monitoring of the Police reform will consolidate the capacities of the involved institutions, will identify the gaps and limitations encountered during the reform process but also will provide recommendations for the improvement of the reform strategies.

Similarly, the Government and the Court of Accounts, as supervisors of the reform process and of the budget allocated for the reform, as well as the European Commission and other donors need primary, credible information on the planned objectives versus achieved results.

The civil society organizations, including local NGOs and the media institutions, as implementation partners for the action, would require technical and financial assistance to implement different initiatives at the local level for the monitoring and information of the society about the objectives and outcomes of the police reform, thus contributing to the increase of public trust in police.

Moreover, the communicators in the police inspectorates and journalists, as direct responsible for the information transmitted to the public, would also benefit from the project activities for the improvement of their communication and collaboration related to the activity of police.

Given the short confidence of the society in the Police as an institution, it is expected that the main beneficiaries of the project would be the citizens, who will get objective information about the activity of the Police, the progress of the reform, but also will have the possibility to contribute or impact on the reform by taking part in the foreseen project activities. The policemen from the police inspectorates are also envisaged as beneficiaries of the project since they are supposed to be directly affected by the reform, but again, through the project activities, they will have the opportunity to express their opinions and suggestions on the progress of the reform.

Final beneficiaries:

- The Police reform implementing bodies and their employees;
- The society at large as beneficiaries of services provided by the Police.

The action timeframe is 36 months, from December 14, 2018 till December 13, 2021 with a total budget of 480000 Euro, and the EU contribution of 384000 Euro.

The project activities are structured in three components:

- ***The first component of the project*** is dedicated to the comprehensive monitoring of the Strategy of Police Development and of the EU Budget Support Programme, including of the public funds and expenditures related to the reform. As outputs, there will be produced 5 (semester based) monitoring reports and a final report. The reports will be produced by the core team experts and a team of 5 regional coordinators, thus ensuring a close monitoring of the reform results and impact at the regional level as well;



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- The reports will track the progress of the reform, will map the eventual gaps, weaknesses/limitations encountered during the reform process but also the opportunities for the improvement of the reform strategies. Upon necessity Promo-LEX will issue early warnings on possible policy shifts from the reform agenda. As for the impact, the Police reform monitoring will consolidate the capacities of the involved institutions and will offer to the EU and Moldovan authorities a credible tool for comprehensive and continuous assessment of the state of reform.
- **The second component** includes a series of 6 roundtables for the presentation and discussion of 5 semester based and one final monitoring report(s); a series of 9 debates (three events per year) with the participation of the General Inspectorate of Police, experts, CSOs and media on the targets, outcomes and reform process; an online platform (www.politia.monitor.md) for the interaction between citizens, Police and CSOs. The expected outcomes of these activities are the information of citizens about the progress of the reform, improved interaction between citizens and police and their contribution to the consolidation of the reform. The anticipated impact of these activities is the accurate, citizen's backed-up, complete and prompt implementation of the Police reform.
- The central activity of **the third component** is the sub-granting for actions of local CSOs and media institutions that are interested to monitor the police reform and further organise civic education and outreach activities based on their findings. The CSOs and media will be also encouraged to conduct investigations with regard to the management of public funds and procurements conducted at the regional/local level by the territorial inspectorates of police, as well as to address the gender aspects in the activity of police at the local level. A total amount of 80000 Euro will be offered as sub-grants during the project life (min. 8 – max. 16 sub-grants / from 5000 to 10000 Euro per sub-grant). In addition, Promo-LEX plan to organize three workshops for Police communicators and media representatives (journalists) on good practices for communication and exchange of information, as well as three nationwide campaigns meant to inform as many as possible citizens throughout the country about the objectives and outcomes of the police reform, thus impacting in the end the public trust in police as a professional institution that serve and protect the citizens.

Estimated results:

- A comprehensive methodology for the monitoring of the Police reform;
- 6 monitoring reports on the implementation of the Police reform;
- 6 roundtables for the presentation and discussion of the reports;
- 9 debates with the participation of the reform implementing partners and other stakeholders on the targets, outcomes and reform process;
- an online platform for the interaction between citizens, Police and CSOs;
- 80000 Euro offered as sub-grants during the project life (min. 8 – max. 16 sub-grants / from 5000 to 10000 Euro per sub-grant);
- 3 workshops for Police communicators and journalists on good practices for communication and exchange of information;
- 3 nationwide information campaigns about the objectives and outcomes of the police reform.

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