Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus





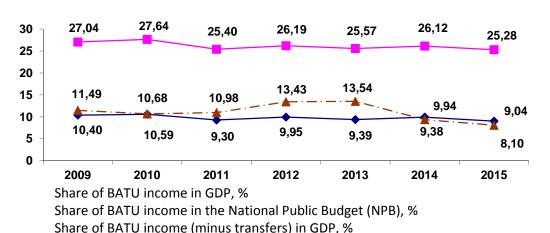
Local Public Finance Database: The Experience of Moldova and Potential Collaboration in its Implementation in the Eastern Partnership states

Angela SECRIERU, Expert at IDIS Viitorul, Moldova

Content:

- Scope, structure and trends of local public finance in the Republic of Moldova
- Ensuring the transparency of local public finance through the development of the "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal

Local Public Finance Development Trends in the Republic of Moldova: Budget Income of Administrative and Territorial Units (BATU)

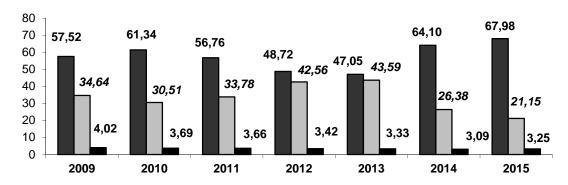


1. Despite the fact that BATU occupy a relatively stable share of the GDP and NPB, they exhibited a steady decline in 2013-2015.

The evolution of BATU income is of critical importance. Its share in the total budget income fell from 14% in 2013 to 8% in 2015.

2. The period 2014-2015 is characterized by the increased role of transfers in the formation of local public revenues.

However, the role of property tax in the financing of local public services is insufficient.



Share of transfers in the total BATU income, %
Share of tax income in the total BATU income, %
Share of real estate income in the total BATU income, %

ATU Budget Income in the Republic of Moldova

For Basarabeasca, Ocnita, Riscani and Chisinau – from January 1, 2014

For other ATUs – from January 1, 2015

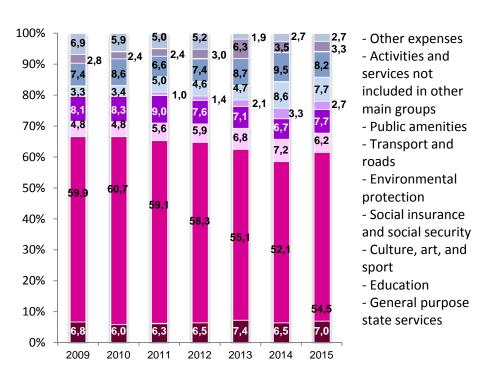
Law on Local Public Finance (LLPF)

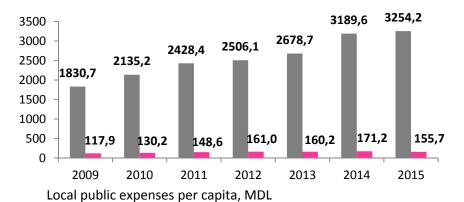
Article 4. ATU budget incomes:

- a) individual income;
- b) special capital;
- c) deductions from state taxes and fees in accordance with interest rates set out by LLPF;
- d) general purpose transfers;
- e) special purpose transfers;
- f) grants;
- g) special funds.

Criteria	2014		2015	
	MDL, million	% of the total	MDL, million	% of the total
Individual income	1,198.9	10.8	1,304.2	11.8
Special capital	277.9	2,5	295.1	2.7
Deductions from state taxes and	2,289.5	20.7	1,612.5	14.6
fees				
Transfers	7,106.5	64.1	7,503.9	68.0
Grants	197.7	1.8	304.9	2.8
Special funds	16.4	0.1	18.5	0.2
Total income	11,086.9	100.0	11,039.1	100.0

Local Public Finance Development Trends in the Republic of Moldova: BATU Expenses





Local public expenses per capita, EUR

The main share in the structure of local public finance belongs to education (over 50%).

In general, the social component tends to dominate the structure local budgets (about 65%), as opposed to the investment elements.

The amount of local public financing in the Republic of Moldova is critically insufficient for local budgets to execute their functions properly (EUR 156 per capita in 2015).

