



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



EU – MOLDOVA:

COOPERATION NEWS

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MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

The “Show Nebun” Caravan brought EU closer to 20,000 people across nine districts of the country

More than 20,000 people from nine districts of Moldova sang, celebrated, and discovered in an engaging way how the European Union (EU) supports their communities. Four months after its launch, the EU “Show Nebun” Caravan completed its journey, turning district centers into lively spaces

of performance and dialogue, where music, humour, and interactive activities – including stand-up comedy that challenged disinformation, stereotypes, and myths about the EU – blended with information on European projects improving citizens’ living standards.



Stronger Together

Between May and September 2025, the Caravan visited the districts of Soroca, Edinet, Cantemir, Singerei, Causeni, Rezina, Drochia, Anenii Noi, and Riscani. National and local artists combined entertainment with presentations of EU support provided in key areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, youth, and local business development.

People of all ages, from young people and teachers to entrepreneurs, public servants, pensioners, and children, discovered in

an accessible way what the EU means for Moldovans and for their daily lives. The events combined music and stand-up comedy with interactive activities. Participants enjoyed artistic performances, quiz games with prizes, and an information booth where they could learn more about EU support. The relaxed atmosphere and open dialogue turned each locality into a genuine community celebration, where information and the European spirit blended naturally with fun and local solidarity.



"It was a great show! We laughed, sang, danced, and learned many new things about the European Union and how it helps our region,"

**said Petru, an entrepreneur
from Soroca district.**

"I really enjoyed the show. Through music and the stand-up comedy, I understood better how the EU helps people in our region, supporting healthcare, services, and activities for everyone,"

**added Valentina, a pensioner
from Cantemir district.**

The EU “Show Nebun” Caravan, held between 15 May and 23 September 2025, was organised by Europe Café, the EU Information Center in Chişinău, with financial support from the European Union. A partner of the Caravan was the EU Neighbours East Programme.

Under the slogan “The EU comes to your town with a ‘crazy’ informative show!”, the campaign aimed to bring Europe to Moldova’s regions in a relaxed and accessible way, through comedy and music performances, quizzes, educational activities, and direct interaction with people.



Moldova joined the EU's Creative Europe Programme: A new era for culture and creativity

The Republic of Moldova has taken another major step on its European path. On 2 September 2025, the country signed an agreement to join Creative Europe, the

European Union's flagship programme that supports culture and the arts. The agreement will come into force on 1 January 2026.



Opening new opportunities for Moldovan artists

By joining Creative Europe, Moldovan artists, cultural professionals, and organisations will gain direct access to EU funding and collaboration opportunities. This means that theatres, museums, film producers, musicians, writers, designers, and cultural NGOs in Moldova will be able to work side by side with their European counterparts, develop joint projects, and bring Moldovan creativity onto the international stage.

From visual arts and music to literature, heritage, and the creative industries, Moldovan participants will now compete on equal terms with peers from across Europe for grants and networking opportunities. This will not only provide essential financial support, but also exposure to new audiences, markets, and skills.

A symbolic and strategic step towards Europe

For Moldova, participation in Creative Europe represents more than access to funding. It is a recognition of Moldovan culture as part of the wider European family and a chance to showcase local talent across the continent.

What it means for citizens

For ordinary Moldovans, this agreement means more European cultural events at home, more opportunities for young creators, and greater visibility for Moldova abroad. Local theatres could stage European co-productions, film festivals could feature Moldovan entries supported by EU funding, and musicians could join European tours and platforms.

It is also an investment in Moldova's future: supporting creativity and innovation as drivers of social cohesion, education, and economic growth.

More details: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/news/moldova-to-join-creative-europe-programme-in-2026>



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The EU supports youth initiatives that bring communities together and foster intercultural dialogue in the Republic of Moldova

Sixty young people from different regions of the Republic of Moldova participated in the IDEathon "Lead the change! Youth initiatives for intercultural dialogue," held over three days, September 17-19, with the aim of promoting social cohesion and encouraging civic engagement among the younger generation. The event was organized by the CONTACT Center, in partnership with CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, as part of the "Social Cohesion through Dialogue" project, funded by the European Union.

For three days, participants had the opportunity to collaborate, learn from each other, and develop projects designed to support cultural diversity and contribute to strengthening unity in communities. The workshops and working sessions focused on developing leadership skills, critical thinking, and civic initiative, as well as transforming ideas into viable action plans.



At the end of the event, each participant received a certificate of participation in recognition of their involvement and contribution. With the support of the

European Union, 10 of the most innovative and relevant initiatives were awarded €1,500 each for their implementation at the local level.



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"We congratulate all the young people for their participation, especially the winners. We are proud to be with you and to support you. For us, the European Union Delegation, these initiatives are very important. Cooperation with young people and the promotion of initiatives related to intercultural dialogue are among our priorities,"

**said Marcia Kammitsi, project manager,
European Union Delegation to Moldova.**

"I enjoyed working in a team with young people from different communities. I discovered different points of view that we can take into account and support. This made me realize once again that young people are not only the future of the country, but also its present,"

**says Nadia Revenco, chair of the Student
Council at Mihai Sadoveanu Theoretical
High School in Călărași.**

The "Lead the Change!" IDEathon confirms the essential role of young people in promoting intercultural dialogue and strengthening a society based on respect, cooperation, and solidarity.

Over the next three months, the winning initiatives will be implemented in various localities in the Republic of Moldova through activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion and stimulating intercultural dialogue at the community level



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Stronger Together

A new edition of the National Intellectual Games Championship "Sub cușma lui Guguță," dedicated to intercultural dialogue, has been launched

Over 100 young leaders, teachers, and representatives of education departments from across the country participated in the launch of the new edition of the National Intellectual Games Championship "Sub cușma lui Guguță." The event, held with the

support of the Ministry of Education and Research and the European Union, represents an interactive way of promoting intercultural dialogue and social cohesion among young people in the Republic of Moldova.



The young people had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the themes and activities of the new edition. They explored the impact of intellectual games on strengthening intercultural dialogue in an interactive way. They also participated in a simulation session of intellectual games containing questions that promote cultural diversity and tolerance, including European values.

The European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova supports the initiative, recognizing the role of intellectual games as a tool for bringing different communities closer together

"Intellectual games are a powerful tool for strengthening social cohesion and intercultural dialogue. Intercultural dialogue is a fundamental pillar for the Republic of

Moldova to build a prosperous future on its path to European integration. This goal is perfectly aligned with the European Union's motto – "Unity in diversity" – a principle that is essential to emphasize,"

***said Luigi Nicolò Segarizzi, political officer
of the EU Delegation.***

The national intellectual games championship will contribute to the formation of a new generation of young leaders, open to a future anchored in diversity, tolerance, mutual respect, and solidarity.

For this year's edition, the project aims to involve over 15,000 students from all regions of Moldova, including Găgăuzia and the left bank of the Nistru. During the school year,



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they will be involved in a series of intellectual games at the inter-school, district, and national levels. The final stage will take place in December, with the participation of 42 winning teams from the three district semi-

finals. Participants will test their knowledge in four rounds of thematic questions, and the winners will receive the symbolic "Cușma lui Guguță" trophy and other prizes.



The eighth edition of the "Sub cușma lui Guguță" project is co-financed by the European Union under the "Social Cohesion

through Dialogue" project implemented by CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation.



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Promoting academic ethics and integrity: international seminar in Chişinău

On September 23, 2025, the international seminar *"Promoting Academic Ethics and Integrity: Developing University Codes of Ethics in Higher Education and Research Institutions"* was held at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Research and in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

The event is part of the activities of the Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) within the Erasmus+ Programme. The seminar benefited from the expertise of the international SPHERE consortium, coordinated by the European University Association (EUA) and OBREAL Global, which supports the development of reform policies in higher education.



The invited expert at the seminar was Dr. Joanna Morawska, adjunct at Faculty of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Department of Regional and Local Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland.

The agenda of the event included presentations and interactive sessions on:

- international principles and trends in the field of academic ethics;
- frequent ethical challenges in higher education and research institutions;

- development of university codes of ethics and mechanisms for their application;
- strategies for strengthening an organisational culture based on integrity and accountability.

The seminar concluded with a discussion session, with participants emphasizing the importance of international cooperation for the development of clear ethical standards and for the promotion of academic integrity in universities in the Republic of Moldova.

On September 24, the event continued at the Ministry of Education and Research with a working meeting dedicated to deepening the topic of academic ethics. The meeting was attended by Adriana Cazacu, Secretary of State for Research and Innovation, as well as Doina Usaci, Head of the Higher Education Policy Department, along with Dr. Joanna Morawska and representatives of the National Erasmus+ Office. The discussions focused on the *Recommendations*

for the Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education, a document to be developed in cooperation with academics and policymakers in the field. The Recommendations will contribute to establishing clear principles on the integration of artificial intelligence technologies into the educational process, with a focus on protecting academic integrity and stimulating responsible innovation.



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63 young people prepared for Moldova's European future: the EU – Government of Moldova internship programme has concluded

A new cohort of young professionals has completed, at the end of August, their internship within the prestigious joint Programme of the European Union Delegation and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Sixty-three students and graduates from the country and the diaspora, selected

through a rigorous process and engaged for two months in public institutions, received their well-deserved certificates during a festive ceremony attended by Deputy Prime Minister Cristina Gherasimov and the European Union Ambassador, Jānis Mažeiks.



The Internship Programme involved full-time activity – eight hours per day with physical presence – and was focused on key topics related to the European integration process. Throughout the internship, participants were guided daily by an EU High Level Adviser and the staff of the host institution.

The young people also had the opportunity to attend weekly training sessions, gain in-depth understanding of institutional mechanisms, and carry out concrete tasks.

For their engagement, each intern received a monthly allowance of 200 euros provided by the European Union.



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The selection process was rigorous, structured in two stages: the pre-selection of application files – 225 in total – and the final interview, conducted in Romanian and English, before a panel composed of representatives of the EU Delegation, the Government, and the EU High Level Advisers' Mission. The evaluation focused on fluency in English, motivation, knowledge of EU–Moldova relations, and other relevant skills.

"This experience helped me understand how I can actively contribute to the country's development. It gave me confidence, skills, and a clear perspective on my career in the public sector,"

said Corina Filipciuc, a participant in the programme.

Graduates who obtained positive evaluations may benefit from direct employment – without competition and without a probation period – in their host institution, provided they complete an additional month of internship.

Since the initiative's launch in 2022, more than 190 young people have taken part in the programme, and 17 of them have been employed in public institutions. The programme continues to create real opportunities for young people, offering them a concrete platform to launch a career in public service.



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The „STEAMing” initiative is empowering girls across the country

“By choosing STEAM, girls can dissolve gender stereotypes and broaden their personal and professional horizons. STEAM gives girls confidence and courage,”

shares Andreea Ivanesi, a 15-year-old student from Lozova, participating in the “STEAMing” initiative.

Over 200 students from 10 regions across the Republic of Moldova are taking part in the “STEAMing” initiative funded by EU, under the EVOLVE4GE project, and implemented by UN Women Moldova in partnership with the Academy of Innovation and Change through Education (AISE).

The STEAMing initiative marks a cross industry and cross institutional cooperation bringing together leading educational institutions as Technical University of Moldova (TUM) and “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University through “Clasa Viitorului”. It provides a hands-on, interactive learning approach, combining problem-solving with real-life community challenges, and connecting science, society, and the environment. The program is breaking stereotypes and empowering girls to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM), while also strengthening the capacity of schoolteachers by equipping them with innovative, research-based teaching strategies.



"I believe STEAM prepares students for the future and encourages creativity, while working with modern technologies. We have used hands-on design challenges, collaborative online tools, and interactive digital methods. We are noticing how students are becoming more engaged, curious, and motivated to take active responsibility for their learning,"

mentioned Diana Jelihovschi, a teacher from Sălcuța village.

In July, over 100 students and 10 teachers participated in a five-day summer camp and engaged in practical tasks at the *Technical University of Moldova* and *"Clasa Viitorului"*, such as: designing electronic devices, programming Arduino robots, exploring Sphero kits and learning to pilot drones.

"I saw many advanced teaching materials and I really enjoyed the activities at the Technical University of Moldova, they were very interactive,"

says Nicolina Ursache, a 16-year-old student at Gheorghe Asachi Romanian-French Lyceum.

"Making robots and drones was a completely new and impressive experience."

Most schools in our country don't have such laboratories, so this was a unique opportunity,"

adds another girl, 13 years old.

"STEAMing" also engaged the private sector to create career linkages and opportunities. During the summer camp, the participants explored real-world applications of STEAM and connected with potential future careers, thanks to partners including *Gilat Satellite Networks Moldova*, *Moldcell*, *StarNet*, *CAPAROL Moldova*, *Mixbook Moldova*, *Crunchyroll*, *Orange Digital Center* and *TUM Astronomical Observatory*.

Since September, 10 science clubs are up and running giving students exciting opportunities to explore STEM activities tailored to the local context. A series of upcoming visits to partner organizations and industry sites are planned, offering students even greater exposure to real-world applications of STEAM. Until May 2026, participants will continue their STEAM journey through weekly hands-on modules, exploring cutting-edge technologies

"What I enjoyed the most so far were the activities with Augmented Reality (AR) apps. I can now easily create AR science models. I can show you the solar system floating on your desk or a dinosaur walking in your living room. That is so cool",

said a 14 year old girl from Soroca.



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Diaspora Youth Forum in Moldova, fourth edition: experiences, paths, returns

On 17 August 2025, the Diaspora Youth Forum organised in Chisinau, brought together over 120 young people originating from the Republic of Moldova, who are studying abroad, alongside young people who have returned home. The event, held over a full day of intense activities, included networking sessions, thematic discussions, and inspirational panels, all focused on the theme Experiences, Paths, Returns.

The event emphasized two essential directions: valuing the international experiences and academic or professional

achievements of young people from the diaspora, and promoting inspiring returns, presenting specific examples of young people who choose to contribute to the country's development through the knowledge and skills acquired abroad.

The forum was more than just an event; it was a common voice of the student diaspora and a platform for dialogue between young people, experts, and institutional partners, aiming to generate ideas and partnerships that support the integration of future specialists into Moldovan society.



During the thematic panels, the representatives from the Bureau for European Integration discussed the role of youth in the European Union accession process and how the diaspora can actively contribute to promoting European values. Moldovan students in the USA, France, and China shared diverse experiences regarding studying abroad, highlighting both challenges and academic opportunities.

The interactive session in the World Café format brought participants together to discuss the causes of emigration, barriers to returning, and ways to contribute to the country's development. Young people who returned from Italy, Romania, and Poland shared their personal stories about coming back home, emphasizing their motivations for returning, community integration, and opportunities to contribute to social and professional life in Moldova.

"One of the most useful moments for me was the discussion panel: Experience of Students in the Diaspora. Their experiences gave me confidence that the Republic of Moldova has a European path, and I felt inspired to make a change myself",

mentioned one of the participants.

The event was organized with the financial support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Moldova, League of Native Students from the Republic of Moldova (LSORM) and European Institute for Development Policies "Eurodev".



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Young people from Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine connected through the regional exchange and networking

For four days, during 16-19 September 2025, local youth councils and their networks and umbrella organizations from Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia gathered for a regional exchange dedicated to strengthening youth participation in democratic life. Participants worked in groups, discussed real-life

contexts, and shared initiatives that could later be implemented in their communities. In this way, the exchange of ideas turned into an opportunity to build collaboration between local youth councils from Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.



"Thanks to this event, young people from the three networks were able to share good practices in an interactive way, focused on promoting intercultural diversity, respect, and mutual support. As a participant, I believe that the regional exchange was a unique opportunity to connect with my peers from the Eastern Partnership countries and to lay the foundations for future collaborations,"

said Adriela Bejenari, President of the Drochia District Youth Council, Moldova.

As part of the regional exchange, participants also visited the Orhei District Youth Council, where they learned how the council's young members contribute to community life and involve peers in decision-making processes, what good practices have been implemented and the initiatives they are proud of, as well as how they motivate young people to become active and engaged actors in their communities.

"During the meetings with Ukrainian and Moldovan youth councils, we shared best practices and achievements based on Georgia's local and national youth policy. Such dialogues carry special significance – they lay the foundation for international cooperation, joint initiatives, and the establishment of long-term partnerships."

mentioned Ilarion Pipia, President of Association of youth advisory councils of Georgia.

"This event contributed to three things for the Ukrainian delegation: expanding the vision on the development of youth councils in other countries, in particular in Moldova and Georgia;

highlighting the importance of continuing to develop youth participation in decision-making processes through youth councils and creating a cool network of representatives of youth councils from all three regions for further collaboration",

highlighted Khrystyna Slovik, Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Youth Councils Association.

The regional exchange in Moldova was organised by the 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ, in partnership with the National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova.



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Young Moldovans make history at Youth Week 2025

On 16 August, Moldova's capital buzzed with energy, creativity, and civic spirit as over 5,000 young people and more than 70 organizations and public institutions came together for the 7th edition of the Youth Festival, marking the grand finale of Youth Week 2025.

Held between 8 and 16 August, this nationwide celebration brought the spotlight on Moldova's young generation – empowered, active, and ready to shape the country's future. Organized by the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM), alongside a strong network of national and

international partners, the event transformed the week of International Youth Day into a vibrant showcase of youth participation and impact.

Between 8 and 12 August, the Youth Caravan hit the road, taking messages of civic participation and engagement to regional communities. In Căușeni, Rezina, and Cimișlia, over 200 young people joined NGO fairs, community debates, and festive activities designed to connect local youth with national organizations. It was a powerful reminder: voices from every corner of the country matter and deserve to be heard.



On 12 August, the town of Edineț earned its title as Moldova's Youth Capital by hosting the official celebration of International Youth Day. Youth groups from Chișinău and other localities traveled to Edineț – over 50 young people and five youth organizations – to share their civic, cultural, and educational initiatives. A major highlight was the campaign "Vote for Youth", which encouraged active participation in democratic processes and introduced the #YouthReferendum – a symbolic act of giving youth a seat at the decision-making table.

On 15 August, the action moved to Digital Park Chișinău for the International Youth Conference, where over 100 participants and guests from Belgium, Romania, Ukraine, Armenia, Germany, and Belarus explored major topics like European integration, youth

representation, and Moldova's democratic development. Interactive sessions gave young people a platform to discuss the future of democracy, education, security, and economic growth. The message was loud and clear: Moldova's future is in the hands of an open, European-minded generation.

This landmark week was made possible thanks to the National Youth Council of Moldova, with support from the European Union, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Swiss Government, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Danish Youth Council, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and private sector partners. Official partners included the Ministry of Education and Research of Moldova and the National Agency for Youth Programs and Activities.



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In Budești, community projects bring people together and preserve cultural heritage

When people, authorities, and organisations work hand in hand, results become visible. In Budești, this is proven by the initiatives carried out by the NGO “Budești – Casa Părintească”, within the participatory

budgeting program, part of the project “Moldova ASSIST: Improving access to quality public services and social cohesion”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova.



Recently, the commune was visited by Rafał Chibowski, Country Director of People in Need Moldova, and Marcia Kammitzi, representative of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, who witnessed the positive impact of the projects developed together with the community.

Thanks to citizen engagement and the support of local authorities, several ideas came to life. Among the most important achievements are:

- Rehabilitation of bridges and construction of pedestrian paths connecting residential areas with the town center and public spaces.

- Modernisation of public areas in the Central Park, where safe and friendly recreational spaces have been created.

- Preservation of cultural heritage through the rehabilitation of the “Fountain of Eternal Youth” – a symbol of local traditions.

- Creation of social and recreational zones, such as the “Swing of Love,” a new attraction for young people, tourists, and families.

These investments have brought more safety, comfort, and unity to the community, addressing the needs of all residents, including people with disabilities and families with children.

