



ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

Project title: Further support to agriculture, rural development and food safety in the Republic of Moldova

Beneficiary administration: Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Agriculture Intervention and Payment Agency and National Food Safety Agency

Twining Reference: MD 16 ENI AG 01 19 (MD/37)

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EU funded project
TWINNING TOOL

Acronyms

AA	Association Agreement
AAP	Annual Action Plan
ABPs	Animal By-Products
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AIC	Agricultural Information Centre
AIPA	Agricultural Intervention and Payment Agency
ALRC	Cadastre en Mapping Agency
ANSA	National Food Safety Agency (NFSA; ANSA is the Moldovan abbreviation)
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CRDV	Centrul Republican de Diagnostica Veterinara
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
ENPARD	European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
FBOs	Food Business Operators
FVO	EU Food and Veterinary Office
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HVA	High Value Agriculture
IACS	Integrated Administrative and Control System
IBP	Border Inspection Posts
LAGs	Local Action Groups
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MARDE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
MDL	Moldovan Lei
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
NARDS	National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy
PL	Project Leader
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RCVD	Republican Center for Veterinary Diagnosis
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SSF	Single Support Framework
TA	Technical Assistance
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
VLAP	Visa Liberation Action Plan

1. Basic Information

1.1 **Programme:** ENI/2016/039-554 Development of Rural Areas in the Republic of Moldova
Direct management

For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article 12.2 of the General Conditions¹ to the grant agreement.

1.2 **Twinning Sector:** Agriculture and Rural development

1.3. **EU funded budget:** EUR 2,000,000

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective

To support the development of the policy, legal and institutional framework for an effective development of Moldova's agriculture and rural areas, in a way that they contribute to sustainable development, adaptation to climate change and the country's transformation towards a green economy.

2.2 Specific Objective

To strengthen the institutional capacities of national public institutions Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE), the Agriculture Intervention and Payment Agency (AIPA) and the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA) in the design and implementation of agriculture, rural development and food safety policy and food safety and quality standards, in line with AA/DCFTA.

2.3. Contribution to National Development Plan/Cooperation Agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans.

Relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova) are guided by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA), including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), an Association Agenda, and the Visa Liberation Action Plan (VLAP). In line with the AA, the Republic of Moldova has committed to gradually harmonize its legislation with the *acquis communautaire* and international instruments, including the areas of gender equality and anti-discrimination.

The EU-Moldova Association Agreement was signed in June 2014 and highlights the need for key priority reforms in democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, a functioning market economy and sustainable development. The DCFTA has considerable economic and geopolitical significance decisive for Moldova. In particular, the DCFTA aims to include the Republic of Moldova into the European economic area, provided Moldova complies with substantial parts of the *acquis* in the areas of standards, quality infrastructure, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.

Specifically the AA highlights the need for key priority reforms in: **developing and implementing the policy, legal and institutional framework** (including food safety requirements and quality/organic/marketing standards) in the area of **agriculture and rural development**; training central and local administrations on rural development policies; improving the competitiveness of agricultural

production and the diversification of economic activities in rural areas; strengthening the capacity of the Paying Agency to ensure transparency, efficiency and predictability of disbursed state aid; and improving the sustainable use of land and water resources in the agri-food sector. Reform of agriculture and rural development should develop Moldova's capacities to benefit from the preferential trade regime within the DCFTA.

EU assistance priorities are framed in the Single Support Framework 2017-2019 (SSF) which focuses on Economic development and market opportunities, *including* sustainable and inclusive economic growth, Strengthening institutions and good governance, *including* the Rule of Law and Security and Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change and Mobility and people-to-people contacts, *including* support to the continuous fulfilment of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan benchmarks and to education, training and research.

This new Twinning project "**Further support to agriculture, rural development and food safety**" under Annual Action Programme 2016 "Development of Rural Areas in the Republic of Moldova" shall be put in place to provide assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, the Agriculture Intervention and Payment Agency (AIPA) and the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA) to further strengthen their institutional capacities to fulfil their commitments under the AA/DCFTA.

The new programme of support will build on the results of European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) and other related previous and ongoing EU and Member States' assistance within the targeted areas.

Recent relevant ENPARD interventions to provide support to Moldova in implementing the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (NARDS) were:

- 1) ENPARD Budget Support - The budget support payments (53 million EUR for 2016-2018) completed in their entirety the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund (NARDF), which was the main fund for subsidizing and supporting the agricultural producers;
- 2) ENPARD Complementary Support aimed mainly on capacity building, institutional strengthening, community development and involvement of civil society in the policy dialogue:
 - Technical assistance project for Implementation of Sector Reform Contract – ENPARD – Nov 2016–May 2019;
 - Capacity Building of the Moldovan Agency for Intervention and Payment in Agriculture (AIPA) to administer Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) support measures in line with EU norms and standards – Twinning AIPA – Dec 2016-Nov 2018;
 - Capacity building of the Moldovan National Food Safety Agency (NSFA – ANSA as Moldovan abbreviation) in drafting the necessary legislation from farm to fork (based on the timeline as set in Annex XXIV-B to the AA) – Twinning ANSA – Jan 2016-March 2019;
 - Facilitating active engagement of the civil society actors in the agro-rural policy dialog – Feb 2017 – February 2019. Particularly, the project was aiming to establish the sustainable partnerships between national and regional Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and to increase the number and quality of organizations participation in monitoring and implementation of NARDS. Another important target was to encourage rural women entrepreneurs and women organizations acting in agriculture, to take a more active role in the agro-rural policy dialogue.

The National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development (NARDS) for 2014-2020 is the main medium-term programming document for the agricultural sector and rural development. The three main priorities are:

- 1) Increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector through the restructuring and modernization of the market. Under this general objective the specific objective: “Modernization of the agri-food chain to meet EU requirements on food safety and quality” is especially relevant within the frame of the new twinning project;
- 2) Ensuring sustainable management of natural resources in agriculture;
- 3) Improving working and living conditions in rural areas.

