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NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

EUROPEAN VILLAGE IN CHIȘINĂU

 9 May 2026, 13:00

 Great National Assembly Square

EUROPEAN VILLAGE IN SOROCA

 16 May 2026, 14:00

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EU – MOLDOVA: COOPERATION NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2026



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MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

Six localities in the Republic of Moldova received fire engines from Poland with EU support

Throughout 2025, six localities in the Republic of Moldova were equipped with fire engines intended to improve emergency response capacity and enhance the safety of local communities. The vehicles were donated by the Wielkopolska Voivodeship of Poland,

and their delivery to Moldova was made possible with the support of the European Union and Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, within the project “EU4Moldova Resilience – Secure State, Resilient Communities.”



The fire engines are intended for localities where Volunteer Firefighters and Rescuers Posts are already operating or are to be established. The beneficiary localities are Călinești (Fălești district), Gura Bîcului (Anenii Noi district), Sofia (Drochia district), Pepeni (Șingerei district), Cărpineni (Hîncești

district), and Sireți (Strășeni district).

The six fire engines are fully operational and were withdrawn from active service by volunteer fire brigades in the Wielkopolska Voivodeship, Poland, as part of a fleet modernization process.

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"We are pleased to support the development of local emergency services and to strengthen solidarity between our communities,"

stated Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshall of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship, Poland.

At the same time, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova is implementing the project "EU4Moldova Resilience – Secure State, Resilient Communities," funded by the European Union. Through this project, 10 localities in the Republic of Moldova benefit from grants for the construction from scratch of volunteer firefighter and rescuer posts, while another 9 localities receive support for the renovation of existing posts.

"Through the synergy of these interventions, local communities receive a comprehensive support package—fire engines, modern infrastructure, and equipment for firefighters—

which enables the strengthening of volunteer fire brigades at the local level,"

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

From 2021 to the present, Solidarity Fund PL has contributed to equipping 10 localities in the Republic of Moldova with emergency response vehicles.

"Our organization's objective is to expand and strengthen the national network of volunteer firefighters and rescuers. The support provided to local communities directly contributes to saving lives and increasing their safety,"

added Tomasz Horbowski, Director of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

Through the "EU4Moldova Resilience" project, the European Union is investing over 44 million lei in the development of the civil protection system in the Republic of Moldova.



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Experiments, robots, and modern laboratories in 9 model schools in Moldova, equipped with the financial support of the European Union

With the financial support from the European Union, students in nine model schools in the Republic of Moldova will study physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics in fully modernised laboratories. Approximately 7,000 students and 490 teachers and school administrators will benefit directly from the

improved learning conditions, using the new spaces to better adapt teaching to students' needs and learning pace. A total of 38 STEAM labs and mathematics classrooms have been renovated and equipped across the nine schools.



The initiative is part of the project “Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP and UNICEF. Each school received investments of over €150,000, covering renovation works, new furniture and modern laboratory equipment.

The laboratories are equipped with modern flexible furniture; scientific instruments; microscopes; wireless sensors; document cameras; and robotics kits. Each model school has received PASCO sensor kits which allow students to collect and analyse real data related to physics, chemistry and biology – from measuring oxygen concentration to studying light and electrical conductivity.

The new equipment supports the transition from purely theoretical learning to learning through practical, hands-on experiments. Students can conduct high-precision experiments, use sensors to measure temperature, pressure, light, and motion, observe biological and chemical processes under a microscope, work on STEAM projects, and incorporate robotics into lessons with Arduino and Ozobot kits.

The following schools will benefit from these investments:

- ✓ "Alexei Mateevici" High School in Dondușeni – three laboratories and a mathematics classroom;
- ✓ "Mihai Eminescu" High School in Drochia – two science laboratories and two mathematics classrooms;
- ✓ "Grigore Vieru" High School in Briceni – three science laboratories and three math classrooms;
- ✓ "Mihail Sadoveanu" High School in Ocnîța – three science laboratories and a mathematics classroom;
- ✓ "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" High School in Bălți – three science laboratories;
- ✓ "Miron Costin" High School in Florești – three science laboratories and a mathematics classroom;
- ✓ "Onisifor Ghibu" High School in Orhei – three science laboratories;
- ✓ "Boris Dînga" High School in Criuleni – three science laboratories and two mathematics classrooms;
- ✓ "Mihail Ceachir" High School in Ceadâr-Lunga – three science laboratories and two mathematics classrooms.

Ionela Cotorcea, a 10th grade student at Alexei Mateevici High School in Dondușeni, says:

"The new laboratories have completely changed the way we learn. It's no longer just theory from textbooks, but experiments, observations, and things we understand much better. Classes have become more interesting, and I feel that I am learning with more confidence in myself and my future."

Her classmate, Alexandra Bîcu, a 11th grader, reports:

"The laboratories are bright, modern, and well-equipped, which motivates us to come to class with more interest. I am impressed by the modern and flexible furniture, which can be adapted to different types of activities. But also, by the latest technology: microscopes, laboratory equipment, interactive panels, and robotics kits."

At the same time, the school libraries of "Grigore Vieru" High School in Briceni and "Mihail Ceachir" High School in Ceadâr-Lunga, have been renovated and redesigned. UNDP Moldova and OTP Bank supported their modernisation, which was carried out as part of the "Moldova for Education" partnership. This partnership was launched by the Ministry of Education and Research with the aim of mobilising private sector support for the future model schools.

The libraries of the two schools have been transformed into modern learning spaces, aligned with contemporary educational trends and student needs. Each library is equipped with a work area containing computers, tables with dividers, laptops, a multifunctional printer, and a corkboard.



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The shelves have been placed at student height to ensure easy access to books, and the spaces have become brighter and more welcoming.

The total investment for the two libraries is over €91,000, provided by OTP Bank.



Two of the 90 future model schools are receiving financial and technical support from the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In addition to renovating the physics, chemistry, and biology labs, teachers and administrators are participating in professional development trainings to strengthen their teaching and digital skills.

A new transparency tool for Moldova's EU path: the Reform and Growth Facility scoreboard

As the Republic of Moldova advances on its path towards accession to the European Union (EU), a new public instrument is now available to monitor progress in reforms and EU financial support: the Reform and Growth Facility Scoreboard. Developed by the European Commission under the EU Growth Plan for Moldova, the Scoreboard provides clear, structured and regularly updated information on the implementation of the Reform Agenda agreed between the EU and Moldova, as well as on releases and disbursements of funds under the Reform and Growth Facility.

What is the Reform and Growth Facility Scoreboard?

The Scoreboard is an online, public monitoring platform designed to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of EU-supported reforms. It brings together, in a single and accessible interface, information about the reform milestones and targets agreed between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova. It also indicates the status of implementation of these commitments, whether they have been completed, are ongoing, or remain pending, and presents data on the EU funding disbursed in connection with achieved reform steps.

In practical terms, the Scoreboard translates policy documents and technical reform commitments into a format that can be easily consulted and understood by non-specialist audiences. By structuring information in a clear and visual way, it allows to quickly grasp where progress has been made and where further efforts are required.

Why it matters for journalists and media professionals

For journalists and media professionals, the Scoreboard represents more than a repository of information, it is a working

tool for evidence-based reporting. It allows reporters to verify official statements against agreed reform benchmarks and to assess whether commitments are being fulfilled within the expected timeframe.

The platform makes it possible to analyse the connection between reform conditionality and EU financial assistance, clarifying how specific achievements trigger the release of funds. It also provides a transparent overview of the financial envelope and the amounts disbursed to date, enabling journalists to follow the use of EU support in a structured manner. When covering sectors such as justice reform, public administration, anti-corruption, economic governance or energy, media representatives can rely on the Scoreboard to identify concrete milestones and measure progress against clearly defined indicators.



How the Scoreboard works

The Reform and Growth Facility operates on a performance-based logic, meaning that financial support from the European Union is linked to concrete reform steps and measurable results. The Scoreboard reflects this mechanism by clearly presenting the agreed reform measures and indicating the progress made by national authorities in implementing them.

It also shows which reform steps have led to the disbursement of EU funds and provides an overview of the overall financial support allocated under the Facility. By connecting



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reforms with funding in a transparent manner, the Scoreboard illustrates how policy commitments translate into tangible financial flows and, ultimately, into concrete outcomes for citizens.

This approach strengthens accountability and allows the public to better understand the dynamics of Moldova's EU integration process.

Supporting evidence-based public debate

As public interest in the EU Growth Plan for Moldova continues to grow, access to reliable and structured information becomes increasingly important. The Reform and Growth Facility Scoreboard contributes to a more informed public debate by making official data easily accessible and understandable. It empowers journalists, civil society organisations, researchers and citizens to monitor progress, assess institutional performance and engage in substantive discussions about reform priorities. By enhancing transparency, the Scoreboard supports democratic oversight and fosters trust in the reform process.

The Reform and Growth Facility Scoreboard can be accessed online via:

the European Commission website: https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-technical-assistance/reform-and-growth-facility-moldova_en

the EU4Moldova platform: <https://eu4moldova.eu/plan-de-crestere-moldova/>

On 12 February & 4 March 2026, information workshops were organised at Europe Café to present the Reform and Growth Facility Scoreboard to journalists, content creators, NGOs and business associations. The sessions were facilitated by Ville Majamaa, Team Leader for Moldova at DG ENEST, European Commission. The events provided participants with a practical overview of how the Scoreboard functions. The initiative forms part of the EU's broader efforts to promote transparency, strengthen data literacy, and support high-quality, evidence-based media coverage of Moldova's European integration process and the implementation of the Reform and Growth Facility.



EU Accelerator 3.0 launched in Chişinău: 90 young people become the voice of a new generation on the European Union

What does the new generation that will communicate about the European Union (EU) in the Republic of Moldova look like? The answer took shape in Chişinău, where 90 young people participated in the launch of the “EU Accelerator 3.0 – EU Communicators” programme during an interactive event. Over two days – 28–29

March 2026 – participants from across the country engaged in an intensive process of learning, dialogue, and exchange of knowledge and experience, aimed at strengthening their ability to communicate about the EU in a clear, creative, and relevant way for their generation.



The launch event brought together participants from Chişinău, Orhei, Leova, Sîngerei, Soroca, Edineţ, Făleşti, Comrat, and Ungheni. They are active members of EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs, selected for their community engagement and interest in European values. The programme, running from March to July 2026, combines theoretical training with practical application, with a focus on digital storytelling, critical thinking, and countering disinformation.

“The European Union is not something abstract – it represents concrete realities. It means opportunities, travel, education, the quality of the products we buy, better roads, and renovated hospitals. It is not only about politicians speaking on television or decision-makers in Brussels, but above all about how these decisions affect our everyday lives. Looking at you, I feel confident about Moldova’s future.”



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While many say that young people are the future of this country, I would say that you are its present. You are here to take action, to learn how to communicate, how to reach and engage your audiences, how to build campaigns, and how to create content that resonates with the public,”

said Máté Csicsai, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

During the interactive sessions, participants explored how to transform information about the EU into engaging social media content, discussed the challenges of disinformation, and interacted directly with content creators, including Cristian Cebotari, who shared insights on how to create and leverage compelling social media content. The programme also included EU-themed quizzes, dialogue sessions, and dynamic formats such as “EU Speed

Dating,” facilitating the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices.

“EU Accelerator 3.0 was a motivating experience, full of new ideas and meaningful discussions. Meetings with guest speakers inspired us to be more active and engaged in our communities. I am glad I participated and would like to take part in similar initiatives in the future.

Moldova’s integration into the EU is a real opportunity for the country’s development, offering more opportunities for young people in key areas. It is a process that requires effort and commitment – first and foremost from us – but one that can lead to a more stable and prosperous future,”

said Adriana Mîndov from Orhei, a participant in the EU Accelerator programme.



Throughout the programme, participants will conduct community-level research on perceptions of the European Union, develop local communication campaigns, and create digital content tailored to social media platforms. The initiative will culminate in a team-based competition, where participants

who generate the highest online impact will have the opportunity to take part in a study visit to Brussels – a unique experience that will allow them to gain first-hand insight into EU institutions and better understand the EU decision-making process.

Through EU Accelerator 3.0, the European Union continues to support youth engagement in democratic life and to strengthen a network of communicators capable of explaining the benefits of European integration and contributing to countering disinformation in the Republic of Moldova. The launch event marked not only the official start of the programme, but also a platform for inspiration and collaboration. It confirms that the future of communicating about the EU in Moldova is already in the hands of an informed, creative, and engaged generation.

“EU Accelerator 3.0 – EU Communicators” is a practical training initiative designed for young members of EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs in the Republic of Moldova. It aims to develop a new generation of communicators capable of explaining, in a clear and accessible way, the processes and benefits of European integration.

The 2026 edition brings together 90 young people from across the country, selected based on their motivation and community involvement. The programme runs from March to July 2026 and combines theoretical training with practical application. Participants will learn how to create digital content (video, social media, storytelling), analyse public perceptions of the EU through community-level research, develop and implement local communication campaigns, counter disinformation and myths related to European integration, and promote the tangible benefits of EU support.

The programme will culminate in a youth-led digital communication campaign implemented by Euro Clubs on social media platforms. The team whose campaign achieves the highest visibility will be awarded a study visit to Brussels.



Budulai Mişcoi: the community mediator helping Roma youth find jobs and opportunities

Budulai Mişcoi, community mediator and founder of the Public Association 'Zdorovii Gorod' (Healthy City), has spent nearly a decade creating safe spaces for youth in

Moldova, promoting sports, education, and personal development. His work supports vulnerable groups, including orphans, refugees, and Roma communities.



With the support of the EU4Youth: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme and National Employment Agency (ANOFM), Budulai strengthened his skills in community mediation, learning practical tools to address discrimination, build trust, and facilitate access to education, vocational training, and employment.

Budulai considers that the mediator's role is not only to provide services but to build bridges of trust between the community and institutions, between parents and schools, and between young people and their future.

Through his work, he aims to eliminate structural barriers and promote equal access to services, education, and employment for all citizens of Moldova, regardless of ethnicity: "My goal is for all citizens, including Roma, to be integrated into society, to have equal access to opportunities, and at the same time to preserve their cultural identity. This is my mission."

Read more about Budulai here: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/stories/budulai-miscoi-the-community-mediator-helping-roma-youth-find-jobs-and-opportunities/>

All about education in the Republic of Moldova on the European Commission's online platform – Eurydice

The description of the education system in the Republic of Moldova is fully available since April 2026 on the European online platform [Eurydice](#) – Eurypedia, offering a detailed and up-to-date overview of all levels of education in the country.

[Eurypedia](#) is the online encyclopedia of education systems in 40 European countries. The information covers the entire educational pathway – from early childhood education to higher education and adult education – as well as aspects related to quality assurance, financing, academic mobility and ongoing reforms. Thus, users can access data on educational cycles according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-2011), the principles underpinning education in the country and the legislative framework regulating the functioning and development of the education system.

The full publication of the description strengthens the visibility of the education system in the Republic of Moldova at the European level and facilitates access to relevant information for researchers, decision-makers, teachers and the general public.

At the same time, the Republic of Moldova is currently contributing to the development of Eurydice comparative studies and reports on specific topics, such as academic mobility, the structure of the education system, the academic calendar or salaries in education.

Starting with 2024, the Republic of Moldova, together with Ukraine and Georgia, became part of the Eurydice network, contributing to a better mutual understanding of education systems in Europe.



The Eurydice network was established in 1980 by the European Commission and the Member States to support European cooperation in the field of education. All EU Member States are part of Eurydice, along with some non-EU countries. The Eurydice network helps to improve education systems in Europe by providing high-quality information on a wide range of aspects of education policy and practice. It provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies dedicated to specific topics, indicators and statistics.

The Eurydice network is part of the Erasmus+ programme since 2024. The [National Erasmus+ Office](#) in Moldova manages the Eurydice National Unit, which is responsible for developing, updating and disseminating information on the education system in the Republic of Moldova. Through this platform, the Republic of Moldova reaffirms its commitment to promoting transparency and cooperation in the field of education at European level.

A language school in Dubăsari, opened with the financial support of the EU

A year ago, Elena Comerzan opened a language school in her hometown of Dubăsari. For over a decade, she taught English and German in Chişinău, but the thought of returning home never left her.

With the support of the European Union, provided through the Confidence Building Measures Programme implemented by UNDP Moldova, Elena equipped the school with the necessary equipment and furniture.



"I started working while I was still in college. I always told myself that one day I would return home to my town,"

Elena says.

There was no language school in Dubăsari. There were only occasional private lessons, taught by a few teachers at home or in schools. Elena wanted more for the young people in the area: a modern and interactive learning environment.

"I opened this school thanks to European Union funding. That's the only way I was able to get the business off the ground,"

says Elena.

She received ergonomic furniture and interactive whiteboards, as well as mentoring to get the school up and running.

"I got answers to every question. I learned on the fly how to attract customers and grow my business. I started with 25 students. I remember the first days, I was nervous but full of hope. Now, after a year, we have over 80 students enrolled in courses,"

Elena says proudly.

The school offers English and Romanian language courses and German courses will also be offered later.

"We have over 20 students, both adults and children, learning Romanian. Among them are Ukrainians, foreigners settled in the region, but also locals who did not know Romanian and who are now able to communicate and integrate better,"

adds the young entrepreneur.



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So far, the school has created three stable jobs, and one of the teachers, who was planning to move to Chişinău in search of a better job, has decided to stay in Dubăsari.

Elena's project is about hope, about building bridges between people, about providing equal opportunities regardless of where you live. In an ever-changing world, the ability to speak multiple languages opens doors – to education, to better jobs, to better understanding between diverse communities.

The language school that opened a year ago in Dubăsari has become a dynamic space where children come with enthusiasm,

adults return with confidence, and teachers find the motivation to contribute to a more united community.

"I want my students to have the same opportunities as those in big cities or outside the country. Education should not be a luxury, but a right for all,"

says Elena.

By supporting small and medium-sized businesses, the European Union Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, contributes to the creation of economic opportunities on both banks of the Nistru River.



Youth finding their voice on stage and in the community

On an improvised stage in Anenii Noi, the emotions are real and the voices are strong. This is not just theatre – it is how young people choose to speak about what matters to them.

Together with our partners from AO “Din Dragoste,” we witnessed learning come alive beyond the classroom. Through social theatre and hands-on exercises, children and youth step into roles that reflect real-life situations – from road safety to civic

engagement. They ask questions, search for answers, and, most importantly, learn to be heard.

The initiative “Stage of Participation – Citizens Speak Up” started with their ideas, discussed during the Community Forum, and transformed into two social theatre plays. On stage, their concerns, hopes, and proposals become clear messages for the entire community.



In the audience, local authorities listen. Initiatives like this build real bridges between youth, civil society, and decision-makers, creating space for dialogue and participation.

For these young participants, every line spoken on stage means more courage. More confidence. More voices. The stage becomes a place where their ideas not only come to life, but begin to change the community.

The event was organized by AO “Din Dragoste,” in partnership with People in Need Moldova and in collaboration with the Anenii Noi City Hall, within the INSPIRĂ Moldova project, funded by the European Union.



When young people move from spectators to decision-makers

In a room full of energy and ideas, dozens of young people did not come just to listen. They came to speak, to propose, and to show that they can be part of decision-making.

This became a reality during the participatory governance conference “**YOUTH2LEAD**”, organized by our partners from A.O. “**Renașterea**”. Young people aged 14 to 18 demonstrated that civic engagement starts with trust, dialogue, and courage – and that their voices matter.

The event brought together youth, mayors, representatives of local public authorities, and civil society in an open dialogue about the role of the younger generation in decision-making processes. In this setting, youth participation was not only encouraged, but genuinely heard.

A key highlight of the conference was the launch of the pilot program **My Municipality Model (MMM)** – an innovative approach that turns civic participation into a hands-on experience. Within the program, each team – composed of one young person and one local public administration representative – worked together, simulating real-life municipal processes.

For participants from Talmază, Crocmaș, Tudora, and Copceac, this was more than an exercise. It was direct engagement through:

- simulations of local council meetings,
- participatory budgeting exercises,
- co-management and intergenerational dialogue,
- proposing solutions to real community challenges.

Participation thus became more than a concept – it became a lived experience, equipping young people with confidence and practical tools to contribute to their communities.

For us, the INSPIRĂ Moldova initiative is about exactly this kind of change: creating opportunities where young people do not just learn about democracy, but practice it.

The event was organized with the financial support of the European Union, within the INSPIRĂ Moldova project. The project is implemented by the Public Association “**RENAȘTEREA**”, in partnership with People in Need Moldova.



  EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Consumer Protection in the context of EU Accession: young researchers and law students from Moldova and Romania meet in Chişinău

On March 13, 2026, the International Scientific Communications Competition “Consumer Protection in the Republic of Moldova in the Process of Alignment with European Union Standards” (1st edition) took place in Chişinău. The event was organized within the project “Facilitating Consumer Access to Remedies and Complaint Handling Mechanisms”, implemented by the European Consumer Centre in the Republic of Moldova (ECC Moldova) and funded by the European Union, in partnership with the Department of Private Law of the Faculty of Law, Public Administration, Public Order and Security of the “Ştefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, and the Faculty of Economics and Law of the “George Emil Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureş, Romania.

The competition provided an academic dialogue platform for 17 participants – students from several higher education institutions in Moldova and Romania, including the “Ştefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, the Technical University of Moldova – “Bogdan Petriceicu Haşdeu” University Center in Cahul, the “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galaţi, and the “George Emil Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureş.

Participants discussed the evolution of Moldova’s consumer protection legal and institutional framework in the context of alignment with EU standards. The event addressed both current challenges and future directions for strengthening legal, institutional and educational mechanisms to ensure effective consumer protection.



Scientific papers presented during the competition covered key topics such as the harmonization of Moldova's legislation with EU product safety regulations, consumer protection in the digital economy and e-commerce, the effectiveness of public authorities, transparent consumer information, unfair commercial practices, consumer legal education, collective consumer representation, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and protection against digital manipulation.

The papers presented by young researchers from Moldova and Romania were evaluated by a jury composed of academics and field experts. The programme included presentation sessions, jury deliberations and an award ceremony, combining both

academic and practical dimensions and encouraging research and legal reflection in the field of consumer protection.

Through this initiative, ECC Moldova reaffirms the importance of promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on consumer rights and strengthening a legal culture aligned with European standards. In the context of European integration, such initiatives contribute to deepening expertise, fostering academic research, and supporting the development of a more effective, coherent and EU-aligned consumer protection framework.

More details about the winners and the full results are available in the complete press release:

https://bit.ly/ConcursInternational_ECCM



Stronger Together

Guiding vulnerable communities to essential support

As part of the EU-supported initiative “Addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals in the Republic of Moldova”, IOM Moldova organizes regular information sessions for Ukrainians and migrants on the Left Bank of the Nistru River.

These sessions provide clear guidance on accessing Multipurpose Cash Assistance and Cash for Rent, covering eligibility, documentation, and program updates. Participants also receive information about IOM’s wider support services, including protection and healthcare, helping ensure they can fully benefit from available assistance.



EU-Funded winter assistance reaches 335 vulnerable families

This support is vital for us, especially in the wintertime, as it becomes difficult to survive due to high utility bills and the need for winter clothes. I also have to buy medicines and food every month,”

says Olga from Mykolaiv, Ukraine.

“This support is vital for us, especially in the wintertime, as it becomes difficult to survive due to high utility bills and the need for winter clothes. I also have to buy medicines and food every month,” says Olga from Mykolaiv, Ukraine.

Thanks to the financial support of the European Union, Olga’s family, currently living in Tiraspol, is among the 335 families that have received winter cash assistance, aimed at helping vulnerable households cope with harsh winter conditions.



Stronger Together

Finding safety far from home: Svitlana's story of resilience

At 85, Svitlana had to flee war, leaving behind her home and everything she had built in Mykolaiv.

"We didn't want to go—our whole life was there,"

she says.

After finding safety on the Left Bank of the Nistru River with her 89-year-old, bedridden husband, Svitlana now relies on IOM Moldova's multi-purpose cash assistance programme, generously funded by the European Union, to afford life-saving medication, heating, and basic needs.

Read the full story: [Finding safety far from home: Svitlana's story of resilience at IOM Moldova](#)



Cash for protection assistance for vulnerable displaced populations

"It was very difficult to stay in Ukraine with children,"

says Rashida from Poltava, recalling nights of sirens, bombardments, and fear that forced her family to flee.

In Moldova, IOM's Protection Mobile Team provides vital support to vulnerable migrants, including cash assistance, legal and social aid, and emergency accommodation.

With EU funding, Rashida's family received one-time financial assistance to cover essential needs—part of a broader effort that has supported over 500 vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals since 2024.



Providing stability through housing support

IOM Moldova, with the financial support of the European Union, is providing rental assistance support on the Left Bank of the Nistru River to enhance the living conditions of vulnerable people who have fled the war in Ukraine.

With the habitability assessments now completed, IOM is delivering monthly cash

for rent assistance to ensure that families can live in safe and adequate homes.

The program supports 100 families from January through June 2026, helping them maintain stability and security during these challenging times.



Restoring safety and dignity through humanitarian returns

IOM Moldova remains committed to providing humanitarian assistance, protection, and individualized support to third-country nationals and families fleeing the war in Ukraine through the EU-funded Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

People receive comprehensive support, including medical care, counselling, psychological assistance, and, when needed, oxygen and medical escorts.

The Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program ensures all returns are safe, dignified, and well-coordinated.



Supporting safe relocation to European countries

Thirteen Ukrainian refugees and one citizen of Burundi, all displaced by the war in Ukraine, embarked on a new chapter by relocating from Moldova to Spain with support from IOM. To ensure their safe journey, IOM Moldova provided comprehensive pre-departure assistance, including health screening and guidance sessions.

Since the onset of the full-scale war in Ukraine, IOM Moldova's Protection, Resettlement and Movement Management and Migration and Health Teams have assisted 2,856 people in relocating to the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) Member States through the EU+ Air Transfer Programme, funded by the European Union.



From displacement to belonging: a story of resilience

“I like the baby bed I received today. It will be easier for me to carry my baby in a sling, to see her face, to feel her.” Victoria, a Ukrainian refugee with a hearing impairment, received essential assistance from IOM as part of a project co-funded by the European Union.

Today, she resides in Drochia with her two-month-old daughter and mother-in-law, Mariana, who continues to be a pillar of strength for their family.

Since 2024, 295 displaced people from Ukraine in Moldova have been receiving financial aid to meet their urgent needs. Behind each statistic is a story like Victoria’s— one of loss, courage, and quiet strength to begin life again from scratch.

Read the full story [From displacement to belonging: a story of resilience | Moldova](#)



Daria's happiness amidst the war. From Odesa to Moldova, three generations, one family, one strength

After fleeing the war in Ukraine together with her mother and grandmother, Daria - a young girl with Down syndrome, speech difficulties, and type 1 diabetes - was, for the first time, able to attend school, make new friends, and find a safe environment in Moldova.

"Sometimes I had to work every day of the week to make sure Daria has everything she needs. The expenses are many, and as a single mother, it's a constant challenge,"

says Tetiana, her mother.

Thanks to the support from the European Union through IOM - UN Migration in Moldova, the family's financial burden has eased, allowing them to purchase life-saving medical equipment, food, and hygiene products.

Surrounded by the love and protection of her mother and grandmother, Daria flourishes as a joyful and happy child.

Read the full story [Daria's happiness amidst the war. From Odesa to Moldova, three | Moldova](#)



The warmth of home – a dream come true for a family in Soroca

For many of us, the “warmth of home” is a natural feeling, made invisible through daily repetition. We sense it when we return in the evening from work, school, or a journey. Yet, for others, this feeling is a rare luxury—or worse, a mere dream. In Moldova, there are families who have not known the stability of a home for years.

Nelea, a single mother from the town of Soroca, knows this reality all too well. She is raising her five children on her own after years of insecurity—moving from one

temporary place to another and living with “occasional” hosts. Nelea belongs to the Roma community, a background that has often meant additional barriers to social inclusion. Recently, her family received a social apartment provided by the municipal authorities. For the first time, her children have a space they can call “home,” without the fear that they might have to leave the very next day—an important step in reducing the risk of neglect and potential separation from their parent.



Moving into their own home is not the end of their struggles. The apartment was empty: no furniture, no beds, none of the necessities of a decent life.

“We were happy even like that,”

Nelea recalls.

“We slept on a blanket on the floor, but we knew it was our home and that no one would chase us away.”

To help turn their apartment into a real home, People in Need Moldova provided Nelea with financial support. Through PLACE II project, funded by the European Union, the family received over 24,000 Moldovan lei to buy furniture: a sofa, bunk beds, mattresses, and a wardrobe for clothes and personal belongings. This support was aimed at ensuring that the children could continue living together with their mother in a safe and dignified family setting, preventing institutionalization.



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For Nelea, who supports her entire family on a monthly salary of around 6,000 lei, this help was decisive.

“On my own, not even in four or five months could I have saved this money, with food to buy and utilities to pay. This support means so much to our family,” she told us, emotionally.

For the entire family, this assistance marked the beginning of a new feeling—perhaps the most important of all: the warmth of a real home.

Among the five children, Nastea, a 10-year-old girl, stands out for her surprising maturity.

Asked how she felt when she moved into the new apartment, her answer is simple yet profound: *“I didn’t know what a home was. I only imagined it. And it turned out exactly like in my dreams.”*

Although their living conditions are gradually improving, the children’s dreams remain modest and deeply practical.

“We still need a table with chairs where we can eat,”

Nastea noted.

After a short pause, she added, *“And a table where we can do our homework.”*

For Nelea, the next big wish is a washing machine—an ordinary appliance for some, but essential for a large family.

Asked by our team what she would like to become when she grows up, Nastea answers without hesitation: *“I would like to be a helper. To help people in need, just like you are helping us.”*

The PLACE II Consortium, bringing together People in Need, Acted, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), INTERSOS, and IMPACT Initiatives, is funded by the European Union and aims to provide protection and multisectoral assistance to Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable communities in the Republic of Moldova.



From exchange to action: how study visits inspire local change

How can ideas observed in another city become real solutions back home? For a group of 15 representatives of local public authorities and community organizations from Moldova, the answer began to take shape during a study visit to Prague and Liberec.

From March 1–7, participants explored practical examples of social services and

community initiatives in Czechia, engaging directly with local authorities, experts, and organizations working on social inclusion and migration management. Beyond concepts and models, the visit offered something essential: a hands-on perspective on how policies and services can work effectively at the local level.



More than just a learning experience, the study visit became a practical tool for future local actions. The ideas discussed, solutions observed, and open dialogue laid the groundwork for initiatives that can be adapted and implemented back home – from improving social services to building more inclusive communities.

Direct interaction with international partners strengthened trust and opened new opportunities for collaboration, demonstrating how exchange can accelerate local development processes.

The experience confirmed a key insight: when authorities and organizations learn from one another, solutions become more

relevant, more effective, and better aligned with the real needs of communities.

The study visit was organized within the project **“Cities and Regions for All (CR4A)”** project, implemented by People in Need Moldova, supporting inclusive community development and strengthening the capacity of local actors to respond to current challenges.

The project **“Cities and Regions for All (CR4A): Full integration of refugees and migrants in urban and rural settings”** is co-funded by the European Union and contracted by ICMPD through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF). It is implemented by Prague 5 Municipality and People in Need.



Stronger Together

2,500 children in Moldova to access afterschool activities through 10 local initiatives

Approximately 2,500 children in the Republic of Moldova, particularly from rural and vulnerable communities, will benefit from afterschool services and extracurricular activities through ten local initiatives supported under the project “BOOST: a memorable extracurricular experience”, funded by the European Union.

Following a national call for proposals that received 113 applications, 10 civil society organisations were selected. They benefit from grants ranging between EUR 20,000 and EUR 60,000, with a total grant budget of EUR 500,000. The projects will be implemented in 13 districts across the country, as well as in the municipality of Bălți.



During an event organised in January by Terre des hommes Moldova, the ten organisations received their grant certificates, marking the transition of the project into the local implementation phase, during which the initiatives will be carried out directly in communities.

The event brought together representatives of beneficiary organisations, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Education and Research, partner organisations, and members of the Child and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) of the BOOST project.

The ten initiatives aim to develop and expand afterschool services and extracurricular activities for children aged 7–14 by creating safe environments for learning and development, organising STEAM and digital education activities, arts and sports programmes, as well as supporting children’s well-being and social inclusion.

Beneficiary organisations will receive not only financial support, but also training and mentoring to ensure the quality and sustainability of the services developed.

“This project is strategic for our organisation, as it allows us to contribute to better education by creating a safer and more child-friendly environment, especially for children from vulnerable families,”

said Natalia Roşca from the Institute for Rural Initiatives, one of the organisations that received a EUR 50,000 grant.

Members of the CYAB will contribute to monitoring the activities. According to research conducted by them, the main barriers to children’s participation in afterschool activities include lack of time, high costs, distance, and limited access to information.

At the end of the implementation period, the good practices developed through these initiatives will be shared with the Ministry of Education and Research, with the aim of being replicated at national level.

The project “BOOST – a memorable extracurricular experience” is funded by the European Union and implemented between 2025 and 2028 by Terre des hommes Moldova, in partnership with the The Alliance of NGOs Active in the Field of Social Protection of Children and Families and Junior Achievement Moldova. The total value of the project is EUR 1.17 million.

The project aims to provide inclusive and equitable development opportunities for children through extracurricular and social activities in local communities, while promoting European best practices.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Fathers' Club facilitators – supporting involved and responsible dads

Facilitators of the Fathers' Club help fathers become more engaged in family life, equal partners, present parents, and positive role models for their children. Through practical training and open dialogue, they promote relationships based on respect, care, and shared responsibility within the family.

The Fathers' Club is part of the regional program "EU4Gender Equality: Together

Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence", funded by the European Union and implemented by UNFPA Moldova and UN Women, with the support of the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre. The project contributes to changing mindsets and building more balanced and harmonious families.



"Only through engagement can we make our voices heard." Anghelina's story of her journey toward independence

At 20 years old, Anghelina Jalbă from the village of Obreja Veche, Făleşti district, demonstrates that when women and girls with disabilities are informed and supported, they can overcome any barriers and actively contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

Anghelina is one of 55 participants in training sessions organized by the "MOTIVAȚIE" Association from Moldova under the project

"Together for a Life Free of Violence!", implemented as part of the regional programme "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence" (phase 2), funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA. The initiative aimed to inform women and girls with disabilities about their rights and the support services available to them.



For Anghelina, these activities meant far more than the acquisition of knowledge.

"I participated in trainings on preventing and combating violence, gender equality and accessibility. I learned many new things that support me on my path toward personal development.

I also found out about the Trust Line for Women and Girls 0 8008 8008, where we can call if we are facing a situation of violence and where we can receive psychological counselling, legal assistance or other types of support,"

says Anghelina.



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The trainings also gave her the opportunity to meet other young women with whom she formed lasting friendships.

"We shared our experiences and encouraged one another,"

she recalls.

For five years, Anghelina has been volunteering with the "Dialog Alternativ" Association, where she promotes social inclusion through theatre. Together with other young people, she travels across the country performing social theatre productions that address issues such as bullying and discrimination.

"We want to stop these phenomena and to be equal,"

she explains.

Her decision to get involved stems from a desire to shift perceptions:

"Only through engagement can we make our voices heard. We want to show people that, although we are different, we have the same rights."

Looking ahead, Anghelina aspires to study library science, achieve financial independence, and enter the workforce.

"My message to young women with disabilities is to not give up and to be optimistic and courageous, just like me",

says Anghelina.

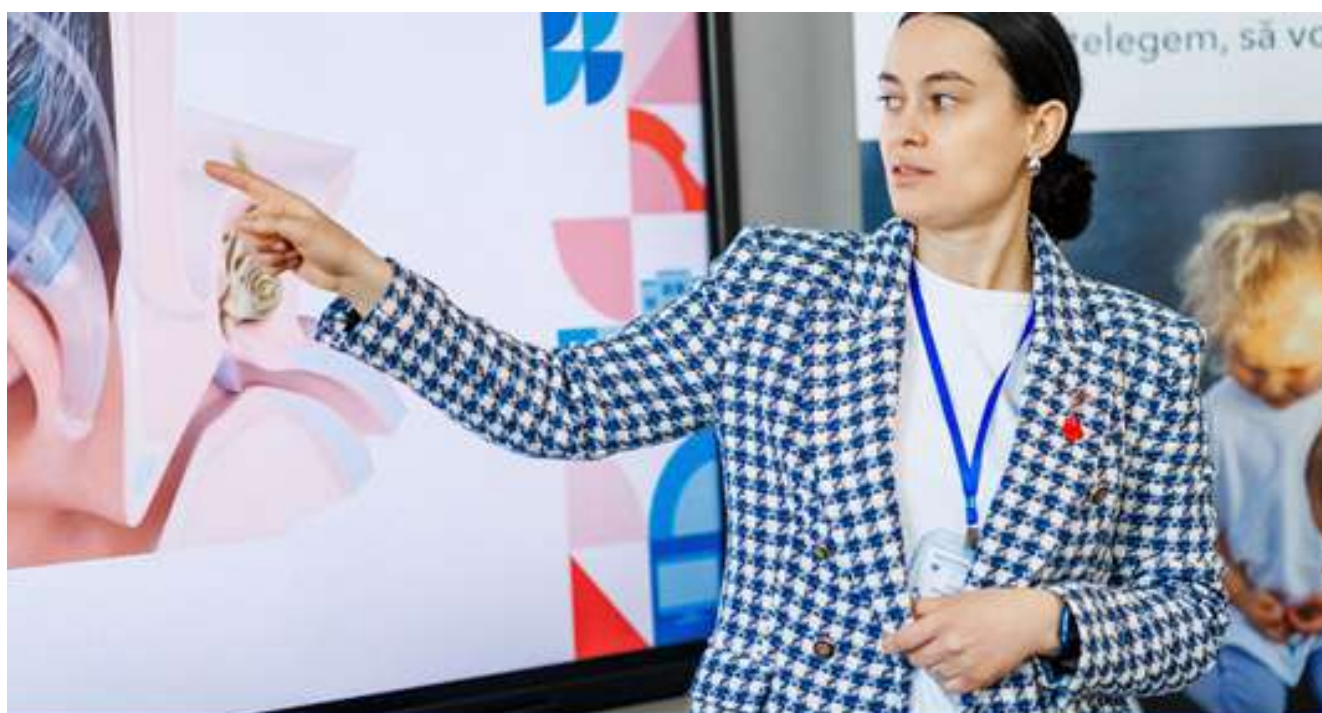


For some children, sounds do not come through as clearly

Sometimes they arrive fragmented, other times with a delay. For children with hearing impairments or those with cochlear implants, every lesson means more than just listening – it requires effort, concentration, and a great deal of patience.

Starting from this reality, over the past months, more than 277 education professionals

from 35 districts came together to learn how they can better support these children. From schools, kindergartens, and district psychopedagogical assistance centers, they brought different experiences but shared the same goal: to create learning environments where every child can participate and succeed.



Diana Andronovici

Biomedical engineer

"An in-depth understanding of how cochlear implants function is essential for achieving quality inclusive education. It provides teachers with a clearer perspective on how technology influences the learning and communication processes of children with cochlear implants, contributing to the development of professional empathy, the more effective adaptation of teaching strategies, and the creation of learning environments tailored to their needs."



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The project “Inclusion and Educational Support for Children with Cochlear Implants”, implemented by the “AUD ȘI VORBESC” Association in collaboration with #UNICEF, provided a space to explore how language and hearing develop, how lessons can be adapted, how listening fatigue can be managed, and how to create safe and supportive learning environments.

Because every child deserves to be heard, understood, and supported.

The activity took place within the programme “Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”, implemented by UNICEF and UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, with financial support from the European Union.



When silence finds a voice. Damian's Story

One evening, just before bedtime, Damian said to his mother, "Mom, I can hear myself breathing. I can hear you breathing too."

Victoria stayed silent for a few seconds. For the first time, it was no longer just hope. It was real. Her son was discovering sounds, relationships, and the world around him.

At one and a half years old, Damian was diagnosed with severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, meaning a significant loss of hearing in both ears. For the family, the news came with deep uncertainty and many questions about the future.



"When I gave birth to him in 2021, newborn hearing screening was not mandatory, and Damian did not receive this service at birth. I felt that every day without intervention meant a lost opportunity for him to hear and to speak,"

Victoria Filot recalls.

Initially, Damian was fitted with hearing aids, but they were unable to compensate for his severe hearing loss, and his language development was delayed. Doctors recommended cochlear implant surgery.

At two years and two months, Damian received his first implant. A difficult period of adjustment followed.

"At first, he would just go still. Every sound was new and overwhelming. We had to learn together, step by step, how to turn them into something familiar and safe."

At the age of three years and ten months, Damian received his second cochlear implant, which helped him hear more clearly, even in noisy environments.



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He is among the first children in the Republic of Moldova to have benefited from this opportunity free of charge.

To access specialized services, Damian's parents made the decision to move from Edineț to Chișinău. In Edineț, they had the support of their extended family, grandparents and relatives who helped them. The move meant not only changing cities, but also leaving behind that sense of security.

The journey toward words

Victoria says that beyond the medical treatment, the hardest part was access to information.

"Many parents don't know what options exist or what needs to be done after cochlear implantation. The device alone is not enough. Hearing recovery must be accompanied by language development. It requires daily practice, patience, and the involvement of the entire family, because auditory-verbal rehabilitation is a complex process, especially when intervention begins later."

Determined to help Damian, Victoria began searching for answers. She attended trainings, spoke with specialists, and spent countless hours studying rehabilitation methods.

Over time, that search reshaped her professional path. She left behind the world of numbers and accounting for one centered on words and communication. She pursued psycho-pedagogical retraining, including a master's degree in speech therapy, and eventually qualified as a speech therapist.

Today, she continues to support Damian, and she also works in a kindergarten in Chișinău, where she helps other children with speech difficulties.

An essential source of support in Damian's journey was therapy at the Public Association of People with Hearing Impairments "AUD ȘI VORBESC."

He came here immediately after his implantation, at a time when his expressive language was almost non-existent.

Inclusive education makes the difference

His integration into kindergarten happened naturally. On the first day, his classmates were curious and asked many questions about the implant.

For Victoria, Damian's progress is not just about recovery. It is about the freedom to dream.

"I hope that when he grows up, nothing will limit him. That he will be able to choose any profession, any field of study, any future. That he will have the same opportunities as all children and, above all, that he will be happy."

Every Child Deserves the Chance to Say "I Can Hear."

Damian is not an isolated case. According to data provided by the National Agency for Public Health, in 2022 in the Republic of Moldova, reduced hearing acuity was identified in approximately 2.4 out of every 1,000 children aged 0 to 17 who were examined. Among children aged 2–3, the rate is around 1.8 per 1,000, but it increases significantly to 3.3 per 1,000 among those aged 6–7, underscoring the importance of early detection and timely intervention.

In recent years, the Republic of Moldova has made important progress in this field. Since 2024, every newborn benefits from free universal hearing screening, offering the chance for rapid diagnosis and early intervention. With financial support from the Government of Japan, UNICEF has equipped perinatal centres across the country with 40 modern screening devices, ensuring that more children can receive the help they need from their very first days of life.

Integration, however, does not stop at diagnosis and treatment. For children with hearing impairments, teachers play a crucial role in their educational journey.

Through the programme “Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All,” with the support of the European Union, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and the “AUD ȘI VORBESC” Association, has developed a teacher training methodology focused on the inclusion of children with cochlear implants and hearing difficulties. Over 200 teachers are being trained to adapt the educational process and create more inclusive learning environments. Within these trainings, Victoria contributes both as a speech therapist and as a parent, offering a practical perspective on the real needs of children with hearing impairments.

In 2025, 53 children benefited from audiograms and hearing aids provided free of charge by UNICEF, with the support of the Global Partnership for Education.

On World Hearing Day, Damian’s story – and these broader efforts – remind us that early detection and timely intervention can change the course of a child’s life. Behind every statistic is a family searching for support and a community that can make a difference. When systems function and help arrives on time, more and more children can say, for the first time: “I can hear.”



Both early-career teachers and experienced teachers need mentorship

At the “Pas cu Pas” Public Primary School, classroom doors have large glass panels. Teachers sometimes pause quietly and watch, for a few minutes, how a colleague teaches. Not to evaluate, but to understand, to learn, to pick up ideas. In the hallway, quick impressions are exchanged – questions, smiles, and sometimes doubts. “Can you help me with your opinion?” is a phrase often heard in conversations between teachers.

More than 500 students learn in this school. It follows the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Research, but in an alternative format, with a strong focus on group activities, thematic projects, and a solid partnership with parents. Lucia Moisei has been working at the school for 19 years, almost since the moment it first opened its doors.



For almost a year now, she has been serving as both an institutional mentor and a national mentor, following a complex training and certification process. At school, she works daily alongside six other mentors,

staying close to her colleagues and their classroom practice. At the national level, she coordinates a network of 15 mentors who carry mentorship forward in schools across the country.

The role of a mentor is not to provide quick answers, but to create space for teachers to reflect on their practice and ask the right questions. Lucia, together with nearly 1,000 other teachers, took part in training programmes supported by UNICEF, with financial support from the European Union. There, she learned how to give constructive feedback, how to build a culture of collaboration in schools, and how to support teachers in making their teaching more relevant and closer to the needs of children.

Corina Şargu, Deputy Director and National Mentor at the same institution, has over 33 years of experience in education. And yet, she says she still feels the need for support and for learning new things.

'The more experience you gain, the more you realize how much there is still to learn.'

For her, mentorship is an exchange between generations. Younger teachers gain confidence, more experienced ones rediscover their motivation, and those who benefit the most are the students.

At the other end of the professional journey is Irina. She is in her fourth year of university practice, which she is completing at 'Pas cu Pas'. 'Mentorship helps me understand practical things – for example, how to design an assessment test more effectively.'

Larisa Țaca and Anastasia Nichitiuc are going through an important change in their professional journey.

They come from early childhood education, where they worked for more than ten years as educators. After taking time off to raise their children, they returned to the education system – this time as primary school teachers.

Toward the end of the day, the bustle in the school gradually settles. Through the glass of a classroom door, a conversation can be glimpsed. A mentor and a primary school teacher are exchanging ideas. It is not just an end-of-day discussion, but part of a process that, over time, raises the quality of education.

With financial support from the European Union, UNICEF supports the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Institute for Education and Leadership, the institution that coordinates the national network of mentors and the development of mentorship in schools, to build a functional mentorship system at national level. Through the programme 'Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All,' implemented together with UNDP, approximately 1,000 mentors have been trained.

These mentors support teachers in around 330 schools – from those at the beginning of their careers or transitioning professionally, to experienced teachers who choose to continue learning and developing. At the heart of this effort are children, for whom school becomes a better place when teachers have support and people alongside them.

Beyond fear, where peace prevails: Oksana's story, a mother rebuilding hope

With support from the European Union, UNICEF mobile teams provide safety and psychosocial support to refugee families from conflict-affected areas

For Oksana, the calm of the morning is not just a moment of the day, but a personal victory. Since arriving in the Republic of Moldova, after a difficult evacuation from the Gaza Strip, she has found a rhythm and routine that keep recent memories at bay. A former gynecologist from Ukraine, she has reinvented her present and now works as a facilitator at the EduTech Lab at the "Dumitru Crețu" Gymnasium in the village of Cărpineni.

Oksana's story, however, began long ago in the Sumy region of Ukraine, where she devoted her youth to studying medicine, becoming a gynecologist and earning a doctoral degree. There, she started a family with her husband, who is of Palestinian origin. Although their initial plan was to stay in Ukraine, in 2008 family responsibilities led them to move to the Gaza Strip.

Oksana thus found herself living a double tragedy, her heart divided between two conflict zones. While her parents and sisters faced the horrors of the war in Ukraine, she fought to ensure her children's safety, seeking refuge in the Republic of Moldova to escape the military conflict in Gaza. This decision was the only way to guarantee their protection and leave terror behind, giving them a chance at a peaceful future.

In Gaza, Oksana had managed to build the stability she had dreamed of. She practiced medicine, had a home and a car, and maintained ties with Ukraine through periodic visits to relatives.

"Everything was fine. We had the option to go to Ukraine once every three or four years to see family",

she recalls.

But everything changed on what seemed like an ordinary morning, while preparing her daughter for school.

"I remember the day perfectly, October 7, 2023. My phone slipped from my hand when I heard the news. Unfortunately, I already knew what it meant",

she recounts, remembering the start of the war.

Though she had experienced previous conflicts in the region, this terror was different.

They survived in the midst of war for a month and ten days. The final decision to leave came after an imminent threat. They fled with only the clothes on their backs. Soon after, a phone call confirmed their fear: their home, the place where they had invested years of work and hope, had been destroyed.

After a difficult evacuation operation, Oksana and her children arrived in Moldova, a safe refuge far from the frontlines. The evacuation operations brought over 200 people to the country, most of them Ukrainian and Moldovan citizens.

Currently, the Refugee Placement Center in Cărpineni hosts four adults and four children evacuated from Gaza, who, like Oksana, are trying to rebuild their lives.

Today, Oksana cannot return either to Ukraine, where the war continues to threaten the safety of her extended family, nor to the place where she lived with her husband and children. She is caught between two homelands, both struck by conflict, without the possibility of truly going "home".

Although most refugees supported in the Republic of Moldova are Ukrainian citizens, the reality of displacement is more complex.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Among them are mothers and children who, like Oksana, are affected by multiple conflicts but share the same fundamental needs: safety, stability, and emotional support to move forward.

Here, support from the European Union, delivered through UNICEF and its partners, has made a difference. Beyond immediate humanitarian aid, the invisible wounds of war required careful attention. Mobile teams and case management specialists from AVE Copiii have intervened to strengthen the emotional well-being of families.

The mobile teams, together with trained staff, regularly visit the Center, offering psychological counseling and recreational activities for children in a safe space. At the same time, adults benefit from parenting sessions and emotional support, which is essential for parents like Oksana, who must remain pillars of strength for their children despite their own traumas.

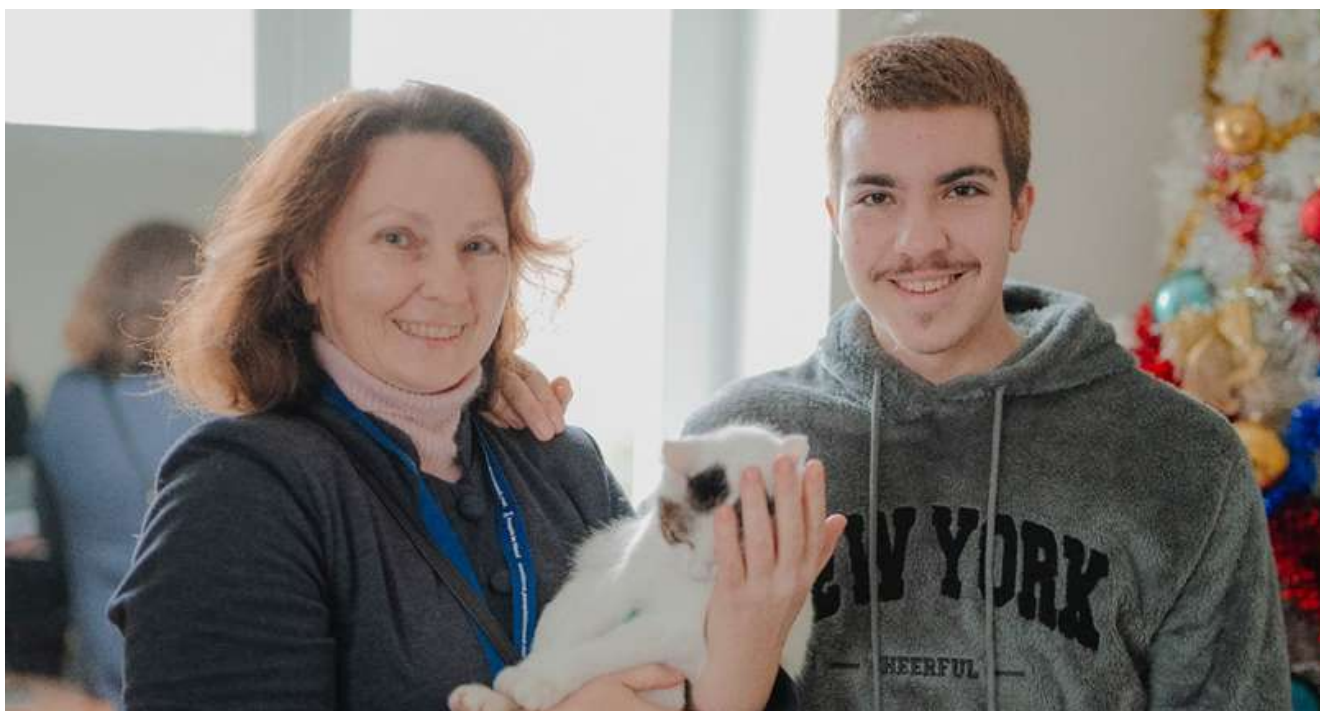
For Oksana, Moldova provides an environment where familiar cultural memories intertwine with the peace she now cherishes most. Her role at the EduTech Lab is a form of therapy through work and contribution to the community. The lab is not just a space equipped with technology, but a safe and welcoming place where refugee children

and vulnerable children from the community learn, play, and regain confidence. Through educational activities, creative workshops and emotional support, EduTech Lab serves as a bridge between online learning and gradual integration into school and Moldovan society.

Her two children are also making remarkable progress. Her younger daughter, Yara, attends gymnasium in Cărpineni, gradually adapting to the local educational environment, while her older son, Iasin, is studying intensively for the Bacalaureate, benefiting from a more stable environment and consistent support. The fact that, despite everything they have lost, they continue their studies and build a future is a testament to the restored normalcy and to the importance of spaces that make integration possible, step by step.

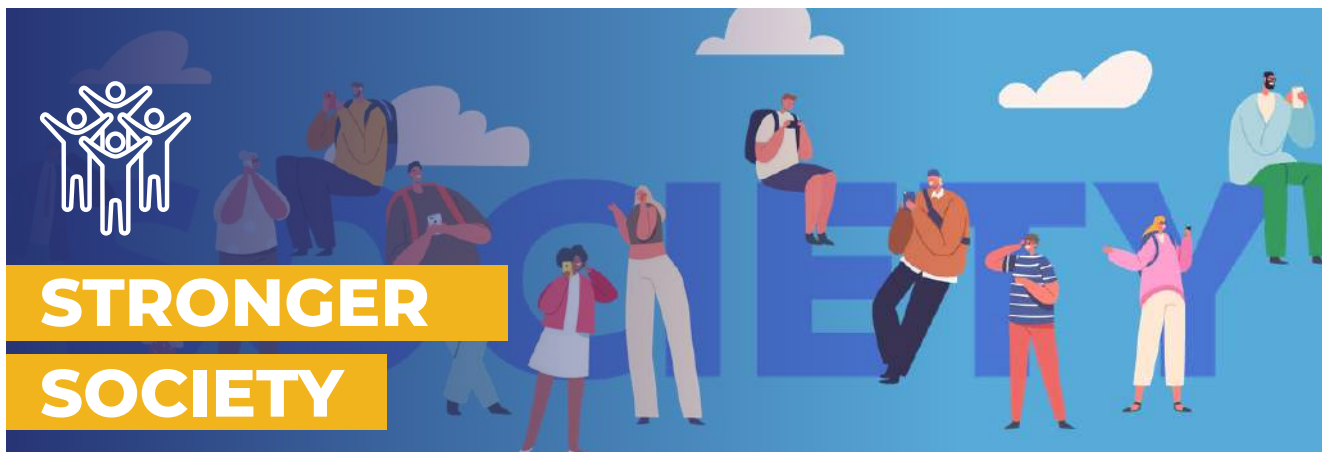
Although her husband is currently in Iraq, and uncertainty about the future persists, Oksana has learned to value the safety of the present.

Oksana's story is a testament to the fact that war can take everything, but it cannot erase a mother's power to start over. Today, she continues to help, hope, and smile, demonstrating that, step by step, peace can become stronger than fear, for her and her children.



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Promoting equality and human rights among the Roma community through strengthening comprehensive engagement and participation

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

In December 2025, UN Human Rights launched the second phase of the project “Strengthening the rights of minorities in the

Republic of Moldova,” funded by the European Union. One of the project’s components is to provide expert and technical support to the Interethnic Relations Agency in the work of the Roma Operational Working Group (hereinafter – the Operational Group).



The Operational Group was established at the end of 2025 to ensure ongoing coordination and to strengthen collaboration between Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations, government bodies, and international partners. The group carries out its activities in the interests of local Roma communities and Roma refugees on both banks of Nistru River.

During the first quarter of the year, with the expert and technical support of UN Human Rights, four significant and inclusive

meetings of the group’s members and observers were held.

With the support of UN Human Rights, all meetings are accompanied by simultaneous interpretation into Romanian and Russian to ensure that language does not become a barrier to participation. Thanks to the promotion of participation principles by UN Human Rights, Roma activists and organizations from the left bank of Nistru River also join the activities of the Operational Group.

In a short period, the members of the Operational Group adopted its rules of procedure, elected a chairperson, coordinated efforts to prepare for the upcoming Roma Culture Week, discussed cooperation on refugee rights, and developed the group's work plan.

As noted by Vyacheslav Ryabchinsky, Director General of the Interethnic Relations Agency:

"The launch of the Roma Operational Working Group is an important step toward strengthening dialogue, cooperation, and the participation of the Roma community in the social and public life of the Republic of Moldova."

Through its activities, the group will help unite efforts and promote more effective measures for the social integration and development of the Roma community.

In the context of the Republic of Moldova's European integration process, strengthening the participation of the Roma community in decision-making and developing dialogue mechanisms are key priorities. This platform can become an active space for collaboration, where participants' ideas, experiences, and initiatives will contribute to developing sustainable solutions for the Roma community and society as a whole."



Seniors in Moldova – active actors in community life and decision-making

The involvement of seniors in the activities carried by the INSPIRĂ Moldova project, funded by the European Union, highlights a significant shift: older persons are becoming active participants in decision-making processes and are directly contributing to the sustainable development of their communities.

A landmark moment in this process was the National Civic Forum of Seniors 2026, which brought together over 140 participants, alongside representatives of public authorities and civil society. The event demonstrated that the experience, solidarity, and engagement of seniors can generate concrete solutions to current challenges.



Following 10 local consultations conducted nationwide, seniors identified a set of key priorities: active ageing, digitalization and digital inclusion, age-friendly infrastructure, and intergenerational dialogue.

This participatory process led to the development of a National Resolution of Seniors, a strategic document that reflects their needs and proposals and brings them directly to the attention of decision-makers.

The impact of the initiative is already visible: the Network of Active Seniors in Moldova has strengthened its legal status; senior community leaders are being trained and actively involved in public life; and an increasing number of senior groups are joining the initiative at the local level.

Through these actions, the INSPIRĂ Moldova project contributes to strengthening civic participation and promoting an inclusive society in which the voice of seniors is recognized and valued.

Activity organized by C.S.O CASMED, project beneficiary, with the support of the European Association for Local Democracy.



The Google for Nonprofits session

More and more nonprofit organizations in the Republic of Moldova are transitioning to digital tools that help them become more efficient and visible. A total of 291 organizations participated in a session organized by the CONTACT Center, dedicated to explaining the Google for Nonprofits Program – an initiative that gives NGOs access to digital solutions used worldwide.

During the session, participants learned how to access the Google for Nonprofits Program and how to strategically use the available resources – from professional email addresses and collaboration tools to grants for online promotion through Google Ads. The session also clearly explained the eligibility criteria and the steps required for NGOs to enrol in the Program.

The growing interest in the session reflects the real need for digital solutions in the nonprofit sector. For many participants, this was the first step in understanding how technology can simplify internal processes and support more effective planning. At the same time, the session paved the way for adopting tools that can increase organizations' visibility and impact in the communities they serve.

The 2% Session

How do you convince people to redirect 2% to a cause they believe in?

The answer starts with a clear message and a well-thought-out strategy. In February, 65 nonprofit organizations from the Republic of Moldova took an important step in this direction by participating in sessions dedicated to the legal framework and the 2% promotion campaign, organized by the CONTACT Center.

Representatives of nonprofit associations learned how to communicate more simply and persuasively: how to define their audience, how to adapt their messages for

people who already know the organization versus those hearing about it for the first time, and how to choose the right channels for communicating their message. Particular emphasis was placed on the differences between newly established organizations and more experienced ones, as well as on concrete examples of campaigns that successfully mobilized supporters in previous years.

The results are already visible in the way organizations shape their communication: less generic messaging and much more clarity and relevance. Beyond building knowledge, the workshop created a space for participants to exchange experiences and paved the way for the practical application of what they learned – 22 organizations later benefited from personalized mentoring tailored to their specific needs and challenges in developing 2% campaigns.

The information sessions are part of the Civil Society Organization Assistance and Support Program "INSPIRED Lab – OSC Helpdesk." More information about other opportunities for NGOs is available on our page: <https://contact.md/helpdesk/>

"INSPIRED Lab – OSC Helpdesk" is organized by the CONTACT Center within the framework of the "INSPIRE Moldova" project.

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).



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Local autonomy begins where community voices matter

In a hall in Rădeni, the voices of communities from Strășeni district came together not just to discuss local development, but to shape it.

Local autonomy is not only about administrative decisions. It is about people having the power to define their own future – deciding how resources are used, what

services are needed, and what a better community should look like in practice.

On the occasion of the Day of Local Autonomy, this vision came to life during the Strășeni District Civic Forum – Dialogue for Local Development and Administrative Reform, held in Rădeni as part of the #INSPIRĂ Moldova initiative.



The event marked the conclusion of an extensive participatory process, where mayors, public officials, and community members from over 20 localities worked together to develop 12 Local Participatory Development Plans. Officially handed over to local authorities, these documents reflect not only strategic priorities but also the real needs of communities.

Yet beyond the results, the dialogue itself mattered most.

In an open and engaging space, citizens spoke directly with decision-makers

about local development, inter-municipal cooperation, and administrative-territorial reform. The presence of public officials turned the forum into a genuine platform for exchange – where questions received answers and ideas received attention.

For the INSPIRĂ Moldova initiative, such moments go beyond events. They are concrete steps towards stronger, more independent, and more connected communities – where change truly begins with people and responsive local administrations.

The event was organized with the financial support of the European Union, within the INSPIRĂ Moldova project. The project is implemented by AEFL Moldova – “European

Abilities Without Limits”, in collaboration with PALSC Moldova and in partnership with People in Need Moldova.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

New guidelines support improved gender-sensitive justice data collection in the Eastern Partnership region

New [Guidelines on data collection practices relevant for women's access to justice](#) have been published to support authorities in the Eastern Partnership region in strengthening the collection and use of gender-sensitive justice data.

The publication provides practical, evidence-based guidance for justice sector institutions, national statistical offices and

other public authorities on how to design, collect, manage and use data related to women's access to justice. [Building on the UN Women/Council of Europe Framework for Measuring Access to Justice](#), the guidelines translate international standards into practical steps adapted to the regional context.



The document outlines key principles for high-quality, ethical and inclusive data collection. It highlights the importance of collecting comparable data, ensuring strong co-ordination between institutions and protecting sensitive information. It also identifies priority data areas and indicators where it is particularly important, including legal and policy environment, the functioning of justice institutions, and women's experiences when seeking justice, including in cases of violence against women.

The guidelines were developed as 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 regional project ["Women's Access to Justice: implementing Council of Europe gender equality and violence against women standards"](#).

Advancing the dialogue with partners from the Republic of Moldova on access to rights and effective equality of vulnerable groups

In continuation of the [roundtable on 25 November 2025](#), dedicated to the latest findings and recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) for the [Republic of Moldova](#), key national partners met with the Council of Europe and European Union representatives and national experts to advance discussions on Roma and on LGBTI rights.

During the first day round-table, participants flagged the continuous occurrence of discrimination cases against Roma persons in the country, and that voices fighting for a change continue to face difficulties to be heard. The second day of the event focused on advancing LGBTI rights in the Republic of Moldova, highlighting the importance

of education, awareness raising, and constructive cooperation between civil society and institutions to reduce prejudice and promote equal treatment.

Several legal and policy analyses were presented, offering practical solutions for strengthening the national framework. Experts emphasised the need to develop clear procedures for legal gender recognition and guidance on gender affirming medical services, in line with [ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 17](#). They also pointed to opportunities to introduce legal recognition for same sex civil partnerships, reinforce safeguards for gender affirming healthcare, and establish consistent procedures for ensuring the safety and dignity of LGBTI persons in detention.



In addition, the most recent study developed in cooperation with People's Advocate Office and Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in the Republic of Moldova "Respect for the rights of vulnerable and marginalised persons in places of detention in the Republic of Moldova: handling LGBTIQI+ persons in police and penitentiaries" was presented, this being a premiere for the country and for the region. The findings and recommendations of this research for the relevant actors in the field aim to improve the protection mechanism of the envisaged target group, which has a particular vulnerability in terms of hatred and cruel treatment in places of detention.

Being guided by ECRI representatives, participants in these two events analysed together solutions to improve communication between relevant actors and to identify collaboration opportunities and coordinated action for further improvements in the field.

These events also reaffirmed the European Union and Council of Europe support and commitment to aligning the national practice to relevant standards in the field, to promote tolerance, equality, and respect for all citizens, as part of the EU accession process of the country.

This event is part of the [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](#)", organised in synergy with the Council of Europe project "[Enhancing diversity and equality in the Republic of Moldova - phase II](#)".



Local NGOs becoming more visible and closer to people

For many people, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) still remain a vague concept: “I know they exist, but I’m not exactly sure what they do.” In five cities across the Republic of Moldova – Bălți, Ceadâr-Lunga, Căușeni, Tiraspol, and Anenii Noi – this perception is beginning to change thanks to information campaigns taking place from February to June 2026.

These campaigns explain, in a simple and accessible way, the role of nonprofit organizations in the community.

The campaigns are implemented by the CONTACT Center project “Support for Civil Society Resilience,” funded by the European Union.



The information and messages shared by local NGOs are tailored to each community and delivered in creative and innovative ways. Instead of traditional leaflets and presentations, people are invited to take part in stained glass and candle-making workshops, attend Open Days, or discover mirrors with educational messages placed in city centers. These creative activities, developed by five local associations, open up an important conversation about what NGOs are, how they function, and how they contribute to community development.

The campaigns are carried out by the following associations: AO “MIRKIRAS,” AO “Anenii Noi-DOR,” AO “NGO Interaction,” AO

“Regional Center for Women EVA,” and AO “Lex Voice.”

Through an accessible and reality-based approach, these initiatives aim to reduce the distance between citizens and the civil society sector, while encouraging more active participation in community life.

It is worth noting that more than 10,000 organizations are active in the Republic of Moldova, working in areas essential for societal development. However, only a small share of them are widely known and recognized. Approximately one quarter of citizens say they trust NGOs, while for many, they still feel distant from everyday life.

Grants to increase gender equality and youth inclusion

During the period from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027, the East European Foundation, together with the Partnership for Development Center, the Moldovan National Youth Council, and the non-profit organization Regional Development Agency from Tiraspol, is implementing the project “Civic Engagement for the Empowerment of Youth and Women.” The project is funded by the European Union and co-funded by Sweden.

The project “Civic Engagement for the Empowerment of Youth and Women” promotes gender equality and youth inclusion in the Republic of Moldova, while also strengthening the role of civil society

organizations in influencing public policy from the perspective of gender equality and youth inclusion in the context of efforts to join the European Union.

One of the project’s objectives is to support the three networks in implementing their joint advocacy and community engagement plans at the regional level.

Support for these networks is channeled through three women’s or youth associations, designated by the network members, to host the respective secretariats. In this context, the EEF has awarded three organizations a grant of up to €60,000 for civic activism and community mobilization activities, with a maximum duration of 24 months.



Another key component of the project is to support women’s and youth organizations that participated in training sessions on civic activism by implementing local mobilization and advocacy initiatives.

In this context, the EEF **has awarded 16 grants to youth and women’s organizations working in the field of civic activism and community mobilization**, each worth up to **€30,000**. The maximum duration of grants shall not exceed 18 months.

Through these initiatives, the East European Foundation, together with its partners, demonstrates that investing in people is the most powerful tool for change.

When young people and women are empowered to make their voices heard, society as a whole becomes more resilient, more equitable, and better prepared for the future.

Organizations benefiting from grants become drivers of change at the local and regional levels, providing positive models of participation, cooperation, and solidarity.

Through the joint efforts of networks, authorities, civil society organizations, and communities, we are building a Moldova where every person, regardless of gender, age, or social background, has the opportunity to contribute, make decisions, and thrive.

Strengthening capacities to address workplace discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence in Moldova

A webinar (25 March 2026) in the Republic of Moldova strengthened institutional capacities to address workplace discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence. Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras, the online event brought together 78 staff members (63 women and 15 men) from Moldovan public institutions – including the National Anti-Corruption Centre, the General Inspectorate for Migration, and the Customs Service. This wide-ranging participation reflects strong institutional interest in enhancing workplace standards related to equality, safety and professional conduct.

Entitled “Preventing and addressing discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace: Legal frameworks, institutional procedures and practical implementation”, the webinar promoted safer, more inclusive workplaces across public institutions. It deepened participants’ knowledge and practical skills to apply professional standards grounded in equality, non-discrimination, integrity and respect. In particular, the event enhanced civil servants’ competencies to prevent and combat sexual harassment, bullying and gender-based violence at work. These competencies are essential for the efficient, responsible performance of official duties, and for ensuring that management practices uphold gender equality and respect for human rights. The webinar’s interactive format encouraged active participation, enabling participants to share experiences, discuss institutional practices, and reflect on practical solutions that can be applied in their own organisations.

Throughout the sessions, participants explored the legal and policy frameworks that guide institutional responses to workplace discrimination, harassment and violence. Gender-based discrimination at work was one of the webinar’s central topics, with a focus on Moldova’s national, regional and international commitments, in cooperation with the European Union and the United Nations. The discussions emphasised the importance of aligning institutional policies and procedures with these standards, and ensuring that employees are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Another key theme addressed by the webinar was workplace gender-based harassment. Participants examined different forms and typologies of harassment, as well as practical measures for prevention and response. The sessions also highlighted institutional obligations related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), emphasising the need for clear reporting mechanisms, accountability and a supportive environment for those affected.

The webinar’s third major topic focused on gender-based violence in the workplace, including forms of violence that may occur in physical and digital environments. Participants discussed technology-facilitated violence and the concept of intersectionality, illustrating how overlapping factors such as gender, position or other characteristics influence experiences at work. This helped participants better understand complex workplace dynamics and identify appropriate responses.



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Lidia Guțu, Chief Inspector at the Customs Service's Customs Training Centre, praised the webinar for supporting public institutions *"in strengthening internal procedures, improving reporting mechanisms, and promoting a safe and respectful working environment."* She highlighted the usefulness of *"case study-based exercises that helped participants identify and address real situations that may arise in their professional activity."*

She especially noted that "the discussion of gender-based violence, including technology-facilitated forms and intersectionality, contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of risks within the institutional environment."



EUPM Moldova: Positioning gender equality as a foundation for national security

Between March 26th-27th, EUPM Moldova supported the organization of the “Women in Law Enforcement: Role Challenges and Prospects” international conference, organized by the Ministry of Interior of Moldova and the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine. This event brought together notable representatives from Moldova, Ukraine and

European member states representatives, law enforcement agencies, international organizations and independent experts, serving as a platform for dialogue and the exchange of best practices on advancing the role of women in law enforcement institutions within an increasingly complex regional security environment.



This conference ventured to develop practical directions for institutional reforms and capacity building that would advance a gender-responsive security policy, promoted throughout governmental and international organizations. The dialogue sought to advocate for institutional reforms that would support a gender conscious and merit-based mechanism for women’s professional advancement in security sector and law enforcement agencies within the Republic of Moldova.

Further still, the conference catalyzed key insights from partner countries representatives to develop gender-based approach in policing. The participants explored how collaboration between civil society and institutions can move gender equality beyond well-intended but isolated initiatives, embedding it into career cultivation, operational practices and

comprehensive accountability mechanisms. By extracting the expertise to implement gender equality from European countries, conference participants advanced plans to institutionalize gender equality in Moldova’s law enforcement as both a method to strengthen institutional resilience through inclusive leadership, but also a societal counter to gender-based conflict and violence.

The 2026 “Women in Law Enforcement: Role Challenges and Prospects” international conference was organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, and with the participation of countries of the 15th Region of the International Association of Women Police with the support of the GS Foundation, the OSCE, EUPM Moldova, EUAM Ukraine.



EU-Moldova

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Social services – more accessible and more inclusive, in line with EU standards

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection completed a comprehensive update of the regulatory framework governing over 80% of social services with the technical support of the EU-funded project 'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration'. As a result, the regulations and minimum quality standards on quality assurance for 37 social services were revised to strengthen their organisation and functioning, raise minimum standards, and better respond to population needs.

The revision of the legislative acts ensured compliance of the regulations and quality standards with the European Social Charter, the European Pillar of Social Rights and relevant EU directives and policy frameworks on social services. The updated framework establishes clearer and more coherent requirements for service delivery, quality assurance, and sustainability. As a result, the rights of social service users will be better protected, access will be ensured on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, services will be more responsive to real needs, and service provision will become more transparent and accountable.

The revised regulations cover a wide range of essential social services, including services for vulnerable children and families, persons with disabilities, older persons, people experiencing homelessness, survivors of violence, survivors of human trafficking, persons infected with HIV/AIDS and substitution therapy patients. Overall, the updated framework promotes people-centred, rights-based, and inclusive social

services, with a strong focus on improving accessibility and service quality for vulnerable groups.

This process directly contributes to the implementation of Moldova's national commitments under the Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, and namely Pillar 4 – Social Capital, provided by the European Union in support of the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process. It culminated in the adoption of 20 Government Decisions for aligning 37 social services with EU standards.

By aligning the national social services framework with EU standards and principles, this reform strengthens social capital and represents an important step forward in advancing the Republic of Moldova's EU integration path.



Strengthening societal resilience in the Republic of Moldova through dialogue, information and countering disinformation

Under the EU-funded “*Top-down and Bottom-up Resilience-Building in Moldova*” project, implemented by GLOBSEC in partnership with Media Guard Association (Ziarul de Gardă), a series of key resilience-building activities took place between January and March 2026, with contributions from sub-grantees including the Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJM) and Glossa.

On February 27, 2026, a public debate on the electoral crisis in UTA Gagauzia, organized by the CIJM, brought together representatives of the Central Electoral Commission, legal experts, and civil society. The discussion clarified that, despite the existence of legal mechanisms, the crisis persists due to a lack of political consensus. Participants also emphasized that the situation stems from inconsistencies between regional and national electoral frameworks, as well as delays in harmonizing legislation, which have contributed to prolonged institutional uncertainty. By highlighting the need to align regional legislation with national law and protect the electoral rights of over 130,000 citizens, the debate contributed to promoting rule-of-law-based solutions and countering misinformation around the crisis.

On March 27, 2026, a national roundtable on digital abuse and identity theft, convened by the Media Guard Association, brought together key stakeholders from law enforcement, cybersecurity institutions, Parliament, civil society, academia, and media. The discussion addressed the growing scale of online threats, including financial fraud, identity theft, AI-generated deepfakes, and cyberattacks targeting journalists and vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. The dialogue highlighted gaps in prevention and response mechanisms, while reinforcing the need for stronger institutional cooperation and improved public awareness.

It also underscored the importance of coordinated action between policymakers and practitioners to strengthen the national response to emerging digital risks. The exchange supported the development of practical guidance for citizens on recognizing online threats and strengthening digital security.



Complementing these efforts, a nationwide survey conducted by Glossa and released in February 2026 provided insights into public perceptions of European integration and reforms. Based on 314 respondents across Moldova, the findings show that 56.1% associate EU integration with reforms aligned with EU standards, while 23.2% link it to mobility and employment opportunities. At the same time, 17.5% reflect perceptions influenced by negative or misinformed narratives. Regarding economic reforms, 58.6% associate them with improved business conditions, while around 34% perceive them as increasing costs or pressure. Encouragingly, 37.6% of respondents report verifying information sources and 31.8% cross-checking information, indicating growing media literacy.

Together, these actions demonstrate tangible progress in strengthening informed public dialogue, improving resilience to disinformation, and supporting Moldova’s democratic development and European integration path.



Stronger Together

Human Rights Festival 2026: advancing access to justice in Moldova

On 26–28 March 2026, Chişinău hosted the Human Rights Festival, bringing together legal professionals, public institutions, civil society organizations and young people around a key issue: effective access to justice for vulnerable groups.

The festival marked the culmination of the project “Enhancing Access to Justice of Vulnerable Groups”, implemented by CISS

in partnership with the Legal Clinic Bălţi, Legal Clinic Comrat and the Center for Legal Support, with financial support from the European Union.

Throughout the project, legal assistance was provided to beneficiaries through both online and offline services, improving access to justice for vulnerable individuals, including refugees and marginalized communities.



In addition, public sessions and awareness-raising activities were organized, engaging communities and professionals from the legal and social sectors. The project also facilitated consultations and discussions among stakeholders, while ensuring broad outreach through online content and communication on human rights.

The Human Rights Festival brought together these achievements, creating a space for dialogue and exchange, where participants

explored practical solutions to reduce barriers to justice and reflected on the role of institutions and society in protecting human rights.

Through the active involvement of youth and professionals, the event highlighted the importance of an accessible, inclusive and people-centered justice system, while marking the completion of a project focused on tangible impact and sustainable change.

Strengthening civil society in home affairs reforms

IOM Moldova, in partnership with IPRE and co-financed by the European Union, launched the training “Strengthening Civil Society Organizations Engagement in Home Affairs Reforms and EU Accession.”

29 participants from 19 civil society organizations, alongside Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives, joined in person

and online to share expertise, strengthen coordination, and contribute to transparent, accountable policymaking. The training focuses on developing project proposals and monitoring security and migration policies in line with EU human rights and rule-of-law standards, especially under Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security.



Strengthening Moldova's disability-inclusive response

IOM Moldova, in partnership with the General Inspectorate for Migration, successfully wrapped up a series of trainings on disability inclusion. These sessions aim to strengthen the protection and support of refugees and migrants with disabilities in Moldova.

Through an EU-funded project, 81 frontline specialists—including over 60% of GIM staff—received training across Chişinău, Bălţi, and Cahul. This initiative enhances their ability to uphold human dignity and accessibility for all.



Fighting misinformation: young innovators build digital solutions at a hackathon in Bălți

Fifty young people passionate about technology, journalism, and communication took part in the hackathon “Solutions for combating disinformation in the online environment”, held between February 27 and March 1 2026, where they developed digital tools designed to identify and counter false information online. The event was organized within the framework of the project “Building Resilience in Moldova” (BRIM), funded by the European Union and implemented by

the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR), in partnership with the Association of Independent Press (API).

Over the course of three days, the participants, divided into 10 teams, developed functional prototypes under the guidance of mentors from the IT sector. The solutions created included fact-checking tools, artificial intelligence-based applications, and platforms that analyze online content.



Dumitrița, one of the participants, presented the chatbot developed by her team: “Our chatbot is a Telegram bot that takes information from the user, processes it through several filters, and quickly provides a response about how credible the information is.”

Some teams developed solutions based on artificial intelligence to analyze articles and online content. Yaroslav Stolovski, one of the winners, said their project can analyze links, headlines, or discussions from forums to determine whether the information is false.



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"We used a version of artificial intelligence that we trained with specific instructions. It can analyze links to articles, headlines, or forum discussions. Users simply insert them into the chat, and the system indicates whether the information is fake or not",

he explained.

For many participants, the experience was intense.

"For me, it was the first experience of this kind. It was challenging, with two sleepless nights, but also very interesting. I learned what I could improve and how the entire process works from the inside",

**said Stanislav Yarikov,
one of the winners.**

According to the organizers, the event was designed to find real solutions to the problem of online disinformation.

"We believe that our community can develop and implement solutions to real problems. Disinformation is one of the biggest challenges we all face, and through

this hackathon we wanted to bring people together to find ways to better understand what reliable information is and what is not",

**said Pavel Curcovici,
manager of Tekwill Bălți.**

Before the hackathon, participants attended two preparatory meetups. The first focused on the social impact of disinformation and the role of journalism, while the second addressed the technical aspects of developing software solutions.

At the end of the competition, the jury announced the winners, who received prizes of 15,000 MDL, 10,000 MDL, and 5,000 MDL, respectively:

- ✓ 1st place – Truth HUB
- ✓ 2nd place – ETW TEAM
- ✓ 3rd place – Lumina Digitală

The organizers hope that the projects developed during the hackathon will continue to be improved and eventually transformed into useful tools for combating disinformation in the online space.



The launch of the “Resilient & Connected” project marks a new regional effort against disinformation

In a context marked by the growing spread of disinformation and the rapid transformation of the digital space, regional cooperation is becoming essential for protecting democratic values and strengthening the resilience of societies across the Eastern Partnership region.

This objective was at the core of a recent visit to Brussels, where our colleague Alexandru Ghețan represented the Media Center for Youth and People in Need Moldova at the launch event of the project “Resilient & Connected: Joint Initiatives Against Disinformation,” hosted by DG ENEST at the European Commission.

During the panel discussion “Disinformation in the EaP: voices from the field,” Alexandru highlighted the perspective of the Republic of Moldova, addressing the increasing impact of disinformation on young people. He emphasized that social media has become the primary source of information for this audience, while the rapid development of artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing how content is created and distributed. In this context, media and information literacy, alongside the engagement of youth organizations, plays a crucial role in building a more resilient society.



Stronger Together

The event brought together experts and practitioners from Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and Belarus, along with European partners, fostering an open dialogue on practical solutions to counter information manipulation and strengthen societal resilience.

The launch of the project “Resilient & Connected: Joint Initiatives Against Disinformation” represents an important step forward in reinforcing these efforts at the regional level. Implemented by People in Need Moldova in partnership with the Prague Civil Society Centre and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, with financial support from the European Union, the project aims to address emerging challenges increasingly described as “cognitive warfare.”

Through this initiative, civil society organizations will be supported to respond more effectively to information attacks, media and digital literacy will be promoted, and independent media as well as the fact-checking community will receive strengthened support. At the same time, the project will foster collaboration between journalists, educators, and decision-makers, while engaging influencers and local organizations to better reach young people and communities.

These efforts reflect People in Need Moldova’s commitment to contributing to a more informed, resilient, and connected society, capable of addressing today’s information challenges and safeguarding the integrity of democratic processes at both national and regional levels.



The “Resilient Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Region” project celebrates its results

After 24 months of implementation, the project “Resilient Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Region” concluded with a results celebration event, bringing together civil society organizations, development partners, representatives of public authorities, and international experts.

Implemented between April 2024 and March 2026, the project aimed to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations in the Republic of Moldova, enabling them to become more resilient, inclusive, and effective in promoting civic participation and democratic dialogue.

Throughout the project, 10 civil society organizations benefited from comprehensive institutional development programmes, mentoring, and financial support, contributing to increased citizen engagement in community processes, advocacy initiatives, and cooperation with public authorities.

Key results achieved at organizational and community level include:

- ✓ 39 thematic training sessions delivered
- ✓ 37 public policy documents developed or influenced
- ✓ over 1,100 direct beneficiaries and more than 330,000 people reached in communities
- ✓ 6 websites and 3 brand books developed for CSOs
- ✓ 9 study visits and multiple regional cooperation initiatives
- ✓ 6 environmental actions and community campaigns
- ✓ sub-granting programmes totaling over EUR 100,000



Through local interventions and cross-sector collaboration, participating organizations contributed to: i) policy dialogue and public consultations, ii) environmental protection

actions and community cohesion, iii) initiatives addressing gender-based violence and iv) youth engagement in democratic processes.

The project also facilitated regional cooperation between organizations from Moldova and Armenia, strengthening the exchange of best practices and collective action capacity.

Project activities also included a strong institutional development component, comprising organizational assessments, development strategies, individual and group mentoring programmes, and training sessions in areas such as: advocacy and public dialogue; strategic communication; fundraising and financial management; gender equality and inclusion; internal governance and leadership.

These interventions contributed to increasing the sustainability of participating organizations and strengthening the role of civil society in democratic processes in the Republic of Moldova.

The project “Resilient Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Region” was implemented by People in Need, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic through the Transition Cooperation Programme.



The quiet resistance: how Moldova's rural communities are reclaiming the truth

In a village in northern Moldova, a woman reads an alarmist message in a local social media group about supposed dramatic changes after the elections regarding the suspension of pension payments. The message was short, unsourced, but widely shared. This time, she doesn't forward it. She stops. She remembers a question discussed recently at a workshop: who wrote this and why?

"When I read the message about pensions, I was scared. My first reaction was to forward it on, so that others would know. Only then did I realize that it didn't say anywhere who sent the information and where it came from. I remembered the discussions at the workshop and said: wait a minute, let's think before redistributing."

**recalls Alexandra Postovan,
member of the Maturity Ambassadors
Group from the city of Drochia.**

adults in the community play a central role in the circulation of information. For many of them, media consumption is a mix of television, social networks and messages received "from acquaintances, relatives or friends". Information arrives quickly, is intensely discussed, but not always filtered or verified.



At Pociumbăuți Public Library in Rîșcani district, librarian Lucia Panțeniuc has witnessed how misinformation spreads:
"In our communities, information circulates very quickly. We talk a lot among ourselves, within the family, among neighbors, on the phone. What we read, we pass on without realizing that we can be wrong. That's why it's important to know what to believe and what not."

Why media literacy matters for adults

In localities where local press is practically non-existent and public debate is mostly conducted in informal conversations, active

Adults, particularly women involved in community life, family life, or informal groups, emerge as key nodes of the local information ecosystem. They not only consume information, but also interpret and transmit it. A change in the how they relate to news can significantly influence the general atmosphere in the community, especially during sensitive periods, such as elections.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Six months of real discussions, in five communities

Over the course of approximately six months, in a period marked by electoral tensions and informational pressures, AO Nord Press Club organized workshops under the title "Click with TRUST" in five localities in the north of the Republic of Moldova: Cuhnești (Glodeni district), Drochia, Fălești Noi (Fălești district), Pociumbauți (Rîșcani district) and the city of Rîșcani .

The sessions were attended by 91 people, mostly women, many of whom are recognized as active voices in the community. The meetings were not conceived as theoretical lectures, but as spaces for dialogue, starting from concrete examples from the local reality: news about roads and infrastructure, social assistance, emergency situations or alarmist messages distributed online.

Working with information familiar to the participants facilitated honest discussions about emotions, fears, and impulsive reactions, but also about individual responsibility in passing on messages.

Doubt, resistance and the moment of clarity
Not all reactions were enthusiastic from the start. Some participants came in with skepticism, convinced that the information space was completely compromised or that or that "truth" has become an obsolete concept. Rather than dismissing these stances, they were used starting points for open dialogue.

"At first I didn't think that such discussions could really help. I had the impression that you couldn't trust anything anymore anyway",

admits Valeriu Țurcan,
a member of the "Ambassadors of Maturity" Group from Drochia city.

„Along the way, I understood that not all information is what it seems and that I too can be influenced without realizing it."

For many residents of northern Moldova, change came not from the accumulation of technical tools, but from understanding their own reactions. Not just how to verify information, but why certain messages provoke fear, anger, or the desire to be shared immediately. This moment of clarity was essential in the learning process. Ala Grigoreț, a librarian at the Falestii Noi Public Library in the Falesti district, has turned this insight into a daily practice:

The power of quiet intervention

The success of these workshops wasn't measured by the launch of formal structures or public initiatives. Instead, the change manifested itself discreetly, in the quiet corners of everyday life: in calmer dinner-table conversations, patient explanations for family members, cautious interventions in local social media groups whenever unverified information appears. This shift isn't about being a "fact-checker" in a professional sense; it is about becoming a stabilizing force within one's own social circle.

"False information or gossip often appears in local groups,"

says Larisa Cojocaru,
from Pociumbauti village,
Rîșcani district.

„When I tried to say that not everything written is true, some people got angry. I was even kicked out of a group. But I think it's important to calmly call things by their proper names, even if not everyone agrees."



EU-Moldova

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These small-scale interventions, delivered without a moralizing tone or a desire for confrontation, have a cumulative effect. They act as a "social brake" on the spread of misinformation, tempering rumours before they can escalate into community-wide reactions. The experience of these communities shows that media education does not produce spectacular changes overnight, but can generate lasting transformations through simple and repeated gestures.

A fake news story that is no longer redistributed, a timely question, or a conversation that stops before it becomes conflictual can gradually change the local information climate. When people start treating information with more care and responsibility, communities become more resilient, and trust is rebuilt step by step, from within.



Stories that bring communities together: the EU supports intercultural dialogue among young people

The European Union continues to invest in strengthening social cohesion and intercultural dialogue by supporting initiatives that develop young people's communication skills through the use of interactive tools. From February 19–22 and 26–28, 2026, as part of the "Social Cohesion through Dialogue" project, CMI – the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, funded by the European Union, in partnership with the "Dialog Alternativ" Association, organized two storytelling workshops for a group of over 20 young people from various ethno-linguistic communities. The participants represented diverse social and professional backgrounds, including students, civic activists, educators and youth workers, community mediators, members of non-governmental organizations, young communicators, and professionals involved in civic and community initiatives.

The activity aimed to strengthen young people's knowledge and understanding of intercultural dialogue and ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity in the Republic of Moldova, highlighting the importance of

inclusion and mutual respect in society. The session combined concise theoretical elements, interactive exercises, and examples of interaction between diverse communities, providing participants with a better understanding of how to develop impactful stories.

At the same time, participants developed practical skills in using storytelling techniques, such as active listening, the "five-senses room" technique, the importance of dialogue in creating a story, and others. As a result, the young people learned to transform personal experiences into clear, authentic, and relevant messages for the community.

Participants emphasized that storytelling is not just a communication tool but also a means of building trust, creating connections, and positively influencing the communities to which they belong.

Through these activities, the project contributes to creating a safe space where young people can reflect on identity, diversity, and personal experiences, transforming individual stories into tools for dialogue and understanding between communities.



Stronger Together

Artificial Intelligence in support of ethnic minorities

From February 26 to 28, 2026, representatives of ethnic minority organizations and consultative bodies for ethnolinguistic minorities participated in a three-day online training session focused on the use of artificial intelligence tools. The activity was organized by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation as part of the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project funded by the European Union.

During the training, 20 participants from various communities (Gagauz, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Romani, Jewish,

Polish, Azerbaijani, African, and others) took part in practical sessions focused on immediate application. They explored concrete ways to use AI tools to improve effective participation in decision-making processes. Many immediately began putting this knowledge into practice. For example, Evelina Șvidcenko, coordinator of ethnic TV programs at the national broadcaster Moldova 1 and producer of Bulgarian-language shows, used these skills to provide constructive feedback on the station’s new strategy.



The discussions also highlighted the role of AI technologies in increasing the clarity of messages and enhancing interaction with public authorities. Participants reflected on how these tools can support more strategic communication, facilitating constructive dialogue and reducing barriers between institutions and communities.

Following intensive online training sessions, on March 14, 2026, in Chișinău, representatives of ethnic minority organizations and minority consultative mechanisms marked the completion of the program dedicated to artificial intelligence tools.

During the event, five virtual assistants were presented, followed by interactive discussions and a Q&A session focused on the further development and practical application of the created solutions. Representatives of two minority organizations - the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova and the League of Polish Women in Moldova - created AI assistants for fundraising. And this is no coincidence - as many minority representatives note, due to difficulties in securing funding for their work, the organizations' staff is very limited - the same employees perform multiple roles simultaneously, making it impossible for minority organizations to participate systematically in various consultation processes.

Participants noted that the knowledge they gained is already helping them in their work and emphasized that the opportunity to study artificial intelligence tools contributes both to broadening their horizons and analytical capabilities, as well as to increasing the effectiveness of communication and participation in decision-making processes.

“This training broadens horizons. AI is a very powerful tool and often saves time on certain technical aspects. Therefore, as a tool, it is very effective. I will try to convey this to my colleagues as much as possible,” said Irina Caunenco, a member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the Expert Group on Minority Issues—one of the mechanisms for minority participation. During the training, Ms. Caunenco created a virtual assistant that will help her in her research work.

In addition to the new knowledge, a real benefit was the strengthening of the community, ready to use technologies to produce a concrete social impact.

By combining digital innovation with the active involvement of civil society, this initiative supported by the European Union contributes to the creation of a more open public sphere, where representatives of ethnic minorities can have a stronger, better-informed, and more influential voice in the processes that directly affect their communities.



From symbolic participation to real power: Moldova's youth are strengthening their role in democratic processes

From 26–28 March 2026, a workshop titled “Meaningful Youth Participation and Democratic Influence: Moving from Symbolic Participation to Real Decision-Making Power

for Youth” was held in Chişinău, dedicated to strengthening the role of young people in decision-making processes in the Republic of Moldova.



The event brought together 18 active young people from various communities, including Taraclia, Cahul, Bălţi, Sîngerei, Floreşti, and the Gagauz Autonomous Region. The aim of the workshop was to support young people in becoming active agents in shaping an inclusive and resilient future by developing strategic thinking skills and formulating shared visions for the future.

Over the course of three days, participants explored different perspectives on the concept of youth participation, analyzing not only existing opportunities but also the barriers that limit genuine involvement in decision-making processes. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of intercultural dialogue in strengthening social cohesion and facilitating more inclusive participatory processes.

“The training gave me the opportunity to structure my ideas and plans for the future, and one of my goals is to shift the paradigm from a multicultural society to an intercultural society,”

said Cezar Pleşca, a member of the National Student Council.

The workshop methodology combined participatory strategic foresight tools, group reflection exercises, and collaborative dialogue. Using approaches such as the “three horizons” method, participants analyzed the present, developed future scenarios, and identified solutions to transform symbolic participation into meaningful action.

“Foresight gives young people the space to think beyond the present, and intercultural dialogue gives them the ability to build this future together, from different perspectives,”

noted Hayk Toroyan, trainer at CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation.

An important element of the workshop was teamwork to identify obstacles and opportunities related to youth participation and representation.

This process allowed for the development of a shared vision of the future for young people in the national context, including the path toward European integration.

The activity was organized by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation as part of the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project funded by the European Union.



TRIMEDIA Project concludes with public event highlighting media resilience in Moldova

The TRIMEDIA project – *Trustworthy Reporting, Impactful Media, Engaged Communities* – concluded with a public event that brought together journalists, local partners, and community representatives to reflect on the initiative’s achievements in strengthening Moldova’s information ecosystem.

The event highlighted key outcomes of the two-year project implemented by DW Akademie and the Association of Independent Press (API). Participants reflected on the project’s core pillars—trustworthy journalism, impactful media, and engaged communities—through live polls and shared testimonials.



Among the voices featured was Natalia Tocarciuc, editor-in-chief of Nordinfo.md, who noted the profound reach of TRIMEDIA-supported content: “Together, we created powerful stories that significantly impacted our platforms, garnering millions of views... We hope our audiences learned an important lesson – to be more empathetic, care for others, protect human rights, and remember our responsibilities.”

Participants revisited TRIMEDIA’s central idea of empowering communities to access and demand quality information, as highlighted by Mate Csicsai, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Moldova: “If you look at the three slogans behind the title of the project, I think ‘Engaged Communities’ is particularly important. Sometimes, impartial information is not only given, but it is demanded as well.”



Stronger Together

In this regard, the event also highlighted TRIMEDIA's media and information literacy (MIL) component targeting both younger and mature audiences. Highschool students across the country engaged with a specially developed MIL comic series, designed to help them avoid scams, question sources, and navigate online information responsibly. For older audiences, TRIMEDIA supported the creation of a new edutainment TV format at the national public broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova (TRM), combining quizzes, entertainment and practical guidance to encourage more mindful media consumption.

A standout component of the program involved the Crisis Communication Chapters (CCC). In an interactive "World Café" format, CCC members from Soroca and Căușeni presented the activities and the information packages they developed

for their communities. This allowed participants to circulate among stations, examine the materials, and discuss how locally-driven communication helps counter misinformation and support community resilience.

The final discussion revisited Moldova's evolving media challenges. Journalists and community members exchanged perspectives on current pressures, including persistent disinformation, declining trust, and polarization. Joining this discussion were Mate Csicsai, German Ambassador Hubert Knirsch, and DW Akademie Director Carsten von Nahmen, who engaged with local media representatives on how national and international actors can jointly support a healthier information landscape. Their participation echoed the project's original emphasis on creating dialogue between media, authorities, and civil society.





INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

Boosting strategic intelligence analysis through peer exchange

Strong intelligence is key to staying ahead of evolving security threats. In February, Moldovan representatives joined peers from

the Eastern Partnership region for a study visit to Lithuania, focused on strengthening strategic intelligence analysis.



EU-Moldova

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Through direct exchanges with Lithuanian authorities, participants explored how national threat assessments are designed and applied in practice – from data collection and analytical methods to their role in shaping strategic priorities. The visit also highlighted how Lithuania’s model aligns with EU-level methodologies and contributes to a wider European security framework.

For Moldovan participants, the experience offered practical tools to better anticipate and respond to organised crime and emerging threats. It also created space to reflect on shared regional challenges, including geopolitical developments and the evolving nature of cross-border crime.

By fostering peer learning and operational exchange, the activity strengthened analytical capacities and reinforced intelligence-led approaches to tackling serious and organised crime across the region.

The [Training and Operational Partnership against Organised Crime \(TOPCOP\)](#) project, led by [CEPOL](#), enhances law enforcement cooperation between EU Member States and Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. It strengthens regional capacities to combat organized crime through specialized training, knowledge sharing, and operational exchanges.



Deepening cybercrime cooperation through Romania–Moldova mentoring

Building on earlier exchanges, the [TOPCOP mentoring programme](#) continued to enhance cooperation between Moldovan and Romanian authorities in tackling cyber-enabled crime.

Following an initial study visit to Romania, where a Moldovan officer gained practical insight into internet fraud investigations and operational procedures, the mentoring moved forward with a follow-up exchange in Chişinău. This next phase allowed both counterparts to work side by side on ongoing cases, further consolidating their approaches.

The exchanges focused on shared challenges such as identifying suspects in online fraud cases, analysing financial and crypto-related transactions, and adapting to evolving cybercrime trends. Joint analytical work and field activities provided hands-on experience and a clearer understanding of how similar cases are handled across borders.

By building on trust and direct cooperation, the mentoring reinforced day-to-day collaboration between the two services. It also highlighted the value of sustained, in-person exchanges in developing practical solutions and long-term operational links.



  EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

CEPEJ supports the development of uniform annual court performance reporting in the Republic of Moldova

A meeting of the Working Group on the development and use of uniform annual court performance reports was held on 18 March 2026, bringing together representatives of the judiciary, the Agency for Digitalisation of Justice and Administration of the Judiciary, and the National Institute of Justice.

Mr Jaša VRABEC, Head of the Court Management Development Office at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia and Chair of the CEPEJ Working Group on the Evaluation of Judicial Systems, presented his opinion on the draft Guide on annual court performance reporting. The discussions that followed highlighted the importance of interpreting judicial statistics in context and strengthening capacities for the practical use of performance data.

The expert's recommendations contributed to improving both the structure and the content of the Guide.

The Guide will now be submitted to the Superior Council of Magistracy for adoption. Its objective is to promote a data-driven approach to court management, based on key performance indicators covering efficiency, timeliness and quality. It is designed to support courts in analysing performance trends, identifying challenges and making informed decisions.

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



The Council of Europe reinforces the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice's senior staff in the field of communication and management techniques

The CoE-EU „Support to the Justice Reform in Moldova” Project, co-organised with the Ministry of Justice, a creative communication and management training event, involving heads and deputy heads of sections, units, departments and services within the MoJ, to enable an environment of responsibility, autonomy and cooperation, conducive to high performance and efficiency.

28 participants benefited from an in-depth self-analysis and self-reflection techniques as well as other skills, to be used in enhancing internal communications. They also learned how to identify constructive solutions to daily challenges at the workplace and the use of planning and managerial tools in order to adapt management styles to concrete situations, and especially to high-paced and stressful environments.

The importance of this activity is to increase the performance of the Ministry of Justice's

senior staff and therefore strengthen the institutional capacity of the ministry in the context of the ongoing EU accession process.

The Ministry of Justice is the key actor in the areas of justice sector reform policy and legislation design, as well as in terms of monitoring the implementation of various roadmaps and actions plans related to the functioning of legal and anti-corruption institutions, in particular in the context of the EU accession process. The training was therefore an excellent opportunity to streamline an efficient management and communication environment within the Ministry of Justice, which should contribute to increase the impact on the society of justice sector reforms.

The training 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"](#)



Stronger Together

The Council of Europe supports peer-to-peer exchanges between Moldovan and French prosecutors at the Paris Superior Council of Magistracy and other related institutions

In the framework of the joint CoE - EU project „Support to the Justice Reform in Moldova,” the Council of Europe facilitated from 23 to 25 March 2026, exchanges of knowhow and best practices between Moldovan prosecutors and their peers at the French Superior Council of Magistracy (*Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature*), the National School of Magistracy (*Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature*) and the Ministry of Justice.

The Moldovan Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP), self governing body in charge of the career of prosecutors, was represented by 14 Moldovan prosecutors (7 women and 7 men), including members of the its boards on selection and evaluation,

and on ethics and discipline; as well as the prosecutorial inspection services.

The exchanges, which should enhance the functioning and institutional capacity of the Moldovan SCP in line with European standards in the medium/long term, focused inter alia on issues related to the selection, appointment and evaluation of prosecutors, as well as on professional integrity, ethics and disciplinary mechanisms, as required for enhancing the independence and the accountability of judges and prosecutors.

The study visit 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"



Closer to communities: how state aid supports local development

In the last week of February 2026, experts from the EU-funded Twinning Project “*Strengthening the institutional capacities of the Competition Council to enforce competition and state aid policy in line with EU best practices*” travelled across the Republic of Moldova from south to north to deliver a series of training sessions for Local Public Authorities (LPAs) on state aid.

The sessions took place in Cahul, Chişinău and Bălţi and were conducted by experts from Romania and Poland, together with representatives of the Competition Council of the Republic of Moldova. The main objective of these trainings was to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to correctly apply state aid rules, in line with European Union standards, when managing public resources.

Local authorities are frequently involved in granting various forms of support that may fall under state aid rules. Therefore, a proper understanding of the applicable framework is essential to ensure the efficient and compliant use of public funds.

For many local authorities, the most relevant instruments are *de minimis aid*, a flexible and easy-to-use mechanism that allows support to small enterprises without complex procedures.

Equally important is the role of local authorities in ensuring and supporting *Services of General Economic Interest*, such as public transport, utility services or other essential services for citizens. In this context, authorities may rely on undertakings to provide these services under conditions established in line with the applicable legal framework. Both forms of support can encourage local initiatives, create jobs and stimulate regional economic development.

A key element that added clear value to these trainings was their organisation directly in the regions. This approach facilitated the

participation of a larger number of local authorities and enabled discussions on concrete situations from their daily activity.

Participants were able to raise numerous questions based on practical experience, ranging from infrastructure financing to land transfers. Relevant case studies were analysed, and the exchange of experience between experts and participants contributed to a better understanding of how the rules apply in practice.

These trainings reflect the commitment of the Twinning Project to support not only central institutions in their role as state aid providers, but also local authorities – key actors in the implementation of public policies and in local economic development.

Local development starts with well-informed authorities that understand the tools available to them and apply them correctly. This contributes to a more efficient use of public resources, improved services for citizens and, at the same time, to the alignment of the Republic of Moldova with European Union standards in the field of state aid.

The Twinning Project “*Strengthening the institutional capacities of the Competition Council to enforce competition and state aid policy in line with EU best practices*” is funded by the European Union and implemented by Romania, Lithuania and Poland, over a period of 27 months.



Safer borders and modern services: EU4Borders Security – Moldova launched

In January 2026, the “EU4Borders Security – Moldova” project was launched, marking a significant step towards stronger border security and more efficient services for citizens and travellers.

Funded by the European Union, the project strengthens national authorities’ capacities in aligning with the EU border management and Schengen acquis, as well as EU Member States’ best practices.

It also supports the modernization of capacities for border and migration management, with the objective of delivering concrete steps towards a secure, modern, and European border, as envisaged under Chapter 24 of the EU enlargement process.

In the long term, the project is expected to deliver faster border procedures, more resilient institutions, and improved services for people crossing Moldova’s borders.



Moldova advances towards a National Schengen Governance System

In March 2026, the Republic of Moldova took an important step towards aligning with European Union standards by advancing the development of a national Schengen governance structure under the “EU4Borders Security – Moldova” project, through a dedicated workshop bringing together national authorities and international experts.

The initiative supports the Republic of Moldova in establishing a Schengen governance framework and developing a Schengen Action Plan for the effective and comprehensive development and

implementation of a national Schengen system during the EU accession process and beyond.

These efforts are expected to strengthen border security, improve interinstitutional cooperation in the implementation of Schengen standards across all relevant areas and authorities, and facilitate Moldova’s alignment with EU Member States’ best practices.

The initiative reflects Moldova’s continued commitment to advancing reforms and strengthening cooperation with European partners.



Strengthening integrity in border management

In March 2026, efforts to reinforce integrity and prevent corruption within Moldova's border management system gained new momentum under the "EU4Borders Security – Moldova" project, through an interactive on-site training involving representatives of the Border Police.

The activity aimed to strengthen the framework for the development of a whistleblower protection system within the Border Police and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as measures to prevent and combat corruption.

By applying EU Member States best practices, these measures contribute to a more transparent and accountable institutional environment. In the long term, they are expected to strengthen public trust and improve the quality and reliability of border services for citizens.

The initiative reflects Moldova's continued commitment to promoting integrity, professionalism, and zero tolerance for corruption, in line with European Union standards.



Training in cryptocurrency investigations

The training course on cryptocurrency investigations was organized by the EU4Security Moldova project, in cooperation with the European Union Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM Moldova), for representatives of law enforcement institutions and other relevant bodies in the Republic of Moldova.

The activity was carried out from 23 to 27 March 2026 with the objective of strengthening institutional capacities in combating modern financial crime.

During the sessions, participants deepened their knowledge of blockchain technology, methods for identifying and tracing illicit transactions, as well as developing effective investigation strategies through practical exercises.

The delivery of the course reflects the joint efforts of the EU4Security Moldova project and EUPM Moldova to support Moldovan authorities in addressing the challenges posed by the evolution of digital technologies and in strengthening capacities to prevent and combat cross-border crime, including in the field of virtual assets.



Training promotes inclusive military leadership and gender equality in Moldova

Military leaders in the Republic of Moldova gained capacities to promote inclusivity and gender equality in the defence sector through training delivered by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras.

The in-person training on “Leadership in the military that promotes inclusivity: fostering gender equality and enhancing unit cohesion” (20 March 2026, Chişinău) engaged 40 commanders of military units from the Ministry of Defence (34 men and 6 women). Participants learned to integrate a gender perspective into security and defence processes, equipping them to build cohesive, inclusive units capable of responding effectively to contemporary security challenges. Active participation in the training reflects growing commitment to inclusive leadership and gender equality within Moldova’s defence community.

Through a combination of practical exercises, presentations and group discussions, participants explored how

leadership practices can shape a respectful, supportive and cooperative environment in military structures. The training deepened military commanders’ knowledge, practical skills and professional competencies to apply approaches that foster gender equality, cohesion and operational effectiveness in their units.

One of the key topics covered by the training was “Gender equality and cohesion: Premises for ensuring inclusive security.” Participants examined the concept of gender equality, and discussed the different security needs of women and men. To design effective responses in the security and defence sector, they learned how vital it is to understand these different needs. The training also emphasises the relationship between gender equality, social cohesion and good governance – showcasing how inclusive leadership contributes to stronger institutions and builds trust between military teams and society as a whole.



Another important component of the training focused on “Integrating a gender perspective into the security and defence sector.” This session introduced participants to the principles of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and explored its relevance to military leadership and operations. It provided practical insights on gender mainstreaming and gender analysis, demonstrating how commanders can apply these approaches in planning, decision-making and the daily management of their units.

Interactive exercises enabled participants to reflect on real-life situations in military environments, and identify strategies for promoting fairness, mutual respect and effective teamwork.

These exercises encouraged dialogue among commanders, supporting the exchange of experiences and good practices. Mihaela Mîrza, Senior Officer at the Human Resources Policy Department, Ministry of Defence, commended the usefulness of the training and collaboration with the EU-funded EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project.

“The activity was auspicious,”

she said,

“and we appreciate your openness for collaboration and the support you offer us.”



Assessment of Moldova's legal and technical framework for DNA data exchange alignment

During an on-site mission conducted from 26 to 30 January 2026, focusing on the developments in DNA data exchange among EU law enforcement agencies, international short-term experts were conducting a thorough assessment of Moldova's existing technical and legal framework for aligning national legislation to establish a DNA profile database. This is a prerequisite for the automated exchange of DNA data under Council Decision 2008/615/JHA, as amended by Prum II Regulation 2024/982. The assessment involved identifying possible gaps, inconsistencies or shortcomings in the current legal framework that require amendment to ensure compliance with these EU regulations.

- recommendations on the rules for managing the national DNA database, as well as for DNA sampling and providing DNA data procedures.



As a result of this activity, specific recommendations were provided for:

- amendments to Moldovan national law on DNA data exchange among EU Member State law enforcement agencies.

The relevant national authorities were engaged in this activity, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office, the General Police Inspectorate and others.

Activities were conducted within the EU-funded project EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova (EU4LEM). The EU4LEM supports the efforts of Moldovan law enforcement agencies to align with European standards in the fields of security and organised crime prevention. Funded by the European Union, the project works closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and other national authorities to strengthen their ability to prevent and combat serious organised crime.

EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova: on-site mission on facial image data exchange under the Prüm Regulation

The mission on the face images (criminals) exchange among the EU law enforcement agencies under the Prüm Regulation was conducted from 23 to 27 March 2026.

During the on-site mission, international short-term experts assessed Moldova's existing technical framework for managing a database of facial recognition images of offenders, suspects and convicted persons as it is prerequisite for the automated exchange of facial image data under Prüm II Regulation.

As a result of this activity, specific recommendations will be provided for the introduction of:

- to the technical framework (Habitoscopic Register) for the exchange of data on facial images of offenders, suspects and convicted persons among EU Member State law enforcement agencies.

- on the development of the technical framework for the management of facial images of offenders, suspects and convicted persons in EU countries (IT and related matters).

- on face recognition image data analytics for offenders, suspects and convicted persons for crime prevention and investigation, including different IT tools (e.g. for the management of API/PNR data).

The activity was conducted within the project EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova (EU4LEM). The EU4LEM supports the efforts of Moldovan law enforcement agencies to align with European standards in the fields of security and organised crime prevention. Funded by the European Union, the project works closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and other national authorities to strengthen their ability to prevent and combat serious organised crime.



The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations equipped with a multifunctional truck

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) received, on 27 January 2026, a multifunctional truck equipped with a flatbed and a hydraulic system for loading and unloading containers or other equipment. The vehicle is intended for operational interventions at both national and international levels and was provided with the financial support of the European Union within the framework of the *EU4Moldova Resilience project*, funded by the EU and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The vehicle was procured under the project *EU4Moldova Resilience – Secure State, Resilient Communities*, funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

The truck is a Renault HD009 model with all-wheel drive, manufactured in 2025, and equipped in accordance with the approved technical specifications. The value of the asset amounts to EUR 280,000.



The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations was actively involved in the technical configuration of the vehicle, including through practical testing carried out during two visits by institutional representatives to the manufacturing plant in Bucharest, Romania.

In the coming period, IGSU rescuers and firefighters will undergo specialized training on the operation and maintenance of the truck to ensure its safe and efficient use.



EU4PUBLIC ORDER supports the modernisation of public order management in Moldova

The EU4PUBLIC ORDER project aims to strengthen the capacity of public order forces within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of the Republic of Moldova, enabling these institutions to provide services at the highest level in line with European Union practices. The project supports the Moldovan Carabinieri and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, enhancing their ability to manage public order in alignment with EU standards. It focuses on improving operational effectiveness, promoting cyber security readiness, integrating human rights and gender equality, and modernising Public Order Management.

The year 2026 began with the Counter Terrorism and Cyber Security seminar, held on 5 and 6 February. Delivered by experts from the Carabinieri's Special Operational Group (ROS) and Centre for Cyber Security

(CEST), the seminar provided officers with practical knowledge on emerging threats, cyber defence, and incident response. Twenty-four participants from operational and specialised units enhanced their tactical, operational, and decision-making skills while strengthening adherence to ethical and human-rights standards.

Following this, the Human Rights, Gender-Based Issues, and Capacity Building seminar, conducted from 3 to 5 March, focused on integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality into daily policing. Officers engaged in interactive sessions, case studies, and scenario-based exercises, improving awareness of gender-based violence, community-oriented policing, and ethical decision-making, while promoting female officers' leadership roles.



Building on these initiatives, the EU4PUBLIC ORDER project organised a two-day workshop in Chişinău on the analysis and development of the Practical Operational Tactical Manual for Public Order Management.

The workshop contributed to the ongoing development of the manual, aimed at enhancing operational effectiveness, strengthening procedural integrity, and aligning national practices with European standards in public order management.



Stronger Together

During the sessions, participants assessed the manual's alignment with national legislation, identified strengths and areas for improvement, and discussed practical aspects of public order operations, including scenario classification, operational planning, and the integration of human rights principles. The second day featured interactive case studies based on Italian Carabinieri experience, allowing participants to explore real-life scenarios

and exchange practical insights. The workshop built on previous human rights training, reinforcing the understanding of fundamental rights in operational practice.

The EU4PUBLIC ORDER project continues to support the modernisation of public order management by enhancing institutional capacities, promoting European standards, and fostering cooperation between Moldovan and EU law enforcement institutions.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Strengthening forensic DNA capacity in Moldova: a fully operational DNA laboratory supporting criminal investigations

As the EU-funded project EU4REFORMS – DNA approaches its completion in April 2026, Moldova can already demonstrate tangible and lasting results in strengthening forensic science and criminal investigations.

The DNA laboratory of the Forensic and Judicial Expertise Centre of the General Police Inspectorate is now fully operational, significantly enhancing the country's ability to solve crimes more efficiently using modern forensic technologies.

With support from the project, laboratory specialists completed extensive training and mentorship, while newly installed automated equipment increased DNA testing capacity. As a result, the laboratory has already examined 257 forensic objects, identified DNA profiles of 62 individuals, and matched 21 profiles with reference samples, directly contributing to ongoing criminal investigations.

At the same time, substantial progress has been made toward establishing a national DNA database. DNA profiles of 133 forensic staff were recorded for elimination purposes, while biological samples from 250 convicted individuals were collected and 176 profiles have already been processed and stored. The laboratory is technically ready for the installation of CODIS, laying the foundation for secure DNA data management and future international exchange in line with European standards.

Preparations for accreditation in line with ISO 17025 standards are also nearing completion, ensuring high-quality and reliable forensic examinations. In parallel, 60 crime scene investigators strengthened their practical skills in identifying, documenting, collecting, and preserving biological evidence.

Together, these achievements mark a transformative step in building a modern forensic system in Moldova, contributing to stronger rule of law, increased public trust, and more effective justice delivery.



  EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EUPM Moldova: Catalyzing Moldova's hard won experience in protecting democracy and combating interference

On January 22nd, EUPM Moldova co-organized the 14th meeting of the EU-Moldova Security Hub, that took place in Chisinau. The event assembled notable experts, decision-makers and representatives from EU Member States and Moldovan national

institutions in order to reflect on and extract the key insights gathered by Moldova in its ongoing fight against hybrid threats, with a particular focus those targeting democratic processes and illicit financial flows.



The main objective of the forum was to create conditions for a holistic analysis on the best practices employed by the Republic of Moldova's institutions in protecting the integrity of electoral processes, with the understanding that exploitable vulnerabilities may emerge in a wide range of domains, ranging from the informational space, legal frameworks, cyber-space and financial investigations. The focus of the discussions was on identifying and agreeing on the common strategic and operational objectives that Moldova and its EU partners should implement in order to establish efficient mechanisms that will protect democratic values from hybrid attacks including illicit financial flows, and foreign information manipulation and interference.

Additionally, the event included a practical session on devising the cross-agency cooperation workflows and information sharing that would ensure a consistent and effective response to ongoing hybrid threats.

The discussions underlined the continuously evolving sophistication of interference operations and the ongoing transition of Moldova from a consumer of security assistance to a resilient and reliable provider of expertise among countries seeking to protect their democratic values.

The forum was co-organized by EUPM Moldova, the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).



Moldovan government explores EU best practices for implementing international sanctions

Representatives of the Moldovan Government and EU experts gathered on 17 February 2026 for a roundtable discussion on the experiences of several EU member states in regulating, managing, and monitoring international restrictive measures/sanctions which represent a powerful non-military foreign policy tool used by the EU.

The event was organised with support of the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”. It served as a platform for Moldovan authorities to explore regulatory framework and information systems used to monitor the implementation of the international sanctions with objective to improve the current system.



In his opening remarks, the Deputy Secretary General of the Government, Alexandru Iacub, thanked the EU Delegation for the provided support, noting that the Republic of Moldova already has a functional mechanism for monitoring and implementing restrictive measures. However, it is crucial for this mechanism to be aligned with EU standards so that the country is fully prepared for the accession process.

In his turn, the First Secretary of the Political, Press, and Information Section at the EU Delegation to Moldova, Peter Janik,

underlined the importance of effective implementation of EU sanctions, noting that “the implementation and enforcement of sanctions fall on Member States at national level. Full and unconditional implementation of sanctions by EU Member States is key for their effectiveness.” He stressed that this is directly linked to Moldova’s European path, adding that “full alignment with the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy will be essential for accession – which is why we are very keen to support and accompany Moldova’s efforts in this area.”

Around 30 representatives from the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, line ministries, central public authorities, and institutions responsible for sanctions monitoring and enforcement attended the event. Discussions focused on identifying the most suitable models for Moldova, particularly by drawing on successful practices from smaller EU member states such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland.

With an emphasis on institutional coordination, data management, and compliance mechanisms, the event helped strengthen the Moldovan administration's capacity to improve its regulatory framework and monitoring of restrictive measures to better align with the requirements of the accession negotiations in the area of Foreign Security and Defense Policy.



Over 100 banking professionals enhance expertise on new Operational Risk Regulations

The National Bank of Moldova (NBM), in collaboration with the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, organised on 16 February 2026 an online training session on the forthcoming Regulation on own funds requirements for operational risk, which will enter into force on January 1, 2027.

The event gathered more than 100 professionals from the banking sector, providing them with practical insights into the new regulatory framework. The training aimed to support the alignment of Moldova’s financial regulations with European standards, ensuring a smoother transition for financial institutions.



Nicolae Grigore, EU High Level Adviser on Financial Services, opened the session with an overview of the key amendments introduced by the revised Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms. A central focus of the discussion was the new methodology for calculating capital requirements related to operational risk. During his presentation, Mr Grigore examined the impact of the revised standardised framework on the banking sector, stressing the need for consistent implementation of these provisions.

He noted that “the implementation of the European framework will contribute to strengthening financial stability, increasing transparency in the management of operational risks, and enhancing the protection of the financial system.”

The training offered participants a detailed analysis of the Regulation on own funds requirements for operational risk, along with practical guidance on its application. This initiative is expected to enhance the resilience of banks and contribute to the overall stability of Moldova’s financial sector.

Over 400 public servants trained in the use of the “e-Monitoring” Information System

In January 2026, the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, trained over 400 public servants from various ministries on the use of the “e-Monitoring” Information System. The six training sessions conducted on 16, 19, 21, 23, 29, and 30 January 2026 strengthened public administration skills in planning, monitoring, and reporting public policies, while supporting alignment with EU standards.

Approximately 120 participants attended in person, while over 300 joined the sessions online, receiving practical guidance on the system’s key functionalities. These included managing commitment documents, reporting on progress and risks, monitoring action plans, and tracking institutional performance indicators. Participants also had the opportunity to use the system in a test environment. After each session, an interactive discussion was held, and participants’ feedback was collected to identify and correct any system errors.



The “e-Monitoring” Information System is interoperable with national platforms (Legis.md, e-Legiferare, e-Parliament, and project.gov.md) and the European platform EUR-Lex, ensuring efficient governance and avoiding duplication of work. It provides public authorities with a unique and up-to-date tool for tracking Moldova’s

commitments, including those related to the European integration process.

The training sessions were delivered by the IT company that developed the system; further trainings will be organized by the State Chancellery to ensure that additional public servants are skilled in the use of the system.

Strengthening interoperability and cyber security preparedness in migration management in Moldova

On 12–13 March 2026, the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) organised a workshop on interoperability and cyber security preparedness, with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the e-Governance Agency, and experts from the EU4LEAM and EU4BorderSecurity projects. The event served as a consultative platform in support of the development of

GIM's new Information System and the advancement of commitments under the European integration agenda.

The workshop was facilitated by two experts from the General Inspectorate for Immigration of Romania. Its objective was to strengthen institutional preparedness for national and European interoperability in the areas of migration, asylum and returns.



Strengthening family reunification procedures in Moldova through EU best practices exchange

On 19–20 February, the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) held a workshop on family reunification in the European Union, organized under the Twinning project. The event brought together three experts from Greece, Sweden and Romania.

During the 2-day session participants had the opportunity to learn how family reunification procedures are applied in practice, gain a comparative perspective on how each state handles cases of marriages of convenience without infringing fundamental rights.



Strengthening strategic planning and operational coordination in migration management through EU cooperation

The delegation from the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) conducted a visit to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) of Romania. The activity focused on

a comprehensive review of GII's strategic planning and operational coordination mechanisms, with particular attention to the integration of migration policies into institutional processes.



Strengthening asylum procedures in Moldova through alignment with EU standards

From 2 to 6 March 2026, the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) hosted a working session dedicated to the drafting and alignment of Standard Operating Procedures

(SOPs) in the field of asylum, in line with recent developments in the European Union's legal and policy framework. As an outcome of the session, two SOPs were developed.



Safer borders and modern services: the EU4Borders Security – Moldova project has been launched

A consortium of IOM Moldova, the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA), the Solidarity Fund PL, and the General Inspectorate for Border Police officially launched the “EU4Borders Security – Moldova” project, funded by the European Union.

The project aims to enhance border security, streamline procedures, and introduce modern technologies for managing migration and cross-border traffic.

"IOM brings its extensive experience in supporting policy frameworks and operational systems in similar contexts, ensuring that progress is both sustainable and results-oriented,"

**said Ester Ruiz de Azua,
Chief of Mission of IOM Moldova.**



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Boosting Moldova's border and customs operations with EUBAM asset handover

Following the closure of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) on 30 November 2025, IT equipment and vehicles, were handed over by IOM to the Border Police and Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova.

The transferred equipment will support specialized operational interventions, rapid response activities and enhance coordination and administrative functions.



Monitoring, evaluation and learning: strengthening ODA's capacity to evaluate the impact of its support programmes

On 12 February 2026, the OECD kicked off a new component of the *EU-funded Empowering Trade and Competitiveness in Eastern Partner Countries (ETaC)* initiative, focused on strengthening how ODA – the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development – evaluates its support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This project component is organised around a series of capacity-building workshops, which will touch upon i) the fundamentals of programme evaluation, ii) how to sharpen theories of change and ex-ante analysis, as well as iii) core concepts and tools to carry out robust ex-post programme assessments.

The first workshop, held in Chişinău, brought together policymakers, programme managers and analysts to rethink how monitoring and evaluation can better serve decision-making. Moving beyond compliance-driven reporting, participants explored how to embed a “learning partnership” approach across the organisation—where evidence is continuously used to refine and improve SME support programmes.

Through interactive discussions and real examples from ODA's own portfolio, participants reflected on what works, what remains unclear, and what information is often missing when assessing programme success. Participants also discussed how factors such as firm selection or pre-existing trends can distort the results of an evaluation, and how more robust approaches, including pilot projects and phased roll-outs, can help generate clearer evidence. The workshop also introduced practical tools to help design policies that can be evaluated more effectively from the outset.

This initiative comes at a timely moment, as ODA is streamlining its support programmes and introducing new schemes for start-ups, growing businesses, and export-oriented firms. By strengthening its monitoring and evaluation practices, ODA aims to ensure that public support delivers tangible results for Moldovan businesses.

The workshop marks the beginning of a broader effort to build a stronger culture of learning within the agency—helping policymakers make better-informed decisions and maximise the impact of SME support across the country.

Training session on selected International Public Sector Accounting Standards

On 6 March 2026, the EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in Identifying and Preparing Projects Linked to the Implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF Project) team delivered a training course on International Public Sector Accounting Standard IPSAS 24 - **Presentation of Budget Information in Financial Statements**.

The course was attended by officials from the Ministry of Finance’s State Treasury Directorate, specifically the Methodology and Reporting Divisions, and the National Public Sector Accounting Standards

Development Service, as well as officials from the Court of Accounts, and the Ministry of Finance’s Accounting Directorate.

The training was delivered by PPF Project experts **Irina Grigoryan** and **Eugenia Busmachi**, who presented the main provisions of the standard and discussed practical aspects of its application in the context of ongoing public sector accounting reforms in Moldova.

The IPSAS 24 standard is available at the following link: https://ifacweb.blob.core.windows.net/publicfiles/2025-04/A33_IPSAS_24.pdf



Workshop on National Public Sector Accounting Standards

On 3 March 2026, the EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in Identifying and Preparing Projects Linked to the Implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF Project) supported the organisation of the second dissemination workshop dedicated to two draft National

Public Sector Accounting Standards (NPSAS). Hosted by the Ministry of Finance, the event brought together more than 80 participants, including officials and chief accountants from central and local public authorities, as well as representatives of academia.



In his opening remarks, State Secretary Ion Gumene highlighted the recent progress in advancing national public sector accounting reform. He noted that the first four NPSAS were approved in December 2025 and will become mandatory for all public institutions starting 2027. The four NPSAS approved in December 2025 are available on the national legislation portal: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=152700&lang=ro.

Another set of seven standards is scheduled for approval during 2026. The State Secretary expressed appreciation for the continued support provided by the PPF Project team and encouraged participants to actively engage in discussions and share their observations on the draft standards.

During the workshop, representatives of the Ministry of Finance’s State Treasury General Directorate presented two draft standards: *NPSAS on Intangible Assets* and *NPSAS on Property, Plant and Equipment*.

The technical sessions were followed by an interactive exchange, with participants raising questions on the application of the draft standards. Officials from the State Treasury General Directorate, together with EU PPF experts, provided detailed clarifications on specific technical aspects, contributing to a clearer understanding of the standards.

The PPF Project will continue to provide technical assistance to support the progressive implementation of NPSAS and to strengthen institutional capacity of the Ministry of Finance.

Training on the application of National Public Sector Accounting Standards: challenges and solutions

On 24–25 March 2026, the EU-funded “Support the Moldovan Government in Identifying and Preparing Projects Linked to the Implementation of the Association Agreement” (PPF Project) supported the organization of a training course on the application of four National Public Sector Accounting Standards (NPSAS), approved in December 2025. The training was hosted by the Ministry of Finance and brought

together over 50 participants, including officials and accountants from central public authorities.

The course introduced *NPSAS on Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, NPSAS on Events After the Reporting Date, NPSAS on Inventories, and NPSAS on Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*, with a focus on their practical application.



In his opening remarks, Ion Gumene, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, highlighted the progress made in the national public sector accounting reform, emphasising that the approval of the new standards marks an important development in advancing the reform. He emphasised that the implementation phase is complex and requires sustained efforts to strengthen institutional capacities. In this context, he underlined the value of training sessions such as this one, which help ensure the practical application of the standards and support the successful advancement of the reform. He also expressed his appreciation

to the PPF Project experts for their guidance in developing the standards and their contribution to organising the training.

During the training the participants reviewed the main provisions of the standards and discussed their application in practice, engaging in discussions, raising questions and sharing implementation-related experiences.

The implementation of NPSAS is part of a long-term reform agenda, which envisages the gradual introduction of a complete set of 33 standards by 2034, strengthening the overall public sector accounting framework.



ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The European Union invests over MDL 20 million in the first five Smart Villages in the Republic of Moldova

For the first time, five localities in the Republic of Moldova have obtained the status of Smart Villages, following investments of over MDL 20 million provided by the European Union to modernize local infrastructure, improve public service delivery, and enhance the quality of life of citizens.

The localities of Larga (Briceni district), Coșnița (Dubăsari district), Sipoteni (Călărași district), Lozova (Strășeni district) and Mereni (Anenii Noi district) have benefited from grants for the implementation of innovative local solutions and the construction of photovoltaic parks.



On March 26, 2026, the Smart Village of Lozova, located in Strășeni District, was officially inaugurated as part of the project “EU4Moldova Resilience – Secure State, Resilient Communities”, funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

A 150 kW photovoltaic park has been constructed in the locality, providing green energy for essential public institutions and services – from water supply and sanitation systems to educational institutions and public lighting.



Stronger Together

“This project has significantly changed the way our community operates. We have succeeded in introducing modern, efficient and environmentally friendly solutions that respond to people’s needs and create real development prospects for the locality,”

**said Viorel Jardan,
Mayor of Lozova commune.**

The transformation of Lozova into a Smart Village continued through the implementation of innovative solutions that surpass the level of digitalisation currently found in many cities in the Republic of Moldova:

- Smart water meters enabling remote data reading and improving water consumption management for over 200 households;
- Weather data collection and analysis stations for farmers, contributing to improved quality and quantity of agri-food products, disease prevention, and adaptation to climate change;
- Smart public transport waiting stations equipped with solar panels, autonomous lighting, and USB ports;

- Ventilation systems with heat recovery in educational institutions, ensuring a healthier environment for children;
- Video information system facilitating communication between the local administration and citizens.



Lozova is one of the five localities selected by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova to become a Smart Village. Representatives of these municipalities benefited from specialised training and study visits to Spain and Estonia, aimed at developing Smart Village Strategies tailored to local needs in the medium and long term.



Connecting Moldova to European infrastructure. How the European Union and the European Investment Bank support the country's modernisation

The Republic of Moldova is modernising its transport infrastructure and strengthening its links with the European Union. With support from the EU and the European Investment Bank (EIB), major projects

are being prepared that will reshape how people travel, how goods move, and how trade functions – both with the EU and across the region.



Better roads, upgraded railways and more efficient logistics hubs are now clear priorities. These efforts are supported through the Facility for Eastern Partnership Investment in Connectivity (EPIC). Funded by the EU and the EIB, EPIC provides the expertise needed to ensure that projects are properly planned, aligned with European standards and ready for investment. Ultimately, infrastructure modernisation is about improving connections between people, goods and opportunities.

Moldova Growth Plan and infrastructure investments

As Moldova moves closer to the European Union and progresses towards connecting to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), the benefits are becoming clearer. Travel can become faster and safer, freight transport more efficient, and businesses can gain easier access to European markets. At the same time, these investments can support more sustainable solutions with a lower environmental impact.



Stronger Together

These efforts are backed by the [Moldova Growth Plan](#), a €1.9 billion financial package provided by the European Union until 2027. More than €500 million has already been disbursed, and funding continues to support reforms and investments in key sectors, including transport.

“The Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova reflects the European Union’s commitment to supporting the reforms and investments needed for the country’s development. Modern infrastructure is a key part of this effort, as it helps connect Moldova to European networks and strengthens its economy,” said the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Iwona Piórko”.

The plan also includes the modernisation of over 200 kilometres of roads, the development of the Iași–Chișinău–Odesa corridor, the integration of railways into the EU network, and the rollout of modern solutions such as intelligent transport systems and road safety programmes. Around €7.7 million is allocated to transport sector reforms and strengthening economic resilience.

Moldova on the European transport map

A key objective is to connect the Republic of Moldova to the Trans-European Transport

Network (TEN-T), which links cities, ports and economic centres across Europe through roads, railways, maritime routes and logistics hubs. Integration into this network opens access to major European corridors and new funding opportunities. It also helps boost trade, attract investment and support economic growth.

“Infrastructure investment is essential for building a more competitive economy and strengthening links with European markets. Through the projects we support, Moldova is moving closer to integration into European networks and creating new opportunities for development,” said Alberto Carlei, Head of the European Investment Bank Representation in the Republic of Moldova.

Key [projects supported through EPIC](#) include the modernisation of the Chișinău ring road (sections 4–6), the M3 corridor linking the capital to the Danube port, and the R7 corridor connecting Moldova with Ukraine and Romania. These are complemented by strategic projects such as the Chișinău–Ungheni railway line, which will become Moldova’s first electrified railway built to European standards, as well as the construction of a multimodal freight terminal in Chișinău.



Moldova, the leading EPIC beneficiary in the region

Preparing infrastructure projects is a key step in turning plans into real investments. This is where EPIC comes in, providing Moldovan authorities with the expertise needed to develop solid, well-structured projects.

“For us, it is essential to prepare projects that respond to the real needs of people and the economy. The support provided through EPIC helps us set clear priorities and develop projects that can be implemented and financed,” said Vladimir Bolea, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Launched in 2022 by the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, [EPIC Facility](#) aims to strengthen connectivity within the Eastern Partnership region and between the region and the European Union. Moldova is now the leading beneficiary of EPIC in the region, with 10 projects to date, including two completed and eight ongoing.

With the support of the European Union and the European Investment Bank, Moldova is advancing towards modern infrastructure, a more competitive economy, and closer integration with the European Union.



A carpentry shop, opened with the EU financial support, brought a family back together

Ludmila Donica, a 50-year-old economist from the village of Mateuți, Rezina district, turned a family dream into a business with soul and a future. Inspired by her father's craft and motivated by the desire to reunite her family at home, Ludmila laid the foundations for a modern carpentry shop, which is now growing and finding its place on the market thanks to the work, passion, and support of development partners.

"I registered the company in 2023, based on my dream of opening a carpentry shop, building on my late father's small business,"

says Ludmila Donica.

Her father was a carpenter all his life, working with his tools in a small shop on the family farm.

The desire to keep her father's tradition and memory alive became a personal mission for Ludmila, and the decision was not purely economic, but deeply emotional: "I thought that if I started this business, my brother might return to Moldova, because he was planning to take his family and leave permanently for Denmark, where he had been working recently," says the entrepreneur.

Ludmila's brother had been abroad for 15 years and only came home once a year, at Christmas or Easter.



The carpentry shop became the bridge that brought the siblings back together and allowed them to start building a future together, right in their hometown.

The first step was to find a suitable space. The shop took shape at the business incubator in Rezina, a place that offers good conditions for young entrepreneurs and small local businesses. With small steps, the team formed by Ludmila and her brother began to produce their first wooden objects.

A key contribution to the development of the shop came from the European Union Confidence Building Measures Programme implemented by UNDP. The programme provided equipment worth around 12,300 EUR.

The equipment allows for the creation of complex products: personalized engravings, traditional sculptures, window shutters, railings, indoor and outdoor furniture. In a competitive market, these elements differentiate the business and attract more customers.

Financial support was not the only help received. The programme also included training, mentoring, and counseling sessions in key areas such as sales and promotion. For Ludmila, an economist by training but with no experience in the wood industry, this training was essential for the development of the business.

Today, she promotes and manages the business, while her brother has taken over the entire production side. Although he has no formal training, he inherited his father's skills and complemented them with training courses, becoming a true craftsman.

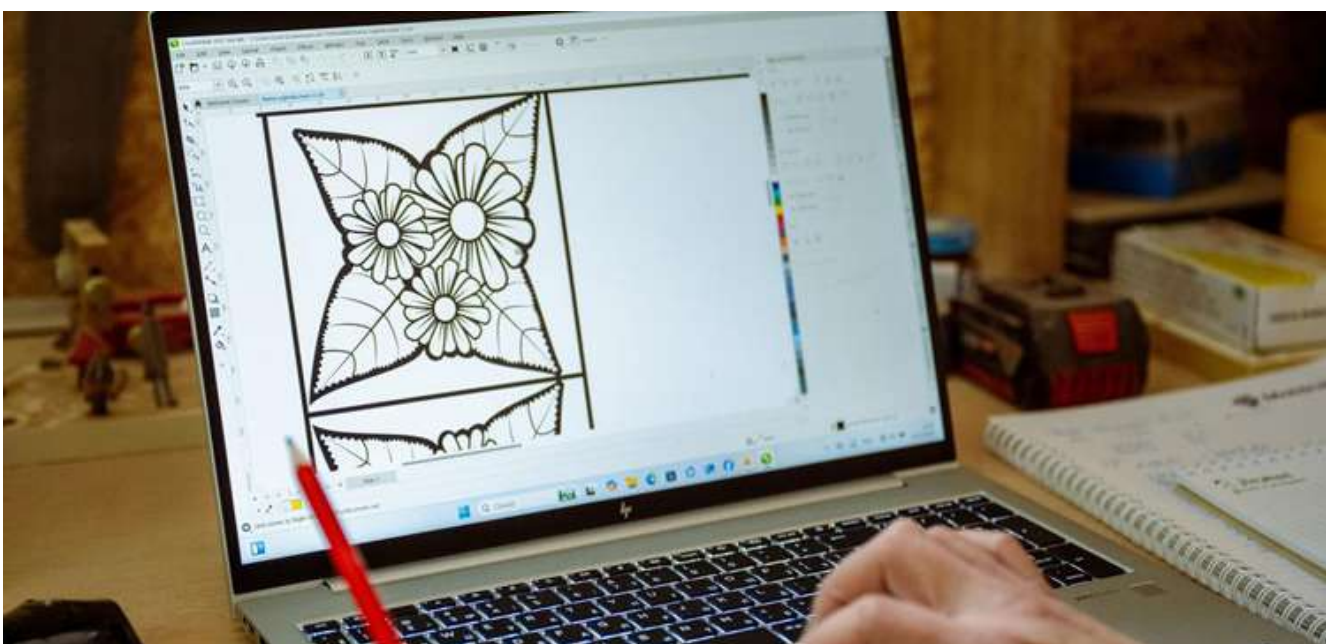
A family business, a business with a future

Another source of joy for Ludmila is the involvement of the whole family in the project. Her son, inspired by the shop's work, chose to study "woodworking" at college, which reinforces the belief that this business has not only a present but also a future.

"Now the whole family is involved in this business. My son has entered college, also in this field. Our business has a future."

The plans for the coming period are ambitious. They want to create at least three new jobs to cope with the increasing volume of orders. At the same time, the team is negotiating with local wineries to supply wooden stands for wine bottles – a niche product, but one with great potential in the wine tourism industry.

Ludmila Donica's story is more than just an entrepreneurial success. It is proof that the right support, combined with determination and strong family values, can change destinies and become an inspirational model for those who are still far from home.



Stronger Together

A farm in Vadul-Rașcov brings prosperity to the entire community

He lived and studied in Italy for nine years, and three years ago he returned to the Republic of Moldova to grow his family's business. Denis Pruteanu is 26 years old, lives in Chișinău, and commutes daily from Chișinău to Vadul-Rașcov, Șoldănești district,

where his family owns a farm. The young entrepreneur wants to start processing meat, and thanks to funding from the European Union's Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, he is closer to his dream.



Denis's family owns over 60 hectares of land on which they grow grain, and in order to make the most of it, they opened a farm a few years ago.

"Six years ago, my father started this business, but he didn't have a development plan. After I finished my studies in Italy, I decided to develop this business, but it required large investments. I started looking for funding, but it was difficult and arduous,"

says Denis.

The young entrepreneur drew up a business plan and submitted his application to a competition announced by the Confidence Building Measures Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. Thanks to the around 16,900 Euro in funding, he was able to equip the farm with the most advanced machinery purchased from Italy. From equipment for watering, feeding, and ventilating the barn to machinery that sucks the grain into a tank, mixes it, and grinds it so that the animals can digest it.

"This support gave me wings and the desire to grow this business. Thanks to this support, we were also able to create the company logo. Branding is very important because it is the process of creating and managing our identity in the minds of consumers, i.e., our customers. We aim to create an emotional connection with consumers, build loyalty, and ultimately increase sales and market share,"

explains the entrepreneur.

The entrepreneur who wants to produce only organic products

The young man wants to develop an entire value chain: processing and growing cereals, raising animals, and processing meat.

"In the future, I would like us to be certified organic/bio internationally. To create an organic brand, you need to have organic land and feed organic food to the animals.

This is how you grow organic meat. We have everything we need, we just have to strive for it,"

says Denis.

Every year, the Pruteanu family raises 150-200 sheep, goats, and pigs, which are sold to processors at a much lower price than if they had their own meat shops. The young entrepreneur wants to raise more pigs in the near future and start processing meat, including opening a restaurant in the village of Vadul-Rașcov.

"We want to process meat and make sausages. In a few months, we will purchase breeding animals. When I was in Italy, I discovered a wide variety of sausages. I would like to make sausages like in Italy, but in the Republic of Moldova,"

says the young man.



Jobs at home

With the opening of the farm in the village of Vadul-Rașcov, ten jobs were created, which are so necessary in this locality located

more than 100 kilometers from Chișinău. As the business develops, other jobs will be created for the locals.



Stronger Together

"If we start processing, we will create even more jobs. Everyone wants to stay in their country, work here, start a family, and raise their children. That's what I want too, which is why I chose to return to Moldova,"

says the young entrepreneur.

Since 2024, 20 entrepreneurs, including Denis, have received support from the EU and UNDP to grow or launch their businesses. Supporting young entrepreneurs and the business environment is part of a broader effort by the European Union and UNDP to build trust and promote economic development on both sides of the Nistru River.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme - European investment drives modernization of infrastructure and services in Leova rayon

A significant milestone in modernizing infrastructure and advancing inclusive local development has been reached in Leova Rayon through the EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme, a Team Europe initiative.

With financial support from the European Union and the Austrian Government, public institutions, households, and the private sector in Hănăsenii Noi, Sîrma, and the Leova Vocational School have been connected to a new sewage system. Furthermore, Iargara town and six surrounding communities now enjoy a safer, cleaner environment. Approximately 7,078 people gain access to modern sanitation facilities and improved public services.

These achievements brought together partners and beneficiaries, symbolically marking the official closing of the projects of the 'EU4Moldova: Local communities' programme in Leova Rayon. They underscore the commitment of the European Union to improving living standards, strengthening local infrastructure, and fostering sustainable development across Moldova's regions.



The investment of EUR 860,000 in infrastructure development and equipment delivered substantial improvements in system functionality, connectivity, water supply, sanitation and waste management collection. This included:

- Construction of two local small scale wastewater treatment plants;
- Installation of new sanitary units in public institutions and connection of schools, kindergartens, medical centers, and town halls to the local sewer system;
- In parallel, the Iargara Solid Waste Management project strengthened the local public services through targeted equipment donations, as garbage trucks to streamline waste collection routes, a backhoe loader for activities at the waste disposal site, nearly 5,000 waste bins of different sizes and colors, encouraging households to adopt waste sorting practices, among others.

As a result, citizens now enjoy improved Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) systems, safe, reliable access to clean drinking water, and reduced risk of waterborne diseases.

Beyond immediate health benefits, the strengthened WSS infrastructure bolsters public services, reduces inequalities, and lays the foundation for long-term socio-economic growth.

The investments also serve as a cornerstone for advancing intermunicipal cooperation and local-level amalgamation, fostering stronger institutional partnerships.

In the long term, by cultivating ownership and accountability at the local level, the benefits of these critical investments are not only sustained but continue to grow, securing a healthier, more resilient future for all.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Over 150 Moldovan farmers trained on industrial hemp with Czech support

A total of 154 farmers from the Central, Northern and Southern regions of the Republic of Moldova participated in a series of seminars on industrial hemp cultivation, held in Chişinău, Bălţi and Comrat under the Team Europe Initiative “Sustainable Food Systems”.

The events were organized by the Czech Development Agency, in partnership with Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and national partners, aiming to support farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices and exploring alternative crops adapted to climate challenges.



A key component of the seminars was the contribution of Czech expertise. Dr. Marie Bjelková from Agritec Plant Research presented practical experience from EU Member States, covering cultivation technologies, processing, and market opportunities for industrial hemp.

Participants received information on the entire value chain, including seed selection, cultivation requirements, compliance with European standards, and the importance of processing for added value. The seminars also provided a platform for dialogue between farmers, experts and institutions.

Farmers expressed interest in testing industrial hemp as a resilient crop with economic potential.

“These seminars gave us practical knowledge and a better understanding of the potential of industrial hemp in Moldova,”

said one of the participants.

The events contribute to strengthening farmers’ capacities and promoting innovative and sustainable agricultural practices aligned with European standards.

The Team Europe Initiative ‘Sustainable Food Systems’ is financed by the European Union and Czech Republic, and implemented by the Czech Development Agency, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, and the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center.

EU4Innovation East launches new funding opportunities to strengthen Moldova's startup ecosystem

EU4Innovation East has launched a **new call for project proposals** aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova. Funded by the European Union and co-

funded by the Government of France, the initiative seeks to support startups at every stage of their development—from ideation and validation to scaling and investment readiness.



The call targets organizations capable of delivering impactful ecosystem support activities, including incubation and acceleration programs, mentorship initiatives, talent development, and innovation-focused events. The objective is to create a more cohesive and resilient environment for startups to grow and compete internationally.

In partnership with the Moldova Innovation Technology Park (MITP), EU4Innovation East has contributed to the creation of the Startup and Innovation Fund. The project has also launched a call for proposals **worth €1 million to support incubation and acceleration programs**, talent development, and investment readiness. Currently under development,

the fund will define its structure, eligibility criteria, and operational framework following consultations with ecosystem stakeholders.

Currently under design, the fund will define its structure, eligibility criteria, and operational framework in close consultation with ecosystem stakeholders.

Once launched, the fund will provide direct financial support to innovative companies, contributing to the growth of high-potential startups and strengthening Moldova's position as an emerging innovation hub in the region.

Through these initiatives, EU4Innovation East reinforces its commitment to building a dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Moldova.

“Persp@ctive” for the sweet business of Alexandru Socolov, a rural entrepreneur, with support from the EU4Youth programme: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Alexandru Socolov, a young man from the village of Răzeni, discovered his passion for beekeeping as a child in his grandfather’s apiary. Determined to carry on this tradition, he established his own apiary and began to develop his business, despite limited resources and the challenges specific to rural areas.

With the support of the EU4Youth programme: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, through the “[Persp@ctive](#)” project, implemented by the [Eco-Răzeni](#)” Association in collaboration with the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), Alexandru received training, mentoring, and funding opportunities, which allowed him to expand his apiary to 50 bee colonies and grow his business.

Today, Alexandru serves as an example for other young people in rural areas, demonstrating that, through education,



perseverance, and adequate support, ideas can become sustainable businesses. Through his journey, he contributes to the development of the local community and encourages other young people to realize their entrepreneurial potential.



A dreamy “Persp@ctive” for Ana Puhoi, a seamstress turned entrepreneur with the support of the EU4Youth programme: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Ana Topor, from the village of Puhoi, grew up with a passion for sewing, inspired by the sewing machine she inherited from her family. Although she wanted to turn this hobby into a business, a lack of resources and entrepreneurial experience made it difficult for her to get started.

Through the EU4Youth programme: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, as part of the “Persp@ctive” project implemented by the “Eco-Răzeni” Association, Ana participated in training and mentoring sessions that helped her understand how to develop a business. Today, she runs her own tailoring workshop, where she offers a variety of services, from clothing repairs to embroidery and upholstery.



Ana has a message for young people still uncertain of their future: “Step outside of your comfort zone, don’t be afraid to try, and take part in these projects. That’s where you realize a hobby can turn into a real dream.”



Time turned into opportunity with “Persp@ctive” for Andrei Cebotaru, a entrepreneur from Ruseștii Noi

Andrei Cebotaru of Ruseștii Noi, a firefighter with the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, started his business out of a desire to make the most of his free time. His business, focused on cleaning and painting various surfaces—fences, roofs, and pavements—meets a real need in the rural community, but at first he lacked the knowledge needed to develop his business.

Through the EU4Youth programme: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, as part of the “Persp@ctive” project implemented by the “Eco-Răzeni” Association in collaboration with the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), Andrei participated in training sessions that helped him structure his ideas and understand how to plan and manage his business. Today, he is developing his business with greater clarity and confidence, and the experience he has gained motivates him to move forward.



For Andrei Cebotaru, the “Persp@ctive” experience was one of learning and growth.

His message to other young people is clear: “I believe that the biggest failure is not trying to do something. If you dedicate yourself 100% to an activity, no matter what it is, something will come out of it.”



EU supports building economic forecasting capabilities

In 2025, a new Macroeconomic Projections and Forecasting Model was implemented at the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization. Developed within the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, the model provides an integrated framework for forecasting key economic indicators, linking external trends with developments in the real economy and the labour market. Further improvements are planned for 2026, with a focus on better understanding capital and financial flows.

The model helped in the preparation of [Moldova’s Economic Reform Programme 2026–2028](#). The model will support the ministry in the assessment of the macroeconomic conditions and outlook, thus helping align economic objectives with available public resources.

By strengthening economic planning, the EU is helping Moldova create a more resilient economy, better jobs, and improved living standards, while advancing on its European integration path.



Around 100 entrepreneurs from central regions of Moldova trained on how to launch and manage a business, with EU support

About 100 aspiring entrepreneurs from the Central regions of Moldova participated in a three-day training course for start-up entrepreneurs held in Orhei, from 10 to 12 February 2026. The event was organized by

the EU-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration,” in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, the State Tax Service, the Customs Service, and the publication Monitorul Fiscal FISC.md.



Participants from Orhei, Telenești, Criuleni, Singerei, and Rezina took part in interactive, hands-on sessions that walked them through the key steps of launching and managing a business. They learned how to register a company, navigate public procurement procedures, comply with tax and social contribution requirements, and handle import and export operations. The training also addressed everyday challenges entrepreneurs face, including labor legislation, workplace safety, local and environmental taxes, financial management, accounting, and effective business communication. Experts from the Ministry of Finance, the Customs Service, the State Tax Service, and experienced accountants provided participants with

practical, hands-on guidance. Certificates of completion were awarded to all participants, highlighting their engagement and commitment to developing their entrepreneurial skills.

The training in Orhei marked the fifth round of the Start-Up Entrepreneurs Programme, launched in 2025, which has already trained over 450 participants nationwide. It is part of a series of sessions taking place across six regions of Moldova in 2026, continuing the EU’s support for strengthening local entrepreneurship and developing a robust business environment. Upcoming training sessions will be held in Căușeni, Edineț, Ungheni, and Comrat between April and August 2026.

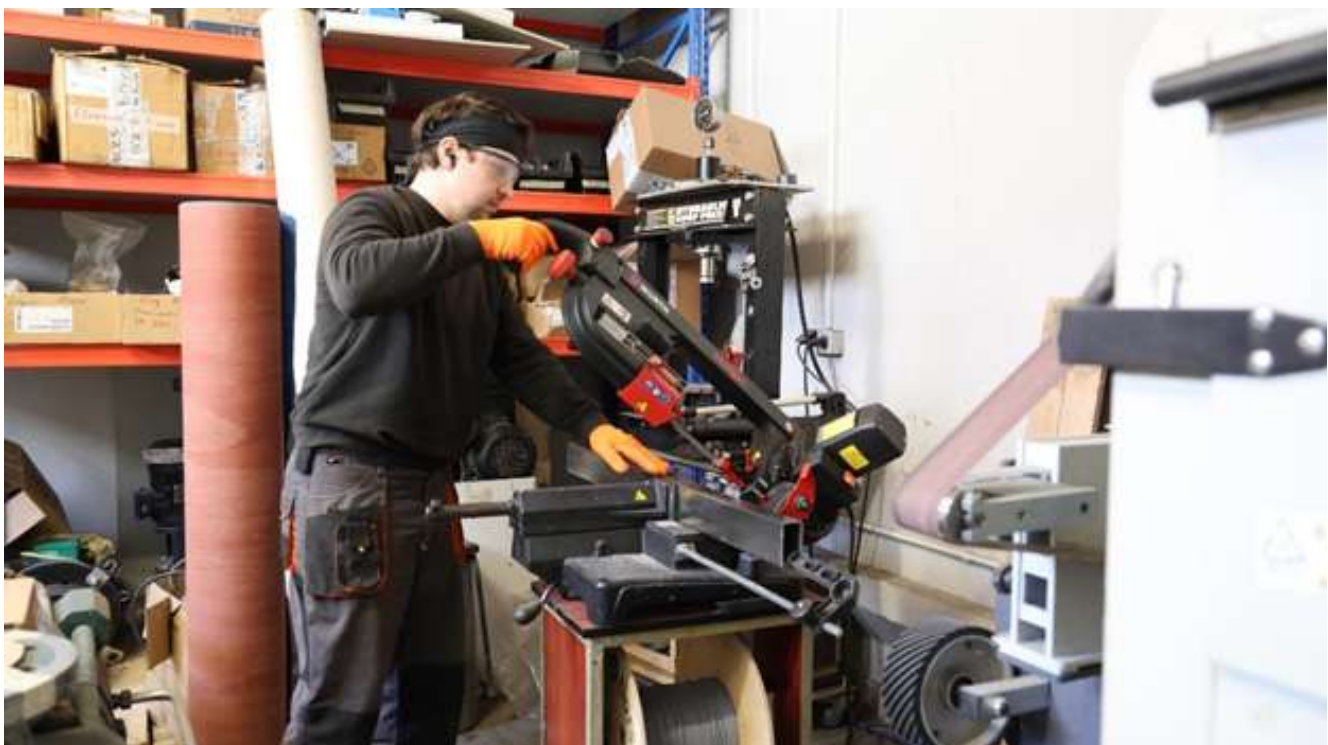
Local business expands with international support: first beneficiary of the “FACEM Impact” financing product

The Organization for Entrepreneurship Development, established by the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, announces that in February 2026 it issued the first financing decision under the “FACEM Impact” financing product. This initiative is part of the “SME Development Facility in the Republic of Moldova” project, funded by the German Government through the German Development Bank (KfW).

The first beneficiary is an entrepreneur from Chişinău who manages a company with 12 employees, operating in the wholesale trade of equipment and supplies for heating and water systems. The financing, obtained through the partner bank Victoriabank, will be used to expand the business, including the acquisition of real estate required for the production of water pumping and chlorination stations, as well as for inventory storage.

The value of the loan amounts to MDL 5 million, while the total planned investment reaches MDL 17 million. The credit agreement was signed for a period of 10 years. To facilitate access to financing, the entrepreneur also benefits from a financial guarantee of approximately MDL 1.74 million, provided through the Credit Guarantee Fund within ODA, which partially covers the credit risk.

The “FACEM Impact” program is available to SMEs through six commercial banks: Victoriabank, Energbank, OTP Bank, MAIB, Moldindconbank, and ProCredit Bank. Financing is provided in Moldovan lei through the Fund for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth of Moldova (FACEM), managed by ODA.



Entrepreneurs can access up to MDL 5 million, with a fixed interest rate starting from 4% per year and a repayment period of up to 10 years, determined in agreement with the financing bank. Grace periods for loan repayment may also be negotiated, and goods and services acquired through the loan may benefit from VAT exemption with the right of deduction. Investment projects can be financed from various sources, including grants or financial guarantees, in accordance with programs managed by ODA.

For the implementation of the “FACEM Impact” financing product, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has allocated total financial support of EUR 10.7 million through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with the funds managed by the German Development Bank (KfW).

This contribution constitutes non-reimbursable assistance and aims to stimulate the sustainable development of the small and medium-sized enterprise sector in the Republic of Moldova.





ENERGY

RESILIENCE

Two hospitals in Moldova to be renovated this summer with European support

Renovation works are expected to begin in summer 2026 at two hospitals in Chişinău, the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Psychiatry Clinical Hospital, as part of the Moldova Energy Efficiency Project (MEEP). These are the first of ten medical institutions across the Republic of Moldova

that will undergo energy-efficiency upgrades with European support under the project. The initiative aims to reduce energy consumption, improve working conditions for more than 10,000 healthcare employees, and ensure greater comfort for over one million patients treated annually.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Energy-efficient hospitals, greater comfort for patients and staff

The project is financed by the European Union (EU), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), with a total budget of EUR 72.4 million. In the initial phase, all selected hospitals underwent detailed energy audits to assess the condition of the buildings and identify priority interventions. This was followed by the development of technical designs tailored to each facility. These designs define the key renovation measures, including thermal insulation, replacement of windows and doors, modernisation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, improved lighting, as well as upgrades to meet fire safety and accessibility standards. All solutions are aligned with national regulations and European standards.

Procurement procedures for the first two hospitals have already been launched and are currently under evaluation. Based on current estimates, construction works are expected to begin early summer 2026.

What improvements are planned?

At the Diomid Gherman Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, works will focus on Block 2, a facility that has been in use for nearly 40 years without major renovation. The building is affected by significant energy losses and outdated ventilation systems.

The planned intervention will cover approximately 3,500 m² and is expected to deliver energy savings of around 30%, supported by the installation of a photovoltaic system with an installed capacity of 40 kW.

The building of the Psychiatry Clinical Hospital dates back to the early 1980s and reflects outdated construction standards, with high energy consumption and inefficient infrastructure. The planned works will focus on the main block and the children's unit and are expected to significantly reduce energy use, by approximately 50% for thermal energy and 35% for electricity. A photovoltaic system with an installed capacity of 235 kW will also be installed.

An ambitious programme to modernise hospitals in Moldova

The Moldova Energy Efficiency Project is a major initiative focused on improving energy performance in public buildings. It targets ten republican hospitals, nine located in Chişinău and one in Bălţi. The project contributes to reducing energy costs, lowering CO₂ emissions, and improving the overall quality of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

MEEP is implemented by the Moldova Energy Project Implementation Unit (MEPIU), in cooperation with the National Centre for Sustainable Energy, under the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Moldova.



Stronger Together

EcoVoucher: 3,000 more Moldovan families get a chance to cut their energy bills

Starting March 30, 2026, another 3,000 vulnerable households in Moldova can redeem an EcoVoucher - a 6,000 MDL voucher covering up to 70% of the cost of a new, energy-efficient refrigerator or washing machine. The programme is launched by the National Center for Sustainable Energy, funded by the EU through the E4M project, implemented by GIZ, with a budget of one million euros for this round.

The idea is straightforward: hand in an old, energy-hungry appliance, get help buying a better one. Since the programme was launched, over 40,000 appliances have been replaced across the country. The cumulative electricity savings already exceed 6.5 million kWh - roughly 24 million MDL back in household budgets. Once all installed appliances run their full lifetime, annual savings are projected to reach 8.15 million kWh, or around 30 million MDL per year.



This edition expands the circle of beneficiaries. Priority goes to families with the most children and to people over 63, and for the first time, 10% of vouchers are reserved for people with severe disabilities, allocated based on individual household needs.

Eligible households are those registered in the Energy Vulnerability information system. Beneficiaries will be notified by SMS or email and can access their voucher through compensatii.gov.md.



Warmer homes, lower bills: how EU and Germany-funded renovations are changing lives in Moldova

For families like the Anghelianus in Pîrlita, the Radus in Bănești, and the Berlinschis in Stețcani, this past winter felt different - warmer, quieter, and far less expensive. Their homes are among the first 42 single-family houses renovated under the pilot phase of Moldova's Fund for Energy Efficiency in the Residential Sector (MREEF), supported by the European Union and Germany through the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova (E4M) project, implemented by GIZ.

Before the renovations, keeping a home warm meant stoking the stove up to six or seven times a day and spending upward of 20,000–25,000 lei on firewood each winter. Today, the same families heat their homes two to three times daily, at a fraction of the cost, with stable temperatures of 23–24°C maintained throughout. The Radu family cut their firewood bill by nearly four times; the Berlinschis halved their wood consumption even as their heated living space grew.



The works - thermal insulation of walls and roofs, waterproofing, upgraded heating systems, and new windows and doors - were tailored to each household following an energy audit. For the most vulnerable families, 95% of costs are covered: 50% by the EU and Germany through MREEF, 45% from the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund, with households contributing just 5%.

Read the full stories of the [Anghelleanu](#), [Radu](#), and [Berlinschi](#) families to hear, in their own words, what a warmer home has meant for them this winter.

The pilot phase is just the beginning. Dozens more households are set to benefit from similar renovations across Moldova in 2025, as the programme scales and more families get to write their own version of this story.



Stronger Together

The largest kindergarten in ATU Gagauzia renovated and made energy-efficient with European Union support

Nearly 300 children and 36 teaching staff members are now benefiting from a modern, safe and energy-efficient learning

environment following extensive renovation works at the largest early childhood education institution in ATU Gagauzia.



Kindergarten No. 8 “Andrieș” in Ceadîr-Lunga was renovated under the project “EU4Moldova Resilience: Secure State, Resilient Communities”, funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova. The total budget of the works amounted to approximately MDL 6 million, of which around MDL 4 million was provided by the EU.

The renovation works included thermal insulation of the building, modernization of the internal heating system, and installation of photovoltaic panels with a capacity of 30 kW, contributing to reduced operational costs, the use of green energy and lower CO₂ emissions. In addition, a food storage facility was renovated, and the surrounding area of the kindergarten was fully upgraded with alleys, sidewalks, access roads and an open-air stage for educational and cultural activities.

The kindergarten is attended by 278 children organised in 13 groups, aged between 1 and 7, including children with special educational needs and refugee children from Ukraine.

The inauguration event was also attended by the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Iwona Piórko, who highlighted the tangible impact of EU investments on local communities.

The renovation of Kindergarten “Andrieș” is part of a broader package of five urban revitalisation projects implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova with the support of the European Union under the “EU4Moldova Resilient” initiative.

The total budget of the EU-funded urban revitalisation projects exceeds MDL 17 million. Similar investments have been implemented in the towns of Rîșcani, Nisporeni, Hîncești and Cimișlia.



Moldova's large consumers gear up for gas market opening in April

On 19 February in Chişinău, gas companies, regulators, public authorities and major consumers convened to prepare for the partial opening of Moldova's gas market on 1 April 2026. This marks major step in strengthening Moldova's energy security and reducing dependence on single suppliers, following vulnerabilities exposed during the 2021–2022 energy crisis.

The event, co-organised by ANRE and the Energy Community Secretariat within the framework of the EU-funded "Moldova Energy Independence and Resilience" (MEIR) project, brought together over 300

participants. It was designed to equip large non-household consumers to operate under new EU-aligned market rules. These consumers, which include power and heating utilities, industrial operators and commercial users, represent around 55% of national gas demand. On 1 April 2026, the country will phase out regulated gas prices for them.

Supported by expanding regional infrastructure and interconnections, the reform is expected to diversify supply sources, attract investment, and deliver more stable and affordable gas.



Lower heating costs and improved comfort: the results achieved by the Berlinschi family through the MREEF programme

This winter, the Berlinschi family from Steţcani village, Criuleni district, experienced significant savings on heating costs. Their home was energy renovated through the government programme Moldova Residential Energy

Efficiency Fund (MREEF) and the results were immediate: firewood consumption was reduced by half compared to previous years, while indoor temperatures remain stable at 23–24°C.



The Berlinschi family is raising five children and shares their household with grandparents. Iurie Berlinschi, a farmer by profession, understands the importance of keeping household expenses under control - especially during winter, when heating costs can become a major financial burden.

In previous years, maintaining warmth in their home required frequent stove firing and a high volume of firewood. With support from the MREEF programme, their house underwent essential energy efficiency improvements, including plinth waterproofing, thermal insulation of exterior walls and roof insulation. 50% of the costs were covered by the European Union and the Government of Germany, 45 through the project “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova” (E4M), while the family contributed only 5% of the total investment. These interventions significantly reduce heat loss and protect the building from moisture.



Following the renovation, the house retains heat much more effectively, ensuring a stable and comfortable indoor temperature.

According to the Berlinschi family, even during periods of severe frost, firewood consumption throughout the cold season was reduced by half compared to previous years - despite an increase in the heated living area. At the same time, indoor temperatures consistently remain between 23–24°C.



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For the family, this means not only lower heating expenses but also enhanced day-to-day comfort, without the constant concern of cold penetrating the home.

"This winter, the house was much warmer and my husband had to fire the stove far less often,"

says Veronica Berlinschi.

Roof insulation delivers benefits beyond the winter season. Due to the improvements, the upper floor, previously prone to overheating during hot summer days, has become a comfortable and usable space, allowing the children to spend more time there for various activities. At the same time, protection against temperature fluctuations contributes to the building's durability and helps maintain a healthy indoor environment for the entire family.

Thus, the investment made through the MREEF programme not only generates short-term savings but also ensures improved living conditions in the long term.

The renovation works for the Berlinschi family's home were carried out through the programme Moldova Residential Energy Efficiency Fund (MREEF) in Moldova, managed by the National Center for Sustainable Energy, with the support of the European Union and the Government of Germany through the project "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova" (E4M). For households with high energy vulnerability, the programme covers up to 95% of eligible costs, with beneficiaries contributing only 5%.

The Berlinschi family is already benefiting from increased comfort and reduced expenses, while dozens of other energy-vulnerable households across the country have received similar support through the MREEF programme.



For more information, visit:

<https://cned.gov.md/ro/feerm>

The MREEF Program is developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova with financial support from the European Union, implemented by the National Center for Sustainable Energy and the Ministry of Energy and supported through the project "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova" (E4M). E4M is implemented by GIZ in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, financed by the Government of Germany and co-financed by the European Union, Norway and Denmark. This component is funded by the European Union.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

A warmer winter for the Radu family from Bănești thanks to the government programme MREEF

For many rural households, maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature during winter requires considerable effort and high expenses. Heat losses through walls, roofs and foundations significantly increase energy consumption.

Thanks to the government programme Moldova Residential Energy Efficiency Fund (MREEF), this winter marked a turning point for the Radu family from Bănești village, Telenești district. For the first time, their home remained consistently warm, while heating costs decreased noticeably from the very first weeks.

The Radu family is raising four children - three daughters and one son. Cristina Radu, a technology teacher at the local school, describes their home as an open and welcoming space, where children often gather to study, work on projects and spend time together.

Until recently, the cold season brought constant concerns about heating and significant expenses for firewood. Maintaining a comfortable temperature required feeding the stove 6-7 times per day, with seasonal costs reaching 20,000–25,000 MDL.



  EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Even under these conditions, indoor heat was uneven and mornings typically began with relighting the fire.

Living conditions improved significantly after the family was selected as a beneficiary of the MREEF programme. Through this support, the house underwent comprehensive energy renovation: exterior walls were thermally insulated, the façade was refurbished, the entrance door was replaced and a new heating system including a boiler and radiators was installed. The results were immediate. Heat is now distributed evenly throughout all rooms, with a constant indoor temperature of 23–24°C, while the boiler requires fuelling only 2–3 times per day. Firewood expenses have decreased nearly fourfold, dropping to approximately 6,000–7,000 MDL during this heating season.

The family contributed with only 5% of the total investment and the financial benefits are already reflected in their reduced energy costs.

“Now, when the children come home and gather in the living room, it is warm and comfortable everywhere. We no longer worry about adding more firewood or the house cooling down overnight. We have peace of mind and comfort and this means a lot to us,”

says Cristina Radu.

Why well-planned renovations matter

Energy efficiency experts involved in such projects highlight that, in rural areas, the greatest heat losses typically occur through uninsulated walls, poorly protected roofs and vulnerable foundation areas. In many homes, outdated heating systems fail to compensate for continuous energy losses, resulting in high fuel consumption.

For this reason, each renovation begins with a detailed energy audit, identifying the main sources of heat loss and recommending the most impactful measures. Renovations are designed to align heating system upgrades with improvements to the building envelope, ensuring long-term results and consistent comfort for households.

The works were carried out under the Moldova Residential Energy Efficiency Fund in Moldova, managed by the National Center for Sustainable Energy. For this pilot project, the European Union allocated a budget of €1 million.

For households with high energy vulnerability, the programme covers up to 95% of eligible costs: 50% is financed by the European Union and the Government of Germany through MREEF, 45% is covered by the Energy Vulnerability Fund and beneficiaries contribute only 5%.

This winter, the first 42 families are already benefiting from more energy-efficient homes, while dozens of other vulnerable households across the country will receive similar support throughout the year.

For more information, visit: <https://cned.gov.md/ro/feerm>

The MREEF Program is developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova with financial support from the European Union, implemented by the National Center for Sustainable Energy and the Ministry of Energy and supported through the project “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova” (E4M). E4M is implemented by GIZ in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, financed by the Government of Germany and co-financed by the European Union, Norway and Denmark. This component is funded by the European Union.

Cross-Border Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Romania and Moldova strengthen their green partnership

More than 235 participants, mainly mayors and representatives of Covenant of Mayors – East (CoM-East) signatories, took part on 20 January 2026 in the Romania–Republic

of Moldova Cross-Border Conference for Sustainable Development, held in Chişinău at a key moment for the country’s European path.



The event brought together representatives of central and local public authorities, regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, and companies, in a format focused on experience exchange, practical solutions, and strengthening institutional cooperation.

The conference agenda included three thematic panels dedicated to key areas of sustainable development:

- water resources management,
- waste management,
- renewable energy.

These sessions provided a practical platform for discussions, facilitating a valuable exchange of know-how among participants and promoting innovative solutions adapted to the local and regional context.

In particular, the energy panel, moderated by CoM-East national expert, Lilia Rusu, focused on identifying concrete and applicable solutions for local communities, including the development of energy communities. Discussions addressed available European funding opportunities for energy projects, as well as ways in which local public authorities can access and leverage these resources.

Relevant examples of good practices in the implementation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) were also presented, highlighting the importance of strategic planning aligned with the real needs of communities.

CoM-East national expert, Irina Plis emphasized that the commitments undertaken by Covenant of Mayors signatories can only be achieved through collaboration and mutual learning, and that

local initiatives can generate real and lasting impact in the energy and climate transition process.

The conference was organized by the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, in partnership with the Romanian Environmental Association, under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania.



Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan – a commitment for new Covenant of Mayors signatories

On 26–27 February 2026, mayors, energy managers, and local specialists from municipalities, that recently joined the Covenant of Mayors, came together to

participate in a training dedicated to the development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs).



The training was organized within the CoM-East project, funded by the European Union, supporting local authorities on their path towards climate neutrality and resilience.

During the two working days, participants developed strategic management skills—from mobilizing human resources to setting implementation timelines—and gained technical expertise in data collection, including the methodology for calculating

the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) and the use of Excel tools for monitoring.

A strong focus was placed on climate diagnostics, through the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities (CRVA), as well as on integrating an inclusive vision by incorporating gender perspectives and participatory approaches into local energy policies.

In the context of accelerating climate change and new European commitments, the development of a modern and sustainable municipality is no longer just a matter of intention, but of rigorous and well-founded planning. In this regard, participants left not only with knowledge, but also with concrete tasks:

- ▶ developing and approving a clear timeline for SECAP preparation;
- ▶ formally establishing the SECAP Working Group, a multidisciplinary team to manage the plan in the long term;
- ▶ launching the data collection process for the Baseline Emission Inventory, in order to obtain accurate data for calculating future emission reductions.



These tasks ensure the continuity of the learning process and encourage local

administrations to translate knowledge into concrete actions.

Study visit Chişinău–Bucharest: best practices in waste management and green solutions for local authorities

On 3–4 March 2026, 51 representatives of local public authorities from the Republic of Moldova – signatories of the Covenant of Mayors – East (CoM-East) and members of the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM) – participated in Green

Energy Expo & ROMENVIROTEC 2026, one of the most important regional events dedicated to sustainability, green energy, and environmental technologies, held at ROMEXPO, Bucharest.



The delegation's participation, supported financially by the European Union, aimed to strengthen the capacities of local administrations in key areas such as the energy transition, energy efficiency, and sustainable resource management.

The program included several main directions: thematic conferences and access to regional expertise, study visits and exchange of best practices, as well as regional cooperation initiatives for sustainable development.

On the sidelines of the event, the delegation from the Republic of Moldova held a brief discussion with Ms. Diana-Anda Buzoianu, Minister of Environment, Waters, and Forests of Romania, regarding regional cooperation and support provided to local authorities in the energy transition process.

A central moment of the event was the Conference of Mayors from Romania and the Republic of Moldova, organized by the Romanian Municipalities Association in partnership with the Covenant of Mayors – East and CALM.

The conference addressed key topics for local administrations, focusing on providing public services at European standards in the fields of energy, water, and sanitation, accessing European funds and the challenges faced, as well as improving administrative performance through the replication of successful models.

For the Moldovan mayors' delegation, a study visit was organized to the City Hall of

Sector 3 in Bucharest, where the delegation analyzed the implementation of a modern integrated waste management system.

The exchange of experiences and partnerships initiated during the event significantly contribute to strengthening the capacities of local administrations, providing them with concrete tools and practical examples for implementing environmental and energy policies.



From idea to implementation: trainings to strengthen the capacities of CoM-East SIGNs

Developing project proposals and leveraging funding opportunities for investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential pillars for modernizing municipalities, while the real challenge begins with implementation, where the role of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) becomes central in transforming approved plans into concrete, monitored actions with real impact.

In this context, due to high interest and multiple requests, the second edition of Modules 2 and 3 of the LEEN Moldova training program was held between February and March 2026, providing participants with practical tools and methods to streamline the process of project development and implementation at the local level.

The two 2-day training sessions brought together local leaders and specialists in project development and investment attraction from LEEN Moldova member municipalities and signatories of the Covenant of Mayors – East (CoM-East) in the Republic of Moldova, who reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening institutional capacities and professionalizing project development and implementation processes.

Module II focused on project proposal development, offering participants practical tools for structuring ideas, defining objectives, and identifying funding opportunities. Using the Logical Framework Matrix, the “Solution Tree” method, and the Project Management Canvas, participants learned to transform concepts into viable, fundable projects, simulating the stages of a real application process and consolidating the skills acquired.

Module III addressed the implementation stage, emphasizing the efficient organization of Project Implementation Units (PIUs), clarifying team roles, strategic planning, as well as progress monitoring and evaluation. Practical exercises included drafting implementation plans and conducting project management simulations.

The activities created a valuable platform for learning and experience exchange, and the active participation of attendees confirmed the need for such training to develop local capacities and ensure the effective implementation of projects with sustainable impact.



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European Union supports the promotion of energy efficiency at local level

In the context of the European commitments to the green transition and emission reduction, Keystone Moldova has successfully completed the second stage of the Training Program dedicated to energy efficiency measures, as part of the project “Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in Social Services”, implemented with the financial support of the European Union, co-financed and implemented by the Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with IP Keystone Moldova and AO Fondul de Inovații Sociale din Moldova.

This stage aimed to initiate and strengthen local working groups responsible for developing Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans – a strategic tool that helps communities adopt sustainable solutions and contribute to the climate objectives of the European Union.

In partnership with 35 CSOs, there were organized workshops in 33 communities, attended by 394 representatives of local public authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, who defined directions for

action in line with the requirements set out in the Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plan framework. This document is a strategic instrument that supports communities in:

- identifying areas with high energy consumption or energy vulnerability.
- proposing energy efficiency measures tailored to local needs.
- assessing the costs and benefits of each identified measure.
- promoting energy equity and social inclusion.

The workshops facilitated the creation of dedicated local teams that will guide the process of planning and implementing energy efficiency measures. These working groups will ensure energy consumption monitoring, selection of sustainable solutions, and mobilization of funding for projects that will improve the quality of life in communities.



During the month of March, four technical meetings were organized with the participation of companies in the field of energy efficiency and 39 representatives of CSOs and LPAs, who will provide technical support and expertise in the process of developing the Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans. This communication framework ensured the exchange of information and the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in this process.

The expected outcome of this initiative is the development and approval of the Local Integrated Energy and Climate Plans by the Local Councils, a process that grants the documents official status. This will allow for the integration of energy efficiency measures into local policies, facilitate access to financing, and ensure the continuity of actions in the field of energy and climate.





ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



Moldova advances water reforms on its path to EU accession

Moldova is stepping up reforms to strengthen water governance and ensure that investments in the sector are used more efficiently. These efforts are in the

spotlight as the Ministry of Environment hosts the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on water on 26 March, alongside the technical workshops on 25 and 27 March.



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The opening session was [livestreamed on 26 March at 09:00](#) (EET).

The European Environment Agency recently reported that Moldova is one of the most water stressed countries in Europe due to limited internal freshwater resources, a high dependence on transboundary water sources, exposure to high climate variability and seasonal fluctuations in water. On top of this, OECD analysis showed that Moldova witnesses extremely high water intensity per person, with freshwater abstraction rates of 143%, compared to the OECD average of only about 12%. Such excessive abstraction puts Moldova at serious risk of exacerbating existing water stress.

Climate change, recurrent droughts and uneven infrastructure continue to affect households, agriculture and industry. UN data shows that nearly 40% of rural residents lack access to piped water. Meanwhile, alternative local water sources such as wells and springs require improved quality control, and the small rivers that feed the Nistru and Prut are becoming increasingly vulnerable to pollution and seasonal drying. The [recent oil pollution](#) in the Nistru River shows how fragile drinking water supply is.

Reforms as a foundation for sustainable investment

The NPD brings together national and local authorities, academia, civil society, EU institutions, EU Member States and International Organisations. Discussions will focus on the outcomes of Moldova's recent EU accession screening in the water sector, as well as the next steps in aligning legislation with EU standards. The discussions will also address reforming water-related economic instruments to ensure sustainable financing for river basin councils, wastewater treatment, irrigation, and water monitoring.

The NPD in Moldova has had a track record of promoting the case for policy reform. With EU support, design norms for small scale water supply infrastructure were updated following extensive consultation through Moldova's NPD platform. Evidence based analysis builds the momentum and confidence to drive reforms, in this example facilitating a change in secondary legislation and a code of practice to make investments in small scale water supply infrastructure more affordable and aligned with EU-good practice.

Through [EU4Green Recovery East](#) (2025-2028) and complementary initiatives, the European Union supports institutional reform, monitoring systems and policy alignment in Moldova's water sector.

Acting together for water: from policy to practice

Protecting and managing water sustainably requires collective action by public authorities, the private sector, and communities.

Recent [EU-funded initiatives on water supply and sanitation](#) are already improving access and quality for Moldovan citizens. For example in Ungheni, a new water network provide safe drinking water to over 24,000 people, and the sewerage network expansion increased connections by more than 140 users. At the same time, strengthening monitoring and data collection on wastewater infrastructure is a priority, helping authorities better track performance, plan investments effectively, and accelerate modernization of Moldova's water sector.

Under a Team Europe approach, Sweden supports Moldova through the Green Agenda project, and explore wastewater reuse for agriculture. A [study](#) conducted as part of the project shows that treated wastewater could provide a reliable supplementary source of irrigation, thereby enhancing water security, particularly as drought risks increase.



Aligning with EU water standards is not only about environmental compliance, but also about building a water system that supports food security and protects public health. Transparent water allocation rules, reliable data, and investment create

predictability for businesses and local authorities. By combining institutional reform, infrastructure investments, business innovation and international partnerships, Moldova is building a more secure and sustainable water future.

The European Union is providing €1.8 million to modernize the waste management system in Călărași, Ungheni and Leova

Voluntary collection centers (VCC) will be built in Călărași and Ungheni, while the town of Leova will receive financial and technical support to develop a project for such a center. The three localities were selected following a competition conducted in December 2025, in which 12 localities from across the country participated.

The costs of constructing and operating the centers are covered by the European Union through the project "Enabling an inclusive green transition in the Republic of Moldova", funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP Moldova. The total investment is estimated at €1.8 million.



VCCs are an essential component in the development of a modern, efficient, and responsible waste management system, contributing to environmental protection, improving quality of life and promoting a sustainable lifestyle.

The initiative aims to develop and modernize the integrated municipal waste management system at the urban level, with a direct impact on the environment and the well-being of citizens. In the initial stage, the following will be collected at the VCCs: bulky waste (mattresses, furniture), end-of-life products such as electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators, glass packaging,

wood, paper and cardboard waste, used textiles, used tires, plastic packaging (PET) and metal packaging (aluminum cans).

Each center will be equipped with dedicated containers for each category, ensuring organized and efficient collection. All collected waste will be taken over by authorized companies, which will subsequently ensure its recycling or recovery.

The VCCs in Ungheni and Călărași will be integrated into the regional waste management system currently being implemented in Waste Management Zone No. 5, which includes the two localities.



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Construction work is scheduled to begin in spring 2027 and the centers are expected to be operational in the fall of the same year.

The construction of VCCs is taking place in the context of the implementation of waste management legislation, with local public authorities responsible for creating an efficient collection system and ensuring, in stages, the necessary conditions for the separate collection, transport, recovery and final disposal of waste.

Authorities may also develop, in partnership with collective Extended

Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, complementary services for the collection of waste from products regulated by EPR, such as electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators, or packaging.

In order to establish an integrated municipal waste management system, local public authorities shall ensure the allocation of the necessary land and the development of at least one voluntary collection center (VCC) per 50,000 inhabitants, intended for the collection and treatment of specific waste streams.



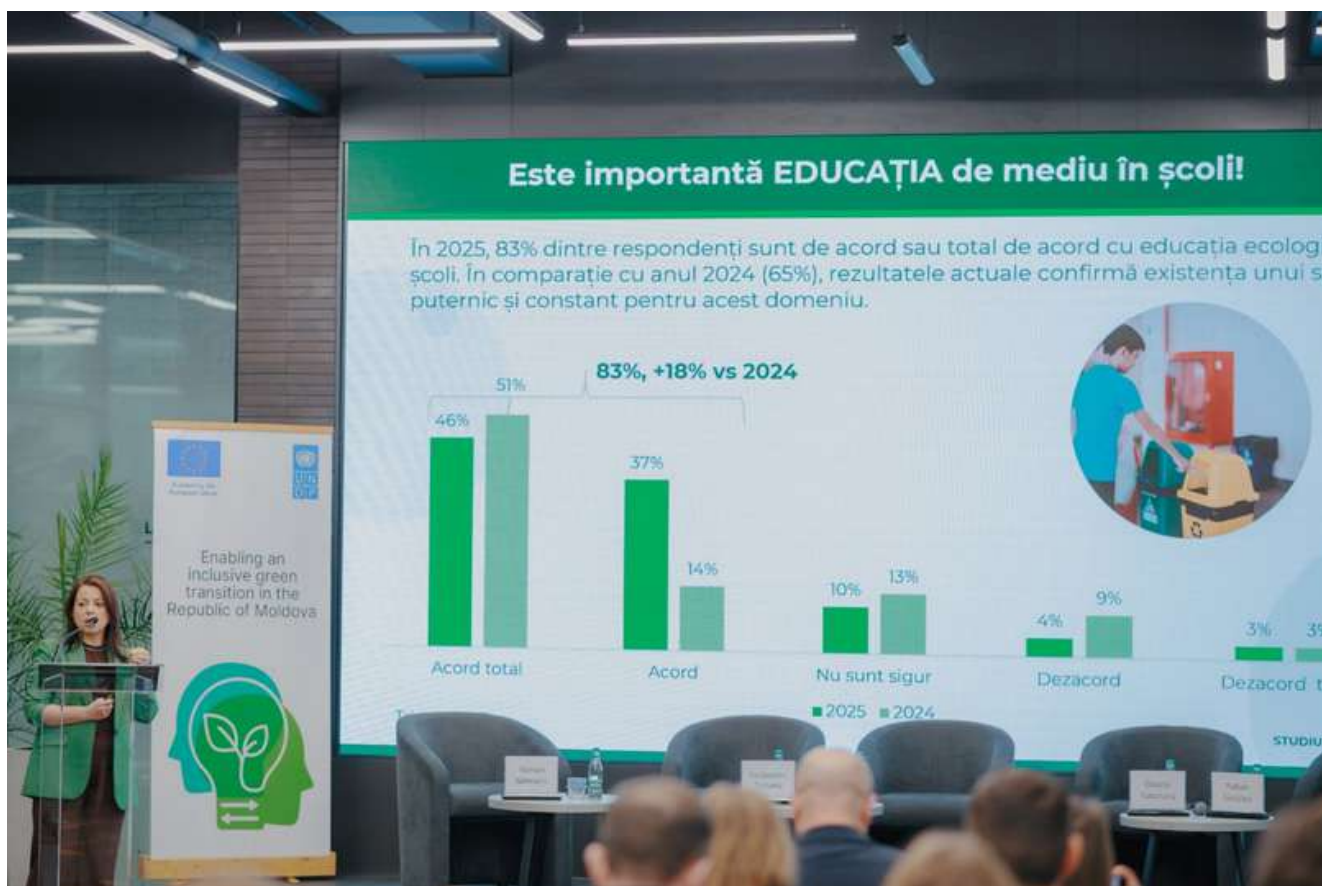
Public Opinion Barometer: the green transition has public support in Moldova, but depends on infrastructure and costs

Seven out of ten Moldovans are concerned about the state of the environment in the Republic of Moldova. Among the reasons for their concerns are, first and foremost, the impact on health and family, as well as on future generations, followed by the impact on agriculture, natural resources, the frequency of extreme weather events, and rising prices.

Thus, people react more strongly to the effects on health and the future than to economic issues perceived as abstract.

People are more receptive to adopting simple, low-cost behaviors, but need to be convinced when it comes to practices that require infrastructure and investment.

These are some of the conclusions of the [Public Opinion Barometer on Green Transition](#), launched on 18 March 2026, on Global Recycling Day. The research was conducted with the support of the European Union and UNDP Moldova.



More than half of respondents (55%) consider themselves informed about environmental issues, according to the Public Opinion

Barometer on Green Transition, while 44% say they are not at all or only slightly informed.

The major disparity lies in the level of education. There is a high level of awareness of major environmental issues, but information is unevenly distributed. Perception of these issues is stronger in areas associated with visible and direct effects (climate, forests, water), and less so in technical or systemic domains.

Perceptions of the environment are shaped by direct experience with local infrastructure and services. Thus, nearly 80% of respondents rated water supply services favorably, 74% rated wastewater and waste management services favorably, and 65% rated the cleanliness of local areas and the maintenance of green spaces positively. The overall perception is moderately positive for “basic” services, but “heavy” infrastructure (sewerage, roads) represents the core of the structural problems perceived at the local level.

