Final joint activity report within: "Development of casualty reduction Partnerships in Chisinau and Tiraspol" project













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Support to Confidence Building Measures Susținerea Măsurilor de Promovare a Încrederii Поддержка мер по укреплению доверия



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# General information – "Development of casualty reduction Partnerships in Chisinau and Tiraspol"

As a developing country, Moldova faces several political, economic and social problems. One of the very serious problems the country is striving to face is that of road accidents – tragedies where hundreds of people die, leaving behind destroyed families. In other words, road safety is a social problem involving human lives, their quality and the state economy. The World Bank estimated that every human life lost in a car accident "costs" the Moldovan economy about \$511,000

(http://www.saferoads.md/information/Police%20Exchange%20Programme.pdf).

To fight this phenomenon, the Automobile Club of Moldova in partnership with the Automobile Club of Transnistria and the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport implemented the "Development of casualty reduction Partnerships in Chisinau and Tiraspol" project during July 2012 - July 2013. This joint project on road safety has been assisted by the Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the EU and co-funded and implemented by the UNDP. The final aim of this project was to form a partnership between authorities responsible of road users' safety, a partnership that could be useful in solving the existing problems in road safety.

The project opened up new relations between municipalities, local agencies and civil society networks in fighting for road safety and reducing the number of accidents. The new formed partnerships, from each municipality, collaborate and will continue to support actions initiated to raise the level of safety in traffic. This was possible on an active collaboration existing between the Automobile Club of Transnistria (ACT), the Automobile Club of Moldova (ACM), and the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport (EASST). Thanks to EASST – a network of successful campaigns working in road safety, operating within EU Eastern Partnership countries, the project activities have been always guided by both national and international experts.

The overall objective of the Support to Confidence Building Measures program is to promote and build confidence between both banks of the Nistru River. This project contributed to the confidence building between the two banks of Nistru river through a strong cooperation approaching a major issue of common interest and the cause of poverty of many families deaths caused by road accidents. ACM and ACT involved in project activities, such as training, round tables, working meetings, road safety events and social campaigns local municipal stakeholders (National Patrolling Inspectorate, Municipal Transport Department, Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service, Ministry of Health - National Scientific-Practical Centre for Emergency Medicine from Chisinau, General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sport and Administration, Road Police, Driving School from Tiraspol, as well as civil society and media) interested in road safety. That led to friendly sharing experience between representatives of the partnerships from 2 banks (e.g. police forces exchanged experience on gathering and analysis of statistical data and conducting special operations in traffic). The project helped to consolidate the dialogue and partnerships between non-government and municipal authorities, by creating 2 local partnerships - in Chisinau and Tiraspol, with the aim to reduce the number of road accidents and victims.

### **Problems addressed**

The project addressed the following key-aspects:

- Changing the procedures on development of policies and methods of their implementation by involving all local stakeholders, giving local communities a central role and due influence;
- Lack of evaluation and knowledge in policy development by providing training within the strategic evaluation and planning, based on evidence and consultation;
- Weak and inconsistent data by performing joint analyses of public attitudes and of available data on road accidents with fatal effect and injuries as well as by reviewing performances in accordance with standards recommended by the EU, TRACECA and WHO.

The problems identified in Chisinau and Tiraspol needed a new approach and innovative initiatives of road safety, by involving local public authorities in implementing positive changes in the traffic safety.

Forming local partnerships contributed at the elaboration of a specific action plan for every municipality, with key solutions to approach local issues of road safety.

These partnerships also provided a new opportunity for the experience exchange between local communities on both banks of Nistru River, by involving international partners and experts involved in the project.

### **Project participants**

Participants within this project were the authorities responsible for ensuring road safety in Chisinau and Tiraspol, namely National Patrolling Inspectorate, Municipal Transport Department, Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service, Ministry of Health – National Scientific-Practical Centre for Emergency Medicine, General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sport, Mass media, as well as partners from the other bank of Nistru River – the Automobile Club from Transnistria, Administration, Road Police, Driving School and international partners, like Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport (EASST) and "Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership" from Great Britain.

