



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



EU – MOLDOVA: COOPERATION NEWS

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MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

Europe Day 2026: the Republic of Moldova celebrated peace, freedom and growth

Europe Day 2026 was marked together with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova through a series of cultural and interactive events, highlighting the European Union's support and the opportunities offered by the EU Growth Plan for Moldova.

On 9 May 1950, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman, delivered a historic speech presenting a plan for deeper cooperation in Europe. The Schuman Declaration paved the way to a new era of peace, integration and cooperation across the continent, laying the foundations of today's European Union.



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"It is an honour for me to celebrate Europe Day in the Republic of Moldova for the first time – a country that impresses with its beauty, the richness of its culture and traditions, its growth potential and, above all, its remarkable people. Moldova is at a historic moment on its path towards the European Union – a profound transformation process aimed at delivering tangible benefits for its citizens: investments, better jobs and more opportunities. Let us make full use of this historic opportunity – for peace, for freedom, for growth,"

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

Europe Day offered an opportunity to celebrate these values and reaffirm their fundamental importance for people's wellbeing and safety. To mark this occasion, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and the EU Member States prepared an extensive programme of cultural, educational and interactive events. These events also gave the public the opportunity to gain a closer understanding of the European Union's support to the Republic of Moldova, including the opportunities made available through the EU Growth Plan for Moldova.



The key highlights of this year's programme were two flagship events: the European



In the capital of the Republic of Moldova, Europe Day was celebrated on 9 May through the well-established European Village in Chişinău, held in the Great National Assembly Square. The European Village

Village in Chişinău on 9 May and the European Village in Soroca on 16 May.



brought together 22 EU Member States, 35 EU-funded projects, as well as public institutions from the Republic of Moldova.



The daytime programme featured activities for all ages, ranging from games and thematic competitions for children to interactive activities for the general public. At the same time, the European Village stage became a space celebrating Europe's cultural diversity, hosting artistic performances inspired by the traditions of EU Member States – from Irish dances, Spanish flamenco and Hungarian folk performances to French and Greek music.

On the evening of 9 May, the public enjoyed a special concert featuring Gabriel Nebunu,

Minelli from Romania, Alternosfera and other renowned artists from the Republic of Moldova.

In Soroca, the public joined the European Village on 16 May to discover the EU Member States, the diversity of their cultures and traditions, as well as projects implemented with EU support for local development. The event culminated in a concert celebrating talents from the Republic of Moldova, featuring Gabriel Nebunu, Akord and Carla's Dreams.



In both locations, visitors discovered European cuisine and enjoyed cultural and interactive activities for all generations – children, young people and adults, as well as seniors, who were invited to take part in dances, traditional crafts activities and many other special moments.

The programme in both locations also included meetings with writer Ionela Hadârcă, who offered visitors her book *The Price of a Smile (Prețul zâmbetului)*, published with the financial support of the European Union.

At the same time, the European Film and Culture Festival took place in several locations across the Republic of Moldova, including in both urban and rural areas, from 9 to 31 May. Entry was free for all those wishing to discover European films, dance, exhibitions and music.

This year's events took place at an important moment for the Republic of Moldova, marked by progress in its accession process to the European Union and the implementation of the EU Growth Plan for Moldova, which supports economic development and reforms for the benefit of its citizens.

Documentary filmmaking as a tool for dialogue and social cohesion: young people turn community stories into bridges of trust

The European Union continues to support initiatives that strengthen intercultural dialogue and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova by providing representatives of national minority organisations with opportunities to develop their communication and civic engagement skills through creative approaches. From 27 April to 3 May 2026,

as part of the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project funded by the European Union, MOLDOX, in partnership with CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, organised the Moldox Intercultural Lab 2026 workshop in Chişinău, bringing together participants from diverse linguistic, ethnic and cultural communities.



Over the course of seven days, 12 participants explored the potential of documentary filmmaking as a tool for expression, reflection and civic participation. Working alongside experienced mentors, they went through every stage of documentary production—from identifying a relevant topic

and developing an authentic story to filming, editing and presenting their final works. Each project was inspired by the participants' own experiences and the realities of their communities, addressing themes such as identity, memory, traditions, belonging and living together in a diverse society.