Local Budget Income in the Context of the National Decentralization Strategy (introduced in 2012)

Financial Decentralization

Purpose:

To improve the existing local public finance system in order to ensure the financial independence of local public administrations (LPA), along with:

- maintaining financial discipline
- maximizing efficiency
- the fair distribution of resources

I. Strengthening the revenue base of individual LPA bodies and giving them the autonomy to make independent decision

II. Reforming the system of transfers and taxes with individual rates that are set objectively and in a predictable manner, with differentiation between the first and the second ATU budget levels

III. Strengthening financial management at the level of LPA bodies, ensuring financial discipline, increasing budget transparency and public participation

National Decentralization Strategy: Measures Taken

- 1. Reforming the system of transfers and individual tax rates, with differentiation between the first and the second ATU budget levels;
- 2. Encouraging LPA bodies to increase budget income by using their own local income sources by eliminating the correlation between transfers from state budgets and individual income amounts;
- 3. Removing the upper limit for local charges;
- 4. The introduction of first (villages, communities, cities and municipalities) and second (districts, Chisinau, Balti) LPA levels in 2016 on the basis of programmes and performance, etc.

National Decentralization Strategy:

The third block of measures - increasing budget transparency and public participation

The IDIS & INEKO Project

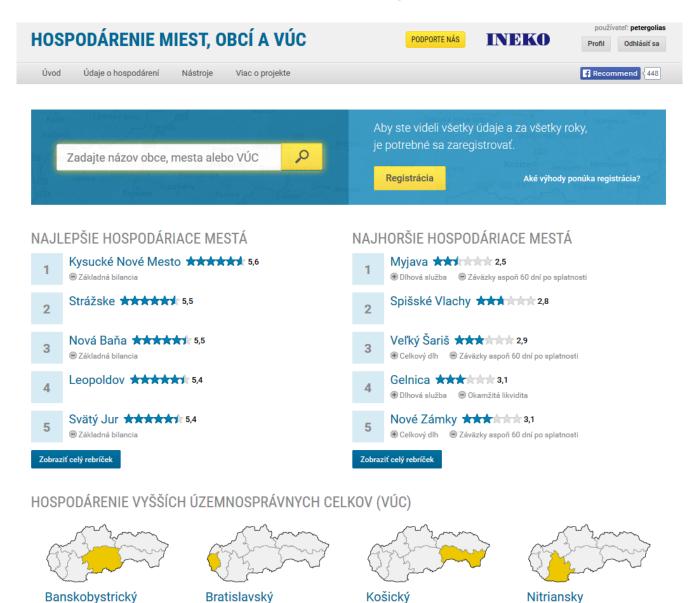
- Name: Improvement of control over the activities of LPA bodies in Moldova
- With the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Partners, NGOs:
 - IDIS Viitorul, Moldova
 - Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO), Slovakia
- Aim: to increase the financial accountability of LPA bodies in 50
 Moldovan municipalities

Tools:

- transfer practical data in order to assess the financial status of municipalities by INEKO;
- develop a portal/collection of data based on the financial indicators of at least 50 major cities in Moldova.

INEKO Portal

Home Page



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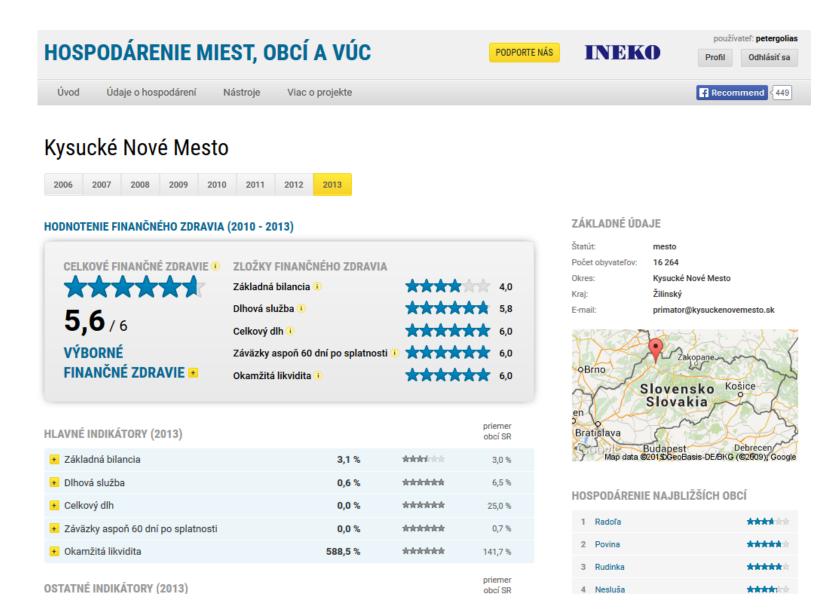
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Nitriansky

