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ECOVISIO

Annual report on activity in 2017

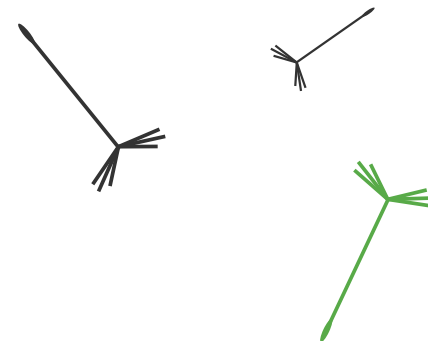


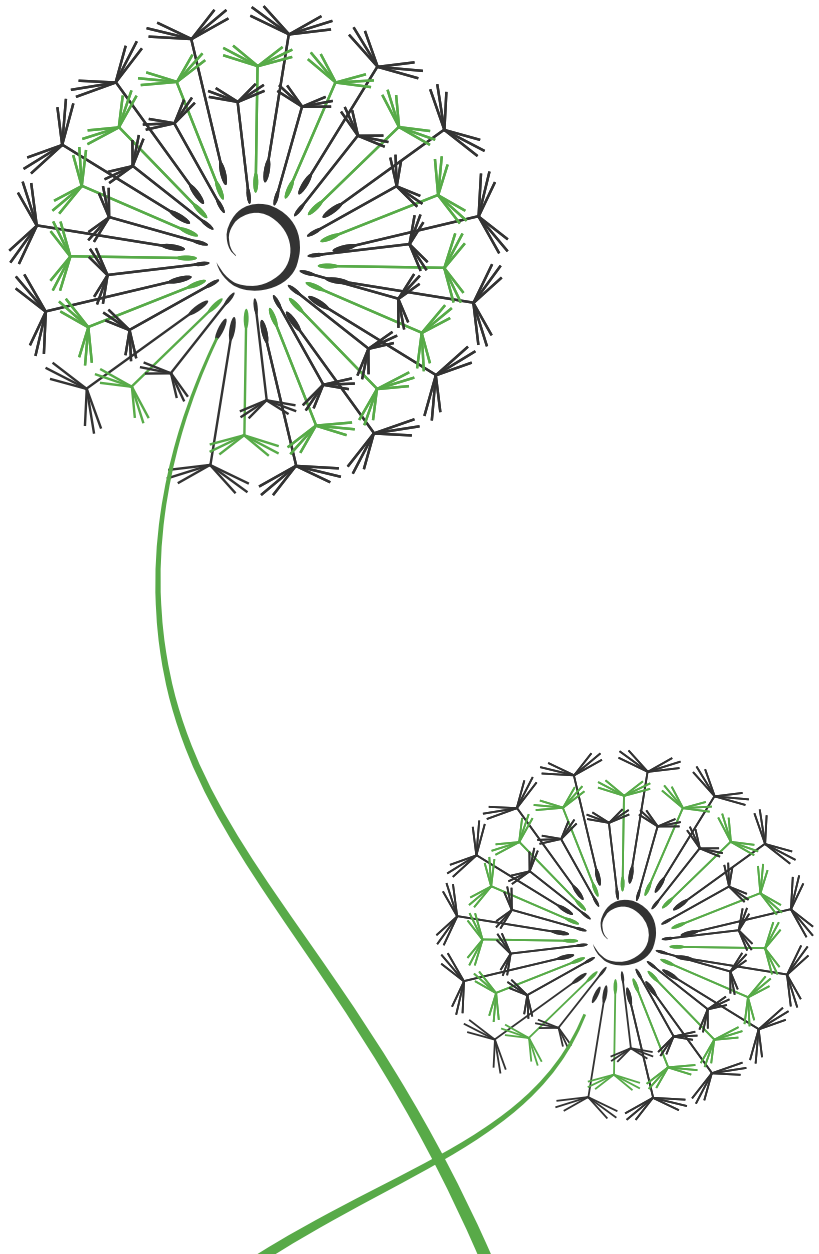
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Introduction

Our Vision

EcoVisio is a non-profit youth led grassroots CSO that envisions Moldova and its neighbors as a model region of empowered society, healthy environment and vigorous, fair economy. Our work is dedicated to gradual realization of the full potential of this place and its people.

EcoVisio is implementing its mission by empowering, connecting and supporting individuals and organizations who want to work on a common vision for our small country. Thus, we run educational and empowerment programs for individuals, create and advocate for viable examples of ecological and social innovations, especially in community development, and boost cooperation between change makers through building networks and ecosystems.

We train men and women and provide them with instruments to implement small projects or start-ups in their neighborhoods or villages; we share information and work together on alternative solutions for making our region and the world a better place to live. We collaborate with other civil society organizations (CSOs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs), universities, local public authorities (LPAs) and Ministries, creating a vibrant community of change makers.

Main principles of work: cooperation instead of competition, transparency and trust, unity in diversity, quality and striving for excellence, simple life and sustainability.



Our Team

The interdisciplinary team of EcoVisio combines experiences of civic involvement in democracy with environmental expertise, entrepreneurship, international development, and peace and conflict transformation based on diverse work and backgrounds in volunteering. As of December 2017, EcoVisio has 9 active staff members (working part-time or full-time) and 28 full voting right members.

There are also several hundred volunteer helpers and supporters in the extended circle, who are extremely important to the overall success of our joint activities. Each year the EcoVisio team, as well as the number of members and partners of the association, is growing. We put a high emphasis on cooperation with other actors of sustainable development in Moldova and abroad.

