



EcoVisio Association
Year Report 2015

Ince Ecology
I. Ince

ECOVISIO

Public Association „EcoVisio”
Str. Mateevici 71, of. 5A Chişinău,
Republic of Moldova, MD-2009

www.ecovisio.org

info@ecovisio.org

+373 22 245799

+373 794 56612

Annual report on activity in 2015

Prepared by:

Gabriela Isac
Maxim Pijevskii
Ion Ungureanu
Valeria Şvarţ-Gröger

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I. Introduction

Our Vision

EcoVisio is a youth led grassroots NGO from Moldova working in the field of environment, social entrepreneurship and civic engagement. We focus our work on empowerment through education, action, and connecting people. Our vision is the sustainable development of Moldova and the neighboring regions by uniting all the ethnic groups and languages present in a diverse and resilient society based on positive attitude, values of creative economic cooperation, and responsibility for natural resources as commons. Our main working topics are education, organic agriculture, eco-construction, transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energies, consumer awareness, urban/rural development and resource flows, including integrated waste management.

EcoVisio is implementing its mission by connecting more and more people who want to work on a common vision for the region and creating a vibrant community of change makers. We train people and provide them with instruments to implement small projects or start-ups in their neighborhoods or villages; we share information about the situation of our planet and work together on alternative solutions for making our world a better place to live.

The main principles of our work are cooperation instead of competition, transparency and trust, unity in diversity, quality and striving for excellence, simple life, and sustainability.



Our Team

Botnaru Liliana
Cazacov Veronica
Cernov Elena
Gröger Julian

- Board Member , Eco-village Coordinator
- IarmarEco coordinator 2015, Torbesc team
- The committee of censors, activEco facilitator
- The committee of censors, Treasurer and activEco financial coordinator, facilitator

Guzun Eugen
Hubca Anea
Isac Gabriela

- Seed it Forward coordinator
- activEco orga-team, facilitator
- Communication and PR coordinator, Seed It Forward team, activEco team

Luca Daniela
Mamaliga Eliza
Patel Bhavesh
Pijevskii Maxim
Popova Maria
Șvarț-Gröger Valeria
Ungureanu Ion

- EcoBag coordinator 2014-2015
- Vice-president, activEco facilitator, ActivLocal coordinator
- activEco facilitator, coach, Inside-Out-Leadership founder
- Executive director EcoVisio, activEco coordinator, facilitator
- activEco coordinator, facilitator
- President EcoVisio, activEco coordinator, facilitator
- EcoVisio Board Secretary, activEco facilitator, PR and design coordinator

Vinari Petru

- Seed It Forward team, activEco program 2015 alumni coordinator

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. Currently EcoVisio has 15 active staff members (almost all work part-time). 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 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.

II. Summary of the main developments and changes in 2015

- In 2015 the EcoVisio Association, established in 1999, was re-registered at the Ministry of Justice of Moldova as an association acting at the **national level**; the new Statute of the Association was adopted
- The **new office** / Head Quarters of EcoVisio was opened in Chisinau and the new official address was assigned (str. Mateevici 71, of. 5A, Chisinau)
- One important feature of the development of the EcoVisio Association in 2015, as well as its main characteristic for this period, was "**Growth**". The Association has grown in terms of the **number** of members, projects, partners, beneficiaries, areas of activity, and **geographical** dimensions (partners and beneficiaries from Ukraine, Romania, Germany etc.)
- Along with existing partner projects ("activEco Program", "Eco-Village", "Dulce Plai"), two more initiatives have become members of EcoVisio Association ("Torbesc" and "Seed it Forward")
- The topic of **Social Entrepreneurship** in Moldova was brought to a new level (SE Forum) and integrated more deeply into the work of the Association
- Growth and **professional development** of the EcoVisio team: new positions within the association have appeared (Alumni Coordinator, IarmarEco Coordinator, PR coordinator)
- New **Partnerships** established (National Platform for Environment and Health, Climate-KIC, Ministry of Economy)
- EcoVisio has strengthened its green economy component and gained valuable experience while administrating the first edition of the **ClimateLaunchpad** program for clean-tech start-ups in Moldova
- Growth of the main program implemented by EcoVisio, "activEco" (new seminars, using 3 languages, more participants, expanded geographical coverage, regional training for mentors, more alumni activities)
- **Expanded fundraising**: First experience with new donors (US Embassy in Moldova), continuation of successful cooperation with previous donors (MitOst Association, German Foreign Office, Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), first experience with sponsors such as private companies, local and international organizations (ProCredit Bank, StarNet, UNDP Moldova)
- Trying out new fundraising options, such as **Crowdfunding** for the construction of the Eco-training Center
- Continuation of the projects launched by our **alumni** in previous years ("**Iarba Urbana**")
- More active involvement in **Erasmus+** program as a partner organization
- New activities were initiated (regular "**Movie Nights**" event)
- Increased level of **media coverage** of the EcoVisio activities
- The "IarmarEco" event was brought to a new level in terms of content, number of participants, topics covered, and professionalism of preparation
- First **External Evaluation** of the work of the EcoVisio Association and its activEco program by a professional evaluator took place.