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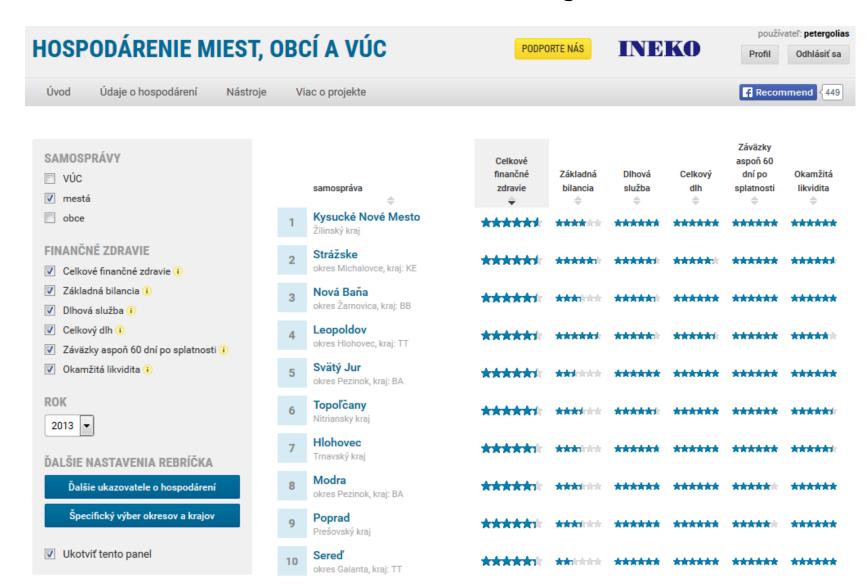
INEKO PORTAL

Profile of Municipalities and Higher Territorial Units (HTUs)



INEKO Portal

Financial Status Rankings



INEKO: Financial Indicators

Criteria for the final rating	Ratio
Total debt compared with current income	2
Debt service (interest plus principal amount) compared with current income	1
Balance of current and capital operations compared with current and capital income	1
Obligations that are at least 60 days overdue compared with current income	1
Short-term liquidity of financial accounts compared with short-term obligations	1

- All criteria are converted to a {0, 6} scale
- Total debt is calculated on the basis of available data for the last year
- The other four criteria are calculated on the basis of data for the last four years with the following ratios:
- Year *t*: 4
- Year *t-1*: 3
- Year *t-2*: 2
- Year *t-3*: 1

INEKO portal: Basic Data

- 1. Current account income
- 2. Current account expenses
- 3. Capital account income
- 4. Capital account expenses
- 5. Debt service principal amount
- 6. Debt service interest
- 7. Short-term obligations
- 8. Long-term obligations
- 9. Bank loans
- 10. State loans
- 11. Overdue obligations
- 12. Obligations that are at least 60 days overdue
- 13. Short-term accounts receivable
- 14. Financial assets (e.g. funds, bank deposits)
- 15. Number of citizens

The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: General Information

- In January 2016, IDIS Viitorul, in conjunction with INEKO, launched a portal showing financial data on all Moldovan municipalities (http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/).
- The purpose of the portal is to increase financial transparency at the local level, thus getting the people involved in the control over public spending, and to reducing the risk of corruption.
- The internet portal contains over 130,000 items of data and an interactive map. It displays the transparency of local public finance management in 898 municipalities and 32 districts.

The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Specific Features

In Accordance with the Law on Local Public Finance (LLPF):

Article 12. Budget Balance

- Annual ATU budgets cannot be approved and executed when there is a budget deficit.
- This provision shall not apply to loans received under the LLPF, the financing of expenses from the sale and privatization of the public property of ATUs, and the cash balances of the previous year's budget.
- Local public authorities should take all necessary measures to maintain the budget balance.