Board

Corlat Viorica
Corobco Natalia
Gröger Julian
Lozinski Alexandru
Oleatovschi Vlad
Patel Bhavesh

Internal Auditing Committee

Mamaliga Eliza
Rosip Alexandru

Staff

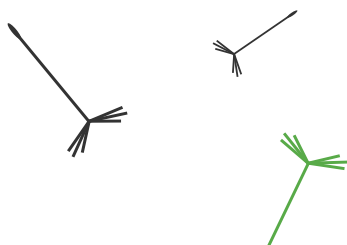
Botnaru Liliana
Cazacov Veronica
Guzun Eugen
Isac Gabriela
Pijevskaia Liudmila
Pijevskii Maxim
Țerna Olesea
Ungureanu Ion
Șvarț-Gröger Valeria

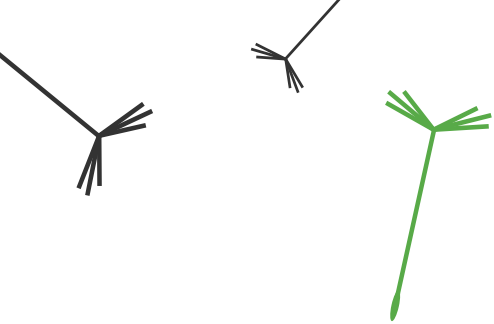
Other team members

Axenti Maria
Cebanu Mihail
Gordeeva Inna
Munteanu Alexandru
Nuca Iurie
Popova Maria
Popușoi Irina
Stewart Meghan
Țarigradean Maria
Țăruș Ecaterina

More information at: www.ecovisio.org/contacts

Photo credit: Gabriela Isac, Sasha Nikitin, Liliana Botnaru, Valeria Șvarț-Gröger, Svetlana Costiuc, Lorin Leifert, Vasile Eșanu, Inna Gordeeva and others.





Summary of the main developments and changes in 2017



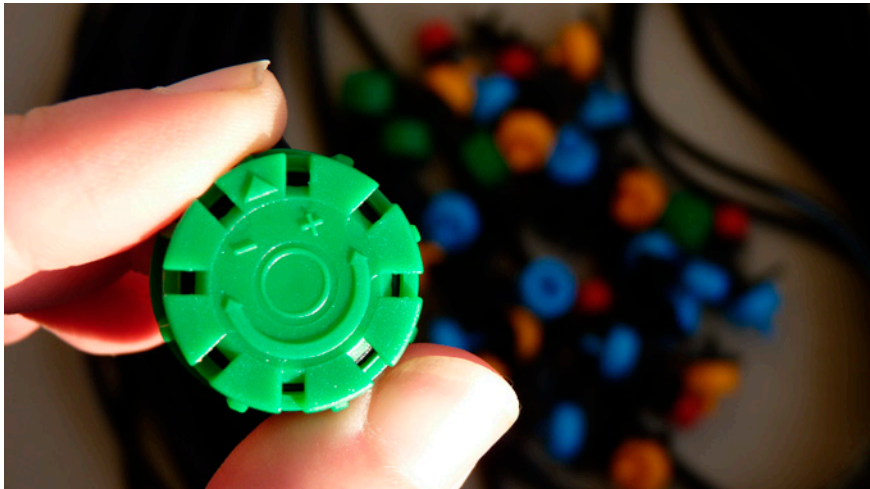
One important feature of the development of the EcoVisio Association in the recent years, as well as its main characteristic for this period, was "Growth". The Association has been growing constantly and organically in terms of the number of members, projects, partners, beneficiaries, areas of activity, and geographical dimensions (partners and beneficiaries from Ukraine, Romania, Germany, etc.). To deal with this growth, we marked the year 2016 as the year of "Consolidation and permanent improvement". We were specifically working on enhancement of all programs, projects and processes, as well as personal development within our team.

The **motto for 2017**, describing the work of the organization, was "**Consolidation of structures, procedures and policies**". In 2017, whole work of EcoVisio was influenced by transformation of approach from mostly activity oriented to more Results-Oriented. This was the year when Results Assessment Framework (RAF) and strategic development plans for the next 3 years were created in participative involvement of the whole team.

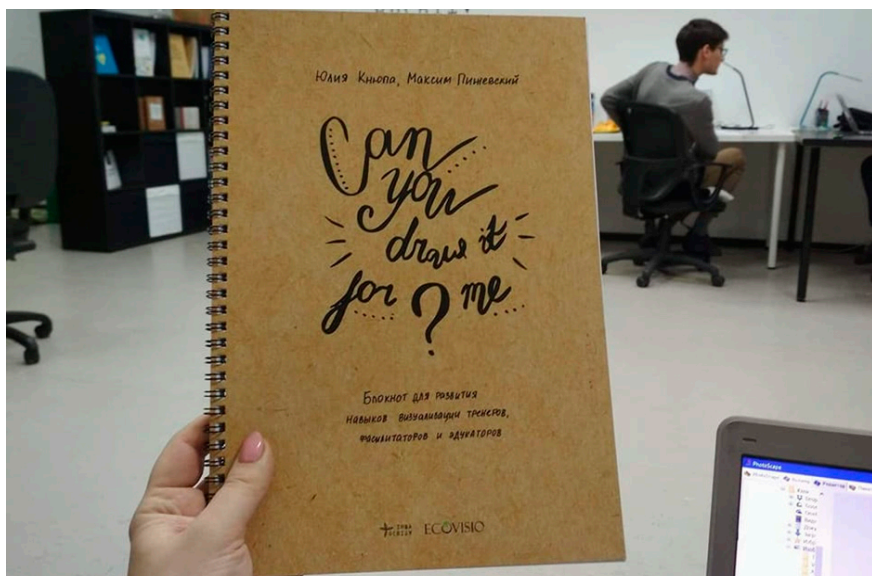


- **Expanding the alumni community** - our key instrument to bringing sustainable changes to the region
- The topic of **Social Entrepreneurship in Moldova** was brought to a new dimension and integrated deeper into the work of the Association: development of a separate program - "**Social Entrepreneurship - Make it Matter**", which was for the first time supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova and offered more study visits and practical meetings
- Second year of development of "**activePeace**" program with involving alumni into activities, more networking meetings and synergy between participants