III. Projects and Programs of EcoVisio in 2015

a. “activEco” program for Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship

What is activEco?

Started in the Republic of Moldova in 2013, the “activEco” educational program is at the moment the largest project implemented by the EcoVisio Association. It consists of two program lines: **Sustainable Development** and **Social Entrepreneurship**. Its main aim is to empower creative and motivated young people to focus their energy on the transition of our society to sustainable living. In 3 years of facilitating an exchange between young people from the South, North and Center of Moldova, including Transnistria and Gagauzia, the program has contributed to an ongoing constructive dialog at the grassroots level among representatives of different social backgrounds and ethnical groups, trying to work beyond the current language and ethnic controversy present in the country. In 2015 the program reached for the first time an international dimension and now invites participants from a larger region including not only all parts of Moldova, but also bordering areas of Romania and Ukraine. This approach makes tackling ecological issues more efficient and comprehensive, and at the same time brings intercultural dialogue, learning and grass-root peacemaking to a new level. More info can be found at: www.activeco-program.org



The program involves young people from the whole region in a process of constant interactive learning, capacity building, practical implementation of the acquired skills, and multiplication of the impact in a broader society. To attain that, the “activEco” program includes a capacity-building curriculum, seed funding for volunteers’ micro projects or start-ups, and a peer-to-peer mentoring for the participants. Overall, the “activEco” framework offers a secure platform for learning, sharing, and trying out innovations in the field of sustainable development and social entrepreneurship. The major outcome is that at the end of each program year there is a group of skilled and inspired catalysts of sustainable development strategies who are eager to engage in a growing network of changemakers in the Republic of Moldova and in the neighboring regions.

The program is implemented in collaboration with the German NGO “Active Commons” and Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg (a program of the Robert-Bosch-Stiftung and MitOst e.V.), which provides training and support for international facilitators, and is further supported by the Ministry of Environment of Moldova. The main program funder is the German Foreign Office. Some components of the program are supported by other donors and partners: in 2015 especially by the US Embassy in Moldova had a large role.

Summary of the 2015 program cycle

The general structure of the program can be divided into 4 main stages: 1) Impulse seminar 2) Project Management Seminar 3) Project implementation by participants 4) Reflection and Future opportunities seminar (see Figure 1). However, each year several new elements are introduced into the program. In 2015 the program consisted of three “Impulse Seminars”. The first one was focused on Social Entrepreneurship (in English). This seminar was followed by two seminars dealing with the broader topic of “Sustainable Development” (one was in English and one in Russian/Romanian). Today the program also includes the Social Entrepreneurship Forum, a “Project Proposal Writing and Mentors Matching WeekEnd”, a “Project Management Seminar”, a “Harvesting Seminar - Reflection and Future Opportunities” and the large public event “IarmarEco 2015”. During the course of 7 months the program has involved about 80 participants who participated in at least one seminar, and about 40 young people who have passed through the whole cycle of training and coaching to then implement their own dream idea, and make a lasting and sustainable change in their community.

