



2019

LED Moldova – Annual Report

www.led.md

April 2020

LED LIECHTENSTEIN
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Context

2019 was a challenging year for Moldova. The beginning of the year was very much dominated by the parliamentary elections. The process of forming a government took considerable time. And once in function, the government lost a vote of confidence and was replaced with another government after only five months of governing. This means that Moldova had three governments in one year.

This clearly affected the overall leadership. The government under premier minister Pavel Filip approved the country development vision *Moldova 2030*. The following government under premier minister Maia Sandu abrogated the Government Decision. Thus, the Strategy *Moldova 2030* was withdrawn from Parliament. The third government under Ion Chicu called for another round of consultations and review of the document, which should be approved in 2020.

Such frequent changes of leadership are a challenge, especially for an education system, which is facing many difficulties and is in the middle of considerable reforms.

The year 2019 was characterized by change on the political level of Moldova but also on the institutional level of LED Moldova.

LED Moldova

Change characterized the year 2019 for LED Moldova - both on the institutional and on the programmatic level.

The LED Head Office in Liechtenstein has recruited new staff members, which brought in new inputs and new views. The new desk officer for Moldova visited Moldova in March 2019 in order to meet with some of LED's partner organisations.

The setting in the office of LED Moldova changed too. The separation of roles and responsibilities between LED and the Association Education for Development (AED) have

continued. AED is responsible for implementing projects, LED focuses on the donor function. With this functional division came also a physical separation. Thus, the LED team moved out from the joint office. As the mandate of the current Country Representative is due to finish at the end of 2020, LED Moldova decided to recruit a new member of staff very early, i.e. at the beginning of 2020 and moved to a new address.

Despite the changing leadership in the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, LED was able to get involved in various activities organized by the authorities. LED Moldova was part of the working group to provide feedback on the education chapter of the initial version of *Moldova 2030*. LED Moldova was invited to be part of the working group contributing to the *Torino Process*, a multi-stakeholder self-evaluation of the Moldovan VET system guided by the European Training Foundation. Such activities can be work-intensive; yet, LED Moldova considers such engagement as an important contribution to the governance discourse on education.

Coordination within the Vocational Education and Training Sector has again gained traction. Donors active in VET have again started to organize regular meetings to update each other on their plans and to voice issues of concern. LED Moldova welcomes this effort for better coordination and participated actively in these activities.

LED SUPPORT FOR MOLDOVA

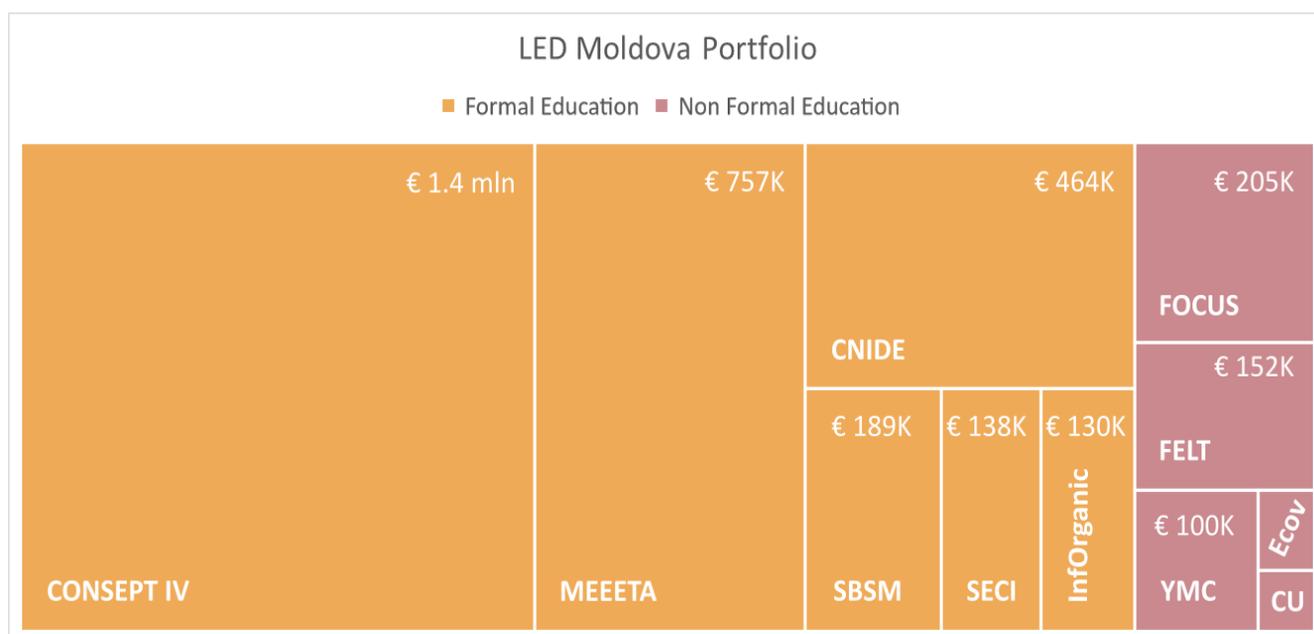
Strategy:

In autumn 2018, the Board of LED adopted a new support strategy for Moldova. The focus has been sharpened. In the centre are young people. In formal education, LED continues to support projects that aim at improving the attractiveness and the quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET). This component is complemented with support for non-formal education and for advocacy in education. LED supports non-formal education programmes for skills development that occur both inside and outside educational institutions and offer innovative, flexible and learner-centred delivery modes. As for the component on advocacy in education, LED intends to support advocacy work with a focus on strengthening the dialogue between the key stakeholders.