- Second year of development of “**Harap Alb**” - the rural youth development program that aims to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs, activists and civic leaders to make a difference in their communities
- **Fifth edition of activEco** realized with minimal financing and in a new form - **Challenge Workshops** for alumni and other activists of all ages
- Launching a **new program “ActiveOrganic”** - first ever EcoVisio program completely dedicated to ecological agriculture and rural entrepreneurship
- **Expanded fundraising and network of partners:** continuation of successful cooperation with existing donors (MitOst Association, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg), existing partnerships prolonged and expanded (Dialogue for Change), consolidating partnerships with local and international organizations (the Embassy of Sweden, U.S. Embassy, Liechtenstein Development Service, etc..)
- **Training on Outdoor Education, and International Training for new mentors** for EcoVisio facilitators, alumni, coordinators and their colleagues from Ukraine, Russia and Poland
- **Growth and professional development of the EcoVisio team:** new positions within the association have appeared (new coordinator of the Harap Alb program, PR coordinator, expanded IarmarEco coordination team, ActiveOrganic coordination team). The number of employed staff has grown from 3 to 9 people through 2017
- Undergoing **first external Structural and Financial Audit**
- Starting the process of **consolidation and improvement of organizational structure**, approaching a higher level of organizational development



- **Increased level of media coverage** of the EcoVisio activities (new video spots)
- The **fifth, anniversary edition of "IarmarEco"** was a success - for the first time, held in the open air, two long days with a full program, more exhibitors, more workshops, more visitors, more supporters. Even less single-use plastic.
- EcoVisio continues to be **family-friendly** - more and more families with children participate in our events; more of the team members combine organizers' and facilitators' work with parenting
- The **age of the people participating in our activities became more varied** - our main target group is still youth, but in 2017 we had a significant share of middle-aged participants (both men and women), and even senior ones
- **New board** elected
- **New policies** elaborated, improved, adopted and implemented
- **New EcoVisio statute** was adopted by General Assembly and registered with the Ministry of Justice of Moldova
- **The Environmental Training Centre commissioned** and officially registered with EcoVisio
- Together with our partners in the framework of the project Dialogue for Change we elaborated a **workbook for developing visual facilitation skills: "Can you draw it for me?"**
- In 2017, EcoVisio participated in the **2% fiscal mechanism of NGO financing** - and plans to continue!

Educational programs of EcoVisio in 2017



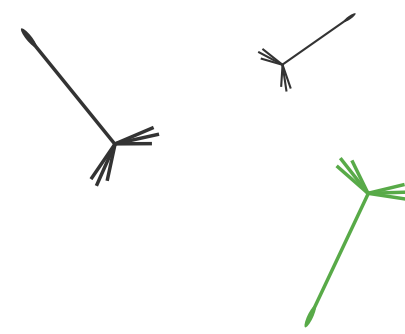
“activEco” program for Sustainable Development: Challenge Edition

Launched in 2013, the yearly educational program "activEco" is still one of the key projects implemented by the EcoVisio Association. The main aim of activEco is to empower creative and motivated young people from the South, North and Center of Moldova, including Transnistria and Gagauzia, as well as neighboring regions of Ukraine and Romania, to focus their energy on the transition of our society to sustainable living.

The major outcome is that at the end of each program year there is a group of skilled and inspired multipliers of sustainable development strategies, who are eager to engage in the growing network of changemakers in the region. As of December 2017 (after completion of its 5th edition), activEco has over 160 graduates from Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, who have implemented 83 civic projects and, in their turn, engaged thousands of people.

In the period 2014-2016, it consisted of two program lines: Sustainable Development (SD) and Social Entrepreneurship (SE). Since 2017, SE is a separate program: "Social Entrepreneurship - Make It Matter". The activEco program itself has also been transformed - after four years of broad work on sustainable development, the team decided it's time to gather the synergy of our alumni and other activists, and focus on concrete issues that need solutions on local and national level. So, in 2017, the anniversary year, the activEco did not consist of the familiar structure of three seminars (Impulse, Project Management, Reflection), but directly invited the participants to meet the proposed Challenges at the Challenge Workshops, and work out the solutions that they could implement together.





The topics of 2017 were as follows:

- Challenge #1 - **Organic Agriculture**, May: how to boost Organic Agriculture in Moldova?
- Challenge #2 - **Sustainable Mobility**, May: how to change Mobility in our region to a more sustainable and human?
- Challenge #3 - **Green Home & Work Spaces**, September: how to change our way to "produce" and consume energy? How to make our home and work spaces "greener"?
- Challenge #4 - **Tree Growing**, October: how to grow more trees in Moldova?

The 23 projects in 2017 - responses to the Challenges mentioned above - took the form of tree-planting initiatives, upcycling activities, workshops on organic agriculture and urban composting, adoption of green office practices, installation of bike parking lots, campaigns for raising awareness about using bike as a means of transportation etc. They took place in 17 localities of Moldova, including Gagauzia, Transnistria and regions of Ukraine.

The activEco program is supported by the **Robert Bosch Foundation** through **MitOst e.V.** in frames of **THK**.

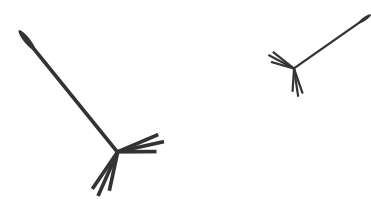
More info at:

www.activeco-program.org

www.facebook.com/activeco.program



“activePeace” program for developing conflict management skills



The “activePeace” program, launched by Maxim Pijevskii and the team in 2016 and completing its second edition in 2017, is aimed to develop the capacities of young people in such areas as critical thinking, peace education, diversity, conflict resolution/transformation, communication and negotiation skills, emotional intelligence, civic activism. The overall goal of the program is to increase the ability of young changemakers to deal with the conflicts which appear naturally (within their organizations, groups, communities, as well as on the level of structures, states and inner peace) and ultimately to transform such conflicts into collaboration.

In 2017, the program lasted from April to October, bringing together 17 young people from different regions of Moldova, Transnistria and Gagauzia. The participants of the second program year realized even more field visits in different locations, implementing projects in interregional teams. This year, participants have also learned about the ways to work with the conflict and discovered more about the region they live and about themselves.

The development in 2017 was more interaction between participants and alumni, more involvement of each participant in the activities of the whole group, more visits to each other’s projects and follow-up initiatives of alumni (e.g. participation of activePeace facilitator in the educational session for youth organized by alumni in Bender). The projects realized in 2017, along with main topics of the activePeace programme, were focused more on the topic of Inner peace and intercultural diversity, compared to 2016 where the focus was more on personal development and conflict management skills.

The activePeace program is implemented in partnership with **MitOst e.V.** (Berlin) and with a friendly financial support of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany** and the **Robert Bosch Foundation** the framework of the project “**Dialogue for change**”.

More info at:

www.activepeace-program.org

www.facebook.com/activePeaceMoldova



“activLocal” program, or “Harap Alb” - empowering rural youth to develop their communities



Harap Alb, or activLocal, is a rural youth development program launched in 2016 by Eliza Mamaliga, an activEco-2013 alumna and Meghan Stewart, a Peace Corps volunteer from Montana (US) to Moldova. Their goal was to reach rural teenagers, who have limited possibilities, and provide them with inspiration, knowledge and skills for making a difference in their local communities. The title of the program alludes to a Moldovan folkloric personage, who should inspire youngsters to be confident and active, giving life to the changes they want to see around them, learning more about surrounding world and themselves. That is why the motto of the program announces proudly: "We are the heroes!" In 2016, the program debuted in village Todiresti, Ungheni district, and in village Riscova, Criuleni district, Moldova. In 2017, it came to four schools in villages Todiresti, Pirlita and Grasenii in Ungheni district of Moldova. The seminars took place in Ungheni, Todiresti and Pirlita (Ungheni), Riscova (Criuleni) and Chisinau in February - July 2017.



As a result, 33 teenagers, who were just 13-14 years old, got the chance to learn what it means to elaborate and implement a project, to work in the team, and to feel themselves valuable, getting inspired and empowered for further advancement in the field of social and environmental activism. 23 participants made it to the end, implementing 8 community projects: renovation of park, football field and volleyball field, village cleanup, renewal of benches at the stadium; charity and entertainment activities for the elderly etc. The teenagers are proud of their achievements and are happy that as Harap Alb alumni they will continue the positive changes in their communities, become mentors, make new projects, attract new volunteers and motivate each other.

The Harap Alb program is implemented in partnership with **MitOst e.V.** (Berlin) and a friendly financial support of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany** and the **Robert Bosch Foundation** in the framework of the project “Dialogue for change”

More info at:

www.harapalb.org

www.facebook.com/harapalb.moldova

“ActiveOrganic” - a program for organic agriculture by default

The “Organic Agriculture - a Sustainable Perspective for Rural Population in Moldova”, or, in short, ActiveOrganic, was a countrywide educational program taking place in February - November 2017. It was a new kind of program for EcoVisio, engaging participants of all ages and focusing primarily on practical knowledge and skills.

The main activities were:

- Six trainings with theory and practice on organic agriculture and rural & social entrepreneurship
- 3 study visits to examples of ecological farms and social enterprises (“Gori’s Tomatoes”, “Floare de cireș”, “Grădina Moldovei”)
- Development of a Green Point demonstration Plot in village Riscova, Criuleni district
- Supporting program participants during the implementation of their ideas

As a result, the program had 150 participants overall, at least at one event, with 70 participating loyally at more than one event. The participants, aged from 18 to 67 years, were coming from 25 districts of Moldova, Transnistria and Gagauzia. They had the opportunity to learn from internal and external experts, and share their own knowledge and experience on the topics of Organic Agriculture and Permaculture, Soil Protection and Improvement, Composting, Plant Protection, Water Resources and Sustainable Irrigation Systems, Community Supported Agriculture, Social / Rural Entrepreneurship, Greenhouses, Solar Dehydrator, Apiculture, Healthy Nutrition, Marketing for agricultural products, Orchards and Trees in Ecological Agriculture, Project implementation. Application of knowledge, skills and inspiration received during the program was encouraged with small financial support (for acquisition of materials) offered to the best participants. However, many of them were acting on their own initiative, asking only for some theoretical support. Moreover, the participants formed a community for exchange of ideas, knowledge, seeds and agricultural products grown with their own hands.

The ActiveOrganic program was implemented with support of the **United States Department of State**.

More info at:

www.ecovisio.org/activities/activeorganic



Promotion and development of Social Entrepreneurship



Working in the field of ecology since 1999, starting from 2013 the "EcoVisio" Association has been continuously and increasingly exploring the topic of social entrepreneurship, because we believe it is a powerful approach for the current challenges our region is facing.

We believe young people in our region have an enormous potential to accelerate the transition to sustainable development; however, many of them either do not see any future at home, or are faced with a dilemma - "should they contribute to improving the situation, or earn money?". Here, social entrepreneurship comes to aid, enabling combination of those two purposes. This way, young people can develop projects or new businesses that tackle some concrete issues, and at the same time have the capacity to generate resources necessary for the continuity of their initiatives.

Social entrepreneurship has a great potential to contribute to social-economic development of our region in a sustainable way, through youth self-employment and job creation, through developing products and services with a positive impact or orienting the profits towards social needs.

Thus, in our national and international activities we combine environmental approaches with entrepreneurial ones, working on bringing this topic to a new level through:

- Facilitating the discourse and nurturing the network - Social Entrepreneurship Forum, IarmarEco
- Developing capacity of young changemakers - "Social Entrepreneurship - Make it Matter" program, ClimateLaunchpad Moldova - empowering young people to become social & ecologically-friendly entrepreneurs through helping them acquire necessary skills and tools to start their own enterprise
- Making local heroes visible to public - IarmarEco

More about it at:

www.ecovisio.org/topics/social-entrepreneurship-and-green-economy





“Social Entrepreneurship - Make it Matter” program

“Social Entrepreneurship - Make it Matter” (March-October 2017) was a program for young activists who wanted to learn, together with other like-minded people, how to make social products appreciated, develop a strategy to promote them and apply it in practice.

What did the participants of the “Social Entrepreneurship - Make it Matter” do?