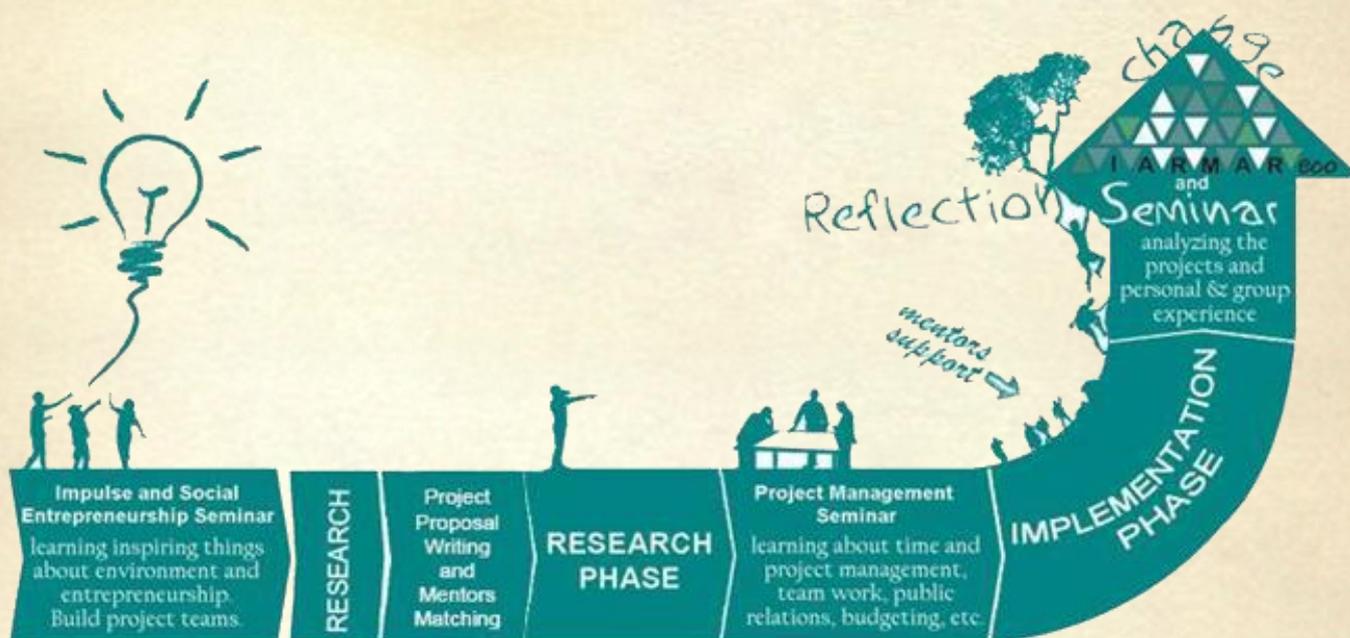


Figure 1 - a simplified structure of the activEco program

In 2015 the geographical area of the program was expanded. This year participants from all country development regions were involved: South (including Gagauzia), North, Center and Transnistria. For the first time, the program has reached international dimensions by involving participants from Ukraine and Romania along with youth from all regions of Moldova (including Transnistria and Gagauzia).

By the end of the program course 22 participants' projects were implemented (mainly in groups of 2-3 people, but also individually) in different parts of Moldova and even some cities of Ukraine. The projects addressed various aspects of sustainable development: energy and resource efficiency, waste prevention, permaculture, organic agriculture, urban gardening, healthy lifestyle, ecological education and consulting, conscious consumption, and joint use of materials and instruments etc. The year culminated in a large public networking event, IarmarEco - the Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship in Moldova.



Participants' projects in 2015

In the framework of activEco 2015 the following projects were implemented by participants:

1. "Green Stone" | Team: Irina Tiron & Andriana Sindirinschi
2. "EcoTrain" | Team: Ann Senko & Lilia Tkaciuk & Andrei Myshastyi
3. "BioPaulownia" | Team: Tatiana Panaguta & Antonela Secureanu
4. "ecoestafeta.com" | Team: Evghenii Titarenko & Evghenii Kuzmiciov & Tatiana Zavorotko & Valeria Goryaeva
5. "Urban Garden for Chisinau" | Team: Margarita Cerneavschi & Cristian Cucu & Alexandru Barbarosie
6. "Green Light" | Team: Hanna Arhirova & Natalia Polovenko
7. "Let's create green!" | Team: Joela Laghi (SD1)
8. "Plant Your Tree" | Team: Valentin Akbyik & Taya Camenscic
9. "Using organic waste in an efficient way" | Team: Constantin Furtuna & Inna Gordeeva
10. "EcoQuest" | Team: Alexandru Donos & Rodica Buga & Tatiana Cataraga & Irina Pompus
11. "Live Water" | Team: Victoria Ursu & Tatiana Diaciuc & Nicolae Morari
12. "Paper Collector" | Team: Marin Cimbriciuc & Liubovi Chioresco & Iulea Minciucova
13. "Balance" Documentary | Team: Alexandr Garabajiu & Anastasia Lepilova
14. "Our Green Park"" | Team: Svetlana Razmerita
15. "Clean means preventing littering!" | Team: Serghei Dolgov & Tatiana Vidova & Irina Chisacova & Oleg Mavrodi
16. "Bike Guide: Tour with tourists in Chisinau " | Team: Liviu Nemtanu & Ion Mocanu
17. "Vive Soil: Worm Box" | Team: Mihail Cebanu & Ilie Postolachi & Alexandr Nikitin
18. "Atelier 99. First Workshop of the Maker Community in Moldova" | Team: Iurie Nuca & Victor
19. "No limit. Training Center NO LIMITS" | Team: Natalia Batir
20. "AskUs: LPA and NGO consulting center. Public Consulting Roundtable" | Team: Marcela Friptu & Diana Golban & Veronica Cazacov & Adrian Bitco
21. "Torbesc - Traiesc, lubesc, lubesc, Torbesc. - Fabric bags designing, testing production process and selling first 100 bags" | Team: Ecaterina Tarus & Veronica Cazacov (SE)
22. "Eco-Package" | Team: Ion Cataraga



Details about each project can be found at:

<http://www.activeco-program.org/en/participants/projects-in-2015/>

b. Social Entrepreneurship Forum

The first „Social Entrepreneurship Forum in Moldova” took place on April 29, 2015 in Chisinau. The main idea of the Forum was to bring together relevant actors of the field, as well as activEco participants and alumni, friends and partners in order to define the concept of social entrepreneurship, share **inspirations** and **best practices**, and **develop the sector** together.

The forum hosted more than 100 guests representing diverse spheres. Special focus was made on successful examples of social businesses in Moldova. Recognized experts in this field were invited to share their experiences in panel discussions.



The participants and guests could see the success stories and each others’ new projects, test their own ideas, receive valuable feedback, and find opportunities and partners with the help of **facilitated networking**. In addition, of course, there was enough space for activEco participants to present their entrepreneurial ideas and to gain some valuable feedback from the Forum visitors.

c. “IarmarEco” – the Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship in Moldova

IarmarEco - the Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship in Moldova - is a socio-cultural event uniting EcoVisio and its many partners and supporters, which aims to unite the **key stakeholders** in the change-makers' world of sustainable development in Moldova. The main goal of the event is to bring together in one common space ecological and social initiatives, NGOs, producers and distributors of eco-products and social entrepreneurs from Moldova. Moreover, it is a space for the activEco participants to meet the larger community of like-minded people, as well as find possible partners for further implementation of their projects.





IarmarEco was first launched in 2013 and has been consistently growing ever since. In its third year, 2015, the event has expanded substantially, hosting about 100 exhibitors, featuring a higher variety of initiatives and products, and attracting over 900 visitors.

Overall, the third edition of IarmarEco has gained not only in numbers, but also in many new features. For the first time, it has moved into a new, larger building. For the first time there were exhibitors and participants from neighboring Romania and Ukraine. For the first time the exhibitors' range included companies which provide services in sustainable energy, educational initiatives and projects of international organizations (for example the German Agency for International Development - GIZ). For the first time we have managed to proclaim a "plastic free" space where no exhibitors were allowed to use plastic bags or cups, and offered, instead, to use the alternatives from fabric and paper prepared by organizers.

You are kindly invited to IarmarEco on October 25 (12.00-17.00)



At IarmarEco we want to *diminish or completely exclude one-way PLASTIC PACKAGING*. Therefore:

- Those who come with their own cup will get a free tea from the EcoVisio stand
- Those who come with their own fabric bag, will have a chance to personalize them with special colors for free



We are preparing *a RAFFLE with lots of exciting gifts from the exhibitors* for you. In order to get your free ticket:

- Come by bike
- Bring old broken clothes – Torbesc will make bags out of them
- Bring at least 5 old batteries for recycling
- Have meaningful conversation with at least 10 exhibitors and get stickers from them



 **TAKE PHOTOS** with your smartphone during the event and plod them with the **#IarmarEco hashtag**. The best photo will be **awarded!**