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The workshop also provided a space to reflect on the role of national minorities in public life and on how documentary filmmaking can contribute to a more balanced and inclusive representation of Moldova's cultural diversity. Through documentary storytelling exercises, brainstorming sessions and collaborative teamwork, participants explored key questions related to representation, visibility and participation, developing stories that bring people closer together and encourage dialogue across communities.

"We want to highlight intercultural dialogue within our communities. We were born here, and we want everyone living in the Republic of Moldova to have an equal place in society. For me, promoting Roma culture and inclusion is deeply personal because I have always been part of the community and understand its challenges,"

said Silvia Feraru, participant in Moldox Intercultural Lab 2026 and community mediator.



On the final day of the workshop, the documentary short films produced by the participants were presented during a public screening, followed by an open discussion with the filmmakers. The films sparked conversations about how different

ethnolinguistic groups in the Republic of Moldova perceive their identities, shared challenges and relationships with one another, transforming personal experiences into opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding.

voices heard, embrace cultural diversity and use creative tools to promote intercultural dialogue, civic participation and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova.



Stronger Together

Internationalisation of higher education in the Republic of Moldova in focus at an Erasmus+ seminar in Chişinău

On 22 April 2026, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Research and in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, organised the event “From Local to Global: Promoting the Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Republic of Moldova”.

Held at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, the event was dedicated to national reforms supporting the internationalisation

of higher education, in the context of the Republic of Moldova’s European integration path. The activity is part of the Higher Education Reform Experts initiative under the Erasmus+ Programme and was organised with the support of the SPHERE Consortium. The consortium brings together experts from the European University Association (EUA), a pan-European university organisation representing over 800 universities in the European Higher Education Area, as well as 33 national rectors’ councils.



The invited expert, Dr Mihai Sebea, head of the International Relations Department at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest, facilitated discussions on the challenges and

opportunities of internationalisation, with a focus on enhancing the global visibility and attractiveness of higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova.

The main topics addressed during the event included:

- the strategic role of internationalisation and participation in global events (such as EAIE, NAFA, EURIE or APAIE);
- the importance of institutional preparation for effective participation in international conferences and exhibitions;

- developing strategies for attracting international students;
- strengthening institutional offerings and academic partnerships;
- identifying practical solutions to enhance international visibility.



The programme featured thematic sessions and presentations of good practices, including experiences from universities in the Republic of Moldova. The event brought together over 65 representatives from the majority of higher education institutions in the country, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, ANACEC, etc.

In addition, on 21, 23 and 24 April, Dr Mihai Sebea and the team of the National Erasmus+ Office held meetings with representatives of five universities in the Republic of Moldova – rectors and vice-rectors for international relations – to discuss the importance of participation in international forums as a strategic tool for internationalisation and partnership development.

The event once again highlighted that internationalisation should be approached strategically and that international partner-

ships are essential for modernising higher education in the Republic of Moldova and bringing it closer to European standards.



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The first generation of restoration specialists is preparing to breathe new life into Moldova's cultural heritage

In May 2026, a group of 30 students from the Centre of Excellence in Construction learned various restoration techniques directly from professionals. The teams of construction workers and contractors they met shared their professional experiences, including by encouraging them to continue their academic studies.

"This will be the first class of students specialising in restoration. We're glad there's a demand for this because in the Republic of Moldova we have a lot of heritage that needs to be saved,"

***explains Anastasia Mozgovaia-Mahnenco,
a professor at the Centre of Excellence in
Construction.***



First stop: a woodworking workshop

In Chişinău, the students visited a woodworking workshop, where they saw how a piece of wood goes through all the technological processes to ultimately produce

the elements needed to build the access path to the Horodişte cave monastery in Țipova. UNDP and the European Union are supporting the development of the access road from Țipova.



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Next destination: bell tower in Vadul Rașcov

On another day, at the bell tower in Vadul Rașcov, currently undergoing restoration by UNDP with financial support from the European Union, the students were given an insight into the region's history, helping them understand the cultural context.

"My class and I came to Vadul Rașcov to see a beautiful, restored building, but not one restored using modern techniques; instead, traditional materials were used: lime, water, and stone dust. We have many old sites in the Republic of Moldova, and we, today's students, will become specialists in restoration and will revitalise these historic sites,"

said an impressed Cristian Bogaciu, a student.