- Learn, through practical activities, from social entrepreneurs of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine
- Develop a strategy for promoting social products
- Learn how to present a social product
- Participate and present their ideas at the largest event dedicated to social entrepreneurship and ecological opportunities in Moldova - “IarmarEco”



The program included study visits to a number of civil organizations and enterprises active in the field of Social Entrepreneurship: “Eco-Răzeni” - “Floare de Cireș”(vil. Razeni, Ialoveni), Eco-Training Center in Eco-Village Moldova (vil. Riscova, Criuleni), “Atelier99” (Chisinau), “EduJoc” (Chisinau), “Dulce Plai” (vil. Todiresti, Ungheni), “Mai Bine” (Iasi, Romania) and their environmental initiatives and social enterprises: “CUIB”, “Legumești” and “REDU”.

The program is supported by the **Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova** and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany** through **MitOst e.V.**

More info at:

www.ecovisio.org/activities/se-mim



Social Entrepreneurship Forum

The Social Entrepreneurship Forum is a public event organized by EcoVisio since 2015, both as an element of the educational program on Social Entrepreneurship and as a space for relevant actors to meet and interact. Thus, the goal of the Forum is to enhance the cross-sectorial dialog and cooperation between actors in this field and make social entrepreneurship initiatives more visible to the public.

In 2017, the third edition of the Forum was supported, for the first time, by the Ministry of Youth, and organized in partnership with Moldova Rebranded - an initiative led by Academia Nicolae Dumitrescu. The Forum took place on June 17, 2017, and was based mostly on the Open Space Technology (OST), which was used for discussing the following topics:

- methods of promotion for social entrepreneurship in Moldova;
- creating an attitude towards social products / services;
- techniques and strategies of selling the "story" behind social products / services.

All of those were viewed in two aspects: 1) What we have and what we don't have, and 2) Methods and solutions.

The Forum was attended by about 40 participants, including international guests from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

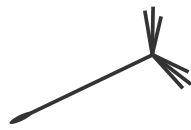
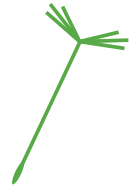
More about it at:

www.ecovisio.org/activities/social-entrepreneurship-forum

Social Entrepreneurship Summer Camp by American Resource Center

The Social Entrepreneurship Summer Camp was organized with the American Resource Center on August 21-25, 2017 (EcoVisio was providing trainers and logistical support). During the training, 19 young people learned about the basics of social entrepreneurship, understood how the concept works in Moldova and beyond. They studied specific examples of international and local social enterprises, created their own Social Business ideas in teams and developed them through Business Canvas Model method. At the end, participants pitched their ideas to guests from the American Embassy and other social entrepreneurs, and received feedback.





“IarmarEco” - the Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship



IarmarEco - the Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship in Moldova - is a socio-cultural event that has been uniting EcoVisio and its many partners and supporters since 2013. Started as an exposition of activEco participants' initiatives, it grows larger and more significant each year, getting hundreds of its guests acknowledged with the world of ecological opportunities & products, and social initiatives that exist in our region. The mission now is to build trust among NGOs, general public, entrepreneurs and state institutions, the process that leads to emergence of new ideas contributing to sustainable development of our country, and their implementation. IarmarEco is also the space to introduce general public to our values - it is striving to be a single-use-plastic free event. Same with beverages - no alcohol - and food: no meat or fish.

In 2017, same as in 2016, IarmarEco lasted two days, September 30 - October 1, 2017. For the first time in its history, the event was held in the open air. It brought together over 80 farmers, entrepreneurs, artisans and activists with their ecological and social products, services and initiatives. Over 40% of them were participating for the first time as exhibitors, some being participants and alumni of EcoVisio programs, such as ActiveOrganic. A particular element was the exhibition “Facing the Climate”, contributed by the Swedish Embassy and featuring caricatures on the topic of climate change. For the first time, the event was accompanied by live music. Throughout both days, visitors and exhibitors could take part in numerous (about 20) theoretical, but mostly practical workshops about choosing and cooking healthy food, using plants as natural medicine and growing them, managing your organic waste, doing yoga, etc. Among the traditional elements were vegetarian / vegan / raw food court and children playground. Despite the fact that IarmarEco-2017 coincided with several large events taking place in the city at the same weekend, as well as traffic challenges, the event was visited by over a thousand people. We are very grateful to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany** (through **MitOst e.V.**) and the new sponsors - the **Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova** and the **European Fund for SouthEast Europe**, who made this possible.

More info at:

www.iarmareco.md

www.facebook.com/iarmareco





“ClimateLaunchpad Moldova” (CLP) program for green start-ups

Another specific activity in the area of social entrepreneurship is ClimateLaunchpad Moldova - national level of the world's largest cleantech business ideas competition ClimateLaunchpad, held in over 30 countries. The selected participants, along with their ideas, go through a 2-day Business Boot Camp and six personalized Coaching Sessions to get prepared for the National and the European Finals. Apart from getting valuable prizes, the Top-10 of the European Finals get accepted into the Climate-KIC Accelerator, the 18-month real-life business school where "great ideas grow into great businesses".

EcoVisio brought ClimateLaunchpad to Moldova and has been organizing it for three years in a row - in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Despite having not yet taken any place at the European Finals, ClimateLaunchpad Moldova is a good opportunity for activEco alumni and participants, as well other motivated entrepreneurs and activists, to bring their ideas to another level. In that, they are supported (and pushed) by the CLP trainers, local coaches - for example, representatives of Center for Socio-Economic Development and Support of Innovative Entrepreneurship Moldova, and each other. The Boot Camp and intense Coaching Sessions force the participants to polish their ideas (or maybe even pivot), improve their pitches, value propositions and business models. They also get a brief training in financials, public speaking, PowerPoint presentations etc.

In 2017, 13 teams participated in the challenging program. The three best teams got to represent the Republic of Moldova at the ClimateLaunchpad Global Final that was held in October in Limassol, Cyprus, where they pitched together with other 100+ finalists from four continents.