The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Specific Features

- The Moldovan financial system is underdeveloped and does not encourage the LPAs to issue financial debt instruments.
- Taking the low financial potential of LPAs, the lack of experience among local state officials in using and managing bank loans, and the trend of the banks of the Republic of Moldova to grant short-term loans into account, the role of bank loans in financing local public services is minor (except for in Chisinau, Balti and several other cities).

Therefore, the methodology used by INEKO to calculate ratings on the basis of debt criteria should be reconsidered for the Republic of Moldova.

Thus, the content of the system of indicators to assess Moldovan BATUs becomes much simpler and, to a certain extent, rudimentary.

The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Basic Data

The portal is based on the following categories of initial financial data:

- Total BATU income, incl. by categories;
- Total BATU expenses, incl. by items;
- General deficit/surplus incl. resources for covering budget deficits;
- Population.

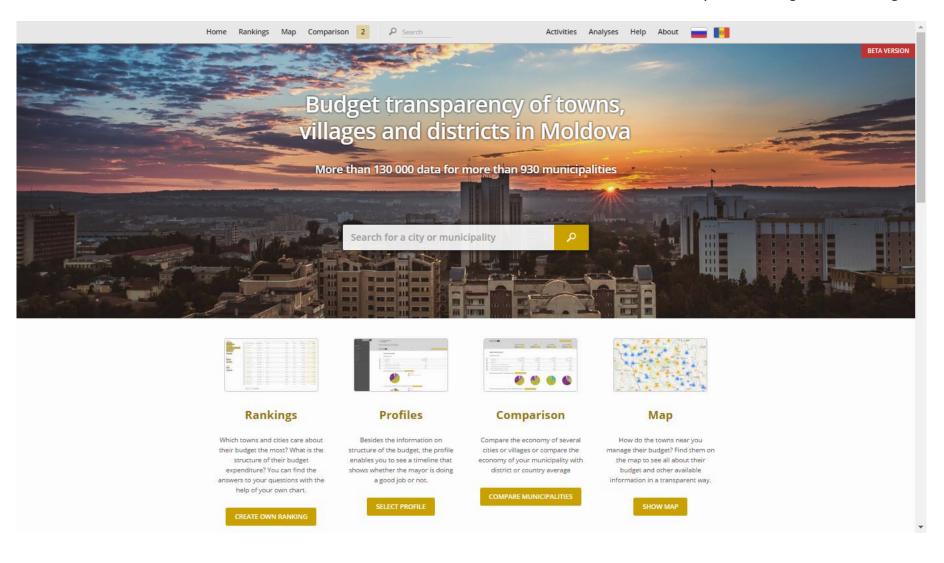
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: System of Indicators

This development stage includes:

- dynamic criteria;
- structural criteria;
- initial budget deficit;
- per capita budget criteria.

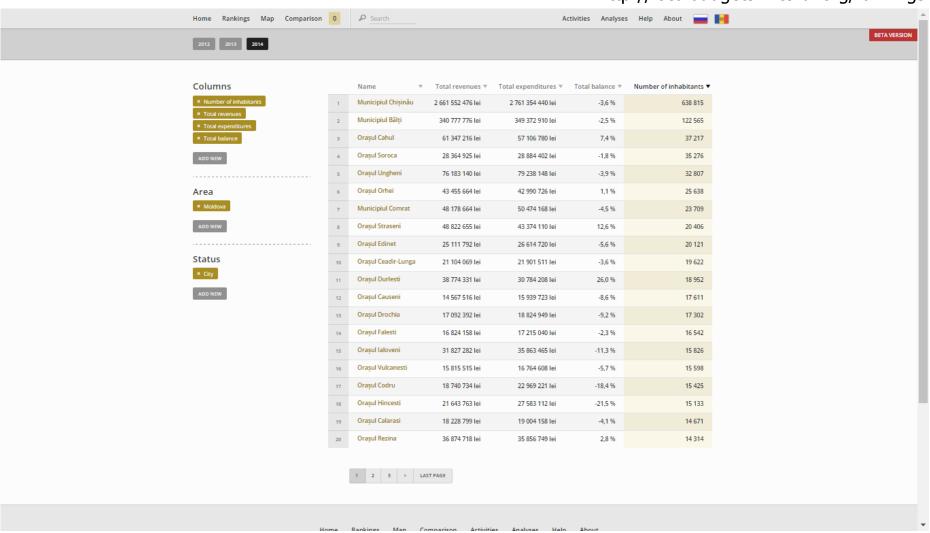
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Home Page

