



Moldova on Bikes

Development and promotion of cycling as an alternative form of transport and active leisure

General Information

Only in the last ten years, the number of private cars has doubled in the Republic of Moldova, and the trend is constantly growing. Chisinau, its capital, is overcrowded and car emissions are the main factor in air pollution.

At the same time, there is a positive trend towards an increase in alternative transport users (either bicycles, electric scooters or unicycles). The pandemic crisis also prompted people to begin looking for alternative ways to get around the city, but also for opportunities to actively spend their free time near the city.

At the moment, however, the bicycle infrastructure is almost non-existent, both inside and outside the city. While many European cities are beginning to regain their public spaces from cars and move towards more sustainable mobility, Chisinau is still slow in implementing policies aimed to develop sustainable mobility.

In order to attract more people to switch to alternative forms of transport, actions must come from two directions: civil society must show the need for this topic, there must be a community that promotes it, and people must be motivated by trainings and other diverse activities to choose alternative forms of transport. At the same time, the authorities must be receptive and ensure a safe and qualitative infrastructure.



Project Objective

The aim of the project is to contribute to the development of culture and infrastructure for cycling and other forms of alternative transport in the Republic of Moldova.

Project Description

The "Moldova on Bikes" project contributes to the creation of sustainable alternatives in the field of urban mobility and local tourism. The project aims to bring more interest to environmentally friendly alternative transport, both in the city and as a means of active recreation and short trips or commuting, providing support to local authorities in creating safe infrastructure, but also strengthening the cycling community, which ought to be well-informed and active.

The project will contribute to the achievement of SDGs 11 and 13, as reducing the use of private cars will improve air quality, mobility and city life in general, and spending time on bicycle routes in peri-urban and rural areas will have a positive impact on the rural economy.

BASIC INFORMATION:

Implementation period: 2021 – 2022

Budget: 68,852.50 EUR

Project Approach

The following three results, with the effect of mutual consolidation, ensure the successful project implementation:

Result 1 - Info-campaigning: trainings, events and online campaigns in order to strengthen and increase the community of alternative transport users, to motivate and increase their safety on the road. Moreover, the project aims to empower members of the community to organize, be informed and get involved in decision-making processes related to the development of alternative transport.

Result 2 - Capacity building of local and central decision makers. The issue of alternative transport is a new one for the authorities. By working with local authorities and organizing two study visits, we will be able to bring this topic closer and motivate decision-makers to cooperate and develop this area together.

Result 3 - Marking of tourist routes for bicycles (150 km). The lack of local tourism alternatives means that people always choose the car to travel even short distances. By preparing an offer of safe cycling routes, the inhabitants will be motivated to spend their weekend in a format of active rest, that is healthier and more friendly to the environment.

More information about the project and the implementation of the SDGs can be read on the dedicated web page: <https://www.ecovisio.org/what-we-do/climate/moldova-on-bikes>

Published by:
EcoVisio

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Description of the program/project:
Moldova on Bikes

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The activity is implemented within the project "Support to the Moldovan Government in the implementation of the Agenda 2030", funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).



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für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH