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Cross-border Network for Innovative Agriculture  
Транскордонна мережа для інноваційного сільського господарства  
Rețeaua transfrontalieră pentru agricultură inovativă



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The First International Agricultural Cluster will be Established in Vinnytsia**

*NGO Euroregion “Dniester” has begun a unique project - the creation of the first international cluster for agricultural producers in Ukraine and Moldova. The opening presentation of the large-scale project “Cross-border Network for Innovative Agriculture” was held in Vinnytsia on February 7, 2018.*

The project “Cross-border Network for Innovative Agriculture” costs 297 thousand Euros, and it involves establishing Ukrainian-Moldovan association of small and medium-sized agricultural producers. The project aims to enhance the competitiveness of the agricultural sector through increasing partner contacts on both sides of the border, as well as introducing innovative solutions in the agrarian sector, which will improve product quality and help to enter the EU markets.

During 2018, Euroregion “Dniester” will implement this project in partnership with NGO “Cutezatorul” (MD) in Vinnytsia region and Republic of Moldova. Financing is provided within Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme Moldova-Ukraine (EaPTC) which is funded by the European Union through the German Society of International Cooperation (GIZ).

One main achievement of the project will be establishing a Center for Innovative Agriculture based at the Institute of Forages and Agriculture of Podillya NAAS. The Center will provide opportunity to certify products according to all the EU standards and requirements through Automatic Amino Acid Analyzer. This is a modern and suitable machine to determine biochemical composition and quality of products. Laboratory services will be available for all agricultural producers regardless of their form of ownership. In addition, the Center will be aimed at conducting key agricultural researches.

*- Liaison with science is our priority. Researches will make it possible to define new agricultural potential of the region and identify additional profitable crops, as well as create a cost-effective and competitive closed-circuit production chain that will both improve quality product of products on the domestic market and provide new export opportunities, - assures Sergii Tatusiak, the Chairman of Euroregion “Dniester”.*

The cluster will be available not only to producers, but also to enterprises from agri-food processing, transport and logistics sectors together with packaging-products manufacturers and others. Together they will carry out the whole range of procedures required to prepare goods for export, which would be impossible to do for an individual small enterprise independently.

All participants of the International Agricultural Cluster “Dniester” will be able to attend trainings on Innovative technologies in agriculture, Eurostandardisation, Management, Marketing and Procurement Tools and participate at Exchange of Good Practices.

**Note:** The Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme (EaPTC) is aimed at creating a favourable environment for territorial cooperation along the borders of Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area. It is also aimed at developing the capacity of state and non-state bodies of neighbouring countries to jointly develop and implement joint cross-border projects. The total contribution of the European Union within the framework of the EaPTC Program is 12.5 million euros.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative makes closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

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