"Each completed project is a step towards a more accessible and united Budești. It is proof that when the community decides and works together, change becomes reality,"

stated the commune's mayor, Nina Costiuc.

Closing events and visits to the rehabilitated sites have shown that citizen-led initiatives can have a lasting impact, strengthening social cohesion and trust between locals and authorities.



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Stronger Together

“ProSperare” Center in Bocșa modernised with the European Union support

The Community Social Assistance Center “ProSperare” in Bocșa village has been renovated and equipped with modern facilities to better respond to the needs of the most vulnerable community members. Currently, the center serves 85 children and elderly people, providing day care,

placement, a social canteen, and laundry services. Following the modernisation, the center’s capacity will increase by another 45 beneficiaries, including from neighboring localities, thus extending support to people with disabilities and elderly people in need.



The modernisation was made possible thanks to a grant of over 17,500 euros awarded to the Association of Parents of Persons with Disabilities “Eternitate,” with an implementation period of 3 months. This support enabled the renovation and

arrangement of spaces for meal preparation and serving, the equipping of the kitchen with professional appliances, the purchase of new washing machines and dryers, as well as furniture and tools necessary for the safe provision of daily services.

The modernisation of the “ProSperare” Community Social Assistance Center was made possible through the **Moldova ASSIST** project, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, the North-West Territorial Social Assistance Agency, and the Association of Parents of Persons with Disabilities “Eternitate.”



Stronger Together

“Căldura Casei” in Drochia – more comfort and safety for children separated from their parents

The social center “Căldura Casei” in Drochia provides children separated from their parents with a safe and welcoming environment, where each child feels part of a big family. Recently, the lives of the children have improved significantly thanks to the project “Moldova ASSIST:

Improving Access to Quality Public Services and Social Cohesion”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, in partnership with the NGO Băştinaşii din Pelinia and the North-East Territorial Agency for Social Assistance.



With a budget of over 17,500 euros, the project has brought essential improvements to the lives of the children hosted at the center:

- ▶ improved living conditions;
- ▶ provision of technical equipment and new furniture;
- ▶ opening of a day service for 20 children.

These achievements increase safety, comfort, and joy for children separated from their parents, giving them the chance for a better childhood.

“When the children saw the new furniture arriving, they were very happy. They took their clothes off the old shelves and carefully arranged them in the new wardrobes. This is an important investment in their life and security,”

said Marin Grigoraş, Head of the Temporary Placement Center “Căldura Casei.”



Stronger Together

“Căldura Casei” is not just a social center; it is a place where children discover safety, care, and the joy of belonging to a family. The local community has welcomed these positive changes.

This initiative is part of the project “Moldova ASSIST: Improving Access to Quality Public Services and Social Cohesion”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova.



The canteen of the “Renaștere” center in Rîșcani, modernised with the support of the European Union

The canteen of the Multifunctional Center “Renaștere” in Rîșcani is entering a new stage of development. The space dedicated to socially vulnerable people and persons with disabilities is being modernised and equipped with high-performance appliances, thanks to financial support from the European Union through the “Moldova ASSIST” project.

With a budget of 18,000 euros and a duration of three months, the works include the renovation of the kitchen and dining hall, repair of the energy infrastructure, and installation of modern equipment such as a stove, refrigerator, professional sinks, and an air conditioning system. The project is carried out by the NGO “Inima Nordului”, in partnership with the Territorial Agency for Social Assistance North, with the support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



During a recent visit, the People in Need Moldova team met with the administration of the center and its beneficiaries, who already feel the positive effects of the changes.

The beneficiaries confirm that the new conditions bring more dignity and comfort to their daily lives, transforming the canteen into a modern and welcoming space.

This initiative is part of the project “Moldova ASSIST: Improving access to quality public services and social cohesion”, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova.

Emotional healing and family reconnection in Moldova for those affected by war

For many who fled the war in Ukraine, hardship and suffering did not stop at the border. Trauma, uncertainty, longing, and family disintegration followed them into their places of refuge. In response to these invisible wounds, two programs developed

by the National Center for Child Abuse Prevention (CNPAC) – as part of the PLACE II project funded by the European Union – have become more than just educational sessions. They serve as vital emotional lifelines.



In June alone, 47 people – parents and teenagers, both Ukrainian refugees and members of Moldovan host communities – took part in the CONECT. Adolescence Explained to Parents and 12PLUS programs, which focus on rebuilding family relationships, fostering emotional resilience, and providing psychological support.

The programs aim to reconnect emotionally parents with their children, foster empathetic dialogue, encourage healthy emotional expression, and rebuild trust.

Rediscovering relationships after deep trauma

One of the participants, Kseniya, fled from Kherson with her 14-year-old son. She now raises him alone in Moldova, after her husband remained in Ukraine.

"We lived under Russian occupation for a month and a half. My son witnessed everything – explosions, fear, constant uncertainty. He later developed vision problems, which doctors said were psychological in nature."

I'm now working on myself so I can show him that he can trust me, that I'm here for him,"

Kseniya shares.

"This program is my chance to show my son – through actions – that he can rely on me."

For many refugee families, war meant not only the loss of a home but also the breakdown of family bonds. Liubov, from the Kharkiv oblast, arrived in Moldova with her two children. Her relationship with her 11-year-old daughter became increasingly strained, despite her best efforts.

"She cries often. She misses her father; she's affected by the war... and she's entering adolescence. It's hard for her, and for me. We've tried therapy, psychologists... Now I really place my hope in this program. I've already started applying some of the expert's advice, and I'm beginning to see small changes. That gives me hope,"

Liubov says.

When psychological support becomes a personal mission

Iryna, a teacher from the Chernihiv oblast, lived for almost a year and a half amid war before arriving in Moldova with her 11-year-old son.

"We slept on the floor, in shelters... We survived rocket attacks... The fact that I had some basic knowledge of psychology, and had always been interested in it, helped me offer my son at least some minimal emotional support. Now I'm studying psychology at university – not only to help him better, but also to rebuild my career,"

Iryna explains.

For her, the CONECT program has a double significance – both personal and professional.

"I see how important these tools are. Even after the first sessions, I noticed changes in our relationship. We're starting to understand each other better,"

she adds.

In Chişinău and Cahul, sessions are held in safe, inclusive spaces supported by trained professionals. Here, painful experiences are given meaning, and silence is gently transformed into dialogue. This kind of support is not a one-time intervention – it's part of a longer process of human reconstruction, in which parents – regardless of nationality, language, or background – learn once again how to be emotional anchors for their families.

The programs are carried out as part of the PLACE II project, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, in consortium with Acted Moldova, REACH (IMPACT Initiatives), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Intersos Moldova.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Roxana Mînzatu visits Boris Dînga Model School in Criuleni

At the beginning of this summer, students, teachers, parents, and local authorities in Criuleni met with Dan Perciun, Minister of Education and Research, and Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, during her working visit to the Republic of Moldova. The meeting

took place at Boris Dînga Theoretical Lyceum – one of the 35 model schools in the country.

The institution is set to undergo renovation with support from the European Union, under the programme “*Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All*”, implemented by UNICEF and UNDP Moldova.



The visit agenda included a tour of the future science laboratories currently being renovated, as well as the presentation of accessibility improvements designed to ensure equal access to education for all children.

A key moment of the day was the open dialogue with school and kindergarten directors, students, and parents from Criuleni district – an opportunity to better understand community needs and explore ideas for more inclusive and effective education.

Boris Dînga Lyceum is one of ten schools selected for rehabilitation under the EU-funded programme. This initiative reflects the strong commitment of the European Union, the Ministry of Education and Research, UNICEF, and UNDP to transforming the education system and building a more equitable and prosperous future for every child.



Stronger Together

EdCamp Forum 2025: over 200 specialists united for inclusion

From 3 to 5 September, more than 200 psychologists, teachers, speech therapists, and psycho-pedagogues from across Moldova gathered at the EdCamp Forum 2025. The event focused on inclusion, children's emotional well-being, and innovative practices that can transform schools into safe and welcoming spaces for every student.

The Forum featured 22 interactive workshops on topics such as supporting children with autism spectrum disorders, using music for communication, integrating assistive technologies in therapy, preventing bullying, managing anger, building healthy relationships with adolescents, and creating sensory books. Participants also joined reflection sessions, practical exercises, and enjoyed a social theatre performance by *Dialog Alternativ* within the project "A Forum Theatre Initiative."



The EdCamp Forum 2025 was organized by the Republican Center for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Research, in collaboration with UNICEF, with financial support from the European Union and HIAS. The event was part of the programme *"Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong*

Learning Opportunities for All", funded by the European Union and implemented by UNICEF and UNDP Moldova.

EdCamp once again demonstrated the power of collaboration bringing specialists together to share expertise and reaffirming that every child has the right to quality, inclusive education.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Mentorship with vision: building a stronger mentorship culture in schools

At the beginning of August, 230 institutional mentors from across Moldova gathered for the NIEL Summer Camp, organized by the National Institute for Education and Leadership (NIEL) in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and UNICEF, with financial support from the European Union. The camp offered a practical space for learning, collaboration, and reflection, aiming to strengthen the culture of mentorship in Moldovan schools.

Over three intensive days, mentors took part in interactive sessions designed to meet their real needs and adapted to school realities. They reviewed national competency standards, explored classroom observation and communication techniques, and practiced innovative mentoring methods and constructive feedback. Self-reflection was also encouraged as an essential tool for professional growth.



The experience inspired participants to return to their schools as stronger leaders, equipped with renewed motivation and practical skills to guide and support teachers. By sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration, mentors are helping to build a supportive professional community and improve learning environments for children.

The Summer Camp was part of the programme *"Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All"*, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNICEF and UNDP Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research.

Onisifor Ghibu Lyceum in Orhei – modernised with the financial support of the European Union

"Investments in education are investments in the future

underlined Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Equity, Youth, Culture, and Sport, at the beginning of September during his visit to Onisifor Ghibu Theoretical Lyceum in Orhei.

The school is part of the Model Schools Network and hosts more than 1,200 students and teachers from Orhei and neighbouring localities.

With support from the European Union, under the programme *"Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All"*, implemented by UNICEF and UNDP,

the lyceum has already undergone major renovations and received new equipment for its physics, chemistry, and biology laboratories. These upgrades allow students to study and experiment using modern tools.

In 2026, additional accessibility works will begin, including the modernization of access routes, adaptation of the main entrance and common spaces, and renovation of the Inclusive Education Resource Center. These improvements will transform the school into a safe and welcoming space for all children, including those with reduced mobility.

The programme, carried out between 2024 and 2027, has a total value of 10 million euros and supports both the modernization of educational infrastructure and the digitalization of the learning process.



Stronger Together

EU4Moldova Resilience: the Rîșcani Dam has been reconstructed with the support of the European Union

After more than half a century, the dam of the reservoir in the town of Rîșcani has been fully reconstructed. The works, worth over 2.9 million MDL, were carried out with the support of the European Union through the project “EU4Moldova Resilience:

Secure State, Resilient Communities”, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. The inauguration event was marked by a fishing competition, where local residents celebrated the completion of the rehabilitation works.



The dam, built in 1971, had not undergone major repairs for more than 50 years, reaching an advanced state of deterioration. The lack of a functional water level control system endangered both the aquatic ecosystem and the households downstream.

“This dam had been a source of concern for local authorities and residents for many years. Now, this hydrotechnical structure becomes not only functional infrastructure, but also an element that enhances the beauty of our town,”

said Denis Țurcanu, Deputy Mayor of Rîșcani.

The reconstruction works, carried out over a period of seven months, included the repair of the sluice gate and water discharge systems, as well as the consolidation and cleaning of the concrete structure. These interventions will significantly reduce the risk of flooding and protect nearby homes and infrastructure.

"The Rîșcani dam is part of a broader effort by the European Union to support Moldovan towns in becoming safer and more resilient. Whether we talk about hydrotechnical infrastructure, modernized public spaces, or urban revitalization projects, all these investments share a common goal – to improve people's lives and protect local communities,"

underlined Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

"The reconstruction of the Rîșcani dam brings long-term benefits to the entire community. It increases the level of safety for the population by reducing the risk of floods that could affect homes, roads, and agricultural land. Through this investment, we show that urban revitalization means not only infrastructure modernization but also strengthening community resilience and improving people's quality of life,"

said Tomasz Horbowski, Country Director of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The reconstruction of the Rîșcani dam is one of five urban revitalization projects funded by the European Union through the "EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities" project. Similar investments have been carried out in the towns of Nisporeni, Ceadâr-Lunga, Cimișlia, and Hîncești.

The total budget allocated for the reconstruction of the Rîșcani dam amounts to 2.9 million MDL, of which 2.6 million MDL was contributed by the European Union and nearly 300,000 MDL by the local authorities.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU4Moldova Resilience: Cimișlia inaugurated two multifunctional sports grounds built with the support of the European Union

Children, young people, and athletes in Cimișlia can now enjoy two modern multifunctional sports grounds. The new facilities, designed for basketball, volleyball,

and tennis, were built with the support of the European Union and will host training sessions, competitions, and outdoor community events.



The inauguration event was celebrated together with the local community through dances, songs, and demonstration matches. Local teams were also equipped with volleyball, tennis, and basketball balls to make immediate use of the new infrastructure.

"Eight months ago, this plot of land, right in the heart of our town, was completely unused and unappreciated. Through this project, we show that well-planned investments in sports infrastructure mean not only training grounds, but also spaces where the community can come together, where young people can develop their talents, and where families can spend quality time,"

emphasized Dorin Coroian, Deputy Mayor of Cimișlia.



Stronger Together

The two sports grounds are equipped with high-quality playing surfaces, resistant to various weather conditions, and modern stands. They were designed to ensure safe access, including for people with special needs, and can be used both for training and official competitions, as well as for daily recreation.

The project was carried out within the framework of the initiative *"EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities"*, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The construction of the two multifunctional sports grounds in Cimișlia is part of a broader investment of over 17 million MDL made by the European Union for urban revitalization in five Moldovan towns: Rîșcani, Nisporeni, Ceadâr-Lunga, Cimișlia, and Hîncești.

The total budget allocated for the construction of these sports grounds is 5.4 million MDL, of which 3.8 million was provided by the European Union, and 1.6 million came from the Cimișlia City Hall.



Youth across Moldova celebrated European Values at the conclusion of the EU Accelerator 2.0 programme

Between July and August 2025, young members of Euro Clubs across Leova, Cărpineni, Făleşti, Ungheni, Soroca, Bălți, Durlești, and Chișinău organized a diverse series of civic and cultural events to mark the conclusion of the EU Accelerator 2.0 programme.

Activities included open-air film screenings, interactive quizzes, European-themed city quests, live podcasts, and guided discussions. Participants explored European values, reflected on democratic principles, and engaged in intergenerational dialogue,

all in informal, youth-friendly settings with snacks, games, and cultural activities.

The events fostered teamwork, creativity, and civic engagement, while the participation of local authorities, parents, and community members enhanced both visibility and impact. By promoting youth leadership and community involvement, the final events reinforced the network of Euro Clubs as hubs for education, dialogue, and active participation in European initiatives, laying the foundation for continued civic engagement across Moldova.



The EU Accelerator 2.0 programme equips young people with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to actively contribute to the country's European integration. The programme combines training, engagement, and research to strengthen a community of youth that fosters constructive discussions about the EU at the local level.

Euro Clubs and EU Information Centres (EUICs) represent a network of information multipliers about the European Union's

contribution to Moldova's development, improvements in citizens' quality of life, and tangible results of European support. They facilitate communities access to European opportunities and provide information on EU policies, programs and projects. Members of the network promote European values, ensure free access to information, and communicate openly about EU-funded initiatives in the country. Currently, Moldova hosts 15 EU Information Centres.



Stronger Together

EU Commissioner Glenn Micallef's Visit to Moldova: open dialogue with young people and interaction with European kayak champions

At the start of the new school year, on September 1, more than 60 young people took part in an EU Talks #YouthForEurope session with Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport.

The event took place in an informal and interactive setting at Valea Morilor Park, offering participants the opportunity to engage in discussion, ask questions, and actively participate in a dialogue about Moldova's European future.



The young participants addressed topics such as aligning the education system with labour market needs, career opportunities in sports, culture, and the arts, as well as the importance of access to EU youth programs. At the same time, Commissioner Micallef emphasized the importance of civic engagement and active participation in European initiatives that contribute to both personal and professional development.

After the discussion session, the visit continued at the Specialized Kayak-Canoe Sports School, where the Commissioner met Moldova's European and international champions, reaffirming the European Union's strong and continuous support for young athletes and their outstanding achievements. Sergei & Oleg Tarnovschi, together with Daniela Cociu and Maria Olărasu, shared their experiences representing Moldova in international competitions, while over 100 junior athletes spoke about their motivation to pursue professional sports.



Stronger Together

During the event, the EU Commissioner donated sports equipment and three Stand Up Paddleboards carrying the message “Moldova–EU in the same boat” - a symbolic gesture reflecting the lasting partnership and shared values that unite the European Union and the Republic of Moldova.

Through such initiatives, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova continues to bring Europe closer to young people, promoting dialogue, creating opportunities, and supporting ideas that transform communities.



European Day of Languages: youth from 5 Euro Clubs across the country celebrated through art and cultural diversity

On 22 September 2025, the Network of EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs celebrated the European Day of Languages with a special edition dedicated to art, culture, and creativity. Hosted by the “Vasile Alecsandri” Euro Club, the event brought together over 200 participants, including representatives from Euro Clubs in Chişinău,

Comrat, and Făleşti, as well as coordinators, teachers, and students, to promote linguistic diversity and encourage language learning at all ages. The celebration opened with a symbolic message from Julda Kielyte, Team Leader for Competitive and Inclusive Growth, Cooperation Section, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.



The European Languages Festival featured a fair and three main activities: a poetry recital, a song performance, and a motivational speech, all guided by the 2025 theme, Languages Open Hearts and Minds.

The festival offered a rich intercultural experience through European culture, traditions, and gastronomy. Members of the EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs Network prepared traditional dishes and

exhibits representing EU countries, including Poland, Spain, Italy, France, and Romania.

2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the European Day of Languages, a celebration of Europe's rich linguistic and cultural diversity and a powerful reminder of the importance of language learning for democratic participation, inclusion, and mutual understanding.

15 teenagers become the voice of children in the BOOST project

A group of 15 teenagers from across the country took part in the training camp for the BOOST Children and Youth Advisory Council, held between 11 and 13 August. Over the course of three days, they learned how to express their opinions, work in teams, manage different perspectives, and contribute to activities that directly affect them.

The camp was organized by the Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation as part of BOOST – A Memorable Afterschool Experience project, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Alliance of Active NGOs in the Field of Child and Family Social Protection and Junior Achievement Moldova.



These young people will become a bridge between children in their communities and the organizations running afterschool activities. They will gather opinions from peers across the country about the activities they take part in, analyse what works and what needs improvement, monitor the implementation of BOOST-supported projects, and share public messages to highlight the real needs of children.

The camp sessions were not theoretical – they involved real exercises, where the teens observed one another, received feedback, and learned to express themselves authentically. They worked with concepts such as group roles, critical thinking, leadership styles, and participatory decision-making. For some, it was the first time they felt they could speak honestly and that what they said truly mattered.

"I realized that my voice has value and can be heard, as long as I know how to express it."

"I understood how important it is to get involved in order to bring change to the community we come from."

Following the camp, the 15 young participants are now organizing consultations with other children, collecting opinions about the activities being carried out in their communities, and, in the future, they will assess how grant-recipient organizations are implementing their projects.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Fathers' Club: how we turn our experiences with our own fathers into lessons for our children

During the workshop “My Father’s Legacy”, held at the Fathers’ Club within the Chisinau Municipal Center for Adult Learning and Education, fathers were invited to reflect openly on their relationship with their own fathers and the impact of these experiences on how they raise their children today.

