



# ESTONIAN-MOLDOVAN CO-OPERATION PROJECT

“The introduction and implementation of community-led local development (CLLD) principles in Moldova”



- Introduction of LEADER/CLLD for different stakeholders in Moldova
- Establishment of two pilot LAGs in Moldova (Stefan Voda and Ungheni regions)
- Preparation of local development strategies for the pilot LAGs

## NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT LAGS AND PROMOTE LEADER/CLLD IN MOLDOVA

- capacity building for 2 LAG's – trainings and counselling to enhance their sustainability and financial capabilities
- advocate for the national and international recognition of the LAGs and LEADER/CLLD to contribute into the Moldovan rural development
- negotiate with national authorities and international donors to find funding opportunities (including EU ENPARD program) for the LAG's to implement their strategies
- Support and facilitate co-operation related with LEADER/CLLD on national and international level, development of inter-territorial and transnational co-operation of the Moldovan LAGs

### Contacts of project partners:

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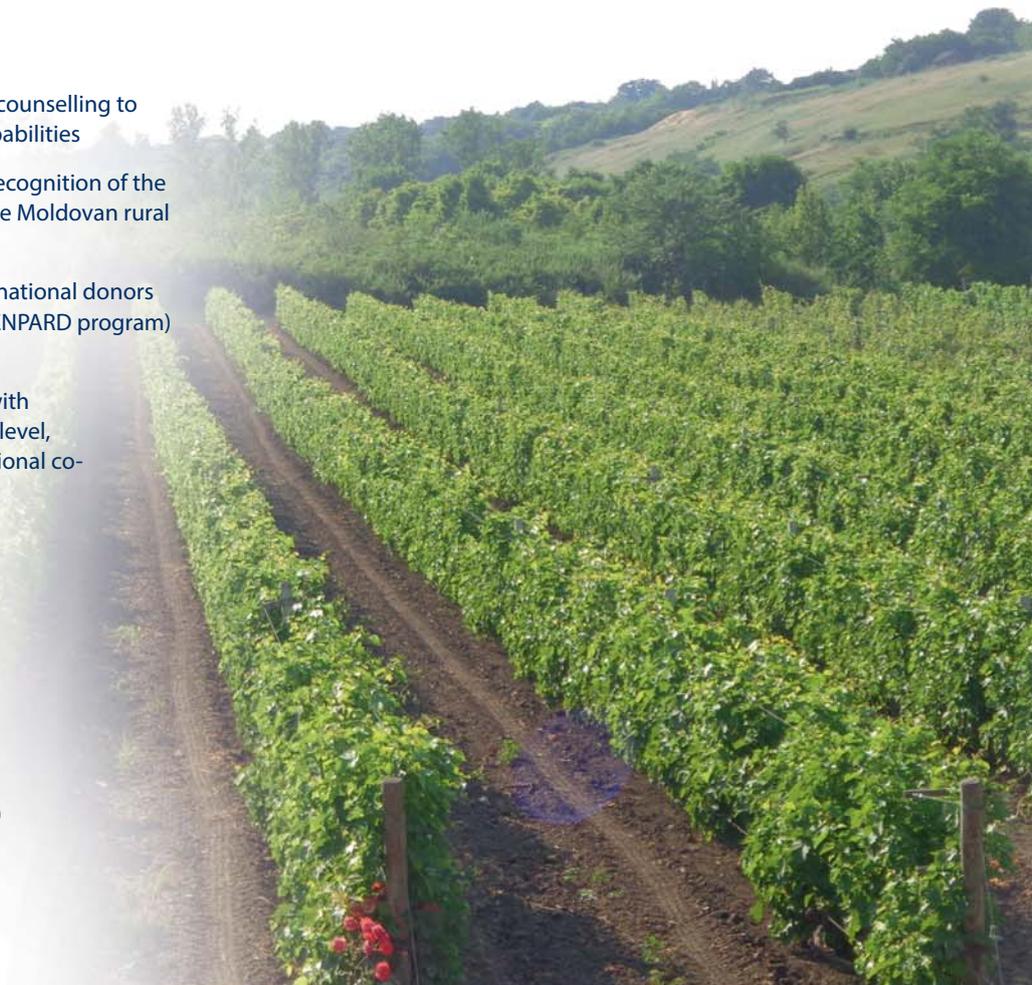
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## Local Action Group "Cula" (Ungheni)

The Cula LAG is situated near the Moldovan – Romanian border, it consist of 14 individual local governments, including 34 communes (villages and one town), with a total population of 23,013 inhabitants. LAG's area is characterized with beautiful hilly landscapes, large forests and plantations and unspoiled ground for organic farming. It's place where important national and international road pass by.

The total area of the LAG is 40,133 ha (or 401.3 km<sup>2</sup>), covering most of it with forests, forest strips, arable fields, pastures, multiannual plantations, vineyards and orchards. According to the official data, the area is considered a deprived area, and thus recognized by a Government Decision, which provided for special actions to improve the socio-economic situation and sustainable development of the localities.



### Strategic directions for LAG Sub-region CULA

**Objective 1.** Adopt a sub-regional development policy to restore the well-being and satisfaction of the local population. Establishing development goals and tools based on connections, common interests and sub-regional actors.

**Objective 2.** Defining development priorities and sub-regional benefits. Creating economic and social conditions for attracting private and public investment in problematic sectors. Increasing the competitiveness and the number of jobs for young people and involve the local population.

**Objective 3.** Applying measures to adapt communities to modernization, promoting integrated co-operation with international donor community. Creating viable business projects based on occupational and business niches that create sustainable growth mechanisms.

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## Local Action Group "Lunca Nistrului" (Stefan Voda)

The Lunca Nistrului LAG covers 7 territorial-administrative units in Stefan Vodă district with the total population of 20637 inhabitants and an area of 294.76 square km.

The Lunca Nistrului LAG is situated in the southeastern Republic of Moldova, close to Ukrainian border and it's resort town Odessa. The important share of LAG's area is agricultural land, including multiannual plantations - vineyard and orchards. The region is known by wine-growing companies, which are concentrated in this area in a large number. A large part of the wine-producing companies in the sub-region operate in the wine-growing area for the production of wines with protected geographical indication "Stefan-Voda".

### Main strengths of the area:

- Geographical location favorable to the development of the local economy.
- Proximity of the region to State border crossing points, which can facilitate trade in agricultural and agri-food products in the region.
- Sub regional localities enter the wine-growing zone with protected indications Stefan Voda. Most wine-producing enterprises are known in the country and abroad.
- Local traditions and experience in growing crops (vines, fruit growing, vegetable growing).
- The presence in the region of companies that carry out export activities and are recognized nationally and internationally.
- A number of specialized NGOs in the economic, social and cultural fields are active in the LAG area.

### Selection of planned activities of the LAG:

- promoting companies and environmental goods
- promoting local companies and production on the home markets of the partner LAGs
- elaboration and publishing of the Tourist Guide "Lunca Nistrului"
- organization of tourist festivals, fairs and other promotion events
- creation of a new joint tourist route with Ukraine and connection to the European tourist routes
- organization of 3 sports events with tourist valences (rural cycling race, Moldovan championship for grape harvesting and consumption of pies, etc.)

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