NARDS does not have a strong analytical background (the basis were pure statistical data) and did not focus on certain policy measures that are crucial for achieving the targets. In January/February 2017 a mid-term evaluation of NARDS was conducted, which led to a revised NARDS and action plan for the remaining period 2018-2020 (Annex 2). The mid-term evaluation of NARDS (Annex 3) and the consequent revision of NARDS along its Action Plan contributed to a more balanced programme among its three priorities by introducing three new rural development measures: measures for “improvement of rural infrastructure”; “renewal of villages”; and the “diversification measure of economy outside agriculture”. Thus enhancing priority 3 “Improved working and living conditions in rural areas” of NARDS. The mid-term evaluation team also noticed that livestock sector got limited attention / subsidy support compared to international competitive sub-sectors (e.g. viticulture, fruit growing). Moldova is a net importer for dairy products, despite the potential for domestic production. To a large extent, this situation is the result of a lack of investment and efficiency in production, which leads to a competitive disadvantage over imported products.

The National Strategy on Food Safety for the Republic of Moldova 2017-2022 builds on the previous Food Safety Strategy 2011-2015 and its status of implementation, and is well aligned with NARDS.

The gradual process of aligning with EU agriculture and rural development policy requires long-term commitment from state institutions, availability of human resources having necessary technical knowledge, backed-up with appropriate financial allocations.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

During the last two decades, the Republic of Moldova has been aspiring for a modern and efficient market economy, in the process trying to consolidate trade facilitation and attracting (foreign) investments. The speed of reforms and implementation of appropriate measures is going slowly. Therefore there is an urgent need for Moldova to accelerate implementation of reforms including those set out in the AA to move closer to EU. The agriculture and agri-food sector is a substantial driver of Moldova’s international trade and export competitiveness with fruits and vegetables comprising 9.8% of Moldova’s total exports in 2018.

MARDE - Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment

MARDE is the result of a merger process of three ministries, which was finalised in September 2017. However, MARDE is still in a state of transformation after the merger as tasks and responsibilities related to management and control, like planning and reporting, need to be realigned and harmonized for the three different sectors.

Some challenges for MARDE remain in converting the output of the structures and procedures into high-quality policy and legislative proposals. The quality of evidence-based policy development through assessment of impacts is not fully consistent, as the analysis is still weak. Collection of reliable data is a point of attention. With the reforms, the Agricultural Information Centre (AIC) is incorporated in the e-governance agency. AIC was responsible for coordination and maintenance of agricultural management information systems within Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI). Current information

sources of MARDE are the facilities at central level and data/information collected by own departments. Though, the departments do not always store data/information systematically. In general there is a lack of up to date information on agriculture and rural development. MARDE does not have branches itself in the regions that could contribute to needed data collection from the beneficiaries for policy development. MARDE has the possibility to make agreements, memoranda of understanding to cooperate with organisations that have branches or networks in the regions (ANSA, AIPA, Statistics office, regional Agricultural Departments, extension service providers, etc) and/or contract organisations for data provision.

The reorganisation aimed at a leaner organisation, working more efficiently with increased staff salaries. Currently such an organisation is not in place yet. The number of staff was tremendously cut. MAFI's staff number decreased from approximately 120 to 29. The merged organisation MARDE has a total of about 120 staff now. Salaries have not increased and staff turnover is high. This development increases the risk that the staff perceives support of the new twinning project only as additional resource, both financially and technically rather than being aware of the "twinning aspect" with focus on institutional and capacity building.

There is strong evidence, regarding the need for continuous **learning and competency development**, which is acknowledged by staff and their managers in MARDE. However, the changes in the work environment, including higher workloads and the complexity of the tasks, make past training practice not suitable anymore. A shift from "training" to "learning and development" should be implemented. MARDE should introduce more efficient methods of training with a focus on coaching and on the job training, as well as, integration of e-Learning.

Substantial inputs were provided by the Technical assistance (TA) project ENPARD and Twinning projects under ENPARD **to the transposition of legislation** and the development of accompanying regulations. The approximation of the National Legislation to the EU norms results from the commitments assumed by Moldova through the Association Agreement with the EU. The transposition of legislation and accompanying regulations ensure sustainability, but this is limited in terms of impact by limited resources and weakness in the institution. The Association Agreement focuses primarily on the adoption of laws and derivative actions but there is no instrument to supervise the quality of the implementation. This is a task which requires more detailed monitoring of adopted legislation to see whether the adopted laws will bring benefits once they are implemented and to measure the quality and sustainability of the implementation.

The AA sets a detailed timetable for legislative reform that will require strengthened institutional capacity in order to implement these reforms.

With support of the previous TA ENPARD project and the Twinning project supporting ANSA the situation as per September 2018 is as follows: **Annex VII Ch 12** of AA- 37 out of 48 Directives and Regulations are transposed. Out of the remaining 11 acts - 2 are partially transposed and 9 are in progress. **Annex XXIV - B of AA** (SPS) – for *activities with deadline in 2017* (69 activities) - 53% are transposed (36 activities), 23% are in progress (16 activities), no information/not started - 23% (16 activities), impossibility of transposition/delay - 1 activity. For the *whole period* (242 activities) - **35%** (84 activities) are transposed, 22% (54 activities) are in progress, no information/not started - 38% (92 activities), impossibility of transposition or delay - 5% (12 activities).

In the revised Action plan of NARDS under Specific Objective 1.1 Modernization of the agri-food chain to meet EU requirements on food safety and quality under 2 it is planned that MARDE, in cooperation with ANSA, will develop standards and requirements in marketing, food safety and quality control adapted to EU and international requirements. This refers to **Annex VII to Chapter 12 (agriculture and**

rural development) of title IV of the AA concerning quality policy, organic farming and marketing standards. Attention needs to be paid also to the implementation of the developed standards and requirements. Mentioned legislation under “marketing standards for plants, seeds of plants, products derived from plants, fruits and vegetables” in annex IV have mostly been harmonized and Government Decisions are available. Mentioned legislation under “organic farming” is under development with support of Czech Development Agency “Strategic support for organic agricultural production the Republic of Moldova” 2017-2021 and a TAIEX Strategic support 2017-2019. On mentioned legislation on “quality policy” and “marketing standard for live animals and animal products” limited progress has been made (see Annex 4), which needs to be a priority within the this Twinning project.