In a safe and welcoming space, fathers spoke about the positive things they had learned from their fathers: responsibility, care for the family, support. They also reflected on how

traditional definitions of masculinity have shaped generations of fathers and continue to affect children – sons and daughters who were not embraced, listened to, encouraged, or truly seen.

Through deep individual and group reflections, fathers chose to let go of gestures, behaviours, and beliefs that are no longer healthy practices in raising children – emotional silence, absence from everyday life, discipline through fear, and aggression.



But what behaviours from my relationship with my father do I want to pass on to my own children?

“My father never expressed his feelings, and I grew up with the idea that a man always has to be strong. But I, as a man and as a father, choose to be open, to express my emotions, and I want my children to know that it is okay to feel and to talk about what they feel.”

This session brought together 15 fathers within the Chisinau Fathers’ Club – a program dedicated to men who want to be present, involved, and conscious fathers.

The workshop is part of a cycle of six sessions that support men in taking on an active and equitable role in the family. The next session will address the differences between “sex” and “gender” – an essential theme for understanding how social norms influence us as parents and as partners.

The Fathers’ Club is developed under the regional programme “EU4Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence”, funded by the European Union in the Republic of Moldova and implemented by UNFPA Moldova and UN Women Moldova, with the support of the Child Rights Information and Documentation Center.

How is a father–child relationship built? With honesty, cherished memories and openness

The Fathers' Club in Căușeni opened the doors to a safe space where each participating father was encouraged to share his thoughts, to listen, to reflect, and to learn from the experiences of others.

As they exchanged memories, fears, and hopes, something could be felt: more authenticity, more openness, more trust in the possibility of building a better relationship with their children. They allowed themselves to be vulnerable — and that is, perhaps, the bravest thing a father can do.



Through interactive activities, fathers broke down barriers, brought smiles, and connected through seemingly simple things. Later, each father was invited to think of an object associated with his own father — simple, yet meaningful objects that opened the door to childhood stories:

- ◆ Keys – a symbol of control, of doors opened or closed within the family, of safety but also of tension in the household.
- ◆ The hammer – a symbol of harsh authority, but also of fear endured in silence.

The spool of thread – a guiding thread leading to a perfectly arranged garden, speaking of discipline, aesthetics, and the value of work passed down.

The fathers were then encouraged to identify which traits they wish to pass on: perseverance, quality time with their children, kindness. And which patterns they refuse to repeat: ignoring their children, excessive work that steals time from family, and worries carried in silence.

For some, the memories were warm and comforting. For others, heavy and painful. Yet all participants acknowledged that this exercise helped them better understand themselves and their relationship with their children. A meaningful step toward change. Many said they had forgiven, they

had learned, and they would try to do things differently with their own children. Because conversations bring people closer, and listening heals.

One father said:

"I realized how important it is to listen to my son, to speak openly, and not to let silence settle between us and our children."

The Fathers' Club is developed under the regional programme "EU4Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence", funded by the European Union in the Republic of Moldova and implemented by UNFPA Moldova and UN Women Moldova, with the support of the Child Rights Information and Documentation Center.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Building safety and purpose: Cristina's new life in Moldova

When rockets forced her to flee her village in southern Ukraine, Cristina Shuljenko had little time to think about the future. In 2022, she crossed the border into Moldova with her two children, Eva and Vlasii, determined to find safety. What she did not expect was to begin building a new life.

At first, the challenges were overwhelming: long lines for documents, searching for housing, enrolling her children in school. Yet Cristina refused to wait passively.

Today, her children are fully integrated into a Moldovan lyceum, carrying new textbooks, learning a new language, and performing in school plays.

"I wanted them to have a normal timetable again, lessons, homework, even playground quarrels. That's how children regain a sense of tomorrow,"

Cristina says.

"I didn't wait for pity. I went everywhere alone, asking questions, solving problems. It was hard, but it made me stronger,"

she recalls.



Cristina herself now works as a social pedagogue at the Divertis Center in Chişinău, run by the NGO AVE Copiii with support from UNICEF and the European Union. There, she organizes recreational activities and mental health support for children, both Ukrainian

and Moldovan. "When I enter the room, they shout my name and hug me. For a moment you forget the hardships outside." For her, work has brought not only income, but dignity and purpose.



Stronger Together

Her story reflects a broader reality. Since the beginning of the war, more than one million people have crossed into Moldova, and around 127,000 remain, most of them women and children. This influx has placed significant pressure on Moldova's child protection system. EU-funded projects are helping to respond.

With EU support, UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, and AVE Copiii are strengthening Moldova's capacity to protect both refugee and local children. Through the project "Children First: Protection and Support," partners

have established 25 child-friendly spaces across the country, where over 590 children daily find safety, learning opportunities, and psychosocial support.

For Cristina, the meaning of safety has changed. It is no longer a place, but the ordinary rhythm of school runs, workdays, and family evenings. "Life is not about money or clothes. What matters are the small moments, your children laughing, the walks you take together."

Her journey shows how EU support, combined with local action, can transform displacement into resilience and fear into a future.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



Over 20 regional collaborators of the „STOP FALS!” campaign took part in a workshop on continuous adult education

On 13 September 2025, 23 regional collaborators of the STOP FALS! campaign against false and biased information, run by the Association of Independent Press (API), participated in a workshop dedicated to continuous adult education, held in Chişinău. The aim was to update skills so they can later translate, in their communities, effective methods to prevent and counter disinformation.

The workshop participants, librarians, teachers, journalists, and police officers by profession, learned details on various adult-

education topics, including the “design” of a training session, types of learners, creative training solutions, and teaching - learning strategies and methods.

STOP FALS! collaborators, originating from the districts of Soroca, Teleneşti, Hânceşti, Leova, Drochia, Călăraşi, Glodeni, Rîşcani, Rezina, Anenii Noi, Cimişlia, Ungheni, Cahul, Făleşti, Sîngerei, Ialoveni, Vulcăneşti, and from the municipality of Bălţi, will soon carry out new activities to prevent and combat disinformation, involving adults from multiple localities in the districts mentioned.



This workshop for STOP FALS! collaborators took place within the project “Building Resilience in Moldova” (BRIM) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) in partnership with Association of Independent Press. Under the same project, the brochure “What is disinformation and how do we protect ourselves from it. A short guide for media consumers who do not want to be misled” was published in Romanian and Russian, in 6,000 copies, and distributed in over 20 districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Additionally, between May and September 2025, STOP FALS! collaborators organised and conducted almost 50 activities to prevent and combat disinformation, with over 800 participants.

Since 2017, the STOP FALS! campaign, carried out by API, has aimed to reduce the effects and impact of propagandistic and manipulative information that distorts reality—disseminated through various mass-media channels and other politically controlled structures—and to strengthen citizens’ capacity to analyse and respond critically to the information they receive.



Over 500 participants from five rayons across Moldova came together to discuss ways to counter disinformation and strengthen information resilience

In July 2025, the Media Center for Youth organized public discussions in Cahul, Bălți, Drochia, Leova, and Ungheni, focused on identifying reliable information sources and fighting disinformation.

More than 500 young people, teachers, journalists, representatives of public administration, and civil society learned to recognise fake news and apply practical solutions to counter it.



The topics addressed reflected the realities of each region: the role of the local press, risks during electoral periods, and how false news spreads quickly within communities.

"We set out to anchor the discussion about disinformation in the reality of local communities and to conclude together how we can mobilize and collaborate to become more information-resilient. Participants understood how informational manipulation works, which narratives fuel fear and distrust in state institutions, and what stereotypes

persist regarding the process of European Union integration,"

said Alexandru Ghețan, project manager at the Youth Media Center.

Practical exercises and concrete examples of false news helped many realize how often they encounter manipulative content on social networks. "I understood that not everything we see on social media is true and that we need to think critically,"

said Ana, a participant from Drochia.



Stronger Together

Local actors and expert Andrei Curăraru (WatchDog.MD) also took part in the discussions, explaining the mechanisms of disinformation, especially during election campaigns:

“Propaganda exploits fears and stereotypes to influence decisions. The solution is to cultivate the habit of verifying information and not to take any emotional message at face value,”

he emphasized.

The events brought together representatives of local public administration, civil society, and local media, who presented initiatives and challenges related to informing citizens. The mayor of Cahul municipality, Nicolae Dandiș, encouraged young people “to consume quality information in order to become responsible and engaged citizens.”

The series of five discussions was carried out with financial support from the European Union, within the project “Building Resilience in Moldova” (BRIM), through a grant from the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and the Association of Independent Press.



Young voices committed against hatred in the Republic of Moldova

"No-hate" Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) from the Republic of Moldova visited on 2 September 2025 the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau to discuss their engagement in initiatives of promoting equality and inclusion in the society.

The Young European Ambassadors brainstormed on how to increase equality in the Republic of Moldova by creating synergies with envisaged EU/Council of Europe projects, but also by applying their

own initiatives of promoting "NO to hatred and discrimination" messages, and good examples and best practices of more inclusive societies, based on European values and standards. In this context, they reiterated the importance of maintaining the platform of mutual learning and exchange with their peers from Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans, with focus on protection of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the society.



"I'm glad to see that the second group of Young European Ambassadors from Moldova was able to participate in this project. Developing a deeper understanding of the topic and ensuring alignment are also important steps in Moldova's European Union accession path. Such projects equip young people who aspire

to build a society based on human rights and equality with the knowledge and tools they need to advance these goals, especially at a time when we see attempts to divide communities and spread discrimination through hybrid actions",

said Daniel Bîzdîga, YEAs coordinator in Moldova.

The Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau, Falk Lange, also saluted their engagement and openness for collaboration.

This meeting was organised as follow-up to the [joint initiative](#) at the regional level on countering hatred, which started with trainings in [2023](#), aiming to involve the Youth and to develop an educational programme for Young European Ambassadors with the objective to discuss European values

and standards on human rights, non-discrimination, combating hatred and creating counter-narratives to hate speech.

This event was organised as part of the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme "[Partnership for Good Governance](#)", in the framework of the project [Combating discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Republic of Moldova](#).



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

TRM's pioneering media literacy TV show returns: 'Răspunzi și câștigi' season 2

Starting on 24 August 2025, the public broadcaster Moldova 1 airs the second season of its new media literacy TV show Răspunzi și câștigi. The TV show, developed by Teleradio-Moldova (TRM) with support from DW Akademie within the project

TRIMEDIA – Trustworthy Reporting, Impactful Media, Engaged Communities, continues to combine entertainment with education to strengthen critical thinking skills among Moldova's citizens.



Ahead of the new season, Moldova 1 journalists, editors and producers participated in an intensive capacity-building training held from 4 to 8 August 2025, facilitated by DW Akademie experts. The training focused on adapting the show's edutainment format for a second production cycle. Over four days, participants worked on the format refinement and production in the field. This hands-on approach ensured the team could further tailor the show to audience needs while experimenting with new elements.

The first season of Răspunzi și câștigi, launched in December 2024, proved highly successful among rural audiences and especially older viewers. The format—centered on live quizzes and interactive media literacy exercises—quickly gained popularity and generated positive feedback.

Importantly, the second season airs during Moldova's upcoming election period, when media literacy skills are particularly crucial in helping audiences navigate information critically and avoid manipulation. The second season is accessible on the Moldova 1 [website](#).



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

From training to action: strengthening youth and women's voices in policy

East Europe Foundation, together with the Partnership for Development Center, the National Youth Council of Moldova, and the Regional Development Agency of Tiraspol, is implementing the project "Civic Engagement for Youth and Women Empowerment." The project is funded by the European Union and

co-funded by Sweden. It aims to increase gender equality and youth inclusion in Moldova by strengthening the role of civil society organizations in decision-making processes and in monitoring public policies, including EU accession negotiations.



As part of the project, around 50 youth and women's associations from across the country have benefited from a complex training program, which ran from April to September 2025. The program included essential modules such as policy analysis from the perspective of youth inclusion and gender equality, public policy monitoring, advocacy, civic mobilization, budget analysis and planning, coalition building, and project writing.

Interactive sessions, case studies, and small group work provided a practical and dynamic environment, and participants developed their own advocacy plans and tested concrete tools for influencing public policy. In this way, organizations have strengthened not only their theoretical knowledge but also the practical skills needed to respond more effectively to the needs of communities.

Furthermore, beneficiary organizations will be able to apply the knowledge gained through two grant programmes:

a programme for regional advocacy platforms – at least 3 initiatives, with the total value of these grants amounting to EUR 180,000;

a programme for community mobilization, influencing and monitoring public policies and local services – at least 25 grants, with a total value of EUR 750,000.

Through these initiatives, the project contributes to the development of more inclusive, resilient, and better represented communities in the decision-making process.



Stronger Together

“From voices to action”: regional exchange to strengthen civic and media collaboration

At the end of June 2025, Equal Rights and Independent Media (ERIM) organized a regional networking event in Chişinău that brought together 30 representatives of civil society organizations and independent media from Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine. This event was part of the EU-funded DEAP project, which promotes inclusive, resilient, and democratic societies across the Eastern Partnership region.

In the context of war, disinformation, and shrinking civic space, this event gave opportunities for civil society and independent media to work together to strengthen independent voices and increase much needed civic cooperation. The event was not a traditional conference, but a space designed to exchange between peer organisations and foster partnerships to improve impact of their work.

Over three days, the agenda combined interactive workshops, networking activities, and peer-to-peer exchanges. On the first day, participants introduced themselves and their organizations, learned about each other's work and built a basis for collaboration. The second day, they gather into small mixed groups to exchange on shared challenges and come up with solutions.

Participants pitched innovative concepts on civic and community engagement, media support, misinformation and disinformation, gender inequality, and discrimination against marginalized groups, among others. Receiving peer feedback was also an important part of the process, allowing participants to refine their ideas and strengthen their approaches. As a next step, ERIM will support at least 4 joint initiatives based on the ideas participants designed together.

The event highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in generating new civic initiatives, laying a foundation for lasting collaboration and regional partnerships that foster civic engagement, independent media, and democratic values.

DEAP is a regional project, funded by the European Union and implemented by ERIM. The project aims to promote inclusive, resilient and democratic societies in the Eastern Partnership region by strengthening the capacities of civil society and grassroots organisations, supporting research and policy analysis, and organising cultural and networking events to promote the work of human rights defenders.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Inclusive decision-making: women leading local development in 10 communities

"Gender equality means valuing all individuals in the community and recognizing their worth. Only in this way will we be able to build safer, friendlier, and more inclusive communities,"

noted Mariana Galea, first-term mayor of Brătuleni commune, Nisporeni district.

Natalia is one of 20 participants from 10 local public authorities (LPAs) across the Republic of Moldova who are currently enhancing their skills and adopting innovative tools and approaches to promote gender-responsive governance and budgeting.



This initiative is part of a comprehensive capacity-building program developed by UN Women Moldova in collaboration with the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM), with financial support from the European Union through the EVOLVE4GE project.

Following 10 successful training sessions, the project partner communities within the initiative will continue receiving tailored

mentoring to mainstream gender in 10 local development strategies/action plans and budgets, to boost women's leadership in governance, and strengthen their role in fostering equitable communities. Building on the knowledge gained, the project will support LPAs to develop and implement local initiatives in a participatory manner that respond to the real needs of women and men, girls and boys in their communities.

Parascovia Ursu, chief accountant in Drăslăceni commune, Criuleni, emphasized the importance of consulting the community when planning, for example, the creation or renovation of a park:

“When we talk with parents of small children, they often raise the need for safe playgrounds. Young people tend to ask for spaces to practice sports, while many residents, especially women, point to the importance of safe street lighting at night. Listening to these voices helps us prioritize investment in playgrounds, public lighting, accessible pathways, and sports areas.”

Integrating a gender dimension plays a key role in shaping these initiatives, ensuring that local services address the priorities of all community members. In this sense, building a sports hall is no longer just about new infrastructure, it becomes a space designed to serve both girls and boys, with

programs and schedules adapted to their needs. Similarly, a playground is not limited to standard equipment but is created as a safe, inclusive space for children of all ages, including those with disabilities. Even a robotics class shifts from being seen as a male-dominated field to becoming a platform that actively encourages girls to participate and develop digital skills.

The “Women’s Leadership for Gender-Responsive Governance” initiative is designed to build stronger institutional capacities within LPAs so they can integrate gender perspectives systematically into policy decisions and local budgeting, aligning with both national and global gender equality standards.

The local authorities receiving support from the European Union through the EVOLVE4GE project are: Căușeni, Drochia, Brătuleni, Obreja-Veche, Costuleni, Andrușul-de-Sus, Ruseștii-Noi, Tigheci, Draășliceni and Cocieri will receive support from the European Union through the EVOLVE4GE project.



“Staying silent won’t help” - the story of a survivor supported by the Regional Integrated Service for victims of sexual violence

**The beneficiary's name was changed to ensure anonymity.*

“I kept wondering what the village would say...”
Nina* recalls.

For many women in rural communities, staying silent often seems safer than asking for help. Nina, a young woman from northern Moldova, experienced this personally. After surviving sexual and physical violence she felt isolated and afraid.



Her situation started to change when local policeman directed her to the Regional Integrated Service for Victims of Sexual Violence in Ungheni, a center that provides medical, psychological, legal, and social support, all under one roof. At the Service, Nina received immediate medical

attention, including a forensic examination and gynecological checkup, along with psychological support and legal guidance. The psychological counseling proved especially crucial in her healing process. Nina discovered she could be heard without fear of judgment.

"You speak when there's someone to listen. I would open up completely, with all my heart to my psychologist. Nothing leaves this room; no one will ever judge you here," she explains. Nina received ten in-person sessions, gradually building trust with her psychologist and finding peace amidst the moral pressure and emotional pain she had endured. "The sessions made me feel lighter, as if my heart was full but relieved, free of problems and worries",

she added.

Through therapy, Nina learned practical tools to manage emotions, including conscious breathing techniques that help her stay calm in tense situations. More importantly, the counselling helped her regain self-confidence, recognize her own value, and reclaim control over her life.

"The sessions helped me forget problems, open up, and believe more in myself. They showed me I am able to take care of myself and my children. That I don't have to lie awake at night, sleeping in fear,"

she shared.

Determined not to accept violence anymore, Nina now encourages other women in similar situations to seek help without shame.

"You get a slap, then another, two, three... Don't endure it. Come to the Service. Here, they welcome you with open arms. Staying silent won't help."

The **Regional Integrated Service for Victims of Sexual Violence** operates 24/7 and provides free assistance to women aged 18+ in six districts: Ungheni, Nisporeni, Călărași, Telenești, Sîngerei, and Fălești. Support is available directly at the Service, through police, emergency call 112, the women's hotline 0 8008 8008, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, and local authorities.

Nina's story demonstrates that timely, comprehensive support can empower survivors to reclaim their lives and restore hope.

Phone Numbers for the Integrated Regional Service for Victims of Sexual Violence:

078517327

078495866

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Economic and Social Committee of Moldova

On Friday, September 5, 2025, the members representing the Republic of Moldova in the EU–Moldova Civil Society Platform signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the creation of the Economic and Social Committee of Moldova (ESCM). The event marks an important step in strengthening social and civic dialogue within the context of the Republic of Moldova's European integration process.

The Memorandum reflects the commitment of civil society to contribute to aligning the country with the European social model, which is based on participatory, transparent, and inclusive governance.

The initiative is closely linked to Moldova's status as an EU candidate country and the ongoing accession negotiations, offering new opportunities for the active involvement of civil society and social partners in decision-making processes.

The document builds on the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) regarding the institutionalization of civil and social dialogue in candidate and partner countries, emphasizing the need for strengthened cooperation between public authorities, social partners, and civil society in shaping economic, social, and public policies.



