

## Narrative report

**Subject: Implementation of the concept of Age Friendly Community (CPV)**  
**Reporting period: January-December 2020**

**Objective: The age-friendly community concept is developed and implemented at the district level**

The implementation of the project started with the development of a set of support materials for LPAs and Initiative Groups (IGs) to facilitate the implementation of the CPV concept. Thus, 4 documents were developed and shared with LPAs and IGs: (i) Methodological guide for identifying the needs of the elderly; (ii) Community Ambassadors Program; (iii) Regulation-framework regulation of the local Coordinating Committee (CCL); (iv) Methodological guide for assessing the predisposition of elderly people to health problems and social isolation.

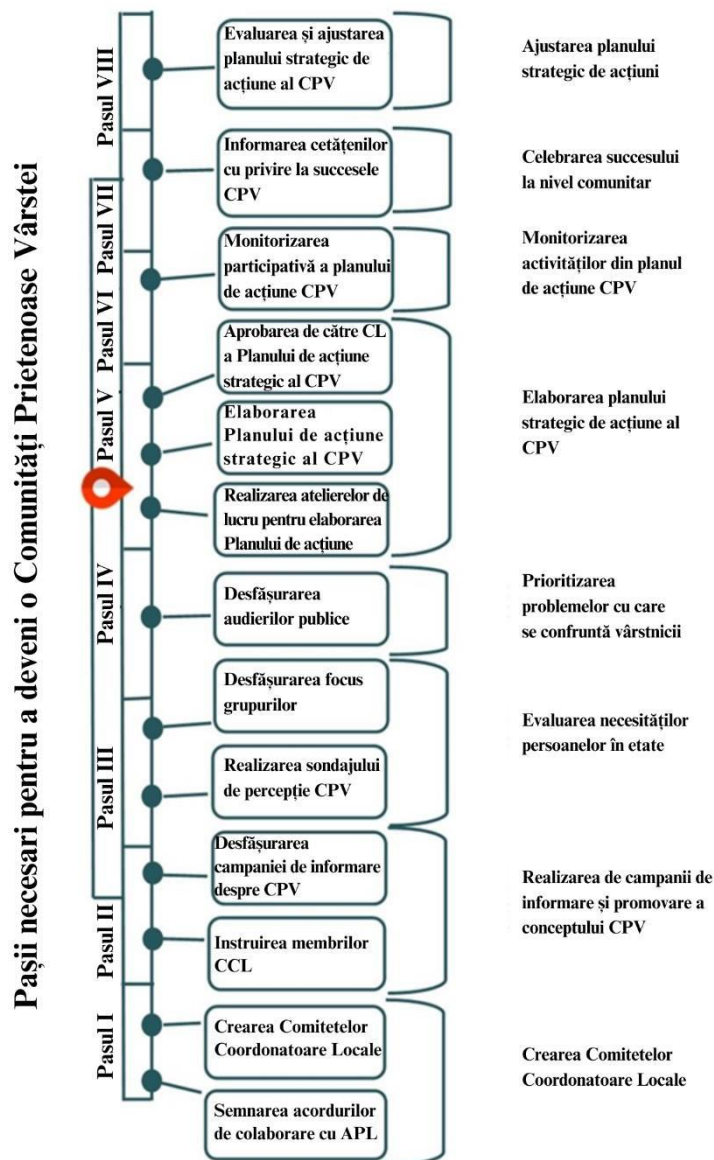


Figure 1. Intervention steps

There were 6 information sessions for the representatives of the Fălești and Edineț District Councils, the mayors of these 2 districts, specialists from the Departments of Social Assistance and Family Protection (DASPF) and librarians from the Fălești district, 157 participants (127 women and 30 men), who they were informed about the Aging and Health project, the project indicators and the CPV concept. This concept has generated great interest among LPAs and representatives of various community actors. During the sessions held in Edineț district, the mayors of the village of Corpaci, Mr. Veaceslav Uja and Mrs. Ina Ciubotaru, shared their experience working with CASMED and spoke to the participants about how much the lives of the elderly have changed in their communities and how active and involved they are became these elderly after the creation of GI. Dimitri Mosoreti, the mayor of Risipeni village, Fălești district, said: *"I would like the citizens of my locality to get more involved in solving community problems, as the approach to the problems of the elderly has changed"*.