ClimateLaunchpad Moldova is supported by the **Climate KIC**.

More info at:

www.ecovisio.org/activities/climatelaunchpad
www.facebook.com/ClimateLaunchpadMoldova/



Projects and Initiatives of EcoVisio



“Eco-Village Moldova” and the “Environmental Training Center”

Eco-Village Moldova, our partner initiative, is a diverse group of people who strive for a more sustainable lifestyle and are committed to building an organically evolving eco-community in the village Riscova, Moldova. Currently, after several years of work, the Eco-Village site contains three buildings (one residential and two for the Environmental Training Center), a community bread oven, a bike shed, a plastic recycling station, several types of compost, greenhouses and a garden that tends to organic. First pioneer families have been living there for over two years now.

In 2015-2017, the Eco-Village team was building the Environmental Training Center, planned to serve as a regional hub for practical education in the fields of organic agriculture, energy efficiency, eco-construction and community development. The Center now consists of a building for holding small workshops, and another big one that can host events for up to 50 people. The building was finished and commissioned at the end of 2017 - thanks to the crucial support of the **Liechtenstein Development Service** it was possible to push the final stage of construction and furnishing. Even in 2017, in parallel with finalizing the construction, the Eco-Village hosted more than 35 training events, engaging over 700 people from Moldova and beyond. The local community is active as well, benefitting from job and development opportunities right in their home village. The jobs were in constructions, transportation, hosting visitors, helping with maintenance of training and accommodation space, cooking etc. Moreover, the increased number of trainings raised the demand for local fruits and vegetables. In autumn, the Eco-Village Walnuts initiative was launched. And of course, the villagers take part in general and special workshops, such as solar dehydrator workshops in the library, plastic recycling project at school etc.



More info can be found at:

www.ecovisio.org/training-center

www.eco-village.md

www.facebook.com/EcoVillageMoldova

LED LIECHTENSTEIN
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE





“Seed it Forward” initiative

Seed It Forward is an agroforestry initiative founded in 2015, led by an activEco-2014 alumna and a ClimateLaunchpad Moldova 2015 alumnus. The goal of the initiative is to “grow trees and people for a greener Moldova”. They do it with persistence, day by day, by planting and growing trees and other plants in different regions of the country, and sharing their passion and skills with other people, especially those ones who have never planted a tree in their life.

Year 2017 was the second full year of Seed It Forward’s activity, with its activities significantly growing in size, quality, geographical scope and variety of topics.

Highlights of 2017:

- 22 planting events with volunteers in 13 localities of Moldova, more than 5 plantings consulted, numerous monitoring and tree-caring visits
- teambuildings as one of the new activities
- multiple simultaneous events - thanks to a team of three main coordinators, Seed It Forward could be at several planting events in different parts of the country at once
- co-organizing, with Eco-Village Moldova and EcoVisio as a whole, the program “ActiveOrganic” (February-November 2017) - promoting topics such as agroforestry, composting, natural plant protection, beekeeping, solar food dehydration etc.
- co-organizing, with EcoVisio, the activEco Tree-Growing Challenge, and mentoring more than 10 planting initiatives all over Moldova
- launching a new project-initiative, “Ask a Worm”, to promote urban composting and local products
- over 350 people involved in practical activities (many of them more than one time)
- over 3400 seedlings and over 3500 seeds planted

More info at:

www.seeditforward.org

www.facebook.com/seeditforward



TORBESC



“Torbesc” initiative

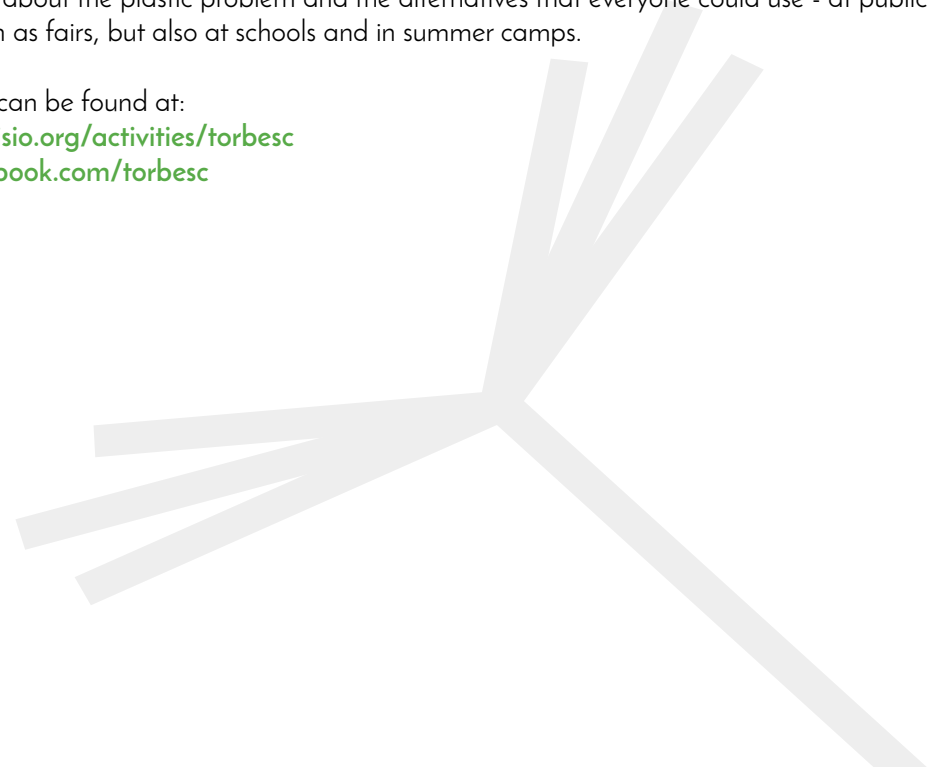
Since the end of 2015, EcoVisio is honored to include the “Torbesc” initiative - a former activEco-2015 Social Entrepreneurship project that has had a goal of upcycling old clothes by transforming them into various ecobags, providing thus an alternative to plastic ones.