Liliana Palihovici, Co-Chair of the EU–Moldova Civil Society Platform and President of the NGO *Institutum Virtutes Civilis*, stated that the establishment of ESCM is a strategic step towards strengthening social and civil dialogue:

"Developing a permanent platform for dialogue between public authorities and civil society can increase trust between parties and contribute to citizen-centered governance. In the context of Moldova's EU accession negotiations, constant and effective dialogue will strengthen public support for the country's European path and enhance citizens' confidence in the ability of state institutions to successfully implement reforms."

The signatories of the Memorandum committed to cooperating with EU institutions, EU member states, and national authorities in piloting and establishing CESM. The goal is to create a common framework for cooperation that will facilitate dialogue between civil society, trade unions, employers, and decision-makers, while also attracting as many organizations as possible to participate in this process.

The creation of ESCM aims to strengthen participatory governance, ensure a transparent

and accountable decision-making process, and harmonize common positions to promote transparency and responsibility in governance.

The Memorandum remains open to other organizations interested in supporting this initiative. The signatories believe that ESCM will become a key instrument for supporting Moldova's European path, offering a permanent platform for consultation and collaboration between authorities, civil society, and social partners, with the goal of strengthening democracy, transparency, and public trust.

The full Memorandum can be accessed here: <https://www.euromonitor.md/memorandum-de-intelegere-privind-crearea-comitetului-economic-si-social-din-republica-moldova-semnat-de-membrii-din-partea-republicii-moldova-a-platfomei-societatii-civile-republica-moldova-uniunea-e/>

The event was organized within the framework of the project "Civil Society for European Integration," funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. The project is implemented by the Independent Think-Tank "Expert-Grup" as the lead partner, in collaboration with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. More details about the project are available at: <https://www.euromonitor.md/>



Stronger Together

Empowering Moldovan youth against disinformation: the success of the Youth Resilience Camp

Between 1 and 3 August 2025, Globsec, in partnership with the Media Guard Association (Ziarul de Gardă), organized the first edition of the Youth Resilience Camp at Odiseu Camp, Vadul lui Vodă, under the EU-funded “Top-down and Bottom-up Resilience-Building in Moldova” project. This dynamic educational initiative aimed to equip young Moldovans with the skills and knowledge to identify and counter disinformation, strengthen media literacy, and promote democratic values.

A total of 19 young participants aged 16-24, were selected through a competitive process to take part in this intensive, “train-

the-trainer” program.

During the camp, participants *learned to detect and debunk fake news, explore digital verification tools, deepen their understanding of democratic principles, develop peer-to-peer training skills, and design mini-campaigns to promote media literacy.*

Guided by investigative journalists, disinformation experts, and peer educators, participants emerged as Desinfo-Gurus, equipped to act as multipliers of knowledge in their communities.



Following the camp, the Desinfo-Gurus organized local sessions across Moldova, reaching youth in regions including Fălești, Dondușeni, Căușeni, Orhei, Edineț, Rezina, and Chișinău.

These sessions focused on recognizing disinformation, creating accurate digital content, and promoting critical thinking. Highlights include:

▼ Falesti (Sept 7): Doinița Grosu led a session on “Accurate Information in the Digital Age,” empowering 16 young participants to critically analyze online content and create engaging social media posts to counter misinformation.

▼ Chișinău (Sept 12): Nadelia Braghiș guided 30 students through “How to Build an Anti-Fake Generation: From Fake to Fact,” teaching practical fact-checking tools and strategies to navigate disinformation.

▼ Dondușeni (Sept 14): Alexandru Melnic helped 21 participants recognize digital fakes and explore AI’s role in spreading false narratives.

▼ Căușeni (Sept 15): Mădălina Lozan conducted a session emphasizing strategies to identify reliable sources and verify information.

▼ Additional sessions (Sept 16–20): Uliana Lihovețchi, Arina Pârău, and Alexandra Gîrlea led interactive workshops in Orhei, Bălți, and Rezina, equipping participants with skills to critically evaluate online content and foster community resilience.

These youth-led initiatives demonstrate the lasting impact of the Youth Resilience Camp, with trained Desinfo-Gurus mobilizing peers across Moldova to promote truth, transparency, and responsible information sharing. Each Desinfo-Guru was encouraged to organize at least one event in their region, and several have expressed interest in hosting multiple sessions — a clear indicator of their motivation and strong engagement.

The program not only strengthened media literacy among participants but also empowered a new generation of young leaders to raise awareness and build resilience against disinformation within their communities.



Moldovan citizens sharpen media literacy skills ahead of 2025 Parliamentary elections

Under the EU-funded “Top-down and Bottom-up Resilience-Building in Moldova” project, implemented by Globsec in partnership with the Media Guard Association (Ziarul de Garda), the project team developed a quiz aimed at assessing citizens’ knowledge of electoral disinformation and raising awareness ahead of the Moldovan parliamentary elections. The initiative was officially launched on 16 September 2025.

The quiz was promoted via ZdG and Reporter de Gardă’s Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram channels, encouraging participants to share their insights and

results in the comments. By 24 September 2025, the quiz had gathered just under 200 responses, highlighting a growing engagement of the public in understanding and identifying electoral disinformation.

The quiz will remain active until Friday, 26 September 2025—two days before the parliamentary elections in Moldova—providing citizens with an opportunity to test and enhance their media literacy ahead of the elections and reinforcing the importance of informed participation in the democratic process. Link quiz - <https://bit.ly/46JEnwn>



Social Laundry and Personal Hygiene Center opened in Leova with EU financial support

A Social Laundry and Personal Hygiene Center have been officially opened in Leova. The initiative is part of a joint effort by the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova to address people's urgent social needs.

In the newly renovated and fully equipped place, elderly people living alone, persons with disabilities, vulnerable families, and low-

income individuals will be able to wash their clothes free of charge. Beneficiaries will also have the opportunity to socialize and receive support, feeling part of the community.

The inauguration event brought together representatives of the European Union, local authorities, civil society organizations, and community members.



"The European Union will continue to stand by the Republic of Moldova on its path toward European integration. We invest in such social projects because they improve people's lives and bring Europe closer to every member of the community. Europe is a place where every person is respected, and access to basic things — such as hygiene and dignity — is a right for all."

The Social Laundry in Leova is clear proof that European values can come to life here, in the Republic of Moldova,"

**said Martina Spornbauer, Team Leader,
Cooperation Section, EU Delegation to the
Republic of Moldova.**

The total budget of the project is EUR 39,910, of which EUR 27,075 was funded by the European Union, EUR 11,000 by Leova Municipality, and EUR 1,835 by the NGO "Social Partnership." The laundry is equipped with modern facilities: several high-performance washing machines, dryers, sinks, showers, as well as furniture for the beneficiaries' comfort. Community volunteers were involved in setting up the space, helping create a welcoming and functional environment.

The Social Laundry was developed by the NGO "Social Partnership" in cooperation with Leova Municipality, within the project "Promoting CSOs as partners in developing

resilient social services," funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium consisting of Keystone Moldova, Dorcas Foundation-Moldova, and the Association for Education "Neoumanist."

So far, 16 social laundries have been launched across different localities in the Republic of Moldova under the project, already benefiting more than 1,500 people.

The project "Promoting CSOs as partners in developing resilient social services" is funded by the European Union, co-funded and implemented by a consortium of three civil society organizations: Keystone Moldova, Dorcas Foundation-Moldova, and the Association for Education "Neoumanist."



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Launch of the MINOR+ project: Consultative Councils for Ethnic Minorities

The MINOR+ project involves the creation of consultative councils at three levels – local, regional, and national.

These councils will serve as permanent platforms for dialogue between ethnic communities and state authorities.

The aim of the project is to build a functional system of representation and participation

that reduces the distance between the state and ethnic communities.

According to the initiators, the councils will be established in 10 districts and municipalities in the northern and southern regions, as well as at the national level under the Agency for Interethnic Relations.



The councils will include leaders of ethnic communities, teachers, young activists, representatives of local public authorities, and members of civil society.

They will have a consultative role and will contribute annually to the development of a plan for strengthening interethnic relations.

This project is an investment not only in strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations but also in creating a climate based on trust, transparency, and cohesion. The project has been welcomed by European partners, who provide financial and logistical support for the initiative.

In addition, the project will train the first specialists in the field of interethnic relations in the 10 involved districts and will establish Consultative Councils of ethnic minorities at the local level – an instrument through which communities will be able to make their voices heard in decision-making.

Moreover, working groups will develop Interethnic Relations Strengthening Plans for the period 2027–2030.

The “MINOR+” project is implemented by the Center for Civic Initiatives for National Minorities and the Agency for Interethnic Relations, in collaboration with People in Need Moldova, within the framework of the “INSPIRĂ Moldova” project, funded by the European Union.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Multidisciplinary teams trained to prevent and combat violence against persons with disabilities

With support from the European Union, 54 representatives of multidisciplinary teams from Căușeni, Ialoveni, Chișinău, Fălești, Ștefan Vodă, and Orhei participated in six training sessions focused on preventing and combating violence against persons with disabilities.

The activities were part of the project *"Together for a Life Without Violence!"* implemented by the "MOTIVAȚIE" Association from Moldova through the "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence" programme (second phase), funded by the

European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA. The project aims to prevent and combat violence against women and girls with disabilities, and to promote an inclusive society where everyone enjoys equal rights and opportunities.

Participants, guided by experts, explored practical methods for communicating with individuals who have various types of disabilities. They emphasized solutions that can be implemented at the local level. The sessions also addressed strategies to combat stereotypes and reinforce a coordinated system for supporting those at risk.



"Participating in the training was a valuable experience that reminded us of our shared responsibility to intervene in a coordinated and person-centered way. Only through cooperation can we protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,"

said Ina Tonofrei, head of the Community Social Assistance Service in the Ciocana sector of the capital.

Ana Catrinescu, senior officer at the Family Justice Centre of the Police, added:

"We are confident that this collaboration will not stop here, and we will take part in many other useful activities like this one."

A practical exercise helped participants understand the barriers faced by individuals with reduced mobility, and visual or hearing impairments.

"I felt how difficult it is not to have access to basic things. Public places are very poorly accessible for persons with reduced mobility,"

said Olga Danu, a social worker from Căușeni.

In turn, Angela Samburschi, principal specialist in the protection of persons with disabilities from Cîmățeni, Căușeni District, emphasized:

"We learned how to communicate more effectively and discussed real case studies. Even though I also have a disability, this exercise showed me how complex are the difficulties that persons with disabilities face in everyday life."

The training series concluded with a networking event that provided space for exchanges, experience sharing and strengthened collaboration among the specialists.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Religious leaders unite against domestic violence

In a country where 95% of the population identifies as Christian Orthodox, religious leaders play a vital role in the fight against domestic violence and the promotion of gender equality. With support from the

European Union, priests from Moldova and Romania participated in a “training of trainers” programme and subsequently engaged in community activities aimed at fostering harmonious family relationships.



The course was moderated by Pr. dr. Ciprian Ion Ioniță, president of the “Filantropia” Foundation from Romania, alongside Claudia Predut, an expert in combating human trafficking. Representatives from the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence also shared information about the support services available to survivors.

“Domestic violence and a lack of communication can destroy family harmony. The community has a responsibility not to remain indifferent. It is important that every indication of abuse is taken seriously,”

emphasized Father Ciprian Ion Ioniță.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

In the months following the training, religious leaders organized community discussions in ten localities, addressing the role of the Church in combating violence and promoting relationships based on respect and mutual support.

"From now on, we must speak to people about what violence really means,"

said Father Radu Storoja from Chişinău.

Father Andrei Apetrei from Cahul added:

"Thanks to the knowledge we gained, we've strengthened our ability to talk with younger generations about how to build healthy relationships."

Igor Belei, Executive Director of the NGO Diaconia, remarked:

"The Church is the institution that enjoys the highest level of trust and reaches every household. Through this collaboration, we are contributing to the eradication of a phenomenon that affects us deeply."

Father Radu Manuel from Romania also added:

"The Church is often present in the most isolated communities. Through love and the values of faith, we try to strengthen the bond between husband and wife, to speak about preserving harmony in the family home, so that children can grow up in peace and balance."

This initiative previously gathered over 90 religious leaders, women's rights advocates, child protection experts, philanthropic organizations and officials from both Moldova and Romania during the conference titled "Family under the Protection of Faith: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Domestic Violence."

These activities have been organized as part of the project "Love for Thy Neighbor: The Role of the Religious Community in Preventing Domestic Violence in Rural Communities," implemented by NGO Diaconia in the framework of the "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence" programme (phase 2), funded by the European Union, implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA.

32 Civil Society Organisations in Moldova – beneficiaries of EU grants to strengthen local democracy

Through the INSPIRED Moldova project, the European Union has awarded grants to 32 civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Republic of Moldova, totaling 622 000 EURO, to support local democracy, community development, and the building of sustainable trust-based relationships between citizens and public authorities.

Managed by People in Need (PIN) and the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), these grants will help

local organisations create spaces where ordinary people—from small villages to large municipalities—can come together, raise their voices, and take part in shaping public policy. At the heart of these initiatives is the belief that decisions are better when made together. Whether it's about how a local budget is spent, how services are delivered or how community priorities are set, the main objective is to ensure that citizens are not just consulted, but genuinely involved.



Among the most important activities of the projects, which will run for a maximum of 18 months, will be the creation and operation of local participatory consultation platforms—spaces where citizens can express their opinions, share ideas, and influence local policies that affect their daily lives.

These initiatives also aim to revitalize the public consultation framework, with a special focus on engaging youth, women, and underrepresented groups. By placing these voices at the center of public debate, the selected organizations are working to ensure that no one is left out of the conversation.

Another essential element of the CSOs' mission is the promotion of good governance and the establishment of genuine dialogue between citizens and public institutions. In this regard, interactive workshops, civic forums, and dialogue sessions will be organized—not only as platforms for expression, but also as tools to encourage active participation. Citizens will be motivated to share their perspectives, propose solutions, and contribute directly to decision-making processes by signing mutual commitment documents, thus strengthening trust and cooperation between the community and local authorities.

At the national level, the selected CSOs will contribute to the development and implementation of policies, standards, and best practices that promote equality and inclusion—especially for voters with disabilities and individuals with special needs. These efforts aim to make Moldova’s electoral processes more accessible and democratic.

Additionally, the projects will support participatory budgeting mechanisms, enabling citizens—especially young people—to directly influence how local funds are allocated. These tools foster accountability, transparency, and deeper civic involvement in decision-making.

“We have seen how important it is to support civil society organizations that foster citizen participation at the local level — where change truly begins. The European Union remains a development partner, not just a donor, and will continue to support civic engagement, democratic education, and capacity building. In a context where the operating space for CSOs is increasingly shrinking, it is essential that they are equipped to face these challenges,”

said Irina Beșliu, Civil Society Programme Officer, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

Together, these efforts aim to foster a more inclusive, transparent, and participatory local governance culture across Moldova. In the long term, these initiatives are expected to strengthen trust between communities and institutions, improve the implementation of public policies, and lay the groundwork for a more resilient and democratic society.

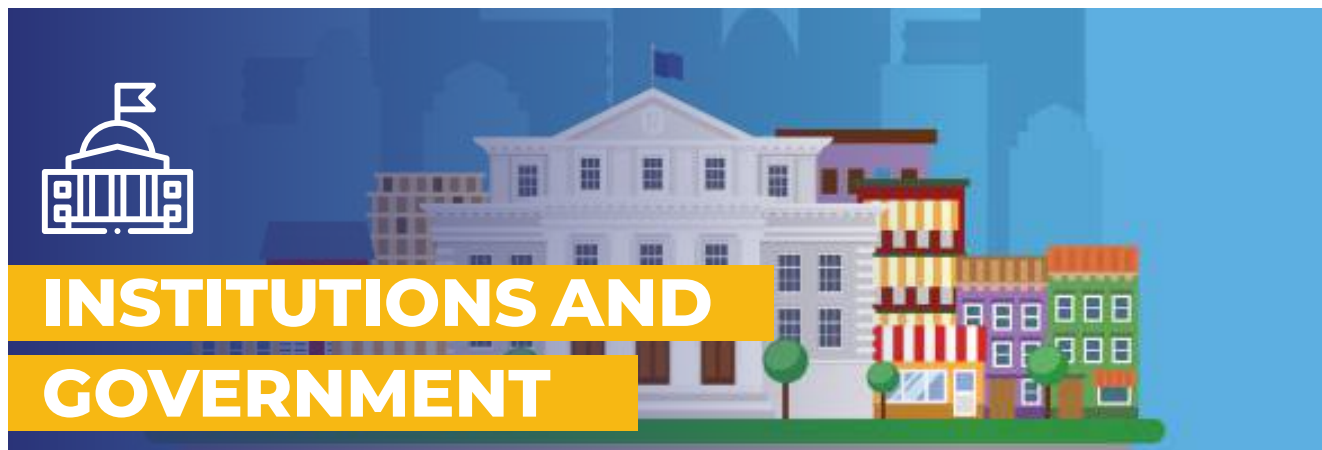
The INSPIRED Moldova project (2024–2027) aims to strengthen civil society participation in policy dialogue at all levels in the context of Moldova’s European path and a culture of civic participation and open dialogue between citizens and authorities is encouraged, in line with democratic values and participatory governance.

INSPIRED Moldova is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium consisting of: European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy, CONTACT Center, CPR Moldova, Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and People in Need (PIN).



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



Moldovan mayors in Brussels: direct dialogue with the European Union for the future of local communities

Between 24 and 27 August 2025, an extended delegation of 26 Moldovan mayors, including signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (CoM), took part in a high-level study visit to Brussels at the invitation of European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos. The program included meetings with European institutions and organizations representing local authorities from EU member states and partner countries, as well as discussions on EU community development policies at the local level.

This visit strengthened cooperation between Moldovan municipalities and European partners, highlighting the essential role of local authorities in climate action, resilience, and European integration.

During the meeting, Commissioner Marta Kos stressed that the European Union represents a real opportunity for small countries and less developed regions. She mentioned the EU-approved Economic Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, worth €1.9 billion (approximately 38 billion MDL). The funds will support SMEs, agriculture, young entrepreneurs, and small farmers. The plan also includes substantial

investments in infrastructure, managed through the Ministry of Infrastructure and other programs dedicated to roads and local communities.

At the same time, EU officials announced that concrete measures are being prepared for citizens: eliminating roaming costs and reducing to zero the fees for bank transfers.

Moldovan mayors raised the realities their communities face.

The Mayor of Bălți, Alexandr Petkov, emphasized the need for decentralization and modernization of local infrastructure so that Moldova can become a modern country with European services and standards.

The Mayor of Cioc-Maidan village, UTA Găgăuzia, Oleg Constandoglo, thanked the EU for its support and advocated for a bottom-up model: "Every region should benefit from support. We have many problems, but also opportunities. We are ready to take over European experience for the prosperity of our country."

The President of Taraclia District, Lazar Dermenji, called for support from European institutions to overcome problems caused by drought in the southern region of the

The Mayor of Călinești commune, Ala Procopciuc, addressed the issue of amalgamation of local communities: “With populations of only 1,000–2,000 inhabitants, it becomes impossible to provide essential services, attract specialists, or carry out major projects. Amalgamation is not just an

How we do it matters: we need to communicate openly with citizens and build a common vision together.”

The program was organized with the support of the Covenant of Mayors, the European Commission, and the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the EU.



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Launch of the HELP course on the quality of justice and the work of the CEPEJ of the Council of Europe in the Republic of Moldova

On 12 September 2025, the online course “Quality of Justice – the Work of the CEPEJ” was officially launched. The course was developed within the European HELP Programme – Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals – by a group of CEPEJ experts.

The target groups include judges, court managers, prosecutors, mediators and representatives of state authorities. Other justice actors – such as lawyers, judicial experts, and non-judge or non-prosecutor staff – may also find it useful in their professional activities.