Naturally, it will take time to fully align the portfolio to this new strategy. However, already in 2019, some first concrete steps have been taken in line with the new support strategy. Thus, LED has decided to phase out some projects and new projects were set-up and approved.

Portfolio:

The portfolio of projects supported by LED in Moldova is published on the LED Moldova website. The graph below shows the project portfolio as of end of 2019 with the active phase budgets. Several of the projects are in a 1-year pilot phase (SECI, InfOrganic, YMC).



CONSEPT: has started in 2008 and is already in its fourth phase - continuing to strengthen the quality of VET delivery. Currently the project works with 15 VET schools all over Moldova. The Technical University has successfully piloted the blended learning training on skill assessment for VET instructors. The collaboration with the Qualification Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has proven very fruitful. Qualifications on various VET levels have been elaborated. More test items for several occupations were developed. The VET student council has again confirmed to be an already established reflection body. Finally, the cooperation with the sector committee in gastronomy and light industry resulted in various joint activities. The project is implemented by AED. For details please visit:

www.aed.org/

MEEETA: entered its last year of the phase. After intense work on the entrepreneurship education curriculum, elaboration of learning materials, and teacher trainings, the project has successfully institutionalized the teacher training for entrepreneurship teachers in the VET system. With this, the education system is enabled to continue training teachers to improve their entrepreneurship teaching in VET institutions all over Moldova. In parallel, MEEETA has supported VET institutions to engage themselves in entrepreneurial activities - an endeavour with a big learning potential for all involved. In 2019, the project, implemented by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Business Support (CEDA), was externally evaluated. For more details on this project please visit www.ceda.md

Step-by-Step: has started a two-year consolidation phase in order to further strengthen its capacities to contribute to the improvement of early childhood and primary school education. The training facilities are improved, and the professional development course offer for teachers is accredited. Strategic cooperation with five teacher training institutes are established.

FOCUS: offered many young people from Soroca and surrounding villages a variety of awareness raising activities related to labour market inclusion and opportunities to increase their employability skills. Social workers assisted young people in their job search, but also in the hiring process and during the first months in the job. This project has ended with the year 2019.

Besides the ongoing projects, several newly LED-funded projects started in 2019 with many being in their pilot year - a year for exploring new approaches or ideas, testing new initiatives and preparing the ground for the full project:

InfOrganic: Together with our long-term partner AED, LED has decided to focus on the development of information materials for organic farmers. This was in part a result of the insights from the external evaluation of the completed project “EdAgri” that recommended to support organic agriculture. The organic agriculture sector in Moldova is still at an early stage. Given LED’s support strategy for Moldova and the will to engage in organic agriculture, InfOrganic brings these objectives nicely together. 2019 has started with a pilot year.

SECI - Solar Energy Competence Initiative: This new project also has its roots in previous projects in which VET schools training electricians were supported with small photovoltaic systems for training purposes. Renewable energy is (like organic agriculture) in a nascent stage in Moldova. At the same time, it is only a matter of time that renewable energy sources gain more importance in Moldova. The project aims at strengthening teaching competences for photovoltaic and solar thermal systems as well as for heat pumps. The project was approved as a 1-year pilot. The implementing partner is AED.

CNIDE - National Centre for Digital Innovation in Education (Future Classroom): In coordination with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research; *Orange Foundation* and the *Moldova Competitive Fund*, LED has approved a project focusing on capacity development of the Centre for Digital Innovation in Education - a newly created department in the *Pedagogical University Ion Creanga* in Chisinau. The project is implemented by the Foundation for the Advancement of Moldova (FAM) - a new partner for LED.

YMC - Youth Maker Club: There is a global movement of making and tinkering, i.e. experimenting with technology and learning by creating things. VET students are invited to engage with handcraft, electronics, 3-D printing or Raspberry Pi. Tekwill has the premises and capable human resources to organize maker activities. Therefore, LED entered a pilot year with the Association of ICT companies to explore ways of offering meaningful free-time activities for VET students.

Advocacy in Education: This new component of the revised LED support strategy was not covered with any project. Therefore, LED Moldova has launched a call for proposals and

selected an organisation, with which it will plan a project taking an evidence-based advocacy approach in the education sector. The planning of the inception phase is foreseen for 2020.

Social Entrepreneur Accelerator: This interesting small project will support social entrepreneurs to better market their products. Besides training inputs, the project plans to set-up a platform for social entrepreneurs to improve communication with potential clients. The project is implemented by EcoVisio and funded by *Finance in Motion* and LED.

Citizen Urban Academy: Another new partner is the young organization *Centre for Urbanism*. LED has funded a small project with this partner. The project invites young people to reflect on the meaning of public space - for whom is it and who decides what can be done to make public space better for the people living in this area? Citizenship in action.

Cross-Cutting Topics: Ecological considerations clearly have become much more accentuated with this beginning shift of the portfolio. Renewable energy, organic agriculture and support for social entrepreneurs are all elements of a more sustainable future. Gender is still under-reflected, not just in the portfolio. Gender remains therefore a topic to be addressed on a strategic level.

Key achievements



FINANCES

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|---|---------------|
| Total Budget for LED Moldova Office in 2019 (€): | 50'557 |
| | |
| Personnel | |
| Salaries | 17'765 |
| Social Contributions and Taxes | 4'004 |
| Personal and Organizational Development Activities | 4'488 |
| Coordination, Supervision and Documentation | 4'056 |
| Office Structure | |
| Rent | 8'888 |
| Office furniture, equipment (incl. Software) | 6'504 |
| Office running costs | 1'561 |
| Unforeseen | 2'401 |
| Total Expenses 2019: | 49'667 |

LED Moldova gets audited annually.

CONTACT

LED Moldova has moved to a new office.

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