



**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

### EUROPE DAY 2025: 'PEACE, PROSPERITY, DIGNITY – EUROPE IS YOU!'

This year, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, together with the Embassies of the EU Member States, celebrated Europe Day 2025 across several regions of the country, under the theme '**Peace, Prosperity, Dignity – Europe**

**is YOU!'**. The traditional European Village was organised in Chişinău on 9 May and in Căuşeni on 17 May, offering a vibrant mix of educational, creative, and interactive activities for all generations.



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Europe Day 2025 marked the core values that shaped the foundation and evolution of the European Union – values that transformed the 27 member states into prosperous nations committed to human rights, peace, and progress. The celebrations also commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950, the cornerstone of the European Union as we know it today.

In Chişinău, the European Village took place on 9 May in the Great National Assembly Square. Twenty-one EU Member States shared their cultural and culinary traditions with visitors. Sixty EU-funded projects showcased the EU's assistance in various sectors – from rural development to economic and social growth – offering information to current and potential beneficiaries.



The EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, took part in the Europe Day 2025 dedicated activities, reaffirming the European Union's strong commitment to Moldova's European path. Commissioner Kos underscored the EU's continued support for Moldova's reforms, resilience, and future

as part of the European family.

The festivities concluded with an evening concert featuring Vali Boghean, Marej, Ukrainian band Vopli Vidopliassova, and Moldovan favourites LUPII lui Calancea and the Osoianu sisters, Zdob și Zdub.



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Căușeni hosted its own European Village on 17 May, transforming the town centre into a hub of European spirit.



The event culminated with a remarkable concert by Valeria Pașa, Pasha Parfeni and Zdob și Zdub.

Both in Chișinău and Căușeni, visitors enjoyed European cuisine, along with a variety of cultural and interactive activities tailored for children, youth, adults, and senior citizens. From dancing to sports, nutrition and health sessions, the activities engaged people of all ages.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the European Film and Culture Festival took place between 9 and 31 May in towns and villages throughout Moldova. With free entry, participants enjoyed European films, dance, music, and exhibitions that brought Europe closer to local communities.





# EU4Moldova Resilience: five cities benefit from grants for urban revitalization projects

The European Union supports the sustainable transformation of urban spaces in the Republic of Moldova through an investment of over 17 million lei, directed towards five urban revitalization projects in the cities of Rîșcani, Nisporeni, Ceadâr-Lunga,

Cimișlia, and Hîncești. These initiatives are carried out within the framework of the “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities” project, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.



In Rîșcani, the reconstruction of the accumulation lake dam is underway for the first time in over 50 years, thanks to nearly 2.7 million lei in EU funding. The project involves the modernization of the water drainage system and the strengthening of the dam's structure to reduce the risk of flooding and protect nearby infrastructure. The works began in April 2025 and are expected to be completed by November.

In Nisporeni, the project focuses on improving access to the District Hospital and Health Center through the construction of a modern 3,200 m<sup>2</sup> parking area with 105 spaces. The initiative will ease local traffic and shorten ambulance response times. Adjacent green spaces will also be developed. The European Union's investment in this project amounts to 3 million lei.



In Cimișlia, two multifunctional sports fields for basketball, volleyball, and tennis are being built. The facilities will include accessible spectator stands, including for people with disabilities, and will serve as hubs for sports and social activities for the whole community. The EU has allocated 3.8 million lei for this project.

In Hîncești, the "Albinuța" kindergarten is undergoing a full renovation to ensure a safe and energy-efficient environment. The project includes insulation of the walls and ceiling, replacement of the roof, modernization of the heating system, and complete rehabilitation of the outdoor area. The total investment exceeds 3.8 million



In Ceadîr-Lunga, the local kindergarten is also being renovated for energy efficiency, with thermal insulation of the building, installation of 30 kW solar panels, and full modernization of the surrounding area. This investment also amounts to over 3.8 million lei.

The beneficiary cities were selected through a public grant call organized in 2024 by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. These investments reflect the European Union's commitment to supporting sustainable urban development and improving the quality of life in communities across the Republic of Moldova.



# EU4Moldova Resilience: 9 fire stations under renovation with support from the European Union

Nine territorial and volunteer fire stations across the Republic of Moldova will be renovated with financial support from the European Union, as part of the “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities” project.

Each selected locality has received up to 418,000 lei in funding, contributing to the modernization of emergency infrastructure and the improvement of working conditions for rescue teams.



The beneficiary localities are Mereni (Anenii Noi), Sireți (Strășeni), Larga (Briceni), Scoreni (Strășeni), Răzeni (Ialoveni), Cărpineni (Hîncești), Tomai (Ceadîr-Lunga), Lalova (Rezina), and Geamăna (Anenii Noi). They were selected following a grant call launched in December 2024 by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

Renovation works include upgrades to existing infrastructure, such as repairs to ceilings, floors, ventilation and insulation systems, as well as the modernization of sanitary facilities and rest areas.

These improvements are designed to provide firefighters with safer, more comfortable, and better-equipped environments for their daily operations.

In addition, the fire stations will be equipped with modern intervention tools and advanced communication systems, helping to enhance the professional preparedness of both full-time and volunteer firefighters. This investment will significantly improve training conditions, rapid response capabilities, and intervention coordination.

Upon completion, the national network of territorial and volunteer fire stations will expand from 25 to 35 units, strengthening Moldova's capacity for rapid emergency response, particularly in rural areas.

Renovation works are expected to be completed by September 2025, with a total budget of over 3.7 million lei allocated for this intervention.

The *"EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities"* project is funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. The initiative aims to strengthen the Republic of Moldova's resilience to security challenges and support local communities in building a safer future.





# Official Visit of the Vice-President of the European Commission to Chişinău: Erasmus+ and STEAM Without Borders

On June 10, the Technical University of Moldova hosted a major event dedicated to promoting innovation in education and highlighting the impact of European programmes such as Erasmus+ on Moldovan education, in the presence of the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Roxana Mînzatu.

The event opened with an exhibition of European projects in the field of STEAM, as well as Erasmus+ capacity building and Jean Monnet projects implemented in the Republic of Moldova. This part focused on the results achieved by the projects and their contribution to the modernisation of general and higher education in the Republic of Moldova.



A central highlight of the day was the EU Talks #Youth4Europe session, which created a space for direct dialogue between young people and officials.

Participants asked questions, shared experiences, and Erasmus+ and STEAM initiative beneficiaries presented their success stories.

The event concluded with a cluster meeting dedicated to Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) and Jean Monnet projects implemented so far in the Republic of Moldova. The discussions included project coordinators and teams from Moldovan universities, as well as Adrien Olszak-Olszewski, Policy Officer at Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and

Culture of the European Commission (DG EAC), and Giuseppe Paglione, Programme Officer at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

The event highlighted a shared commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive, and relevant European education – one that transcends borders and brings EU opportunities closer to young people.





# EU Talks in Bălți and Cahul: Young people, entrepreneurs, and local authorities in open dialogue with European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos

Communities from northern and southern Moldova came together on 10–11 May to engage with European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, on Moldova's EU accession process, integration prospects, and the European Union's support for national and local development.

In Bălți, over 250 participants – including young people, entrepreneurs, and local mayors – asked direct questions about reforms, opportunities for their generation, and the active role they can play in the country's European journey.



In Cahul, during a meeting at the State University, Commissioner Marta Kos held an open dialogue with young people and civil society representatives from the southern region. Discussions focused on Moldova's European path, development opportunities,

and young people's expectations for the country's future. The Commissioner highlighted the importance of strong voices from youth and civil society, stressing their essential role in building a democratic and prosperous future.

The EU Talks sessions provide an important platform for exchanging views, strengthening the connection between authorities, young

people, and communities, and reaffirming the European Union's commitment to supporting Moldova's European path.



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# EU Caravan in Moldova – “Show Nebun”: Humor, information and European spirit at the heart of regions

The European Union is coming closer to people in the most fun and interactive way possible! During May-July, the EU Caravan in Moldova starts its journey with the event “Show Nebun”, a unique format of

communication and entertainment meant to bring pro-European messages to local communities, directly, honestly, and with a touch of humour.



Organized by Europe Café Information Center of the European Union, this campaign has a clear purpose: direct interaction with people, in a relaxed and positive atmosphere, where the European Union is discussed not through speeches or lectures, but through comedy shows, quizzes, interactive activities and many smiles.

### What does Show Nebun bring?

At the heart of each event are two key elements: information and entertainment. The champions of the campaign, Zebra Show and Gabriel Nebunu, take the stage to debunk myths about the EU, fight stereotypes and show, in an ironic and accessible manner, the concrete benefits of Moldova’s European path.

### Among key activities:

Humor show Zebra Show

- Interactive Quiz about the EU and its support to Moldova-with prizes with European visibility for the most inspired participants
- EU Info Corner – space dedicated to information about EU programmes: grants, business opportunities, community projects
- Show by local artists and Gabriel Nebunu
- Local influencer network – young people, elderly people, entrepreneurs, teachers or activists who will become local ambassadors of European values.

The caravan reached five districts (Soroca, Edineț, Cantemir, Sîngerei, Căușeni), the next destination being Rezina on 28 July.

Events are dedicated to the whole community: young people, parents, grandparents, entrepreneurs, local leaders or public authorities. All those who want to learn more about the European Union's support for Moldova, but also to understand why European values matter, are invited to participate. Admission is free.

More information about Show Nebun can be found on Facebook and Instagram Europe Café accounts.



Stronger Together



# Informed, Engaged, Empowered: lessons learned at the Youth Media School

Between June 23–27, 2025, the National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova, in partnership with People in Need Moldova, organized the Youth Media School as part of the EU-funded project "INSPIRE Moldova".

Over five days, 20 young people from 14 different localities across the country participated in interactive workshops and documentary screenings focused on critical thinking and media literacy. They learned how to identify and respond to fake news, disinformation, manipulation, and propaganda.

*"This experience taught me how important it is to check information from reliable sources, how harmful propaganda can be, and how easily we can be influenced without realizing it. I also discovered credible news platforms and tools to verify information,"*

**said Ioana Bolea,  
one of the participants.**



Another key focus was on civic and electoral education. The participants discussed the importance of voting, making informed decisions, and getting involved in democratic processes. They also created their own motivational video content encouraging young voters to participate in the upcoming elections.

*"This program was essential in helping young people develop critical thinking skills, especially during an information crisis like the one Moldova is facing. Using innovative tools like the OWIS methodology, the impact was truly meaningful,"*

**explained Ion Leonte,  
a trainer at the Youth Media School.**

The event concluded with the launch of the “+1 Young Voter” campaign – an initiative aimed at mobilizing youth for the upcoming 2025 parliamentary elections and strengthening civic engagement among Moldova’s new generation.

The project INSPIRED Moldova is funded by the European Union and implemented by

the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), the National Center for Assistance and Information of NGOs in Moldova CONTACT, the Center for Policy and Reform (CPR Moldova), Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and People in Need (PIN).





# A roadshow for youth across Moldova: Promoting media literacy through comics

During April-May 2025, over 500 Moldovan students across the country have engaged with media literacy (MIL) in a fun way – reading comic books, debating ideas and competing for prizes in Kahoot quizzes. The

MIL Comics Roadshow, carried out by Centrul Media pentru Tineri (CMT), is a format developed by DW Akademie with EU support, in the framework of the project **TRIMEDIA** – **T**rustworthy **R**eporting, **I**mpactful **M**edia, **E**ngaged Communities.



With two new editions of the MIL Comics created in the TRIMEDIA project for this purpose, this Roadshow aimed to promote the comics as a tool for media and digital education among high-school students and teachers alike.



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Participants appreciated the lively debates and quizzes, with one of them pointing out: “I really liked the interactivity of the exercises, the active communication, and the friendly vibe. I’ll definitely be more careful with social media news from now on.” Although most of the youth had no prior experience with the format of comic books, they saw its value: “The idea of comics as learning material is ingenious and more motivational than a brochure or PPT presentation.”

Some students’ reflections revealed a deeper understanding of their need for safety: “It gave me ideas on how to protect my personal data.”

The storytelling of the MIL Comics Roadshow was brought to life through a branded bus, decorated with comic figures, which mapped the route between communities and helped attract youth’s attention.

The intervention spanned 16 high schools in Romanian- and Russian-speaking communities: Făleşti; Drochia; Otaci (Ocnița); Florești; Glodeni; Doroțcaia (Dubăsari); Strășeni; Hîncești; Orhei; Căușeni; Nisporeni; Taraclia; Abaclia (Basarabeasca); Ceadâr-Lunga; Comrat; and Slobozia Mare (Cahul). Young people from other communities could check out the MIL Comics on [Tineri.md](https://tineri.md) and follow the trail via the online campaign, which gathered as many as 50K views and over 2.7K likes on social media.





# Paid internships in state institutions, funded by the European Union

The fourth edition of the joint Internship Programme of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova – a unique opportunity for young people to get first-hand experience in the country's state institutions under the mentorship of EU High Level Advisers – was officially launched in April in the State University of Moldova.

Students, master students and recent graduates can spend two summer months working hand in hand with civil servants and EU experts, exploring what public administration means. Interns will receive a monthly allowance of 200 Euro, funded by the European Union.

The Programme was presented by the EU Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks and the State Secretary of the Government Ana Calinici, who shared their motivating career stories. The event was also marked by a festive signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government, the Rectors' Council and the EU-funded project 'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration'.

At the end of the Internship, graduates will receive certificates attesting their participation in the programme. Moreover, a graduate can benefit from the opportunity of getting employed in the civil service without competition and



without testing period: for this, s/he should undergo one more month of internship and apply for a position in the same subdivision.



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Previous editions of the Programme proved to be highly successful, already bringing a number of young people to the country's public administration: graduates of the Programme are now employees of the State Chancellery, the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and other entities.

The joint EU – Republic of Moldova Internship Programme runs in parallel with the Government's programme of paid

internships in state institutions – both initiatives being presented to over 100 students of the State University, as well as to about 100 students of the Cahul State University. The promotional campaign of the internship programmes continued in May in the Balti State University, with almost 100 students, the Academy of Economic Studies reaching 200 students, the Free Independent University of Moldova with almost 100 students, as well as online for students from diaspora (being watched by almost 2,000 users).





# SIMR Mediathon 2025: writing for change

Over three days – from February 27 to March 1, 2025, the SIMR Mediathon brought together Moldova's passionate independent journalists and civil society changemakers to co-create impactful media projects that aim to shape public dialogue and drive change.

The Mediathon was part of the "Supporting Independent Media and Reliable Information in Moldova (SIMR)" project, implemented by ERIM in partnership with CU SENS and with support from the European Union.

The Mediathon kicked off with a series of inspiring presentations, including insights from activists working in gender equality, mental health, anti-corruption, and environmental protection. A standout session featured Ion Preașca (RISE.MD), who shared a compelling case study of collaborative investigative journalism in action.

Day two focused on skill-building workshops led by trainers like Dima Stoianov (fact-checking), Felicia Crețu

(investigative techniques), and Marian Olari (media monetization and sustainability). Participants explored tools and strategies to strengthen their storytelling, fact-checking, audience engagement and monetization.

By day three, participants formed teams, refined their ideas, and pitched their investigative media project concepts. All teams submitted a project and were selected for a €5,000 grant to bring their ideas to life.

The Mediathon not only delivered a space for collaboration and learning but helped spark real investigations of local problems that will soon reach Moldovan audiences. It also highlighted the power of cross-sector collaboration to elevate public-interest journalism. The 8 investigative projects are currently being implemented.

SIMR Mediathon 2025 proves that when journalists and civil society unite, they can produce stories that don't just inform—they inspire change.





# The “Disney & Oscar Music” concert transforms Tighina (Bender) Fortress into a musical fairy tale

The musical notes and charm of childhood stories transformed Tighina Fortress (Bender) into a scene straight out of a Disney film for one day. The cultural events organised by the Moldovan National Youth

Orchestra (MNYO), which have already become a tradition at the fortress, were once again organised with the support of the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP.



The concert on 1 June, entitled “Disney & Oscar Music”, was dedicated to families from various localities on both banks of the Nistru River, who gathered at the fortress to enjoy symphonic music.

The first part of the concert included a selection of songs from Disney films, followed by a transition to the soundtrack of Oscar-winning films.

“Disney & Oscar Music” is the seventh concert organised by the MNYO with the support of the EU and UNDP. After the restoration and conservation of the fortress in the first

stage, carried out with the support of the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, the tourist potential of the Tighina (Bender) Fortress has increased even more, with concerts and cultural events organised on the territory of the fortress ensuring its sustainability.

The Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, contributes to strengthening trust between residents on both banks of the Nistru River by involving them in joint development projects.



Stronger Together

# Improved access to education: the courtyard of the high school in Cîrnăţeni has been modernised with the EU financial support

Students at the Grigore Grigoriu Theoretical High School in Cîrnăţeni, Căuşeni district, enjoyed a special event. For the first time in 35 years, the last bell rang in a renovated and modernised courtyard, supported by the European Union Confidence Building Measures programme, implemented by UNDP.

The value of the investments is comprised of €93,000 provided by the European Union, and co-financing of €25,900 by the local public administration.

*"Investments in school infrastructure projects primarily ensure students' access to quality education, which allows them to learn effectively and develop harmoniously."*

*"In practice, we are laying the foundations for an environment where learning becomes a positive experience and where each student's potential can be realised. I congratulate the residents of Cîrnăţeni village on this achievement, and I am sure that the good practices from European projects will be the support through which we will ensure the sustainability of the civic initiative in our locality,"*

**said Oleg Savca,  
mayor of Cîrnăţeni village.**

The educational institution in Cîrnăţeni serves over 350 students, with over 40 teachers, including staff from the left bank of the Nistru River.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Cîrnăţeni, along with 11 other communities on both banks of the Nistru River, has been receiving support for sustainable local development since spring 2024. Since then, the initiative group has been assisted in identifying, formulating and planning local initiatives. This enabled them to participate in the competition for the selection of infrastructure projects financed by the Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.

The residents and the diaspora also contributed financially to the initiative to modernise the schoolyard, collecting over 87,000 lei. This money will be used to install a new fence around the perimeter of the school grounds.

*"For the high school students and young people of Cîrnăţeni, including the members of the youth council, getting people involved was an exercise full of challenges and opportunities. It took a lot of work, creativity and persistence to get the residents involved."*

*Through the messages we distributed, we managed to create a platform for dialogue and action that brought together various categories of citizens,"*

**added Anatolie Savca,  
a 12th grade student.**

The EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, supports not only infrastructure projects but also other impactful activities in the field of education. Through the Education Platform supported by the EU and UNDP, the digital skills of over 1,400 teachers on both banks of the Nistru River have been improved.

Previously, in 2016, the Grigore Grigoriu Theoretical High School in Cîrnăţeni benefited from another infrastructure project, namely the repair of the facade and roof of block A. The work was also carried out with the support of the Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.



EU-Moldova

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# 155 young people became interns of the Joint Internship Programmes of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova

The fourth edition of the EU–Government of Moldova Joint Internship Programme officially launched on 30 June, welcoming 155 young professionals selected through a highly competitive process. The launch ceremony was held in the presence of Prime Minister Dorin Recean and EU Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks, who expressed their support for the initiative as a valuable step toward shaping Moldova's next generation of public service leaders.

The two-month internship programme offers young people the opportunity to work side by side with civil servants in central public institutions, under the guidance of EU High Level Advisers serving as mentors. This hands-on experience is designed to strengthen participants' professional skills and improve their long-term employment prospects. The programme also includes regular training sessions, seminars, and workshops to enhance interns' theoretical

and practical knowledge of public administration, particularly in the context of European integration.

The selected participants include students, master students, and recent graduates from both Moldovan and international universities – young people eager to begin a career in public service and contribute to the country's development and modernisation. Exposed to governance practices and mentored by EU experts, the interns will bring fresh perspectives, digital competencies, and a results-oriented mindset to public administration. Their contribution is expected to strengthen institutional capacity and support the implementation of key reforms, especially in the context of Moldova's path toward EU integration. The programme's previous editions have proven successful, with a number of former interns now employed in state institutions.



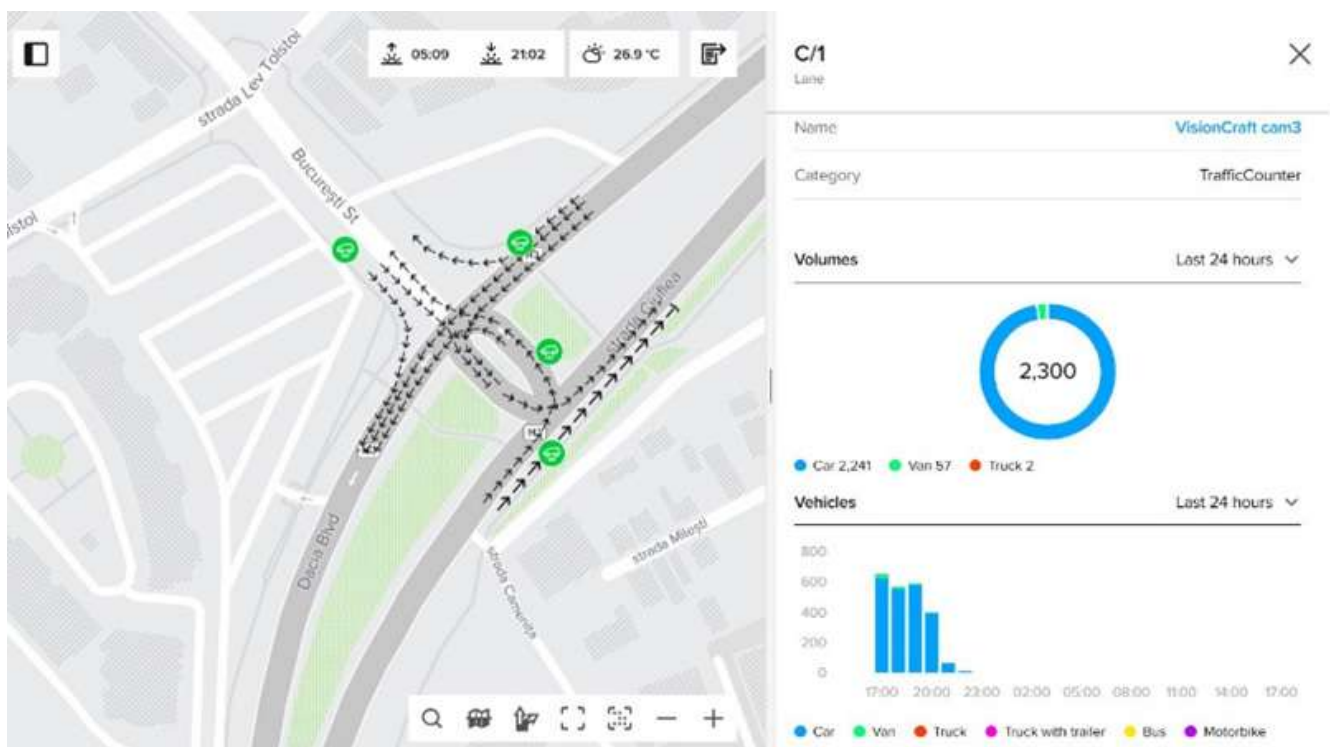
# An important step toward modernizing urban traffic: the first smart sensors have been installed as part of the Traffic Monitoring Center

The first smart traffic sensors have been installed in Chişinău, as part of the Traffic Monitoring Centre (TMC), established in autumn 2024 with the support of the European Union. This initiative is part of the "MOVE IT like Lublin" project, implemented by Chişinău City Hall in partnership with the Municipality of Lublin, Poland.

In the initial phase, four sensors were installed at the intersection of Dacia Blvd – Bucureşti St – Ciuflea St, one of the city's busiest traffic areas. In the coming period, two additional sensors will be installed

along the Dacia Blvd – Ciuflea St corridor, in strategically selected points to improve visibility and coverage of traffic flows in the area.

The sensors used are high-performance devices designed to collect essential real-time data, without recording images or compromising the privacy of road users. Specifically, the sensors count the total number of vehicles passing through the intersection, detect travel directions, and classify vehicles by type: private cars, public transport, heavy vehicles, bicycles, etc.



Over the next few months, the data will be analysed by TMC specialists to develop a digital model of the intersection. This simulation will support testing and implementing solutions to optimise traffic flow, reduce congestion, and improve road safety.

Beyond data collection, the TMC provides technical and analytical support for decision-making related to urban traffic planning and management. By leveraging modern technologies and real-time data, it contributes to the development of a smart city with infrastructure tailored to the actual needs of residents.

The centre was established through the "MOVE IT like Lublin" project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Chişinău City Hall in cooperation with the Municipality of Lublin, Poland. The project is scheduled to run until 2025 and aims to support the transformation of public transport services in the city into a more inclusive, safer, more resilient, and sustainable system. The total budget of the project is €3,500,000, of which €3,325,000 is provided by the European Union in the form of a grant, while €175,000 is contributed by the Chisinau City Hall.





## EU Accelerator 2.0: Young members of EU Information Centers and Euro Clubs develop their skills to promote the benefits of European integration in their communities

Young people participating in the EU Accelerator 2.0 program continue to make important steps in strengthening their role as promoters of European values in their communities. In recent months, they have been actively involved in a series of activities aimed at developing their leadership, communication and content creation skills

to help promote the benefits of European integration.

After a first plenary training dedicated to effective communication and strategies to promote EU values, the young people carried out a local survey to better understand their communities' perceptions of the European Union.



This was followed by a two-day activity where 60 young people from the EU Information Centres Network and Euro Clubs came together to strengthen their knowledge and civic engagement in support of European integration. Participants analyzed the results of the April survey, identifying their communities' perceptions and needs related to the EU. Based on these findings, they

started to develop structured action plans to strengthen understanding and support for European values at local level.

The most active participants were selected for the EU Communicators' School, an advanced media training program. Over two days, they participated in practical sessions, workshops and team activities, learning how to create engaging and effective content for



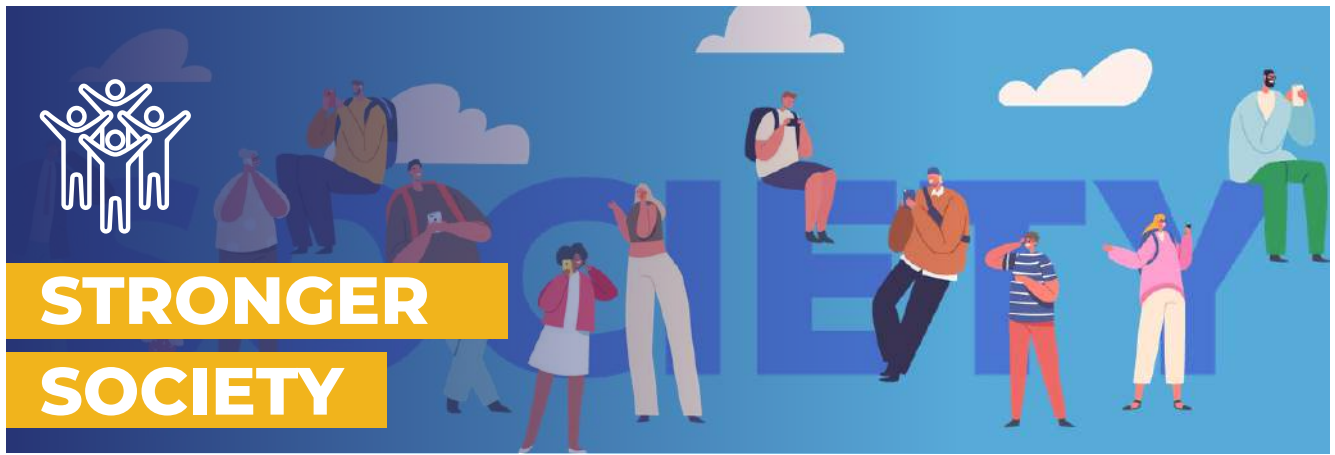
EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU Accelerator 2.0 is a dynamic initiative designed to equip Moldova's youth with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to actively contribute to the country's European integration process. Through a structured programme combining training, engagement, and research, the initiative aims to build a strong youth community capable of fostering constructive discussions on the EU at a local

The programme will culminate in the organization of a series of visibility events aimed at bringing the messages and opportunities of the European Union closer to communities.





## Civil Society Gala 2025: European awards for excellence in activity for six Moldovan civil society organizations

The Civil Society Gala 2025, organized annually by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, is a landmark event dedicated to the promotion and recognition of those civil society organizations (CSOs) and initiatives that generate profound transformations, influence public policies and contribute to strengthening democracy, social inclusion and sustainable development in the communities where they operate through the effective use of European funds.

As a result, six civil society organizations from the Republic of Moldova that stood out for their professional excellence, impact initiatives and best practices in project implementation were recognized and awarded at the eighth edition of the Civil Society Gala.

The event brought together representatives from the non-profit sector, public authorities, development partners and the media to honor initiatives that have demonstrated excellence in implementation, transparency and real impact in communities.

The winners of the eighth edition of the Civil Society Awards, organized by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, are:

- PA "HenriCapitant" - **Stronger Governance Award**,
- PA "Paideia" from Florești - **Stronger Society Award**,
- PA "Pino" from the village of Molovata Nouă, Dubăsari - **Stronger Economy Award**,
- PA "EcoContact" - **Sustainable Development and Green Energy Award**,
- PA "Motivație" - **Gender Equality Promotion Award**,
- PA "National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova" - **Disinformation Resilience Award**.





The EU has been supporting civil society in the Republic of Moldova for over 20 years. EU bilateral support to civil society under the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility, the Thematic Programme for CSOs and the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy amounted to €28 million for the period 2021-2024, while over €35 million is budgeted for the period 2025-2027. In addition, the EU provides around €10 million per year to civil society in the Eastern Partnership region, including Moldova, through regional projects, with the aim of promoting inclusive, resilient and democratic societies.

The European Union is currently supporting 20 grant actions with over 200 sub-grants for civil society organizations in the Republic of Moldova, worth around €38 million. These cover various areas including strengthening democratic participation and civil society involvement in decision-making processes, increasing gender equality and inclusive participation of young people, developing better social services to support vulnerable people, strengthening access to justice for vulnerable groups, monitoring

implemented policies and reforms such as justice reform, social reform, increasing energy efficiency in social services, supporting active employment measures and developing childcare services, building resilient and independent media and fighting disinformation.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



The European Union Civil Society Awards Gala aims to recognize the role of civil society as a promoter of positive change and impact for the benefit of citizens. The European Civil Society Awards are also offered to NGOs that have demonstrated tangible and sustainable

results of EU-funded initiatives at national, regional and local level, and that have had a positive and lasting impact on democracy, economic development and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova and promoted European values.