The Public Opinion Barometer on Green Transition reveals a high potential for social acceptance of eco-friendly behaviors and solutions in the Republic of Moldova. The data show that simple, low-cost practices that are easy to integrate into daily routines predominate. As a practice requires additional infrastructure, investment, or organizational changes, the frequency of its adoption decreases.

Thus, among the behaviors adopted by 7 out of 10 respondents are walking, the rational use of energy and water, and disposing of waste in designated areas. In contrast, infrastructure-dependent practices are less widespread: plastic recycling (34%), separate waste collection (30%), more frequent use

of public transportation (31%), and repairing household appliances (27%).

Regarding circular practices, the analysis finds that some solutions are already relatively widespread, but most are still adopted by only a minority of the population. “Household” solutions (especially composting) are easier to adopt, at 50%, while practices that depend on external supply chains (return, energy recovery) remain more limited: recycling (38%), energy recovery (27%), and packaging return (23%). Thus, the authors note that circularity is present but fragmented.

The study recommends that public policies and communication be grounded in the principles of health, safeguarding the future, and resource security, with economic considerations serving as a complementary rather than a dominant factor. Furthermore, interventions should focus on the infrastructure sectors that cause the most frustration (sewerage, roads, and sanitation) and inequalities in access.

The public opinion barometer on the green transition was conducted by the CBS-AXA Center for Sociological and Marketing Research on behalf of UNDP Moldova through the project “Enabling an Inclusive Green Transition in the Republic of Moldova”, funded by the European Union. The survey was conducted on a sample of 1,335 adults, with data collected between 21 November and 9 December 2025, through in-home interviews in Romanian and Russian. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 2.7\%$.

Strengthening air quality management in the Republic of Moldova through hands-on data validation training

In the first quarter of 2026, two training sessions on the development of quality plans, data validation, and synthesis of information on atmospheric air quality were successfully carried out by the EU Twinning project “Air Quality and Environment.”

The sessions brought together participants from the Environment Agency, the State Hydrometeorological Service, the Environment Protection Inspectorate, Chisinau City Hall – General Division

for Urban Mobility, and the Ministry of Environment, providing an intensive practical learning experience focused on the analysis, validation, and interpretation of air quality data.

The first training took place on 27 – 29 January and the second one continued on 31 March till 2 April aiming at strengthening technical skills in managing datasets fetched from Mateuti and Chisinau automated air quality monitoring stations.



Most of the days were spent in the Air Quality Laboratory at the Environment Agency where the experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute, Katja Loven and Maija Peltola, spoke about data analysis and air quality indices, with a focus on the fundamentals of validating data analysis from automated monitoring systems and validation procedures. Participants worked closely with datasets and all pollutants helping them to become familiar with verification of compliance with limit values and target values; use of graphs and statistical analysis methods to interpret and explain variations in pollutant concentrations; calibration corrections, validation, assessment and quality control of the data obtained; processing, visualizing and reporting air quality data.

The training combined theoretical components with practical applications, providing participants with the opportunity to work directly with real datasets, to create summaries and charts for reporting

and interpretation, and to apply validation techniques and analytical methods in real-world contexts. The topics sparked a lot of discussions on how validated data, compliance assessment and air quality indexes support effective air quality management and transparent communication with the public.

This training contributes to the development of technical capacity among professionals responsible for the quality of atmospheric air data, strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and regulatory compliance and policy implementation at the national level.

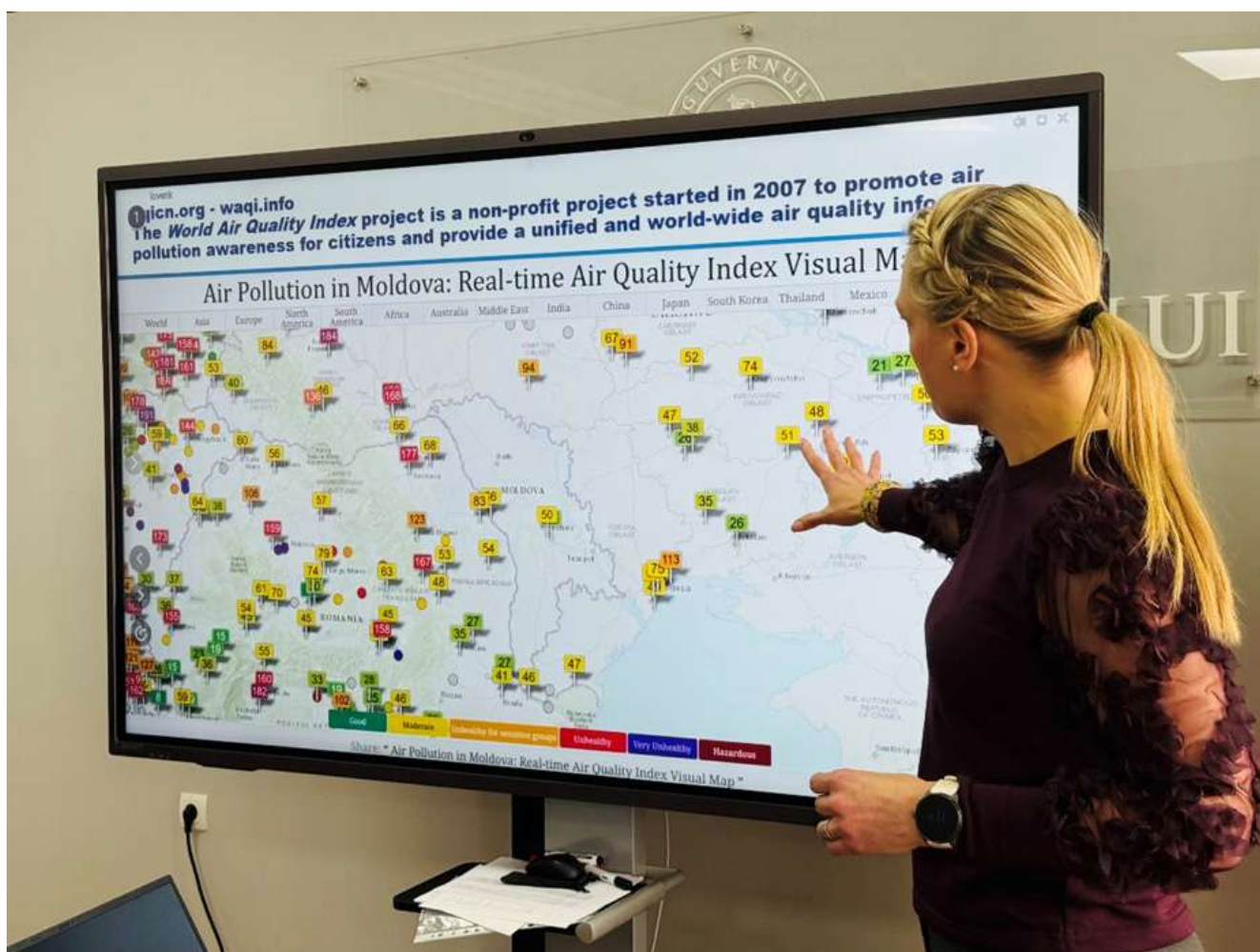
The activity targeted Component 1: Air quality management, control and enforcement strengthened within the EU-funded Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment" and implemented by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Environment Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania and the Swedish Chemicals Agency.



Industrial emissions monitoring and access to environmental information

The way industrial facilities are monitored, public access to environmental information, and the use of online platforms that present data on industrial emissions were among the main topics discussed during a training held at the Ministry of Environment between 10 and 12 March 2026.

The training covered issues related to the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) and its revised version (IED 2.0, 2024) conducted by the expert Kaj Forsius from the Finnish Environment Institute.



The sessions presented methods by which authorities can verify whether businesses comply with environmental requirements, as well as tools that allow citizens to have access to information about the impact of industrial activities on the environment. Participants were familiarized with Best Available Techniques (BAT), BAT

Conclusions (BATC) and BAT Reference Documents (BREFs) applicable to important industrial sectors, such as production of metal, cement, glass, chemical industry, waste treatment or large combustion plants. They also learned about Finland experience in implementing Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions, including the procedure

for issuing an integrated environmental permit and the responsibilities of competent authorities in the environmental permitting and control process.

Representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Environment Agency, the Environment Protection Inspectorate, as well as representatives of economic agents whose activities are associated with industrial emissions, participated in these trainings.

These series of trainings contribute to improving industrial pollution control, applying cleaner technologies, and protecting air quality and the environment.

The activity was carried out within the framework of the EU-funded Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment" targeting component 1: Air quality management, control and enforcement strengthened and implemented by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania and the Swedish Chemicals Agency.



Mastering public speaking on environmental issues

A two-day Leadership Communication training on public speaking, aimed at strengthening effective communication in environmental related topics was organised by the Ministry of Environment with the support of the EU-funded Twinning project “Air Quality and Environment”.

The training took place on 4 and 5 February 2026 and it was delivered by the Lithuanian short-term expert Ms. Neringa Vilutyte.

The goal of the training was to provide participants with the necessary knowledge to develop public speaking skills, following a learning-by-doing methodology that included interactive and practical exercises, video recordings, individual analysis and feedback. Participants worked on real-life communication challenges addressing issues such as waste collection, sustainable solutions for recycling used tyres, deposit return system, and extended producer

responsibility. Clear and coherent messaging to different target audiences supports policy implementation, increases stakeholder engagement, encourages behaviour change, and builds public trust in the listed environmental actions. Thus, during the training, the participants:

- developed an authentic leadership communication style based on their personal strengths
- mastered the delivery of speeches for public and media audiences
- overcame public speaking fear
- adopted confident body language and an expressive voice
- learned techniques for creating powerful and persuasive content.



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This practical training was designed for two different target groups: public sector and economic actors (Ministry of Environment, Environment Agency, Environmental Protection Inspectorate and collective systems such as ECO SAVE, "Reciclare", "Rabla CAR", "Auto REC", "ECO-REP", "PRO-REP") ensuring a focused, relevant learning experience and practical approach tailored to the needs for all. At the end of the training, participants became more confident in communicating environmental priorities, reforms, and results

with greater impact in both in-person and online settings.

The activity targeted Component 3: Circular Economy – Waste management systems strengthened within the Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment", funded by the European Union and implemented by the consortium led by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Lithuania and the Swedish Chemicals Agency.



CLP training sessions – practical approach in the Republic of Moldova

The seventh training session on Classification, Labelling, and Packaging Regulation (CLP), conducted by the representatives of the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI), took place on 24 and 25 March 2026 at the Ministry of Environment within the EU-funded Twinning project “Air Quality and Environment”. CLP Regulation implementation is crucial for the Republic of Moldova, as it modernizes chemicals legislation and brings it into alignment with European Union standards.

The participants who benefited this time were from the Environment Agency, National Food Safety Agency, National Agency for Public Health, National Center for Animal, Plant Health and Food Safety, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection and the inspectors of the Environment Protection Inspectorate (representatives from Chisinau, Edinet, Drochia, Donduseni and Briceni).



The experts from Sweden shared with the beneficiaries the most up-to-date information on hazard classes and classification criteria; examples and practical exercises on the correct classification and labeling of hazardous substances and mixtures that help prevent chemical accidents, poisonings and pollution; communication of physical, health and environmental hazards; assistance service – HelpDesk.

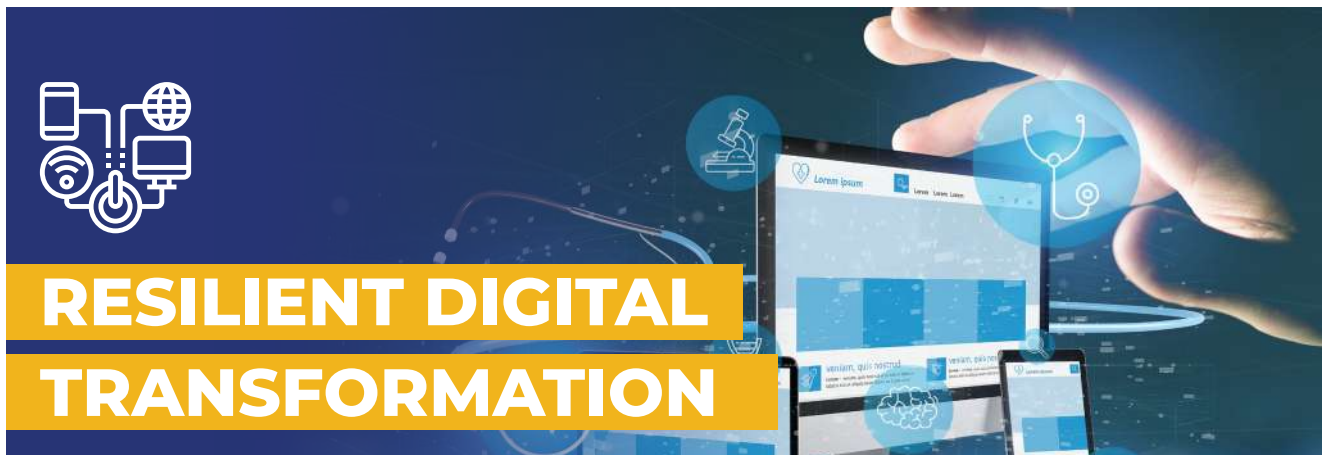
Besides training sessions, raising awareness of the CLP Regulation among students is also an important step toward building future expertise in chemicals management and safety. As part of these efforts, experts engaged directly with students by delivering two open lectures at Moldova State University on 23 and 26 March, bringing together students from the Faculties of Law, Chemistry

and Biology. Students were encouraged to explore the role they can play in supporting the implementation and enforcement of modern chemicals legislation.

These initiatives contribute to lifelong professional learning in the field of chemicals safety, essential for the country in the context of European integration, environmental protection, and also economic development. Currently, the CLP Regulation is under consultation with the European Commission.

The activity is carried out within the EU-funded Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment", Component C4: Environmentally sound management of chemicals strengthened. Two more training sessions are foreseen in May and June 2026 - a continuation of the joint effort to strengthen institutional, regulatory and control capacities in the Republic of Moldova.





Argus AI: from local innovation to global HealthTech impact

EU4Innovation East showcased Argus AI as a successful impact story, highlighting how continuous support can help Moldovan startups grow into internationally recognized innovators. Founded in 2024, Argus AI addresses one of the most pressing challenges in modern healthcare—enabling surgeons to perform complex procedures that are often considered too risky or even “inoperable.”

The startup is developing a cutting-edge solution that combines Artificial Intelligence and Mixed Reality (XR) to assist medical professionals during surgery. By offering enhanced visualization, real-time guidance, and AI-driven insights, Argus AI aims to improve diagnostic accuracy and decision-making in the operating room, ultimately transforming patient outcomes.

EU4Innovation East has supported Argus AI at critical early stages by facilitating participation in major international events such as **How to Web**, **Web Summit**, and **DigiTec**.



These opportunities enabled the team to validate their solution, build strategic connections, and gain visibility among investors and industry leaders. As a result, the startup has secured over €80,000 in funding and established partnerships across Europe and Asia, while also advancing clinical validation through collaboration with the Institute of Emergency Medicine in Chişinău.

Today, Argus AI is progressing toward clinical trials, certification, and a pre-seed investment round, while continuing to refine both its educational and clinical applications.

Its journey reflects the growing potential of Moldova’s innovation ecosystem to generate impactful, globally relevant solutions.

In March, Argus AI further expanded its international presence by participating in the **Rubik Garage – Future of HealthTech Demo Day in Milan, Italy**, where it was selected among 12 startups to pitch in front of investors and ecosystem leaders. The experience provided valuable exposure, new connections, and strategic feedback, supporting the team’s next phase of growth.



Moldovan Innovation Ecosystem showcased at Deep Tech Week in Paris

With the support of EU4Innovation East, a Moldovan delegation participated in **Deep Tech Week (March 16–20, Paris)**—one of Europe’s leading events dedicated to deeptech innovation, organized by Bpifrance.

The event brought together key actors from across Europe’s innovation landscape, including industry leaders, investors, policymakers, and research institutions, highlighting the strategic role of deeptech in driving competitiveness and technological sovereignty.



Representatives from Moldova, including Moldova Innovation Technology Park (MITP), the Invest Moldova Agency, and HiTech Park, engaged in high-level discussions and networking, positioning the country within the broader European innovation dialogue.

A key moment was the participation of Doina Nistor, Board President of HiTech Park, in the panel *“European Landscape: Where do we stand?”*, where she highlighted Moldova’s growing potential in technology, innovation, and skilled talent. Her intervention emphasized the country’s capacity to contribute to Europe’s deeptech future.

The delegation also visited Paris-Saclay, one of Europe’s most advanced innovation hubs, gaining insights into successful models of collaboration between academia, research, and industry.

This engagement reflects the growing integration of Moldova’s innovation ecosystem into European networks and underscores the importance of continued international cooperation. As highlighted during the event, deeptech remains a critical pillar for Europe’s future, creating new opportunities for countries like Moldova to actively contribute and benefit.

EU4Security Moldova sets new standards in AI-driven investigations

As the digital landscape evolves, so must the tools of justice. In a landmark effort to modernize law enforcement, the EU4Security Moldova project successfully concluded a specialized training program titled "Artificial Intelligence Investigation Techniques: Application of AI Models," held in Chişinău from March 16–20, 2026.

This intensive five-day course gathered 25 law enforcement officers and investigators, equipping them with the skills to transition from traditional investigative methods to sophisticated, data-driven strategies. Designed for beginner-to-medium practitioners, the training focused on the practical application of AI to solve complex crimes in an increasingly connected world.



Building competitive businesses: EU4Digital Academy supports Moldova's digital transformation



Many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Moldova are finding that traditional working methods no longer match operational complexity, as digital transformation increasingly shapes their need to develop and remain competitive. Growing teams, multiplying projects and increasing volumes of operational data make it difficult to rely on fragmented tools, manual reports and informal communication. To address such challenges, the [EU4Digital Academy](#) offers 'Digitalisation of Business' and other practical, free-of-charge online courses for SMEs in Eastern Partnership countries.

Moldovan business leaders often note that companies delay digitalisation until operational complexity becomes unmanageable. Until then, many companies rely on messaging apps, spreadsheets or manual reports, which, over time, leads to data loss, reduced transparency, and inefficiencies that slow down decision-making.

Moldovan SMEs EMCOM and Equitabil have experienced such operational chaos and have gradually overcome it with practical digital solutions.

EMCOM specialises in electrical infrastructure and construction works. Managing more than ten projects simultaneously, with teams working on different construction sites, the company faced increasing difficulties in consolidating daily field reports, according to Technical Director Gheorghe Oprea.

"Monitoring projects via Viber, WhatsApp, photos and text messages worked at first, but over time we realised that information was getting lost and processes were becoming chaotic,"

he explains.

"We needed a structured system that would allow us to see what was done, how it was done, and where discrepancies appeared between the project documentation and the actual conditions on the site."

A similar challenge is faced by service-sector SMEs, such as accounting company Eqitabil. Founded in 2020, the company's rapid growth in client numbers quickly exposed the limits of manual coordination and Excel management, recalls Eqitabil's founder Maxim Gribencea.

"After 5p.m., I had to spend hours analysing the day's activity, creating drafts, Excel files and paper documents just to understand what was happening in the company,"

he says.

"At some point, it became clear that we couldn't continue without an internal ERP [enterprise resource planning] system."

Both EMCOM and Eqitabil emphasise that digitalisation does not necessarily start with complex solutions. Instead, success depends on adapting tools to the actual digital skills of employees.

More: [Building competitive businesses: EU4Digital Academy supports Moldova's digital transformation - EU4Digital](#)



EU4Digital: delivering connectivity results across the Eastern Partnership



Telecommunications rules shape how people and businesses connect; for countries in the Eastern Partnership, aligning with the European Union (EU) legislative framework and practices means lower prices, stronger institutions and more reliable networks. The EU4Digital Facility has helped the Eastern partner countries achieve exactly that – turning legislative alignment and technical reforms into measurable improvements in connectivity, competition and digital readiness.

By working closely with the national regulatory authorities (NRAs) of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and with the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators (EaPeReg) network, EU4Digital has created a pipeline of reforms that deliver real economic value. These reforms provide clearer rules for investment, more competitive broadband markets and preparation for next generation digital services. Through targeted legislation, market analyses and regional agreements, the initiative ensures that countries gain not just policies, but tangible improvements

in affordability, service quality and cross border integration.

A major achievement has been helping countries to align their telecom laws with the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) – a prerequisite for modern, competitive markets. In Moldova, [EU4Digital's support directly contributed to the adoption of a new Law on Electronic Communications entering into force in 2026.](#)

This law creates a stable, investment friendly environment, enabling lower prices and enhancing competition. Updated, EU-aligned rules give regulators stronger tools and create predictable conditions for operators, which benefits consumers through better services and fairer pricing.

To help countries improve broadband access, EU4Digital drafted the [EU best practice report on promoting competitive broadband](#), which showcased effective approaches to encourage investment, infrastructure sharing, and sustainable competition.

More: EU4Digital: [delivering connectivity results across the Eastern Partnership - EU4Digital](#)



EU-Moldova

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Learn more and better cybersecurity! EU4Digital Academy partners with CYRUS



As cybersecurity becomes increasingly critical for digitalisation and economic stability, the EU4Digital Academy has partnered with the EU-funded CYRUS e-learning platform to deepen knowledge in this area. Besides its own successful 'Cybersecurity' course, the EU4Digital Academy's online catalogue of free-of-charge training material now includes three CYRUS cybersecurity-related courses.

The CYRUS courses that can be found via the EU4Digital Academy are available in English and cover the topics 'Cybersecurity culture & human behaviour', 'Top 10 security issues and solutions' and 'Ransomware'. These courses focus on:

- ◆ cybersecurity technical skills;
- ◆ cybersecurity methodological and organisational aspects;

- ◆ practical exercises;
- ◆ on-the-job simulations in a cyber-range environment for different industrial sectors.

This course is designed for non-technical professionals, such as HR managers, purchasing officers, supply chain managers and office workers, to deepen their understanding of cybersecurity risks and response strategies. It focuses on the critical role that human factors play in cybersecurity and provides strategies for effective communication during and after security incidents.

More: [Learn more and better cybersecurity! EU4Digital Academy partners with CYRUS - EU4Digital](#)

Strengthening cyber resilience of the Moldovan Police

The EU-funded EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova (EU4LEM) project has taken a significant step forward in strengthening the cyber resilience of the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), supporting Moldova’s broader alignment with EU standards.

In early 2026, the initiative launched a structured process to assess and enhance the cybersecurity capabilities of the National Police, in line with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0. The first phase, which was completed in March 2026, laid the foundation for long-term institutional resilience.

A comprehensive assessment of the existing IT infrastructure and cybersecurity practices was carried out across central and local police units. This included in-depth consultations with stakeholders, technical workshops, and a system-wide analysis. The findings confirm that although the police already operate a functional IT environment, important improvements are needed to address the continuously evolving cyber risks.



The analysis identified priority areas such as strengthening incident response procedures, introducing centralized monitoring solutions, improving vulnerability management, and ensuring consistent cybersecurity management standards across all police units. These insights will form the backbone of the next phase – the development of a national cybersecurity strategy and action plan for the police.

Beyond technical improvements, the initiative contributes to a broader goal: building a modern, secure, and resilient law enforcement system, capable of protecting critical data and ensuring continuity of its operations.

The EU4LEM project will enhance the National Police's capacity to manage and mitigate cyber risks by supporting the development of a cybersecurity governance model and strategic planning framework.

Digital resilience for a modern financial system – aim of the training for banks representatives, organized with EU support

The National Bank of Moldova (NBM) and the EU-funded project “Moldova Is Europe – Support for EU Integration” organised on 22 January 2026 a training session on implementation of the EU Regulation on Digital Operational Resilience (DORA). The event brought together over 70 participants – representatives of banks, insurance companies, and non-bank payment service providers, as well as NBM staff. Its objective was to support the alignment of the financial

market of the Republic of Moldova with European standards and best practices.

In the opening of the event, NBM Deputy Governor Constantin Șchendra emphasized that “use of digital technologies in the activities of financial entities is continuously growing. The increased level of digitalization in areas such as payments, electronic trading, and the digital distribution of financial products requires the adoption of efficient measures to protect digital systems.”



In his turn, the EU High Level Adviser on Financial Services Nicolae Grigore underlined the importance of implementing the DORA Regulation in the context of Moldova’s European path: “A framework harmonized with the European one will enhance the attractiveness of the financial market for investors and facilitate the cross-border activities of financial institutions, while at the same time strengthening the supervisory authority’s capacity to identify and monitor emerging risks in an increasingly technology-dependent financial environment.”

The session was delivered by Tudor Doman, expert in digital finance within the project, who provided valuable insights based on his experience within supervisory authorities in the European Union. The discussions covered the five core pillars of the DORA Regulation, the challenges faced by Member States during implementation, as well as advanced technical aspects such as Threat-Led Penetration Testing.

Experts from the Republic of Moldova and abroad discuss the reconfiguration of consumer protection in the digital era in Chişinău

Over 250 specialists from the legal, economic, and public policy fields participated, during 12–13 March 2026, in the international scientific conference *“Reconfiguring Consumer Protection in the Digital Era: Theoretical and Practical Challenges”*, organised in Chişinău on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, marked annually on 15 March.

The event was organised by the European Consumer Centre of the Republic of Moldova and the “Ştefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, together with 9 partners from Moldova, Romania, and Poland, and brought together 100 participants attending in person and approximately 150 participants online, connected via the Zoom platform.



The conference provided a platform for dialogue among public authorities, academia, experts, researchers, and representatives of civil society organisations, regarding the transformations generated by digitalisation and their impact on consumer rights.

During the opening session, representatives of public authorities, academic institutions, and partner organisations delivered remarks.

Representatives of several public institutions and organisations participated in the conference, including the State Inspectorate for the Supervision of Non-Food Products and Consumer Protection, the General Police

Inspectorate, and the Integrity Council within the National Integrity Authority.

Over the two days of discussions, topics addressed included: consumer protection in the digital era from the perspective of international public law, the role of cybersecurity awareness in protecting consumers, the convergence between personal data protection and consumer protection in e-commerce, legal protection mechanisms for consumers in contracts for the sale and purchase of goods under construction, and the limits and proportionality of remedies in consumer law.


More than 120 papers presented during the conference will be published in a scientific volume of the conference, contributing to the development of academic debate and to strengthening the conceptual framework on consumer protection in the context of digital transformations.

The video broadcast of the event, as well as other statements and details, can be accessed here:

<https://bit.ly/ConferintaStiintifica2026>

The conference was organised within the project "Strengthening the Consumer Protection Framework in the Republic of Moldova", implemented by the Think-Tank "Expert-Grup", in partnership with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms, with the support of the European Union and the Soros Foundation Moldova.





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