

Plenary session

The official opening of the project, the plenary session took place in Comrat on Friday, April 7 in Assembly hall of Comrat State University. This event was divided into two main parts – the general introduction from different points of view and second part was dedicated to specific topics of Working Groups – being the core of the first pillar of the project. In the first part of plenary session GaMCon took part the Bashkan of Gagauzia Irina Vlah, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Moldova Robert Kirnag, the representative of the EU Delegation to Moldova Aneil Singh, Tatiana Racovcena from the Comrat State University, Samuel Goda and Dmitri Furtuna representing the project itself.



The initiative to implement the project on supporting youth policy and social sphere in Gagauzia belongs to the Embassy of Slovakia in Moldova (which was very important mediator between the implementing partner and Executive Committee in Gagauzia, comm. ed.), noted in her speech the Bashkan of Gagauzia *Irina Vlah*. She expressed support for the project managers and wished success to the participants in the grant program while giving note to number of EU supported projects in Gagauzia.

Similar projects to GaMCon, are being implemented in Slovakia as well as in other Balkan countries, said Ambassador of the Republic *Robert Kirnag*. According to him, this is a

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good platform for involving civil society in solving problems. "We work with Gagauzia, therefore we find here good partners who keep their word. For development and modernization, we need not money, but mainly people and resources", said Ambassador.

The project was also welcomed by the representative of the EU delegation to Moldova *Aneil Singh* who stated that the GaMCon project is primarily aimed at supporting youth programs and actively involving young people in social life. He also noted the importance of the Working Groups' topics.

This was confirmed by the pro-rector of the Comrat State University *Tatyana Rakovchena*, who explained that within the framework of the project students will be trained in different issues, including how to be an active citizen and how to deal with project management.

GaMCon project manager from Slovakia *Samuel Goda* welcomed the audience on behalf of the Slovak Foreign Policy Agency. "We are aimed at creating a tradition on a regular critical assessment of the state of affairs in the region. We believe that this platform will become a good tradition for public discussions in Gagauzia", mentioned Samuel.

GaMCon includes four areas of main concern for Gagauzia for social sphere, the project manager in Gagauzia *Dmitry Furtuna* said. "These are the areas that need support - youth and sports, social infrastructure, education and culture and regional development", - explained Dmitry Furtuna.



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In the second part of Plenary Session, all four Working Groups of GaMCon project were presented by local experts.

Youth and Sport was presented by Natalia Kojokar, the manager-administrator of Business-Incubator in Ceadir Lunga. She mentioned that Working Group called "youth and sport" is first of all an active population, active citizens, youth, energetic people who



are passionate about the development of our state and specifically our autonomy, in this case, who are ready to introduce modern technologies in various fields of activity "



Education and Culture was presented Petr Pashali, the Director of research center of Gagauzia in name of Marunevich M.V.. He said that he is very pleased with the introduction of the project Convention on the Modernization of Gagauzia and that Gagauzia has partners from

European country Slovakia. He stressed the importance of Gagauzian culture and language to be preserved and introduced to young generation in attractive way.

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Anna Nyagova, the associate professor of Comrat State University, was talking about the importance of social infrastructure, where we established the institution of family and child as the main goal. "This is the first project, specifically for Gagauzia, specifically for young people, and as

the age range of young people from 14 to 35 years, offers a real solution to issues and problems related to the family, relationships within the family."

Regional development was presented by Serghei Pashkov, Director of Public Association European Center of civil initiatives "Stalker". "We would like to narrow the topic and choose the direction of "regional development" - the sphere of tourism. Tourism is a perspective direction in regional development, because Gagauzian "colorit" and originality attract tourists. Today even the weather helps us to make the project successful, because spring rain means that there will be a good harvest, and I think that this project will at least justify the results that we want to achieve, and, in the ideal, we will achieve more."



After the Plenary Session, all participants were invited to the coffee-break, after that they were invited to the art exhibition "Meet the spring colours", organized by "People in Need" in Moldova, Slovak Foreign Policy Association and Slovak Embassy in Moldova. This exhibition took place at the margins of GaMCon plenary session and the main aim was to introduce the artistic pieces of Moldovan artists to Gagauzian audience in order to enhance mutual relations through art. The SFPA considered this very useful idea and together with People in Need we are already planning to bring Gagauzian artists to Chisinau.

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