After signing agreements of implementation of the project in Edineț and Fălești districts, a selection contest was launched to decide which will be the first localities to implement the CPV concept. Based on the following criteria: (i) the commitment to implement the CPV concept and the resources available to implement the concept (material, financial, human

etc.); (ii) interest shown in developing, supporting and implementing local age-friendly initiatives; and (iii) the support provided for the creation of the GI and the provision of the conditions of activity. 4 localities from Fălești district (Fălești town, Sarata Veche commune, Risipeni commune and Horești commune) and 10 localities from Edineț district (Corpaci, Tîrnova, Vișoara, Fetești, Parcova, Cepeleuți, Burlănești, Rotunda, Brînzeni and Cuconestii Noi) were selected. .

Analyzing the stages passed by the 14 localities in the development of the CPV concept so far, it was observed that most of the target localities were at step five, according to the scale of development of the CPV concept at the community level, represented in figure 1. Until the late periods reporting the following results were obtained:

**Institutional strengthening of local Coordinating Committees (CCL)** -election of management bodies, approval of operating regulations for 14 CCLs.

**CCL capacity building**- more than 157 members of CCLs (126 women and 31 men) were trained on the concept of age-friendly community and the actions taken to develop these communities, during 54 sessions. During the courses, they addressed topics such as: The risks and needs faced by elderly people; Risk perception methodology; Leadership and Communication.

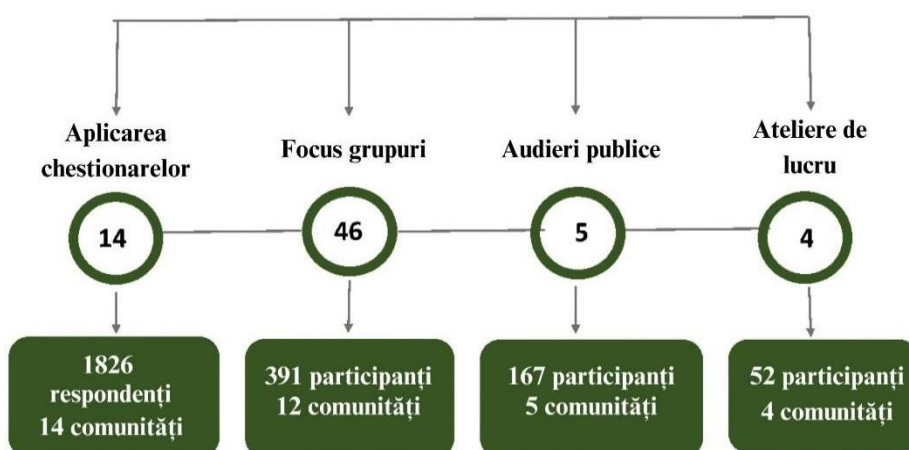
As a result of their training sessions, CCLs have developed the ability to analyze problems and design solutions that resonate with the age. They were able to familiarize themselves with the concept of CPV, informing themselves about the needs and risks that elderly people may be subject to, developing team communication skills, organizing various activities, sharing information about the concept and identifying the needs of the elderly. In 4 localities (Risipeni, Făleşti, Vișoara and Tîrnova) the CCL members working on the elaboration of the Action Plan for the CPV component in the Local Development Strategy realized the importance of involvement in the decision-making process and especially in the elaboration of a qualitative policy, that can change the lives of seniors. They have become more responsible and involved in writing project proposals for mini-grants, which provides the opportunity to solve one of the problems identified in the surveys and focus groups previously carried out.

*"I followed the activity of CCL members during the entire period of activity, starting from the creation of the committee until today, when we were working side by side on the elaboration of the Action Plan. For 6 months, CCL members have evolved a lot, starting from the level of knowledge, team spirit as well as their attitude and involvement in organizing and carrying out activities," - Ina Cibotaru, mayor of Viisoara village, Edinet.*

**Development of CCL and APL skills for drafting projects**- more than 20 people who participated in the training session, developed the project proposal to participate in the mini-grants competition, launched at the end of December by CASMED.

To prevent the spread of COVID, since May, all organized sessions/meetings have been adapted in accordance with the requirements imposed by the authorities, limiting the number of participants, maintaining the social distance of 1.5 meters, wearing masks and gloves and disinfecting hands. No outbreak of infection was reported as a result of the activities.