Piloted by the NIJ in its adapted version, the online learning course consists of seven modules and is designed to familiarise participants with the activities of CEPEJ and its key tools for promoting efficient and high-quality justice. Through four tutoring sessions conducted by videoconference, the course combines theory and practical exercises in an interactive approach. It was translated into Romanian and subsequently adapted to the national context and requirements by Ms Tatiana Ciaglic, an experienced NIJ trainer.

The course was launched during a

videoconference event that brought together around 30 participants, including officials from the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), as well as justice professionals such as judges and court managers.

This activity has been organised within the framework of the Project “[Support to further modernisation of court management in the Republic of Moldova](#)”, funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance III (2023-2027).

Regional conference on strengthening judicial independence and accountability: perspectives and challenges

The Council of Europe, in partnership with the Superior Council of Magistracy of the Republic of Moldova, organised a regional conference with participation of the Superior Council of Magistracy of the Republic of Moldova, the Superior Council of Magistracy of Romania, and the High Council of Justice of Ukraine. The event also marked the professional day of the judge celebrated for the first time on 20 July – on the 30th anniversary of the Law on the Status of the Judge which was adopted on this date in 1995.

Bringing together judges from courts of the Republic of Moldova as well as key national and international stakeholders, the conference provided a platform for open dialogue on judicial independence, accountability, and regional co-operation. Participants reflected on recent judicial reforms, acknowledging the progress made

while recognising ongoing challenges, such as political pressures, complex institutional reforms, and the need for greater public trust in the judiciary.

Judicial councils play a crucial role in safeguarding judicial independence by managing the appointment, evaluation, training, and discipline of judges. The conference explored how these institutions can adapt to emerging challenges, including vetting processes, disciplinary mechanisms, and reforms to be aligned with European standards. Through three focused panels, participants discussed institutional independence, the procedures for selecting and evaluating judges, and the balance between ensuring judicial accountability while protecting judicial independence, a critical issue in maintaining trust and integrity in the judiciary.



The event reinforced the value of regional cooperation in advancing justice reform. By facilitating the exchange of experiences among the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, the conference contributed to a stronger, more resilient judiciary, aligned with European norms. The Council of Europe remains committed to supporting its partners in promoting judicial integrity, transparency, and the rule of law across the region.

This event was organised in the framework of the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "[Support to the Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova](#)", implemented by the Co-operation Programmes Division of the Council of Europe.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU supports evidence-based dialogue on gender-inclusive policies between civil society and local government authorities in Moldova

A consultation with Moldovan civil society organisations (CSOs) and local public authorities (29 August 2025) supported the integration of a gender perspective into the Local Development Strategy of the Amalgamation Cluster of villages (Roşcani, Teliţa, Calfa and Gura Bîcului) in the Anenii Noi district of the Republic of Moldova. A full-day face-to-face consultation, organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project and funded by the European Union, aimed to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organisations to advocate for gender-inclusive policies and reforms. Through this dialogue, civil servants and CSO representatives enhanced their understanding of gender equality as a key driver of sustainable development

and acquired skills to integrate gender considerations into local strategic planning. Bringing together 29 civil society and civil servant participants (25 women and four men), the consultation provided a platform for participants to collaboratively discuss the draft strategy's priorities, identify opportunities for including gender equality objectives, and prepare concrete proposals on gender-responsive measures to integrate into the strategy. A significant outcome was the broad acknowledgement of the importance of integrating gender equality perspective into the strategy, and ensuring that local public authorities' responsibilities comply with national and international legislation on preventing and combating gender-based and domestic violence.



Participants welcomed the consultation's focus on gender mainstreaming tools to advance equal opportunities for women and men at the local level. For many participants, this consultation was their first opportunity to learn how to use these tools in practice, including through group work exercises. The event also gave CSOs a vital platform to share information on community needs and priorities with local authorities. The consultation enhanced understanding of gender analysis and equality, while fostering strong collaboration between CSOs and local public authorities, setting the stage for more inclusive and equitable local development. Participants commended the opportunity to engage in dialogue with local authorities and emphasised the importance of ongoing expert support in creating gender-responsive projects for their communities.

The dialogue is part of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including in Moldova.

Learn more about the EU's support for gender equality in the Eastern Neighbourhood region

- ❖ Factsheet on the EU4Gender Reform Helpdesk Phase II: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lrLiBhgAPU4nTcJF98yP0knjmPNrmkXU/view>
- ❖ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase II project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2439>
- ❖ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase I project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=1480>
- ❖ Gender Equality Library: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/gender-equality/library>



Stronger Together

Equal rights, equal dignity: promoting gender equality in Moldova's migration services

The EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union, is supporting a major awareness campaign by Moldova's General Inspectorate for Migration to advance gender equality in migration management. Under the slogan "An equitable society: Equal support and respect for women and men, without exception", a set of promotional materials (posters and flyers) have been developed to inform, educate and encourage both migrants and the wider public to uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

As part of the General Inspectorate's efforts to integrate gender-sensitive approaches into institutional practice, the campaign responds to the growing recognition that migration policies and services affect women and men differently. Migrant women face specific vulnerabilities, such as greater exposure to discrimination, risks of exploitation, and limited access to information. Migrant men experience particular pressure linked to economic responsibilities, stereotypes and integration challenges.

The materials deliver a clear message: all people, regardless of gender, nationality or legal status, are equal before the law and entitled to dignity and respect. Drawing inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the materials underline that foreigners in Moldova – including asylum seekers, beneficiaries of protection, and stateless persons – enjoy rights guaranteed by national and international law. They highlight the importance of equal treatment in all migration-related procedures, from registration and documentation to access to information and protection services. Sections show how common stereotypes – such as "women should stay home" or "men should not show emotions" – can lead to abuse and injustice.



They also stress that gender-based violence in all its forms (physical, psychological, economic, sexual, online, and harmful practices) is prohibited by law.

Practical guidance is at the heart of the promotional products. They emphasise migrants' rights to protection, safe shelter, counselling, privacy and fair treatment. Special provisions for asylum seekers – such as requesting an interviewer of the same gender or humane detention conditions – are clearly presented. The materials also provide an extensive list of emergency contacts and helplines, including the Family Justice Centre, the Equality Council, hotlines for children and victims of violence, and specialised NGOs such as Casa Mărioarei.

The materials combine practical messages with dynamic visuals to resonate with diverse audiences, placing men and women in equal positions of dignity and agency. Just as importantly, they encourage proactive behaviour: saying STOP violence and discrimination, and offering information on how to report cases of abuse or



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inequality – including by the Inspectorate’s employees, thereby reinforcing transparency and accountability within the institution. Displayed in public areas, waiting rooms, service centres and during information sessions, community meetings and direct service provision, the products are intended to serve as tools for daily interaction between staff of the General Inspectorate and beneficiaries of migration services.

By combining accessible language with legal references and the contact details of support services, the posters and flyers serve as both educational tools and practical guides. They reflect Moldova’s commitment to equality and human rights, while positioning the Inspectorate General for Migration as an institution dedicated to fairness, protection, inclusive service delivery and social cohesion. At its core, the campaign reminds us that gender equality is not an abstract principle – it is a daily practice of respect and equal treatment for everyone, without exception.

Supporting the development of the Inspectorate General’s promotional materials is part of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project’s support for gender equality and women’s empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including in Moldova.

Learn more about the EU’s support for gender equality in the Eastern Neighbourhood region

- ▶ Factsheet on the EU4Gender Reform Helpdesk Phase II: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lrLiBhgAPU4nTcJF98yP0knjmPNrmkXU/view>
- ▶ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase II project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2439>
- ▶ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase I project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=1480>
- ▶ Gender Equality Library: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/gender-equality/library>



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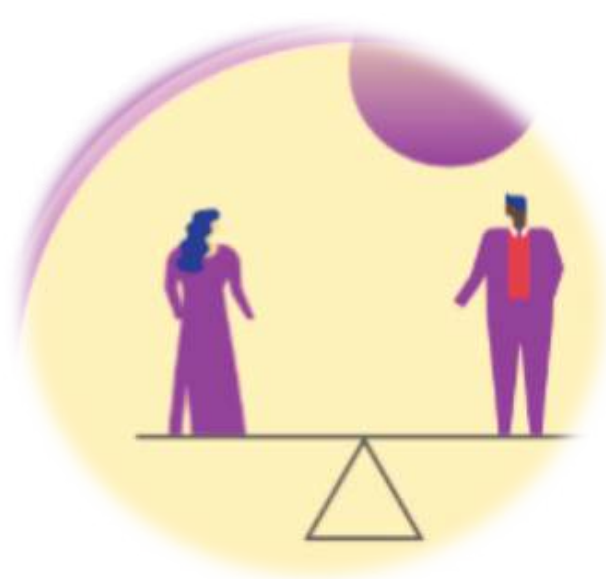
EU supports study on the gender dimensions of driver examination, documentation and vehicle registration services in Moldova

A new analytical study, “Gender Analysis of Driver Examination, Documentation and Vehicle Registration Services”, sheds new light on how gender perspectives intersect with public service delivery. Conducted by the European Union-funded EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project with Moldova’s State Chancellery and the Public Services Agency between July and September 2025, the study provides tailored recommendations to improve equity and inclusiveness in the field of driver certification and vehicle registration.

The study is structured into six chapters, each dedicated to a distinct but interrelated aspect of service provision. The first chapter reviews Moldova’s legal, strategic and institutional framework, mapping out national legislation on equal opportunities between women and men, as well as key policy documents on the digitalisation and modernisation of driver-related services. This framework sets the foundation for identifying opportunities where gender mainstreaming can be strengthened.

The study’s second chapter sets out a gender analysis of driver examination services, disaggregated into theoretical and practical testing. It identifies possible gender-related differences in access, preparation and performance outcomes, highlighting areas where exam design and administration could inadvertently reproduce inequalities.

Chapter 3 assesses whether existing driver documentation services are equally accessible and responsive to the needs of both women and men. Chapter 4 turns to vehicle registration services, analysing both the dynamics of annual registrations and the structure of vehicle ownership by sex.



It provides valuable statistical insights into ownership patterns, revealing gender gaps that may be influenced by socio-economic factors, cultural norms and access to financial resources.

Chapter five examines the procedures for challenging examination results and documentation decisions from a gender perspective, pointing to the importance of transparency, accountability and equal access to complaint mechanisms. The sixth and final chapter explores risks and gender inequalities related to the digitalisation of services, underscoring the potential for new barriers – such as unequal digital literacy and access to technology – if gender considerations are not integrated into modernisation processes.

Each chapter concludes with concrete recommendations, ranging from improved data collection and gender-disaggregated statistics to measures to ensure equal access to digital platforms, user-centred service design, and inclusive communication strategies.

The study contributes significantly to Moldova's ongoing reform agenda by embedding gender analysis into the modernisation of driver and vehicle registration services. Its findings will support both the State Chancellery and the Public Services Agency in advancing more equitable, efficient, and citizen-friendly services.

The study is part of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including in Moldova.

Learn more about the EU's support for gender equality in the Eastern Neighbourhood region

- ❖ Factsheet on the EU4Gender Reform Helpdesk Phase II: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IrLiBhgAPU4nTcJF98yP0knjmPNrmkXU/view>
- ❖ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase II project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2439>
- ❖ EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk Phase I project page: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=1480>
- ❖ Gender Equality Library: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/gender-equality/library>



EU-Moldova

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EUPM Moldova: Facilitating Moldova's ability to protect critical infrastructure

EUPM Moldova continues its effort to support the resilience of the Republic of Moldova. On July 30th, EUPM committed to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs with advice on best practices on strengthening institutional and inter-agency coordination, alignment with EU standards and relevant acquis, enhancing national response capabilities and facilitating capacity building and training. This includes support

for the operationalization of a Center for Coordination for Critical Infrastructure within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova.

By assisting in the development of the country's key national response institutions, this initiative aims to ensure that the Republic of Moldova would be able to effectively anticipate and respond to any emerging challenges, particularly those that may stem from hybrid threats.

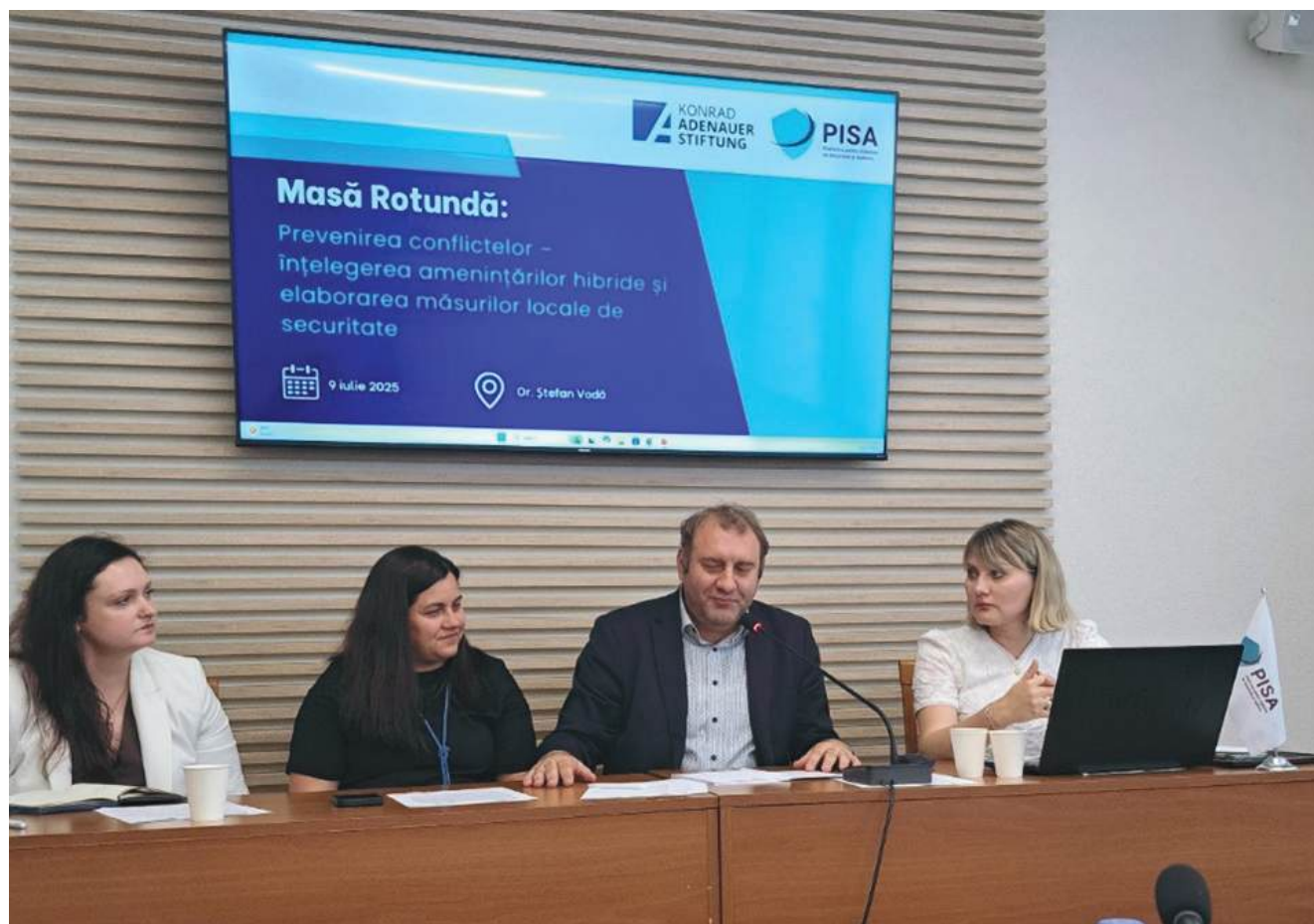


EUPM Moldova: Encouraging community involvement to withstand hybrid threats

On July 9th, EUPM Moldova participated in an insightful dialogue with local authorities and communities in the Republic of Moldova, reaffirming the EU's commitment to strengthen the country's resilience through an inclusive approach. The roundtable took place in Ștefan Vodă under a project implemented by PISA (Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives) with financial support from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation, bringing together

security experts, representatives from local administrations, educational institutions and civil society organizations.

The main objective was to analyze the vulnerabilities faced by local communities, and draw from the expertise offered by the European Union in countering hybrid threats, so as to allow them to develop resilience through an approach based on social cohesion, civic education and situational awareness.



The modern threats faced by the country are not limited to the central government institutions, but affect all citizens of Moldova. Thus, the resilience of local communities,

their shared trust and ability to coordinate and cooperate with each other, are the true cornerstones upon which national resilience is built.



EU-Moldova

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EUPM Moldova: Enhancing institutions that protect Moldova's democracy

Between July 16-17, EUPM Moldova organized a workshop dedicated to strengthening Moldova's ability to counter illegal financial flows. The main beneficiaries were the General Police Inspectorate as well as representatives from other law enforcement agencies. The workshop provided participants with the best practices, instruments and interinstitutional integrative approaches pertaining to the monitoring of risk factors and critical financial flows.

Considering the array of hybrid threats that may emerge from illicit financing, EUPM Moldova's support provided an effective platform for transferring critical skills and operational knowledge.

By consolidating the foundational pillars of situational awareness and ability to maximize capability capitalization, this workshop aimed to ensure that the country's key institutions would possess the strategic foresight and material support needed for holistically manage the evolving array of security and hybrid threats that may threaten the country's democratic processes.



EU-supported workshop enhances Finance Ministry's role in implementing the Growth Plan for Moldova

On 15 August, staff of the Ministry of Finance and its subordinated institutions participated in a workshop on the implementation of the Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova during 2025–2027, organised under the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.

In her opening remarks, Minister of Finance Victoria Belous addressed the reforms under the Growth Plan and underlined the Ministry's responsibility in this process:

“It is essential to have a clear plan detailing the actions required to achieve the proposed objectives. Implementing the reforms must remain our central goal, and our efforts will be supported by all subordinated institutions, to ensure the success and sustainability of the changes. Each stage will be closely monitored so that we can define and consolidate the results in the most efficient way possible,”

stated the Minister.



Rosario De Blasio, EU Senior Expert on Customs and Tax Policy, emphasized the vital contribution of the Ministry of Finance to reform implementation process, through guaranteeing coherence, accountability, and sustainability at each stage.

Participants reviewed the current status of the country's Growth Plan and the associated public finance reform agenda, focusing on proposed actions to strengthen economic governance — including securing

revenues and modernizing customs and tax administrations — as well as on increasing resilience, improving public investment and public procurement systems, alongside other relevant areas.

The workshop offered a constructive platform for discussion, analysis, and better understanding of the proposed implementation actions, with a particular focus on the priority areas and the agenda ahead.



Stronger Together

A seminar on strengthening corporate governance in the banking sector attracts a large audience

The National Bank of Moldova (NBM) and the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration,” organized a seminar on strengthening corporate governance in the banking sector. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives of bank management.

The main lesson was the need to develop and implement policies and procedures regarding the assessment of the suitability of members of the management body and key function holders in banking institutions in the Republic of Moldova.



In her intervention, Anca Dragu, Governor of the National Bank of Moldova, emphasized the importance of compliance with the highest standards:

“Strong corporate governance represents an essential pillar for the stability and credibility of the financial system. By applying European standards, we ensure the prudent management of banking institutions and, implicitly, protect the interests of depositors and the economy.”

During the event, the importance of clear evaluation criteria such as honesty, integrity, and independence of mind, was emphasized, as well as the collective experience and competencies of the management board.

The EU High Level Adviser on Financial Services, Nicolae Grigore, presented best supervisory practices from the European

System of Financial Supervision, highlighting the need to allocate adequate human and financial resources for the onboarding and ongoing training of management body members and key function holders.

The seminar placed particular emphasis on the provisions of EU Directive 2013/36/EU on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms, as well as the European Banking Authority’s & European Securities and Markets Authority Guidelines on internal governance.