#### Partnerships development and joint activities within the project

#### Chisinau

The actions within the "Development of casualty reduction Partnerships in Chisinau and Tiraspol" started with an opinion poll on the public attitude towards the level of road safety in both municipalities. The results were published in the initial joint report. This report was presented during the first workshop within the project attended by senior representatives, such as the British Ambassador, HMA Keith Shannon; the UNDP Resident Representative in Moldova - Mrs. Nicola Harrington-Buhay; Mr. Hubert Duhot – Project Manager of the European Union delegation to Moldova, as well as the partners from the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport (EASST), Mrs. Emma MacLennan – the EASST Director, and experts from "Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership" from the Great Britain.

The formation of the given partnerships was discussed during the same training workshop, attended by road safety experts within Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport, who presented their experience in creating local casualty reduction partnerships. Representatives of the police, municipal transport authorities and NGOs from both banks of Nistru River helped to form a joint opinion on the possibility and opportunity to develop similar initiatives in Chisinau and Tiraspol.



Over the project period, there were organised 12 monthly regular meetings of the ACM and ACT, in order to discuss future plans and actions, as well as 4 round tables, 3 in November 2012 – in Chisinau during the initial period of the project and 1 final round table in Tiraspol in July 2013, with the participation of foreign experts. The main topic of the round table held in November 2012 was the creation of road safety partnership in Chisinau. Participants in this meeting used the information provided by EASST experts from Armenia and the Ukraine, who described the actions undertaken in their countries for casualty reduction and answered the questions of local experts.

The next day, the same kind of round table was organised in Tiraspol as well. As a result of these actions, a joint action plan and a Local Strategy for the responsible local authorities involved in the project was established in cooperation with NGOs from each bank. At the same time, during the round tables, a partnership Agreement was elaborated and signed by the project participants, as a proof of further cooperation with a new common view to improve road safety.



At the same time, the established partnership carried out social actions aimed at increasing the level of road safety.

During the initial stage of the project, the first step was undertaken by participating in the "Security-2012" exhibition, where ACM in partnership with the Road Police presented the "Seatbelt Slide" imitating a head-on collision at 30 km/h, underlining the need of fastening the

seatbelt. There were also awarded prizes within the online contest "Road safety for children", which had the aim to promote the use of child car restraints and to urge pedestrians to wear reflective elements. The road safety prizes were awarded by the EASST director, Mrs Emma MacLennan.



During the project, the involved partners, the Automobile Club of Moldova, Road Police, the Exceptional Situations Service and the Municipal Transport Department organised road safety and security lessons. About 100 pupils from different lyceums as "Mihai Eminescu", "Universul", "Chiril si Metodiu", "Liviu Rebreanu", were taken into tours to the Safety School of the Exceptional Situations Service, where they were presented the main safety measures needed to be followed in everyday life, such as road safety measures and main signs of the police officer.

At the same time, there were carried out lessons on the road safety for 600 pupils from primary classes, in partnership with the Road Police. The pupils from 6 lyceums from the capital ("Universul", nr. 29 "Liviu Rebreanu", "Mihai Eminescu", nr.28 "Grigore Vieru", "Mihail Sadoveanu", "Chiril si Metodiu") were explained the main traffic rules, the dangers in the street and were demonstrated the signs of police officer.



In May 2013, Automobile Club of Moldova carried out a range of activities Long Short Walk (LSW), within the UN Global Road Safety Week. The purpose of LSW was to identify and to promote pedestrians' protection measures, thus contributing to the achievement of the Decade of Action for Road safety 2011-2020 objective and namely – decrease in the number of road accidents by 50% by the year 2020.

This campaign was supported by the civil society, and by the national and international organisations, public people, stars, politicians and sportsmen.

Racing drivers who participated in the national Auto Slalom Championship supported the Long Short Walk campaign and stated they will continue to promote the road users safety.

About 100 pupils of "Universul" theoretic lyceum from Chisinau, accompanied by their teachers and the ACM walked for children's road safety and for safer areas around schools within the Long Short Walk action.