Please don't leave your **CHILDREN** at home. A special playing corner will be arranged for them and lots of interesting workshops will take place.



www.iarmareco.md

Each year IarmarEco is coming closer to its aim of becoming an educational event. With the networking session "World Cafe" for all the exhibitors, practical workshops, moderated discussions and educational sessions, IarmarEco 2015 was really a unique combination of exhibitors and activities that made the atmosphere educative and participatory. More info at www.iarmareco.md

d. “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 of Riscova, Moldova. For a few years already it has continued to serve as a base for various constructive activities – along with another series of workshops (three Eco-Construction and five Organic Gardening days). These workshops combine team-building and guided learning on ecological practices, and solutions and useful practical skills. The grounds of Eco-Village have been enriched with two buildings (one for workshops and one residential, already inhabited), a community bread oven, a bike shed built from upcycled pallets, a plastic recycling station, a compost bin and an organic garden. Meanwhile, the participants have learned about the particularities of reed and straw-bale construction methods, natural plastering and lime coloring techniques, as well as building from upcycled materials. Working in the garden, they have also found out more about growing seedlings, compatible plant associations, mulching, natural pest control, seed collection and storage, fostering biodiversity, etc. Besides, EcoVisio members and activEco, alumni had the opportunity to get involved in the work of the local “Eco-Club” – from organizing some educational sessions up to creating a foundation for a community park from recycled materials.



In 2015, the Eco-village team began the construction of an Environmental Training Center, which will serve as a regional hub for practical education in the fields of organic agriculture, energy efficiency, eco-construction and community development. The smaller workshop space is ready for use. In 2016 another larger building for events hosting up to 60 people will be initiated.

Eco-Village and its founders are already having a positive impact on the local, national and international community. As the residential building is ready, the first 2 pioneer families moved in, testing the practical side of the eco-construction techniques and rural life. The results have surpassed their expectations: reed has proved to be a very good insulator and clay plaster an excellent ‘solar heater’, keeping the house warm even in the coldest days of this winter. In May 2015 Eco-Village hosted its first international training, with participants from 7 different countries: thematic workshops have inspired tens of people to learn practical things about sustainable lifestyle. Last, but not least, throughout the whole year 22 locals had a chance to earn some income without leaving the village through construction jobs, catering, hosting visitors, transportation and other services. More info can be found at: www.ecovisio.org/training-center and www.eco-village.md



e. Green-NGO-Network around the “Nistru” River

With the support of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), EcoVisio has conducted a series of events in the framework of the “Green-NGO-Network around the Nistru River” project. The project included engaging representatives of environmental NGOs from Moldova (including Transnistria) and bordering regions of Ukraine. The aim of the project was to explore opportunities for future cooperation, common activities and initiatives.



The first step, realized on August 8-9, 2015, consisted of a first networking meeting and a common bike tour to the town of Bendery. Apart from the possibility for a group of Moldovan-Transnistrian and Ukrainian activists to spend a whole day together in a dynamic and constructive atmosphere, it was also a great chance to reconnect and meet organizations and activists from Transnistria. The activity has demonstrated how close both banks of the river Nistru actually are and how many similarities people living on both sides have. The event has also helped to unite activists from both sides under one joint topic: development of bike tourism and transportation.

The second part of this project, a network development seminar, was held on October 22-25, 2015 in a picturesque village of Lalova on the border with Transnistria. The goal of this meeting was to see what opportunities and networks exist and function already in order to enhance the level of cross-border cooperation of environmental education workers from Moldova (including Transnistria) and Ukraine. During the seminar, participants exchanged experience, methods and information, created a common vision and planned specific joint collaboration steps, such as, the creation of an Eco-tourism platform, and the initiation of a conference dedicated to the year of soils, etc.

More info at: <http://ecovisio.org/common-activities-around-river-dniester>

f. “Seed it Forward” tree planting initiative

In the autumn of 2015 two activEco alumni got involved into the “Seed It Forward” initiative, working on grassroots afforestation of Moldova, and introduced it into the EcoVisio Association. Their first action took place on November 14, 2015 in the village of Bubuieci, Chisinau municipality, and involved about 400 volunteers from different localities, organizations and backgrounds. All together, they planted more than 2000 trees and shrubs, setting the base for a community park in the place of a former landfill.

