# Summary

## Purpose of the evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to independently evaluate a multi-annual project “Elaboration and implementation of the Vine and Wine Register in the Republic of Moldova (further EIVWR project, for the register itself VWR)” supported by the Czech Development Cooperation (CDC). The vine and wine sector is a source of substantial income for the Republic of Moldova. The evaluated project is important also for the presence of co-financing by the USAID, which is a subject of this evaluation as well. The findings and conclusions will be highly relevant for identifying and implementing of the CDC projects in thematic areas Agriculture and rural development and Good governance in the programming period 2018 – 2023.

## Description of the intervention and the context of the evaluation

The CDC project with the cooperation of the USAID addresses the unsatisfactory state of the vine and wine sector in Moldova especially in the areas of the legislation environment, level of existing evidence and production control. The consequence is mainly the limited Moldova export potential to the EU member states, in general the development of the whole sector is limited. The project aims at improvement in several areas. Firstly, the establishment of the VWR which enables traceability and quality control of produced wine. Further, activities that lead to collection and verification of the actual data for the VWR. A complementary activity is the capacity building of Moldova state administration through the series of visits of Czech experts in Moldova, study visits in the Czech Republic, workshops and regional seminars. Last but not least, the project aims at harmonisation of the legislation in the area of the VWR.

## Identification of the evaluation team

The evaluation is conducted by the evaluation team of Gov Lab Ltd. The team consists of Jan Hněvkovský, Richard Kokeš, Jakub Vrobel and Jiřina Svitáková.

Most significant findings and conclusions

**Overall relevance** of the project is assessed as **rather high**. Relevance of the project with strategic documents of the CDC is rather high, namely with at that time valid the Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2010 – 2017 and with Development Cooperation Programme with Moldova 2011 - 2017. Relevance of the project with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is rather low, but it must be noted that at the time of the project formulation, the SDGs did not yet exist. The project implicitly reflects the SDGs 8, 15, 16 and 17. Relevance of the project with Moldova strategic documents is rather high and high for the needs of the target group. The project addresses different needs of the target group (state administration employees) and the final beneficiaries (wine-growers and producers, customers and the general public).

**Overall efficiency** of the project is assessed as **rather** **high**. However, the project realisation doubled the intended time frame. The flexible budget spending was therefore crucial for efficiency of the project. The price for the establishment of the VWR was lower than expected, it allowed to support additional activities that had not been in the project documentation. The co-financing by the USAID was crucial for the overall added value of the project. It enabled, besides the establishment of the VWR and capacity building of state administration, the actual collection and verification of data and secured that the VWR is already practically used.

**Overall effectiveness** of the project is assessed as **rather high** (from rather low to high in partial aspects). The project consists of complementary parts which together created a comprehensive support. On the contrary, the original project documentation has many drawbacks. Mainly the analysis of risks and assumptions was unsatisfactory. Besides, the overall objective and the purpose of the project were defined only broadly. They also differed in the textual part of the project documentation and the logical framework. Based on constructing the theory of change of the project, we operationalized the objectives (outcomes) and we can state that the project has fulfilled most of them. The outputs of the projects were fully delivered. On the contrary, the cooperation with the USAID during the project realisation was not close enough and it lacked sufficient information exchange.

**Impact** of the project on the export of Moldova wine into the EU is assessed as **rather low**. For more comprehensive evaluation of impacts of the establishment of the VWR on the export of wine into the EU, the availability of the individual wine-producers´ data as well as bigger time gap after the completion of the project would be necessary. The export of Moldova wine has also been affected by political decisions in previous years (signing the Association Agreement with the EU or export sanctions by Russia). We do not perceive the unidentified impact of the establishment of the VWR on the export to EU as a negative finding, as the project serves as a platform for the development of the wine sector, by which it creates the conditions for future increase in exports to the EU.

**Sustainability** of the project is assessed as **rather high.** Theobligations connected to the VWR are enshrined in the legislation, thus the operation of the VWR after the project completion should be guaranteed. The key assumption for successful operation and development of the VWR is to tender an appropriate IT operator. The tender has not been launched yet. The collection of data for the VWR should continue as the USAID has guaranteed the resources until 2021. Sustainability of the project is supported by the fact that all relevant actors realise the importance of the VWR. We consider the approach of this project as highly replicable to similar challenges.

**Publicity** of the project is assessed as **high**. Especially in Moldova, the project has caught an attention and it was generally well known of. The project´s contribution to **cross-cutting themes** is **rather low.** It remained neutral to most of the themes, the positive contribution was only to good governance, specifically to regulatory enforcement and transparency.

## Recommendations

**Recommendations related to the project**

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| **Recommendation** | **Gravity** | **Addressed to** |
| Launch the tender for the VWR IT operator as soon as possible. Enable submission of declarations from the vine-producers online at the VWR web page. | 1 | NOVW, MARDE |
| Consider increasing IT capacities and capacities for data verification at the key institutions (NOVW) and ensure the transform of know-how to new employees. | 2 | NOVW, MARDE, ANSA |
| Elaborate an alternative system of data collection and verification from vine-growers without ACSA involvement. Alternatively, at least consider passing the responsibility for data verification on state administration. | 2 | MARDE, NOVW, ACSA |
| Ensure the update of the https certificate at <https://rvv.gov.md/homepage.jsf>. | 3 | NOVW, Tender Systems |

## Gravity of recommendations: 1 – most important, 2 – important, 3 – less important

## **Recommendations related to programme or sector**

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| **Recommendation** | **Gravity** | **Addressed to** |
| The CzDA should insist on considering the local specifics by the implementer while identifying and formulating projects and reflect them in the time frame of planned projects. Further, elaborate in more detail the project documentation, especially in the areas of the risk and assumption analysis, objectives and impacts and implementation of concrete activities. We also recommend to consider the possibility to adjust / update the project documentation based on the experience from the ongoing implementation. For instance, the implementer would in annual reports present whether, in case of the materialization of the risks or change in the conditions, it is necessary to update the project documentation or the actual project activities or in the worst scenario exit the project. | 1 | MFA, CzDA, ÚKZUZ |
| Continue supporting transitive (Post-soviet, Balkan countries), where the Czech Republic is generally well accepted and may utilise the experience from the pre-accession period. | 2 | MFA, CzDA |
| To reliably determine the impacts of the project, for following interventions we recommend to plan the evaluation o already in the preparation phase of the intervention (to specify the expected impacts thoroughly, to identify measurable impact indicators, to ensure a benchmark at the beginning of the project). In this case, we recommend considering to carry out an additional ex post project evaluation (perhaps together with evaluation of other projects in Moldova). Alternatively, at least use the employees of CzDA or the local embassy to monitor developments after the project has been completed. | 2 | MZV, CzDA |
| In case of the replication of a similar project (software development) insist on establishing the working group that consists of developer, beneficiary, donor and final user. | 2 | CzDA, ÚKZUZ |

**Recommendations related to system and process**

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| **Recommendation** | **Gravity** | **Addressed to** |
| In case of cooperation with another donor, clarify roles, responsibilities, and processes, especially in the implementation and monitoring of a project. Endeavour to best exchange of information between donors. | 1 | MFA, CzDA, ÚKZUZ |
| Set up local offices of the CzDA in priority countries to ensure better day to day management of projects. Alternatively, at least well define cooperation between the CzDA and development diplomats of local embassies. | 2 | MFA, CzDA |