Stronger Together



# Better informed and more resilient local communities against disinformation

In Ungheni district and the town of Taraclia, in the districts of Edineț and Cimișlia, in the municipality of Bălți, as well as in several villages in the districts of Leova, Cahul, Rezina, Căușeni, Florești, Fălești, Călărași, Drochia, Sângerei, Dondușeni, and Glodeni – in just two months, during May–June 2025, over 400 people from various regions of the Republic of Moldova, primarily from rural areas, took part in nearly 30 activities dedicated to preventing and combating disinformation. All these events were organized as part of the “Building Resilience in Moldova” (BRIM) project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR) in partnership with the Association of Independent Press (API).

People of different ages, professions, and ethnic backgrounds learned from the collaborators of the STOP FALS! campaign against false and misleading information ([www.stopfals.md](http://www.stopfals.md)), carried out by API, about what disinformation, manipulation, and propaganda mean, how they differ, how they manifest, and how they can be prevented and countered. The STOP FALS! collaborators (librarians, teachers, journalists, NGO representatives, etc.), who acted as organizers and moderators of the discussions, worked together with the participants to identify concrete examples of false narratives circulating on various social media platforms and in traditional media.





The training beneficiaries – most of whom said it was their first time attending such anti-disinformation activities – also learned how to protect their personal data, avoid falling victim to online scams, and detect doctored photos or videos generated with artificial intelligence. These topics, along with others discussed during the

sessions, sparked strong interest among the participants. Many of them suggested that similar events be organized in other localities as well – a suggestion that will be followed up in the near future. At the same time, participants expressed their intention to share the knowledge they gained with relatives, friends, and colleagues.



# EUPM Moldova: Part of Team Europe's support to Moldova's European path

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, EUPM Moldova was thrilled to take part in the Europe Day celebration which

took place in the Republic of Moldova's capital of Chisinau.



As part of the European Village, we were happy to engage directly with Moldovan citizens, explaining the mandate of our Mission and ways in which we work together,

side by side, with Moldovan authorities to support Moldova's resilience to crises and hybrid threats.



We prepared a fun quiz that tested our visitors perception and understanding of the concept of resilience, crisis management

and hybrid threats, and what it means to build up the country's resilience.



Naturally, we joined everyone in the spirit of celebration of the day!

Together we are stronger, safer, and more resilient!





## Resilient elections and a free press: international conference in Chişinău

On 11 June 2025, Chişinău hosted the international conference *"Electoral Integrity in the Republic of Moldova in 2025: New Challenges for the Media"*, organized by the Association of Independent Press (API), International Media Support (IMS), and the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR), as part of the *"Building Resilience in Moldova"* (BRIM) project, co-funded by the European Union. The event brought together journalists, experts, officials, academics, and civil society representatives from Moldova and abroad.

Among the keynote speakers were EU Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks and Jasmin Frentzel Sørensen, Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Danish Embassy, who reaffirmed European partners' support for secure elections, a free press, and countering manipulation.

The discussions were structured into three thematic sessions focusing on electoral vulnerabilities in the context of disinformation, strengthening institutional capacities, and the contribution of the media and civil society to democratic resilience.



In the first session, experts such as Ana Revenco (Center for Strategic Communication), Dana Munteanu (Central Electoral Commission), Andrei Curăraru (WatchDog), Vasile Cantarji (VBS-Research), and journalist Constantin Hairetidinov (SP Bălţi) presented data and examples of information-related risks during the pre-electoral period. The general conclusion: vulnerability to manipulation can undermine public trust and the legitimacy of democratic processes.

The second session, moderated by expert Tatiana Puiu, highlighted the need for a strong institutional framework and an adequate legislative response. Aneta Gonța (Audiovisual Council) and Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei (Parliament) advocated for strengthening the capacity of regulatory authorities and for the active involvement of media institutions in defending the public interest.

In the final session, national and international experts – including Petru Macovei (API), Olga Guțuțui (IMS), Alexandru Manoli (GIZ), Natalia Grîu (media education), Besar Likmeta (BIRN Albania), and Vukosava Crnjanski (Serbia)

– discussed good practices for countering foreign propaganda, protecting newsrooms, the role of influencers, and the importance of media literacy.



Key outcomes of the conference included: identification of electoral system vulnerabilities to disinformation, commitments to institutional-media cooperation, calls for stronger and faster state responses, and the need to strengthen

the crisis-response capacity of local and regional media outlets.

The event reflected broad consensus that democratic resilience requires a collective, coordinated, and sustainable effort – with the European Union remaining a key partner.



Stronger Together



# Combating hate speech and sexism ahead of parliamentary election

A third edition of the anti-discrimination campaign launched by the Council of Europe in partnership with the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova and UN Women, supported by the European Union, gathered over 60 participants representing national and local authorities,

political parties, media, as well as civil society. The aim was to jointly address measures needed to tackle hate speech, sexism and gender-based intolerance building on lessons learned in the context of the Presidential election and the EU-related referendum in autumn 2024.



*"Hate speech and sexist rhetoric not only harm individuals, especially women and members of vulnerable groups, but they also erode public trust in democratic institutions and poison the atmosphere of political debate. That is why I am a bit worried that I see almost only women at today's discussion; frankly speaking the perpetrators of sexist speech are likely in majority not to be women. Elections are the cornerstone of democracy – a moment when the voices of citizens must*

*be heard freely, fairly, and without fear, but this vital process can be undermined when hatred, discrimination, and sexism enter the public space. Today's roundtable is more than a discussion. It is a collective commitment to action. By bringing together Moldovan decision makers, civil society and media, we are creating the conditions for meaningful progress",*

**Jānis MAŽEIKS, EU Ambassador  
in the Republic of Moldova.**



The discussions focused on the results and trends following the monitoring of hate speech and sexism during 2024 electoral period in audiovisual and online media, storytelling on preventing and combating sexism at the local level, on prevention of gender-based violence against electoral candidates and local elected representatives, pending legal initiatives to combat these phenomena, including during the electoral periods.

As an outcome of the event, participants agreed upon the importance of continuing cooperation and joining efforts to counter hate speech, sexism and all other forms of discrimination, ensuring equal rights for all, especially in the context of the upcoming 28 September 2025 Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova.

This event was organised by the Council of Europe and UN Women Moldova, in cooperation with the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova. The roundtable is part of a joint initiative of the CoE project "[Improving electoral practices in the Republic of Moldova, 2025-2028](#)", EU/CoE project "[Combating discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Republic of Moldova](#)" (part of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme [Partnership for Good Governance](#)), CoE Congress project "[Reinforcing the culture of dialogue and ethical open local governance in the Republic of Moldova](#)", CoE project "[Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova – phase II](#)".



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

## 71 vulnerable Ukrainian refugees relocated to European countries through EU+Air Transfers Programme in 2025

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Republic of Moldova is assisting vulnerable Ukrainian refugees, migrants and third-country nationals (TCNs) in relocating to European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) Member States through the EU+Air Transfers programme.

Before departure, the group attended the information session and completed the required pre-boarding health check organized by the Migration Health Division.

Thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union, since the beginning of 2025, a total of 71 Ukrainians have been assisted in their relocation.



# IOM's participation in the "Roma International Forum" as an active member of the Roma Task Force in the Republic of Moldova

On April 2, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Republic of Moldova contributed to the International Forum "European cooperation for Roma inclusion: from policies to action" as an active member of the Roma Task Force.

The Forum, graced by the opening remarks of the President Maia Sandu, and organized

with the support of IOM within an EU-funded project, gathered representatives from international and national organizations, public authorities, community mediators, and organizations advocating for Roma community rights.



## IOM's contribution to the Roma Week celebrations

As part of the Roma Week celebrations, IOM Moldova, in collaboration with local Municipalities and the NGOs WeWorld Moldova and Civic Aid, organized three events across the country, namely in Soroca, Otaci and Edineț.

The event brought together more than 300 Roma returnees, Roma refugees and non-Roma community members to discuss the importance of education and school enrollment for children, social inclusion, online safety for children, prevention of discrimination, migration as well as risks of irregular migration.



Stronger Together



## Dreaming of a discrimination-free life in Moldova

Svetlana, 37, comes from Edineț, a thriving town in the North of Moldova which is home to a large Roma community in the country. She has grown up and travelled across Moldova, Germany, Russia, the Netherlands, and then back to Moldova before moving to Ukraine, where she met the love of her life, Ivan, with whom she lived there for 10 years.

With a shared hope to build a family, Svetlana and Ivan yearned for stability and inclusion in society, free from discrimination, and decided in the interest of their children to rebuild their family's life in Moldova with the financial support of European Union.

Read the full story of Svetlana and her family <https://moldova.iom.int/stories/dreaming-discrimination-free-life-moldova>



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA | APRIL - JUNE 2025

# Awareness campaign launched to strengthen refugees' access to health services

IOM Moldova, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance Company, and the General Inspectorate for Migration, launched the awareness-raising campaign dedicated to improving access to health services for refugees from Ukraine.

During the launching event, panel discussions were focused on access to the health system, including topics such as health insurance, the importance of vaccination, and services offered to pregnant women, along with how to register with a family doctor.

This campaign is part of the project "Improving access to health services for refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine who are benefiting from temporary protection," made possible thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union and the Government of Switzerland.

## **EU Supports IOM's Health Mediators in providing essential health information for refugees**

With the support of the European Union, IOM Moldova continues to empower Ukrainian refugees with essential knowledge about accessing healthcare in Moldova. In a recent session held in Bălți, 14 Ukrainian refugees received practical guidance on navigating

the local health system.

The session, led by IOM Moldova's health mediator, covered key topics such as registering with a family doctor, accessing free medical services, and obtaining reimbursed medications based on temporary protection status.

Since April 2024, over 453 such sessions have been conducted across the country, reaching more than 6,800 refugees.

## **EU-Backed Training Boosts Mental Health Services in Ștefan Vodă**

IOM Moldova's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) mobile team held a training session at the Refugee Accommodation Center (RAC) in Popeasca, Ștefan Vodă, bringing together staff from RAC, schools, and kindergartens who work directly with people with disabilities and mental health conditions.

Led by a psychiatrist from the Mental Health Community Center, the session focused on understanding and managing mental health disorders, helping participants strengthen their ability to support those in need.

This initiative was made possible thanks to the generous financial support from the European Union.



Stronger Together

# IOM Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, supported by the EU, is a vital resource to address the immediate needs of vulnerable refugees

*"This support allows us to pay for speech therapy for our child and for life-saving medicines for my husband. We must not give up."*

***Oksana, from Odesa,  
fled the war in Ukraine with her family.***

Since May 2024, thanks to the financial support of the European Union, the IOM Moldova 986 individuals - 662 females and 324 males received monthly cash assistance through the MPCA program.

Watch the video: [Video story](#)



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

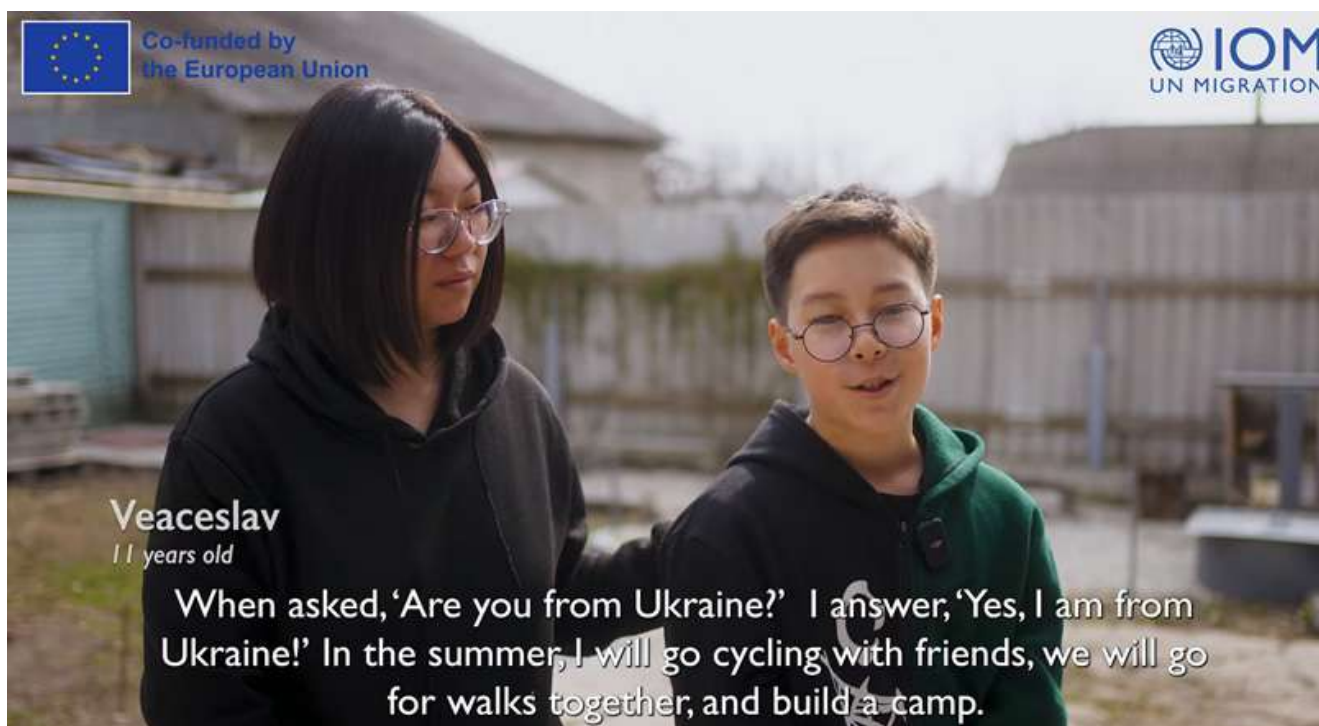


## IOM Cash assistance for protection supported by the EU

When the war began, Bela from Uzbekistan and her family were living in Odesa. After losing her job, she decided to use her family's savings to go to Moldova and settle in the village of Cupcini, where her husband was born. Here, thanks to the support of the European Union, Bela received cash assistance from IOM to cover her family's basic needs.

Since the beginning of 2025, thanks to the "Cash for Protection" program generously funded by the European Union, 131 vulnerable third-country nationals fleeing Ukraine have received support.

**Watch the video:** [Video story](#)



# Information Sessions for Vulnerable Ukrainians and Migrants in Moldova

As part of the EU-funded project “Addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals in the Republic of Moldova”, IOM Moldova Mobile Protection Team organizes information sessions for vulnerable Ukrainians and migrants residing in Moldova.

The participants learned about the criteria for accessing assistance, as well as the risks and prevention measures related to human trafficking, gender-based violence. They also have the opportunity to receive social and legal assistance.



# Strengthening trust between police and the LGBTI community in the Republic of Moldova

The second round-table aimed at fostering dialogue and strengthening co-operation between the police and the LGBTI community in the Republic of Moldova was organised together with the General Police Inspectorate and the GENDERDOC-M Information Centre in Chisinau on 16 May 2025

The event focused on addressing the negative effects of intolerance based on sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics. Such intolerance often leads to serious human rights violations against LGBTI individuals, with legal and societal consequences.



During the exchanges, the importance of promoting mutual respect and co-operation between the police and the LGBTI community, by creating a safe society for every individual was emphasized by the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau, Falk Lange, attending the event.

Alexandru LUPAN, Deputy Chief of the General Police Inspectorate, reiterated the institution's commitment to open dialogue, recognizing the valuable contributions of civil society organizations in facilitating informative sessions as part of peer-to-peer training for law enforcement personnel.

Manuel PENAIIDO, Council of Europe expert and President of Gaylespol, the National Association of LGBTI+ Police Officers in Spain, delivered a presentation during this round table, sharing the experience and information on good practice of Spanish

police in this field. He outlined the importance of building trust and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and LGBTI community. Peinado is also among the co-authors of the latest manual on [Policing Hate Crime against LGBTI persons: Training for a Professional Police Response](#),

The round-table brought together police officers, local and international experts, CSO representatives, civic activists, and other key stakeholders. Discussions highlighted that building strong partnerships between law enforcement and civil society is mutually beneficial. Such collaboration not only enhances understanding of the challenges faced by LGBTI people, especially in situations where they may feel unsafe or reluctant to approach the authorities, but also helps to increase trust and improve reporting of hate crimes.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



# Online training promotes gender equality in Anenii Noi's local governance

The European Union-funded EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project (Phase II) delivered an online training course on “Gender equality in local public administration: Legal frameworks, local policies and community mobilisation for sustainable development” (15–16 April 2025) for the Telița-Roșcani-Calfa Amalgamation Cluster in the Anenii Noi region of the Republic of Moldova. The training strengthened the knowledge and skills of 30 participants (23 women and seven men) – including local public officials from all three mayoralties (Roșcani, Telița, and Calfa) and representatives of six local

civil society organisations (CSOs) – to integrate gender equality into local policy-making, service provision, and community development processes.

Welcoming the training's interactive format, relevant local examples and practical tools, participants committed to applying their knowledge in their day-to-day work and the ongoing amalgamation process. This significant step towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable local governance in Anenii Noi is part of the Reform Helpdesk's support for Moldova's local public administration reform and decentralisation strategy.

**Scopul și obiectivele instruirii**

**SCOPUL:**  
Sporirea competențelor teoretice și practice ale participanților la abordării integratoare de gen în activitățile strategice și operaționale ale administrației publice centrale.

OBIECTIVELE	PROVOCĂRILE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CONȘTIENTIZAREA</li><li>PERCEPȚIA PROBLEMATICII</li><li>SETUL DE INSTRUMENTE</li><li>ACTUALIZAREA ȘI APLICAREA</li><li>INTEGRAREA ȘI TRANSFORMAREA</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gradul de cunoaștere și participare anterioară</li><li>Mediul, mentalitatea și conștientizarea;</li><li>Atitudinea față de schimbare și de deschidere.</li></ul>

**Participants (22):**

- Cristina Juravski
- Cuduc Nicolae primaria Telita
- Danila Maria
- Diana Chelmencuc
- Frunza Vitalie
- GORNET VIOLETA
- Leagun Galina, primăria Telita
- Ludmila Chelmencuc
- Maria Balanescu
- Palenco Alexandru
- Pavel Prutean
- Primaria Telita - Liudmila
- Rusu Rodica, Telita
- Utilizator-Public
- Valentina Costetchi

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The training opened with a module on basic concepts related to gender equality, including local examples of gender stereotypes and how these can affect access to public services, employment opportunities and participation in local governance. A second module explored national legislation and institutional mechanisms for gender equality in Moldova. Participants learned to use a practical “Checklist on Gender Mainstreaming”, a tool that helps local authorities assess whether their policies and programmes address gender equality in line with national requirements. Interactive modules examined the challenges of integrating a gender perspective at the local level, including group exercises to analyse the effectiveness of legal and policy instruments, identify gaps, develop recommendations for improvement, and tackle stereotypes in community attitudes.

A module on gender statistics introduced participants to indicators, data sources and

methods of using gender-disaggregated data in the development of public policies, aligning local development objectives with national gender indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants also learned how to use gender analysis and gender impact assessment tools to evaluate the gender-responsiveness of local strategies, programmes and services. The training provided practical guidance and a step-by-step methodology for mainstreaming gender equality into local public policies and decision-making processes. Participants reviewed existing local strategies and drafted gender-sensitive objectives and indicators for future planning. The training also introduced participants to gender-responsive budgeting at the local level, and explored equal opportunities in the workplace, gender-based discrimination and workplace harassment.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

# Training on partnership agreements strengthens Moldova's local social services

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, the European Union-funded EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk Project (Phase II) organised two face-to-face trainings for Moldova's Territorial Social Assistance Agencies (TSAA) (4 April 2025, Bălţi municipality, and 14 April, Căuşeni city). The trainings equipped 55 TSAA staff members (50 women and five men) with practical knowledge, tools and negotiation strategies to improve the planning, management and transparency of partnership agreements between

public social assistance services and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on victim support, social inclusion and community services. By strengthening the competencies of staff who work directly with vulnerable populations at the local and regional levels, the training contributed to more effective, coordinated and victim-sensitive service delivery by Moldova's social assistance system. Participants praised the relevance of the trainings, expressing their interest in further training on monitoring partnerships and integrating gender-sensitive approaches in service agreements.



The trainings highlighted the importance of assessing the need for services before initiating partnerships. Trainers presented a methodology and techniques for needs identification, including context analysis, examining administrative data and direct discussions with beneficiaries, particularly survivors of violence and vulnerable community members. Participants learned to identify when services in their areas are insufficient or non-existent, prioritise urgent

needs, and map the operational capacity of local, regional and national NGOs.

The trainings examined how to define clear collaboration objectives and identify types of services that can be outsourced or jointly implemented, including practical ways to avoid duplication and pinpoint common points of action between the TSAA and NGOs. Participants reviewed examples of successful service delivery partnerships in Moldova and neighbouring countries, noting



lessons learned on shared planning, joint service mapping and regular coordination. Interactive sessions explored negotiation techniques and financial management approaches in collaboration agreements, including roleplaying exercises on managing conflicts.

The trainings provided recommendations on the financial aspects of agreements, including cost-sharing mechanisms, realistic budgets, and transparency and accountability in financial reporting. Participants welcomed

practical advice on addressing common challenges such as delays in fund transfers, unforeseen costs and the need for flexibility in long-term partnerships. The final module covered the structure and content of partnership agreements, such as including a confidentiality clause to protect beneficiaries' personal data. Participants also learned how to prevent and address potential risks, maintain open communication, establish dispute resolution mechanisms and conduct regular performance evaluations.



# Training for the Ministry of Finance advances gender equality in public administration

The European Union-funded EU4 Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project (Phase II) trained 19 civil servants at the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova on “Promoting Human Rights and Gender Equality in Public Administration” (27–28 May 2025). The face-to-face training was designed for gender coordinators, members of gender units and representatives of structural units within the ministry. Reaffirming the ministry’s commitment to an inclusive public sector, the training equipped ministerial staff with knowledge and practical tools to promote human rights and gender equality in public administration. Participants praised the training for

enhancing their competencies and expressed their dedication to implementing equitable practices.

The training began by exploring foundational human rights and gender equality concepts. Interactive exercises enabled participants to reflect on how these manifest in policy frameworks and institutional culture, and how biases can influence decisions and workplace practices. After exploring progress on gender equality at the international, regional and national levels, the training examined quantitative and qualitative differences in gender indicators across sectors, identifying gaps and trends shaping the policy environment.



One of the training's most practical modules focused on the national legal framework and institutional mechanisms for gender equality. Participants reviewed Moldova's international commitments, national strategies and the responsibilities of authorities empowered to promote equal opportunities for women and men. They also examined the impact of the legal framework

on the Ministry of Finance's activities, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement. Participants exchanged insights on institutional challenges and lessons learned, contributing to a collective understanding of best practices in mainstreaming gender equality within public financial management.



The training explored the use of gender statistics in public policy development, emphasising the need for improved data collection, analysis and application to ensure evidence-based, gender-sensitive policymaking. It also provided an overview of gender mainstreaming tools and introduced a practical methodology for integrating gender into policies, programmes and action plans, alongside a "Checklist on Gender Mainstreaming" to evaluate institutional compliance and areas for improvement. Another session demonstrated how to

integrate gender equality into external and internal decision-making processes within the Ministry of Finance, including a "Checklist for Institutionalising Gender Equality" to evaluate internal procedures, workplace practices and the integration of gender-sensitive approaches into management systems. The final sessions focused on international and European standards on gender equality in the workplace, and practical issues of non-discrimination and equal opportunities.



# EU-funded training for Moldova's central public authorities advances gender-responsive governance

The EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union, strengthened the capacities of central public authorities in the Republic of Moldova by organising a training course on “Integrating the gender perspective into public policies and public institutions” (19–20 June 2025). The two-day online event trained 146 participants (111 women and 33 men) from seven institutions – the State Chancellery, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education, the State Agency for Intellectual Property, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development,

the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Customs Service, and the Prosecutor General's Office.

This training provided Moldova's public authorities with updated tools and practical knowledge for integrating gender perspectives into their policies, services and institutional cultures. Participants welcomed the relevance of the training, which contributes to ongoing national reforms to strengthen institutional capacities on gender equality and human rights-based governance.

## EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk (faza a 2-a)

### UE pentru Egalitatea de Gen: Serviciul de Asistență pentru Reforme

- Finanțare (UE)
- Implementare (NIRAS)
- Durată (august 2024 - august 2027)
- Unde lucrăm? (Moldova, Ucraina, Belarus\*, Georgia\*, Armenia, Azerbaidjan)
- Cine lucrează în Helpdesk? (experți locali și străini)
- Cu cine lucrează în Helpdesk? (Delegațiile UE, APC, APL, societatea civilă)
- Ce poate face Helpdesk? Cum Helpdesk vă poate oferi asistență?



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The first module examined global, regional and national progress on gender equality, including progress on key gender indicators included in the 2024 Global Gender Gap Report and Moldova's Gender Equality Index. Trainers outlined Moldova's legal and institutional framework for gender mainstreaming, and the role of coordinating groups and gender units within central public authorities. Participants learned to use a practical Checklist on Gender Mainstreaming as a tool to assess policy and institutional compliance.

A dedicated module explored the external dimension of gender mainstreaming – including the conditions, stages and methodology for incorporating gender considerations into public policies, programmes, regulatory documents and decision-making processes. Participants learned how to identify the causes of gender inequalities, use sex-disaggregated data, and apply gender analysis and gender

assessment tools to estimate the relevance and impact of policies.

Another module focused on the internal dimension of gender mainstreaming by integrating gender equality within public institutions. Participants examined the development of institutional gender equality action plans, reviewed international and EU workplace standards on non-discrimination, and analysed Moldova's legal provisions to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in public administration. They also learned about human resource management through gender lens and the use of neutral language in regulatory documents.

Another dedicated module addressed issues of gender-based discrimination at work. Participants learned to distinguish between acceptable workplace conduct and harmful behaviors such as sexual harassment, with an emphasis on risks, consequences and protection mechanisms available in public institutions.



# Training for Moldova's Security and Intelligence Service promotes gender equality and non-discrimination

Twenty representatives of the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova (15 women and five men) took part in a face-to-face training on "Gender equality and the prevention of discrimination in the security and defence sector" (12 June 2025), organised by the European Union-funded EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project (Phase II). Participants praised the training for equipping them with practical knowledge and tools to integrate gender perspectives and non-discrimination within the security sector. They expressed a strong interest in follow-up workshops, peer exchange sessions and the integration of gender equality topics in internal training curricula for new recruits and leadership staff. This training is a meaningful step towards building a modern rights-based security sector as part of broader national efforts to enhance human rights protection, strengthen institutional integrity and implement Moldova's international commitments under the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

The training began by emphasising the importance of integrating a gender perspective within the security and defence sector to address the diverse security concerns of women, men and vulnerable groups – whether related to community safety, border protection or countering violent extremism. It showcased the need for gender-sensitive approaches in policy development, crisis management and peacekeeping operations. Participants deepened their understanding of Moldova's

national legal framework on gender equality, non-discrimination and workplace safety, recent policy reforms and relevant international standards.

A module on gender equality, discrimination and gender-based violence within security sector workplaces highlighted how to recognise different forms of sexual harassment – from inappropriate comments to severe abuses of authority. Trainers explained how an institutional culture that tolerates sexist language or dismisses harassment claims undermines employee well-being and compromises operational efficiency, institutional credibility and national security outcomes. Discussions also focused on the legal and policy framework to end discrimination and harassment in Moldova, including the rights and obligations of employees and management in maintaining a safe, equitable and professional work environment.

The training also analysed the relationship between organisational culture and gender equality, presenting international and regional practices for fostering inclusive, rights-based workplace environments in the security sector. It outlined procedures for documenting and reporting cases of sexual harassment and discrimination, focusing on confidentiality, victim protection and timely institutional responses. Participants reviewed case studies from both Moldova and neighbouring countries, learning how early intervention and preventive measures can reduce such incidents and improve workplace culture.



# Civic Engagement Conference 2025, for better public participation policies and a better environment for civic society

Over 160 participants – civic activists, representatives of central and local authorities, international and local experts, as well as leaders of non-governmental organizations – from Belgium, Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, and other

countries met in Chisinau, at the second edition of the Civic Engagement Conference, for a stronger democracy and civic society and real participation of citizens in decision-making.



The event was organized by the Center for Policies and Reforms between June 9-10 and brought together 30 experts from different organizations such as Declic, Funky Citizens, TechSoup Romania and the European Union and included three discussion panels and eight workshops on different topics.

Besides the basic tools of democracy, during the discussion panels citizens learned about innovations through which they can participate in decision-making; about practices for improving public participation in various countries and about methods of defending civic space.

During the workshops, participants had interactive spaces for learning and exchange of experiences on different topics, such as:

- ❖ Citizens' assemblies as a public consultation mechanism;
- ❖ Local participatory budgeting;
- ❖ Election monitoring in the digital age;
- ❖ Protecting human rights defenders;
- ❖ Using technologies for civic engagement and NGO digitalization;
- ❖ Collective petitions and campaigns;
- ❖ Transparency and local-level participation by improving relationships between civil society organizations and public authorities;
- ❖ Strategies to defend civic space.

To strengthen civic participation and safeguard civil society's space for action in Moldova, the following steps are necessary:

- ❖ Public participation starts with access to information, and authorities must ensure that information reaches every citizen.

- ❖ Authorities must provide participation infrastructures that include all voices in society, connect local opinions and experiences, and bring them to the national, regional, or even global level.

- ❖ Authorities must ensure that electronic participation platforms are not just symbolic, that citizens have enough time to express themselves, and that their views are taken into account.

- ❖ Civil society can amplify people's voices, raise everyone's level of participation in public life, and must therefore be more proactive in communicating with the public.

Center for Policies and Reforms organized the Civic Engagement Conference as part of the INSPIRED Moldova project and receives institutional support from Sweden

The project INSPIRED Moldova is funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), the National Center for Assistance and Information of NGOs in Moldova CONTACT, the Center for Policy and Reform (CPR Moldova), Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and People in Need (PIN).



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# The INSPIRED Lab – OSC Helpdesk Program is available to support Civil Society Organisations in Moldova

Just two months after its launch, the INSPIRED Lab – OSC Helpdesk Program is already showing impressive results: over 230 civil society organizations (CSOs) from across Moldova have benefited from consultations, trainings, and tailored mentoring.

Launched by CONTACT Center as part of the INSPIRED Moldova Project, funded by the European Union, the program offers free assistance in key areas essential for the growth and professionalization of the civil society sector.

