

Information on Donor Coordination and the EU Fast Track Initiative on Division of Labour in Moldova

Current status of Donor coordination and EU DoL in Moldova

- Donor coordination in the Republic of Moldova (MD) is organised in different formats. The so called "**Big Donor Meetings**" takes place in the World Bank premises once a month.
Participants: EC and EU Donor-Agencies (e.g. ADA, SIDA, DIFID, Czech Development Agency), Romania, Lithuania, Estonia (embassy level, no Development Cooperation agencies in MD), Germany (GTZ) and political representatives of other EU Embassies in MD, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), WB, UN (UNDP, UNICEF) and USAID (US Embassy).
- In addition also once a month a so called "Small Donor Meeting" on a Deputy Level is held, which is more a political than a development cooperation meeting. The name "small donors meeting" is misleading as in this format also EU, USA, OSCE, WB and UN are represented.
- In the specific case of MD the government (state minister, Mr Bodi, who leads the Donor Coordination Unit within the Moldovan government, responsible for foreign aid from the side of the development partner Moldova) in close cooperation with WB/UN and EU **elaborates a Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS)** on the base of **partnership principles**, which had been signed recently by the Prime Minister of Moldova and the majority of the Donors (see attachment). A **first draft of the JAS** had been presented on May, 18 and shall now be commented by all Development Partners in MD.
- **Sector Councils** are set up for some line ministries (Environment, Water and Sanitation/Labour, Social Protection and Family/Health/Education) but still missing for other important ministries (Finance/ Agriculture (special importance for Moldova)/Land Relations and Cadastre Agency and others).
- On request of Prime Minister (PM) FILAT EC funds a **high level advisory group for PM and Government**, which **supports the Government in the current EU - MD negotiations on a new Partnership Agreement (Association Agreement)** and has the task to **strengthen capacities within MD government**. This advisory group has a significant role for EU aspirations of MD.

The overall political goal for MD Government is EU integration and overcoming the internal political crisis in Moldova.

- The Head of Operation Section of EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova kindly initiated a new Donor Meeting Format for EU Donors, within this format

local EU Heads of Cooperation Offices/HoM discussed the FTI in the specific context of Moldova.

- The local EU Donor Agencies agree with the Delegation, that the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) is a fundamental document, but it should be focused on an **action plan, which makes a joint strategy practicable for implementation**. As foreign assistance in MD can still be called quite donor - driven it is very important to **enhance the government's ownership in development cooperation**: be that in the area of sector councils or of a joint strategy, **the process should be more "owned" by the government**. As the **capacities** in the Moldovan government are - especially in some ministries - weak this is a **significant challenge** for our development partner, the Republic of Moldova.

Conclusions

Generally **existing formats and information** already available and agreed upon (partnership principles, Joint Assistance Strategy in elaboration, existing matrices of Donor Interventions) **should be used for FTI** to create synergies and not to duplicate processes or documents.

Therefore it would be very efficient to integrate EU policies in Moldova and the FTI on DoL into the Joint Assistance Strategy.

Another possibility would be to elaborate FTI documents on the basis of JAS, but I think that in the context of Moldova we should give the JAS a strong European script.

Next Steps

An EC contracted consultant, Mr Alex O'Riordan, proposed his support to ADA for cooperating with the MD government, ADA, EC and bilateral EU Donors in the FTI issue. In the given context that would mean, that the EU (incl. ADA, EC and all other EU bilateral agencies) - supported by the EC consultant - will work on **integrating FTI DoL into the formulation process of the Joint Assistance Strategy.**

Therefore it would be important that the EC consultant comes to Moldova soon and that he analyzes the situation in order to participate in the JAS process. A soon comment of the EC consultant on the Joint Assistance Strategy would be highly appreciated.

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