At the same time, ACM participated in the conference dedicated to the Road Safety Week, organised at the headquarters of the Ministry of Health. Over 50 people attended the conference, including the chief of the World Health Organisation Country office in Moldova, Jarno Habicht and his colleagues, as well as the representatives of the National Patrolling Inspectorate (previously the Road Police) and the ACM team. They also pleaded for better roads, pedestrians' safety and more disciplined drivers within the LSW.



On May 18, Moldova celebrated the Europe Day in Chisinau. The event was attended by politicians and representatives of international organisations, who expressed their support for the road safety cause in the Republic of Moldova and signed the "I am walking for…" posters, the symbol of Long Short Walk actions carried out at global level.



Automobile Club of Moldova and the British Ambassador in Moldova, Philip Batson, the British actor Tony Hawks and the "Tony Hawks Centre" carried out a road safety action for children with disabilities within the Global Road Safety Week. With the support of WHO, 100" children from the "Tony Hawks Centre" received reflectors and copy-books with the main traffic rules.



During the same period, 2 Traffic Grounds for children were built in Chisinau, within the Moldovan-Estonian "Road safety for Children in Moldova" project. The partners of this activity were: the Estonian Police, Automobile Club of Moldova, and National Patrolling Inspectorate, Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service and Chisinau City Hall.



### Tiraspol

On November 9, 2012 the Automobile Club of Transnistria organized a round table on developing road casualty reduction partnerships. The meeting was attended by several experts: head of the National Road Safety Council of Armenia (NRSCA) – Poghos Shahinyan; project manager of the Road Safety Fund in the Ukraine – Oksana Romanukha, the representatives of the ACM, partners from Chisinau and the ACT and partners from Tiraspol. During their meeting, the experts shared experience on carrying out successful campaigns on road safety, in tight collaboration between municipal public authorities and public organizations. At the end of the meeting, participants expressed their intention to use the positive experience of the CIS countries related to road safety in Transnistria.



**The World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims in Transnistria** - On November 18, Automobile Club of Transnistria carried out the World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims in Tiraspol.

At midday, motorists from Transnistria stopped their vehicles and sounded their car horns in solidarity and in memory of road traffic victims.

The purpose of the campaign was to remind the society once again that a huge number of people die on streets every day.

It was recommended that motorists drove with their low beams on during that day. A crashed car was driven throughout Transnistria on a tow truck accompanied by a car of Tiraspol Automobile Inspectorate with the goal to show what happens with crashed cars.

Young police officers stopped vehicles in Tiraspol central square urging them to take care of their and others' lives and abide traffic rules. Motorists were given special ribbons and black and white balloons as symbol of eternal memory and solidarity with crash victims.



**Road safety lessons for school children** - In the spring of 2013, a range of activities focused on improving the level of knowledge about traffic rules among school children were carried out. The green traffic light that allows crossing the street, the road, its elements and road safety rules for specific places and other topics –were explained to 400 pupils from 4 schools in Tiraspol (nr. 6, 13, 18, 19) by the Automobile Inspectorate officers of Tiraspol with the participation of the Automobile Club of Transnistria. Such activities in the educational process contribute to the formation of a safe behaviour on the streets and roads among school children, representing the future guarantee of road safety.



**Europe Day in Tiraspol – The Europe Day** was celebrated in Tiraspol on May 26, 2013. Representatives of the EU countries presented informative stands and tables full of promotional materials in the "Pobeda" Park.

The given event attracted a lot of townsmen, who participated very actively in the events and contests organised by the representatives of the "European town".

The Automobile Club of Transnistria and the Automobile Club of Moldova supported this event and carried out, along with representatives of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Moldova, a range of public activities, like promotional materials distribution, painting contest for children on road safety topic and Long Short Walk action.

The participation in this event represented an opportunity for the citizens of Tiraspol to learn about the culture, history and traditions of European people, as well as to find out about different projects they carried out, including road safety projects. Lots of them were given prises and souvenirs for their participation, such as reflectors, T-shirts, special stickers for drivers and leaflets for pedestrians, around 2500 promotional materials were distributed.



