Brøndby, 7.12.2020.

**Application:** Support to the application process: Moldova, Open Fun Football Schools SSP 2021-2023.

*1.a Sweden’s cooperation with Moldova*

Sweden (through Sida) is a strong cooperation partner with Moldova with special emphasis on EU adjustment. Sweden’s development support amounts to approximately SEK 115 mio per year. Efforts are being made in the areas of democracy and human rights, energy and market development.

Correspondingly, Sweden offers core support to civil society organisations to promote the development of democratic, transparent and resilient organisations and thereby a strong and versatile civil society. The organisations that Sida supports are active in areas such as non-discrimination, gender equality, HBT+, freedom of the media, the environment and economic development.

Moreover, in the light of Moldova's new police reforms, Sida is also supporting a police program with a view to amongst other to assist the Moldova Police Directorate to develop and improve the Moldovan approach to community policing, inter-disciplinary juvenile crime prevention, combating gender-based violence and corruption.

*1.b Cross Cultures’s cooperation with Sida and Moldova*

(a) In 2006 CCPA was encouraged by Sida to introduce the Open Fun Football School programme to the country with the purpose to use Cross Culture’s specific fun football approach to bring together people from conflicting population groups (Moldova-Transnistria-Gagauzia) to play and interact together while at the same time promote girl’s participation in football and in civil society at large.

(b) Since 2008 the Open Fun Football School program in Moldova has been implemented in close partnership with the Football Federation of Moldova (FMF) and the programme has played an important role FMF’s approach to the development of community-based grassroots football in the country. E.g. in 2010 UEFA awarded the Open Fun Football Schools - Moldova the UEFA Grassroots Programme Gold Award (The British FA was awarded the silver-medal).

Hence, CCPA has a longstanding and fruitful partnership with both Sida and FMF.

For the past four years (2017-20), Cross Cultures and FMF has implemented a Sida grant together to further enhancing our joint Open Fun Football Schools and promote “Child Protection” measures within the programme. In this context Cross Cultures and FMF has (a) developed an approach to Child Safeguarding in sport, which was recently highlighted among best practises in European football by UEFA at a conference among their social partners. And (b) used the Open Fun Football School programme as platform to mobilise local communities and form cross sector collaboration between school, sport, social authorities, local CSO’s and community police (we name it SSP) with the purpose to provide synergy and added value to Sida’s community policing programme in Moldova.

*2. Objectives of the action and how it relates to Cisu’s overall aims.*

On the basis of the enclosed concept note Sida has now invited Cross Cultures and FMF bring forward a three year programme amounting to SEK 5,5 Mio, to…..

1. promote **social integration, non-discrimination and peaceful co-existence** by bringing people and public and civic organisations of different backgrounds to interact together, thereby facilitate interaction, dialogue and cooperation between local communities across Moldova, including Transnistria and Gagauzia;
2. promote **gender equality,** combat gender-based stereotypes, and foster female well-being and community participation by increasing and consolidating girls’ and women’s active participation in grassroots football and in civic society at large
3. contribute to **child protection** and **cross sector juvenile crime prevention**
* through further development and implementation of FMF’s approach to Safe Guarding Children in Sport, and
* providing active participation in as well as synergy and added value to the new Community Security Committees across Moldova

Thus, the proposed program is building on the successful Open Fun Football School platform Cross Cultures and FMF have already facilitated in Moldova together. But it is important to emphasize that it is a further development of our cooperation both in terms of organizational and programmatic measures.

1. *Organisational development:*

In 2008, the FMF formed of their first grassroots football department within the association. The Open Fun Football School program became an important building block in this initiative. Thus, FMF decided on a strategy using the Open Fun Football School program and its core values as a "gateway" to children's football, promotion of girls' football as well as in their coach development program.

In 2020, FMF decided to form a new Football and Social Responsibility (FSR) department. The intention is to have an office that are specialised in organising so-called Plus Football programmes (i.e. the result is social improvement and grassroots football is the main tool). This organizational development initiative is in line with a new development trend within European football, where the largest football associations such as the Netherlands, England, Germany and Belgium have shown a new FSR-path through dedicated FSR-departments within their associations.

The Open Fun Football School coordinator in Moldova, Mrs Svetlana Patras, has become head of this new FSR department. In connection with this organizational change, there are of course many new tasks, approaches and capacities to be further developed: e.g. Donor relations, fundraising, reporting, cooperation and coordination with national and local authorities outside the football arena and not least with other CSOs within their respective areas of expertise. This project intent to support and enhance this process.

1. *Main programmatic developments*

Within the programmatic area, there are three new add-ons in particular that the forthcoming application will address:

First, there is a major social challenge in the country associated with children and young people of parents who have immigrated to Western Europe to work. Thus, tens of thousands of children and young people today are left at home in Moldova by their parents, and they now live with their grandparents, uncles and aunts. Many of these so-called "social orphans" are starting to hang out on the streets rather than go to school, and many feels attracted to shoplifting, alcohol and drugs. In Moldova, of course, people are very concerned about this risk behaviour and there is a need for social initiatives that can offer social orphans a structure in their daily lives and a helping hand to get back on the school bench again (surveys in Denmark shows that 80% of children and youth that are dropping out of schools will be known by the police for criminal acts).

Second, we want to strengthen our gender sensitive approach in the program. Thus, in collaboration with UN Women, we want to add a framework for gender dialogue within the Open Fun Football School platform, where women feel safe discussing gender issues and discriminatory behaviour - in line with the guidelines and bottom-up approaches we have also developed within the field of safeguarding children in sport.

Third, we would like to further like to enhance our unique cross sectoral SSP-approach in Moldova. So far FMF and Cross Cultures has succeeded to form a unique cross sectoral platform where FMF, the school sector, social authorities and the community police organize Open Fun Football School activities together – but within the football arena, so to speak. With this new initiative we would like to enhance and extent our interdisciplinary approach and invite more relevant stakeholders to join the programme and it will promote our cross-sector SSP-approach outside the football arena as well. E.g. through active participation in and providing an inter-disciplinary platform within the field of child protection it will bring synergy and added value to the upcoming interdisciplinary community security committees (which will also be supported by Sida).

Thus, the inter-disciplinary consortium of partners that will work together within this call will be:

* *Cross Cultures,* Lead applicant
* *FMF,* Co-applicant and implementing partner
* *Terres des Hommes, Moldova,* cooperation partner with special focus on Safeguarding children in Sport
* *UN Women, Moldova*, cooperation partner with special focus on gender equality issues
* *Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldova,* associated partner representing the school sector in the programme on national and regional
* *General Police Inspectorate, Moldova,* associated partner representing the community police in the programme on national and regional level
* *Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldova*, associated partner representing the the sport and culture sector on national level.

*3. The application process:*

(a) Mid December Cross Cultures and FMF are planning a lesson learned workshop with 36 participants from Moldova representing the football sector (12 pax), the community police (12 pax) and the school sector (12 pax). (The workshop will further be attended from 36 colleagues from the Cross Cultures program in Ukraine).

(b) On top of the Lesson learned workshop, FMF will organize bilateral talks with all the above partner organisations.

1. Together with FMF, Cross Cultures will facilitate a joined Zoom workshop mid-December with participation of relevant staff from the above partner organisations in the project consortium.
2. Following the workshop Cross Cultures and FMF will draft full application under the lead of Cross Cultures
3. On this basis FMF will share the full application with all partners for their comments
4. The application will be submitted to Sida before 31 January 2021