

THE 3 CORNERS ROUND TABLE

General concept

Introductory Statement

The following project idea is developed by the Laboratory of Initiatives for Development (LID Moldova) on a vision of a modern, strong, just and free Republic of Moldova. We are engaged in promoting democracy and building a balanced, unbiased space for dialogue, where people of all backgrounds can express themselves freely and constructively. Initiative is at the core of our endeavor and it shall be encouraged in every environment - from small communities of people gathered around the goal of improving their living space, to civil society organizations fighting for transparency and fairness and academic communities working towards far-reaching ideals, at home and across the Eastern Europe.

We believe that a well-established platform for discussion that sets the public agenda on the right issues will bring bright experts, stakeholders and citizens together. The key to the public opinion and debates is in the periodic thematic roundtables on topics of interest: political, economic, cultural, societal. At these roundtables could be discussed and explained the recent policy papers, initiatives, studies and reports. We seek to consolidate a community of critical thinking in Moldova, able to advance ideas for a prosperous economy, a trustworthy government and a consolidated civil society.

Problem Statement

In order to determine whether anything from above is needed, first things first - what are the problems that disturb us and what are we lacking so much in Republic of Moldova? Corruption and poverty, migration and injustice, weak education and health systems, crab mentality and mourn, irresponsibility and polarization are the most critical problems of our society. Besides this, we are missing courage, initiative, responsibility, hope and *1 million bright people...*

Tentative goals

- Involve in shaping the national debate in a constructive manner and further develop ideas for policymakers;
- Promote bold, modern ideas, as well as concerted action, especially in view of organizing round tables and capacity building for citizens outside Chisinau;
- Create a network or community of experts, stakeholders and citizens to address real problems, advance potential solutions and challenge the media to cover issues that truly matter;
- Focus on extensive communication and outreach effort to adapt to a multi-challenged media landscape and free speech.

Project activities

1. Periodic thematic roundtables on topics of interest: political, economic, cultural, societal. Gather experts and influencers once per quarter to set the public agenda on right issues.
2. Assess current policies with respect to how they affect the social and economic environment.
3. Translate ideas – extract the best ideas form long and in a complicated language policy papers, reports and analysis in order to make it easier to be understood by the public.

All three activities should be part of one process, where once per quarter we identify the most relevant and authentic topic of public interest (some examples below). Then we assess what is in place as policies and regulations on the topic and do a desk research on what the recent papers, reports and studies are saying on the topic. After we gather experts, stakeholders and citizens at a round table discussion with a specific format.

The Round Table will be organized as a Boxing ring but with 3 Corners or angles of discussion and 3 rounds. In the first Corner are the experts and academia, 3 persons that poses the topic and give a presentation in the first round. The second Corner will have stakeholders or persons that deal with the issue/topic on regular basis (civil servants, executives or other categories, 5 persons) who will present the obstacles, the challenges and comment on experts' views in the second round. In the third Corner are the beneficiaries or the people that are affected directly (7 persons) by the issue/topic who will formulate questions and demands in the third round. There should be one or two moderators/facilitators that will keep the control of aims, give total liberty to participants to contribute and enrich the discussion. The moderator's role will be to articulate as questions the themes that run throughout the various ideas presented. So, the moderator formulates discussion questions that spring from all the researchers' ideas and contributions rather than critiquing each one.

The 3 Corners will have one topic focus per table. Usually short burst, intense discussions aimed at fleshing out an issue. The auditorium of the round table will be not more than 25 persons and we also will provide possibility for live streaming and commenting during the discussion. The outcomes of the round table will be presented as digest for public, where the ideas will be translated in short statements and conclusions.

Tentative topics

- Democracy and rule of law in Republic of Moldova;
- The Public Administration reform;
- Education and health;
- Economic development models and Free market;
- Entrepreneurship, Sharing economy and Crowdfunding;
- Energy and security;
- The Eastern Partnership and the Association Agreement.