On 17 July 2013 the outcomes of the developed casualty reduction partnerships in Chisinau and Tiraspol and recommendations for the future work and project sustainability were presented at the final round table entitled "Road Safety and role of local partnership work". The event was organized in Tiraspol by the Automobile Club of Transnistria in partnership with the Automobile Club of Moldova. At the event participated EASST experts from the UK and Georgia, key stakeholders from each municipality - Chisinau and Tiraspol (police, local transport, health, emergency departments, etc.) and UNDP Moldova representatives.

At the closing event all the representatives of the developed partnerships from both localities were presented with high-visibility vests kindly donated by EASST, Kent Highway Agency and Amey Company from UK.



### Statistical analysis of road accidents in Chisinau

The analysis of accidents registered during 2012 shows that there were registered 1222 (1180 the previous year) resulting in 48 deaths (61 the previous year), and 1599 injured (1479 the previous year).

Out of the total number of traffic accidents, **320 (- 11,60 %)** were qualified as serious accidents, and other **902** (+ 10,27 %) resulted in minor injuries.

As compared to the previous year, the total number of accidents is growing by +3,56 %, the number of **dead people** is diminishing by **- 21,31** %, and the number of injured people is growing by + 8,11 %.

The number of accidents registered in Chisinau represents **44,99%** out of the total number of accidents registered throughout the country **(2716 accidents)**, and the number of deaths represents **10,93 %** (**439** at the national level), and that of injured – **45,76%** (**3494** at the national level).

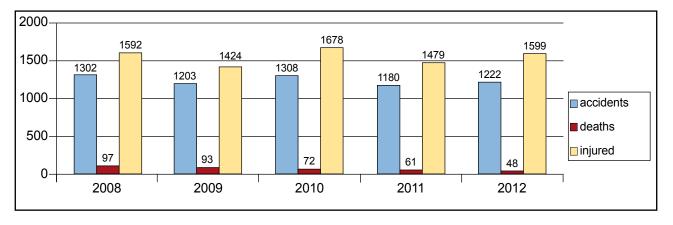


Chart 1.1. The evolution of road accidents registered during 2008-2012

The analysis carried out according to the categories of accidents shows that, out of the total number of accidents, the biggest part:

• hitting pedestrians – **544 accidents** (44,51 % out of the total number of accidents)

- collision of vehicles **521** (42,63 %);
- hitting obstacles **71** (5,81 %);
- vehicles overturning 22 (1,80 %);
- passengers falling in and out of the vehicles **29** (2,37 %)

According to the statistics, the major part of the number of accidents took place out of drivers' culprit: **1125** (**92**, **06%** out of all the accidents).

Pedestrians are guilty for causing every 9th traffic accidents (10,22% of the total number of accidents).

The main causes of road traffic accidents resulted in victims were:

- failure to give priority to pedestrians 384 cases (18 dead, 383 injured);
- unsafe change of lane or driving direction 198 cases;
- pedestrians crossing the road illegally 86 cases;
- failure to give priority to other vehicles 217;
- following too closely 137 cases;
- illegal speeding 112 cases;
- illegal stopping/ parking 28 cases.

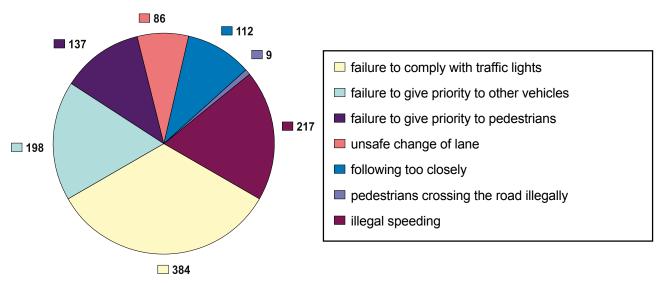


Chart 1.2. Causes of traffic accidents (12 months of 2012)

The number of accidents involving **children** is at the same level, as compared to the same period of the previous year. Thus, there were registered 213 such accidents, or 17,43 % out of the total number, resulting with 2 deaths and 233 **injured** children (**-7,79** %).

