

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  <b>APPLICATION TO THE ECOS-OUVERTURE PROGRAMME FOR A TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA</b>
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 August 1998	
REPORT AUTHOR: Alexis Jay	
REF: AJ/EH	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Social Work Committee of the outcome of an application for funding to the Ecos-Ouverture programme.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In October 1997 a report was approved by the Social Work Committee supporting an application to the Ecos-Ouverture programme for funding to support the development of child care services in the Republic of Moldova. This application built on a previous successful project with the Republic of Moldova, and followed a visit from a party of members and officers to North Lanarkshire in April 1997.

- 2.2 The partners in the second application were:

North Lanarkshire Council  
Piemonte Region (Italy)  
Highland Council  
Bacau County Council (Romania)  
The European Children's Trust  
Moldovan Municipalities of Cricova, Chisinau and Tiraspol

North Lanarkshire held the 'lead partner' role, and the development work on the application was undertaken by the European Children's Trust.

The proposed contribution from North Lanarkshire Council was £30,000 in total spread over three financial years.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The Ecos-Ouverture programme has advised the Council that the application was unsuccessful, and recommended that the application be resubmitted for the next round of bids, for which the closing date is November of this year.

- 3.2 Informal discussions with the Ecos-Ouverture office indicated that the detailed content of the project proposal was considered acceptable, but for that particular funding route the emphasis of activity should have been more focused between Romania and Moldova, rather than solely on Moldova.

- 3.3 The European Children's Trust has been in contact with all the partners and has ascertained support for a resubmission along the same lines, with a more prominent inclusion of Romania, and possibly on a reduced scale.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The previous report identified several benefits to be derived from involvement in such programmes, including the opportunity for the Council to play a part in assistance to new independent states in Eastern Europe in their transition to local democracy and responsible local government.
- 4.2 The need for expertise and support in shaping child care services remains critical to the effective development of the protection of children in these countries. The previous application offered the beneficiary countries the basis for achieving this, as would a resubmission of a similar nature, with the same proposed level of financial contribution from the Council, or less, depending on the scale of the final proposal.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Committee is asked:

to support the resubmission of the application to the Ecos-Ouverture programme.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**7 August 1998**

For further information on this report please contact Alexis Jay Head of Social Work Services, (01698 332001).