A new National Strategy and Programme on Agriculture and Rural Development 2020+¹ should be developed by MARDE. This new strategy should be a clearly formulated reform strategy, based on solid statistical data, evidence based policy analysis and stakeholder consultation. The NARDS 2020+ shall set performance indicators and clear targets to monitor the achievement of planned objectives. A monitoring methodology, including data collection procedures, is to be fully developed and guidance to the Ministry and training to the relevant staff, on how to monitor the strategy, is to be provided. Further assistance will be also provided to enable MARDE to develop an integrated database system, including data flow between the land register, the farm register and the animal identification, registration and movement control.

The TA ENPARD provided substantial support to the LEADER Coordination Committee, which gathers together all organizations working on LEADER approach on the ground in order to help them build stronger links with MARDE. This allows MARDE to coordinate its policy planning using the LEADER approach to better match with the real situation and better respond to the needs of the Local Action Groups (LAGs)². This will make a substantial contribution to the sustainability of the efforts of MARDE to support both the village renewal and rural infrastructure Measures as well.

AIPA - Agriculture and Intervention Payments Agency

The Agriculture and Intervention Payments Agency (AIPA) was established in 2010 and is subordinated to MARDE. AIPA is responsible for managing the financial resources in agriculture and rural development activities. Within this respect AIPA is co-responsible for drafting the annual support regulation, which is then formally adopted by the Ministry. The nature of subsidy system currently in place is still mostly based on the principle of post-financing, which is not compliant with the EU methodology.

It is stipulated in the National Plan for the implementation of the AA³ that further capacity building within AIPA is necessary to effectively manage the subsidy programme and continue with the progressive alignment of subsidy schemes according to EU policy and to ensure that the institutional development of AIPA is aligned with European standards for accreditation of paying agencies.

With support of the previous Twinning project, AIPA developed a new EU orientated organisational structure covering EU requirements (segregation of powers and duties) with relevant legal basis to implement the selected subsidy scheme following EU methodology. AIPA has undergone also organisational changes with its status being semi-public to again public structure. This change will

¹ Currently next period for NARDS is planned for 2020-2026. In case it is decided to coincide with the National Strategy the NARDS will cover 2020-2030.

² related to NARDS priority 3

³ <http://dcfta.md/eng/national-action-plan-for-the-implementation-of-the-association-agreement-between-the-republic-of-moldova-and-the-european-union-during-2017-2019>

influence the flexibility of decision making of AIPA and the level of salary. The latter probably will increase the staff turnover, which is already relatively high within AIPA.

During the Twinning project comprehensive documentation on **EU like advance payment measures** have been developed. Each phase of the EU like subsidy implementation (project application and approval, payment authorization, field inspection, payment execution, recovery of payment) was reflected in written procedures. Mid 2018 the newly defined support measure scheme (start-up measure: women and youth in agriculture) on advance payments principle was launched and implemented. All the documents elaborated followed the basic principles of the accreditation criteria defined in Annex 1 of the EU regulation 907/2014. TA ENPARD provided inputs into the amalgamation of different databases for AIPA in order to increase the efficiency of the financial management of subsidy payments. The new subsidy system under the advance payment scheme increased transparency of the payment system. There is still room for improvement on impact measurement of the subsidies, the justification of subsidy payments to certain sectors and the predictability of disbursed state aid. Also more practical experience needs to be gained in implementation of the advance payment scheme, especially for application of **new measures on rural development**, which were recently approved. It concerns: “Rural Public Infrastructure”, “Renewal of Villages and development”, “Diversification of economic activities outside agriculture”. A fourth measure – LEADER measure - is under discussion. AIPA has limited experience in the rural development sector related to estimation of the quality of the applications and business plans, field inspections and evaluation of results in this sector.

Under the Subsidy Law 276 approved in 2016, MARDE envisages to implement **direct payment subsidy scheme** from 2020 onwards. The purpose of direct payments in Moldova under the Law is to grant income support to agricultural producers and partially offset production costs. In view of the future direct payments. The current EU model with a fully functional Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS) – including Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and farmer register (GSAA) - seems to be too complex and expensive in comparison with the available support budget⁴. The previous twinning project has initiated the discussion process on direct payments and drafted 3 possible options for implementation. AIPA and MARDE need further support in the continuation of the discussion on direct payment system. As the current IT system of AIPA is in very basic stage, huge investments in IT are unavoidable in any case. AIPA needs to define what would be the best model (perhaps an IACS light) and cooperate closely with ALRC (Land Cadaster and Land Relations Agency) when developing a master plan.

AIPA units that cover **horizontal tasks** such as the Internal Audit Unit, the Accounting Department as well as the newly set up Anti-Fraud Unit have been strengthened under the previous Twinning project. An essential part was the Internal Control System with Risk Management and respective documents. The Anti-Fraud Unit needs further support and training to get more experienced in identifying the red flags.

ANSA - National Food Safety Agency

The National Food Safety Agency (in national abbreviation ANSA) was created in January 2013. In June 2018 the Government Decision 600 on the organisation and functioning of ANSA came into force, and enforced the reorganisation of ANSA. The Agency is subordinated to the Government.

⁴ A new legislation merits a closer look where a possibility of using “checks by monitoring” has been offered to the EU MS (https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/modernising-cap-satellite-data-authorised-replace-farm-checks-2018-may-25_en).

- A proposal for the new CAP post-2020 must be further explored as regards the Area Monitoring System (https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap_en).

The strategic objective of the Agency is to ensure food safety, from raw material production to food distribution to the consumer, and ensure high level of protection of human life and health based on risk analysis by applying a modern and efficient monitoring system for monitoring processes on the entire food chain, in order to ensure the end-user access to safer and healthier products.