The analysis of road accidents registered during the first **6 months of 2013** shows that there were **472** accidents in Chisinau (**564** the previous year) resulted in **14 deaths (16** registered in the previous year), and other **563** injured (**761** during the previous year).

Out of the total number of accidents resulted in injured people, **109** (-25, 8%) were qualified as **serious accidents**, other **363** (-12,9 %) resulted in different **minor injuries**.

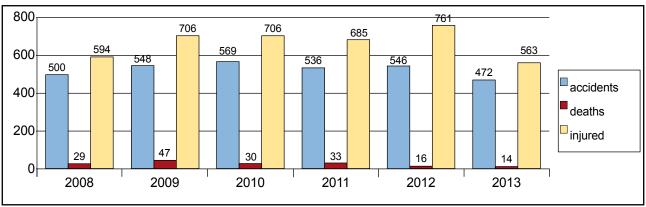


Chart 1.3. The evolution of road accidents during 6 months, during 2008-2013

The analysis carried out for categories of accidents shows that, out of the total number of accidents, the major part is represented by:

- hitting pedestrians **218**;
- collision of vehicles **201**;
- passenger falling in and out of vehicles 19;
- hitting obstacles 18;
- vehicles overturning 9 cases.

## The main causes of road casualties resulted in victims were:

- failure to give priority to pedestrians 167 cases;
- unsafe change of lane or driving direction 75;
- illegal road crossing by pedestrians 30;
- failure to give priority to other vehicles 77;

- vehicles following too closely 69;
- illegal speeding 26;
- illegal stopping/ parking **17 cases**.

As compared to the last year, the total number of accidents is **decreasing by– 16,3** %, the number of **deaths is decreasing by – 12,5**%, and the number of **injured** is also diminishing by - 26%.

#### Statistical analysis of road accidents in Tiraspol

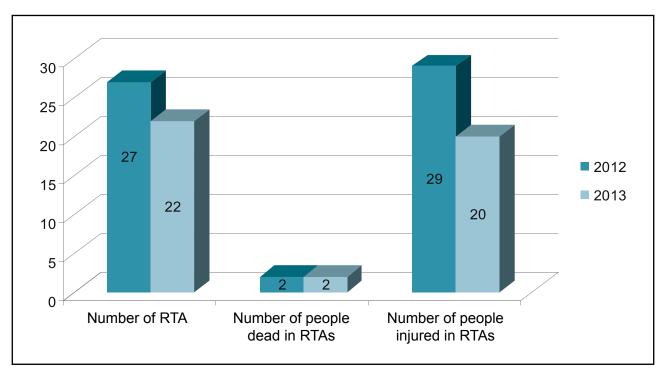
All the road traffic accidents (RTA) are kept track of by the Automobile Inspectorate, automobile enterprises and road management organisations regardless of the seriousness of injuries people suffered or the damage incidence.

Over the first 6 months of 2013, **22 RTA** took place on the roads of Tiraspol, with **2** people dead and **20 injured**.

As compared to the similar period of the last year, the number of RTA **decreased by 5 cases**, the number of deaths did not decrease and the number of injured people **decreased by 9 people**.

# RTA statistic data for the first 6 months of 2013 compared with the corresponding period of 2012 in Tiraspol

Indicators	6 months of 2012	6 months of 2013
Number of RTA	27	22
Number of people dead in RTAs	2	2
Number of people injured in RTAs	29	20

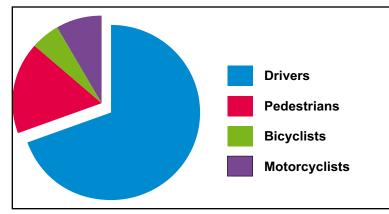


The chart illustrates the increase of the mentioned indicators:

The major part of RTA takes place at the fault of drivers not abiding by road traffic rules and due to their low level of driving skills.