Among the most in-demand services provided so far are project writing training, which attracted large numbers of participants; interactive mentoring sessions focused on the 2% designation mechanism; and online group consultations on practical topics such as financial management, digitalization, and drafting annual activity reports. Many organizations also benefited from individual consultations, receiving personalized support in areas like financial management and organizational development.

## CONSULTAȚII PENTRU ONG-URI

### DIRECȚII:

- ✓ Dezvoltare organizațională
- ✓ Management financiar

ÎNREGISTREAZĂ-TE!



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## What beneficiaries are saying:

*"Thanks to the session on activity report writing, we now understand how to create it, why it's important, and what to include. We had no prior experience with reports, but this year we want to publish our first one."*

*"We want to become eligible for the 2% mechanism. In September, we'll submit the application, and then we'll carry out a fundraising campaign based on what we learned during the CONTACT session."*

The high level of interest and active participation confirm both the need for and impact of the program in strengthening the organizational capacity of CSOs in Moldova. CONTACT Center remains committed to providing practical, needs-based support to help organizations become more effective, more transparent, and better prepared to

contribute to community development.

**Are you part of a civil society organization and looking for support?** Book your free consultation now and get access to the tools and guidance you need to move forward. [Fill in the registration form available on CONTACT's online platform](#) – we're here to help!

The project INSPIRED Moldova is funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), the National Center for Assistance and Information of NGOs in Moldova CONTACT, the Center for Policy and Reform (CPR Moldova), Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and People in Need (PIN).



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# Moldova's first Citizens' Assembly has convened: Citizens' recommendations for safeguarding democracy and countering the risks associated with disinformation

For the first time, 38 citizens from across the country – randomly selected, representing diverse regions, socio-economic backgrounds, languages, genders, and ages – took part in a Citizens' Assembly to jointly develop recommendations on preventing the risks of disinformation to democracy and on strengthening the rule of law.

During the Citizens' Assembly, participants worked in groups with the support of

facilitators, exploring questions such as what does democracy mean to them; how does disinformation affect their daily lives; and how can Moldovan society become more resilient in the face of this phenomenon. Discussions were enriched through dialogues with media and human rights experts, including the Ombudsman of the Republic of Moldova.



On the second day of the Assembly, citizens interacted directly with high-level representatives of key public institutions, such as the Audiovisual Council, the Presidency, MPs from parliamentary committees on national security and education, and the Centre for Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation. Citizen groups addressed them questions which helped shape and clarify the final recommendations.

Final recommendations were adopted with the support of at least 70% of participants. This high approval threshold aligns with international standards and ensures that each recommendation

benefits from strong collective backing. At the end of the two days of work, these were the adopted recommendations:

State institutions should ensure transparency in decision-making processes, keeping citizens well-informed and actively engaged in national political life, supported by robust fact-checking mechanisms and consistent communication at local, regional, and national levels. *(38 votes in favour – unanimity)*



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2 The Ministry of Education and Research should introduce a dedicated module on disinformation within social studies classes and information technology education, as part of the national curriculum, targeting both lower and upper secondary education pupils. *(36 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 against)*

3 The Parliamentary Committee for Media, in partnership with civil society, should support the creation of a specialised department within the Audiovisual Council dedicated to countering online disinformation. This department should be responsible for monitoring digital content and coordinating with social media platforms to implement appropriate measures – such as issuing warnings, fines, and recommendations to suspend accounts where necessary.

4 It should also serve as a channel for receiving and processing citizen complaints via themed filters, while promoting accurate information and raising public awareness of the risks and impacts of disinformation. *(30 in favour, 4 abstentions, 4 against)*

5 State institutions should support the efforts of experts and journalists in tackling the spread of false information online. *(34 in favour, 4 abstentions, 0 against)*

The shared proposals adopted by the Assembly reflect a broad consensus on the need for concrete action against disinformation and highlight the importance of the solutions identified by participants to protect Moldova's democracy.



Citizens' assemblies are a form of participatory democracy that bring together a diverse and representative segment of society to address complex issues through thoughtful deliberation. This model has already proven effective in countries like Ireland, Spain, and Belgium – influencing decisions on climate action, urban planning, or social policies, for instance – and is increasingly being adopted worldwide as a means of revitalising democracy.

The Assembly was organised as part of the INSPIRED Moldova project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), the National Assistance and Information Centre for NGOs in Moldova CONTACT, the Centre for Policies and Reforms (CPR Moldova), Democracy Reporting International (DRI), and People in Need (PIN). The views expressed during the event do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union.



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# Raising public awareness across Moldova about human rights and the principles of non-discrimination

UN Human Rights has a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights for all people.

Since February 2024, UN Human Rights in Moldova has been implementing the project “Strengthening the rights of minorities in the Republic of Moldova”, funded by the EU.

As part of its broader efforts, the project engages in public information campaigns aimed at raising awareness among different population groups about human rights, principles of non-discrimination and the

project’s activities and contribution to promoting minority rights in the Republic of Moldova.

May and June were particularly rich in engaging public information events in the capital and regional centers: Chisinau municipality, the towns of Căușeni and Strășeni. Our involvement contributed to over 350 people gaining a better understanding of human rights, especially minority rights in the Republic of Moldova



On May 9 (in Chisinau) and May 17 (in Căușeni), we had the honor of taking part in the fair dedicated to Europe Day 2025. Our team conducted short briefings on the project's work, engaged in dialogue with attendees through various interactive methods, and created a creative atmosphere for open exchange of opinions and ideas.

*"When the UN Human Rights team showed me the cards listing all the rights a person has, I realized how much I still do not know. We are used to thinking that human rights mean health care or education, but now I have learned that freedom of movement, freedom of association, or the right to rest are also part of our rights",*

**S. Margarita, 55 years old,  
participant at the Chisinau fair**

On May 18, our Office joined the Human Rights Caravan organized by the Office of the People's Advocate. We used this opportunity to inform the residents of Strășeni about the project, the role of community mediators in promoting Roma human rights, and our technical and expert support to state institutions in advancing human rights. The event inspired great interest among attendees and was met with much positive feedback.

*"Thanks to the quiz, I learned that we have community mediators and about the challenges Roma face. I had never thought before that, due to stereotypes, this group is truly vulnerable and in need of support",*

**M. Dumitru, 35 years old,  
participant at the Strășeni fair**

Special attention should be given to the information session held for the Roma community on June 20 in Bender as part of the project. The session was conducted by a Roma community mediator on the left bank of Dniester/Nistru River for 25 participants.

During these Q&A-format session, participants received professional legal consultations from a lawyer on issues that particularly concern the Roma population. These included obtaining or restoring identity documents, enrolling children in early and general education institutions, and more.

Participation in these events has undoubtedly contributed to raising public awareness about human rights and increasing the visibility of the "Strengthening the rights of minorities in the Republic of Moldova" project, funded by the EU.



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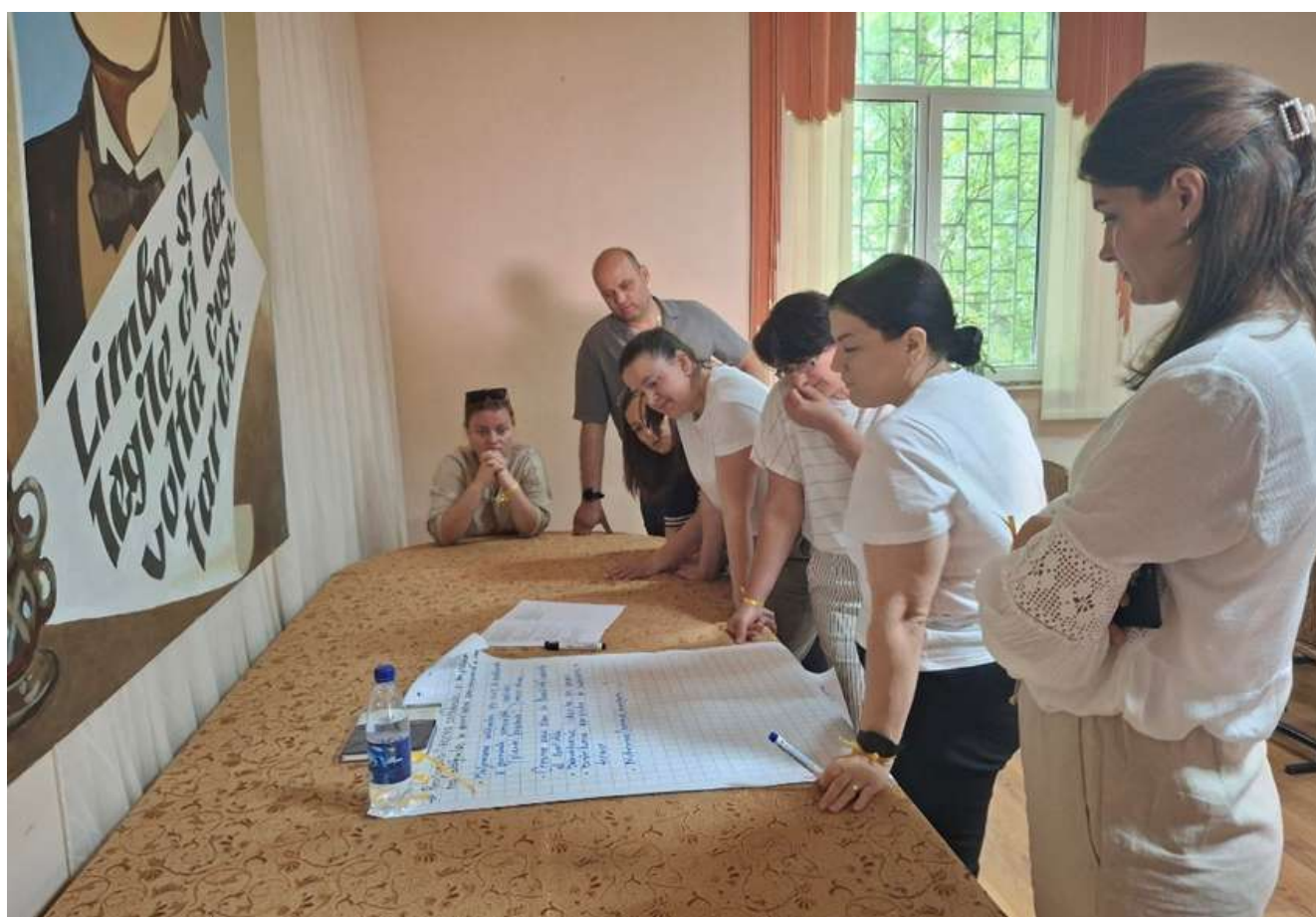


## Civic Forum in Telenești – a step toward stronger and more engaged communities

On June 25, 2025, the Civic Forum "The Citizen's Voice Continues: Sustainable Partnerships for Strong Communities" was held in Telenești – an event dedicated to strengthening civic participation and cooperation between residents, local authorities, and development partners.

The forum was organized by AO Concordia in partnership with People in Need Moldova, with financial support from the European

Union. Over 100 participants from Telenești and neighboring localities such as Inești, Ciulucani, Mîndrești, and Sărătenii Vechi took part in thematic working groups to discuss citizens' real needs, tested solutions from the project, and future actions for sustainable development in areas such as education, health, culture, environment, and the local economy.



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*"The partnerships built during the project are seeds for long-term civic involvement and better local governance. With strong examples and support from our partners, we can develop not only Telenești district but the entire country,"*

**said Iurie Tulgara, President of the Telenești District Council, in his opening remarks.**

**The director of People in Need Moldova emphasized the value of civic engagement:**

*"This forum is a reminder that when people are included and encouraged to raise their*

*voices, and authorities are willing to listen – our communities grow stronger, more united, and healthier."*

The event provided an open space for dialogue and co-creation, reaffirming the commitment of all partners to support active communities and inclusive decision-making.

Special thanks were extended to participants, local authorities, and development partners for their contribution and continued collaboration for a better future in Moldova.



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## “Here, I learn to understand my emotions”: psychosocial support is helping children affected by war

In an uncertain world, sometimes a simple act of emotional support can mean the difference between fear and trust, between isolation and friendship.

Inside a bright classroom at “A. Puşkin” Theoretical High School in Anenii Noi, a group of children sit in a circle, each with

a colourful sheet of paper in front of them. They’re drawing emotions. But this isn’t just an art class—it’s part of a psychosocial support session run by our colleagues in People in Need Moldova with financial support from the European Union.



Throughout the summer holidays, our psychologists conduct interactive emotional support sessions for children and teenagers from Ukraine, as well as those from host communities. These activities support adaptation, integration, and emotional development.

*“I really like it here,” says Daniil, a 12-year-old boy from Anenii Noi; he has been attending the centre with his younger sister for two years now.*

*“For example, today we learned how to control our emotions and what to do when we feel angry.”*

*“What I liked most was the activity where we drew our emotions,” adds his 8-year-old sister, Masha.*

Each session includes individual exercises, group games, and guided discussions, addressing important topics such as stress, emotional complexity, communication,



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friendship, and conflict resolution. The full course spans eight sessions and is implemented in both Child-Friendly Spaces and in summer camps in Chişinău. The course is organised by the “B.P. Hasdeu” Municipal Library in partnership with Chişinău City Hall.

For Eva, a 12-year-old girl who fled from Odesa with her mother, these meetings are far more than just engaging activities—they are a step toward healing.

*“I’ve been coming here for two weeks, and I really enjoy it. I look forward to the sessions*

*with the psychologists,” Eva says.*

*“Today we learned about how to manage our emotions. These topics really help me.”*

Eva arrived in Moldova during the first days of Russia’s war in Ukraine. She still remembers seeing armored vehicles on the streets and rocket explosions, as well as hearing air raid sirens in her hometown. The emotional impact of those moments doesn’t fade easily. But safe spaces and meaningful activities offer her a place to rebuild her inner peace.



*“This support is essential for children’s mental health. It helps them regain emotional balance and develop in a healthy way,”*

***explains Polina Stratev, a psychologist with  
People in Need Moldova.***

These sessions are more than just emotional learning—they are early interventions that can prevent more serious psychological issues. Children who have experienced trauma are closely observed by professionals, and if necessary, parents are advised to seek specialized psychological support.



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The emotional support sessions are 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.



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## Community investments: Renovation, modernisation, and expansion of social services in several centres with the support of the European Union

Ten civil society organisations (CSOs) from the Republic of Moldova have received financial support totaling over 3.3 million MDL from the European Union; these funds help to improve access to public services and strengthen social cohesion. This support

is provided through the **Moldova ASSIST** project, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



This initiative fosters effective collaboration between civil society actors and public authorities to ensure equal access to public services, including for the most marginalised and vulnerable people.

The grants were awarded to ten CSOs, amounting to 3.332 million MDL in total,

and will be used for renovation and modernisation works, the purchase of equipment and furniture, the development of specialised services, community engagement activities and events, staff training, and institutional capacity building.

*"These comprehensive efforts reflect our Ministry's commitment to improving public infrastructure and strengthening social services through transparent processes, interinstitutional collaboration, and a strong focus on community-centered development,"*

**stated Alexei Buzu, Minister of Labour and Social Protection.**

The planned activities will be implemented nationwide in cooperation with the ten selected CSOs, with full implementation expected by August 31, 2025.

Each CSO is supported with a grant of approximately **353,000 MDL** to benefit at least one of the following vulnerable groups: people with physical and/or mental disabilities, elderly people (including those with limited self-care abilities), at-risk adolescents, Roma community members, children separated from their parents or in vulnerable situations, survivors of domestic violence, disadvantaged women, refugees, socially marginalised persons, and other vulnerable adults.

*"These ten EU-funded grants are a powerful example of how strategic support for infrastructure and social services can transform lives. The European Union strongly believes that lasting, positive change begins with investments in people and communities, especially in the most vulnerable. We deeply value our partnership with national and local authorities and congratulate all involved for their dedication, professionalism, and*

*the tangible results they are delivering for Moldova's future,"*

**stated Jānis Mažeiks, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.**

*"We are proud to announce the launch of a series of initiatives aimed at improving social infrastructure and services for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. With the generous support of our donors and in close partnership with local and national authorities, we are committed to creating safer, more inclusive, and better-equipped community spaces. While the work is just beginning, our commitment is strong—we are ready to build lasting change, together,"*

**said Rafal Chibowski, Country Director, People in Need Moldova.**

One of the key objectives of the Moldova ASSIST project is to support the RESTART reform and the reform of the educational system by strengthening public services in the social sector, with the active involvement of Moldovan CSOs.

The RESTART reform aims to enhance governance and transparency in the social assistance system and ensure equal and consistent access to quality social services for vulnerable populations. Social assistance must be standardised across Moldova so that all regions and all categories of vulnerable citizens—especially children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities—can benefit from adequate and equitable services.



# BOOST Project: Inclusion and Education for All – Quality After-School Services for Disadvantaged Children

In May 2025, Terre des hommes Moldova launched a new ambitious initiative – *BOOST: Building Opportunities for Outstanding School-Time*. Funded by the European Union, the project will run until 2028 and aims to provide children in local communities with equal opportunities for personal and social development through extracurricular and after-school activities.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Alliance of Active NGOs in the Field of Child and Family Social Protection and Junior Achievement Moldova. Together, the three partners will work to strengthen community-based organizations across the country – through training, funding, and technical expertise – so they can provide qualitative educational and social services, especially for children in vulnerable situations: children with disabilities, of Roma ethnicity, refugees, or from low-income families.

BOOST follows a 1-2-3 strategy: “*learn, think, act.*” Its key objectives include building the capacity of NGOs, expanding access to educational programs, and enhancing the resilience of the organizations involved. The project features a series of activities to support these goals, such as an analysis of national legislation on after-school education, a study visit to France for knowledge exchange and best practices, a

training-of-trainers program for educators, and the creation of a Children's Advisory Council, allowing children and teenagers to actively participate in decision-making processes that affect them.

A central component of the project is the grant program: at least 10 community organizations will receive funding of up to €60,000 each, along with mentoring and training, to develop programs tailored to the needs of local children. Through these initiatives, over 2,400 children will gain access to quality educational and social activities.

The project also aims to establish at least 10 strategic partnerships between NGOs, schools, and local authorities to ensure that the changes are sustainable and contribute to building more inclusive communities. Additionally, BOOST seeks to influence public policies to improve the quality, accessibility, and inclusiveness of after-school programs in Moldova, drawing inspiration from successful European models.

Through BOOST, Terre des hommes and its partners aim not only to improve access to learning and development opportunities for vulnerable children but also to drive systemic changes in the field of non-formal education across the country.



## Felicia and 47 other women with disabilities learn to fight violence and gender stereotypes

48 women and girls with disabilities from different regions of the country are now better informed about methods of preventing and combating various forms of gender-based violence and stereotypes, thanks to the training sessions conducted by the “Motivation” Association with the support of the European Union, through the “EU4GenderEquality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence” programme, jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA.

Among the participants is 33-year-old Felicia Bulmaga, a young woman with disabilities from Ialoveni. Born with cerebral palsy and abandoned at birth, Felicia spent the first 28 years of her life in a placement center in Hâncești. In 2020, she moved into a social house in Ialoveni, alongside other girls with disabilities. Felicia works as a photographer for the Chișinău City Hall and is often seen at events, accompanied by one of her colleagues and also by her small four-legged/furry friend.



Like many individuals with disabilities, Felicia benefits from the support of the "Motivation" Association, a key partner of UN Women in empowering women and girls with disabilities. She shared that the training sessions have significantly boosted her confidence, equipping her with a clearer understanding of her rights and how to respond if faced with violence or discrimination.

*"An important message I share with my peers whenever I have the chance is that no one has the right to force us to do something against our will", emphasized Felicia, referring to the importance of consent.*

*"During the training sessions, we were given numerous resources, including the helpline number for women and girls: 0 8008 8008, where we can seek help."*

As part of a series of cohesion activities aimed at increasing the autonomy of women and girls with disabilities, organized by the "Motivation" Association, Felicia

participated in a self-makeup masterclass on 4 March. *"I learned some practical tricks that will definitely come in handy in the future,"* the young woman enthusiastically shared. After the practical session, the participants engaged in an open discussion about gender stereotypes and myths related to violence against women and girls with disabilities. *"I discovered so much valuable information! What I appreciated most was that the experts used simple, accessible language,"* Felicia said.

*"Thanks to the activities carried out within the program, we have been able to highlight the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities, providing them with the opportunity to make their voices heard. The training sessions are helping them become more informed, more skilled, and better equipped to tackle the obstacles ahead,"*

**mentioned Ludmila Iachim, Executive Director of the "Motivation" Association.**



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## Bessarabian Metropolis representatives support efforts to promote harmonious family relationships

Thanks to EU assistance, 10 representatives of the Metropolis of Bessarabia participated in the "Violence in the Family and Combatting Gender Stereotypes in the Orthodox Light" training of trainers program, held in Chişinău on 17 - 18 February. The training aimed to strengthen the knowledge of priests so they can contribute more effectively to efforts in preventing and combating domestic

violence. The event was organized by the Social Mission "Diaconia" as part of the "EU4GenderEquality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence" regional programme (Phase II), funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Women Moldova and UNFPA Moldova.



During the session, trainers from Romania, Father Ciprian-Ion Ioniță, Patriarchal Advisor, and Claudia Predut, an expert in human trafficking prevention, led an insightful discussion on the role of the Orthodox Church's teachings in tackling domestic violence and promoting gender equality. The session also addressed and debunked common misconceptions surrounding religion and domestic abuse.

In addition, the event highlighted international best practices where religious communities have played a pivotal role in preventing violence against women and offering support

to those affected. In this context, participants learned more about social services to which victims and survivors of domestic violence could be referred, with guidance provided in a session facilitated by a representative from the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

According to Father Andrei Apetrei from Cahul, the Church plays a crucial role in promoting harmony and balance in society and the family, based on Christian teachings on the equal dignity of men and women.

*"The Church's involvement in promoting family harmony and combating domestic violence is not just a social choice, but a profound responsibility, grounded in the teachings of the Holy Gospel and the Tradition of the Holy Fathers. The Christian family must be an icon of the love between Christ and the Church, and any form of violence or domination contradicts this vision,"*

**noted Father Apetrei.**

*"It's essential to understand that violence solves nothing. If people lived in peace, this course would not be necessary,"*

**stated Father Radu Storoja from the Church of St. Hierarch Nicholas in Chişinău.**

*"I can say with certainty, and I'm sure my colleagues would agree, that this is an excellent initiative. The opportunity to learn from specialists who know far more than we do in this field is invaluable," he added.*

As a result of the training of trainers program, priests are expected to carry out a series of community-level activities and initiatives. Five such activities took place already in Cimişlia, Căuşeni, Chisinau, Stăuceni, and Ştefan Vodă, where several priests engaged with churchgoers of different ages, discussing the role of the Church within a community and the importance of promoting respectful, harmonious family relationships.

Earlier, the project "Love for One's Neighbor: The Role of Religious Communities in Preventing Domestic Violence in Rural Communities" brought together over 90 religious leaders, experts in women's rights protection and child protection, as well as representatives of central authorities from Moldova and philanthropy organizations, including from Romania.



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## Over 300 young people in Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă engaged in discussions on gender equality

A total of 343 students participated in discussions focused on the role of the younger generation in combating gender-based stereotypes and violence. This marks the outcome of 10 community discussions held across five educational institutions in the Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă districts. The events were organized by the „Institutum Virtutes Civilis” NGO as part of the second phase of the "EU4GenderEquality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-

Based Violence" programme, funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA.

Throughout the sessions, participants explored key topics such as gender equality, discrimination, and gender-based violence, including on social media. Students also shared their thoughts on the impact of gender stereotypes and engaged in meaningful discussions on strategies to overcome them.





*"When we are born, we are all equal. Unfortunately, as we grow older, gender stereotypes push us toward unequal behaviors. It's important to understand that change depends on us, and we must promote a culture of equality for everyone,"*

**said Adrian, a 14-year-old student at "Alexei Mateevici" High School in Zaim, Căușeni.**

*on this role years ago, I broke the stereotype that only men can hold leadership positions. I would love to see more girls follow their dreams. Equal opportunities are essential for building a balanced and prosperous society where everyone has the right to achieve their full potential, regardless of gender," she remarked.*

*"Gender equality is essential for the harmonious development of society and ensuring that each person, regardless of gender, has access to the same opportunities and rights,"*

**added Cristina, a student at the Volintiri Gymnasium in Ștefan Vodă.**

As part of the project "Breaking barriers, building respect: a journey to gender equality", the young participants took part in training sessions and interactive workshops addressing topical issues such as gender stereotypes and the effective use of social media to promote equality. The initiative encouraged students to become more active in advocating for the rights of both girls and boys, and to challenge outdated views on the role of women and girls in society.

**Fedora Ciobanu, Director of the "Academician Mitrofan Ciobanu" Gymnasium in Copceac, Ștefan Vodă, also participated in one of the discussions with students at her institution.**

*"In our village, I am the first woman to be elected as the school principal. When I took*

## Support and solidarity: experiences from the Fathers' Club

The Fathers' Club is more than just a meeting place for many—it's a community offering emotional support, resources, and a fresh perspective on fatherhood. Through personal experiences and inspiring stories, fathers learn to overcome fears, support their children during challenging times, and promote equality within their families in a society where active father involvement is essential for children's harmonious growth.

### **Mihai, a participant in the Fathers' Club, recalls how his world changed in an instant...**

*"When I became deputy director at the theater, I thought I had established a solid career. But the news that our youngest daughter had been diagnosed with autism turned our world upside down. Autism was a term we were unfamiliar with, and the reality we faced felt overwhelming.*

*ABA therapy for our daughter was indispensable but extremely costly. My salary couldn't even begin to cover the necessary expenses, forcing us to completely rethink our lives. My wife decided to return to work, and I gave up major projects to spend more time with our daughter. It was a transformative moment, not only for our family life but also for how I viewed my role as a father and partner.*

*When I heard about the Fathers' Club, I felt it might provide the support and understanding I desperately needed. I wanted to learn how to be a better father in such a complex situation. Initially, I was skeptical—what could a club like this really offer me? But from the very first workshops, I realized I wasn't alone. I met other fathers going through similar experiences, and sharing our fears, challenges, and hopes became a source of comfort."*



A poignant moment for Mihai was hearing the story of another father in the club with a 30-year-old son diagnosed with autism. The father's words: "At first, we didn't know what to expect. But we've learned to live with it" gave him a new perspective. Mihai began to think not only about his daughter's current challenges but also about her future and what he could do now to give her the best chances.

The Fathers' Club is not just a meeting place, it's a community, a space where every story matters. It's a reminder that change begins with us, the fathers, and that our involvement can break gender stereotypes. Each small step we take together contributes to a better life for our children and families.

Today, Mihai knows he's not alone. Together, fathers learn to face challenges and accept

that by supporting one another, they can overcome any stereotype.

Fathers Club offers a space where fathers and future fathers receive resources and support to actively participate not only in raising and educating their children but also in sharing household responsibilities, promoting equality in the family, and preventing violence. Fathers' Clubs are

organized in Făleşti, Ștefan Vodă, Ialoveni, Căușeni, and Chișinău.

The Fathers' Club is part of the regional program "EU4GenderEquality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence," funded by the European Union and implemented by UNFPA and UN Women, with the support of CIDDC.



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# Reporting mechanism for sexual harassment in Moldovan universities: a collaborative effort supported by the EU

The EU and the Embassy of Denmark in Moldova are supporting the development of a Reporting Mechanism for Sexual Harassment in higher education institutions, an initiative launched by the Ministry of Education and Research. This initiative aims to establish a robust institutional mechanism for reporting and preventing sexual harassment, ensuring the safety and well-being of students, professors and support staff. The International Center "La Strada" is developing the mechanism within the EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project implemented by UN Women Moldova.

The mechanism is being developed through a participatory approach involving direct engagement with students and professors, reflecting their lived experiences and needs.

A total of **135 students contributed to 10 focus group discussions** at Moldova State University, the Technical University of Moldova, and the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă". During the talks, the participants assessed their perceptions and experiences of sexual harassment, identified reporting barriers, and explored solutions for a trusted and more accessible system.



Findings from the consultations revealed a high level of awareness among students regarding sexual harassment, often associating it with inappropriate physical contact, suggestive jokes and unwelcome advances. *"Female students, particularly those dressed in a certain way, are often kept longer at the front of the class when*

*answering questions,"* one student shared. *"A professor commented on one of my photos, saying, 'You look sexy,'"* shared another student. While most students acknowledged that harassment could happen to anyone, female students were identified as being disproportionately affected.

Students shared distressing experiences, highlighting that deep-rooted power imbalance and fear of repercussions deterred them from reporting. Many cited concerns such as potential retaliation (lower grades, expulsion, or social stigma), a lack of trust in university authorities, and the belief that reporting would not lead to meaningful change. *"We are afraid to report because professors will be believed, especially since there are so few of them,"* mentioned a student.

Building on these insights, **over 72 teachers and 73 students** participated in workshops on "Preventing and Mitigating the Risks of Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Harassment." These sessions, designed as interactive engagements, covered the influence of social norms on gender perceptions, forms and impacts of sexual harassment, legal frameworks and institutional responsibilities, and effective prevention and response strategies.



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# Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence, Rebuilding Lives: Ana's Story

Survivors of sexual violence often face overwhelming barriers, including fear, shame, social stigma, and a lack of trust in the justice system. Moldova's first Integrated Regional Service for Victims of Sexual Violence in Ungheni offers comprehensive support to help survivors overcome these challenges. The EU funds the service through the EVOLVE4GE project implemented by UN Women in partnership with local public authorities and civil society.



**Ana, one of the 58 victims assisted in the service's first year of activity, recalls her journey:**

*"When I came, the psychologist met me and explained the next steps and what services I can benefit from. Having access to legal, medical, and gynecological assistance all in one place gave me a sense of safety. A forensic doctor provided a gynecological exam and took the necessary steps, and later on, I met with a lawyer who continued*

*to support me. It wasn't easy to open up, but through psychological counseling, I learned to express my emotions and find peace. The sessions helped me feel lighter, more confident, and capable of moving forward."*

**Cristina Ghizdari, the Director of the Service, highlights the profound impact of this holistic, survivor-centered approach:**

*"Creating a safe and friendly space allows survivors to feel accepted and respected. Once they step through the doors of our institution, victims understand that they will not be alone throughout the recovery process. At the service, Ana received crisis psychological assistance, medical and forensic assistance, legal assistance, hearings, and psychological rehabilitation sessions."*

**Ana heard about the service from the local social worker and was accompanied by a trusted friend. For Ana, the service's comprehensive assistance became a lifeline.**

*"The service gave me a way to escape the cycle of violence and fear. I'm learning to rebuild my life, regain my confidence, and protect myself and my children. True strength lies in asking for support, and here, you are never alone. This experience restored my confidence and showed me that I don't have to face everything alone."*



**Cristina, the service's director, emphasizes the profound impact of the survivor-centered approach.**

*"The services offered are adapted to meet the specific needs of each victim, ensuring that each experience is treated with respect and empathy. Approaches are tailored to each individual's needs and recovery pace, whether it is psychological support, legal counselling, medical care, or social reintegration. These services have contributed to rebuilding self-confidence, reducing feelings of isolation and guilt, and facilitating social and professional*

*reintegration. Ana came to the service feeling scared and ashamed. Now she has regained self-confidence, valued and loved herself more, and secured employment."*

The Integrated Regional Service for Victims of Sexual Violence in Ungheni is a significant milestone toward meeting the country's commitments under the Istanbul Convention reported in [the first GREVIO baseline evaluation report for the Republic of Moldova](#), and it serves as a model for replication in other regions.