In two and a half years, the team has sewn several thousand ecobags and backpacks - both from old clothes and new fabric - for EcoVisio activities (e.g. IarmarEco, ClimateLaunchpad Moldova, Harap Alb), other events (campaign “Câștigăm când Reciclăm”, national conferences etc.) and various expositions. They also provide educational sessions and practical workshops about the plastic problem and the alternatives that everyone could use - at public events such as fairs, but also at schools and in summer camps.

More info can be found at:

www.ecovisio.org/activities/torbesc

www.facebook.com/torbesc



Other Projects born & implemented within EcoVisio in 2017



“Ask a Worm”

“Ask a Worm” is an initiative about connecting responsible urban consumers with small (ecological) farmers based on exchange of organic waste and agricultural products, launched by Seed It Forward team in collaboration with activEco and ActiveOrganic alumni. Despite the lack of time to dedicate to this project, it has already engaged over 20 families, 1 restaurant, 1 company, 1 NGO and 1 foreign Embassy into doing urban composting, using Bokashi method. The resultant precomposted food waste is then either used by the family / organization itself, or taken by one of the participating farmers to be used as fertilizer.

More info can be found at:

www.askaworm.com



BikesCrossBorders

BikesCrossBorders was a project organized by EcoVisio members and activEco alumni & participants, with a goal to increase sustainable transportation in Moldova. In spring 2017, 17 bikes (including children’s ones) were collected in Uetersen and Berlin from German people who no longer needed them, and brought to Romania. Then, 15 activists who strive to promote cycling in Chisinau were chosen to get a bicycle each. To do that, they had to travel to Iasi, take the bicycles and go about 60 km with their new friends on two wheels, crossing the border between Romania and Moldova along with many other physical and inner boundaries. Now, you can meet them in the streets of Chisinau!

The BikesCrossBorders project was supported by a **MitOst** alumni grant.

More info at:

www.ecovisio.org/bikescrossborders

MitOst





Critical Mass Chisinau

"Critical Mass Chisinau", initiated by participants of activEco Mobility Challenge and supported by EcoVisio, is about organizing regular - each last Friday of the month - group bicycle rides through Chisinau, in order to claim cyclists' rights to be part of the traffic. It is also about increasing cyclists' confidence, as for some of the participants it is the first time riding alongside regular traffic and learning traffic rules. In 2017, there were 4 consecutive Critical Mass events: June 23, July 28, August 25, and September 29, followed by small parties for those who remained until the end. The number of cyclists participating in each ride varied from 2 to 35, but overall many people found out about the initiative and are interested in joining the fun in spring.

More information at:

www.facebook.com/groups/1335005429953338

Veggie Dinner Evenings

In autumn 2017, we started a series of open vegan-vegetarian Dinner Evenings in Chisinau. The idea was to meet with alumni and other people who are interested in our work in a non-formal, cozy atmosphere which fits to our values (vegetarian, no alcohol). The idea worked out very well with 25-40 participants each time, and we would like to go on from spring 2018 with this format.

Eco-Village Walnuts

Eco-Village Walnuts is an initiative that aims at creating resilient rural communities through walnut agriculture based on organic and fair-trade principles and cooperation. It started in 2017 as a pilot initiative to help small local farmers in village Riscova market their products and create sustainable livelihoods - by uniting them and helping them sell their walnuts for a decent price right from home. We are also working to create more local economic resilience by upgrading the walnut value chain through walnut processing and preparations of special walnut products, like Georgian Churchkhela.

More info at:

www.eco-village-walnuts.org

Team and organizational development



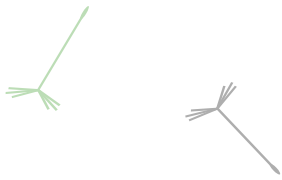
Each year, EcoVisio team is evolving. Naturally, there are some people dropping out due to limited time availability or other issues, but there always is a core team of people working on the program. In 2017, it was complemented by three new facilitators, a new coordinator for Harap Alb and a PR Coordinator, the team of the ActiveOrganic program, many new external consultants, experts, designers, and trainers. Following the positive experience of the previous years, one International Volunteer (EVS) from Germany joined our team.

The major part of the current EcoVisio team, as well as association's support circles, are largely composed of our programs' alumni. Thus, the alumni can influence the development of organization and its activities, improve and enhance the aspects of Association's work according to their experience and needs. The coordinators, facilitators, mentors and alumni of our programs are benefiting from the participation in various trainings and events, improving their skills and getting valuable international experience. They are usually provided a coaching/mentoring training, learning materials, books and presentations. This way, we strive to ensure the continuity of capacity building for the totality of involved actors, not just the participants of our activities, but for the programs and for their teams (as groups and individuals) as well.

The year 2017 was very particular for EcoVisio, as it was marked by the start of the long term process of organizational development induced by the pre-core support of the Embassy of Sweden /SIDA. Along with the "classical" activities and new educational programs run through the year EcoVisio has undergone the process of external audits, consultations, elaboration and improvement of policies and procedures and consolidation of organizational structures. One important aspect of this process in 2017 was the participative elaboration of Results Assessment Framework (RAF) and the strategic plan of EcoVisio activities and pledged results till 2020. This process added the new trajectory and more dynamic to the development of the organization and the team, providing inspiring challenges and offering new opportunities (such as trainings for the staff, long-term consultations with SIDA and NSC experts, participation in networking events).

Institutional Development of EcoVisio is supported by the **Government of Sweden**.





Opportunities for team development and networking:

- Capacity-building for facilitators (Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg educational program for facilitators; the alumni of this program can facilitate trainings not only in EcoVisio programs, but in any of the THK non-formal education partner programs);
- Capacity-building for mentors (e.g. Regional Mentoring Meeting in Rîșcova, March 2017; Regional Alumni Meeting in Ivano-Frankivsk in December 2017);
- Capacity-building for program coordinators (e.g. "HR for NGOs / non-formal educational programs" and "Partnerships and stakeholders" in Anaklia, Georgia, July 2017)
- Taking an organizational position within EcoVisio (PR coordinator, Training Centre coordinator, Program coordinator, etc.);
- Trying yourself in event organization - Social Entrepreneurship Forum, IarmarEco etc.;
- Internships within partner programs and organizations (MitOst Office in Berlin etc.);
- Participating in international youth exchanges and training courses organized in partnership with EcoVisio;
- Capacity building trainings and networking events offered by SIDA and partners in frames of organizational development process.



