Round Table Meeting on 17 October 2018

From 17 – 20 October 2018, the project team participated in the twenty first edition of the Specialized Fair – Exhibition ”Farmer-2018”, organized every year in Moldova at the International Exhibition Center “MOLDEXPO”. This offers a great platform for the project and Donau Soja brand to showcase their objectives and communicate their key message to Moldovan agricultural policy makers, producers, traders and consumers.

On 17 October, in the framework of the FARMER 2018 exhibition, the project team organised a round table meeting entitled “Development of Soya in Moldova”. The participants in the round table included representatives the Ministry of Agriculture Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) and soya value chain stakeholders, i.e. producers (both conventional and organic), breeders and research institutions, input suppliers, traders and processors, as well as decision makers. The round table was opened by Alexander Karner, Councillor and Head of ADA Country office in Moldova, who underlined the importance of developing the soya sector in Europe and the path the project implementers are intending to follow in supporting its growth in the region. Mr. Vasile Sarban, the Chief of the Department for Vegetable Origin Products Production, Processing and Regulation Policies of the MADRM outlined the dynamics of the sector’s development and the measures taken by the Ministry to address the challenges in soya sector in Moldova.

The soya producers were very interested to hear about the results obtained by the demonstration site of the project, organised at the Research Institute Selectia. Maria Iacobutsa, soya ameliorator from the Institute, presented in detail the varieties and technologies tested in the current year and that led to intense discussions amongst the participants as to whether certain technologies or varieties could be used in different regions in Moldova.

The round table also had a participant-led topic discussions and brainstorming, that were as productive as those led by the speakers, leading to important feedback and recommendations to be considered during project implementation.