

## Existing Moldova – Norway relations: an overview and the way forward for Norway-Moldova MIC

KS has identified two major hubs for community initiatives supporting Moldova in Norwegian municipalities.

1) In **Aust-Agder County** the humanitarian NGO Norge-Moldova (<http://norge-moldova.no/index.php>) mobilises communities in the following municipalities:

- Gjerstad (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjerstad>)
- Risør (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ris%C3%B8r>)
- Tvedestrand (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tvedestrand>)
- Vegårshei (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veg%C3%A5rshei> )

for humanitarian cooperation in Moldovan municipalities in Cimislia Rayon, notably the municipalities of:

- Selemet
- Cimislia

Risør municipality is currently in the process of deciding on establishing municipal cooperation with a Moldova municipality.

2) Several communities in municipalities and upper secondary schools in **Hordaland County** support the independent NGO Help Moldova (<http://www.hjelp-moldova.no/eng/>) which is active in humanitarian assistance – in particular for the visually impaired - in many parts of Moldova, including in Transnistria. Help Moldova also assists municipalities in improving kindergartens, e.g. kindergartens number 74 and 135 in Chisinau. In addition:

Radøy municipality (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rad%C3%B8y>) has since 1999 maintained relations with Crihana Veche municipality in Cahul Rayon, Moldova

Meland municipality (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meland>) through a 54 % ownership stake in MAKS (<http://maks.no/en/>) in collaboration with SIVA (<http://siva.no/?lang=en>) is committed to establishing special needs employment opportunities in Moldova. Chisinau has been suggested as a host municipality in Moldova.

Through grant MDA-14/0009 (<http://udtilskudd.regjeringen.no/#/nb/agreement?agreementNo=MDA-14/0009>) KS has received support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to jointly with CALM (<http://calm.md/index.php?l=en>) develop Municipal International Cooperation (Guidelines attached)

between Norway and Moldova. The following process for implementing this grant component has been agreed between KS and CALM:

- Q1 2015: Identify existing local government relations in the two countries
- Q2 2015: Invite these to country specific briefings and brain storming in CALM and KS respectively
- Q3 2015: Organise meetings between potential Moldovan and Norwegian partner municipalities in Norway
- Q3 2015: Organise workshop at KS for partner municipalities to jointly develop projects for grant funding
- Q4 2015: Submission of joint project proposals, assessment and approval of applications
- Q1 2016 – Q4 2017: Implementation of projects
- Q4 2017: Reporting, assessment of cooperation and project results

KS will invite relevant municipalities from the two counties of Aust-Agder and Hordaland to an information meeting ASAP. Following expression of interest to participate in Municipal International Cooperation in Moldova names of participating Norwegian municipalities will be communicated to CALM. CALM will in parallel undertake a similar exercise in Moldova giving priority to municipalities ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative\\_divisions\\_of\\_Moldova](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_Moldova)) from the two rayons Cimislia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimi%C8%99lia\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimi%C8%99lia_District)) and Cahul ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahul\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahul_District)), possibly also subdivisions from Chisinau (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chi%C8%99in%C4%83u>). After establishment of a list of participating municipalities, planning for prospecting partners to meet and to attend a Municipal International Cooperation workshop in Norway can start.



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