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are critical in increasing competitiveness, both for domestic and export markets. The recently conducted EU Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) missions have highlighted the need for ANSA to step up in its efforts to provide state guarantees for safety of products of animal origin. Moldova does not yet have the authorization of Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) to export products of animal origin to EU (except for honey and caviar). A roadmap for poultry meat and eggs exports is in process of implementation. Currently Moldova has difficulties exporting composite products (which contain more than 50% raw material from animal origin – eggs, milk – in biscuits, ice cream, etc.) to Turkey, which ideally would need transit through Romania. As it has taken considerable time for ANSA to implement the Road map for export of poultry meat to the EU, it is envisaged that this Twinning project support the implementation of peer to peer audits and simulation exercises.

Although the previous twinning project supported ANSA in drafting the necessary legislation and regulations from farm to fork (based on the timeline as set in Annex XXIV-B to the Association Agreement) and in building staff capacity, further assistance is needed to ensure that ANSA enforces and implements effective food safety, plant and animal health control systems and carries out efficient monitoring, surveillance and laboratory diagnostics of plant and animal diseases and risk assessment of products, in order to ensure that food business operators are compliant with national and EU food safety standards.

In order to contribute to an increased competitiveness of the Moldovan agri-food sector, which would allow for an increase of the value of exports to the EU market, this Twinning project can support MARDE and ANSA to respect the commitments set out in **Annex VII to the Association Agreement** concerning quality policy, organic farming and marketing standards. Priority will be given to animal origin products. Within this respect it will be useful to use the results of the previous Twinning project on traceability of live animals, products of animal origin and products of non-animal origin and follow the recommendations for further improvement. This is directly related to Regulation 1760/2000. To promote animal identification and registration system for all animal holding premises, it is desirable to make changes in a number of positions in the legislation which are enumerated by the previous Twinning project at ANSA.

ANSA needs to improve its **collection, transmission, storage and analysis of data**, as it is a crucial step for enhanced planning, coordination and implementation of official controls. Further steps should be undertaken to strengthen the capacity and infrastructure of IT department in ANSA. Further developments of registers, data bases, document management system, harmonised reporting templates and checklists are highly recommended, because it will lead certainly to sustainable institutional memory within ANSA. This topic is also included in the food safety strategy 2.6 “Development of an information system for analysing data from ANSA and MARDE (regarding food safety control) to ensure the effective implementation of the developed policies”. The specific task 4 of the food safety strategy is “Development and implementation of the Integrated Information System <e-ANSA>”.

Internationally recognized standard methods for analysis of veterinary drug residues, contaminants and diagnosis of animal disease, improvement of quality system according to ISO/IEC 17025 standard are essential for exporting products of animal or non-animal origin. With the supply contract in the frame of AAP 2016 the **CRDV laboratory** has the opportunity for implementation of those international standards. This Twinning project can contribute to practical training of the laboratory staff.

3.2 Ongoing reforms

The most important reform is the Central Public Administration Reform (PAR) based on the public Administration Reform Strategy 2016-2020.

Within the frame of the reforms the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) is the result of the merger of different institutions - Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Ministry of Environment. In October 2015 one of the new functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) was specifically related to Rural Development.

AIPA was established in 2010 and is subordinated to MARDE. The National Food Safety Agency ANSA was created in January 2013. The Agency is subordinated to the Government.

The policy framework for Rural Infrastructure has been improved through the introduction of two new subsidy measures: "Rural Public Infrastructure" and "Renewal of Villages and development" with (for the first time) local authorities as beneficiaries in the subsidy system. A third approved measure under the subsidy scheme is the measure for "Diversification of economic activities outside agriculture", in line with the EU rural development policy framework. The growing consensus is that although agriculture will continue to play a central role in rural development, the promotion of complementary engines of rural growth is of paramount importance so there is need to focus on the whole range of rural income generating activities. A fourth potential measure is the LEADER measure. Draft amendments and draft subsidy regulations have been developed and submitted to the government.

3.3 Linked activities

There is a large number of donors, both multilateral and bi-lateral, assisting Moldova in the field of agriculture and rural development. The most significant donor projects related to the field of operation in the foreseen Twinning Project are enumerated below. Additionally to the list beneath an EU supply contract is foreseen with CRDV, which is directly related to the upcoming twinning project.

WB Agriculture Competitive Agriculture Project (MAC-P). Implementation: 2012-2020 Enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, food safety management, facilitating market access for farmers and promoting sustainable land management practices.

Main activities carried out in relation to food safety management:

1. The office of ANSA was rebuilt and equipped with office equipment;
2. Four border inspection posts (IBP) were rebuilt: IBP Tudora, IBP Criva, IBP Leușeni, IBP Giurgiulești;
3. The Animal Health Laboratory and the Food Safety Laboratory of the CRDV were equipped with necessary equipment and reagents for accreditation. The metrological testing and calibration of the equipment in the Laboratory "Food Safety" of CRDV was carried out in order to accredit this laboratory;
4. The payment for international accreditation of 5 methods has been paid within the CRDV Animal Health Laboratory at RENAR, Romania;
5. The information system has been developed and put into operation: The Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) at national level is already used in the CRDV Food Safety Laboratory;
6. The Laboratory for Quality and Health Testing of Plants, Feed and Food (Bălți) has been designed and reconstructed. The Laboratory for Quality and Health Testing of Plants, Feed and Food (Cahul) has been designed. Tender for reconstruction will be launched. Equipment and furniture will be procured for the two reconstructed laboratories (Cahul and Balti).

USAID. High Value Agriculture Activity Project (HVAA). Implementation: 2016-2021

Stimulating the process of transformation of HVA of the Republic of Moldova by expanding trade and consolidating market relations; improving post-harvest productivity and handling, and the ability of the private sector to meet the requirements of European and international standards.

