

# Norwegian Support to Geospatial Sector in the Republic of Moldova: Sixteen Years of Capacity Development

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## SUMMARY

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, with its economy relying heavily on agriculture. The country is dependent on external funding – loans and grants. The Kingdom of Norway is one of the donors supporting the people of Moldova. This paper provides an overview of Norway’s 16-year capacity development support to the geospatial sector of Moldova, focusing on achieved results, lessons learned, and whether the overall development goal has been reached.

During the past sixteen years, assistance from Norway has contributed, among other things, to establishing the geospatial sector and improving public services in the country. The main development goal was to achieve economic growth supported by a functioning land market and tools for good land management. Norwegian Mapping Authority, jointly with the Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre of Moldova, has implemented a capacity development program supporting efficient, secure, and transparent real estate registration and providing access to up-to-date geographic information throughout the country. The program has contributed to sustainable land management in the public and private sectors. Several projects have been successfully implemented, delivering tangible results, bringing new technologies, and establishing professional and technical capacity to ensure sustainability and efficient use of the project deliverables and transferred knowledge.

The most important achievement of this multi-year cooperation is the delivery of primary spatial data – high-resolution aerial imagery, orthophotos, digital terrain model, and nationwide digital large-scale base maps, which are the critical components to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure being established in the country to meet the requirement of the European Union Inspire Directive.

The Norwegian-funded program has significantly improved the Agency’s capacity for data storage

and distribution to ensure constant and stable access to geospatial data by various groups of users. Last three years, the program was mainly focused on supporting local public authorities with equipment, training, and geospatial data, in close collaboration with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova.

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