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# Vladlena Timofti: a young aerospace engineer encouraging girls to pursue STEM careers

Over 40 high school female students gathered at the “Her Journey” event to learn from the experiences of Vladlena Timofti, a young aerospace engineer in Moldova. The event was held on 11 February in honor of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, hosted by UN Women Moldova with support from the EU through the EVOLVE4GE project and Sweden. Held at the Technical University of Moldova, the event inspired discussions about encouraging young women to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

In Moldova, only 4.6% of female students choose STEM-related fields, and women working in the ICT sector earn salaries 33% lower than their male counterparts.

**Addressing these challenges, Vladlena, a 23-year-old graduate of Loughborough University in the UK, shared her journey in aeronautical engineering, a male-dominated field.**

*“Passion for engineering knows no gender,” she told the audience. “Determination, professionalism, and a drive for innovation truly matter.”*

Instead of following her family’s path of working in the humanities, Vladlena took a different route, finding herself in aeronautical engineering. She was one of seven young women in her cohort among 160 male colleagues.

**Vladlena underscored the need for more female leadership in STEM industries during the event.**

*“When young women see role models in science and engineering, they begin to believe that these careers are within their reach,” she said. Diversity in STEM leads to better solutions and more inclusive innovation.”*



She detailed her rigorous academic path, from the demanding application process to the hands-on experience designing aircraft components.

**Vladlena underscored the need for more female leadership in STEM industries during the event.**

*"Volunteering played a key role in my journey," she said. "Working in customer service at an airport allowed me to develop essential communication skills, which later proved invaluable in my field."*

After four years of study, Vladlena is turning her passion into a career and hoping to inspire other young women to look up at the sky with wonder and a desire to conquer it.

*"Ever since I was little, I was fascinated by airplanes,"*

**Vladlena shared.**

*"My mother would ask me where I wanted to go on the weekend, and I would tell her I wanted to go to the airport to watch the planes."*

*As I grew older, I transformed this passion into a deeper interest—not just in the beauty of airplanes but the science behind them."*

These words resonated with the participants, many of whom expressed aspirations to pursue STEM fields despite social barriers.

**One attendee, Tcaci Vanesa, a 17-year-old high school student passionate about technology, shared her thoughts:**

*"Hearing Vladlena's story made me realize that success in STEM is possible for girls in Moldova. We just need the right support and opportunities." Another participant, Corina Roșca, an 18-year-old high school student echoed this sentiment: "This event gave me confidence. I now see a future where more women, including me, contribute to technological innovation."*



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# How a renovated electronics lab is empowering girls in STEM

A newly renovated electronics laboratory at the Technical University of Moldova (TUM) is transforming learning for over 400 students, including aspiring female engineers like Ariana Tenu. Ariana is a 21-year-old student at the Electronics and Telecommunications Faculty, where she is benefitting from the laboratory, which has been equipped with DIY radio kits, Arduino sets and advanced electronics tools, thanks to the UN Women and EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project.

## **Ariana believes early encouragement is the key to increasing girls' participation:**

*"Education needs to start in schools. Some were skeptical when I told my teachers I wanted to study engineering. That's where the problem begins. We must show young girls they are just as capable as boys in science and technology."*

*"Access to these resources means we can apply what we learn in theory. It gives us confidence in our abilities and prepares us for real-world engineering challenges,"*

**Ariana explains.**

Ariana became involved in student organizations, including serving as the president of her faculty's student union and volunteering to promote STEM careers among high school students. She also mentors young women considering engineering careers, offering admission guidance and sharing her experiences.

Data suggest that only 4.6% of female students in Moldova choose STEM fields.



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Despite her determination, Ariana has faced gender-based challenges. She initially felt pressure in a cohort with four female colleagues and 35 male peers.

*"In my first year of university, I dressed more casually, avoiding skirts or anything that would draw unwanted attention,"*

**she admits.**

*"And in the lab, there were times when male colleagues would tell me, 'Let me handle it,' questioning my abilities. However, she sees positive change: "People's mindsets are shifting, and we're proving that gender doesn't define talent."*

By collaborating with professors like Dr. Lilia Sava, Dean of the Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications, the EVOLVE4GE project is empowering girls and women in STEM.

*"Most recently, we hosted a discussion with a female aeronautics graduate from the UK to motivate girls toward engineering,"*

**says Dr. Sava.**

*"Additionally, we organized a camp for over 50 students, where they explored topics related to gender equality and encouraging girls to follow a STEM career."*

Through scholarships, mentorship programs, and representation in leadership roles, Ariana envisions a future where more women confidently enter and thrive in engineering.

*"The opportunities exist,"*

**she says.**

*"Now we need to make sure girls have the motivation and belief that they belong here, too."*



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# Live podcast on gender equality brings together local and global voices

More than 200 people gathered on 9 March 2025 for the live recording of a special podcast episode, "Equal Rights – Equal Opportunities!". Organized by UN Women Moldova, with support from the EU, Sweden, and the Swiss Development Cooperation, the event reached over 1 million viewers online.

UN Women Moldova's Country Representative Dominika Stojanoska opened the event by reflecting on the progress made in advancing gender equality in Moldova and globally since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 years ago: *"Gender equality is not only necessary*

*for women and girls—it is essential for the prosperity of all humanity."*

Moderated by journalist Nata Albot, the discussion featured three engaging rounds with guests, including two couples—project manager Alina Vodă and government spokesperson Daniel Vodă, as well as soprano Valentina Naforniță and conductor Cristian Spătaru—and writer Ionela Hadârcă. The conversations explored gender equality, shared relationship responsibilities, and women's opportunities in Moldova, including those from vulnerable groups.



*"As parents of two daughters, we advocate for women's rights and gender equality in everyday life,"*

**Alina Vodă said.**

*"This topic is important to us,"*

**added Daniel Vodă.**

*We discuss it even with our six-year-old daughter."*



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Valentina Naforniță addressed the challenges women face in demanding careers, emphasizing the importance of supportive partnerships.

*"A woman's success should not come at the expense of her personal life, nor vice versa,"*

***she said, noting persistent wage gaps in the arts.***

**Ionela Hadârcă highlighted literature's role in shaping perceptions:**

*"The stories we tell influence reality. Literature must reflect diverse experiences and push for a more equitable society."*

Cristian Spătaru echoed this, emphasizing the arts' power to drive social change.

The event also featured testimonials from international representatives and Moldovan citizens, reflecting on progress and ongoing

challenges in achieving gender equality. UN Resident Coordinator Yesim Oruc reaffirmed the global commitment made 30 years ago to advancing women's rights. EU Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks and Denmark's Ambassador Søren Jensen stressed that equality must be lived, not just promised, with women actively participating in leadership. Austrian Ambassador Stella Avalone and Swedish Ambassador Katarina Fried encouraged women to seize opportunities, forge their own paths and support one another. Meanwhile, Guido Beltrani, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, underscored the fundamental right to live free from violence. A video featuring citizens' voices added a poignant perspective, highlighting fears and societal barriers that still hinder true equality.

The initiative was part of the "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment" campaign, which was supported by the EU, the Swiss Cooperation Office and Sweden, in partnership with Kaufland Moldova.



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# "Life can also be lived to the fullest in a wheelchair." Ludmila Iachim's story about resilience and the fight for equal rights

Ludmila Iachim was only 13 when a viral infection changed her life.

*"I went to sleep with a pain in my back and in the morning, I woke up paralyzed."*

**Since then, she has lived and worked from a wheelchair, using her personal journey as a powerful source of inspiration:**

*"Disability is not a sentence, but a challenge that makes you stronger."*

Creangă" State Pedagogical University in Chişinău, while working in the Vadul lui Vodă region.

*"At that time, I often had to ask passers-by to help me get onto public transport. Still, I never missed a class. I went to university not only to learn, but also to educate my peers—to help them understand that a person with a disability can live independently, pursue an education, and have a normal routine. I believe that was my first act of civic activism."*

She studied at the Faculty of Psychology and Specialized Psycho-pedagogy at "Ion



In 2023, at 45, she earned her driver's license.

*"It was more of a necessity, because neither public transport nor taxi services are adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. I drive a car, I work, I take care of my house and six cats. I am a fulfilled and active woman,"*

**says Ludmila.**

Her first contact with the "MOTIVAȚIE" Association came in 2001, during a summer camp for children and youth with disabilities. She later became a peer instructor in 2005, and in 2018, took on the role of executive director.

Through the "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence" programme—funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA—MOTIVAȚIE supports women and girls with disabilities. The association provides trainings on rights and gender-based violence prevention and

also prepares personal assistants and multidisciplinary teams to protect people with disabilities.

*"Women and girls with disabilities are even more at risk of abuse and violence. That's why, in these trainings, we talk openly about healthy relationships, consent, and ways to report abuse,"*

**explains Ludmila.**

Alongside other women with disabilities, Ludmila takes part in national policy consultations—advocating for inclusion and ensuring that their needs and challenges are addressed.

In recognition of its work, the MOTIVAȚIE Association recently received the "Promotion of Gender Equality" award at the Civil Society Gala, organized by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



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## 269 caregivers strengthen their skills to protect the rights of people with disabilities and prevent violence

Caregivers from six districts came together to deepen their understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities and how to prevent

violence. The training session created a welcoming space for open dialogue, shared experiences, and mutual support.



Among the participants was **Maria Rucșineanu from Făleşti district, a caregiver for her 12-year-old son.**

*"One of the challenges faced by parents of children with disabilities, especially those on the autism spectrum, is the shame some feel about going out in public with their children. They isolate themselves out of fear of being judged or ridiculed. This activity showed us just how beneficial it is to share experiences, exchange information and emotional support, and connect parent to parent, as equals,"*

**said Maria.**

She added that she plans to share what she learned with her neighbor, who is also raising a child with a disability, to help them better integrate into society.

With support from experts, participants strengthened their ability to recognize early signs of violence and learned how to respond effectively, including how to report abuse by calling the Women and Girls Trust Line—0 8008 8008— or the national emergency number, 112. Group discussions tackled common myths about disability, gender equality, and violence, underlining the ongoing need to deepen knowledge in these areas.

*"I know it's difficult for many people to talk openly about domestic violence, but staying silent can cause even greater harm in the long run—including to their children. Access to accurate information and finding supportive people can help them break free from the vicious cycle of violence,"*

**said Eudochia Popov from Ialoveni district, another participant in the training session.**

The training sessions for caregivers were organized between February and May 2025, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and local authorities in the six districts. These activities are part of the project *"Together for a Life Without Violence!"* implemented by the Moldovan organization MOTIVAȚIE 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.



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# Youth in Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă Take Action for Gender Equality

More than a hundred young women and men from Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă districts actively joined efforts to promote gender equality and strengthen their communities. On 19 and 24 June, they participated in the “Act for Gender Equality” contest, organized within the project “On the road to gender equality, we overcome obstacles and promote respect”.

*“I’m really happy I came here and got to take part in so many interesting activities,”*

***shared Daniel,  
one of the participants.***

*“Gender equality is a very important part of social life. Regardless of gender, you can pursue any career if you’re passionate, work hard, and truly want it.”*

The competition challenged the young women and men through interactive quizzes that encouraged critical reflection on the realities of their daily lives—from family relationships to persistent social stereotypes. Each team developed creative messages to promote gender equality and stand against violence.

Out of ten competing teams, six emerged victorious. Winners received gadgets to support them in continuing their efforts as agents of change amongst their peers—promoting tolerance, advocating for the dignity of girls and boys, and building a more inclusive society in their local communities.

These contests are part of a broader series of activities organized by the NGO *Institutum Virtutes Civilis* and UN Women, aimed at challenging gender stereotypes and harmful social norms. The initiative involves young people in conversations and educational activities intended at promoting gender. Earlier in the project, ten discussion sessions engaged 343 students from five schools in the Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă districts. Previously, the project carried out 10 discussion sessions at the community level, engaging 343 young women and men from five educational institutions across the Căușeni and Ștefan Vodă districts.

The initiative “*On the Path to Gender Equality, Overcoming Obstacles and Promoting Respect*” is implemented by *Institutum Virtutes Civilis* as part of the second phase of the “EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence” project. The program is funded by the European Union and jointly carried out by UN Women and UNFPA.



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## How do we facilitate honest conversations among fathers? How do we support men to be more aware, more involved, and more present in their children's lives?

These were the guiding questions that shaped the Training of Trainers Workshop on Facilitating Discussions within the #FathersClub, held between 6–8 June 2025, as part of the regional programme EU 4 Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence.

Over the course of three days, a group of nine fathers and community-engaged men—active members of the Fathers' Clubs—embarked on a deep journey of reflection, learning, and self-discovery. They were guided by experienced facilitators: psychologist and national trainer Diana Postu-Blăjinu and UNFPA expert and national trainer Grigore Moga.

This was not a technical training—it was, above all, a deeply human and transformational process.

From the very beginning, participants were invited to reflect on how gender stereotypes—often unconsciously inherited—have shaped their behaviors and perceptions of what it means to be a man and a father. The conversations were honest and engaging, filled with powerful introspection. Many participants opened up about the social pressure they had internalized over the years, and the emotional dissonance they often experience between what they believe, what they feel, and how they act within their families.



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These reflections reveal a simple truth: change begins with recognizing one's own emotions, fears, and beliefs. The Fathers' Club provides a safe and supportive space for these first steps to happen.

Throughout the workshop, participants came to understand that old models of parenting do not have to be repeated. On the contrary, modern fatherhood is about empathy, emotional balance, and authentic partnership within the family. Their messages captured this internal transformation:

It was an exercise in honesty and responsibility, in which many acknowledged that the fear of being judged often keeps

them silent—even when they know that change is necessary.

The workshop went beyond personal reflection and focused on building practical facilitation skills. Emphasis was placed on the role of the facilitator—not as a mere moderator, but as a guide and support for the group. Participants practiced essential techniques such as active and empathetic listening, asking open-ended questions, paraphrasing to validate input, managing conflicts and difficult behaviors, and maintaining emotional balance within the group setting. They understood that a good facilitator is not only technically skilled but also a catalyst for collective reflection and a true ally in the journey of change.





*"I've learned that when I reframe and ask open-ended questions, it really makes people think and search for their own answers,"*

**one participant reflected.**

Of course, potential challenges were also explored. Among them: fear of ridicule and marginalization, particularly in conservative communities; the tendency to continue justifying harmful gender stereotypes even when their impact is recognized; and the difficulty of addressing sensitive topics in a constructive and balanced way. In facing these challenges, participants reaffirmed their confidence and the core values that will guide them: empathy, balance, authenticity, and openness.

For everyone present, this was more than a skills training. It was an authentic learning space, one that humanized the role of men and fathers in today's society. They left with greater clarity about their identities as fathers and facilitators, the models they want to pass on, and the ways they can help create Fathers' Clubs grounded in honest dialogue, mutual support, and empathetic parenting.

*"I believe household responsibilities belong equally to men and women. Once you understand that this is simply a normal way of living and seeing the world, everything flows more naturally,"*

**one participant said.**

A simple thought—yet one that reflects the profound mindset shifts we aim to encourage through these initiatives.

Because a more equitable society begins with each father who chooses to be present, vulnerable, and open to learning.

The Fathers' Club is an initiative developed under the regional programme EU4Gender Equality: Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence, funded by the European Union and implemented in the Republic of Moldova by UNFPA Moldova and UN Women Moldova, with the support of the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre.



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# Denim Day: raising awareness of the integrated regional service for victims of sexual violence from Ungheni

As part of the Denim Day Campaign, UN Women Moldova, in partnership with the International Centre “La Strada”, raised awareness about the urgent need to counter all forms of sexual violence. This awareness initiative, funded by the European Union through the EVOLVE4GE project, brought attention to the importance of survivor-centred support services including the **Integrated Regional Service for Victims of Sexual Violence in Ungheni** – the first of its kind in Moldova.

The campaign mobilised the local community from Ungheni through a powerful solidarity march that brought together around 200 people – women, men, and youth – united in support of survivors. Wearing denim as a global symbol of protest against victim-blaming, participants marched from Independence Square to “Micul Cluj” Park, where benches were painted with the **Trust Line for Women and Girls (0 8008 8008)** – a visible reminder that support is available.



*“If it gets darker, we’ll light these candles to remind ourselves of our strength,”*

***shared one of the beneficiaries of the Service, describing the deep sense of connection and encouragement among survivors.***

The broader campaign also included the distribution of over 10,000 informational materials, outreach to 10,000 women via SMS, and engaged 24 influencers and 10 partner organizations, reaching over half a million people online.

Launched in 2023, the **Integrated Regional Service** for Victims of Sexual Violence provides **free, under-one-roof integrated assistance** – including medical care, forensic examination, legal aid, psychological assistance, and social services – across six districts: **Ungheni, Făleşti, Sîngerei, Călăraşi, Teleneşti, and Nisporeni.**

Service contact numbers:

0785 17 327 | 0784 95 866

Trust Line for Women and Girls:

0 8008 8008

# The fifth Roma Women March championed rights, equality and inclusion

In celebration of International Roma Day, over a hundred Roma women from across Moldova and Ukraine, as well as their supporters united in a powerful public demonstration of solidarity within the fifth annual Roma Women March, organized by

Roma Women Platform “ROMNI” in close collaboration with UN Women Moldova, with the financial support of the European Union under the EVOLVE4GE project and Sweden.



Participants from the Roma community shared that they joined the march to support one another and to make their voices heard.

*"I experienced discrimination firsthand when I returned from Germany and tried to enroll in high school, being initially turned away. A*

*few years on, I can say things have improved and we are more accepted now. I have many friends today, and we relate to one another as equals,"*

**said Erica, a 17-year-old Roma girl from Otaci.**



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**Samir, a 21-year-old Roma young man from Chişinău, emphasised why he chose to take part in the march.**

*"Due to ethnic stereotypes, the challenges are even more pressing for Roma women and girls. I believe all women deserve the same rights as men and must be supported to learn, to work, and to thrive."*

**The President of the Roma Women Platform "ROMNI," Elena Sîrbu shared a message of unity:**

*"This march is a collective call for justice, dignity, and equality. Roma women are strength, resilience, and voice. We rise together and work toward a society where no woman is left behind. Roma women are like you - Roma women have the same rights!"*

Held as part of Amare Amala: Roma Culture Week, this year's march celebrated the Roma identity, culture, and the power of collective action, while drawing attention to the systemic inequalities and ethnic stereotypes still faced by Roma women and girls. As per 2024 census, Roma community represents 0.4% of total Moldovan population of 2.4 million.

Despite progress in human rights policy, Roma women continue to encounter multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination, impeding their access to healthcare, education, employment, and justice, while exacerbating their exposure to gender-based violence.

The event included a symbolic stop at the Parliament - where participants shared messages on the status of Roma women in the country and young Roma women highlighted the importance of girls' education and representatives of NGO ROMNI presented their demands and calls to action aimed at strengthening institutional commitment to Roma inclusion, gender equality, and protection from violence.

By promoting such initiatives, UN Women Moldova, in close partnership with Roma communities and with the financial support of the European Union and Sweden, reaffirms a shared commitment to amplifying the voices of Roma women and girls, advancing gender equality, and ensuring that no one is left behind.



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# Local Voices, European Values: EU-Funded Initiatives Strengthen Public Resilience to Disinformation and Boost Awareness of European Integration in Moldova

Since April 2025, the German Marshall Fund of the United States – Transatlantic Foundation (GMFTF), with funding from the European Union, has been implementing the project “INcreasing Public RESilience to disinformation and EU positive awareness” (INCRES). The initiative aims to counter disinformation, raise public awareness about European integration, and foster support for Moldova’s European path.

As part of INCRES, 11 local initiatives have been funded, covering diverse regions of the country. These grassroots projects have made a strong impact by empowering youth, informing communities, and highlighting the tangible benefits of Moldova’s EU integration process.

Here are six examples.

## **STRĂȘENI Spring Camp: Youth, Games, and European Values**

In Strășeni, 17 enthusiastic young participants took part in the Spring Camp, an interactive learning experience centered around European values. Through games, quizzes, and the board game “I Say YES to the EU!”, youth explored topics such as unity, diversity, and civic participation.

The initiative also featured the European Youth Gala, celebrating participants’ engagement, and a 2025 Youth Forum,

where they voiced their visions and concerns to local authorities – proving that young people are ready to shape Moldova’s European future.

## **Education for European Values: From Classrooms to Communities**

Through workshops, debates, competitions, and film screenings, the “**Education for European Values**” initiative brought EU principles closer to communities in Catranîc, Ișcălău, Doltu, and Burghelea.

Over 100 students, teachers, and parents took part in creative and educational activities, including intergenerational essay writing and a virtual tour of UNESCO monuments.

*“Now I know the EU means rights, equal opportunities, and respect.”*

**– Anastasia,  
9th-grade student**

*“Working with my daughter made me realize we’re part of something bigger.”*

**– Parent participant**

## European Projects in Action: Local Impact, Regional Reach

Implemented by NGO OBIECTIV and the Local Action Group “Drumul Vechi Moldovenesc”, this initiative spotlighted the real-world impact of EU-funded rural development projects.

A regional competition encouraged citizens to creatively reflect on Moldova’s EU integration through videos, drawings, and photos. Over 30 entries from nine localities showcased how European projects are transforming lives.



*“I illustrated Moldova’s EU integration through a symbolic puzzle... When the puzzle is complete, we will join hands and dance the Moldovan hora together.”*

**– Olga Leca,  
drawing contest winner**

## Connected to Europe: Voices from the Ground

In Bălți, Făleşti, and Edineț, NGO CARTERA launched the “Connected to Europe” campaign, featuring testimonials from the diaspora, entrepreneurs with EU experience, and street interviews.

The project promoted open civic dialogue and shared authentic stories, reaching tens of thousands of people via social media and raising awareness of the benefits of EU integration.



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## EU Closer to YOUth: Building Awareness in Drochia

The Center for Sustainable Development and Civic Innovation engaged over 200 young people from ten rural communities in Drochia through the “EU Closer to YOUth” project.

Activities included interactive workshops, the “My European Dream” creative contest, and the “EU for Drochia” Marathon—all promoting EU values, social inclusion, and youth empowerment.



## Ordinary People, Real Stories: Moldovans Reflect on the EU

In a powerful episode of the *Oameni Simpli* video series, **Moldova.org** explored how travel and experience reshape perceptions of the EU.

Titled “We Were Shaped by Propaganda”, the episode features five Moldovans who share their reflections on public services, values, and cultural lessons learned while living or working in EU countries.

Broadcast on TV8, Elita TV Rezina, Studio-L Căușeni, and widely promoted online, the video reached national audiences and sparked meaningful reflection on Moldova’s place in the European community.

Watch the full video: [„Eram marcați de propagandă.” Cinci moldoveni, despre relația cu Uniunea Europeană](#)

## Conclusion: Local Initiatives, Lasting Impact

Through storytelling, education, and civic engagement, the INCRES project is helping communities across Moldova build resilience to disinformation and connect more deeply with the values and opportunities of the European Union. These local actions are laying the foundation for a more informed, engaged, and pro-European society — one community at a time.



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## INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

### A modernised, prosperous and resilient Moldova in the EU family – aim of a new large-scale EU-funded project

An ambitious three-year project 'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration', was officially launched on 8 April, aiming at accelerating the country's way towards the big European family. The project is part of the

overall EU assistance for countries aspiring to join the Union and is set to enhance the economic, political, and social frameworks of candidate nations, facilitating their journey towards full-fledged EU membership.



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'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration', fully funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of international partners, will focus on several strategic areas including governance, rule of law, economic development, safe and resilient infrastructure, education focused on the needs of the society, environmental sustainability. By providing technical assistance, training programmes and financial resources, the project aims to

speed up the candidate country's alignment with EU standards and regulations.

The project features an important initiative of attracting young, motivated and skilled professionals in the public administration, by offering them the opportunity of paid internships in state institutions. This initiative will build on the results of the previous EU-funded projects in the area, which already brought a number of graduates of the Internship programmes into the country's state institutions.



Moreover, the project will strengthen the public administration's capacity to implement reforms, enhancing strategic planning and sectoral policy-making. It will also increase stakeholders' understanding of EU policies, legislation, and regulations. Additionally, it will strengthen the administrative and institutional capacity to meet EU accession requirements and accomplish the priorities set out in Moldova's Growth Plan to develop a competitive market economy. To achieve these goals, thirteen EU High Level Advisers,

as well as mid- and short-term international and local experts are deployed within the project, to provide long-term support to key public administrations.

This initiative represents a significant milestone in Moldova's ongoing commitment to aligning with European standards and best practices, ensuring the successful implementation of governance reforms essential for the country's socio-economic development and EU integration.

**Jānis MAŽEIKS, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova spoke about the importance of the project, highlighting:**

*"At its core, this initiative is about helping Moldovan institutions do what society expects them to do: deliver for Moldovan*

*citizens — transparently, effectively, and in full alignment with the values and standards of the European Union. And Moldovan citizens have spoken. They see their future within the European family."*





# EUPM Moldova: Fostering Moldova's ability to prevent illicit cryptocurrency flows

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, EUPM Moldova organized a workshop dedicated to the Investigation of cryptocurrency financial flows. The main beneficiaries were the General Police Inspectorate together with representatives from other law enforcement agencies. The workshop provided participants with the best practices of tracking and analysis pertaining to digital assets. Considering the potential threats stemming from illicit cryptocurrency usage, EUPM Moldova's support provided specialized knowledge and skills that

will increase institutional resilience in an evolving digital sphere.

By bringing together the country's key institutions and specialists, this workshop aimed to ensure a wide level of dissemination for the skills and practices which were enhanced, as well as increasing future cross-agency interoperability so as to ensure a unified and effective response to the vulnerability posed by such illicit financial flows.



## CEPOL and the Republic of Moldova reinforce their partnership

A renewed Working Arrangement between the Republic of Moldova and CEPOL was signed on 1 April in Budapest, marking a new chapter in their long-standing partnership in law enforcement training and cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Moldova's Minister of Internal Affairs and CEPOL Executive Director, during the inauguration ceremony of CEPOL's new headquarters. The event was attended by the Acting Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs.

The new Working Arrangement reflects key institutional developments over the

past decade. It strengthens the framework for cooperation, providing increased opportunities for Moldovan law enforcement professionals to participate in CEPOL's training portfolio.

For over ten years, Moldovan law enforcement professionals have engaged in CEPOL activities to enhance their skills and build international networks. This collaboration has contributed to aligning Moldova's practices with EU standards and reinforcing the rule of law. The renewed agreement further reinforces the strong foundations on which the EU4Security Moldova project is being implemented.



EU-Moldova

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# Moldovan law enforcement professionals gain new skills to fight cryptocurrency crime

The criminal misuse of digital assets has been identified as a major and emerging threat in the [EU's Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment \(SOCTA 2025\)](#). In response, Moldovan law enforcement professionals took part in a hands-on training on cryptocurrency investigations in Chişinău from 12 to 16 May 2025.

Delivered under the EU4Security Moldova project by CEPOL in cooperation with national and international partners, the course gathered police officers, prosecutors, and representatives from anti-corruption and financial intelligence units.

It offered a practical, multidisciplinary approach to tackling this complex crime area. Experts from the Portuguese Judicial Police, Europol, and CEPOL led the training, supported by Binance, Coinbase, and TRM Labs. Sessions focused on tracing illicit transactions, identifying blockchain assets, and enhancing cooperation with virtual asset service providers.

The course also introduced participants to blockchain forensic tools and investigative frameworks tailored to Moldova's needs, enhancing national capacity to combat cyber-enabled crime.





# CEPEJ supports the organisation of the International Conference: Promoting Mediation through Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova

The International Conference, which was held on 28 and 29 May 2025, in Chisinau, served as a platform for dialogue, the exchange of experiences and best practices to promote mediation as an alternative method for dispute resolution.

This two-day event highlighted the experiences of several European countries in implementing mediation and its impact on the judicial system and justice actors, including Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, etc. The tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) to promote mediation in the context of improving the efficiency and quality of justice, which

provide a solid foundation for strengthening national mediation systems, were on the Conference agenda.

The Conference also addressed the evolution of the mediation system in the Republic of Moldova and the prospects for its enhancement. To this end, the draft Law on mediation and the status of the mediator in the Republic of Moldova was evaluated in light of CEPEJ's tools related to mediation.

The Conference brought together representatives of international organizations, European experts, mediators, legal professionals, academics, and other stakeholders in the justice sector.



*This activity was organised within the framework of the Project [“Support to further modernisation of court management in the Republic of Moldova”](#), co-funded by the*

*European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance.*



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

# Moldovan police database operators are better equipped to collect data on hate crimes

Throughout April and May 2025, in co-operation with the General Police Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova, five tailor-made training sessions on data collection were organised for 162 police database operators. These activities are part of the initiative launched to support Moldovan authorities to improve and harmonise data collection methods, since 2019.

The recent cycle of trainings aimed to present and discuss the latest developments and

practices on disaggregated data collection. It addressed the main challenges and identified steps to improve the national data collection system, in line with European and international standards and best practices. Equipping police database operators with the necessary skills for the efficient collection and processing of data reported to the police in alleged cases of hate crimes, is an important element toward developing effective and systemic responses to discrimination and hate crimes.



Participants included statisticians and criminal investigators from districts across the Centre, North, and South of the country. Staff from the Guard Unit, who work directly with hate crime victims, also took part, alongside officers from 11 police inspectorates involved in a pilot project for the Ministry of Internal Affairs' electronic registry. The sessions provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences, discuss practical guidelines, and explore ways of improving the data collection process.

Beyond training, the European Union and the Council of Europe continue to support

the Republic of Moldova in improving both the legislation and enforcement aspects on data collection. This comprehensive support will help increase public trust in police, particularly among vulnerable persons and potential victims of discrimination and hate crimes.