Czech Development Agency. Institutional support in the organic agriculture sector in the Republic of Moldova. Implementation: 2017-2021

The project has four components: 1) Consolidated institutional structure in the field of organic farming; 2) Operational system for unified approval of inputs into agriculture ecology; 3) Strengthening the local laboratory in the field of organic farming; and 4) System established for recommending organic agro-technological procedures, species and varieties.

FAO/EU. Strengthening Preparedness, Prevention and Response in case of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) at regional level in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (regional project). Implementation: 2018-2019

This project will contribute to a broader vision of improving animal health in the region, enhancing food safety and security, improving the livelihoods of poor farmers and rural communities and protecting the health of ecosystems in target countries. Expected results: Improve the legislative and regulatory framework for LSD regulation at the national level; National Veterinary Service trained in LSD detection, prevention and control; Veterinary service trained in risk management and communication for possible outbreaks; and Increased awareness of all relevant stakeholders at national level.

Swiss Foundation HEKS. Developing rural communities through the LEADER approach and Local Action Groups. Implementation: 2017-2020

Improving the quality of life and living conditions of the rural population through the creation of Local Action Groups. Specific objectives: 1) To stimulate sustainable community development by creating Local Action Groups; 2) To strengthen the role of civil society in the decision-making process at local and national level (central state authorities).

USAID also implements a project on LEADER approach.

USAID. Viticulture Register (RVV) project. Implementation: 2017-2021

Establish a complete system of traceability and quality assurance in the wine industry by extending the Wine Registry to the national level and strengthening the capacity of local quality control organizations and institutions.

Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. G2G Project “Enhancing the Implementation of official duties of the National Agency for Food Safety of the Republic of Moldova”.

Implementation: 2017-2019.

The project aims at improving ANSA’s system to implement the official duties in the phytosanitary, veterinary and food safety areas. Contributing to the fulfillment of internal and external commitments to increase the export opportunities of the Republic of Moldova, this project built ANSA’s capacities in specific fields.

A full overview of current international projects with MARDE can be found in Annex 5.

3.4 List of applicable Union acquis/standard/norms.

The upcoming Twinning project will cooperate on the legal harmonization of “quality policy”, “organic farming”, “marketing standards for plants, seeds of plants, products derived from plants, fruits and vegetables” and “Marketing standards for live animals and animal products” as mentioned in Annex VII

to chapter 12 (agriculture and rural development) of title IV of the AA. Priority will be given to “marketing standards of live animals and animal products”. EU Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) missions highlighted the need for ANSA to step up its efforts to provide state guarantees for safety of products of animal origin. Legislation that has been evaluated and the tables of correspondence on Animal Health, Feed and Feedstuffs and Food Safety, developed during previous Twinning project with ANSA can be found in Annex 6.

3.5 Components and results per component

Mandatory Result (Component 1): National Legislation, regulating quality policy and marketing standards mainly for live animals and animal products, are aligned with *Union acquis* and progress in the implementation of Title IV, Chapter 12 of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement is made

Objectively Verifiable Indicators

- 95% of the indicated legislation Annex VII to Chapter 12 (agriculture and rural development) of title IV is harmonized according the time set in AA.

Sub-Result 1.1: Quality policy and marketing standards for live animals and animal products are compliant with relevant EU legislation

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Relevant legislation is reviewed and drafts are developed;
- # of amendments to legislation proposed;
- # of relevant secondary legislation developed.

Sub-result 1.2: Quality standards, technical guidelines and checklists for live animals and animal products are developed, applied and enforced

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of standards, technical guidelines and checklists developed;
- # of inspectors are conducting monitoring and surveillance in uniform way;
- % of Stakeholders complying with the requirements.

Sub-result 1.3: Quality standards, technical guidelines and checklists in use of vegetable fats in the food industry and drinking water segment are developed, applied and enforced

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of standards, technical guidelines and checklists developed;
- # of inspectors are conducting monitoring and surveillance in uniform way;
- % of Stakeholders complying with the requirements.

Sub-result 1.4: The identification and registration system of bovine animals and traceability of live animals and animal products are improved

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of improvements introduced in the system for identification and registration;
- Checklists for traceability updated/developed;
- # of Improvement on traceability proposed and implemented.

Sub-result 1.5: MARDE and ANSA Staff and relevant stakeholders/agro-food sector are trained

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of training seminars and practical follow up assignments successfully implemented.

Mandatory Result 2 (Component 2): New policy and legal framework in line with EU policy for agriculture and rural development via the National Strategy and Programme for Agriculture and Rural development 2020 and beyond is adopted

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- The strategy is based on updated and evidence-based sector programmes;
- Subsidy measures are in balance with the different priorities of the strategy;
- The strategy is duly consulted with the relevant internal and external stakeholders;
- The strategy coincides with institutional capacity and budget.

Sub-result 2.1: An ex-ante evaluation of agriculture and rural development policy conducted, combined with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Ex-ante evaluation conducted;
- Conclusions discussed with MARDE, internal stakeholders, and external stakeholders;
- Follow up activities by MARDE planned, based on conclusions of the performed ex-ante evaluation.
- # of existing sector programmes reviewed and updated, and comprising the full value chain in that sector;

Sub-result 2.2: MARDE, AIPA and ANSA staff is capacitated and supported in developing NARDS 2020+

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- 95 % of the action plan for preparation of NARDS implemented;
- # of on- the- job training and follow-up activities successfully implemented;

Sub-result 2.3: A monitoring and evaluation system with measurable indicators is in place

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- High quality of data collection, storage, analysis and reporting / expected result;
- # of M&E activities conducted;
- # of recommendations implemented which resulted from the M&E activities.

Mandatory result 3 (Component 3): Management of the rural development support measures in line with EU standards is improved

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of subsidy applications processed in line with EU norms and standards.

Sub-result 3.1: Support measure schemes on rural development are launched and implemented according advanced payment subsidy mechanism (and according to NARDS 2014-2020)

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of applications approved for at least 3 measures: “Diversification of economic activities outside agriculture”, “Rural Public Infrastructure”, and “Renewal of Villages and development” applying advance payment principle;
- # of irregularities encountered;
- # of potential red flags identified by anti-fraud department.

