

**Analysis of the third session of the Working Group „Youth & Sport“
of GaMCon – Gagauzian Modernization Convention**

The third session of the Working Group Youth & Sport was held on 17th of July 2018 in the conference room in the Regional Gallery of Arts in mun. Comrat, ATU Gagauzia. Auditorium consisted of a diverse group of 23 participants (14 men, 9 women) - youth workers and representatives of various NGOs, students, representatives of the public sector. The meeting was opened by Dmitry Furtuna, Project and PR Coordinator of the GamCon project. At the beginning of the session he presented the objectives of the meeting and introduced both presenters.

The third session provided an opportunity to present and discuss the strategic action plan prepared by local expert. As a foreign expert, my role at the session was to give recommendations how to improve the strategy from the view of European experience and to present selected and various examples of the concrete projects – best practices from Slovak republic in youth work and in the area of health, sport and healthy lifestyle.

My presentation was divided into 3 main parts. First part was about main objectives and activities of IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute and Youth Work Support Department. In the next section, I described 3 concepts of project ideas in the field of youth work. Specifically youth participation by youth parliaments and school councils and presentation of different types of inspirational activities with youth through photos, for better understanding. Another functional method I presented was Structured dialogue, tool to ensure that youth policy meets the needs and expectations of young people across Europe. The Structured dialogue is a set of discussions between young people and policy makers about different themes, to make sure the opinions of youth are taken

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into account in defining the EU's youth policies. Third project I chose was the Declaration on the Recognition of Contribution of Non-formal Education in Youth work. The aim of this tool was to highlight the theme of non-formal education and to gain support and engage in the cooperation all relevant stakeholders who play an important role in the preparation of the young generation for labour market.

The last part of my presentation was about concrete examples of successful projects from Slovakia in the area of health, sport and healthy lifestyle which can be implemented in Moldova. As the first I chose project „Lifeology“, Accredited annual educational program for students of 1st and 2nd year of secondary school. It significantly complements the knowledge gained in the classical school system about skills that a young person needs in everyday challenging situations - relationships, success, knowledge and understanding of himself, directing his life...Secondly I presented the biggest educational-training environmental programme for schools in the world „Eco-schools“ which encourages young people to engage in their environment by allowing them to protect it actively. The program also includes an initiative „Eat responsibly!“ which aims to to deepen knowledge of the interdependence and connectivity of today's food world. The last part described Community Sport and Art festival “Community in action” - volunteer project of a group of enthusiastic young people who want to stimulate community life in their hometown.

After the presentation, the auditorium had several questions, mainly about the festival and the initiative Eat responsibly!

In summary, I presented few concepts of project ideas for further implementation on the territory of ATU Gagauzia, taking into account the priority directions of the strategic action plan in the field of youth and sport of ATU Gagauzia.

I have identified 2 key recommendations in a relation to the follow-up discussion and they are:

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- 1) Ensure regular information to the public, youth workers, young people and other actors working with youth about the social credibility of youth work. At the same time, to initiate partnerships with individual actors in youth work and other bodies in order to strengthen the social and formal recognition of the results of youth work. For example to organize information and promotional activities on the benefits of youth work and to create and operate an information portal on the promotion of non-formal education and examples of good practice in youth work, to be a source of information for young people and youth workers
- 2) Encourage the organization of peer-to-peer activities in schools (such as debates, workshops, informal trainings) on physical and mental health, partnerships, sexuality, etc., as a good tool of prevention and awareness.

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