

## LATVIA

# Transnational Cooperation

### Location

Latvia & Moldova

### Programming period

2007 - 2013

### Funding (EUR)

n/a

### Duration

2012 – 2015

### Implemented by

Latvian Rural Forum (LRF)  
and member organisations  
& ProCoRe

### Contact

[laukuforums@gmail.com](mailto:laukuforums@gmail.com)

### Website

[www.lif.partneribas.lv](http://www.lif.partneribas.lv) &  
[www.procore.md](http://www.procore.md)

**Supporting regional planning using transnational cooperation, with a particular focus on local public-private partnerships**

## The challenge

Cooperation experience had shown that for regional planning, examples from other countries can be beneficial in not only developing good practice, but in sharing approaches and experience. A specific desire in Latvia and Moldova was in developing public-private partnerships.



## Main steps and features

In the Spring of 2014, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia decided they wanted to enrich an existing cooperation between Latvia and Moldova. The Latvian Rural Forum identified 'Pro Cooperare Regionala' as the most suitable partner from those suggested by the Northern Development Region in Moldova.

The organisation of activities included a regular exchange of experiences through workshops in Latvia and Moldova (9-16 participants in each group), seminars and expert visits of between June 2014 and November 2014.

In December 18, 2014 a cooperation agreement between the Latvian Rural Forum and the Moldovan 'Pro Cooperare regionala' was signed to continue long-term NGO cooperation in promoting civil dialogue, community development, rural development and regional development.

A project on 'Rural schools-multifunctional centres' looks for new, creative and effective ways of taking advantages of the existing educational resources (teacher knowledge, school buildings, materials etc.) to adapt and enliven schools so that they can become a meeting and activity centre for all local community members. Moldovan partners are looking for ways to find solutions within the framework of their existing legislation to use rural school resources in more effective ways and also to inform legislation change in order to adapt these facilities for community use. The Latvian partners have used the cooperation opportunity to revise their previous work in this field, and gain new ideas for community work.

Internships for project partners are planned as a future cooperation activity to promote multifunctional centre development and effective use of resources at national level.

In October 2015, a 'Day of Latvia' and Economic Forum was organized in Moldova with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

## Results

The cooperation agreements aims to promote activities such as:

- Exchanging knowledge and experience, promoting new activities and capacity building;
- Strengthening the cooperation in areas of common interest and supporting new initiatives and projects between NGOs, their members and partners;
- Promoting and supporting public-private partnerships working on community-led local development principles for the development of rural areas and small towns;
- Supporting involvement in international activities, helping the participants to identify areas for strategic cooperation;
- Joint conferences, seminars, meetings, study visits and other measures;
- Promoting sustainable community development in rural areas and small towns in Latvian and Moldova.

## Challenges and lessons

- ❑ The cooperation enables better understanding of the functioning of society and development prospects both in the European Union and Eastern Partnership context.
- ❑ Practice-based information about the Latvian experience has helped colleagues from Moldova to see the positive and negative aspects of everyday level EU. This is important when thinking about Moldova's integration into the EU.
- ❑ Expanding international contacts makes it possible to increase available resources for activities, as well as increasing mutual learning. The exchanges provide new ideas and inspiration for further work with the associations' target audience.