*These events are part of the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme "[Partnership for Good Governance](#)", co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, in the framework of the project "[Combating discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Republic of Moldova](#)".*

# Joint efforts underway to align the Republic of Moldova's AML/CFT policies with EU standards

Strengthening the Republic of Moldova's capacity to combat money laundering and terrorist financing is a critical pillar in the country's European integration agenda. A strategic dialogue took place, bringing together national institutions and international partners to accelerate the alignment of Moldova's anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) framework with the European Union standards.

The event gathered representatives from the National Bank of Moldova (NBM) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), alongside international experts and partners, within the framework of the EU–Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance. Their active engagement reflected a clear institutional commitment to accelerating reforms in line with the latest European AML/CFT standards, such as Directive (EU) 2024/1640 and Regulation (EU) 2024/1624.



The initiative is embedded within the Republic of Moldova's broader reform efforts and is instrumental for achieving compliance with the EU acquis, reinforcing the country's commitment to democratic governance, financial integrity, and the rule of law.

Throughout the sessions, participants analysed gaps in national legislation, institutional capacities, and operational practices. The discussions focused on enhancing inter-agency cooperation, strengthening supervisory tools, improving transparency of beneficial ownership, and implementing effective risk-based oversight mechanisms.

The workshop concluded with identifying actionable steps and priorities for continued reform. The involvement of NBM and FIU leadership in these discussions highlighted their dedication to aligning the Republic of Moldova's financial system with EU expectations and strengthening its resilience against economic crime.

*This event is part of the European Union and the Council of Europe joint programme "Partnership for Good Governance", co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, in the framework of the project on "Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Regime in the Republic of Moldova".*



## Members of the Superior Council of Prosecutors strengthen their skills in communication

The Council of Europe organised a training on crisis communication for the members of the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP) and employees of the SCP secretariat. The training delivered by Ion Grosu, the Council of Europe consultant, entailed both a theoretical part as well as practical exercises.

The training aimed to strengthen participants' skills in adapting their messages to various audiences, formulating institutional messages, and interacting effectively with the media, particularly in high-pressure situations.



The workshop covered several critical areas, including the challenges of institutional communication in 2025, such as combating the phenomenon of instant justice and managing the evolving information flow in an age dominated by journalists, influencers, AI agents, and the general public. One of the main focuses was understanding crisis

situations and preparing for them, from identifying early signs of a crisis to managing reputational attacks.

This event is part of the ongoing efforts under the EU-Council of Europe Joint Project "[Support to justice reform in the Republic of Moldova](#)".

# Judges and prosecutors enhance their knowledge of the EU law

Judges and prosecutors took part in a training module focused on key areas of EU law, with topics that included EU institutions, the protection of fundamental rights, the role and powers of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), international legal cooperation in both criminal and civil matters, and EU standards on the rule of law.

Răzvan Horațiu RADU, international consultant of the Council of Europe along with Iulian Alexandru RUSU, NIJ trainer, delivered sessions on the EU founding treaties, its institutions and mechanisms as well as the decision-making process within the EU. Their sessions also focused on the protection of fundamental rights within the EU and the CJEU.



Laura Felicia CEH, international consultant of the Council of Europe, and Diana ROTUNDU, trainer of the NIJ, focused on the international legal cooperation in criminal matters, relevant institutions as well as the available tools and mechanisms within the EU in this respect.

Andrei IACUBA, international consultant of the Council of Europe, and Vladimir PALAMARCIUC and Lucia BAGRIN trainers of the NIJ focused on the international legal cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

Horațius Nicolae DUMBRAVĂ, international consultant of the Council of Europe, along with Iulian Alexandru RUSU, trainer of the NIJ in their joint sessions covered the standards

of the Council of Europe concerning the rule of law, the EU mechanisms pertaining to the rule of law and the relevant jurisprudence of the CJEU.

The training courses were a result of the joint efforts of the Council of Europe and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to strengthen the knowledge of judges and prosecutors in these aspects of the EU law and were delivered jointly by international consultants of the Council of Europe and the national trainers of the NIJ. *The events were organised within 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](#)".*



Stronger Together

# Contemporary challenges in the activity of European Constitutional Courts discussed at the international conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova

In 2025, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova celebrates its 30th anniversary. To mark this important milestone, the Council of Europe joined the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova in organising a high-level international conference in Chisinau on 23 May 2025.

The conference brought together Moldovan high-level officials and key stakeholders as well as representatives of Constitutional Courts of Austria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Ukraine, Estonia, and the Czech Republic, the Venice Commission, the Court of Justice of

the European Union, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE.

The event was structured in two sections of presentations and comparative discussions, which addressed the pressing issues facing European constitutional courts and the obstacles they encounter in fulfilling their role, many of which are rooted in political, legal, and social dynamics.

*The conference was organised within the framework of the Joint Project of the European Union and Council of Europe "[Support to the Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova](#)".*





# Officials of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova visit the Court of Justice of the European Union

Ten officials of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova (CC) visited the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg. The delegation of the CC was headed by Teodor PAPUC, Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the CC and comprised of judicial assistants and staff of the Research and Analysis Department. The objective of the visit was to increase the understanding of the staff of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova about the work, practices and experiences of the CJEU.

During the visit, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with Koen LENAERTS, President of the CJEU, Judge Siniša Rodin, President of the Eighth Chamber, Judges Ineta Ziemele and Octavia Spineanu-Matei as well as Ion Gâlea, Judge of the General

Court of the European Union. The CC officials also had exchanges with the staff of the Research and Documentation Directorate of the CJEU.

During the meetings, the discussions focused on the issues of interpretation of the EU law, interaction between the CJEU and constitutional courts, the work of Advocates General, the procedure for assigning cases and other working methods of the CJEU, process of legal research and analysis related to the casework and CJEU case-law research tools. The members of the CC delegation also attended a grand chamber hearing.

*The visit was organised within the framework of the EU-CoE joint project "[Support to the Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova](#)"*



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

## State aid training sessions continue within the Twinning Project

Between 20–23 May 2025, several training sessions dedicated to the application of EU state aid legislation took place, targeting the Competition Council and central public authorities that may act as state aid grantors. The activity was carried out within the framework of the Twinning Project “Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Competition Council to enforce competition and state aid policy in line with EU best practices,” funded by the European Union and implemented by Romania, Lithuania, and Poland.

For a candidate country in the middle of the EU integration process, understanding and correctly applying state aid rules is a fundamental requirement. These rules, very often of high complexity, define the framework in which governments can support the economy without distorting competition. In this context, the trainings organized within the Project represent an essential step in enhancing the knowledge and skills of public authorities with competencies in this field.



The sessions provided participants with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge, in an interactive and hands-on way, on the key elements of state aid, such as “state resources,” “imputability,” “selectivity,” and “economic advantage.” Through the analysis of relevant EU case law and practical exercises involving solving hypothetical scenarios, participants were actively engaged in the learning process, gaining a clearer and more practical understanding of how these principles are applied in practice.

For the Republic of Moldova, these trainings are not merely a professional development exercise – they represent a sustainable investment in strengthening the capacity of institutions to operate in line with EU standards. A public administration capable of identifying and managing measures that qualify as state aid in line with EU

acquis significantly enhances the country’s readiness to access EU. State aid is a major component of EU economic policy, and its correct application is crucial to ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market.

The Twinning project, implemented for 27 months, firmly supports Moldova’s European path, offering not only expertise but also a durable platform for cooperation between Moldovan institutions and the three Member States involved in the Project. By enhancing the capacity of the Competition Council to implement competition and state aid policy effectively, the project contributes to building a functional market economy, protecting consumers, and promoting undistorted competition – core values of the European Union.



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# CyberEast+: Eastern Partnership counterparts increased their knowledge on judicial training programmes and resources developed by the Council of Europe

Criminal justice systems from the Eastern Partnership region are committed to continue the development and implementation of up-to-date and sustainable training modules on cybercrime and electronic evidence. To respond to this need, CyberEast+, a joint endeavour of the European Union and of the

Council of Europe, organised the Regional Workshop on strategies and practices of law enforcement and judicial training on cybercrime and electronic evidence, which took place on 24 and 25 April 2025, in Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova.



Some 25 project stakeholders, representing law enforcement and judicial training institutions/academies from Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, with the support of the Council of Europe, mapped the existing domestic training strategies on cybercrime and electronic evidence and assessed existing needs and gaps.

Moreover, the representatives of partner authorities reviewed the basic, intermediate and advanced trainings developed by the Council of Europe and exchanged views on how to build and maintain a pool of national trainers on cybercrime-related matters.

The CyberEast+ project will continue to reinforce the capacities of criminal justice authorities in the Eastern Partnership region to develop national training strategies for cybercrime and electronic evidence, to create and maintain the pool of national experts, and to ensure overall continuous and specialised training on cybercrime and electronic evidence through training institutions.



Stronger Together

# Media, Justice and Reform: highlights from the Anticorruption Donors' Coordination Meeting

The Anticorruption Donors' Network held its latest coordination meeting on 30 May, hosted by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova with the support of the "Moldova is Europe - Support for EU Integration" project. The event gathered key representatives from the donor community, development partners and implementing organizations engaged in anticorruption efforts.

The meeting was opened and moderated by Irina Cruceru, Programme Manager for Anticorruption and Criminal Assets Recovery at the EU Delegation. The agenda included expert presentations and interactive discussions focused on enhancing cooperation and the effectiveness of current and upcoming initiatives.

Drago Kos, Co-chair of the Independent Anticorruption Advisory Committee (CCIA), joined the meeting online to present

"Moldova's Media and Corruption: Friend or Foe?" - an analysis of the media's role in either supporting or undermining anticorruption efforts. His presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session.

Ilie Chirtoacă, Executive Director of the Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM), shared findings from the 2025 edition of "Benchmarks & Blind Spots 2025: What Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers think about Moldova's Justice Reforms" which surveyed legal professionals' views on justice reforms in Moldova. The presentation sparked further discussion on achievements and remaining challenges in the justice sector.

The meeting concluded with a tour de table, during which donor organizations shared updates on their ongoing initiatives, exchanged views on reform priorities, and discussed future collaboration.





# EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project supports gender equality reforms in Moldova

In April and May 2025, the European Union-funded EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project (Phase II) assisted central and local public authorities in the Republic of Moldova to integrate a gender perspective into policy and regulatory documents to ensure that public governance and planning processes respond to women's and men's diverse needs. Public authorities expressed high levels of satisfaction with the Reform Helpdesk's support for Moldova's ongoing reform agenda and committed to sustaining this collaboration.

At the national level, the Reform Helpdesk conducted a gender analysis of the *Draft Government Decision on the approval of the National Road Safety Programme 2025–2030*, developed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Based on its findings, the team provided recommendations on mainstreaming gender into the programme's objectives, actions and monitoring framework to meet the needs of different groups – including women, children, the elderly and persons living with disabilities – in line with national gender equality commitments and international standards.

At the municipal level, Reform Helpdesk experts worked closely with Bălți Municipality Hall to make policy documents gender-sensitive. These included the *Action Plan to Strengthen the Network of Social Services 2025–2027*, the *Action Plan for Supporting Families 2024–2028*, the *Decision on Declaring 2025 as the Year*

*of Social Inclusion of People with Special Needs*, and the *Participatory Budgeting Implementation Mechanism*. Based on a gender analysis and impact assessment, the team recommended using gender-disaggregated data, setting objectives for promoting equal opportunities, and including under-represented groups in participatory processes to ensure equal access to services and decision-making. The Reform Helpdesk also assisted Anenii Noi City Hall by conducting a gender analysis of the *Regulations on the Organisation and Functioning of the City Hall and the Development Strategy of Anenii Noi 2023–2028*. To better reflect gender equality commitments, the team recommended using gender-sensitive language, integrating gender-related responsibilities within staff roles, and incorporating gender equality objectives in the city's development priorities.

At the local level, the Reform Helpdesk analysed how the *Zubrești Village Development Strategy 2021–2026* addresses the needs of women and men in employment, social services, healthcare and public infrastructure. The team offered recommendations on integrating gender-responsive objectives and indicators, ensuring equal participation in community consultations, and addressing stereotypes that affect women's participation in economic and public life. These measures will align the strategy with Moldova's national gender equality policy framework.



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# EU4LEM: Specialized Border Security Training for 186 Officers at Chişinău International Airport

Between 27 and 30 May 2025, the EU4LEM project's Cross-Border Cooperation Component conducted a key training activity for the entire Border Police staff operating at Chişinău International Airport.

A total of **186 Border Police officers** – covering all four operational shifts – benefitted from a comprehensive training package on **"Passenger Profiling, Second Line Checks at the Border, and Latest Border Security Threats."** This training directly supported several EU4LEM project objectives, including:

◆ **Enhancing risk analysis capacities** within an Integrated Border Management framework, thereby improving intelligence gathering to combat organized crime.

◆ **Developing technical skills** in identifying unusual or suspicious passenger behaviors, and applying behavioral analysis to detect cross-border criminal activities during border control procedures and Second Line Checks.

◆ **Providing up-to-date insights** on current and emerging border security threats, with a focus on organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, document fraud, and the detection of foreign terrorist fighters.

The successful organization of this training was made possible thanks to the strong commitment demonstrated by the high-level management of the General Inspectorate of Border Police, both at headquarters and at the airport level. Their support enabled the training to be conducted under optimal conditions.

The success of this initiative lays the foundation for further project activities, with the potential to strengthen the fight against cross-border crime and enhance international cooperation through targeted workshops involving EU Agencies and key stakeholders.



Stronger Together

# An Intermunicipal Development Association has been institutionalized in the Ungheni region to support cooperation between municipalities

23 municipalities in Ungheni region have created an Intermunicipal Development Association (IDA). Its headquarters were inaugurated on Friday, 4 April 2025 at the Ungheni City Hall. The aim of the association is to improve public services, attract investments and implement regional projects. The initiative was supported by the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions" programme funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

*"The creation of the Ungheni Intermunicipal Development Association is an important step in the process of institutionalization*

*and implementation of intermunicipal cooperation to ensure harmonious local and regional development. We are confident that by joining the efforts of the second and first level authorities of the Ungheni district, we will be able to carry out joint projects that are necessary and long awaited by the citizens, especially in terms of quality public services. As we are at the beginning of this journey, we are emphasizing the strengthening of the association's capacities,"*

**said Ina Olearciuc, the interim director of IDA "Ungheni".**





One of the main objectives of IDA "Ungheni" is the modernization of local infrastructure, essential for economic development and improvement of living conditions. Through participatory planning, local authorities, together with the IDA, will analyze the current infrastructure situation and propose solutions for expanding and improving public services. They will also identify investments that can be made jointly for a sustainable development of the region.

UNDP and the EU have provided institutional support for setting up the IDA. An Intermunicipal Council was set up, bringing together representatives of 23 communities that have decided to jointly provide public services. These councils received legal assistance to institutionalize intermunicipal cooperation. The decisions were then approved by the local councils of the member communities. Finally, service providers were reorganized, and institutional and operational capacities were strengthened. As a result, more than 80,000 inhabitants will benefit from joint communal services.

As an intermediary between authorities and public service operators, IDA "Ungheni" with the support of the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions" programme has contributed to the

modernization of the operators "Apă-Canal Ungheni" and "AVE Ungheni", facilitating the extension of water, sewerage and waste management services in several localities.

Between 2022-2024, the EU and UNDP Moldova supported the Ungheni and Cahul regions in implementing a model of intermunicipal cooperation aimed at improving public services and strengthening relations between communities. The investment of more than EUR 1 million from the EU and EUR 50,000 from France made possible the purchase of equipment, infrastructure works, technical assistance and capacity development of the service operators.

The IDA "Cahul" is to be institutionalized in the Cahul region soon.

The "EU4Moldova: Focal regions" Programme (2019-2025) supports intelligent, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in the regions of Cahul and Ungheni to ensure better standards of living to the citizens. The programme has a total budget of EUR 23 million, is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



  EU-Moldova  
Stronger Together

# EUBAM Head discusses regional security with European Parliament delegation

A delegation from the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) visited the Republic of Moldova to review the implementation of the recently signed EU-Moldova Security and Defence Partnership and assess the support provided by EU missions in the country.

On 16 April, the discussion with EUBAM focused on the regional security situation, particularly in light of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, and on the role of the mission in strengthening border security, facilitating trade, and tackling cross-border crime.

Head of EUBAM, Slawomir Pichor, briefed the Members of the European Parliament on the situational picture at the Moldova-Ukraine border and continued efforts to assist Moldovan and Ukrainian partners in addressing security challenges and maintaining the flow of legitimate trade affected by the war.

The conversation also covered EUBAM support to the Transnistrian settlement process, in particular to the trade compliance with the EU regulatory standards and mitigation of threats and financial risks at the administrative line.

The delegation further visited the Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne jointly operated border crossing point, where they met with EUBAM experts and observed the practical aspects of cross-border cooperation.

In addition to Chair Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann (Germany), the visiting delegation included Members of the European Parliament Rasa Juknevičienė (Lithuania), Andrey Novakov (Bulgaria), Sven Mikser (Estonia), Pierre Romain Thionnet (France), Reinis Pozņaks (Latvia), and Petras Auštrevičius (Lithuania).



Stronger Together

# The Moldovan Border Police strengthens internal control and strategic planning capacities with EUBAM support

On May 15–16, representatives of the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova (MDBP) participated in a specialized training course entitled “Strengthening the internal control system and integrating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) into institutional processes” organized with the support of EUBAM.

The training aimed to enhance professional capabilities by introducing and applying key performance indicators in strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes. Participants focused on methods to improve the effectiveness and accountability of internal subdivisions within the Border Police.

The agenda covered crucial aspects of internal control tailored to the specific challenges of border operations. Topics

included risk identification, setting institutional priorities, and developing action plans grounded in performance indicator systems.

The Head of EUBAM, Slawomir Pichor, attended the certificate awarding ceremony. He highlighted the importance of sharing best practices and acknowledged the growing cooperation between the Moldovan Border Police and partners from the Republic of Poland – a partnership that has proven both productive and effective over time.

By taking part in this course, MDBP reaffirms its commitment to the continuous modernization of internal processes, the promotion of institutional accountability, and alignment with European standards and best practices in the field of border management.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



# Regional Customs Coordination Group welcomes completion of the legislative process regarding the agreement on the coordinated control at Giurgiulești-Galati BCP

On 14 May, the 10th meeting of the EUBAM-led Regional Customs Coordination Group between the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine brought together customs authorities and border management stakeholders to discuss operational situation at the border, latest legislative

developments, and their impact on border control processes, as well as plans for modernisation and refurbishment regarding border infrastructure. The meeting was also attended by the representative of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission.



The focus of the discussion was the advancement of the coordinated control at the Giurgiulesti-Galati border crossing point (BCP), where the Republic of Moldova and Romania are preparing to introduce this in the near future. The Group welcomed the completion of the legislative process and agreed on the next steps for technical implementation.

This initiative follows the launch of joint control between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at the Reni-Giurgiulesti jointly operated border crossing point (JOBBCP) in May 2024. Together, these efforts represent significant progress toward streamlining border procedures and facilitating the movement of goods along the lower Danube region en route to Reni-Giurgiulesti-Galati.

The implementation of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) in the Republic of Moldova was highlighted as a key milestone in aligning the country's customs procedures with EU standards. The system is currently functioning well at the national level and is scheduled for review by an external evaluation mission in June this year. Full operationalisation at the international level is targeted for 2025.

The participants also gave updates on the situation at the BCPs, noting that while traffic volumes increased during the Easter holiday period, overall operations remained stable and free of major disruptions.

Looking ahead, the Moldovan and Romanian authorities and the Service for Restoration and Infrastructure Development in Odesa Region shared their plans for BCP modernisation in 2025, including in the lower Danube region. They also presented recent results from the use of scanning and scaling technologies, highlighting the added value these tools bring to enhancing trade compliance.



EU-Moldova

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# EUPM Moldova: Bolstering language skills for better crisis management

On June 3rd 2025, EUPM Moldova marked the completion of a 6-months “English for Crisis Management” course. Designed for the Republic of Moldova’s Ministry of Internal Affairs, this initiative aimed to equip senior leaders and key figures heading its agencies with crucial technical language skills, underpinning their ability to anticipate, react to, and manage crises in close cooperation with the EU and other international partners.

By securing the foundations of effective communication, the language course aimed to improve interagency communication, ensure effective international coordination, standardize crisis management procedures and ensure quality knowledge transfer and dissemination, thus offering the country’s institutions the chance to improve their ability to handle crises.





# Local public administration trained to access and manage EU funds

About 50 officials from local public authorities (LPAs) of the Republic of Moldova participated in training sessions on European affairs, with a focus on understanding the impact of the European Union accession process on local administration and the role of LPAs in this process.

The participants – mayors, presidents of raions and other representatives of local public administration – discussed, together with experts from the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), multi-level governance in the EU, participation in decision-making processes and opportunities for local development.

The training also presented practical examples of how European funds can be accessed and which areas will benefit most from integration.

The event was organized by the Bureau for European Integration (BEI) in collaboration with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), with the support of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the technical assistance programme for Moldova “Support for legal and institutional reforms resulting from the candidate state status” and the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU integration”.



# Roundtable presentation of the Monitoring Report on Local Budgets in Criuleni and Dubăsari districts

The Center for Social Justice “Echitate,” a beneficiary of the project “Civil Society for European Integration,” funded by the European Union and co-funded by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova, organized a public event on May 28 in Criuleni. During the event, the *Monitoring Report on Local Budgets in the Criuleni and Dubăsari Districts* was presented and debated, with a focus on budget transparency and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. The report was developed under the guidance of our colleague Marina Soloviova, Program Director at Expert-Grup.

**The event brought together mayors, local councilors, civil society representatives, and active citizens from the Security Zone, who engaged in open discussions on the following topics:**

- ❖ lack of transparency in the management of public funds;
- ❖ low or nonexistent spending on human rights;
- ❖ the urgent need for citizen involvement in budgetary processes;
- ❖ excessive dependence on state budget funds;
- ❖ a positive example: only one mayor's office has implemented a participatory budgeting mechanism. Conversely, some municipalities have not reported any spending on human rights in the past three years.

During the debate, participants emphasized that fundamental rights cannot be guaranteed without clear budget allocations and without a transparent and community-oriented local administration.

The full report can be accessed on the project's website: <https://www.euromonitor.md/raport-de-monitorizare-a-bugetelor-destinate-apararii-drepturilor-si-intereselor-legitime-ale-persoanelor-vulnerabile-la-nivel-local>

The Center for Social Justice “ECHITATE” is one of the 15 civil society organizations selected through an open call to implement activities within the “Civil Society for European Integration” project. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to monitor public budgets at both central and local levels and to encourage their involvement in advocacy efforts aligning budgets and policies with the priorities of the European integration agenda.

*The event and the report were developed within the framework of the project “Civil Society for European Integration” funded by the European Union and co-funded by Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova, which is implemented by the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup, as the lead partner, in partnership with the Institute for European Policy and Reform (IPRE), A.O. Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. More details about the project: <https://euromonitor.md/ro>*



EU-Moldova

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## Expert-Grup: The “Plus Budget” Program must align with good governance principles and an economic model based on added value

The Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup presented on April 16, during a press conference, its [Position Paper on the draft amendment to the State Budget Law for 2025 \(“Plus Budget”\)](#) and the implementation of the Economic Growth Plan of the Republic of Moldova.

The document analyzes the implications of the “Plus Budget” program for economic development, good governance, and its alignment with the objectives of the Economic Growth Plan of the Republic of Moldova, financially supported by the European Union. It also highlights several shortcomings related to the approval process and the content of the draft,

which have generated critical reactions from civil society.

### Among the main issues identified are:

- lack of transparency in the decision-making process;
- inconsistency of certain budgetary measures with the philosophy and objectives of the Economic Growth Plan;
- risks related to limiting local autonomy;
- potential deviations toward political clientelism in the allocation of public funds.



Marina Soloviova, Program Director for Economic Policies at the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup and author of the position paper, stated that the approval process and the provisions of the draft have generated critical reactions from society due to several

concerns: lack of transparency in decision-making, inconsistency with the philosophy of the Economic Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, limitation of local autonomy, and the creation of conditions conducive to political clientelism.



**In addition to the critique of the draft amendment to the State Budget Law for 2025 (“Plus Budget”), the position paper puts forward a series of concrete recommendations to:**

- ensure transparency in the budgetary process;
- align the proposed measures with the objectives of the Economic Growth Plan;
- safeguard local autonomy, pluralism, and the participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- avoid using EU financial support intended for implementing the Economic Growth Plan on unproductive or populist-driven projects;
- prioritize investments that enable the transition to a new economic growth model based on increased competitiveness and added value.

Adrian Lupușor, Executive Director of the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup”, noted that from the outset, our organization

emphasized the strategic importance of the Growth Plan for Moldova, generously offered by the European Union. However, for these resources to have a real impact on accelerating the country’s economic development, they must be allocated based on good governance principles (transparency, public consultations, depoliticization of financial flows, and the absence of conflicts of interest). The government must also recognize that EU resources should be invested in activities that generate added value, thus strengthening the national economy’s capacity to repay these loans over time. The “Plus Budget” does not align with these principles. We see multiple risks of irrational and politicized use of these funds, which is, of course, unacceptable. We will continue to closely monitor how the government manages the funds from Moldova’s Growth Plan. Through this position paper, Expert-Grup reiterates the importance of consolidating a transparent and participatory budgetary framework, oriented toward the transition to a high added-value economic model.



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The full position paper, available in both Romanian and English, can be accessed at: <https://www.euromonitor.md/en/nota-de-pozitie-privind-proiectul-de-modificare-a-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2025-programul-bugetul-plus/>

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



EU-Moldova

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# The European Union and the International Labour Organization support the strengthening of professional capacities within Moldova's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and National Employment Agency

The European Union and the International Labour Organization (ILO) continue to support the development of the labour market and the enhancement of access to improved employment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova.

Between 14–17 April 2025, approximately 50 representatives from the National Employment Agency (NEA) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) participated in a series of intensive workshops aimed at modernising employment services and improving performance management systems. These activities are part of a broader effort to support the institutional reform of NEA and MLSP through the development of skills and results-oriented approaches.

Participants explored and analysed European best practices, contributing to the development of action plans tailored to the national context.

The sessions were facilitated with the support of international ILO experts, who provided comparative insights into institutional methodologies and experiences from European Union member states.

**Over the course of four days, NEA and MLSP specialists took part in interactive sessions and practical applications covering, among other topics:**

- the use of e-learning modules in the continuous training of staff;
- the design and delivery of modern employment services tailored to client needs;
- the development of active labour market programmes, integrating international practices in career guidance and individualised support;
- the implementation and monitoring of institutional performance, using key performance indicators (KPIs) and measurement systems aligned with EU and ILO standards;
- the creation of a sustainable network of internal trainers to support long-term organisational learning.

Through this initiative, the European Union and the ILO are directly contributing to enhancing the quality and efficiency of public employment services in Moldova, fostering an approach based on continuous learning and adaptability to labour market dynamics.





These activities are part of the project “EU Support for a More Inclusive Labour Market in the Republic of Moldova,” funded by the

European Union and implemented by the International Labour Organization.



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# EU supports National Employment Agency with donation of three vehicles

The National Employment Agency (ANOFM) has received on 9 June 2025 three modern vehicles as part of an institutional strengthening effort aimed at bringing employment services closer to citizens. This milestone contributes to the expansion of mobile teams in the districts of Glodeni, Drochia, and Făleşti, an essential component of NEA's ongoing reform process.

This initiative is part of the "EU Support to Inclusive Labour Markets in the Republic of Moldova" project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The EU/ILO project supports key labour market institutions in their reform efforts and contributes to aligning national employment services with international labour standards and the relevant EU acquis, as the country advances on its path toward EU accession by 2030.

Additionally, 10 territorial subdivisions of the National Employment Agency (NEA) in Anenii Noi, Cahul, Cantemir, Cimişlia, Criuleni, Edineţ, Străşeni, Ştefan Vodă, Taraclia, and Ungheni will be equipped with IT equipment and office furniture. These resources will support the piloting of a "self-service point" concept designed for jobseekers.

The total value of the vehicles and equipment amounts to 1,730,000



MDL and reflects the shared commitment of national and international partners to enhance the mobility of employment services, particularly in rural areas. The new transport units will enable NEA's territorial subdivisions to expand their coverage and improve the quality of services provided – from career guidance and counselling to job matching and direct engagement with employers.



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# Strengthening workplace safety and health in Moldova through innovative labour inspector training programme

In the period 27-29 January 2025, the EU funded project “EU Support for more inclusive labour markets in the Republic of Moldova,” implemented by the International Labour Organization successfully held a Train-the-Trainers programme aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of workplace accident investigation and prevention.

The three-day program, designed for labour inspectors and social partners, was a key initiative in supporting the State Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova as part of its ongoing reform efforts. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and tools to improve workplace safety and health, address occupational hazards, and risks, and implement preventative measures in alignment with both international labour standards and national legislation.

## Training highlights:

**Expert-led sessions:** The programme featured expert guidance from the International Labour Organization technical specialists Luiz Carlos Lumbreras and Andrew Christian, providing valuable insights into the

best practices for workplace accident prevention and investigation.

**Capacity building:** A total of 20 labour inspectors and representatives from the National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova (CNSM) and the National Confederation of Employers of Moldova (CNPM) were trained as trainers. This will ensure the knowledge gained is disseminated throughout the broader labour inspection community.

**Improved workplace safety:** The programme contributed to a more robust and proactive approach to preventing workplace accidents, ensuring that labour inspectors are equipped to take effective action in addressing safety and health concerns and improving working conditions.

**Strengthened collaboration:** The involvement of both social partners, CNPM and CNSM, enhances the potential for effective dialogue and collaboration between employers, workers, and national authorities on occupational safety and health matters.



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## Key outcomes:

- 20 labour inspectors and social partner representatives trained, preparing them to train their peers and extend the impact of the training.
- Enhanced institutional capacity for investigating and preventing workplace accidents.
- A more informed and prepared community has been created to advocate for safer workplaces and better working conditions.

This initiative is an important step in furthering the State Labour Inspectorate's mission to reduce workplace accidents and promote safety at workplaces across Moldova. By empowering labour inspectors and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, the programme contributes to a safer and more inclusive work environment for all.



## Stronger Together

# “Enhancing trust in Moldova’s justice system” - Capacity Building Workshop

As part of the ongoing EU-funded OECD project Supporting the Ministry of Justice and Justice Sector Reforms in the Republic of Moldova, the OECD organised a capacity building workshop on 24 June 2025 in Chişinău, on the theme of “Enhancing Trust in Moldova’s Justice System”.