That was the first step of the “Plantăm fapte bune în Moldova” (“Planting good deeds in Moldova”) project, based on complex cooperation with community, especially youth, local authorities, companies and media, as well as international partners. What makes it special is the pledge to take care of trees already planted until they become forest, and to expand this volunteering afforestation movement to other regions of our country. More info at seeditforward.org



Plantam fapte bune in Moldova! 2015 Bubuieci

g. “Torbesc” start-up and “Eco-Bag Moldova” Campaign



In 2015 EcoVisio activities have been enriched by the “Torbesc” project, which has become part of the Association. The team of Torbesc is sewing fabric bags out of used clothes and new materials. They are aiming to reduce plastic bag usage, give a second life to old unneeded fabric, and to convey to fellow citizens a spirit of responsibility and awareness about the impact of our everyday routine on environment, climate, health and our future as the human species. They are also planning to create jobs for people with disabilities. Finally, the initiators of the project want to develop their capacity in project management and social entrepreneurship, to gain experience, and to expand their

network. The “Torbesc” start-up was initiated by alumni of the activEco program and thus it was the next consistent step inspired by the “EcoBag Moldova” project. More info at www.facebook.com/torbesc

“EcoBag Moldova” was implemented by EcoVisio with the support from DAAD and the German Foreign Office in 2014-2015. The goal of this project was to reduce the amount of plastic bags used, to raise awareness on ecological issues among young people, and to promote responsible consumption and active citizenship in Moldova. The project consisted of a series of round tables for stakeholders from the governmental, economic and civil society sectors, a series of seminars for youth – who became multipliers of this idea throughout the country. The project also included a series a of practical workshops on bag creation and personalization, and a public campaign based on promotional videos, photo-shooting and work with social media. More info at: ecovisio.org/projects/ecobag



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

ClimateLaunchpad, Europe’s Largest Cleantech Business Idea Competition organized in 28 countries, was held in Moldova for the first time in 2015, facilitated by EcoVisio Association. The program offers great benefits, starting with a 2-day Business Boot Camp and continuing with 6 personalized Coaching Sessions to prepare teams for the National and then European Finals. It was a good opportunity for activEco alumni and participants, as well other motivated entrepreneurs and activists, to bring their ideas to another level. Several activEco 2015 projects were improved and empowered by passing through all the training offered by the programme and pitching in the national finals (e.g. “Atelier 99”, “Torbesc”). ActivEco alumni were not only among the participants and finalists but were also guests, organizers, and even moderators of the contest. More info at: ecovisio.org/climatelaunchpad



i. Other Projects, Activities, Initiatives of 2015

Following its mission to connect and empower people and initiatives that want to work on a common vision for sustainable development of the region, the EcoVisio Association supports different projects in the Republic of Moldova and beyond its borders. Some of those projects were initiated by EcoVisio and its programs, and have grown organically from our participants’ ideas or were developed in cooperation with other partners. Moreover, we try to keep the network of our alumni, participants, and members active, offering opportunities that would fit the different interests of our alumni and inspire them to stay active and take on increasingly more complex responsibilities. That is how the network of EcoVisio members, partners, and supporters is growing year by year.

Iarba Urbana

The “Iarba Urbana” (eng. “Urban Grass”) project, first launched in 2014 by activEco participants, has continued its activity to the present. In 2015, the coordination team, together with other alumni and volunteers with various backgrounds, “revitalized” another part of Chisinau and established a public creative space in Valea Morilor Park. Following a few weeks of intense work, the space was officially opened on May 23, 2015, in the form of “Iarba Urbana” Fair #2. About 500 people came to visit the place, find out about local producers of eco-products and other initiatives presented on the eco-fair,



participate in different kind of workshops (clay modeling, painting on eco-bags, group discussions about existing problems and solutions, etc.), and enjoy a live music concert and a documentary on a wide screen at the end of the day. The “Iarba Urbana” project aims to improve public spaces of Chisinau by the forces of citizens themselves, as well as to inspire people to change their own lifestyle and community for the better. More info at: www.facebook.com/iarbaurbana

Erasmus + and other projects

In 2015 EcoVisio has fruitfully enhanced its cooperation with the Erasmus+ program. We have introduced the Erasmus+ project "Be the necessary change", which gave us the opportunity to bring capacity building in sustainable development to an international level by cooperating with Ukraine, Romania and Germany. We are thankful for the support provided and definitely want to continue internationalizing our activEco program and the other activities of EcoVisio. In this regard, in 2015 the number of E+ projects where EcoVisio was a partner organization or where our participants took part has also increased. For example, activEco alumni participated in the first stage of the "FoodCHALLENGE" E+ project in Romania.