Other events where EcoVisio members participated in 2017:

- Ecological Forum "Green Vision" (Balti)
- World Environment Day (Chisinau)
- National Conference dedicated to the finalization of the project "Greening economies in the Eastern Neighborhood" (EaP GREEN)
- Coordinators meeting within the Dialogue for Change project (in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine)
- International Good Deeds Day organized by Volunteer Center RVC
- Social Entrepreneurship Forum "SE Days", co-organized by one of our alumnae (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Chisinau Mini Maker Faire (Atelier 99, again our alumni)
- Bosch Alumni Forum on Participatory Democracy (Paretz, Germany)
- Ukraine Lab Forum on Sustainability in Civil Society (Kherson, Ukraine)
- Training Centre building days



Plans for development in 2018



The last five years for EcoVisio could be defined as “Growth” (2013-2015), “Consolidation and permanent improvement” (2016) and “Consolidation of structures, procedures and policies” (2017). EcoVisio enters 2018 with a luggage of experience, defined goals (expressed below) and framework for their implementation.

What we feel is most needed now is human resources or teamwork, defined by the motto “**Team**”. This means that in 2018 the number of EcoVisio staff members will grow: new people will join the team while old members will find new specific roles and will be implementing new tasks. In addition, the level of professionalism of each team member as well as the performance of the whole team is expected to grow to new levels.

In 2017, EcoVisio adopted a new approach for strategic planning. As a part of the long-term organizational development process, the organization is now in transition from activity-based to impact-oriented work. For this purpose, in 2017 the above-mentioned RAF was developed and approved for EcoVisio.

Our strategy for the 2018-2020 is based on the approach stated in mission and vision of the organization, but with more concrete and measurable steps. The EcoVisio Strategic Plan formulated in the Results Assessment Framework (RAF) for 2018-2020 consists of four strategic areas:

- STRATEGIC AREA A - Capacity Development and Empowerment for Activism
- STRATEGIC AREA B - Lab for Growing Sustainability Initiatives, Social Innovations and Resilient Communities
- STRATEGIC AREA C - Ecosystem Development through Networking and Boosting Cooperation
- STRATEGIC AREA D - Organizational Development and Growing Visibility



AREA A - Capacity Development and Empowerment for Activism

The area A includes the educational programs of EcoVisio, which deal with individuals' development and empowerment. This is the largest area of activity of the Association. In 2018-2020, it is planned to continue running the already existing programs and to launch the new ones. The main target group of the majority of the programs are young people aged 18-25 (activEco, activePeace). In addition, programs for teenagers from rural areas of Moldova are planned, and programs for young adults and professionals aged 20-50 (ActiveOrganic, Keep Cool for teachers, Social Entrepreneurship Program). Different donors and partners previously supported the majority of the existing programs and we plan to continue fundraising for this area with existing and new donors.

AREA B - Lab for Growing Sustainability Initiatives, Social Innovations and Resilient Communities

The strategic area B includes work with initiatives and communities. By communities are meant both geographical areas (villages, city neighborhoods etc.) as well as communities of people (united by interests, profession, values) in different parts of Moldova (incl. Transnistria and Gagauzia). Here we are going to work on creation and consolidation of the so-called "resilience hot-spots / nests". These are rural communities, organizations or strongly connected groups of people that through our interventions develop conscious application of sustainability practices in resource management, personal consumption patterns and overall organization of activities (e.g. green offices, eco-villages etc.) .

Also in this area, new initiatives appear and are piloted to become self-sustainable in future. Here we provide support for example to social innovation start-ups and green business ideas (e.g. demonstration plots in organic-agriculture or sustainable energy) and village community initiatives.

Such resilience hot-spots and best practice initiatives will also be made more visible and promoted by us so that they can be multiplied and replicated.

The strategic area B is the most vibrant and innovative area where many unexpected things can happen. We are aware of the exciting but also risky character of this working field and are happy to deal with this challenge in a professional way.

AREA C - Ecosystem Development through Networking and Boosting Cooperation

The strategic area C envisages networking and cross-sectorial interaction between stakeholders (NGOs, state, businesses, academia, communities and individuals). In this area, the new bridges are created for cooperation both between stakeholders in Moldova and partners from the whole region. Large-scale events organized by EcoVisio in cooperation with other partners (e.g. IarmarEco) are an example.

This area also includes the work with the growing alumni and partners network. Each year the EcoVisio team, as well as the number of members and partners of the association, is expanding. There are also several hundred volunteer helpers and supporters in the EcoVisio circle, who are extremely important to the overall success of our joint activities. We put a high emphasis on cooperation with other actors of sustainable development in Moldova and abroad. As the experience shows, the majority of initiatives in the Association are launched by or performed in cooperation with program alumni.

AREA D - Organizational Development and Growing Visibility

The strategic area D focuses on the development of the Association itself. It will allow EcoVisio to increase the professionalism of work processes. With the growth of organization and its activity, a lot of attention is devoted to good governance and impeccable financial management and sustainability with on-going development and diversification of the sources of funding, including self-financing.

A special focus is also made on growing visibility of EcoVisio as organization and promoting the core topics we work on. The goal is to bring the sustainability discourse and action out of a small niche of devoted ecologists into the middle of society. Here we plan to strengthen and professionalize our PR department and cooperate with other organizations.

Strategic Partners, Supporters, Donors

We would like to kindly thank the partners who made all our joint achievements possible. The Republic of Moldova is on a risky trajectory of coping with numerous political, economic and social crises. We believe that through empowerment, constructive dialog, mutual support and establishing of viable best-practice examples, which we develop together with you, we can make a contribution to more prosperous future of Moldova and the whole region.