Sub-result 3.2: Subsidy measures supporting the targeted sectors are implemented in a balanced way and according to NARDS 2020+

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of support measures/sectors compared with amount MDL/sector;
- # of support measures and # of applications approved according to planned NARDS 2020+.
- Monitoring of achievement of indicators per measure with annual reports produced by AIPA

Sub-result 3.3: Concept and perspective of the application of direct payment is determined

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Pros and cons of different scenarios of direct payment support measure elaborated and discussed;
- Most appropriate option selected by MARDE/AIPA and regulations and implementation modalities for direct payment subsidies are elaborated.

Sub-result 3.4: Institutional development of AIPA is aligned with European standards for Paying agencies

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- A peer to peer accreditation audit in AIPA is carried out with recommendations;
- # of priorities for improvement defined and agreed by AIPA for implementation.

Mandatory result 4 (Component 4): Operating structures monitoring and evaluation capacity and inclusive evidence based policy making is improved.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Main agricultural and rural development management information in MARDE, AIPA and ANSA is efficiently collected, stored and made accessible
- 80% of the needed information for evidence-based policy development is available;
- Available information is of high quality and indeed can be used for evident policy development.

Sub-result 4.1: The agricultural and rural development information is efficiently collected, of high quality, reliable, and accessible to the relevant stakeholders

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Review of relevant available information in regional based branches/ networks;
- Needed information is defined and Standards for information collection and provision are set and harmonized;
- # of MoUs and # of contracts signed with relevant organisations.

Sub-result 4.2: Relevant MARDE, AIPA and ANSA staff is trained to analyse and use available data for evidence-based policy-making and implementation of policies and regulations

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of workshops attended by relevant MARDE, AIPA and ANSA staff;
- # of work cases successfully fulfilled.

Mandatory result 5 (Component 5): Capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment, its subordinated structure the Agriculture and Intervention Payment Agency, and the National Food Safety Agency for inclusive and evidence-based design and implementation of agriculture, rural development and food safety policy in line with the principles of public administration and the "better regulation guidelines", and development and implementation of food safety/quality/organic/marketing standards, in line with AA/DCFTA commitments are improved

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- 100% preparedness for EU requirements for transit and export of composite products and meat products to and through EU member states;
- Accreditation of CRDV is obtained.

Sub-result 5.1: Strategic planning and reporting within and among the institutions is realigned and harmonized

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Annual work plans of MARDE/AIPA/ANSA departments are prepared in synergy, updated and implemented;
- Annual work plans of AIPA / ANSA departments at central and regional offices are updated and implemented.

Sub-result 5.2: ANSA is prepared to meet EU requirements to transit and export composite products through/to EU member states

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- A peer to peer audit on the status of meeting the EU requirements for transit and export dairy composite products is carried out with recommendations;
- # of improvements needed and agreed for implementation by ANSA;
- # of implemented improvements aligned with EU requirements.

Sub-result 5.3: ANSA is prepared to meet EU requirements for transit / export meat products through/to EU member states

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- A peer to peer audit on the status of meeting the EU requirements for transit and export of meat products is simulated;
- # of improvements needed;
- # of implemented improvements aligned with EU requirements.

Sub-result 5.4: Monitoring and surveillance, risk assessment of products is improved

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Plan for improvement mapped out;
- # of work cases implemented after training;
- # of bottlenecks solved.

Sub-result 5.5: Institutional development of CRDV is aligned with European standards for accreditation of the laboratory

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- # of trained staff and # work cases successfully implemented;

3.6 Means/inputs from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)

The twinning project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning contract between the MS(s) and the Republic of Moldova. The implementation of the Project requires one Project Leader, responsible for the overall coordination of project activities, two Resident Twinning Advisers, responsible for management and implementation of Project activities foreseen, Component Leaders and a pool of short-term Experts. It is essential that the team has sufficiently broad expertise to cover all the areas included in the Project description. The interested EU Member State institution(s) shall include in its proposal the CVs of the designated Project Leader, Resident Twinning Advisers, and the proposed Components Leaders and the specific component to which they will be assigned to. The details of implementation of the Twinning Project will be agreed after the signature of the contract during the preparation of the Work Plan.

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL

The Project Leader (PL) should be a high level civil servant with overall knowledge of issues related to EU Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy development, policy development on subsidy interventions and food safety issues. S/he should have sufficient authority to ensure that the Member State (MS) public administration supports the project and the Resident Twinning Advisors (RTAs), with particular regard to the provision and preparation of short-term experts and financial administration. S/he should have a proven experience in project management and fluent in spoken and written English. The MS Project Leader will chair all meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) together with the Beneficiary Country (BC) PL. PSC meetings take place in Moldova once every 3 months. In case of bottlenecks and procedural problems in the project, s/he will act as a facilitator to overcome such problems. PL, together with the BC PL, bears the overall responsibility for an efficient and effective implementation of the Twinning project.

Requirements:

- University degree/education in agricultural and rural development policy development or related field, or equivalent experience of 8 years in the absence of the required university degree;
- Senior civil servant or equivalent staff of the MS institution;
- Experience in agriculture, rural development or food safety policy formulation/implementation of minimum 3 years;
- A very good command of written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);

Tasks:

- Overall coordination, guidance and monitoring of the project;
- Preparation of project progress reports with support of RTA;
- Timely achievement of the project mandatory results;
- Timely input of resources on the MS side;
- Co-chairing of project Steering Committees;
- Provision of legal and technical advice and analysis whenever needed.

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA

Resident Twinning Advisors shall be a senior civil servant or a senior staff member in an institution responsible for the fields covered by this project.