Overall, participation of EcoVisio members in several training courses, youth exchanges, and other projects, organized together with our partners, was an important part of team development and alumni activities. Besides, during the year, there were several activEco 2015 projects ("Grădina Urbană", „Atelier 99", „Bike Guide", etc.) and partner initiatives („Grădina Moldovei"), where team members and alumni were actively involved.

Festivals, Conferences, Meetings

In 2015 the alumni of activEco program took part in many different conferences, festivals, exhibitions, trainings, and meetings related to civic activism, sustainable development, social entrepreneurship or environmental protection. These took the form of a round table in frames of the "EcoBag Moldova" project (4 February), Fourth EaP GREEN Steering Committee Meeting (18-19 June), Youth Festival 2015 (8 August), Civic Fest 2015 (26 September), Forum of Environmental NGOs of Moldova (18-19 December), meetings of the National Platform for Environment and Health, as well as "Moldova Eco-Energetica" competition.



MitOst festival

One of the most remarkable trips in 2015 was the participation in the yearly MitOst Festival. On September 23-27, 2015 a large EcoVisio delegation went to Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, in order to take part in the 13th edition. Apart from enjoying the city, attending useful workshops and interesting presentations and great concerts, it was a perfect context to meet like-minded people from other educational projects, programmes, and countries. Since this was the first really international event an EcoVision delegation had visited together, the trip became a wonderful team building experience complete with a long trip by bus and lots of exploring.



Climate simulation game – distribution, translation, and adaption

Our activEco alumni have found “Keep Cool”, the board game on climate negotiations, very interesting and inspirational. Some even organized several meetings with friends or classmates to play this game again. It was also one of the elements of the Game Evening we held with our partner, MEGA, in order to exchange our ecological board games and to use them in environmental education. A proactive team of Moldovan and Ukrainian alumni has started translating the game into local languages.

Inside-Out Leadership course 2015

In 2015 we have strengthened our cooperation with the Initiative Mittel- und Osteuropa e.V. and the Initiatives of Change, co-organizing a wonderful course of *Inside-Out Leadership*, run in Lalova on September 6-11, 2015. The main idea of the course was that “a positive difference in the world begins with making a positive difference in our own lives”. Therefore, the emphasis was less on tools for change, and more on the participants themselves, coming from six different countries, as tools of change.



This was already a second edition of the course. The first (in 2014) was held on national level, and its continuity and growth, as well as participants’ feedback, show that this initiative should also be continued into the future, in order for us activists to think not just about what we do and how, but also why.

Inspirational Movie Nights

In 2015, together with activEco alumni, EcoVisio has initiated a series of inspirational movie nights. So far, we managed to organize five events in collaboration with the “Tudor Arghezi” Library in Chisinau. This project unites different activists from Chisinau and offers them, as well as other people interested in the event, a space to meet, watch movies about environmental and social topics, and to discuss them in a safe environment that supports the emergence of new ideas.

More info at: ecovisio.org/inspirational-movie-nights



IV. Plans for development in 2016

One important feature of the development of the EcoVisio Association in 2015, as well as its main characteristic for this period, was “GROWTH”. The Association was growing in terms of the number of members, partners, projects, team members, alumni activities, in terms of geographical coverage and content. This process was in line with the “Growth” motto and goal set at the beginning of the year. Based on the results of external evaluation and the opinions of team members, partners, and beneficiaries, it is possible to conclude that EcoVisio has successfully and sustainably grown in 2015 both in quality and in quantity— accomplishing all of its goals. In 2016, we plan to place more focus on quality and consolidation of achieved results.

If the last year was one of “growth”, the 2016 will be the year of “consolidation and permanent improvement”. We will be working on permanent improvement of processes, projects, and personal development within our team. But the growth will continue. There are several initiatives that will expand the program in multiple dimensions, and some ideas that are still in the process of elaboration, but will be implemented in the near future. This gate in Eco-village Moldova is a promising symbol of upcoming developments.