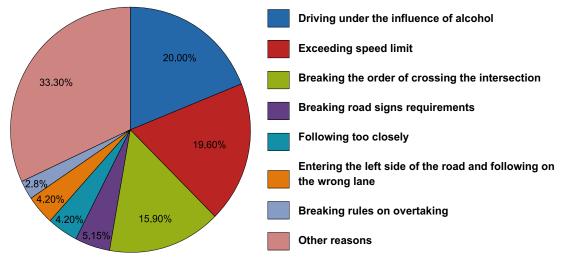
Culprit of RTA	Rate, as compared to the total number of RTA, %		
Drivers	69,7		
Pedestrians	16,9		
Bicyclists	5,1		
Motorcyclists	8,3		

#### **RTA culprits**



#### The main causes of RTA out of drivers' guilt.

Driving under the influence of alcohol	20%
Exceeding speed limit	19,6%
Breaking the order of crossing the intersection	15,9%
Breaking road signs requirements	5,15%
Following too closely	4,2%
Entering the left side of the road and following on the wrong lane	4,2%
Breaking rules on overtaking	2,8%
Other reasons	33,3%



Taking into account the fact that it is the most active and workable part of the society, we could add to the number of people saved from death and injuries 10-20% that are children, who could be given birth in the following decades. This fact could significantly improve the demographic situation.

The human imperfection should be compensated with a developed infrastructure: a secure and safe roadside, safe vehicle, computer-controlled vehicle system, and an efficient rescue system.

# Useful recommendations to increase the level of road safety in Tiraspol

In order to reduce the number of people dying and getting injured in road accidents, it is necessary to tackle a range of issues that do not allow to reduce to a minimum social and economic damages caused by car crashes.

The Automobile Club of Transnistria in cooperation with experts involved in the project underlined a range of measures to be carried out to improve the current situation of the roads of Transnistria:

- Monitoring road side security
- Review of regulations on the requirements to vehicles drivers as roads users
- · Complex programs for increasing road safety to be carried out in regions
- · Law regulations on individual transportation activity
- Improving traffic conditions on main and secondary roads in towns and small settlements
- Improving the state of side roads and sub grade embankments of roads, elimination of road side obstacles
- Improving the longitudinal profile of the road and visibility conditions
- Restoring the road carpet
- Increasing the road carpet evenness
- Increasing the adhesion of the road carpet
- Fitting and renewing pedestrian streets and pedestrian crossings
- · Regulating vehicles stopping and parking
- Use of reflective materials by road users
- · Motorcycle and bicycle helmets
- Technical equipment for scooters and motorcycles
- Requirements on drivers' level of training
- · Phased issue of driving licence and limitations in driving
- Toughening sanctions for driving under the influence of alcohol
- Speed automatic control
- · Automatic traffic control on red traffic lights.

# Useful recommendations to increase the level of road safety in Chisinau

- Involving more NGOs in similar projects regarding road safety
- Introducing unitary rules on road safety in the private and public sectors
- Developing civic responsibility principles on ideas of promoting road safety
- Convincing decision-making people that road safety is not a method of promoting policies
- Adapting the laws on traffic to the current needs and standards
- Respecting the principles of international road management
- Organising regular raids of preventing the breach of the Traffic code both among motorists, and among pedestrians, in traffic jams
- Implementing video image detectors and inductive loop detectors within the automatic road traffic control, in order to control and best direct flows of transport; modelling the functioning regime of traffic lights depending on their intensity
- Adequately repairing underground passages for pedestrians; systematic re-establishment of road markings and road signs
- Fitting and building parking places
- Fitting intermediary stations and service platforms for the public passenger transport according to the existing standards
- Fitting lanes for the public transport on the goings of existing routes and creating conditions for free circulation
- Fitting roads with road sings and markings according to the existing standards, installing security road parapet on the segments of road with a high level of pedestrian accidents
- Reviewing the legal framework and participating in the elaboration of proposals on amending norms and laws in the field of road safety, promoting them for the Government and Parliament approval
- Promoting the thorough study of the road safety issue in schools and increasing the number of road safety lessons, as well as working out special learning material for pupils, and promoting the approached topic at the Government and Parliament level
- Implementing safe driving policies within car fleets of state and private organisations
- Involving mass media in solving road safety issues by intense promotion of the need to respect traffic rules and broadcasting thematic social videos on TV.