The event provided a framework for constructive dialogue between the NBM and representatives of the banking sector, contributing to the strengthening of transparency and accountability. This effort is essential in preparing the Moldovan banking system for full integration into the European Union.

Clear communication, stronger trust: officials trained to explain Moldova's tax and customs reforms

On September 12, the EU-funded project "Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration", the Ministry of Finance, the State Tax Service and the Customs Service, in partnership with the publication 'Monitorul Fiscal' organized a workshop dedicated to improving communication on national tax and customs legislation harmonized with EU directives, which brought together more than 100 officials and experts.

The workshop gathered representatives of partner institutions, practitioners, and authors of the publication, who explored how

messages about the alignment of national tax and customs legislation with the EU acquis can be accurately and consistently formulated and delivered, while identifying the most effective communication channels. The agenda included conclusions and recommendations arising from bilateral screenings and negotiation position papers, reforms implemented under Chapter 16 (Taxation) and Chapter 29 (Customs Union), along with strategies and tools to ensure proper communication of the progress made and of the upcoming actions.



By equipping officials with the skills to clearly and consistently convey information on ongoing tax and customs reforms, the workshop contributed to enhancing public understanding, fostering trust in institutional

actions, and ensuring that citizens are properly informed on Moldova's alignment to EU directives, thereby supporting a more informed and participatory approach to the country's European integration process.

Central and local authorities advance gender-responsive budgeting

Within the EU funded EVOLVE4GE project, central public authorities are making steady progress in applying gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) practices. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, the Budget Circular for 2026 requires five pilot ministries to integrate gender objectives and indicators in their budget programmes, while all central authorities are recommended to follow the same practice. At the same time, ten local governments are revising their budget subprogrammes to better reflect the needs of women and men.

Building on the progress made in 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) are now entering their second year of piloting gender-responsive public budgeting.

Their focus is on consolidating the objectives and indicators already integrated into the 2025 budget cycle, while extending gender considerations to at least one new subprogramme each.

In parallel, the Ministries of Energy, Infrastructure and Regional Development, and Economic Development and Digitalization joined the GRB process as new pilot institutions. Each ministry received close mentorship and technical assistance to review selected budget subprogrammes and embed clear gender-sensitive objectives, expected results, and performance indicators. This step marks an important shift from compliance-driven practices toward more strategic integration of gender equality into sectoral policies and budgets.



The momentum for this work was reinforced by the Budget Circular FY2026 issued by the Ministry of Finance at the end of August, which required five pilot ministries to integrate gender objectives and indicators into selected budget subprogrammes, and recommended other central authorities to follow the same approach. This policy step is critical in ensuring that gender equality is treated as a core component of budget planning.

A particular emphasis has been placed on conducting in-depth gender assessments of budget sub-programmes related to employment (MLSP) and subsidies (MAFI). These assessments will generate evidence on existing gaps and barriers faced by women and men in accessing opportunities and resources, ensuring that future budget

allocations address inequalities more effectively. The findings will guide internal planning but also serve as a model for other ministries embarking on similar exercises.

At the local level, ten communities were selected to join the initiative and are now benefitting from targeted capacity-building activities, carried out in partnership with the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova. These communities are supported to revise and adapt their budget programmes so that local resources respond more effectively to the diverse needs of women and men. The work at local level not only complements the central reforms but also demonstrates how GRB can directly improve the delivery of public services and community development.



Second Shadow Report on the implementation of the European Commission's recommendations by the Republic of Moldova – progress, challenges and priorities

On Tuesday, 29 July 2025, the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup,” in partnership with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, presented the second Independent Monitoring Report, titled “Assessment of the Republic of Moldova’s Progress in Implementing the European Commission’s Recommendations on the ‘Fundamentals’ Cluster in the Context of EU Accession.”

[This report](#) is the second edition (the first was published in 2024) and aims to evaluate how the Moldovan authorities have implemented the European Commission’s recommendations within

the “Fundamentals” cluster chapters of the accession process. It also seeks to inform the drafting of the first European Commission Enlargement Report for the Republic of Moldova, expected to be published in autumn 2025. The monitoring period covers from 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025.

The topics and chapters monitored, based on the European Commission’s November 2024 report, include: Democracy, Public Administration Reform, Justice Reform, Combating Corruption, Fundamental Rights, Freedom of Expression, Security, Functioning Market Economy, Public Procurement, Statistics, Financial Control, and Social Policies and Employment.



Stronger Together

Adrian Lupușor, Executive Director of “Expert-Grup,” stated that

the average score of 3.2 across all 12 chapters indicates that most recommendations have been initiated, yet continued efforts are needed. Major challenges include limited institutional capacity, low salary levels, shortage of qualified staff, and the need to align opinions and practices with EU standards. He also emphasized that civil society will remain actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of these recommendations, as well as the roadmaps for preparation for negotiation processes and the Reform Agenda under the Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, ensuring the essential element of holding authorities accountable.

For a detailed analysis of progress for each recommendation and chapter, as well as the authors’ suggested priorities to advance their implementation, the full monitoring report is available here: <https://www.euromonitor.md/en/raportul-de-monitorizare-independenta-nr-2-evaluarea-progresului-republicii-moldova-in-implementarea-recomandarilor-comisiei-europene-privind-clusterul-elementele-fundamentale-in-contextul-aderarii-l/>

The event was organized under the project “Civil Society for European Integration,” funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. The project is implemented by “Expert-Grup” as the lead partner, in collaboration with IPRE, IVC, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. More details about the project are available at: <https://www.euromonitor.md/>



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Expert-Grup presented the position paper “Solutions for addressing the excessive current account deficit of the Republic of Moldova”

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup” organized a roundtable discussion titled “Solutions for Addressing the Current Account Deficit of the Republic of Moldova.” During the event, a position paper was presented, providing an in-depth analysis of the causes, consequences, and solutions for correcting the country’s external imbalances.

The current account balance of the Republic of Moldova has been on a long-term deterioration trend, with the first quarter of 2025 registering a record deficit of 26% of GDP, equivalent to over 1 billion USD. The last comparable figure was in the first quarter of 2009, when the deficit reached 23% of GDP. Such high levels increase the economy’s vulnerability to currency and debt crises, posing significant risks to economic growth.

The position paper, developed by Marina Soloviova, Program Director for Economic Policies at Expert-Grup, proposes concrete measures to reduce the deficit, including:

- investments in quality infrastructure to facilitate local producers’ access to foreign markets;
- modernization of road and railway infrastructure;
- policies aimed at import substitution;
- differentiated subsidies for high value-added and drought-resistant agricultural crops;
- revision of state policies that have had adverse effects on exports.



Marina Soloviova further emphasized that service exports have significant potential to reduce the current account deficit, but the current volume is insufficient to offset the imbalance created by goods imports. The development of this sector is limited by the lack of a skilled labor force and adequate infrastructure. To reduce external imbalances, the position paper recommends policies focused on stimulating high value-added production, diversifying exports, and increasing the competitiveness of Moldovan products and services in international markets.

The full position paper, including detailed and well-argued recommendations, is available at the following link: <https://www.euromonitor.md/export-de-servicii->

[it-sau-de-mere-nota-de-pozitie-privind-posibilitatile-de-remediere-a-deficitului-excesiv-de-cont-curent-al-republicii-moldova/](https://www.euromonitor.md/export-de-servicii-it-sau-de-mere-nota-de-pozitie-privind-posibilitatile-de-remediere-a-deficitului-excesiv-de-cont-curent-al-republicii-moldova/)

The event was organized within the framework of the project “Civil Society for European Integration,” funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. The project is implemented by the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup” as the lead partner, in collaboration with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. More details about the project can be found at: <https://www.euromonitor.md/>.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Policy Dialogue: subjects, methods and mechanisms for ensuring public participation in the new law

On 31 July, the Center for Policies and Reforms facilitated a new policy dialogue session on the forthcoming Law on Public Participation. Together with over 30 representatives from civil society, it was discussed recommendations for improving the normative framework, based on research conducted by Promo-LEX and CPR experts. These proposals address the extension of the list of subjects covered by the law, the deadlines for conducting public consultations, the inclusion of environmental aspects, the regulation of judicial control mechanisms for the application of the law, and the introduction of digital tools for public participation.

This event is part of a broader participatory and inclusive effort to engage CSOs in shaping public participation policies, launched in February 2025 and coordinated by the CPR team, within the EU-funded INSPIRED Moldova project. The aim is to produce a joint policy analysis and a roadmap for strengthening public participation in the Republic of Moldova.

A first research topic agreed upon by the dialogue partners was defining the exact list of subjects of the forthcoming law. Igor Bucătaru, Promo-LEX, analyzed the current legislative provisions and relevant international standards. In an article reviewing international practices on the deadlines for organizing and conducting public consultations, Dina Boțan, Promo-LEX analyst, recommended adapting the timeframes according to the complexity and scope of projects. Focusing more on digital tools, Dan Nicorici (CPR) raised for discussion the current shortcomings of the particip.gov.md platform and opportunities for its improvement. Meanwhile, Mihaela Duca, Promo-LEX, concluded in a policy analysis document that there is currently no single legal mechanism to ensure compliance with the rules on public participation and transparency in decision-making, and that this gap must be addressed in the forthcoming law.



Public officials from ministries updated their knowledge on public participation

Between May and September 2025, the Center for Policies and Reforms, together with the State Chancellery, organized a series of trainings in all ministries on the standards and practices of consulting and engaging citizens in decision-making processes. In September, social activists Vlada Ciobanu and Andrei Lutenco shared the civil society perspective on how central authorities can engage citizens more actively and inclusively in consultations, and answered questions from 95 civil servants from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the Ministry of Justice.

Among the organization's recommendations for the central authorities were: communicating in plain language, using accessible formats and diverse information channels; expanding and updating the list

of stakeholders; organizing consultations in different formats and in accessible spaces; and, not least, publishing summaries of recommendations and informing participants about the outcomes of consultations.

The experiences shared during these training sessions help us formulate recommendations for improving the law so that it also responds to the needs of public officials.

INSPIRED Moldova is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium consisting of: European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy, CONTACT Center, CPR Moldova, Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and People in Need (PIN).



  EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Training on International Public Sector Accounting Standards for the Ministry of Finance's Treasury Directorate and the Court of Accounts

On 19 September 2025, the EU-funded PPF Project held a training course on the International Public Sector Accounting Standard IPSAS 1 – *Presentation of financial statements*.

The course was attended by the Ministry of Finance's State Secretary, Cristina Ixari, along with officials from the State Treasury Directorate, specifically the Methodology and Reporting Divisions, as well as officials from the Court of Accounts.

This initiative follows the Ministry's efforts to advance the development and implementation of National Public Sector Accounting Standards (NPSAS) and harmonise them with IPSAS.

The course was delivered by project experts Irina Grigoryan and Eugenia Busmachiu.



EU4Moldova Resilience: strengthening the capacities of security institutions through modern equipment and professional training

Law enforcement forces in the Republic of Moldova are benefiting from significant investments from the European Union, through the project “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities”, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. Several institutions under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) have recently been equipped with drones, tablets, and tactical gear worth more than 1.5 million MDL, enhancing their ability to respond effectively to security challenges.

At the end of August, the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (IPAS) of the MIA received two state-of-the-art drones valued at over 430,000 MDL.

These drones are equipped with extended autonomy, high-resolution cameras, and thermal sensors, making them suitable for complex surveillance, documentation, and rapid intervention missions.

On September 8, the Special Actions Directorate of the Border Police received four high-performance digital tablets worth approximately 200,000 MDL. The new devices, durable and portable, will be used in operations across the country, providing quick access to databases, enabling real-time checks of individuals crossing the state border, and supporting mission documentation through photos and videos.



Also in September, rapid reaction teams under the MIA were provided with tactical and logistical equipment worth more than 720,000 MDL. This contribution will enhance their intervention capacity in special missions and strengthen national security.

In parallel, more than 60 officers from MIA structures completed an intensive tactical training program. Over two weeks, they participated in practical exercises covering

entry techniques, close-quarters combat, VIP protection, hostage rescue, and advanced ballistics. The trainings were conducted by international instructors from the European Security Academy.

The project has a total budget of €9.5 million and aims to enhance the resilience of the Republic of Moldova through sustainable investments in security and community development.



Capacity building of the staff of the National Bureau of Statistics on handling minority-related data from a human rights-based approach perspective

UN Human Rights has a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights for all people. Since February 2023, UN Human Rights Moldova has been successfully implementing the EU-funded project “Strengthening the rights of minorities in the Republic of Moldova,” one of the key objectives of which is to promote a human rights-based approach to data in the collection and analysis of data on minorities.

In this area, UN Human Rights closely cooperates with the National Bureau of Statistics, for whose staff – together with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities – a pilot long-term training course,

“Applied Data Science Skills for Measuring the Integration of Diverse Societies,”

has been developed.



The training course is designed to equip participants with data science skills, with a particular focus on using Python for data analysis, while embedding a strong human rights-based approach to data. By combining technical expertise with a deep understanding of human rights and the role of integration policies in fostering social cohesion, the course aims to strengthen Moldova’s capacity to design, implement, and evaluate policies that promote equality, respect for minority rights, and the reduction of societal tensions.

The first training under the course was successfully conducted by the UN Human Rights in cooperation with the OSCE High

Commissioner on National Minorities from 2 to 4 July. During the training, 15 staff members of the National Bureau of Statistics enhanced their knowledge in the areas of minority rights, non-discrimination, and the human rights-based approach to data, while also beginning their study of the Python programming language for data analysis. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the training, which was also reflected in their feedback.

This training was a positive start in the process of implementing a long-term course that will last for the next six months and will bring new knowledge and skills to the participants.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

New members in the Vetting Commissions and progress in the integrity evaluation of judges

Expansion of the Commission's composition

In July 2025, Parliament approved the expansion of the Judicial Vetting Commission with the appointment of three new members, bringing its total membership to nine, five of whom were nominated by international development partners.

The newly appointed members are:

▶ **Marcel van de Wetering**, a judge from the Netherlands with more than 30 years of professional experience;

▶ **Gerrit-Marc Sprenger**, a judge from Germany with a judicial career spanning over three decades and international experience, including service as an observer in the International Monitoring Mission of the vetting process in Albania;

▶ **Iulian Rusu**, a lawyer and public policy expert from the Republic of Moldova, with expertise in justice reform, anti-corruption, and legislative harmonization with European standards; he has held senior positions in public administration, including Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice and Director of the National Anticorruption Center.



With its new composition, the Commission has already conducted two rounds of hearings, with the participation of all nine members.

Appeals resolved by the Supreme Court of Justice

The Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) has examined and resolved 17 of the 23 appeals submitted by judges challenging the conclusions of their evaluations. In all cases reviewed, the Court upheld the Commission's decisions, even though it did not always agree with the Commission's assessments. Detailed reasoning for the rulings has not yet been fully made public.

Vetting at the Courts of Appeal – nearly completed

The evaluation process for judges at the courts of appeal is largely complete. All sitting judges have undergone the verification procedure. In most cases, the decisions are final, with only a few cases still under review.

A notable phenomenon was the high number of resignations before the evaluation began—*approximately half of the judges at the country's courts of appeal chose to resign after being notified of the start of the evaluation procedure*. Among the judges who remained in office and were evaluated, roughly half successfully passed the vetting process. This rate may vary depending on the number of additional reports that the Superior Council of Magistracy approves after reviewing the pending cases.





ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Call for investment proposals: EU-backed opportunities in Moldova – now open

The European Commission has launched a Call for Expressions of Interest inviting businesses based in the EU, EEA, and the Republic of Moldova to propose transformative private investments in Moldova's real economy. Applications are open now and will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis by quarterly evaluation committees starting December 2025. The submission portal remains open until 4 May 2026.

Moldova is laying the groundwork for integration with the EU Single Market – aligning laws and standards while modernising infrastructure, energy systems, logistics, and digital public services. With direct links to Romania and Ukraine, improving air connectivity, and fast-rising digitalisation (gigabit coverage, e-government, and a single-tax regime for IT extended to 2035), the country offers a strategic bridge to European value chains and a skilled workforce.

This call supports Moldova's Growth Plan 2025–2027—over 150 reforms to boost competitiveness, simplify procedures, and align with EU norms—and is backed by EU

EU and Moldova flags

Noi oportunități de investiții private în Moldova, parte a Planului de Creștere Economică

Investiții de minimum
10 milioane euro

Energie, Agricultură, Industrie, Digital/IT, Transport, Sănătate

instruments such as EFSD+ (European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus), which can help de-risk private investment via guarantees, equity, and technical assistance delivered with partner financial institutions.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

What this means for Moldovans: more quality jobs, cleaner energy and industry, better transport and logistics, and stronger public services powered by private innovation. **What this means for investors:** access to an EU-oriented market, predictable rules, digital by default administration, and EU tools that can help unlock financing.

Eligible projects

Priority areas reflect Moldova's Growth Plan and EFSD+ orientations. Proposals may span one or several of these areas:

- ❖ **Energy & Green Transition:** renewables, storage and balancing, grid upgrades, efficient buildings, prosumer models, circular economy, biodiversity protection.
- ❖ **Agriculture & Agri-Food:** irrigation, high-value crops and processing, packaging, cold-chain, vertical integration and off-taker models; sustainable rural and agri-tourism.
- ❖ **Advanced Manufacturing & Industrialisation:** electronics, pharmaceuticals, automotive components, textiles, chemicals, construction materials; clean tech, recycling, e-mobility; quality and digital production lines; reconstruction supply chains.
- ❖ **ICT, Digital Innovation & Applied Research:** AI, software, cyber, data infrastructure, GovTech; Moldova IT Park; new HiTech and Agrotek districts; lab and tech-transfer platforms.
- ❖ **Infrastructure & Connectivity:** TEN-T-aligned rail and roads, bridges, border posts, multimodal logistics hubs, warehousing, customs-linked infrastructure; broadband rollout and 5G-ready corridors; smart mobility and supply-chain systems.

❖ **Health, Life Sciences & Digital Health:** local pharma manufacturing, clinical trials, hospital and diagnostic infrastructure, e-prescriptions, EHR, telemedicine, data-driven diagnostics, medical tourism.

Who Can Apply?

- ❖ Eligible applicants: private enterprises, joint ventures, or consortia based in the EU/EEA or Moldova, each holding a valid VAT registration (entities listed in the EC EDES database are excluded).
- ❖ Geography: investments must take place in Moldova.
- ❖ Minimum size: €10 million total investment.
- ❖ Own resources: at least 15% equity of total project cost.

Assessment & Timeline

- ❖ Window: 4 Sept 2025 – 4 May 2026 (18:00 CET).
- ❖ Method: First-come, first-served; quarterly committees from Dec 2025.

More details: https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-technical-assistance/business-opportunities/publication-call-expressions-interest-eueeamoldova-based-businesses-invest-republic-moldova_en

New €8.5 million Team Europe initiative to drive sustainable food and agriculture in the Republic of Moldova

The Team Europe initiative 'Sustainable Food Systems', which aims to increase the resilience of the agri-food sector in the Republic of Moldova, will help farmers better cope with external shocks and climate-related challenges. With a budget of €8.5 million, funded by the European Union and the Czech Republic, the four-year project will introduce state-of-the-art solutions and proven European practices to modernize agriculture and strengthen rural communities.

By addressing the vulnerabilities in the country's agri-food sector, the project will be focused on integrating innovative farming techniques, business development, and institutional capacity-building processes. It foresees to implement proven European practices, such as soil laboratory testing and safe use of biocides, or building a digital Organic Agricultural Register, as well as expert, farm and industry knowledge and experience exchange and cooperation.



"Only through such a comprehensive and multilateral approach, we manage to answer the needs of those that aim at the development of the sector, of the farmers to become more resilient and to integrate into the value chains,

and simultaneously to enhance the capacities and digitalize the domain",

said Ina Butucel, Deputy Secretary of the State, Ministry of the Agriculture and Food Industry.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

By bringing together innovation and international cooperation, the initiative lays the groundwork for a more sustainable, resilient, and competitive agri-food sector in Moldova.