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/



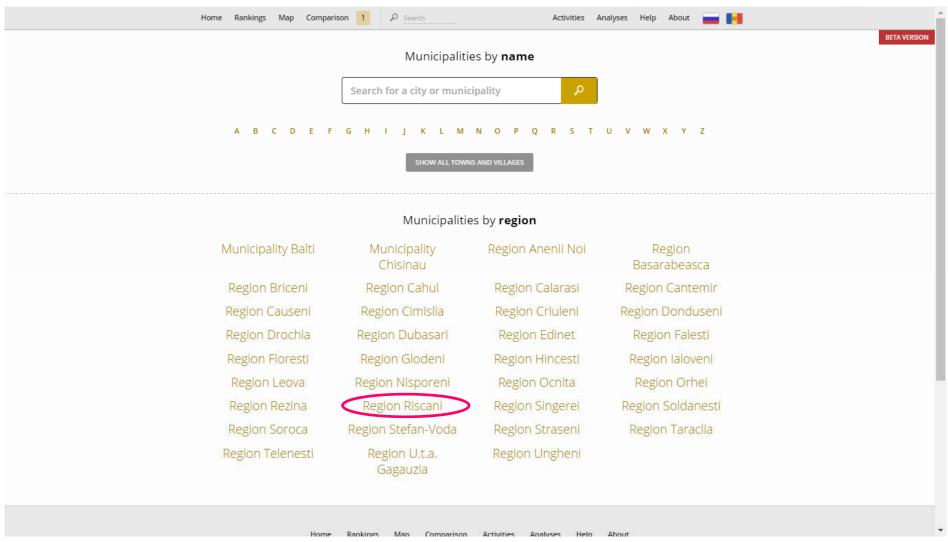
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Financial Status Rankings

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/rankings



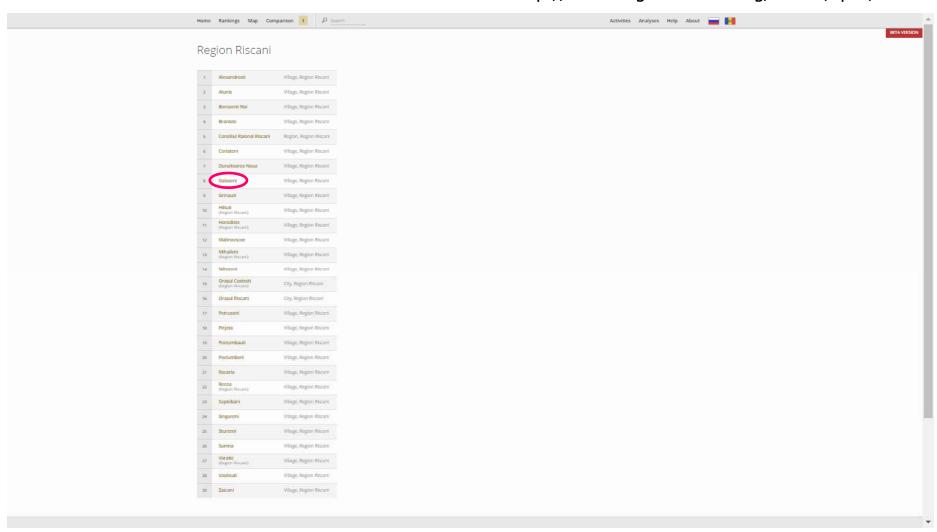
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: ATU Profiles