Two Resident Twinning Advisors are foreseen to work in this Twinning project. One RTA-1 is hosted with MARDE/AIPA and s/he is lead responsible for mandatory result 2 (Component 2), Mandatory Result 3 (Component 3) and Mandatory Result 4 (Component 4). The second RTA-2 will be hosted in ANSA and is lead responsible for mandatory result 1 (Component 1) and Mandatory result 5 (Component 5) and s/he will also contribute to common coordination and other tasks under Mandatory Result 2 (Component 2), Mandatory Result 3 (Component 3) and Mandatory Result 4 (Component 4) on demand. In order to reach the planned strengthened institutional development and cooperation among the three institutes, the RTAs and involved institutions need to align project activities and cooperate closely together. Therefore RTA 1 will have the overall coordination and responsibility for the reporting. RTA-2 supports activities under component 2 whenever needed. The RTAs will be based in Moldova to provide full-time input and advice to the project. S/he will be the main liaison partner for the Beneficiary, will be responsible for the day-to-day management, and will support the implementation of the activities. His/her active participation in establishing the work plan after the project has been awarded is essential. Each RTA will be responsible for the selection and supervision of the RTA Assistant and RTA language assistant/secretary respectively.

Specific requirements, experience, and skills of RTA 1 – (lead for Mandatory result 2 (Component 2), Mandatory Result 3 (Component 3) and Mandatory Result 4 (Component 4)

- University degree/education in the field of Agriculture, Rural Development, policy development or related field, or equivalent experience of 8 years in the absence of the required university degree;
- At least 3 years of professional experience, preferably in the field of - agricultural and rural development - policy and strategy development, preparation of sector programmes, development of EU subsidy measures and its implementation and agricultural and rural development information management systems;
- Knowledge of EU directives and best practices in the area of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- A very good command of written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);
- Proven experience in project management of at least 2 years;

Specific requirements, experience, and skills of RTA 2 (lead for Mandatory result 1 (Component 1) and Mandatory Result 5 (Component 5)

- University degree/education in the field of livestock, veterinary science, food safety, policy development or related field, or equivalent experience of 8 years in the absence of the required university degree;
- At least 3 years of professional experience, preferably in the field of food safety, EU requirements from raw material production to food distribution to the consumer, health based risk analysis and application of efficient monitoring and surveillance systems on the entire food chain, auditing process for accreditation of institutions;
- Knowledge of EU directives and best practices in the area of SPS and food safety area.
- Proven experience in project management of at least 2 years;

Tasks:

- Support and coordinate all Twinning project activities in the Beneficiary Country (BC);
- Manage the day-to-day coordination and implementation of project activities, including STEs activities;
- Provide technical inputs to project activities and implementation, focussing on RTA's area of expertise if appropriate;
- Liaise with in-country Twinning counterparts;
- Liaise with and report to the MS Project Leader;
- Draft ToRs for Short Term Experts (STEs) and coordinate their activities;
- Supervise and monitor project implementation and propose adaptations if required;
- Prepare project reports;
- Organise kick-off and project closure events and activity related workshops, roundtable meetings and training sessions;
- Organise study visits;
- Network with stakeholders of the project in Moldova and in MS;
- Promote harmonization of project activities with other existing initiatives in the same domain;
- Ensure visibility of EU support provided through the Twinning and establish communication strategy.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders

For each of the five components, the BC will identify and assign a Counterpart Component Leader with appropriate skills and knowledge. The Component Leader will be in charge of planning and executing the work plan for activities defined to achieve the expected results together with the respective MS Component Leader. All work plans will be consolidated by the RTAs and approved during the PSC meetings. The Component Leaders will work in close collaboration with the RTA. They will report to the RTA and Project Leader and their counterparts inside BC institutes at the PSC meetings.

Requirements:

- University degree/education in the field related to component that she/he is proposed for, or relevant equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree;
- Senior civil servant or equivalent staff of the MS administration;
- At least 3 years of professional experience in the field that she/he is proposed for;
- A very good command of written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of short-term experts (STEs):

The project will get specialist expertise, provided by a number of STEs who will complement each other in their work. These experts will be suitably qualified and capable of providing the necessary skills and experience to support the achievement of the results described in 3.5 above. The profiles of STE experts indicated below are indicative.

The profiles of the STEs for this twinning project include:

- Legal expert;
- Food safety expert;
- Monitoring and surveillance expert;
- Expert on dairy and composite products and EU requirements;
- Expert on meat products and EU requirements;
- Expert on use of vegetable fats in the food industry;
- Agricultural economist;
- Expert on agricultural policy and funds;
- Experts on auditing and accreditation; and,
- Information technology (IT) expert.

General profile:

- University degree in a relevant subject, or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in a related area;
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in the field of the relevant mandatory result;
- Good command of written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);
- Experience of working internationally is an asset.

Tasks:

- Provide technical inputs in specific areas of implementing Twinning activities, including:
 - ❖ Carrying out needs assessments and compiling and drafting of assessment reports and requirements documents,
 - ❖ Drafting of methodological materials and technical documents,
 - ❖ On-the-job training,
 - ❖ Preparation of workshop material and specialist presentations,
 - ❖ Assisting and / or facilitating workshops, roundtable meetings and training sessions organisation, as per the terms of reference provided by the RTA prior to each mission;
- Liaise with the RTAs, the RTA in-country Twinning counterparts, and Component Leaders;

- Report to the RTAs;

4. Budget

Maximum Budget available for the grant is EUR 2,000,000

5. Implementation Arrangements

5.1 Implementing Agency / Contracting Authority:

The European Union Delegation to Moldova will be responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting

The person in charge of this project is:

Ms. Iva STAMENOVA, Project Manager.
Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Moldova
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5.2 Institutional framework

MARDE

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) is the central government authority responsible for the development and promotion of policies for sustainable development of the agri-food sector and rural areas. In October 2015, one of the new functions of MAFI is specifically related to Rural Development. MAFI is thus the key institution coordinating the activities proposed for these sectors and responsible for assessing the impact of its measures, together with other subordinated institutions. MAFI was reorganised in September 2017 and is now referred to Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE).

The reorganisation aimed at a leaner organisation and working more efficiently with increased staff salaries. Currently such an organisation is not in place yet. The number of staff within MAFI was tremendously cut, from approximately 120 to 29. The merged organisation MARDE has a total of approximately 120 staff now. Salaries have not been increased and staff turnover is high.