"This Team Europe Initiative 'Sustainable Food Systems' confirms the EU commitment to concrete support of farmers and businesses to become more competitive and resilient - adapt to climate change, adopt sustainable practices, access new markets and prepare for the integration into the EU single market",

stated Adam Grodzicki, Deputy Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

The launch of the 'Sustainable Food Systems' project, on 11 September 2025, brought together over 40 representatives of national and international organizations, underscoring the strong interest in how this €8.5 million investment could transform Moldova's agri-food sector - making it stronger, more resilient, and sustainable for the future.

The Team Europe initiative 'Sustainable Food Systems' is financed by the European Union and Czech Republic, and implemented by Czech Development Agency, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, and Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center. The initiative, with a budget of € 8.5 million, will be implemented over four years, by June 2029.



A poultry farm from the left bank of the Nistru River gets a modern makeover with the EU financial support

Iurie Flerciuc, a poultry farmer from the left bank of the Nistru, had a dream: to double the number of birds he raised. To do this, Iurie needed additional financial resources, which were unavailable at the time. The farmer found the time and inspiration to put together a business plan, thanks to which he obtained support for expansion from the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.

Iurie decided to devote himself to poultry farming, drawing on the experience he had gained working with his father:

"I followed in my family's footsteps. It's much easier when you have an idea of how to do everything. Thus, all that was left was to get organised and work hard, which is why I chose this direction of poultry farming."



It all started with setting up of the first barn. Then came the natural desire to expand the business.

The EUR 20,000 allocated by the European Union were invested in arrangements of the second barn. State-of-the-art computer equipment was purchased to control essential processes, from feed and water to ventilation and heating.

"This system is new, it is high-performance equipment in which everything is well thought out: automatic feeding, ventilation, room heating, everything is turned on automatically, so it is very convenient. It requires minimal physical work on the part of humans, practically everything is done by technology,"

says Iurie enthusiastically.

The new barn houses about 15,000 chickens, which Iurie buys from the right bank of the Nistru. Chickens grow very quickly, reaching a suitable weight for processing in about 45 days.

Even with a high level of automation, Iurie's business has contributed to the creation of two new jobs.

"We have a small farm and we are proud to say that we already have our buyers and our products are in demand, so everything is fine. In this business, weather conditions also have an impact. Here you have to guess very correctly, so to speak, you have to create climatic conditions for the birds so that they feel comfortable,"

Iurie added.



Iurie's story is not unique. In 2024, 19 other entrepreneurs on both banks of the Nistru River received support to start or develop their businesses. The total financial assistance provided amounts to over EUR 529,000.

By supporting small and medium-sized businesses, the EU's Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, contributes not only to economic development, but also to the modernisation of the agricultural sector and the creation of opportunities on both sides of the Nistru River.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Since 2014, the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, has supported the development and

increased competitiveness of more than 70 SMEs on both banks of the Nistru River.



KidsLand – from adult vision to children's joy

Some businesses are born out of passion, others out of necessity. In Mihail Gavrilenco's case, both reasons were valid. While searching for well-equipped playgrounds for his children, he realized that there were very few options in his hometown.

This is how the idea of opening a playroom for children of various ages in Tighina (Bender) came about, offering more choices for entertainment – KidsLand.



Setting up the children's center also required a financial investment. Although he had his own investments, the money was insufficient to finalize all the details. In the fall of 2024, he participated in a competition for entrepreneurs from both banks of the Nistru

River and thus obtained not only financial support but also mentoring to launch his business. The support was provided by the European Union through the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



"If we hadn't had this funding, we probably wouldn't have opened it, because the investments are quite large. The aid from the European Union allowed us to open a playroom for children,"

says Mihail.

The children's center consists of a modern playground, a room with interactive games, and a space dedicated to creativity.

The interactive children's playroom in Tighina (Bender) is one of 20 businesses launched or developed with the support of the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP.



Stronger Together

Supporting young entrepreneurs and the business environment is part of a broader effort by the European Union and UNDP to build confidence and promote economic

development on both banks of the Nistru River. The total value of the support provided for the development of the business environment is over €529,000.



Stronger Together

The bread of our kindness: A Tiraspol bakery with open doors for everyone

The inviting aroma of freshly baked bread fills the mornings in a small bakery in Tiraspol. Every day, Ivan Cernicenko arranges bread, baguettes, rolls, and biscuits on the shelves.

Few people know that Ivan, a well-known baker in the city, is a graduate of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics and was briefly a teacher in Dubăsari.



"At one point, I realized that I could work for myself, have my own business. One day, I came across a video of a Ukrainian baker. Somehow, what he was doing convinced me, and it seemed very easy. Why not give it a try? That's when the idea of baking doughnuts was born," Ivan recalls.

Over time, Ivan realized that doughnuts alone would not bring in the necessary profit, so he diversified his production.

At his bakery, "Ivan's Bread," which opened six years ago, every product is made with

great care and dedication, without flavour, colour, or smell enhancers, using only natural ingredients. In the technological process, the dough is cold fermented for 24 hours. To deliver fresh bread to the store every morning, Ivan works late into the night.

"Our bread is delicious. It has its own aroma, its own taste, which store-bought bread does not have,"

Ivan says proudly.



Stronger Together

The crises of recent years have brought him close to giving up the business several times. However, the financial support and mentoring provided with the support of the European Union and United Nations Development Programme, as part of the Confidence Building Measures Programme, were his lifeline.

"Entrepreneurs are entrepreneurs, they should try to get out of a crisis or a difficult situation, to steer it in the right direction."

"The European Union's funding is a huge help, without which I would not have been able to modernize my production process on my own, even in five years,"

says Ivan.



Now, Ivan's bakery is equipped with a high-performance oven, a refrigerator for cold fermentation of dough, a proofer, and many other tools that will allow him to launch a new line of yeast-free and gluten-free bakery products. The new equipment will also help Ivan increase his production capacity, especially as the number of buyers has grown.

"We have loyal customers who sometimes pass by, see us, smile, and, of course, come in. Others come to us specifically from different parts of the city for our products: baguettes, rustic bread, or onion bread. Onion bread is the most popular because it is unusual. Basically, there is no such bread in the city,"

says Iulia Verbanova, an employee of the bakery.

Although the baked goods sell quickly and there is rarely anything left on the shelves, Ivan wants to make sure that the bread reaches as many people as possible and

that nothing goes to waste. An hour before the store closes, all baked goods are offered at a discount. He also offers space in the store to other local producers.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Moldovan startups expand horizons through cross-border engagement at Sevan Startup Summit 2025 in Armenia

Four Moldovan startups joined the Sevan Startup Summit 2025 for the first time in the event's history—seizing the opportunity to connect with international mentors and peers from over 50 countries.

Supported by the EU4Innovation East project, the delegation – comprising Alchat (Agintify), Gems Around, EatingAI, and OneSyncs – joined hundreds of entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors in one of the most vibrant startup gatherings in the region.

Beyond showcasing Moldova's rising tech talent, the Sevan Startup Summit 2025 offered an exceptional opportunity for Moldovan startups to gain mentorship

from world-class experts and seasoned entrepreneurs with multiple successful exits—while also laying the groundwork for meaningful collaboration with Armenia's vibrant innovation ecosystem.

Between 20 and 26 July, the Moldovan startups participated in a series of thoughtfully curated programs designed to nurture innovation and accelerate growth. The agenda featured a Micro-Acceleration Program, Incubation Program, workshop/panel discussions, tailored one-on-one mentoring sessions, and the summit's signature Campfire Talks – interactive, informal gatherings that encouraged open dialogue and shared learning.



Stronger Together

"Receiving guidance from experts with multiple successful ventures and connected with global clients provided invaluable perspective on marketing and product positioning. We're now more confident about refining our branding and expanding to international markets,"

mentioned Mark Melnic, Co-founder and CTO, EatingAI.

"The mentorship sessions offered deep insights into product development and market strategy. The pitch training was incredibly practical and contributed to our success in the startup competition—we were genuinely surprised and thrilled by the recognition,"

highlighted Oleg Chetrean, co-founder of Agentify (Alchat).

Among the standout moments for the Moldovan delegation was the success of Alchat / Agintify, an ambitious startup specializing in AI-driven customer engagement tools. The team secured second place in the prestigious Booster Final Battle, earning a \$6,000 award and valuable exposure to investors and partners across the region.

Their product – a smart, multilingual virtual assistant designed for seamless business-customer interaction – impressed the jury with its versatility and ease of integration.

The participation of Moldovan startups in the Sevan Startup Summit marks a strategic move to strengthen ties between the Moldovan and Armenian tech ecosystems, with Armenia offering valuable mentorship and inspiration. This initiative fosters regional connectivity and entrepreneurial exchange, positioning Moldova as an emerging contributor to the regional innovation landscape.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

First training programme for start-up entrepreneurs launched by the Ministry of Finance and “Moldova is Europe – support for EU Integration” project

A landmark initiative to support the business environment – the first Training Programme for Start-Up Entrepreneurs, meant for beginner entrepreneurs and those intending to start their own business – was launched in July by the Ministry of Finance, the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, the State Tax Service, the Customs Service, and the “Monitorul Fiscal FISC.md” periodical publication.

At the opening event, Minister of Finance Victoria Belous emphasized the essential role of providing timely education for new entrepreneurs. “Through this programme, we aim to provide real support to those who have the courage to start a business or have just launched one. Accurate, accessible, and clear information provided from the very beginning of this journey is crucial to prevent mistakes and to build a sound relationship between the business community and state institutions,” stated the Minister.



The training session took place between 15 and 17 July at the Ministry of Finance, targeting participants from the Central Region and Chisinau municipality. During this session, entrepreneurs are introduced to key aspects of fiscal and accounting obligations, the preparation of business documentation and bookkeeping, the access to electronic tax services, aspects of import and export procedures, along with other essential topics relevant to effective business management.

In August and September, the programme was extended to the Northern and Southern regions of the country, ensuring that new entrepreneurs across Moldova have access to the same high-quality training and guidance. Thus, sessions took place in Bălți and Cahul, bringing together over 100 participants.



Learning, mentoring, funding: the full circle of #SheLeads business support programme

"I discovered a community of unique women, who run remarkable businesses, from whom I can draw inspiration and, perhaps, be a source of inspiration myself,"

said Ana BRADU, founder of SRL Biopack Trading, that produces eco-friendly and sustainable food packaging.

The #SheLeads program is connecting partners, mentors, and institutions to support women entrepreneurs in the Republic of

Moldova and to bolster their access to financing opportunities for business growth, providing them with the tools, guidance, and visibility needed to strengthen their businesses. Implemented by UN Women Moldova in partnership with the Association for Entrepreneurial Training and Development and Global Business Access, within the EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project, #SheLeads has already left its mark by empowering 45 women to take their entrepreneurial journey to the next level.



After completing an intensive five-months capacity-building programme, the women entrepreneurs are now advancing their

growth through a three-month tailored mentorship, working with experienced professionals.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

"The mentors are guiding me not only in practical skills but also in building confidence. I encourage all women who want to start a business to trust themselves, invest in their growth, and seek support. Through collaboration and teamwork, many obstacles can be overcome,"

mentioned Natalia Dumbravă, Administrator, „FructeDorSucces”, specialized in fruit processing and preservation.

Recognizing the importance of visibility, #SheLeads also opens doors to public promotion opportunities. In partnership with Kaufland Moldova, ADI Academy and Moldova National Youth Orchestra, 10 women entrepreneurs showcased their products at the Fashion & Music Evening fair, on 20 July.

"This is my second time participating, and each event brings new clients, which I truly appreciate. The event delivers an authentic experience for producers and consumers alike, showcasing high-quality local products,"

said Valentina Buhna of Flavoria, a company producing healthy snacks through dehydration.

The #SheLeads program not only equips women with business skills but also fosters broader socio-economic impact. Research shows that women reinvest up to 90% of their income into their families and communities.

Carabulea Olga, founder of SRL Intelect Art, shared her experience

"The #SheLeads program gave me practical knowledge, from business planning to grant applications, helping me realize my dream of offering modern educational courses for children in Edineț."

Olga is one of the 10 women entrepreneurs to benefit of financial support provided by Efes Vitanta Moldova Brewery through its "Friendly for Women" social initiative. The beneficiaries received the vouchers totalling MDL 500,000, on 17 September, complementing the training and mentorship offered by #SheLeads, implemented by UN Women, under the EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project. These funds help women expand production, launch new products, acquire equipment, and strengthen their market presence, completing the circle of capacity building, and tangible business support.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

120 young people in Moldova empowered for civic engagement and employment

Between July and August 2025, more than 120 young women and men from across the Republic of Moldova participated in the “Empowered for Employment” camps, held in several regions of the country – Chişinău, Edineţ, Soroca, Orhei, Bălţi, and Ungheni.

The main objective of the camp was to strengthen the participatory skills and capacities of young NEETs, preparing them to enter or re-enter the labour market and to become more actively involved in their communities. This ambitious initiative aims to empower young people to become active members of society, supporting

their transition to stable employment and encouraging their participation in civic and community life.

During two-days camps, participants learned how to draft a CV and present themselves in job interviews, took part in self-awareness activities and teamwork exercises, visited local companies, and benefited from career guidance sessions with experts from the territorial subdivisions of the National Employment Agency, who introduced them to training opportunities and available support measures.



A distinctive feature of the program was the integration of the “Sport for Development” methodology, through which participants developed essential skills such as communication, cooperation, and leadership – all crucial for personal and professional success. Interactive workshops and practical exposure to local employers, including on-the-job discussions and trial placements, provided young people with relevant experience and strengthened their professional training.

These camps were organised by the ‘EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment’ project, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the ‘Youth Employment Promotion in Moldova’ project, funded by BMZ, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, territorial divisions of the National Employment Agency and local civil society organisations.



Stronger Together

European Union invest in the future of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova

A total of 66 companies from the Republic of Moldova have received grants amounting to 24.7 million MDL, support that will stimulate nearly 44 million MDL in investments in the national economy. The funds are accessed through several grant programs managed by the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization and will be used for purchasing modern equipment and streamlining production processes.

The support is provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which contributes

7.77 million MDL for 26 companies, and by the European Union, which supports 20 companies with 4.2 million MDL through the project "European Union for Small and Medium Enterprises".

In addition, 20 companies benefit from grants worth 12.74 million MDL through the Competitiveness Enhancement and Value Chain Integration Program, funded by the Government and the World Bank Group, and implemented by ODA and the World Bank Project Implementation Unit for Competitiveness Enhancement (UIPAC).



Currently, these companies employ over 1,267 people, and with the help of the grants, at least 478 new jobs will be created.

This financial support translates into stronger businesses, better-paid jobs, and more robust economic prospects for communities across the country.

Since the beginning of the year, 471 companies have received grants through the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development, amounting to a total of 194 million MDL. This support has generated planned investments of over 383 million MDL in the national economy.



Of the total beneficiaries, 293 companies were funded from the state budget, 147 received support from the European Union through the “European Union for Small and Medium Enterprises” project, and 24 companies were supported through the program funded by the Government and

the World Bank Group. Additionally, seven companies benefit from support under the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” program, funded by the European Union, the Governments of Germany, Austria, and Poland, and implemented by GIZ, ADA, and SFPL in Moldova.

“Empowering trade and competitiveness in EaP countries” – a new EU-funded project implemented by OECD and ITC

On 18 September 2025, the OECD and the International Trade Centre (ITC) kicked off their new joint project *Empowering Trade and Competitiveness in Eastern Partnership Countries*, funded by the European Union (EU), in Chişinău. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Digitalisation Doina Nistor, together with the Ambassador of the EU to the Republic of Moldova Iwona Piórko, delivered opening remarks to an audience of more than 50 policymakers and business representatives.

Building on the OECD’s expertise in data-driven analysis and institutional capacity-building, and ITC’s track record in implementing trade reforms and supporting export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises, the 4-year project aims to strengthen economic

competitiveness and advance business environment reforms in the EU’s Eastern Partnership countries. For Moldova, key deliverables will include the first editions of the *OECD Competitiveness Outlook* and the *Economic Convergence Scoreboard*. The *Competitiveness Outlook* will assess national policy frameworks in areas such as business environment, connectivity and trade, and labour markets, while the *Scoreboard* will measure Moldova’s performance on over 30 quantitative indicators and track progress towards EU standards. Moldova will also receive targeted support on investment promotion and de-risking policies, as well as on developing monitoring and evaluation systems for SME policy.



Stronger Together

In parallel, ITC will work closely with Moldovan authorities and the business community on three fronts. First, to modernize, facilitate, and digitalize cross-border trade procedures, thereby reducing the cost and complexity of trade. Second, to improve access to trade and market intelligence by further expanding the EaP Trade Helpdesk portal and enhancing Moldova's ability to generate reliable statistics on services trade. And third, to build the export readiness of Moldovan SMEs through tailored advice ranging from quality and standards to branding and marketing, and by facilitating their participation in trade fairs, study tours, and business matchmaking events with EU and global buyers.

The kick-off also featured a workshop on trade facilitation. The OECD presented an assessment of Moldova's progress and opportunities for reform using the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators, while ITC outlined its planned initiatives to simplify trade processes and accelerate the digitalisation of transport and customs formalities.

Representatives from key public institutions, including the General Inspectorate of Border Police and the Customs Service, as well as private sector organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the European Business Association, contributed to the discussion. They highlighted recent and planned reforms to boost Moldova's capacity to trade with international partners, reinforcing the priorities identified by the OECD and ITC.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



Winners of the first edition of the “Energy Management Star Moldova 2025” contest

For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, the “Energy Management Star Moldova 2025” competition was organized, dedicated to promoting best practices in local energy management.

The contest was inspired by Ukraine’s experience, where such an initiative has already become a tradition, encouraging local public authorities (LPAs) to engage in the sustainable energy transition.



The inaugural edition brought together 11 localities – Andrușul de Jos, Bălți, Cărbuna, Ceadîr-Lunga, Cioc-Maidan, Feștețița, Geamăna, Giurgiulești, Ialoveni, Sireți, and Vorniceni – demonstrating that change starts at the community level and brings visible results for citizens.

The competition included four stages: submission of application forms; preparation

of a one-minute video pitch where teams summarized their experience and results; presentation of an impactful measure from the SECAP; and a thematic debate. All stages were evaluated by an independent jury composed of representatives of the Covenant of Mayors, the Ministry of Energy, and the National Center for Sustainable Energy.

Results of the first edition:

First Prize – Sireți team, was awarded “Energy Management Star Moldova 2025”

Second Prize – Bălți team

Third Prize – Ialoveni team.

The winners received diplomas, energy management toolkits (offered by GIZ Moldova), and the opportunity to take part in a study visit to the Czech Republic to exchange best practices (facilitated by the CoM-East project).

The contest was part of the activities dedicated to the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2025), the most important European event in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The event was organized by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER) under the Covenant of Mayors – East project, funded by the European Union, in partnership with the project “Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Moldova” (E4M), supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ Moldova in cooperation with the LEEN Moldova network.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Study visit to Brno, Czech Republic for Moldovan mayors – good practices in energy management

Representatives of four municipalities that are signatories of the European initiative Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – Sireți, Bălți, Ialoveni, and Ceadâr-Lunga – took part in a study visit to the city of Brno, Czech Republic, between 8 and 12 September 2025. The event was organized with the support of the CoM-East III project and aimed to exchange good practices in climate change adaptation, energy transition, sustainable urban development, and efficient energy management.

Three of the municipalities – Sireți, Bălți, and Ialoveni – are winners of the first edition of the “Energy Management Star Moldova” contest, carried out by the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER) under the Covenant of Mayors – East project, funded by the European Union. The contest was organized in partnership with the project “Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Moldova” (E4M), financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ Moldova in collaboration with the LEEN Moldova network.