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/profile



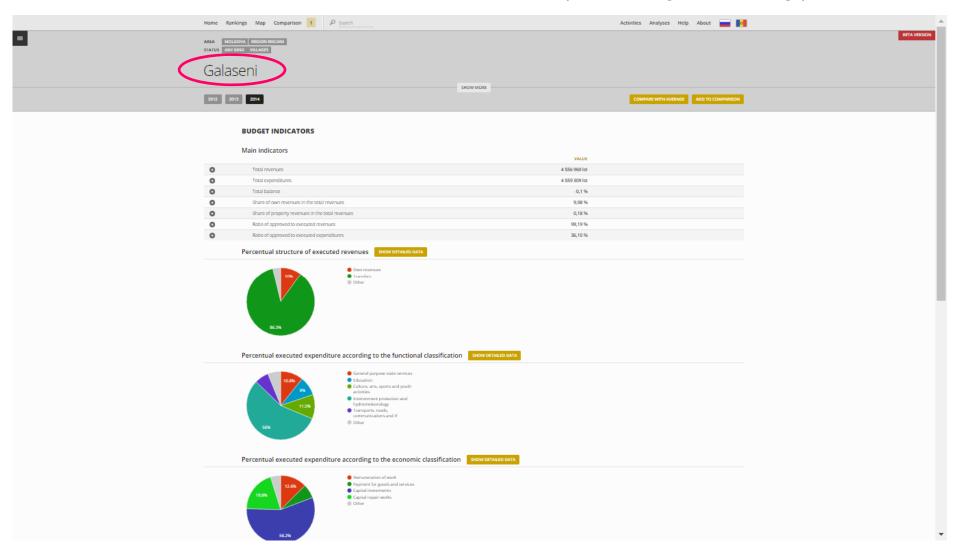
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: ATU Profiles

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/search/spec/079-0



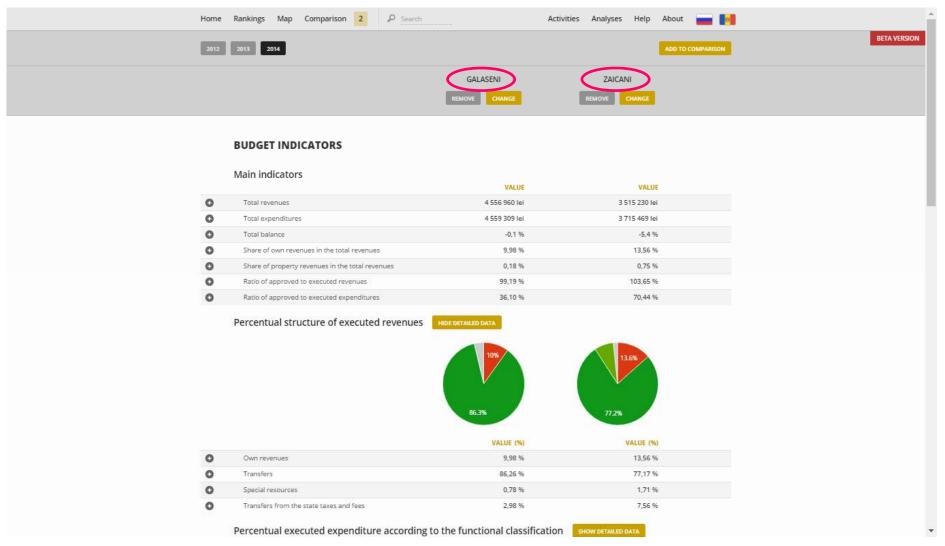
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: ATU Profiles

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/profile/8458/2014



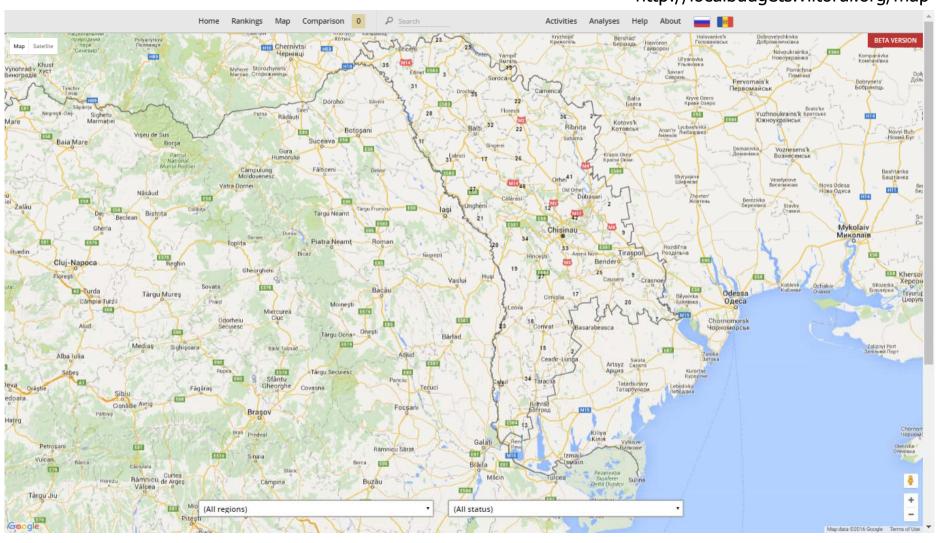
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Comparisons