The workshop gathered over 30 representatives from justice institutions, international organisations, and government bodies, including communication professionals from different line ministries, to explore practical strategies for strengthening public trust in Moldova’s justice system.

## Trust and integrity in focus

The first session introduced the OECD’s Framework on **Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions**, highlighting key findings from the 2024 OECD Trust Survey.

The discussion emphasised the different public governance factors associated with higher trust levels, and specific approaches to enhance public confidence in Moldova’s justice institutions.

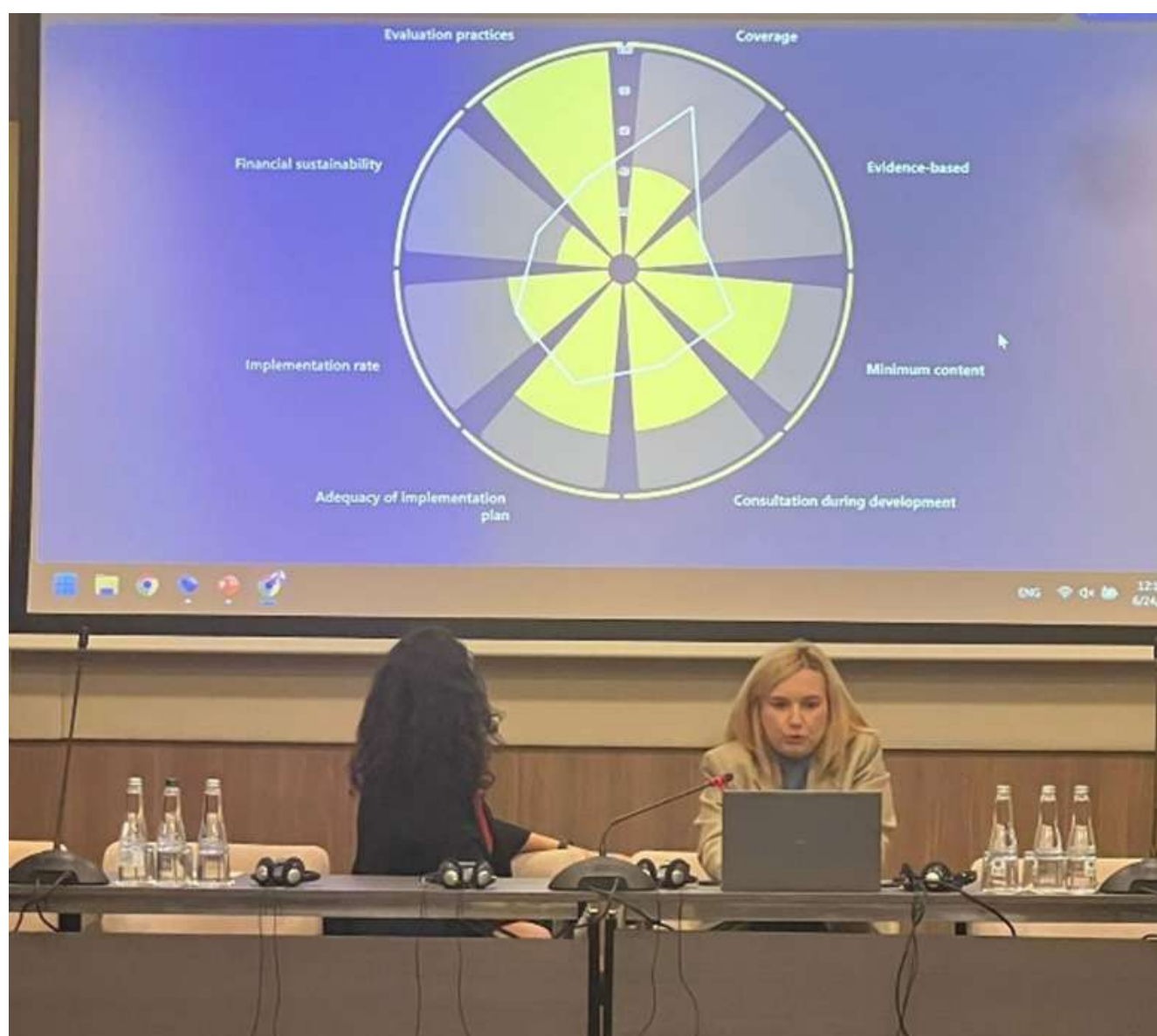
The second session turned the attention to **anti-corruption efforts and integrity**. Moldova’s recent participation in the OECD Public Integrity Indicators (PIIs) initiative marked a significant milestone. While Moldova demonstrated strength in political finance regulations and its anti-corruption framework, challenges such as the absence of a lobbying framework and the need to improve transparency were highlighted. During this session, workshop participants also discussed Moldova’s preliminary findings about the new PII indicator on “Integrity of the Justice and Disciplinary Systems” which the OECD launched in February 2025.



## Countering Disinformation and Strengthening Communication

The third session tackled the pressing issue of **foreign information manipulation and interference**, with Moldova being a known target of such activities. Experts from the OECD and Moldova's Centre for Strategic Communication and Combatting Disinformation shed light on how disinformation can undermine trust in the justice sector and democratic institutions more broadly. The OECD's 2024 Recommendation on Information Integrity was presented as a guiding framework for strengthening resilience in this area.

The final session focused on **practical communication strategies to support trust and transparency**. The OECD presentation on how institutions can communicate more effectively with the public, counteract disinformation, and foster participatory governance was matched by the intervention of Daniel Vodă, Spokesperson of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, providing a recent perspective to strategic public communication. This effectively illustrated Moldova's commitments under its 2023–2025 Open Government Partnership action plan, in particular concerning the new access to information law and public engagement mechanisms.





# EU-funded PPF Project advances Moldova's Public Sector Accounting Reform through IPSAS training series

Between April and June 2025, the EU-funded "Support the Moldovan Government in identifying and preparing projects linked to the implementation of the Association Agreement" (PPF) Project continued its comprehensive training program on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), strengthening technical capacity within Moldova's Ministry of Finance and Court of Accounts.

The training sessions focused on the following standards: IPSAS 12 – Inventories, IPSAS 45 – Property, Plant, and Equipment, IPSAS 31 – Intangible Assets, IPSAS 39 – Employee Benefits, and IPSAS 42 – Social Benefits.

All sessions gathered officials from the Ministry of Finance's State Treasury Directorate, specifically the Methodology and Reporting Divisions, alongside representatives from the Court of Accounts.

The trainings were delivered by PPF Project experts Irina Grigoryan and Eugenia Busmachi, combining theoretical instruction with practical application to support Moldova's ongoing public sector accounting reform.



# Moldova and the EU strengthen strategic dialogue on reforms at the 9th Association Sub-Committee Meeting on Cluster 1

With the support of the EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in identifying and preparing projects linked to the implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF) Project, the 9th Association Sub-Committee meeting on

Economic Dialogue, Management of Public Finances, Financial Services, Statistics, and Financial Cooperation with Anti-Fraud Provisions (Cluster 1) was held on 19 June 2025 in a hybrid format, connecting officials in Chisinau and Brussels.



The meeting gathered representatives from the European Commission headquarters, the EU Delegation to Moldova, and national institutions including the National Bank of Moldova, Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, National Bureau of Statistics, and other key agencies responsible for implementing the Association Agreement and supporting Moldova’s reform agenda.

The meeting was opened by Minister of Finance, Victoria Belous, and moderated by Deputy General Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Ana Luca. Discussions focused on Moldova’s macroeconomic and fiscal outlook in light of the evolving EU economic governance framework. Presentations covered recent developments in fiscal

policy, tax revenue mobilisation, and public investment execution, alongside updates on EU support through the Growth Plan and energy-related assistance.

A key part of the meeting was dedicated to progress on the Economic Reform Programme and Moldova’s structural reform commitments. The dialogue covered a broad set of priorities, including investment promotion, industrial policy, labour market measures, state-owned enterprise reform, and financial sector stability. Special attention was given to strengthening regulatory alignment, and maintaining the independence of the National Bank of Moldova.

The meeting concluded with outlining the next steps in the EU–Moldova economic dialogue and cooperation.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

# Enhancing public investment planning: insights from peer countries

The EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in Identifying and Preparing Projects Linked to the Implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF) Project in partnership with the Ministry of Finance,

and coordinated with the EU Delegation to Moldova, organised on 3–4 April 2025 in Chisinau the workshop “Enhancing public investment planning; Comparative peer country experience”.



The event brought together around 100 participants from Moldovan public institutions, EU member states embassies, international financial institutions, development partners, and universities.

The workshop shared good practices and lessons learned in developing public investment planning systems. It provided the Ministry of Finance of Moldova with the opportunity to present its recent reform, while learning from the experiences of peer countries—Armenia, Georgia, and Montenegro. The discussion focused on the key elements of an efficient public investment planning system.

The workshop featured presentations from the four country cases supported by a discussion panel composed of: Svetlana Cerovic, IMF Resident Representative; Julda Kielyte, Team Leader for Competitive and Inclusive Growth at the EU Delegation to Moldova; Alberto Carlei, Head of EIB Representation for Moldova; Catarina Bjorlin Hansen, Head of EBRD in Moldova; and PPF Project experts Gnel Sedrakyan, Irina Grigoryan and Mandeep Bains. The workshop was moderated by Ion Gumene, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Yiannis Hadziyiannakis, PPF Project Team Leader.



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The event was opened by Ion Gumene and Magdalena Müller-Uri, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation. In her remarks, Ms. Müller-Uri underlined the importance of public investment for long-term economic growth and stressed the need for a robust investment planning system to ensure effective use of the significant financial resources available to Moldova.

Day 1 of the workshop featured the presentations of Moldova and Armenia. Viorel Pana, Director of Public Investment at the Ministry of Finance of Moldova, presented Moldova's new Public Investment Planning Framework, followed by a demonstration of the Project Appraisal IT module by PPF expert Leonidas Crisciunas. This module is part of the PPF Project's support aimed at automating the submission and appraisal procedure of public investment projects. Garik Petrosyan, Director of Public Investment of the Ministry of Finance of Armenia, shared Armenia's public investment planning system, as well as planned and ongoing reforms.

Day 2 of the workshop featured presentations by Branko Nilevic, Head of the Department for Public Investments Management of the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, and Tinatin Gugava, Senior Specialist at the Budgetary Policy Division of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. Both speakers discussed their countries' approaches to public investment planning.

Panel discussions and Q&A sessions held over the two days complemented the country presentations, sharing perspectives and contributed to the exchange of ideas and engagement with the audience.

The workshop provided Moldova with valuable insights from peer countries, laying the groundwork for further strengthening of investment planning processes and more impactful investments in the future.



# Building Capacity on Structural Budget Balance in Moldova

On 4–5 June 2025, the EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in identifying and preparing projects linked to the implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF) Project held a workshop on structural budget balance, an important indicator for assessing the stance of the country’s fiscal policy.

The workshop was organised as part of Component 7 of the PPF Project, which supports the Ministry of Finance in developing the Economic Reform Programme (ERP) preparation process in Moldova. Since being granted EU candidate status in 2022, Moldova has submitted two ERPs—the most recent in January 2025, with support from the PPF Project team. The ERP provides detailed medium-term macroeconomic and fiscal projections, budgetary plans, and progress reports on the implementation of EU recommendations.

The workshop brought together officials from the Ministry of Finance’s Public Debt, and Policies and Budget Synthesis General Directorates, as well as officials from the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation’s Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting Directorate.

Over the two days, participants took part in theoretical and practical sessions focused on the structural budget balance concept and calculations in line with EU methodology. The agenda addressed topics such as the evolution of EU fiscal rules, methods for estimating potential output, calculating semi-elasticity coefficient in Excel, and the interpretation of indicators to assess fiscal policy stance.

The workshop was delivered by PPF Project experts Dragan Tevdovski, Konstantinos Kyriakopoulos, and Eugenia Busmachiu.



EU-Moldova

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# Restoring trust in justice: integrity takes center stage in Moldova's justice reform

With the strong support of the European Union, the Republic of Moldova is taking decisive steps toward restoring public trust in its justice system. A key milestone in this effort is the activity of the Independent Evaluation Commission for assessing the integrity of the candidates for the position of member in the self-governing bodies of judges and prosecutors, commonly known as the Pre-Vetting Commission, which has rigorously assessed the integrity of candidates for Moldova's self-governing bodies of judges and prosecutors - the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) and the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP).

## An Unprecedented Integrity Filter

Since its launch, the Pre-Vetting Commission has evaluated a total of 69 candidates, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and civil society representatives. Each candidate underwent an extensive review process focusing on ethical and financial integrity, in line with the best international practices and European standards.

## The results speak volumes:

- Only 33% of the candidates passed the initial evaluation.
- Of the 31 candidates who failed substantively, many were found to have integrity issues that disqualified them from serving in Moldova's top judicial and prosecutorial governance bodies.
- Appeals were possible and taken seriously: 28 candidates challenged the initial decisions, and in 22 cases, the appeals were accepted, ensuring procedural fairness.

## A Transparent, Fair, and Accountable Process

The Commission's methodology has been both thorough and transparent. Candidates had opportunities to clarify discrepancies and submit appeals. In total, 22 candidates went through resumed or even second resumed evaluations, yet only 2 candidates eventually passed this second chance phase—demonstrating the strict integrity standards applied.



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The Pre-Vetting Commission operates independently but benefits from EU funding and technical assistance, including the presence of international experts. This reflects the EU's commitment to helping Moldova build a rule-of-law-based society.

### Impact and Looking Ahead

The rigorous screening process has prevented individuals with integrity concerns from taking on influential roles in judicial self-governance, thereby reducing political influence and corruption risks. It has also set a strong precedent: integrity is non-negotiable.



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# Integrity in focus: Prosecutor Vetting hearings resume with EU Support

With support from the European Union, the Prosecutor Vetting Commission resumed its work in April 2025, following a pause caused by the suspension of US funding for this project in January. Specifically, in June, the Commission began conducting hearings for members of the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (APO). These subjects, including the APO's management - Interim Chief Prosecutor Marcel Dumbravan and Interim Deputy Chief Prosecutors Mariana Leahu and Octavian Iachimovschi - were evaluated regarding their ethical and financial integrity.

**Several of the prosecutors who underwent evaluation shared their experience. For example, Octavian Iachimovschi stated:**

*"The evaluation was quite complex. I urge my colleagues to be patient. There were factors that prolonged the timeline, but I hope the Commission can complete the process soon, as it puts moral pressure on every prosecutor involved. Once concluded, I believe the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office will be fully functional, with decent salaries for prosecutors and more efficient service to serve the country."*

**Prosecutor Alexandru Cernei, also from the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office, added:**

*"This exercise has been an experience for everyone involved."*

*The efforts of the Commission members and its Secretariat are commendable, considering the volume of information analyzed. Making fair and objective decisions requires experience across a broad range of fields, not just financial, but a high level of professionalism."*

The pace of public hearings for prosecutors in the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office will increase in the coming weeks, with 8–10 more hearings planned for July. The Commission has contacted 369 authorities, financial institutions, and companies to verify the ethics and financial integrity of the prosecutors under review. By working with these entities, the Commission seeks to identify risks that could harm the judicial system's reputation and integrity, helping to build public trust and a professional prosecution service.

Additionally, in May 2025, the Commission began the external assessment of prosecutors from the Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases, as well as the leadership of the General Prosecutor's Office. A total of 88 prosecutors were notified and have submitted the required documents, including asset and personal interest declarations for the past five years, lists of close relatives in the judiciary or public service, and ethics and integrity questionnaires.



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# Strengthening cross-border responses to serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime remains one of the most pressing security challenges [across Europe and its neighbourhood](#), with criminal networks increasingly operating across borders and regions. To address this evolving threat, **Moldovan law enforcement**

**officers** joined colleagues from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries for a targeted operational workshop at Europol Headquarters in The Hague from 24 to 25 April 2025.



Delivered under the **EU-funded** [TOPCOP](#) and [WB PaCT](#) projects within the [EMPACT](#) Support Network, the two-day training enhanced participants' ability to plan, lead, and report on EMPACT Operational Actions - the EU's key mechanism for joint action against priority crime areas.

Moldovan officers strengthened their skills in operational coordination and cross-border cooperation, ensuring that national efforts remain aligned with EU security priorities.



EU-Moldova

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Through real-case exercises and peer exchanges, the training improved Moldova's operational readiness in tackling complex criminal activities, from drug trafficking to organised property crime.

The initiative also fostered lasting operational partnerships, reinforcing Moldova's integration into the wider European security community.



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# EU Twinning Project on Migration and Asylum takes off in Moldova

The EU Twinning Project “Strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of migration management and asylum legislation in line with the EU acquis” officially started on 1 April 2025, marking a key milestone in Moldova’s European integration process in the field of migration and asylum. The EU-funded project is implemented by a consortium of experts from Sweden, Romania, and Greece, with the goal of strengthening Moldova’s legislative, institutional, and operational capacities in line with Chapter 24 of the EU acquis – Justice, Freedom, and Security.

The project was formally launched during a high-level event on June 11, 2025, in Chişinău, gathering key Moldovan and international stakeholders. Among the speakers were Ms. Diana Salcuţan, State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; H.E. Jānis Mažeiks, EU Ambassador to Moldova; H.E. Katarina Fried, Swedish Ambassador; and Mr. Alexandru Moşgoreanu, Romanian Minister Plenipotentiary. All reaffirmed their support for Moldova’s EU aspirations and emphasized the project’s strategic importance.



The launch was attended by representatives from the EU Delegation, foreign embassies and international organizations, such as UNHCR, IOM, World Bank, EUBAM and the GS Foundation, alongside Moldovan authorities, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health, the Agency for Interethnic Relations, and the National Employment Agency, among others.

A key moment of the project was the successful assessment of the implementation mechanism of the EU Acquis in the field of labour migration, conducted from June 2 to 6 by experts Viorica Prioteasa and Cătălin Grusuzache from the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration.

Building on this momentum, the assessment of the operational capacity of the asylum system took place from 23 to 27 June,

The project's assessments and recommendations aim to guide Moldova toward building a robust, EU-aligned migration and asylum system, rooted in European best practices and institutional resilience.





## Three new line ministries commit to pilot gender responsive budgeting

National efforts to advance the implementation of gender responsive budgeting were enhanced by an increasing number of state institutions strengthening their capacities and embarking on piloting this approach in selected budget programs. Three line ministries have joined the efforts to pilot gender-responsive budgeting, reaffirming Moldova's commitment to more inclusive and equitable policymaking – the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation and the Ministry of Energy.

With ongoing support from UN Women Moldova through the EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project, public institutions continue to strengthen their capacity to ensure that budgets and policies are inclusive and respond to the real needs of all citizens.

For over a year, in line with the annual Budget Circular issued by the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, which establishes the necessary framework for public institutions to *integrate gender equality* into the budget planning process, two other Ministries are implementing gender-responsive budgeting – The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. As a result, *nine budget sub-programmes* under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry have been revised to include gender-sensitive objectives and indicators. These changes aim to reduce gender inequalities in the fields of social protection and agricultural subsidies, ensuring fairer and more effective public policies.



The five pilot ministries benefited from tailored technical support to deepen their practical understanding of GRB tools, and hands-on workshops focused on conducting ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessments of policies and programmes.

To advance the efforts of institutionalising gender equality mechanisms within government structures, UN Women Moldova, within the EU-funded EVOLVE4GE project, continues to equip civil servants with knowledge and tools to apply a gender lens to planning and budgeting processes. Over 50 representatives of ministries, the Court of Accounts, Tax inspectorate and the State Chancellery strengthened their knowledge on the application of gender-responsive budgeting.

Underscoring the important role of the national gender equality mechanisms, under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 30 Gender Units from 13 Ministries enhanced their institutional knowledge on GRB. A Gender Unit is a designated specialist responsible for promoting equality between women and men within the institution where they work.

This initiative aims to foster a more coherent and coordinated approach to integrating gender equality into planning, budgeting, and monitoring cycles. It also strengthens institutional accountability for advancing national commitments to gender equality.



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# The European Union supports the vetting process to strengthen public trust in the justice system of the Republic of Moldova

In June, the European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law, Michael McGrath, paid an official visit to Chişinău, during which he reaffirmed the European Union's support for justice reform in the Republic of Moldova. The European official emphasized the crucial importance of the vetting process in strengthening the rule of law and restoring public confidence in the judiciary.

During his discussions with members of the external evaluation commissions for

the integrity of judges and prosecutors, Commissioner McGrath highlighted the vital role of these independent bodies in the sustainable transformation of the justice system. He also reiterated the EU's steadfast support for a vetting process that is **credible, fair, and independent**.

*"A justice system in which citizens can have confidence is a fundamental condition for democracy, development, and alignment with European values,"*

**stated Commissioner McGrath.**



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# Two years of judicial vetting: A challenging but necessary process

On 15 June 2025, the Judicial Vetting Commission marked two years of activity. Established by Parliament, the Commission is composed of six national and international experts and is mandated to assess the ethical and financial integrity of certain categories of judges.

During this period, 180 sitting judges and candidates for judicial office have come

under the Commission's review. Of these, 60 chose to resign or withdraw from competitions before the start of the evaluation process. A total of 89 evaluations have been completed, while 27 are still ongoing.

In the next phase, the Commission will focus its efforts on evaluating candidates for vacant positions within the judiciary.



**On the Commission's second anniversary, the Chair of the Judicial Vetting Commission, Scott Bales – former Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court – gave an interview to Deutsche Welle in which he reflected on the progress of the judicial vetting process:**

*"When I arrived in Moldova, I sensed deep concern within society about the state of the justice system. After two years of activity, I can say I am impressed by this country's determination to genuinely reform the sector. I believe the system is beginning to regain public trust – thanks in part to the engagement of judges who understand how vital institutional credibility truly is."*



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## ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Over 80 local businesses are receiving support from the Government of Moldova and the European Union through grants exceeding 22 million lei

A total of 80 companies from the Republic of Moldova have received on 3 June 2025 grants amounting to 22.3 million lei, which are expected to generate investments exceeding 42.1 million lei in the national economy. The funds will be used to

purchase advanced equipment and support the digitalization of processes. Ultimately, this financial support translates into more competitive businesses, better-paid jobs, and greater opportunities for citizens across the country.



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This support comes from the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which has provided 16.3 million lei in grants to 48 companies. Another 29 companies are receiving 4.9 million lei through the “European Union for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” project, funded by the EU.

Additionally, three other companies are supported with 1.1 million lei under the Small Producers Support Program, part of the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” initiative, financed by the EU and the Government of Germany.

These companies currently employ 375 people. With the support of these grants, at least 328 new jobs are expected to be created.

Since the beginning of the year, over 300 companies have benefited from ODA grant programs, receiving a total of 120.8 million lei. These grants are expected to generate over 232 million lei in investments in Moldova’s economy.

Of these, 210 companies have been funded from the state budget, 83 companies have received EU funding through the “European Union for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” project, and four companies have been financed through World Bank Group sources. Additionally, three companies are supported by the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” program, funded by the European Union and the governments of Germany, Austria, and Poland, and implemented by GIZ, ADA, and SFPL in Moldova.





# EU4Moldova Resilience: Grants for 19 agricultural enterprises in rural areas

Nineteen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agri-food sector operating in rural areas have received grants of up to 383,000 lei each to modernize their production processes. The financial support is provided by the European Union through the “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities” project, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The selected enterprises operate in diverse fields such as fruit and vegetable processing, meat production and preservation, oil and dairy production, bakery and pastry, as well as the production of sweets, juices, and other agri-food products. They will receive funding to purchase, install, and commission equipment that will allow them to transform raw and semi-processed materials into finished products.

The grants will support the modernization of production lines, including refrigeration equipment, ovens, oil presses, packaging and labeling lines, as well as machinery for processing and storage. This intervention aims to enhance the production capacities of SMEs and strengthen economic resilience at the local level.

The selection process for the beneficiary businesses was conducted through an open call for proposals, organized in two stages. In February 2025, the first ten grant recipients were selected, followed by an additional nine enterprises in June of the same year.

The total budget for this call for proposals is approximately 7.3 million lei.



# From Courtroom to Carpentry: how a young entrepreneur from Călărași built a new life with EU Support

In the heart of Călărași, where the tradition of craftsmanship meets the dreams of young entrepreneurs, the company RUSLEMNTRANS came to life. Founded in 2024 by Ion Rusu, the business provides

wood cutting, planing, and processing services, as well as the manufacturing of veneer and wooden panels. Although Ion has a background in law, his professional journey took an unexpected turn—one deeply rooted in passion.



*"Although I come from the legal field, I chose to follow a childhood passion—working with wood. Today, that dream has become reality,"*

***says the entrepreneur  
with emotion and pride.***

The transformation of that dream into reality was made possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union,

which enabled him to purchase essential equipment for his business: a forklift, a log splitter, and a pallet truck.

Through the "Start for Youth" Program, managed by the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA), Ion Rusu received a grant of over 180,000 MDL, contributing to a total investment of more than 300,000 MDL into the local economy.



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Ion Rusu is one of 29 entrepreneurs selected at the beginning of June to receive grants directly supported by the European Union, with a total contribution of 4.9 million MDL, through the project "European Union for Small and Medium Enterprises."

Through such success stories, the European Union continues to contribute to a more prosperous Moldova, where initiative, courage, and the right kind of support forms the foundation of a modern and competitive economy.

*"I want to build a modern workshop, where I can offer high-quality services and increase production capacity. Now, with this equipment, I've taken a major step forward,"*

***explains Ion in the documentary video about his activity.***



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# The Economic Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova – Analyzed in Dialogue with the Mass Media

On May 13, 2025, the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup,” in partnership with IPRE, the NGO “Institutum Virtutes Civilis,” and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova, organized a press club entitled “The Economic Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova: Between Expectations and Implementation – What Should Be Monitored?” The event highlighted Moldova’s economic priorities, analyzing the Growth Plan and the responsibilities of public institutions and civil society.

It should be recalled that on May 9, in Chișinău, the Agreement on the Growth Plan, worth €1.9 billion, was signed by European Commissioner Marta Kos and Prime Minister Dorin Recean. Launched by the European Commission in October 2024, the initiative aims to provide financial and technical support through three pillars: increasing financial assistance, expanding access to the EU Single Market, and supporting socio-economic reforms.



**In her opening remarks, Julda Kielyte, Team Leader for Competitive and Inclusive Growth at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, stated:**

*“The signing of the Agreement on the Growth Plan Facility, during Commissioner Kos’s*

*official visit, marks a significant moment. This agreement will enable EU funds to act as a catalyst for attracting additional investments from international financial institutions and the private sector—thus strengthening the Republic of Moldova’s transition towards a resilient, competitive, and inclusive economy.*



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*The Growth Plan is a key pillar of the European Union's Enlargement and Neighbourhood strategy, aimed at promoting regional stability and sustainable development. It seeks to accelerate Moldova's economic growth, promote socio-economic convergence with the European Union, and support the adoption of essential structural reforms. At the same time, the Plan facilitates Moldova's gradual integration into the EU Single Market, even before formal accession."*

**Liliana Palihovici**, President of the NGO "Institutum Virtutes Civilis," emphasized the role of the Reform Agenda approved on May 7, which includes policies for the development of human capital, labor market inclusion, and the modernization of public administration. She stressed the need to expand social services and improve standards for vulnerable groups.

**Adrian Lupușor**, Executive Director of "Expert-Grup," noted that the Plan and the Reform Agenda must catalyze a new economic model based on added value. He advocated for support measures for the business environment, increasing the

technological sophistication of production, and strengthening quality infrastructure and the capital market.

**Stanislav Ghilețchi**, Deputy Director of IPRE, appreciated the focus of investment projects on key areas such as energy and regional development. However, he warned against the inclusion of projects with low added value and the absence of rigorous impact analyses.

The discussions during the press club reaffirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation between public authorities, civil society, and international partners to transform economic priorities into concrete, sustainable results aligned with European integration objectives.

**The media club was held within the framework of the project "[Civil Society for European Integration](https://euromonitor.md/ro)" funded by the European Union and co-funded by Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova, which is implemented by the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup, as the lead partner, in partnership with the Institute for European Policy and Reform (IPRE), A.O. Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova. More details about the project: <https://euromonitor.md/ro>**





# EU and UNIDO launched a major training and support programme for Moldova's agri-food sector

On 17 June, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in partnership with the European Union (EU), launched the first training module of a new sectoral support initiative - a capacity building and implementation program on European quality standards in the agri-food sector.

The target audience of the program includes companies operating in the agri-food sector, particularly those interested in increasing their compliance with EU standards for both animal- and plant-based products.

The goal is to provide these entities with a solid foundation to strengthen their position on the local market and to successfully access international markets, with respect for consumer health, animal welfare, and environmental protection.

The first module, entitled "*Implementation of the HACCP System*" (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), was met with increased interest from participants, bringing together **45 specialists** from **35 local companies**. These included producers and processors of meat, dairy, eggs, fish, as well as businesses involved in plant-based and bakery food products.





The HACCP system is a preventive method used to identify and control hazards that can affect food safety, from raw materials to the final product. Its implementation helps companies prevent contamination, reduce the risks of product recalls, and avoid financial losses. The UNIDO program thus supports those aiming to align their internal practices with international standards in a sustainable and efficient manner.

By the end of 2025, program participants will benefit from **seven training modules**, individualized **coaching sessions**, and **consultancy** provided by both **local and international experts**. These efforts are designed to support the improvement of production processes, quality control, food safety, and business planning.

The training topics cover all relevant aspects of compliance with EU standards: from food safety culture, crisis management, environmental monitoring, labelling and packaging, traceability, to self-control programs for pathogenic microorganisms. Other subjects include raw milk quality testing, control of contaminants and residues, environmental requirements and animal welfare, waste management, as well as metrology and regulatory aspects.

This initiative is part of the EU-UNIDO project "Improving the standards compliance through increased national capacities for residue monitoring". It comes at a strategic time for Moldova's agri-food industry, providing local companies with the tools they need to become competitive, responsible, and ready to expand into international markets.



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# 13 women entrepreneurs from Edineț and Strășeni awarded financial support through EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme

On 20th June, 13 women entrepreneurs from the Edineț and Strășeni regions were awarded with an investment support grant during a special Award Ceremony held

under the EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme. The event marked a another milestone in empowering women economically in rural and semi-urban areas of Moldova



The selected beneficiaries received grants of up to EUR 2,000 per project, awarded through an open competition designed to strengthen and expand women-led businesses. The aim of this initiative is to enhance local economic opportunities, build entrepreneurial skills and initiative for diversifying the rural economy.

