

EDINET – ECONOMIC GROWTH POLE IN THE NORTH REGION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) Pioneer Project



PROJECT FACTSHEET

The project in a nutshell

Timeframe: 2018-2020

Budget: EUR 643,545 (EU contribution - EUR 579,185)

Partners: Edineț City Hall, the Community Integrated Development Centre, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova

Geographic coverage: Edineț district, Moldova

Target groups: Young potential entrepreneurs, local NGOs, national public and academic institutions, business support providers, actual and potential residents of the Edineț Agro-Industrial Park (AIP) and their employees, potential residents of the Business Incubator (BI), returned migrants, students of professional colleges, farmers

CONTEXT



The municipality of Edineț (established in 2016) is the administrative centre of northern Moldova's Edineț district, and comprises the town of Edineț itself as well as the villages of Alexăndreni and Gordineștii Noi. The municipality has a population of around 20,200—of whom 18,400 live in Edineț and 1,800 in Alexăndreni and Gordineștii Noi.

The town remains an important industrial centre in northern Moldova. It is home to over 2,000 companies, of which 75% are individual businesses and 25% are legal entities. Most of these companies (26%) are involved in trade or in the hotel and restaurant sector, but the highest turnover is generated by industrial companies (25%). The Edineț Agro-Industrial Park is located at the north-western end of the international Odessa-Balti route, and has a surface area of 65 km².

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Project's main goal is to improve local capacities and infrastructure for the establishment of start-ups in the Edineț region, and to ensure the inclusive economic growth of northern Moldova. The Project will aim to achieve the following **objectives**:

- 1) Establish a Business Incubator (BI) that will ensure favourable conditions for the establishment of start-ups in the Edineț Agro-Industrial Park (AIP) and will involve active and creative young people;
- 2) Develop a business support platform and a business hub in order to encourage young people to establish their own businesses by strengthening their networking and communication;
- 3) Build a new Industrial Hall in order to attract investment and create new jobs.

PROJECT ACTIONS

A **business incubator (BI)** will be set up in Edineț and will include at least 10 offices available for rent. Local start-ups will be given a fully furnished open-office space in the BI to get their businesses up and running. The BI's new residents/young entrepreneurs will receive all the business support services they need (banking, accountancy, advice, information, etc.).

To improve networking and cooperation between young people and the business, public and academic sectors, a **business support platform** and **business hub** will also be established. The business hub in the Edineț AIP will organize thematic networking events to help young people set up businesses, while the business support platform will connect young people with the business sector in the Edineț region, NGOs and national public and academic institutions. The platform will act as a catalyst for local economic development in the region.



A new 1,000m² **Industrial Hall** will be built to provide additional facilities for new businesses, and is expected to attract external investment of **around EUR 1 million** to the agro-industrial sector in the Edineț region. Also, in order to improve the working conditions of employees of businesses in the Edineț AIP, a recreational green zone will be built in the Park along with catering facilities in the BI.

The Project's actions include:

1. Special *training sessions* will be held to improve the capacity of young entrepreneurs in the Edineț region (how to start a business, how to make the best use of innovations, etc.). Appropriate facilities will be set up for these courses in the BI, which will be equipped with an IT training room and a conference room;
2. A *round table* with the involvement of Edineț *education colleges* will be held in order to prepare young specialists for the local labour market in the AIP specifically. A special mechanism for adjusting the study curriculum to the needs of the Park's residents will also be developed;
3. A *two-day business forum* will be organized in Edineț in order to attract more investment to the region. This forum will be a meeting point for business leaders, small business owners, young managers and entrepreneurs.

ESTIMATED RESULTS

- **100** young entrepreneurs, **800** students and **1,000** returned migrants will benefit from a wide range of employment opportunities in the Edineț AIP;
- **100** new jobs will be created in the Park and in the BI;
- **300** farmers from northern Moldova will benefit from more competitive prices for their production;
- Developing the business sector in the Park will improve the quality of life of around **83,600** citizens of the Edineț region.

In terms of outcomes, Edineț City Hall will become an active facilitator for sustainable local economic growth and job creation in northern Moldova. The Project will improve local capacities and business infrastructure to stimulate business start-ups and to attract investments to the Edineț region.

The pioneer project "Edinet – Economic Growth Pole in the North Region of the Republic of Moldova" is being implemented in Moldova as part of the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) Initiative. The M4EG Initiative began to operate in January 2017 within the Eastern Partnership framework. Its overall goal is to help mayors and municipalities in Eastern Partnership countries to become active facilitators for economic growth and job creation at local levels. For more information, please visit www.m4eg.eu.



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