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/comparison/8458,5745/2014



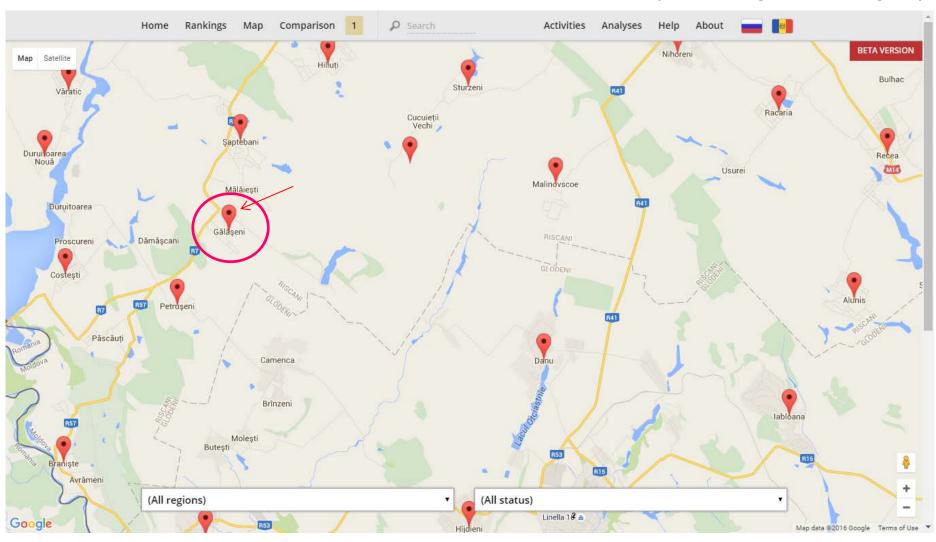
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Interactive Map

http://localbudgets.viitorul.org/map



The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal: Interactive Map

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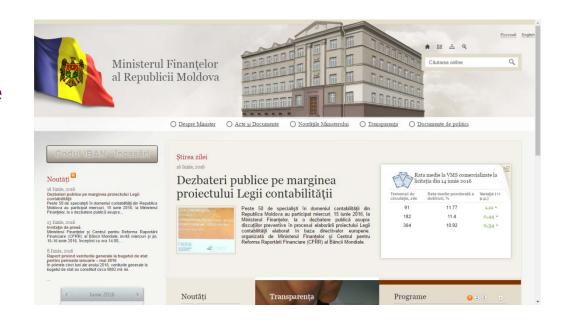
The "Budget Transparency of Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" Portal:

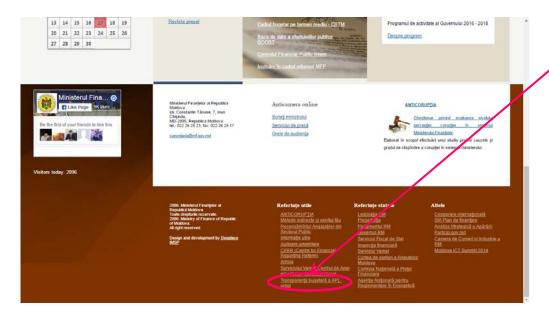
- Issues
- Solutions
- Development prospects:

entering, displaying and monitoring information about:

- the quality of public procurement contracts at the local authority level;
 - local economic development, etc.

The web-page of the **Ministry of Finance** of the Republic of Moldova features a link to the "Budget **Transparency of** Towns, Villages and Districts in Moldova" portal





Thank you for listening