Social Entrepreneurship

In 2015, the topic of Social Entrepreneurship has become more pronounced in our activities. The Social Entrepreneurship Forum held in April served to bring this topic to a new level, attract the attention of a larger audience, and raise the interest and involvement of participants in Social Entrepreneurship. In 2016 we will continue working to contribute to the development of the Social Entrepreneurship Sector in Moldova, because we believe it is a powerful approach for the current challenges our country is facing. We will continue this by:

- Facilitating the discourse and nurturing the network
- Developing capacity of young changemakers - e.g. our activEco program empowers young people to become social entrepreneurs and helps them acquire necessary skills and tools to start their own enterprise
- Making local heroes visible to public - e.g. at IarmarEco, the yearly Fair of Ecological Opportunities and Social Entrepreneurship
- Developing the idea of a common Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Moldova (Impact Hub)

Construction of Eco-Training Centre

In 2016 we are launching construction of an Environmental Training Center in the Eco-Village Moldova site in Rîșcova village. The center will serve as a regional hub for practical education in the fields of organic agriculture, energy efficiency, eco-construction and community development. As a demonstration and resource platform for sustainable development, it will provide space for changemakers from Moldova and abroad to exchange innovative ideas and learn about permaculture, natural building, water management, climate change, social entrepreneurship and more. Over the past year our small trainings sparked initiatives throughout Moldova, such as urban gardens, eco-houses and youth-driven community projects. The Center will expand our capacity and impact. It will include a kitchen/dining area and a meeting space to accommodate up to 60 individuals at a time.

Moreover, this project will support the local community through job creation and educational opportunities, providing local people with an opportunity to earn money in their home village, giving them the hope to stay in Moldova and develop their home country together with a supportive community. The Center will gradually become self-sustaining and enable realization of further social entrepreneurship and green business initiatives.

Program for Rural School Youth – “Harap Alb – become an active local hero”

For three years now we have been working with young people from regions, including villages, and realized all too well that they are very lonely. It is often hard to find a team and make a project sustainable when so many youth are leaving rural areas. We have decided to address this issue by developing a special rural line of the activEco program. Thus, in 2016 we will pilot “Rural activEco” in two experimental villages. It is initially planned to start the program in Todirești, Ungheni Rayon (where our partner “Dulce Plai” is located) and in Rîșcova, Criuleni Rayon (where the Eco-Village is growing).

School and University Edition

One of our most ambitious dreams is to bring non-formal education closer to school/university curriculums, and involve more students and schoolchildren in activEco program. However, instead of inviting them to our seminars (meaning they sometimes need to miss classes in order to do so), we aim to bring the program directly to them and try to incorporate it into the university curriculum as an elective module, making sure that the strong side of non-formal education and methods of empowerment for civic engagement are not lost. In this concern, we are still working on two ideas: “activEco - University” and “activEco-School”, where the target group will be teenagers of 13-17 years, too young to become a part of usual activEco.

activPeace and activCitizenship

The idea of “activPeace” program arose in the last few years in the course of team discussion and conceptualization. The team and partners of this project will pilot the program for the first time in 2016. In addition, we are discussing and trying to bring to life the concept of “activCitizenship” (dealing with topics of civic activism and engagement which are not covered by Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship programmes).

Platform for promotion of responsible consumption and ecological opportunities

The method of visioning has proven very effective and powerful for our impulse seminars, and, in general, as a principal thread of the whole program. For this reason, we will continue this method for future years and work on a new (online) platform that could bring the common vision of the region to a new level.

Networking and cooperation with state structures and private initiatives

To contribute to the development of good governance and the promotion of the principle of cooperation, in 2016 the EcoVisio Association will try to focus more on building common ground for cooperation and constructive dialogue between civil society activists, the private sector, and state structures.

ClimateLaunchpad (CLP) Program in Moldova 2016

EcoVisio wants to make a contribution to the green economy of Moldova. This year we will continue looking for promising ecological start-up ideas from Moldova and helping them develop. Currently the main challenge is to find stronger local partners for the program and prepare Moldovan candidates to do their best at this “Eurovision” for green start-ups.

Movie Nights

These events will be regular meetings for a number of like-minded people, who want to socialize, network, and popularize documentaries that engage or are motivational.

V. Partners and Supporters

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, economical and social crises. We believe that through empowerment, constructive dialog, and establishing of viable best-practice examples, which we develop together with you, we can make a contribution to Moldova's more prosperous future.

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