**Subject:** CONNECT, share and learn with your European colleagues

Dear Sir or Madam,

Sometimes municipalities find themselves dealing with issues that call for extra knowledge, skills and experience. Your European municipal colleagues are eager to assist – and are available through the CONNECT mechanism.

CONNECT facilitates short-term, demand-driven knowledge exchanges between municipal colleagues from different parts of the world. For a short introduction to how the CONNECT mechanism works, take a moment to watch this[video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32eV1ZSFii4).

**CONNECT in Moldova**

Your association of local governments has teamed up with CONNECT, so we can facilitate a CONNECTion in Moldova. We will facilitate a “round table meeting”. Such a meeting brings together expertise from diverse backgrounds, coming from European and EU partner countries, based on a demand of a group of municipalities. Depending on the request, expertise can come from local or regional governments, local government associations, training institutions, knowledge institutions such as a university or higher education institutes etc. The exchange will combine dialogue and learning sessions with practical field visits.

Interested? Here’s how you can apply to participate in CONNECT:

1. Fill in the application form – defining a clear, joint challenge that your municipality and 4 others are facing that calls for extra expertise from colleagues in the European Union. Send it to connect@ccre-cemr.org, with a copy to your association. In addition, make sure to send us the letter of commitment, scanned with signature of the Mayor (or another locally elected official).

*Please note: CONNECT will provide for simultaneous interpretation during the exchange (English – Romanian). Applications and reports should however be filled out in the English language*

1. After the deadline, the CONNECT team will then get in touch with your municipality, and assist in fine-tuning their application.
2. The CONNECT team will look for a European local or regional government with the experience needed to address the issue. If there is mutual agreement on the Terms of Reference and the exchange programme, a CONNECTion will be established.

**Keep in mind…**

Your application does not guarantee a CONNECT exchange. Our short-term exchanges can only take place if there is a feasible goal and a good match with a European municipality. The CONNECT Selection Committee reviews all applications before deciding to establish a match with a European municipality.

We look forward to receiving applications from municipalities from Moldova, and to establishing fruitful CONNECTions. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at connect@ccre-cemr.org. Or contact your national association of local governments at alexandru.osadci@calm.md

Kind regards,

Jessie Post

The [CONNECT](http://platforma-dev.eu/connect/) team