Directly under the Minister, the state secretary supervises MARDE. Horizontally in the organigram s/he is supported by the Directorate on policy development and M&E. S/he supervises four state secretaries: policies/livestock, policies/plant origin, regional and rural development, environmental protection as well as the institutional management division. The organigram of MARDE can be found in Annex 7.

AIPA

The Agriculture and Intervention Payments Agency (AIPA) was established in 2010 and is subordinated to MARDE. AIPA is responsible for managing the financial resources in agriculture and rural development activities.

AIPA's organizational structure comprises a main office based in Chisinau and 10 regional offices covering the whole country. The Agency is managed by a Director and two deputy directors. The organigram can be found in Annex 7.

ANSA

The National Food Safety Agency (in Moldovan language abbreviation ANSA) was created in January 2013. In June 2018 the Government Decision 600 on the organisation and functioning of ANSA came into force, and enforced the reorganisation of ANSA. The Agency is subordinated to the Government.

ANSA currently employs 1,330 technical staff (223 staff members at central level, 150 staff members at 7 Border Inspection Points and 957 staff members in the 23 territorial structures).

ANSA performs functions in the following areas:

- 1) Sanitary veterinary and zootechnics;
- 2) Phytosanitary and plant protection;
- 3) Food safety and quality;
- 4) Production and circulation of wine and alcoholic beverages;
- 5) Consumer protection in the food sector;
- 6) Occupational safety;
- 7) Compliance with licensing conditions in related fields.

The organigram of ANSA can be found in Annex 7 as well.

ANSA is the founder of the following public institutions:

- 1) Republican Center for Veterinary Diagnosis (RCVD). The center is the National Reference Laboratory for veterinary and food safety and feed safety. It has two regional labs, one in the south and one in the north;
- 2) Central Phytosanitary Laboratory;
- 3) Central laboratory for testing of alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and canned products.

The labs collaborate closely with other labs in Moldova and abroad (Romania, Austria) to conduct tests which they cannot do in their own lab.

MARDE, AIPA and ANSA responsibilities and tasks are interrelated with each other. MARDE is responsible for designing policies, while AIPA and ANSA are responsible for implementing them.

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary Administration

5.3.1 Contact person

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5.3.2 Project leader counterpart – Moldova

Mr. Ion Perju
Minister of MARDE
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5.3.3 RTA Counterpart

RTA counterpart MARDE
Olga Popovici
Main consultant of the Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Department of MARDE

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RTA counterpart AIPA

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6. Duration of the project

Duration of the project is 24 months. The execution period is 27 months (i.e. activities implementation period plus three months).

7. Management and reporting

7.1 Language

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English / French). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

7.2 Project Steering Committee

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

7.3 Reporting

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

8. Sustainability

The defined mandatory results are a good balance between the requirements of AA, the AAP 2016 and the needs of the BC institutions.

This project includes the development of strategic documents and new legislation. While developing the strategies internal and external stakeholders are consulted. An M&E system will be put in place and should contribute to the real implementation and foreseen impact.

Through the Twinning activities the BC's institutions are expected to become more efficient, and in particular more effective in their way of working. At the same time, they will be equipped with capabilities to be flexible and adapt over time to changing (legal) requirements and technology.

9. Crosscutting issues

The Twinning project will have a positive impact on promoting cross-cutting issues such as: good governance, accountability, environment, climate change and rights-based approaches (including Gender mainstreaming).

The project will apply the principles of public administration and good governance in the agricultural and rural development sector with special reference to legislative and policy development, ensuring that they are developed in an evidence-based and consultative process.

While preparing the new Strategy on Agriculture and Rural development, a SEA will be part of the ex-ante evaluation.

NARDS 2020+ development will be done with a strong focus on protection of the environment and climate change by lowering the environmental burden through a diversification of agricultural and economic activities in rural areas.

In terms of gender equality, the project will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan by promoting women enterprise ownership and/or management in the rural areas of Moldova.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

MARDE, AIPA and ANSA are expected to provide strong commitment at all levels and cooperation and coordination with the MS team in order to enable the successful implementation of the project. The different institutions will strongly contribute to achieving the mandatory results, directly using the provided technical inputs of the MS team and aligning each of the activities.

11. Indicators for performance measurement

Indicators for performance measurement are included in the logframe attached as Annex 1. The main performance measurement indicator is related to the harmonization of legislation in Annex VII to Chapter 12 (agriculture and rural development) of title IV according to the time set in the AA.

The NARDS 2020+ will be ready and approved. Attention will be paid to collection of information in order to enable evidence-based policy development. A robust M&E system will thereby be in place to guide the implementation of NARDS 2020+. A sound financial management system for subsidy will also be operating and performance is to be measured by the number of applications processed in line with EU norms and standards.

12. Facilities available

The beneficiaries, MARDE/AIPA and ANSA, commit themselves to providing the following facilities and logistics:

- Three adequately equipped offices for the RTA, RTA assistant and language assistant/translator, and STEs for the entire duration of their mission;
- Office spaces include access to telephone, internet, printer, photocopier, scanner for MS in-country staff and visiting experts;
- Adequate conditions for the STEs to perform their work while on mission to the BC;
- Suitable venues for the training sessions and meetings that will be held during the Project;
- Transport to local and regional collaborator offices as and when needed;
- Security related issues will be addressed according to the standards and practices applicable for public institutions in Moldova.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

Annex 1	The Simplified Logical framework matrix as per Annex C1a (compulsory)
Annex 2	Revised NARDS 2014-2020 and updated action plan
Annex 3	Mid-term evaluation of NARDS 2014-2020
Annex 4	Progress on harmonization of legislation Annex VII to Chapter 12 of title IV
Annex 5	Overview of current international projects with MARDE
Annex 6	Overview of legislation evaluation and tables of correspondence on animal health, feed and feedstuffs and food safety
Annex 7	Organigram of MARDE, AIPA and ANSA