Therefore, the supported projects span a wide range of sectors, including agriculture digitalization, rural tourism, beekeeping, local food processing and promotion, beauty and wellness services, catering, creative design, woodworking, metal crafting, and more.

**Ilona Gruenewald, Programme Manager at EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, emphasized the vital role of women in local development:**

*"The entrepreneurs we are supporting today are driving change in their communities by introducing new ideas, live and energy; creating jobs, services, social and cultural activities- overall ,rolling up the sleeves, not only for themselves but for building a better future'."*



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The event also featured a panel discussion, where the women entrepreneurs shared their experiences, challenges, and ambitions, highlighting their growing contribution to the economic development of their regions.

For the full list of supported projects, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yck96xtx>

The financial support programme was a follow-up to a series of capacity-development sessions that took place earlier this year. During this, over 60 women from Edineț, Strășeni and Leova participated in a dedicated training programme aimed at strengthening their business skills in access to business funding and grants, accounting and taxation, and marketing and promotion strategies.



This support initiative is part of the EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme's broader commitment to promoting gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and sustainable regional development in the Republic of Moldova.

*This event was organised within the "EU4Moldova: Local Communities" programme, financed by the European Union, the German, Austrian and Polish governments and implemented by the GIZ, ADA and SFPL in Moldova.*





# The first Oenological Centre in the Republic of Moldova was inaugurated in Cahul with the EU financial support

A new space dedicated to excellence in winemaking, research and promotion of wine culture was inaugurated on Sunday, 11 May in Cahul. Located within the “Nicolae Botgros” Community Hall, the Oenological Centre includes a tasting room, an office for the team and a warehouse for machinery, designed to capitalize and expand the

wine potential of the southern region. The Oenological Centre is founded by the Winemaking Cluster, funded by the European Union through the programme “EU4Moldova: Focal Regions”, implemented by UNDP and UNICEF. The total value of the investment is more than 153,500 euros, including the local contribution.



*"We thank the EU and UNDP for their support in the development of the municipality and region of Cahul. The Cahul Oenological Center is an important point of economic and tourist development, which will contribute to the development of the wine sector in the Republic of Moldova",*

**said Nicolae Dandiș,**  
**mayor of Cahul city.**

The Winemaking Cluster members and small local producers will benefit from multiple opportunities offered by the new centre. Producers will have access to modern winemaking equipment, participate in courses, workshops and seminars dedicated to continuous training in winemaking, marketing and wine tourism.



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The Oenological Centre will also contribute to the development of regional tourism by organizing tastings, tours and themed events.

*"Winemaking is the heart of agriculture. Viticulture and winemaking have brought together for hundreds, thousands of years, tradition and innovation; more than that - people. Wine brings people together. The Winemaking Cluster and the Oenological Centre are the cornerstone for harmonious cooperation and development of the wine industry in the region, friendly relations, hospitality. The Cahul Oenological Centre is an important point of economic and tourist development, which will contribute to the development of the wine sector in the Republic of Moldova,"*

**noted Nicolae Minciună, manager of the Winemaking Cluster.**



The Winemaking Cluster consists of 22 members, including wine producers, local public authorities, and education and research institutions, and is dedicated to the development of the wine sector in the Cahul region.

As of 2019, UNDP Moldova and its partners - the European Union, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom - have supported the formation and development of 17 clusters, investing US\$4.8 million.



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The areas covered include livestock farming, horticulture, tourism and industry.

The clusters aim to generate greater added value for local economic growth and improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In 2024, nine Moldovan clusters successfully completed the ECEI Bronze Label "Striving for Cluster Excellence" certification process, reflecting their commitment to performance and excellence. Fifty new products and services have been developed, and export volumes have increased thanks to new partnerships, including with 10 clusters in EU Member States.





# Government Factoring – a solution for reviving the agricultural sector in the Republic of Moldova

On June 19, 2025, the Independent Think-Tank “Expert-Grup” organized the roundtable “Government Factoring – A Solution for Reviving the Agricultural Sector in the Republic of Moldova,” bringing together over 60 participants, including representatives of public authorities, the banking sector, civil society, economic experts, opinion leaders, farmers, and the media.

The discussions focused on how a government factoring mechanism could unlock liquidity in agriculture and strengthen economic stability, particularly in rural areas. In the context of recent crises—such as inflation, the effects of the war in Ukraine,

rising production costs, and limited access to finance—this mechanism would allow the transformation of budgetary claims into liquidity through the banking system, potentially injecting 8–9 billion lei into the economy.

Alexandra Șian, State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, emphasized the authorities' openness to developing modern financing tools such as factoring, and the importance of close cooperation with the banking sector and farmers to enhance the resilience of agriculture.



Adrian Lupușor, Executive Director of Expert-Grup, noted that VAT credits carried forward represent a valuable asset for farmers, and the state has a responsibility to enable their capitalization. He also pointed out the main

underlying issue—the differentiated VAT rate within the agri-food sector—and the need to unify this rate in order to prevent further accumulation of such claims.

Alexandru Bădăraș, Executive Director of the “Forța Fermierilor” Association, presented a position paper “Government Factoring - a solution to resuscitate the agricultural sector in Moldova, stressing the urgent need for its implementation, inspired by European practices, to prevent the financial collapse of farmers. According to the estimates presented, implementing the mechanism could bring multiple benefits: supporting approximately 3,500 agricultural holdings, saving 50,000 rural jobs, increasing GDP by 0.2–0.3%, stabilizing exports, and generating additional budget revenues of 500–700 million lei annually.

Another major topic was the need to strengthen the legal framework and digitize the process through an electronic system for tracking budgetary claims, as well as the active involvement of the banking sector in operationalizing the mechanism.

The event concluded with a Q&A session during which participants provided recommendations on the feasibility and risks of the proposed mechanism. The full position paper, including detailed recommendations and arguments, is available via the link: [euromonitor.md](https://euromonitor.md).

*The event was organized within the framework of the “Civil Society for European Integration” project, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. 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), the NGO Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. More details about the project can be found [at euromonitor.md](https://euromonitor.md).*



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# Reforming the legal framework for entrepreneurship – proposed priorities

On June 24, 2025, the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup organized a roundtable dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the Opinion developed for the draft Law on Entrepreneurship (unique number 345/MDED/2025). The event took place in the context of the public consultations launched by the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization (MDED), which aims to modernize the regulatory framework for entrepreneurial activity and to strengthen a

competitive business environment aligned with the European integration path.

The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss the findings and proposals included in the opinion prepared by Dumitru Pîntea, associate expert at Expert-Grup, as well as to assess the prospects of adopting a modern, coherent, and functional law tailored to the realities of the business environment in the Republic of Moldova.



Dorian Istratii, Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance, emphasized that legislation should simplify rather than complicate entrepreneurial activity, especially in the context of Moldova's commitment to align its entire legal framework with European standards by 2027. He underlined the essential role of public debates and consultations in preventing hasty and poorly grounded reforms.

Representatives of the MDED highlighted the need to replace the current Law No. 845/1992, which is considered outdated and inconsistent. Victor Ciobanu, Senior Consultant within the Entrepreneurship Development Policy Directorate, stated that the new draft law does not fundamentally change the rules for starting and running a business, but provides a clear, updated, and entrepreneurship-friendly approach aligned with the requirements of the EU Single Market.





Dumitru Pîntea emphasized the importance of a thorough legislative process based on an integrated analysis of the entire legal framework governing the business environment. According to him, a new law should not replicate the structure of a law adopted three decades ago but should clearly define the general principles governing economic activity and create a functional framework to fully harness the country's entrepreneurial potential.

Among the topics addressed were the provisions regarding independent economic activity, intended to facilitate the formalization of activities carried out by individuals.

The event brought together over 60 participants – representatives of public authorities, the business community, experts, journalists, and development partners.

The discussions were constructive and reflected a shared interest in a clear and efficient legislative framework capable of supporting private initiative and contributing to sustainable economic development.

The full opinion and recommendations can be accessed here: <https://www.euromonitor.md/en/aviz-la-proiectul-legii-cu-privire-la-antreprenoriat-numar-unic-345-mded-2025>

*The event and the opinion were developed within the framework of the “Civil Society for European Integration” project, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The project is implemented by the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup as the lead partner, in cooperation with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), the NGO Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC), and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. More details about the project are available at [euromonitor.md](https://www.euromonitor.md).*



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# EU Twinning Project Launched to Modernize Agri-Food Sector

On 20 June 2025, the EU Twinning project ***“Strengthening sector monitoring, data management and payment administration in the agri-food sector”*** was officially launched in Chişinău. The project is implemented by the Estonian Centre for International Development (ESTDEV) in consortium with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) as its main beneficiaries.

The Twinning initiative aims to strengthen the institutional and administrative capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) in the agri-food sector, focusing on improved policy implementation, enhanced monitoring systems, and more efficient and transparent payment processes aligned with EU standards. During the April - June 2025 reporting period, several expert missions were carried out, addressing both strategic planning and operational development.



A mission under **Component 1** of the Twinning project assessed the Ministry's capacity for sector monitoring and evaluation. The findings revealed the absence of a functional evaluation system, limited staff, and insufficient training.

Key recommendations include formalizing procedures, enhancing training via e-learning, conducting data mapping, strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, leveraging existing Twinning tools, and developing an EU-aligned evaluation plan.

**Component 2** concentrated on strengthening AIPA's readiness for accreditation as an EU-like Paying Agency. Recommendations include improving IT security (ISO 27001), expanding financial and performance reporting, and increasing staffing.

Further missions under Component 2 addressed AIPA's internal organization, confirming its structure meets EU criteria but highlighting the need for improved IT capacity, data management, and reporting systems. A clear Action Plan for IPARD and future EU Funds implementation was proposed.

Legal alignment activities identified the need to adjust national regulations to comply with

EU CAP rules, emphasizing early impact analysis, risk-based planning, and a robust monitoring framework.

An anti-fraud mission assessed AIPA's external fraud detection capacity. A roadmap was developed with recommendations to establish a centralized fraud register, enhance risk tools, define clear procedures, and expand training.

These efforts will lead to more transparent payment processes and improved access to EU-aligned support schemes.

As the project advances, the Twinning team remains committed to supporting Moldova's EU integration path and to building a modern, resilient, and sustainable agri-food sector in line with European best practices.





# EU4Innovation East supports Startup Moldova Summit 2025, Moldova's flagship startup event

On 16 April 2025, *Startup Moldova Summit 2025*, the country's leading startup event, successfully brought together over 1,200 participants, speakers, and investors from 30 countries, creating meaningful opportunities

for networking and inspiration. It brought together startup founders, entrepreneurs seeking funding, business professionals, investors, and tech enthusiasts eager to discover the latest global trends.



The event was organized by Startup Moldova and EU4Innovation East proudly supported it as part of its mission to strengthen startup ecosystems and foster inclusive, sustainable innovation across the Eastern Partnership region.

Attendees engaged in a full day of learning and networking opportunities, including keynotes from international investors and founders, practical masterclasses and workshops, and personalized B2B meetings between startups, investors, and corporate partners.

Renowned international experts from companies such as Netflix, Booking, and Atomico, shared key strategies for global scaling of startups and provided valuable insights to help businesses reach success.

One of the most anticipated moments was the Startup World Cup Moldova pitching competition, where Gleb Babii, Founder & CEO of Aspect Health, earned a coveted spot at the global finals in San Francisco and the chance to compete for a \$1 million investment prize.

The innovative Reverse Pitching sessions, where investors presented their vision to startups, helped strengthen founder-investor alignment. Meanwhile, the Summit's post-event networking evening provided further space for partnerships to form beyond the main stage.

Through the Summit, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about significant steps towards Moldova's integration into the European startup landscape. EU4Innovation East helped showcase a variety of EU-backed programs and tools designed to enhance Moldova's entrepreneurial infrastructure and foster sustainable growth.

Moldova's startup scene is rapidly evolving. In 2024, local startups raised a record €7.3 million in funding, doubling the previous year's figure. As momentum builds, EU4Innovation

East remains committed to supporting Moldova's innovators and connecting them with opportunities across Europe.

By funding and engaging with Startup Moldova Summit 2025, EU4Innovation East reinforces its dedication to empowering the region's entrepreneurs, bridging ecosystems, and unlocking the full potential of Moldovan startups.

Startup Moldova Summit was organized by Startup Moldova, with the financial support of the EU4Innovation East project, funded by the European Union, co-funded by the Government of France and implemented by Expertise France, as well as with support from Sweden, UMAEF, the Government of Switzerland, and Helvetas through the OPTIM Project.





# Empowered to lead: 30 women entrepreneurs from across Moldova present their businesses in Bălți

Thirty women entrepreneurs from different regions of Moldova pitched their business ideas in front of an expert audience and their peers. Organised under the SheLeads business support programme, the event showcased authentic local products and hands-on workshops, creating a platform for women entrepreneurs to build lasting connections.

**Natalia DUMBRAVA, one of the #SheLeads beneficiaries, the founder of FRUCTEDOR-SUCCESS, a business that brings the authentic taste of naturally processed sour cherries, stated:**

*"I was impressed by the energy and determination of the women present – full of inspiration, motivation, and courage, ready to turn ideas into reality and build something meaningful."*



The #SheLeads program is implemented by UN Women Moldova in partnership with the Association for Entrepreneurial Training and Development (AFAD) in consortium with Global Business Access, within the

EVOLVE4GE project funded by the European Union. During four months, 45 women took part in a capacity-building programme that supported them in developing entrepreneurial skills, growth strategies, and financing opportunities.



**In the Republic of Moldova, only one-third of registered companies are led by women. For the European Union supporting women's entrepreneurship is an integral part of its commitment to gender equality, as mentioned by Julda Kielyte, Team Leader for the Competitive and Inclusive Growth Portfolio at the EU Delegation to Moldova:**

*"Your presence — as women who had the courage to follow their ideas, take risks, and launch businesses — is a clear sign that change comes from action. And it clearly confirms that women's entrepreneurship is a rising force. Economic empowerment directly contributes to reducing poverty and gender-based violence, to more equitable access to information, and to stronger participation of women in decision-making — all of which shape Moldova's democratic and inclusive development path."*

Research shows that women reinvest up to 90% of their income into their families and communities, creating a lasting impact. Yet, they continue to face barriers such as limited access to funding, markets, and mentorship.

National partners, including the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development, maib, Efes Vitanta Moldova Brewery, and the local community, took part and shared important information to support and encourage women entrepreneurs.

The SheLeads programme unites different stakeholders from the business sector, financial institutions and civil society to provide tailored training and mentorship to women and bolster their access to financing opportunities for business growth.





## “Primele rândunele”: first multi-apartment residential building energy-retrofitted in Bălți - a model of success for the entire country

In the city of Bălți, 80 families are now enjoying warmer homes and lower energy bills thanks to the thermal renovation of the city’s tallest apartment building—a 16-storey block. The upgrade was completed as part of the “Primele Rândunele” (“First Swallows”)

pilot project and is a pioneering example in Moldova of large-scale residential thermal insulation. The initiative introduced a new co-financing model for home owners’ associations and marks a national first in the field of energy efficiency.

**Primul bloc din Republica Moldova reabilitat termic integral este deja eficient energetic!**

📍 Bălți, bloc cu 16 etaje, 80 de apartamente, anul construcției 1986, monolit.

Până

După

Led by the Independent Analytical Center “Expert-Grup”, the project was financially supported by the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SlovakAid), Embassy of the Netherlands, the Energy Community Secretariat, and the Ministry of Energy. Additional key support came from the CET-Nord, the National Center for Sustainable Energy, and the European Union.

The total investment amounted to 10 million MDL, with 20% contributed by the residents through a bank loan and 80% of grant resources provided by development partners. The model shows how cooperation among citizens, the Government, and Development Partners can deliver tangible results in energy efficiency.





# EU4Moldova Resilience: European Union Invests 12.3 million lei in five photovoltaic parks

Five rural localities in the Republic of Moldova will benefit from the construction of photovoltaic parks, thanks to a 12.3 million lei investment from the European Union. The initiative contributes to strengthening

local energy security and is part of the “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities” project, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.



The beneficiary localities are Mereni (Anenii Noi), Coșnița (Dubăsari), Lozova (Strășeni), Larga (Briceni), and Sipoteni (Călărași). These were selected through a public call for grants launched by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in July 2024.

Each park will have a capacity of up to 200 kW and will be equipped with modern video surveillance systems, perimeter lighting, and security fencing, in line with European quality and safety standards.

With these investments, communities will be able to generate green energy for their own consumption, reduce local budget expenditures, and help protect the environment by cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In parallel, “Smart Village” initiatives will also be implemented in these localities, aiming to modernize local infrastructure and public

services, and support sustainable development and community resilience.

*“We are investing in green energy for a secure and independent future. These photovoltaic parks will not only provide clean energy to communities, but will also strengthen their capacity to face current energy challenges,”*

**said Nicolae Soloviov,  
Project Manager.**

The construction and grid connection works are expected to be completed by October 2025.

The “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities” project is funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

# EU Commissioner visits first pilot house under a new energy renovation program

European Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen, visited the first pilot house currently undergoing energy-efficient renovation under the Moldovan Residential Energy Efficiency Fund (MREEF). Located in the village of Micăuți, the home belongs to a family with four children and is benefitting from key energy upgrades.

By insulating the exterior walls and rehabilitating the heating system, the family is expected to significantly reduce their heating bills and enjoy a much more comfortable living environment.

This renovation is part of a pilot project that aims to improve the energy efficiency of 180 homes across Moldova. The work is being implemented by the National Center for Sustainable Energy and the “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Moldova” (E4M) project, with support from the European Union and the Government of Germany.



The E4M project is implemented by GIZ in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and is funded by the German Government, co-funded by the European Union, Norway, and Denmark. This component is financed by the European Union.



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# European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2025) in Covenant of Mayors signatory municipalities in Moldova

Between June and September 2025, as part of the European Sustainable Energy Week – EUSEW 2025 – communities across the Republic of Moldova, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, are organizing a variety of activities to promote energy efficiency, climate education, and civic engagement.

In Ceadâr-Lunga, young children took part in a recreational cycling activity together with

educators and parents. The kids followed a safe route, conveying the message that an active and sustainable lifestyle can start at an early age. Preschoolers in Ceadâr-Lunga also watched and discussed topics related to energy and the environment, inspired by the “Little Explorers” – Ivy, Alex, Scout, and Luna – the animated characters featured in five educational videos produced under the Covenant of Mayors – East project.





In Strășeni, a thematic exhibition was opened at the History and Ethnography Museum on the occasion of EUSEW. In Sireți, senior members of the “Țărăncuța” Club organized an environmental clean-up around the village spring. Meanwhile, members of the local Painting Workshop were invited to illustrate the topic of sustainable energy through art.

In Costuleni, children from the “Florica” kindergarten learned through games and storytelling about responsible energy consumption. They later took to the streets of the village to share their message with residents: “Let’s save energy – for a living planet!”

In Puținței, children visited the town hall and held a discussion with the mayor about energy efficiency and nature protection.

In Volintiri, a symbolic marathon organized by the local Public Library brought together women of all ages, who walked a route through the village carrying messages promoting the green transition and advocating for walking as a sustainable alternative to polluting means of transport.

The activities dedicated to #EUSEW2025 will continue, and the highlights of the most interesting and impactful initiatives will be celebrated at a festive event to be held in September.



# Mayors in Moldova Seek Climate and Green Energy Solutions – highlights from the Fourth Meeting of the Municipal Development Cooperation Platform (MDCP)

Over 70 active signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy convened in Chişinău on April 15, 2025, for the fourth edition of the **Municipal Development Cooperation Platform (MDCP)**. The event showcased local efforts to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and strengthen climate resilience, while setting out plans for a sustainable future in the context of Moldova's path toward EU accession.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a **Roadmap** reflecting the needs and expectations of local public authorities regarding support from national institutions in advancing the green energy transition and local climate action. At the same time, 18 new signatories officially joined the Covenant of Mayors and received their membership certificates.



The event brought together representatives of the European Commission, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, as well as officials from the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Environment.

*"With more than 100 signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, Moldova is becoming a regional leader in climate and sustainable*

*energy action. These achievements are all the more significant given the current geopolitical context and the major challenges in the energy sector,"*

***stated Darya Mustafayeva,  
Programme Manager at the European  
Commission's DG NEAR.***



Irina Plis, national expert for the Covenant of Mayors East project, underlined that in the aftermath of three consecutive energy crises since 2022, the initiative has proven to be an essential support platform for LPAs, helping them navigate energy challenges and plan for climate and energy priorities.

*"This is a joint effort. Without the active engagement of local administrations, without clear policies and concrete support, we cannot reach our ambitious climate and energy targets. Moldova is proving its readiness for a real energy transition,"*

**emphasized Valentina Casian,  
Chair of the MDCP.**

The **2025–2027 National Roadmap** highlights several key needs:

▀ **Capacity-building for LPAs**

▀ **Facilitated access to funding** – including dedicated funds for local authorities, flexible co-financing mechanisms, and user-friendly guidance

▀ **Support for green projects and local infrastructure** – such as energy efficiency, renewables, green spaces, and public lighting

▀ **Regulatory alignment** – integrating Covenant of Mayors-developed action plans into national strategies and promoting green procurement practices.





# Young Explorers Ivy, Alex, Scout, and Luna Teach Kids About Eco-Friendly Solutions – Through Educational Videos and a Colouring Book

A new educational video series introduces young viewers to the adventures of four friends – Ivy, Alex, Scout, and Luna – who live in “Green Valley,” a town that has joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The town has committed to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 35% by 2030.

The videos were developed within the **Covenant of Mayors – East (CoM East)** project and are available on YouTube in **Romanian, Ukrainian, Georgian, and Azerbaijani**, making them easily accessible to educators and parents across the region. The full playlist can be found on the official [CoM East YouTube channel](#).

As part of the **European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW2025)**, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors are using these materials during educational events in kindergartens,

aiming to inspire environmental awareness and clean energy habits from an early age.

To reinforce the messages from the videos, a **colouring book featuring Ivy, Alex, Scout, and Luna** has also been produced.

This complementary educational tool helps children better remember key concepts related to green energy and eco-friendly behaviour.



# Moldova's First Energy-Resilient Border Crossing Point with EU Support

The Palanca-Maiaky Udobnoe Border Crossing Point (BCP) has become the first energy-resilient BCP in the Republic

of Moldova, marking a significant step forward in strengthening the country's border infrastructure.



Thanks to the generous support of the European Union, IOM Moldova has successfully completed the installation of solar panels. This upgrade ensures the uninterrupted operation of critical border functions, even during power outages.

Palanca is a strategically important BCP, jointly operated by Moldovan and Ukrainian border authorities. The newly installed solar equipment enhances the site's resilience, contributing to improved border security,

operational stability, and preparedness in times of crisis.





# EU awards Energy Efficiency grants of €87,000 each to 35 Moldovan CSOs

Since April 2025, the project “Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in Social Services”, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with Keystone Moldova and the NGO Social Innovations Fund of Moldova, has made significant progress in supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and local public authorities (LPAs) in transitioning toward sustainable energy resource management.

On April 3, 2025, 35 civil society organizations from across the country received grant certificates, each worth approximately EUR

87,000. The funds will support local initiatives to improve energy efficiency in buildings where social services are provided for elderly people, children at risk, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Technical interventions include thermal insulation of walls and roofs, modernization of heating systems, replacement of windows and doors, installation of photovoltaic panels, and energy-efficient LED lighting. These measures will help reduce energy losses, lower maintenance costs, and allow for reinvestment of the savings into better quality social services.



Beyond infrastructure modernization, organizations will also carry out awareness and information campaigns within communities to promote responsible energy use and encourage citizen participation in sustainability initiatives.

On April 30, 2025, the Soros Foundation Moldova, together with implementing partners, organized a strategic communication workshop for representatives of the 35 CSOs benefiting

from the Grant Program. The event provided participants with practical tools for developing clear and effective messages, selecting the right communication channels, and engaging communities in the transformation process. With the support of the Soros Foundation Moldova, each organization will develop its own Communication Plan tailored to the project's planned activities.



In May, the implementing partner IP Keystone Moldova launched the Capacity Building Program in energy efficiency for CSOs and LPAs. Three regional workshops, each held over three days, brought together 70 participants – 41 from CSOs and 29 from LPAs – who received training on topics such as: national and international legal frameworks on energy efficiency, the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (2025–2030), use of renewable energy sources, energy audits, and technical requirements for public buildings.

The program will continue with local-level workshops focused on the development of Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans – strategic documents that reflect the energy priorities of each community.

Through these activities, the project contributes to strengthening local capacities to adopt sustainable solutions, increasing energy efficiency, and improving the quality of social services delivered at the community level.





## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



### “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme: launch of the Water Treatment Plant in Edineț, the programme’s Annual Stakeholder Conference, and Infrastructure modernisation in Strășeni rayon

#### Edineț Water Treatment Plant – an investment in health and the future

On 9 April 2025, the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant was officially launched in Edineț – the programme’s flagship investment worth **€5.85 million**. The goal: to ensure access to safe drinking water for approximately **25,800 residents** of Edineț municipality and the town of Cupcini.

#### The project includes:

- ✓ Construction of a modern water treatment plant with its own electricity supply system;
- ✓ Installation of a new raw water intake and pumping station (SP-01), connected to the existing transmission pipeline;
- ✓ Complete rehabilitation of three pumping stations (SP-02A, SP-03, SP-04) with new equipment and electrical systems;
- ✓ Renovation of an existing water reservoir at the plant.



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The investment is financed by the European Union and the Government of Austria and is implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

### Conference on sustainability and infrastructure modernisation in Strășeni rayon

On 29 May 2025, the community of Căpriana, Strășeni rayon, hosted the **Annual Stakeholder Conference of the "EU4Moldova: Local Communities" programme**, under the theme "Water for Sustainable Communities". The event served as a platform for dialogue and exchange of good practices in infrastructure and public service delivery, bringing together government officials, European partners, experts, and local authorities.

On the same day, the **sewerage system modernisation works in Căpriana, Găleşti and Scoreni** were officially launched. This **€1.82 million** project will improve living conditions for over **1,000 people**.

#### The works include:

- Construction of new sewerage networks;

- Installation of modern wastewater treatment plants;
- Connection of schools, kindergartens, medical centres, and town halls;
- Extended connection opportunities for households and businesses.

#### Impact: beyond infrastructure

These are not just technical projects – *they are investments in people's lives*. They bring:

- Improved public health through access to safe water and sanitation;
- Better living conditions for children, the elderly, and families;
- Greater attractiveness of regions for investment and job creation;
- Stronger community resilience to climate change;
- A concrete step toward European integration, through modern living standards.



*The projects are part of the "EU4Moldova: Local Communities" programme, a Team Europe initiative, financed by the European Union, the Governments of Germany, Austria, and Poland, and implemented by GIZ, ADA, and SFPL in Moldova.*



# Capacity-building sessions on the environmentally sound management of chemicals in the Republic of Moldova

The last series of introductory training on REACH and CLP in the field of environmentally sound management of chemicals addressed to economic agents in the Republic of Moldova was conducted this June.

The training was attended by 11 representatives from various local companies "Mezhtrans Moldova" SRL, Supraten, "Ecolux"

SRL, "Ecochimie" SRL, "Bioprotect" SRL, who were informed about the Alignment of national legislation with European Union regulations on the evaluation, registration, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH), as well as the classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures (CLP).



During the two-day training (June 10-11), participants learned from representatives of the Swedish Chemicals Agency KEMI - Cecilia Westöo and Lisa Ekstig about European practice on sustainable management of chemicals (such as basic elements of regulations, alignment, implementation, responsibilities, measures for the correct application of the legislation, sanctions, etc.).

Cooperation between authorities and economic agents is essential for the legal, safe and sustainable conduct of economic activities related to chemicals, such as registering the substances they produce or import, providing detailed safety data sheets (SDS) and correctly labeling products. All these measures aim to reduce the risks associated with the use of

hazardous chemicals on human health and environmental pollution, showing responsibility towards society and the environment. At the end of the training, participants were given certificates of participation.

The activity completed the introductory training cycle within the EU-funded Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment", Component C4: **Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals**, which included two other training sessions in March and April aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities of the employees of the Ministry of the Environment, the Environment Agency, the Inspectorate for Environment Protection, economic agents and other public entities responsible for the management of chemicals.



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# Finnish best practices in environmental protection and air quality presented to Moldovan authorities

The experience of Finland regarding environmental protection and air quality was shared with the officials of the Ministry of the Environment, the Environmental Agency, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate and the State Hydrometeorological Service during a study visit held between 19-23 May, which was hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) in Helsinki.

The purpose of the study visit was to learn about the experience of best practices in air quality management, control and enforcement measures, this representing one of the core activities within the framework of the EU Twinning Project "Air Quality and Environment", implemented by a consortium made of partner institutions from Finland, Sweden and Lithuania.



Following the interactive working sessions, Moldovan officials had the opportunity to learn about models of close inter-institutional collaboration from representatives of Finnish institutions such as: the Ministry of the Environment, the Finnish Environment

Institute (Syke), the Eco-Industrial Center of Ämmässuo (HSY), the City of Helsinki, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the Finnish Chemicals Safety and Products Agency (Tukes), as well as a visit to the automatic background station for monitoring atmospheric air quality in Virolahti.



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It was interesting to learn the crucial role that scientific research sector plays in improving air quality through the development of innovative monitoring technologies and methodologies, identification of pollution sources and health impact assessments. It was presented how results of recent scientific surveys impacted the decision-makers in the development of specific strategies to mitigate the environmental and public health risks associated with air pollution.

The Finnish working approach has shown how the integration of diverse expertise, resources and data takes place, leading to more efficient environmental governance regarding the environmental permit issuance procedure, implementation of the national air pollution control program, the operation of the national emissions inventory and reporting system, examples and practical solutions for reducing emissions, monitoring

and disseminating information on air quality in Finland, managing waste and recycling in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, as well as generating energy out of these sustainable activities.

The Moldovan participants had the opportunity to examine advanced laboratory methods, high-performance technical infrastructure and standards applied in air monitoring activities, in accordance with European Union requirements, and also became familiar with modern monitoring equipment and the principles of measuring air pollutants, in line with the European Air Quality Directives.

Therefore, an efficient interinstitutional cooperation can improve citizens quality of life, increase the population's awareness on maintaining a clean environment, involve citizens in decision-making processes by promoting a sense of belonging to their community.



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# Cantemir and Ceadâr-Lunga municipalities – building climate resilience with support from the European Union

The municipalities of Cantemir and Ceadâr-Lunga, signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, will receive financial support for climate adaptation projects through the EU4ClimateResilience initiative, funded by the European Union.