**Assessment of CCL skills development needs for older people**, through participatory tools (application of questionnaires, focus groups and public hearings). Thus, they had the opportunity to develop new communication skills, message formulation skills, survey design skills, which they could apply by assessing how friendly



the community persons with their age. Conformable the feedback received from CCL members, following EXERCISE practice, these are ABLE to identify RISKS TO which are exposed persons in the age and identify opportunities of counteraction A them. More details can be seen in figure 2.

Figure 2. Committee involvement

coordinator

**Development of the CPV Strategy for** Risipeni and Făleşti, following the "Methodological guide for identifying the needs of people in the community". The other localities are still in the process of developing the strategy, at different stages depending on when they started working on it. The strategies will be approved by the local councils.

Of the 15 localities, which were partners in the previous phase of the project, only 9 were willing to continue the implementation of the CPV concept (Cuizăuca, Echimăuți, Sîrcova, Sîngerei, Răspopeni, Cobîlea, Văscăuți, Rogojeni, Cinișeuți). The APL representatives in these localities are satisfied with the fact that the citizens continue to be active and involved in the decision-making process, being a good support for the locality.

Cobîlea village, Soldănești district is a good example of involvement. They are currently renovating the Community Center. The local budget covers the costs of construction materials, while the works are carried out voluntarily by local residents.

The members of the "Ambassadors" group from Cobîlea shared their experience and knowledge in two learning spaces organized for CCL and GI members. Therefore, the inspiring examples of motivating and involving people in the participatory process have only brought benefits to the Cobîlea community, according to the feedback of the Cobîlea mayor.

In the Rogojeni commune, the construction of a playground in the rest area, which was set up in the previous phase of the project, continues. The local budget covers the expenses for the construction of the playground, and the citizens participate in the construction and landscaping works. Both citizens and authorities have realized that cooperation and joint involvement can generate the long-awaited changes and lead to the desired results.

In the city of Sîngerei and the village of Echimăuți, CCL members were involved in organizing the social canteen during the cold period of the year, identifying the beneficiaries, ensuring home delivery of lunch for some of the beneficiaries, participating in fundraising activities. In the village of Cinișeuți, thanks to the support of GI and CCL members in collecting funds and signatures, the NGO "Speranța" managed to convince the local councilors to finance the provision of social services at home. They also collected food items for the older members of their community.

**A baseline survey** was carried out in 4 localities from Făleşti district (Horesti, Risipeni, Sarata Veche and Făleşti) and 2 localities from Edineț district (Burlănești and Cuconeștii Noi) to assess the perceptions of older adults regarding how "friendly" the communities are. A total of 975 people were interviewed. Considerable support in the evaluation process was provided by CCL members who actively engaged. A similar survey will be conducted at the end of the project to measure its progress.

Cooperation with local authorities was much easier than with district authorities. At the local level, councilors seem to be more concerned with people's problems and needs, they reached consensus more easily, while things at the district level were more uncertain and volatile.

### **Lessons learned**

Digital knowledge and skills have become indispensable. Local actors (committee members, initiative groups, etc., especially older people) need to be empowered with these digital skills. Also, CASMED must transfer at least part of the training in online format, by developing an e-learning platform, through which users (care staff, GI members) will be able to cover their information and training needs, at least those who have digital skills. Using such a platform will be an effective way to reduce training costs and increase the number of people trained, while maintaining an adequate level of efficiency and quality of training. Using it will eliminate the need to physically travel to the "classroom" and provide direct and quick access to the necessary training resources.

The challenges imposed by the pandemic highlighted the importance of developing a reserve for emergency situations, which would ensure the financial security of the organization and implicitly the provision of services for several months, implicitly a strategic stock of disinfectants, protective clothing for at least 6 months.

LPAs have begun to understand that the process of empowering citizens, especially socially excluded groups, can create complementary capabilities within the community and transform the entire community into a much more independent and stronger one. Efforts are still needed

further to make the authorities aware that the diverse and inclusive community capable of proposing solutions to the problems it faces will be perceived as a much more attractive target for external investors (public and private) than communities that fail to address the problems of social exclusion.



Reference to sources:

1. <https://rb.gy/hn0j> 5
2. [Activity reports - Casmed](#)
3. <https://casmed.md/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Ghid-de-bune-practici-in-dezvoltarea-unei-Comunitati-prietenose-varstei.pdf>
4. <https://casmed.md/comunitate-prietenosa-varstei/>