# Recommendations that can be implemented within the established casualty reduction partnerships

- Organising and carrying out the road safety weeks periodically, marking the World Remembrance Day for Traffic Victims the third Sunday of November each year, the Decade of actions for road safety 2011-2020, and organising road safety awareness campaigns
- Elaborating, editing and sharing general information mini booklets and leaflets on the main road safety measures, information on first aid gestures in cases of car accidents
- Promoting the use of reflective clothes by pedestrians
- Books and booklets exhibitions on the road safety issues
- Promoting road safety through audio and video spots
- Organising and carrying out activities and contests within the children's Traffic Ground in Chisinau, built within the Moldovan-Estonian project, where children can learn through practical methods the correct behaviour in the street
- Organising environmental protection activities within the EU initiative "In town without my car"
- Organising round tables, including TV shows, with the participation of representatives from the interested directorates, partners from both the Partnership and outside it, by approaching the road traffic ensuring issue, the state of roads and technical means of controlling road traffic, the legal framework of ensuring road traffic security
- Announcements in the public transport on statistics data on road accidents, as well as advices on the adequate behaviour in streets, the correct way to cross the street and other useful advices and warnings
- The long term functioning of the partnerships between responsible authorities and other institutions, both administrative and non-governmental, with the aim to reduce the number of RTAs at the local level; undertaking different actions and activities.

## **Recommendations for the future functioning of the Partnerships**

- Implementing the local action plan on improving road safety and promoting safety measures in every locality form both banks
- Elaborating local strategies for every city, Chisinau and Tiraspol, with the aim to implement road safety measures
- Exchange of experience on the road safety issues between Chisinau and Tiraspol, and other cities from Moldova and from abroad.

These recommendations will be presented by the experts involved in the project at the meetings at local and national level (Municipal Councils in 2 localities and National Road Safety Council in Moldova).



The Automobile Club of Moldova is a non-governmental, noncommercial, public association, member of the International Automobile Federation and National Road Safety Council in Moldova, participating in international projects aimed at raising the level of road safety. Thus, in 2009, ACM launched the international project "Make Roads Safe" at the national level, within which any kind of actions, intended to raise road safety level and awareness of gravity

of the problem by society and public authorities, were taken. (www.saferoads.md).

Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport The Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport (EASST) is a charity organisation, registered in the Great Britain. EASST evolved from a local network of organisations in the Eastern Europe, dealing with road safety issues, to an organisation having partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine. EASST partners work together to promote road safety, develop and

implement regional and cross-border projects, by sharing experience and resources. (www. easst.co.uk).



The Automobile Club of Transnistria was founded in 2008 by a group of enthusiasts who felt the need to form a local club that could take concrete actions related to raising road safety level in the region. In 2009 a partnership with ACM was built to strengthen the activities carried out to promote road safety. (www.safetyroads.org).



The United Nations in collaboration with the World Health Organisation declared 2011-2020 the Decade of Action for Road Safety at a global level. The Global Commission for Road Safety recommends that the aim of actions within this Decade was to insure a 50% decrease in the number of road traffic victims by 2020, by undertaking different actions at national level in every state (A/RES/64/255, 2nd March 2010). To achieve these objectives, there was elaborated the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, foreseeing

general activities framework during these years, improving the road infrastructure and transport networks, developing vehicles security systems, improving the road users' behaviour, as well as improving post-accident care systems. ACM, ACT and EASST support the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 and the activities carried out during this decade in the field of road safety with the aim to achieve the final purpose: reducing by 50% the number of road traffic victims by the year 2020.

# It's time for action! We can save millions of lives!



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