In Cantemir, an integrated rainwater collection system will be implemented, aimed at turning two major issues – drought and flooding – into a sustainable solution.

*“Cantemir faces two opposite extremes – drought and, during heavy rains, large accumulations of water that damage urban infrastructure. We decided to turn these two problems into a solution. The entire system will be built in the city’s central park, where trees have been drying out year after year,”*

**says Tatiana Puica, representative of the city of Cantemir.**

In Ceadâr-Lunga, the project involves collecting rainwater in special reservoirs with a capacity of at least 300 tons. The water will later be used to irrigate parks and green spaces, in a city increasingly affected by arid conditions and extreme weather events.

*“Rain is rare but heavy here, and some areas are prone to flooding. We’ll use this water for irrigating parks, nurseries, and young plantations. The project will protect around 600 households and rehabilitate 1.5 km of Gogol Street, where rainwater currently turns the road into a torrent,”*

**states Anatolii Topal, Mayor of Ceadâr-Lunga.**

By participating in EU4ClimateResilience, these municipalities show strong commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and the well-being of their citizens. As signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, Cantemir and Ceadâr-Lunga actively pursue ambitious climate and energy goals at the local level.



# EU-funded programme “EU4Green Recovery East” supports Moldova’s green transition and EU alignment efforts

The EU4Green Recovery East programme officially launched in early 2025, with online regional kick-off meetings in February and March. With a €21.3 million contribution from the European Union, the programme (2025–2028) supports a greener, more resilient, and competitive economy across the Eastern Partnership region.

Building on a decade of EU–EaP cooperation, EU4Green Recovery East promotes circular economy, sustainable water management, better environmental data systems, and alignment with EU environmental legislation.

The EU4Green Recovery East programme is implemented by Expertise France, the International Office for Water (OiEau), OECD, UNECE, UNIDO, and the Environment Agency Austria (UBA, consortium coordinator).



## Moldova’s active engagement during inception phase

In the first half of 2025, the programme’s implementing partners—Expertise France, the International Office for Water (OiEau), OECD, UNECE, UNIDO and Environment Agency Austria (UBA, as consortium coordinator)—held high-level and technical consultations in Moldova, Armenia and Ukraine.

In Moldova, bilateral meetings were organised with the Ministry of Environment and other key stakeholders to identify national priorities and define a tailored workplan for the next three years. The resulting proposals will be presented to all EaP countries for endorsement on 8 July 2025.

## Preparing for a key EU accession step: Chapter 27 on environment

Moldova has shown strong political momentum on its path to EU accession and is preparing for one of the most significant steps in the process: the bilateral screening on Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change. This screening assesses how well national legislation and institutions align with the EU acquis—a comprehensive body of EU law and standards. For Chapter 27 alone, this means demonstrating progress on over 200 pieces of environmental and climate legislation.

In preparation, Moldova has already conducted test-screenings on key areas such as climate change and waste, and the Ministry of Environment is leading the country's preparations for the official bilateral screening session, scheduled for 30 June to 4 July 2025 in Brussels.

More information and leaflet available here:  
<https://euneighbourseast.eu/projects/eu-project-page/?id=2684>



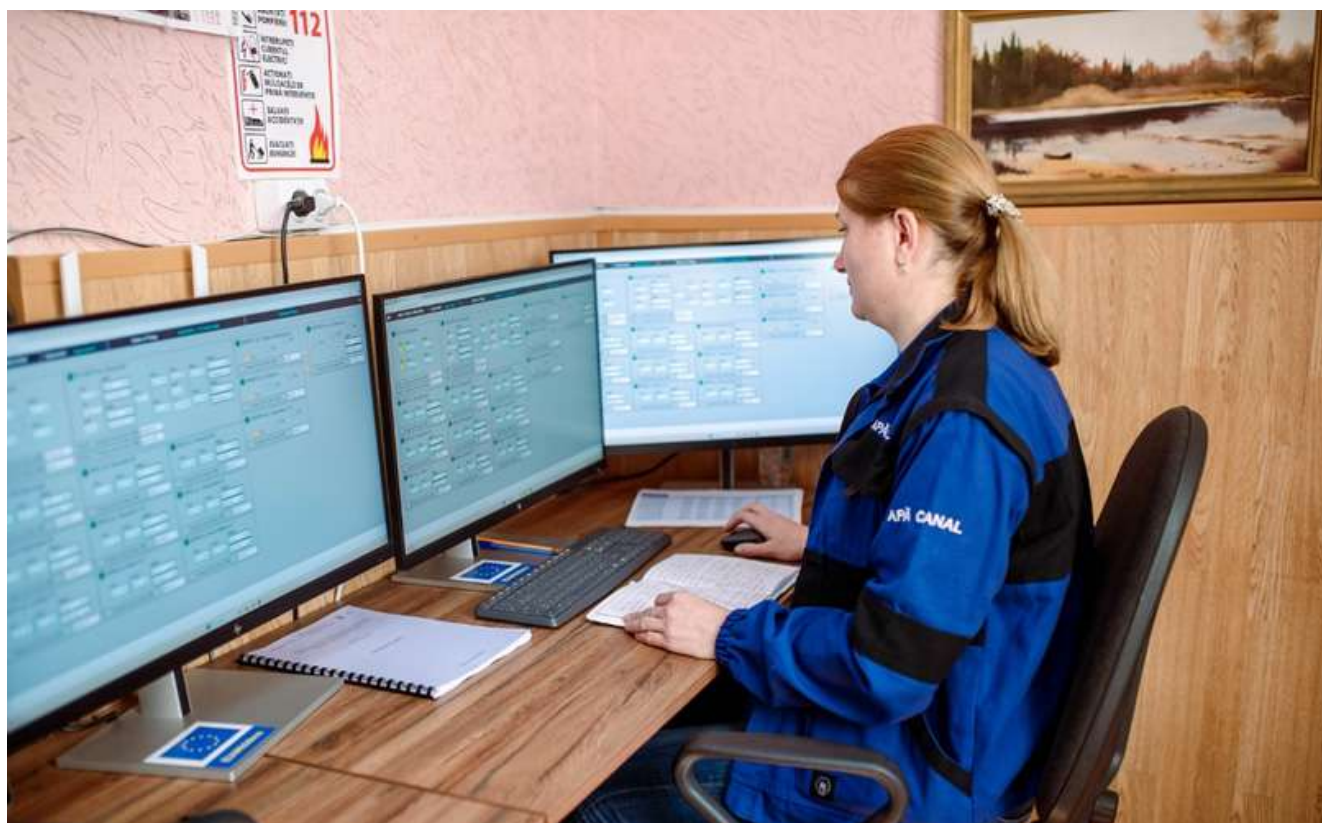
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# More efficient and higher-quality water supply and sanitation services in Ungheni, thanks to the SCADA system installed with the EU and UNDP Moldova support

Residents of Ungheni municipality and the neighbouring localities of Zagarancea and Semeni now benefit from improved and more efficient water supply and sanitation services. The regional operator "Apă-Canal Ungheni" has been equipped with a modern automation system - SCADA (Supervisory Control and

Data Acquisition System), which enables real-time monitoring, data collection and remote control of the water and sewage network. This investment optimizes energy consumption, reduces losses, and enhances the quality of services provided to the population.



The SCADA system was officially inaugurated on Friday, 4 April, as part of the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions" programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF.

*"The launch of the SCADA system in Ungheni is definitely a major step towards increasing the efficiency and quality of the services provided to the population by Apă-Canal Ungheni. It also aligns with our vision of transforming Ungheni into a smart city."*

*"Both the company's employees and the residents will feel the positive impact of this system, which significantly improves the management of an essential public service. We are grateful to the European Union and the 'EU4 Moldova: Focal Regions' Programme for their invaluable support in making this long-awaited project a reality",*

**said Vitalie Vrabie,  
Mayor of Ungheni city.**



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Currently, the Apă-Canal Ungheni network consists of 155.4 km of water pipelines and 66.5 km of sewer lines. Previously, manual monitoring and telephone-based pressure zone control led to inefficiencies, high operational costs, and significant energy losses. With the SCADA system in place, electricity savings of up to 30% can be achieved, while intervention costs are reduced by up to 60%.

The new system includes a central control and monitoring centre, equipped with a high-performance server, state-of-the-art IT equipment, and advanced software. Sensors and monitoring equipment have been installed at 15 locations – water pumping stations, water treatment plant, booster pumping stations, and wastewater pumping stations – ensuring efficient network management. Data transmission is carried out through a secure network, increasing the safety and operational efficiency of the system.

At the same time, with the support of the "EU4Moldova: Focal Regions" programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF, a 1000 m<sup>3</sup> drinking water storage tank was built at the water treatment plant.

The integration of the SCADA system, together with the extension of the aqueduct network in rural areas, contributes to the protection of groundwater resources and to ensuring constant access to safe drinking water.

The new infrastructure connects 28 rural communities to the centralized water supply network, reducing reliance on well water and significantly reducing the risk of water-borne diseases in these communities.

The total investment, which includes the implementation of the SCADA system, the construction of the reservoir and the installation of 1,000 water meters, exceeds 500,000 euro.



The "EU4Moldova: Focal regions" programme (2019-2025) supports smart, inclusive and sustainable social-economic development in the regions of Cahul and Ungheni, aiming to improve the quality of life for local communities.

The programme has a total budget of 23 million euro, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

# Global Campus of Human Rights and Moldova State University organized the second edition of the European Cross-Regional Spring School on Climate Justice and Human Rights

The second edition of the European Cross-Regional Spring School on Climate Justice and Human Rights took place in Orhei, Moldova, from May 5–11. Organized by the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) and Moldova State University (MSU), with EU support, the event highlighted Moldova's growing role in environmental rights and sustainable development.

The School brought together 22 students, human rights defenders, and civil society members from Moldova and neighbouring

regions for a week of interdisciplinary learning. The program combined international and local expertise, with lectures and hands-on activities covering climate justice, planetary health, ecocide, and corporate environmental responsibility.

The GC affiliated lecturers were Zoi Aliozi, Pim Martens, Samentha Goethals, Alma Midžić, Marina Shupac teamed up with MSU's scholars Rodica Iordanov, Irina Punga, Doina Cuciurca, Daniela Elenciu, and Steliana Clapco.

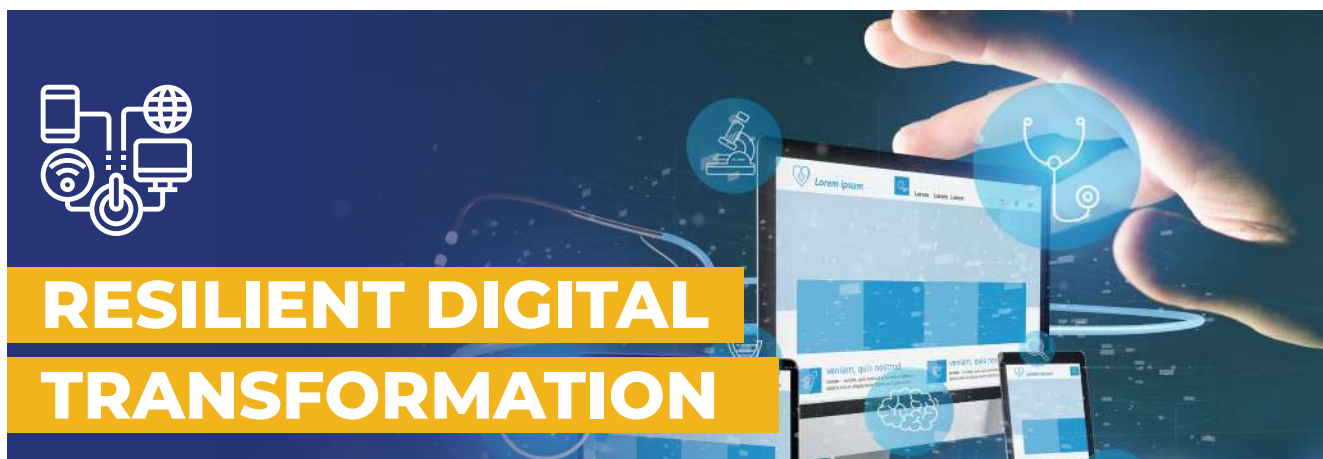


The Spring School combined academic sessions on climate justice, ecocide, and environmental governance with interactive activities like simulations and the Climate Fresh workshop. A special session with the EU Delegation explored Moldova's climate policies in the EU accession context. Participants also visited Orhei National Park and took part in a

documentary screening and discussion on ecocide and human rights.

All participants received certificates, and some earned academic credits. The Spring School is becoming a key initiative for fostering human rights education and supporting Moldova's green transition.





## EUPM Moldova: Digital capabilities as promoters of security and stability amidst geopolitical turbulence

Between April 10th-11th, EUPM Moldova took part in and supported the organization of the Moldova Cybersecurity Forum 2025. The second edition of its kind, this event brought together key Moldovan actors and institutions, as well as EU and international partners aligned in safeguarding the Republic of Moldova's digital security.

The main objective of this forum was to gather and exchange the best practices on protecting the cyberspace and critical digital infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, considering the fact that cybersecurity is not only a key pillar of the country's national security strategy, but also a catalyst to sustainable economic development that serves to uplift its entire population.

The forum included workshops, debates, interactive sessions and presentations

for the latest technologies, protocols and policies of the cybersecurity domain. The discussions held during the forum underlined the importance of international cooperation in safeguarding and building up Moldova's cybersecurity capabilities, as well as the role it may play in ensuring regional stability in the context of ever evolving geopolitical challenges.

The Moldova Cybersecurity Forum 2025 was organized by the Republic of Moldova's Cybersecurity Agency and the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, in partnership with the National Institute for Cybersecurity Innovation "Cybercor" and the Technical University of Moldova, with financial support from the "Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance" Project, EUPM Moldova, and the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova.



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# Moldova Cybersecurity Forum 2025: two days of dialogue, training and joint commitment for a secure digital space

On April 10–11, 2025, the second edition of the Moldova Cybersecurity Forum, a major event dedicated to strengthening the cyber resilience of the Republic of Moldova, took place at the National Cybersecurity Innovation Center Cybercor.

The forum brought together experts from the country and abroad, government officials, representatives of academia, the private sector and international partners.



The event was organized by the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization and the Cybersecurity Agency (ASC), with the support of the Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance 2.0 project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the e-Governance Academy (eGA) in partnership with the European Union Mission to the Republic of Moldova.

The theme of this year's edition – "Building Resilience: Securing Critical Infrastructure"

– focused on the current challenges in protecting essential services and critical infrastructures from increasingly sophisticated threats in the digital space.

Opening the forum, Prime Minister Dorin Recean and Deputy Prime Minister Doina Nistor reaffirmed the Government's commitment to cybersecurity, underlining the shared responsibility of public institutions, companies and citizens in defending the digital space.

**Among the topics addressed on the first day:**

- ✓ harmonising the national framework with European standards (including the NIS2 Directive),
- ✓ international cooperation in the current geopolitical context,
- ✓ examples of good practices from Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,
- ✓ securing key sectors: energy, telecommunications, finance, health.

The second day was dedicated to practical training sessions, structured in two directions: technology and information security management. Participants took part in specialised workshops on DDoS attack prevention, the Zero Trust model, the organisation of security operations centers (SOC), cyber awareness and requirements for essential service providers.

In the closing speeches, representatives of the European Union and development partners stressed the importance of continued investments in education, technology and inter-institutional cooperation to strengthen national cybersecurity.

*"The digital resilience of the Republic of Moldova is essential for its European path and for a secure, modern and inclusive society,"*

**said Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.**

Elsa Neeme, coordinator of the Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance 2.0 project, highlighted the vital role of partnerships in this process: "Cybersecurity is the foundation of digital trust. In the Republic of Moldova, it is also a matter of resilience, democratic integrity and preparation for integration into the European Union. Aligning the legislative framework and strengthening capable institutions are only part of the equation. The real strength lies in partnerships and a shared commitment to protect what matters most. Through the EU-funded Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance 2.0 project, we are proud to support this journey, together with the EU and local partners.



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# Building Trust and Digital Resilience at the Moldova Digital Summit

The e-Governance Academy (eGA) proudly supported the Moldova Digital Summit 2025 through the **EU-funded Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance Project 2.0**, contributing expert insights and fostering dialogue on pressing challenges in the digital and cybersecurity landscape.

eGA's involvement included two high-level interventions. Taimar Peterkop, Senior Cybersecurity Expert at eGA, moderated the panel *"From Threats to Trust: Building a Secure Digital Moldova"*, which brought together government, telecom, cybersecurity, and academic representatives to discuss how trust—rather than fear—should shape Moldova's digital future. The panel underscored the importance of public-private-academic cooperation, transparency, and investment in cybersecurity skills to build long-term resilience.

Meanwhile, Priit Vinkel, eGA's Senior Expert on Smart Governance, joined a panel on election management in the digital age. His message was clear: digital trust in elections requires more than secure technology—it demands coordination, preparedness, and transparency across all institutions. Highlighting the "4 Cs" of modern electoral resilience—*Cooperation, Coordination, Communication, and Coffee*—Vinkel reminded participants that human factors remain at the heart of digital governance.

These conversations align with the Moldova Digital Summit's goal of bridging policy and practice to advance a secure and inclusive digital society. eGA's contributions reflect the EU's ongoing commitment to supporting Moldova's digital transformation and cyber resilience through strategic partnerships and expertise.



# CyberEast+: Stakeholders from the Republic of Moldova analyse the benefits of common tools for incident/evidence handling and digital forensics

Representatives of law enforcement agencies and the cybersecurity community of the Republic of Moldova, dealing with cybercrime and cybersecurity action, engaged in a training on the use of common tools for incident/evidence handling and digital forensics, organised in the framework of [CyberEast+](#), a joint project of the European Union and of the Council of Europe.

Participants examined the *Standard Operating Procedures for cooperation between CSIRTs and Law Enforcement in the Republic of Moldova* that were developed in 2021 under the [CyberEast](#) project and proposed a set of amendments, in light of current cybercrime threats and trends.

Discussions revolved around compatible cyber-incident/cybercrime reporting platforms, as well as tools for gathering, processing and analysing electronic evidence. Project counterparts focused on examples of effective cooperation from various countries, common taxonomies and incident response policies.

As a result of this training, a set of general principles and standards to be used by members of law enforcement and computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) are being considered by local authorities.

The CyberEast+ project will continue to support initiatives for trusted cooperation between cybersecurity institutions and criminal justice authorities in the Republic of Moldova.





# CyberEast+: Policy makers from the Republic of Moldova discuss the implementation of the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime

On 20 and 21 March 2025, the [General Prosecutor's Office](#) and the [Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova](#), in collaboration with [CyberEast+](#), a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe, organised a national workshop on the

implementation of the [Second Additional Protocol](#) to the [Convention on Cybercrime](#) (Budapest Convention). This event builds on the achievements of the earlier trainings from 2024, focusing on international cooperation in criminal matters.



Project partners from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Police Inspectorate, General Prosecutor's Office, National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technologies and the National Centre for Personal Data Protection examined challenges and opportunities stemming from harmonising the tools of the Second Protocol to the legislation of the Republic of Moldova. *The Council of Europe Guide on the Implementation of the Protocol*, developed under the [CyberSPEX](#) project, served as a basis for the discussions on legislative

and regulatory frameworks to be adopted in the upcoming period. The meeting provided a forum for planning a set of initial requirements and developing an action plan, in view of the successful implementation and further application of the Second Additional Protocol.

This national meeting is part of a broader approach, endorsed by the CyberEast+ project, to enhance international cooperation in line with the provisions of the Second Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime across the Eastern Partnership region.



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# CyberEast+: Defence attorneys from the Republic of Moldova engage in HELP Training Course on cybercrime and electronic evidence

The [Bar Association of the Republic of Moldova](#), in collaboration with [CyberEast+](#), a joint initiative of the European Union and of the [Council of Europe, organised a training on cybercrime and electronic evidence](#) for defence attorneys specialising in criminal justice cases from the Republic of Moldova.

The training was based on the Council of Europe HELP online Course on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence, which comprises [seven modules](#). The course focuses on legal tools and good practices for effectively addressing cybercrime and handling electronic evidence, in compliance with human rights standards.



During the three-day training, the defence attorneys from the Republic of Moldova, under the guidance of Council of Europe international consultants, closely examined legal standards and practices covered by the modules of the course. Participants were introduced to the substantive and procedural powers provisions of the [Convention on Cybercrime](#) (Budapest Convention) which enabled the attendees to discuss conditions and safeguards, meant to balance the requirements of law enforcement with the

protection of human rights and liberties. These included ensuring the right to a fair trial, the protection of the chain of custody and the provision of adequate oversight and assistance.

The CyberEast+ project will continue to support initiatives upholding the respect of human rights standards and fairness of trials involving cybercrime and e-evidence in the Republic of Moldova and in the Eastern Partnership region.



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# Collective cybersecurity exercise for the Moldovan public sector

With digital threats growing across Europe and beyond, strengthening cybersecurity partner countries like Moldova is vital for national resilience and the broader security of the European Union. In today's connected world, cyber defence must be united defence.

In May, Moldova took a significant step forward through a comprehensive hands-on live-fire cyber defence exercise that brought together experts from the e-Governance Agency Moldova ([AGE](#)), Moldova

Cybersecurity Agency ([ASC](#)) and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova.

Held in a high-pressure, realistic environment, the exercise was funded by the European Union and organised by the e-Governance Agency (Estonia) and implemented by Cybexer Technologies (Estonia), who challenged the teams to defend against a wide range of simulated attacks - from phishing and website defacements to infrastructure disruptions, malware injection, and much more.



Over several days, the teams worked intensively to detect, investigate, and mitigate attacks in real time. Each phase of the exercise pushed the participants to think like adversaries, learn their tactics, and apply defensive strategies under pressure. The experience made one thing clear: you can't protect what you don't fully understand.

But it wasn't just about technical skill. It was about trust, coordination, and building a national ecosystem of cyberdefenders who can act swiftly and decisively. Together!

**As Nicoleta Colomeet Director of the e-Governance Agency (AGE) shared:**

*"These are the same guys who are always there when issues arise, even if they aren't ours to fix. They are actively shaping our digital future. In this exercise, they demonstrated that we don't just prioritise cybersecurity; we are equipped to handle crises and complement each other as a united team."*

Moldova's cybersecurity capacity is growing fast, and with continued EU support, it's setting a strong example for the region. This exercise was funded through the EU-supported **Moldova Cybersecurity Rapid Assistance 2.0 project**, implemented by the e-Governance Academy (eGA).



# Celebrating Europe Day 2025 by promoting digital security and European values in Moldova

This May, the e-Governance Academy (eGA) joined Europe Day celebrations across Moldova, engaging with citizens in Chişinău

and Căuşeni to raise awareness about digital security, media literacy, and the values that unite the European Union.



At the European Village in Chişinău on 9 May, and again in Căuşeni on 17 May, eGA experts—together with partners from the Information Technology and Cyber Security Service (STISC) and the National Centre for Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Moldova—offered practical guidance on cybersecurity, data protection, and online safety. Visitors of all ages had the opportunity to ask questions, test their knowledge, and learn more about digital rights in today's connected world.

In parallel, a public debate titled “Europa ești TU” (“Europe is YOU”) brought together young leaders, civil society, and policy experts to discuss Moldova's path toward the European Union and the importance of electoral integrity, civic education, and resilience against disinformation ahead of the 2025 elections.

These events were made possible with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova through two EU-funded initiatives—**Moldova Cybersecurity**

**Rapid Assistance 2.0** (including the *SigurantaDigitala.MD* campaign) and **Improving Cyber Resilience in Eastern Partnership Countries 2.0**—implemented by the e-Governance Academy in close cooperation with Moldovan institutions.

By fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and empowering communities with knowledge, eGA continues to support Moldova's digital resilience and commitment to shared European values.



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# EU4Digital helps Invest Moldova Agency take investment 'roadshow' to Lithuania

[The Invest Moldova Agency](#) (IMA) promoted opportunities for investment in Moldova during a 'roadshow' to Lithuania on 21–23 May 2025, co-organised with EU4Digital Facility. The visit established stronger

connections with Lithuanian counterparts and showcased Moldova's commitment to strengthening its investment promotion and collaboration capabilities in an aim to drive economic growth.



With a diverse economy, Moldova offers a wealth of opportunities for foreign investors, such as the [Moldova Innovation Technology Park](#) and up to [60% return on investment over 10 years](#) for strategic investments in major industries. One of the aims of the roadshow was to highlight these opportunities, showcasing the country's favourable investment policies, skilled workforce, openness from governmental authorities and other competitive advantages to businesses.

During the three-day visit, IMA and EU4Digital representatives met with eight organisations in Vilnius and Kaunas, including national and city investment promotion agencies ([Invest Lithuania](#), [GoVilnius](#), [KaunasIN](#)),

media agencies and other organisations, such as the [Kaunas Free Economic Zone](#). The meetings offered practical insights into media engagement, narrative building and strategic communications, while peer-to-peer exchanges between IMA and Lithuanian counterparts allowed the sharing of knowledge about best practices in aftercare, legal frameworks and investor services.

In addition, IMA representatives met with five businesses across the IT, defence and manufacturing sectors. These business-to-business meetings provided a platform for Invest Moldova Agency to showcase the investment opportunities in Moldova, explore potential partnerships and gather insights into investor expectations.

The Lithuania IMA roadshow followed the February 2025 [IMA roadshow to Germany](#). Both trips were arranged as part of EU4Digital support for IMA capacity-building through its recently launched '[Investment Attractiveness](#)' activity. This EU4Digital support, for priorities identified by the IMA leadership, includes facilitating the co-creation of the organisation's strategy for 2025-2030.

Read more about the IMA 2025-2030 strategy co-creation with EU4Digital:

▶ [EU4Digital initiates strategy co-creation with Invest Moldova Agency](#)

▶ ['Invest Moldova Agency strategy moves ahead: second EU4Digital co-creation workshop'](#)

**Further information:** [EU4Digital helps Invest Moldova Agency take investment 'roadshow' to Lithuania - EU4Digital](#)



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# Invest Moldova Agency strategy moves ahead: second EU4Digital co-creation workshop

To support investment in Moldova, the EU4Digital Facility held its second workshop to facilitate the [Invest Moldova Agency](#) (IMA) 2025–2030 strategy creation.

The session on 7–8 May 2025, in Chisinau, built upon the [first IMA strategy session](#), held in February, and is part of EU4Digital capacity-building support to the agency.



This second co-creation session reaffirmed the commitment of both EU4Digital and IMA to a transparent, inclusive and results-driven strategy development process. The session covered several key topics, including IMA's current mission, vision and culture. The participants also explored the target markets/sectors, strategic initiatives and key performance indicators that were identified regarding export promotion and investment attraction. To support the IMA strategy setting, European Union and global best practices were also shared. The results of the discussions will be used to refine the organisation's 2025–2030 strategy.

The strategy development sessions are part of broader EU4Digital support to the Invest Moldova Agency through its recently launched '[Investment Attractiveness](#)' activity. To further strengthen the agency's capacity, EU4Digital has also organised roadshows to [Germany](#) and [Lithuania](#), fostering international exposure and collaboration opportunities for investment in Moldova.

**Further information:** [Invest Moldova Agency strategy moves ahead: second EU4Digital co-creation workshop - EU4Digital](#)



# The new Inotek, created with the support of the European Union, officially opens its doors: southern Moldova enters a new stage of innovation and digitalization

On June 17, 2025, in Cahul, the new Inotek – EU Innovation Centre Cahul, the largest innovation, education and entrepreneurship center in southern Moldova, was officially inaugurated. The event brought together high-ranking officials, representatives of

the European Union, Sweden, central and local public authorities, leaders from the academic and business environment, development partners and active members of the community.



Created with the financial support of the European Union, in partnership with Sweden, and implemented by ATIC in collaboration with the “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” State University of Cahul and the Cahul City Hall, Inotek is the result of a strategic investment in infrastructure, human capital and the digital future of the region. The project also benefits from the support of the UMAEF Fund, the Swiss Government, the Liechtenstein Development Services

Foundation, UN Women, the Cahul City Hall and Orange Moldova.

## **Inotek – a growth space for skills, ideas and people**

The new center offers a modern and multifunctional space, dedicated to digital education, vocational training and support for entrepreneurship and innovation. Children, youth and adults from the south of the country will benefit from access to



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advanced technologies, applied learning and STEM programs adapted to the current demands of the labor market.

Inotek directly contributes to the training of a new generation of technology professionals, offering young people from the region the chance to build a career at home, in partnership with academic institutions and local companies. "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University in Cahul places high hopes in the activity of the Inotek center. We hope that our students, teachers, and children from the region will be involved in the center's activities and there they will learn skills in the field of information technologies. We hope that Inotek will become an important pole that will drive the economic development of the region."

### **Local entrepreneurs, supported to evolve digitally**

Inotek becomes a catalyst for the development of regional entrepreneurship, providing SMEs and startups in southern Moldova with access to modern workspaces, training, mentoring, specialized consulting and grants for digitalization. Local entrepreneurs can implement technological solutions that increase efficiency, expand access to markets and support sustainable development.

More and more women entrepreneurs in the region find in Inotek a safe and open environment, which offers them practical support and visibility. Thus, the center contributes to the consolidation of an inclusive and competitive entrepreneurial ecosystem, anchored in the real needs of the community.



## A driver for the digital transformation of southern Moldova

By collaborating with local authorities and public institutions, Inotek actively contributes to the modernization of the region through digital tools and expertise. The center's programs support the development of digital skills in administration, education and business, accelerating the digital transformation process and creating the premises for more efficient governance and more accessible services.

*"We have all the chances to become the capital of innovation by opening this center. I am convinced that we have immense potential and it is important that from Cahul we boost the development of the entire region. I hope that this will be the incubator of ideas that will be applicable in the private sector, in local administration, and that the digital transformation priorities of our country will also be among the objectives of this hub,"*

**said Nicolae Dandiș,  
Mayor of Cahul.**

## An event with national relevance

The official launch of the new Inotek included strategic panels, guided tours, interactive exhibitions, technological demonstrations and discussions dedicated to education, female leadership, digitalization of administration and entrepreneurship development. The atmosphere reflected the potential of the region and highlighted the people, initiatives and ideas that define the future of southern Moldova.

### About the project "EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul"


The project is funded by the European Union, in partnership with Sweden, and implemented by ATIC, with the objective of strengthening the digital economy in the southern region. In the 5 years of implementation, the project has generated notable results: over 20,000 students involved in STEM education, over 1,000 teachers trained, and 15 digital laboratories created, 38 SMEs digitally trained, 22 entities supported with grants for digitalization, and an active community, formed through over 100 events dedicated to skills development, innovation and inclusion.



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