During the visit, participants explored how Brno implements its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) through concrete projects such as: creation of green spaces integrated into urban areas and rainwater harvesting systems; development of resilient infrastructure and energy-efficient buildings; promotion of modern technologies – passive houses, green roofs, photovoltaic plants, and energy storage solutions; and the design of sustainable urban districts with a focus on energy efficiency and green mobility.

The Brno experience highlighted the importance of European partnerships and investments in innovative solutions for a greener future. For the municipalities of the Republic of Moldova, these good practices serve as concrete models that can be adapted and replicated, supporting energy transition, environmental protection, and the creation of resilient and healthy cities for residents.



Stronger Together

EU4Moldova Resilience: five localities in Moldova become, for the first time, Smart Villages with European Union support

For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, the European concept of Smart Village is being implemented, designed to support the sustainable development of rural communities through modern technologies, energy efficiency, and digital public services.

The localities of Larga, Coșnița, Sipoteni, Lozova, and Mereni have been selected

for this pilot program, receiving grants of up to 1.5 million lei for smart projects and approximately 3 million lei for photovoltaic parks. The investments are carried out under the project “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities”, financed by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.



In Larga, Briceni district, the project focuses on energy efficiency and safety: the modernization of the Cultural Center and social institutions, smart street lighting, and video surveillance systems.

“Through this integrated approach, we are transforming Larga into a safe community prepared for the future,”

said Mayor Radu Urechean.

In Coșnița, Dubăsari district, the emphasis is on modernizing waste collection, with a high-performance vehicle equipped with GPS and a video camera. Authorities also plan to install 500 bins for plastic waste collection, reducing pollution and improving logistics.

In the commune of Sipoteni, Călărași district, the solutions focus on access to drinking water and public infrastructure: four water filtration stations, smart street lighting, and modern bus waiting stations.

In Lozova, Strășeni district, the project supports agriculture and education by installing solar-powered weather stations to help farmers better adapt to climate change and improve agricultural production.

"Our project also includes installing ventilation systems in the village kindergarten and high school. These initiatives will contribute to children's health,"

mentioned Mayor Viorel Jordan.

Mereni, Anenii Noi district, is also implementing smart solutions: sensor-based street lighting, video cameras, and an automated irrigation system for the sports stadium, along with civic engagement campaigns.

In all five localities, photovoltaic parks of up to 200 kW are being built, significantly reducing energy costs and strengthening energy independence.



"The local government bodies have also benefited from trainings with international experts and study visits in Europe to develop long-term smart village strategies. We hope

that this integrated approach will have a real impact on the quality of life of residents,"

emphasized Xenia Marcov, project coordinator at Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The smart village projects are expected to be completed by the end of November 2025.



Stronger Together

Information campaigns for more energy-responsible communities

Civil society organisations that were awarded grants under the "Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in Social Services" project had information and awareness campaigns included in their plans to be implemented in the communities. These initiatives aim to encourage responsible energy use behavior and to increase citizen engagement in the green transition process.

About 2,000 people learned how to save resources and adopt more responsible energy use behavior. Among the campaigns, carried out in partnership with local public authorities, there were practical workshops, educational games, discussion sessions and dissemination of information materials. Participants learned about ways to reduce energy losses, the advantages of home insulation, how to use renewable energy sources and what sustainable habits they can apply in their daily life.



The activities were not limited to the transmission of information but also created an open space for dialogue encouraging citizens to share their experience and ask questions.

"I was already making efforts to save energy at home, but at the workshop I learned about more simple ideas, that I never knew. I'll do my best to make some changes at home to take care of both the money and the nature for the good of our children and grandchildren",

said a beneficiary of the Day Center in Strășeni municipality.

A local community member from the Bădiceni village, Sorocea region, said,

"It is very good to have you here explaining these things to us. I never thought saving resources was so important. Now I understand how important it is for all of us."

Another citizen, Mrs. Zinaida Rotaru from Edineț region, added

"Thank you for coming and telling us. We are not really aware of these things, and it is good to know how to save electricity and heat energy. It's just at the right time as everything is expensive now."

These voices confirm that direct awareness raising and dialogue with the community are essential for changing the behavior and shaping more energy-responsible communities.

These information campaigns also come along with targeted investments: energy-efficiency measures to be implemented in 35 social services buildings to ensure a sustainable impact in the communities.

These actions are part of the "Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in Social Services" project, implemented with the financial support of the European Union, co-financed and implemented by Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with Keystone Moldova and Social Innovation Fund of Moldova.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



“EU4Moldova: Local Communities” - essential projects for the waste and sanitation system for improving pupils' wellbeing in their communities

A significant milestone was marked in modernizing sanitation and water infrastructure and promoting inclusive

local development in Leova rayon through the [“EU4Moldova: Local Communities”](#) programme – a Team Europe initiative.



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A Groundbreaking ceremony was held in Hănăsenii Noi, officially launching the works of sanitation & water systems projects in Leova rayon, specifically for the villages of Sîrma and Hănăsenii Noi, as well as at the Leova Vocational School. These projects are set to directly benefit approximately 700 people by providing access to safe, modern, and comfortable sanitation.

The scope of the works includes:

- Construction of two local wastewater treatment plants (Hănăsenii Noi and Sîrma)
- Construction of new sanitary units in public institutions
- Connection of key public institutions such as schools, kindergartens, medical center's, and town halls to the sewer system

Installation of new sewage networks

Opportunities for households and businesses to connect to the new systems.

These investments will not only enhance public health and environmental conditions but also significantly raise the quality of life in the targeted communities. These development projects in Sîrma, Hănăsenii Noi, and at the Leova Vocational School are funded through an investment of approximately. **EUR 390,000**, financed by the European Union (EU), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), and Local Public Authorities (LPAs). Implementation is led by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). These initiatives are part of the "EU4Moldova: Local Communities" programme, a Team Europe initiative.



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Stronger Together

Impactful environmental related activities carried out in the first year of Twinning project implementation

On 1 July 2025, the EU-funded Twinning project "Air quality and environment", with the Ministry of Environment as the main project beneficiary, marked its first year of implementation.

Different activities concerning environment were carried out in all the four Components of the project, the most recent and impactful being site-visits, seminars and trainings.



Thus, from 12 to 14 August, a series of joint site visits were conducted within Components 1 and 3: "Enhanced air quality management, control and enforcement" and "Circular Economy – waste management systems strengthened". The experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the Lithuanian Environmental Projects Management Agency visited the Termoelectrica power plant in Chisinau, the LaFarge cement factory in Rezina, Tintareni landfill, and the Finplast-Prim recycling center in Balti.

The purpose was to assess the current situation of industrial and waste management facilities in the Republic of Moldova. The visits allowed familiarization with local industrial sites and the current environmental permitting system in the country. The experts had the opportunity to share the best EU practices and techniques for assessing environmental damage in industrial accidents and verifying waste traceability during product import and transit, including establishing the end-of-waste status.

September was marked by other two events: *Air Quality Awareness-Raising Seminar* within Component 1 "Enhanced air quality management, control and enforcement" and In-depth CLP training within Component 4 "Environmentally sound management of chemicals strengthened".

The seminar "Raising awareness of atmospheric air quality" was attended by around 60 specialists from institutions responsible for air quality: line ministries, central and local public authorities, institutions responsible for air quality, research institutions, energy and industrial companies. The speakers presented the current situation on air quality in the country, plans for the development of a modern monitoring network, air protection actions, the side effects of pollutants on the environment and health, as well as modern methods for monitoring and effectively managing air quality. During the same week, the Finnish experts held public lectures to students at Moldova State University and Technical University of Moldova on the air quality modelling techniques - dispersion modelling and SILAM



As for the three-day CLP (Classification, Labeling and Packaging) training, it took place between 16 and 18 September at the Ministry of Environment with the presence of 14 inspectors of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate (from Chisinau, Anenii Noi, Cimislia, Ialoveni, Straseni and Hincesti) and 2 representatives of the Environment Agency who actively participated during the training sessions, did practical exercises, asked questions and initiated discussions. Also, the inspectors brought examples of chemical products placed on the market in the Republic of Moldova in order to analyze and assess the

correct labeling of the products. The experts from Sweden shared with the beneficiaries the most up-to-date information on hazard classes and classification criteria; examples and practical exercises on the correct classification and labeling of hazardous substances and mixtures that help prevent chemical accidents, poisonings and pollution; communication of physical, health and environmental hazards; filling in the safety data sheet; assistance service – HelpDesk. At the end of the training, the participants were awarded with certificates of participation.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Global Campus and Moldova State University inaugurate Human Rights Education Lab at EU-funded project closing ceremony

The Global Campus of Human Rights (GC), together with its GC Caucasus programme coordinated by Yerevan State University (YSU) and Moldova State University (MSU), has successfully concluded the project *"Development of Climate Justice and Human Rights Education at Moldova State University."*

Launched in early 2024 with support from the European Union's Delegation in Chisinau and the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the initiative has significantly strengthened MSU's role in promoting human rights, environmental protection, and climate justice. Over two academic years, the University has expanded its outreach, modernized its learning environment, and advanced faculty capacities, positioning itself as a regional leader in critical knowledge production for a fair and equitable green transition in line with the EU enlargement process.

At the core of the project was the development of innovative curricula, teaching tools, and faculty skills.

These have already translated into a policy shift within MSU through the integration of new courses and activities in human rights and climate justice. A pool of scholars underwent a comprehensive two-year training process, which included experimenting with gamification practices for more engaging teaching, as well as designing and implementing international educational initiatives. This culminated in two successful editions of the *European Cross-Regional Spring School in Climate Justice and Human Rights*.

The project's interdisciplinary approach was a defining element. The Faculties of Law and Biology & Geoscience worked closely together, combining socio-political and natural sciences perspectives. Local academics collaborated with GC experts to ensure that teaching and research addressed both theoretical and practical dimensions of climate justice and human rights.



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Stronger Together

A major milestone was the establishment of the **JURIS Lab – Research and Education on Human Rights and Sustainable Development**, inaugurated on 30 June 2025 during the project's closing ceremony. Conceived as a hub for innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary research, the Lab will serve as an incubator for new ideas and collaborations, contributing to Moldova's sustainable and green transition.

The project builds on cooperation between GC and MSU that began in 2023 under the GC Capacity Development programme. In just three years, MSU has joined the path of other leading universities in Eastern and Southeast Europe that became GC members while advancing their EU integration process. Stay tuned for more updates as GC continues supporting human rights education in Moldova and the wider region.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Young students from several faculties learn about environmental journalism at a summer school supported by the European Union

50 students from Moldova from various academic backgrounds—journalism, education, and ecology—participated in a summer school for future environmental journalists from 20 to 27 July, where they learned to write about climate change, the circular economy, and sustainable development.

The summer school was organized by the Association of Environmental Journalists as part of the project "Enabling an inclusive green transition in the Republic of Moldova," funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP Moldova.



For eight days, the young people participated in theoretical sessions, practical workshops, discussions with experts, and several field visits.

"I realized how essential it is to have accurate information about the rational use of natural resources and that this is a powerful step towards our country's green transition."

By understanding and documenting current environmental issues and interacting with experts in the field, I confirmed my belief that we do not have a planet B and that it is up to every citizen to show civic spirit and contribute to a sustainable future,"

said Nicolae Cernomaz, a student at Georgetown University in the U.S., Faculty of International Politics.

One day, the young people visited a waste sorting plant in Chişinău, where they learned about the processes involved in collecting, separating, and preparing waste for recycling. They understood the importance of reducing consumption, reusing, and recycling as part of a sustainable lifestyle, as well as the essential role of citizens in proper waste management. They also visited the Museum of Lost Things, created with the support of UNDP, where they rediscovered several discarded objects: paintings, books, souvenirs, which were saved from becoming waste and were exhibited to visitors.

"I learned how to communicate about environmental issues through various media platforms, social networks, and ecological photography. Environmental camps encourage active learning and develop a responsible attitude towards the environment and encourage active involvement in protecting it,"

says Argentina Fron, a graduate of the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences, Moldova State University.

The participants also visited the wind farm in the village of Chişcăreni, Orhei district, and the Botanical Garden in Chişinău.

Following the field visits, the young people wrote video scripts for social media, filmed and edited videos, and wrote articles, all these under the guidance of mentors.

In previous years, UNDP has conducted training for 140 students from six universities in the country in the field of biodiversity, environmental protection, and water, within the framework of the Eco Media Academy, funded by the Government of Sweden.

At the same time, during the 2024-2025 school year, students from 87 schools across the country studied energy and climate as part of modules incorporated into school subjects such as physics, geography, social studies, and personal development. This was made possible thanks to modules developed with the support of the European Union and UNDP Moldova, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment, and the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Cahul celebrates a new milestone in the area of water and sanitation

On 28 July, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Delegation of the European Union, and the Embassy of Germany, construction works for the rehabilitation and expansion of water and sewage networks in Cahul municipality and the villages of Cotihana and Crihana Veche were officially launched.

The project envisages the construction of approximately 85 km of water supply and sewage networks, which will allow

connection to modern services for approximately 2,000 families. At the same time, investments are planned in auxiliary infrastructure, including: 5 pumping stations, 2 water tanks, digitalization of services through the installation of 8,000 smart meters with remote transmission, modernization of the billing system of the regional operator SA Apă-Canal Cahul.

The total value of the contract exceeds 11.4 million euros.



This investment represents a major step towards providing sustainable, efficient and quality services to the residents of Cahul district.

These works are part of a larger project for water supply and sanitation in Cahul district, financed by grants from the Government of Germany and the European Union, representing one of the most important investments in the water sector in the Republic of Moldova. The Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Cahul district has as its main objective to improve the safety and access of the population of Cahul district to quality drinking water supply and sanitation

services. To achieve this objective, the project focuses on implementing measures to rehabilitate and expand the water supply and wastewater disposal infrastructure in Cahul district.

The launch event was attended by representatives of development partners, central and local authorities of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development; the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova; the German Embassy in Moldova; representatives of the German Bank KfW and representatives of the Cahul municipality local public administration.



Consumer protection steps into the digital era: the joint initiative to modernise and simplify the petitioning process for consumers was launched by EGA and Expert-Grup at Moldova Digital Summit 2025

Moldova Digital Summit 2025, between 5 to 7 June, hosted the official launch of the e-Democracy platform, a digital tool that will help strengthen citizens' participation in the decision-making process and facilitate direct

communication with public authorities. By the end of the year, the platform will include a dedicated consumer module, which will allow for simplified lodging of petitions to all consumer protection institutions.



On this occasion, the Independent Analytical Centre Expert-Grup, in partnership with the Electronic Governance Agency (EGA), organized the thematic workshop "Synergising public institutions to improve consumer protection through the e-Democracy platform". The event gathered

almost 40 participants - representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, the European Union Delegation, the State Inspectorate for Consumer Protection, ECC Moldova, central public authorities with competences in the field, IT specialists, academics and civil society organisations.



Discussions at the workshop focused on:

- ▶ the difficulties encountered by consumers in the current petitioning process;
- ▶ the challenges faced by authorities in receiving, processing and resolving petitions efficiently;
- ▶ the functioning of e-Democracy platform as a single point of contact, facilitating the transmission of petitions;
- ▶ the alignment with European consumer protection standards;
- ▶ and last but not least, the needs of authorities to be met through the new digital functionalities.

About the eDemocracy platform

Launched in pilot mode, the edemocratie.gov.md platform already offers the possibility to submit petitions and consult public initiatives online, without unnecessary paperwork or commuting. In the first two days of the summit, more than 400 citizens have expressed their opinion through the surveys available on the platform.

Other authorities will gradually be connected. Any public institution can also request to be connected via the online form available on the platform.

Where tradition meets innovation: Moldova's TechVillage 2025

TechVillage 2025 lit up Butuceni between 5 and 7 September, transforming Moldova's countryside into a vibrant hub for global innovation. With 36 pre-seed startups and 26 investors from 16 countries, the event—proudly supported by EU4Innovation East—

blended nature, ambition, and connection.

From informal meetups to structured pitches, founders and investors engaged in meaningful dialogue, building shared visions beyond the pitch deck.



"I think it is really important that we expose founders to international investors, so they can see how things are operating outside of their countries, and especially in emergent markets like Moldova."

underlined Vuk Lau, Silicon Gardens.

TechVillage's curated programme included targeted one-on-one meetings designed to foster genuine connections and unlock growth opportunities. Attendees dove into critical topics like scaling across borders, navigating early-stage investment, and accelerating growth in emerging markets.



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"TechVillage is an awesome event. We've managed to connect with a lot of founders of startups, with a lot of investors, to have one-on-one meetings and to gain a lot of feedback, to think more about challenges in the long term."

noted Alina Cojocaru, COO, Red Mechanic.

"TechVillage proved that Moldova is more than a stopover, but an emerging destination for innovation. What began with skepticism ended in confidence, as founders and investors found common ground to connect, collaborate, and shape future deals."

said Renata Ungureanu, CEO of XY Partners.

In its short span, TechVillage 2025 achieved something rare: it transformed a rural village into a beacon of global innovation, placing Moldova firmly on the map as a rising hub in the innovation ecosystem.

TechVillage was organised by XY Partners, with support from the EU4Innovation East project, funded by the European Union, co-funded by the French Government and implemented by Expertise France; in partnership with the Ukraine-Moldova American Enterprise Fund, the Swiss Government through Helvetas, and the Innovate Moldova Programme funded by Sweden.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

DeepTech GigaHack 2025: innovation, energy and creativity at Moldova's largest hackathon

Over 300 tech enthusiasts, researchers, and coders turned Chişinău into a true innovation lab during the third edition of DeepTech GigaHack. Held from September 12–14 at Tekwill, curious and driven young minds worked side by side with

27 international mentors and a jury of 26 experts, tackling challenges in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, FinTech, HealthTech, EnergyTech, AgriTech, Cybersecurity, and EduTech. In just 48 hours, bold ideas were transformed into functional prototypes.



A total of 44 teams entered the competition, and 8 of them impressed the jury and earned the title of winners.

Winning teams proposed innovative solutions across eight key areas: from energy efficiency apps and automated parking systems to cybersecurity modules, AI-powered medical analysis, digital compliance platforms for SMEs, data-sharing tools for farms, financial data protection, and intuitive digital spaces for designers. Each project showcased creativity, relevance, and real impact potential. The winning teams will continue developing their solutions with technical support and mentorship from partners—strengthening Moldova's tech ecosystem.

DeepTech GigaHack 2025 proved that Moldova is not just a participant on the regional tech scene, but a true innovation lab. Local talent, bold ideas, and close collaboration between teams, mentors, and partners demonstrated that impactful tech solutions can be built right here.

These projects go beyond prototypes—they have the potential to be scaled and implemented, influencing sectors like digital health, sustainable energy, cybersecurity, agriculture, and education. Moldova is solidifying its role as a regional hub for emerging technologies, where creativity and expertise turn into concrete solutions for the future.

DeepTech GigaHack 2025 was organized by Technovator, with support from EU4Innovation East—a regional project funded by the European Union, co-funded by the French Government, and implemented by Expertise France, the Ukraine-Moldova American Enterprise Fund (UMAEF), UNDP Moldova, and the Government of Italy, along with the Innovate Moldova programme funded by Sweden. Partners included Orange Systems, Beden Grup Healthcare Systems, the e-Governance Academy (Estonia) under the EU-funded "Cyber Resilience in Eastern Partnership Countries 2.0" project, EIT Community, and Fineguide.ai.



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Contact data:

The European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova:
Delegation-Moldova@eeas.europa.eu

Editorial team:

Svetlana Japalau, Team Leader,
svetlana.japalau@eu4moldova.eu

Natalia Ionel, Key Expert,
natalia.ionel@eu4moldova.eu

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