Field visits, validating a professional calling

For the young people, this experience was a confirmation of the path they've chosen.

Damir Fusu comes from a family where the concept of construction isn't abstract.

"My father owns a construction company, so from a young age I saw how things are built, how people work in this field, and I helped out whenever I could. It's a risky profession, but it's nice to know that someone is living in a house you built,"

Damir says.



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Dina Corolețchi is one of the few women who chose the profession of restorer:

"It's very interesting to breathe new life into a building; when you restore it to its former glory, making it look brand-new while using the same materials from back then and preserving all the memories it holds. I enjoyed today's field trip because I learned about the history of wood, all the stages it goes through, and how it's processed."

Daniel Bulmaga, for his part, says that what he saw with his own eyes exceeded his expectations:

"In the theoretical lessons, we mostly saw pictures: what it looks like, how it's restored, but in real life, it wasn't until today that I saw the entire restoration process unfold. From what the specialists have told me, it seems like a pretty complicated process; from what I understand, some elements are very, very hard to find, but it's an interesting field and very well-paid."

The specialisation in construction restoration has been missing from the educational offerings of the Centre of Excellence in Construction until now. The qualification was added to the educational institution's portfolio in 2025.

The study visits were organised with the support of the European Union's Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP. Similar study visits are planned for students on the left bank as well, with these activities aimed at the professional development of young specialists in the restoration and conservation of cultural heritage on both banks of the Nistru River.

The European Union and UNDP are currently supporting the restoration of four historical cultural heritage sites on both banks of the Nistru River. Since 2020, another 12 cultural heritage sites have been preserved and partially restored, including two flagship projects: the Circus in Chișinău and the Tighina (Bender) Fortress.

An interbellum building is reigniting a passion for the restoration of historic monuments

"We tackle complex tasks right away and we put off the achievable ones for a little while."

This practical advice for future restoration professionals sets the tone for a special day in Tighina (Bender).

Starring: a historic building constructed in 1907 and a generation of young people determined to save cultural heritage.

Twenty-five students — future architects, designers, and restorers from specialised

institutions on the left bank of the Nistru — participated in an open lecture on the importance of preserving and restoring historical monuments. The most fitting setting for the lesson was the facade of the interbellum building of the Savings and Treasury Bank in Tighina (Bender), which is currently undergoing restoration. The work is being carried out with support from the European Union and UNDP through the Confidence Building Measures Programme.



A building that has witnessed many historical events

At the beginning of the 20th century, the building served the financial sector; later, for a time, it housed a place of worship; today, it is the headquarters of the gymnastics school in the city of Tighina (Bender). For experts and students alike, its walls conceal entire chapters of history, as well as construction secrets that today seem almost impossible to replicate.

"This building has a unique architectural style and has witnessed many historical events. If we hadn't been told that it was built in 1907, we wouldn't have been able to imagine that it had witnessed the world wars and the formation and collapse of the Soviet Union. Basically, it has seen it all,"

emphasised Olga Chirica, an architect.

Historic monuments: from the ruins of the past to a living foundation for the future

Behind the scenes details of this extensive reconstruction process were revealed by the

very person shaping the project on-site: "The biggest challenge was restoring the huge windows, which are over 3 metres tall; we had to manually remove up to seven layers of old paint to bring them back to life. Our mission at this heritage site focuses on three pillars: the facade, the windows, and the roof, including the original stone-carved attic. Even though there have been missteps in the past, such as the installation of double-pane windows or the destruction of the balcony, our task is to restore everything in accordance with its history. The restoration work is painstaking and often invisible, but the final result will completely transform the building's appearance," added Igor Glavațkii, the contractor overseeing the restoration of the historic building.

The visit to Tighina (Bender) demonstrated that restoration is not just about repairing old walls, but also about inspiring new generations. With the support of development partners and guided by dedicated teachers, these young people are learning to view monuments not as ruins of the past, but as a living foundation for the future.



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“1 June – The Film of Your Rights”: over 400 children marked International Children’s Day through film, art and activities dedicated to their rights



Over 400 children, parents and teachers participated in “1 June – The Film of Your Rights”, held at the Republican Centre for Children and Youth “ARTICO” in Chișinău, on the occasion of International Children’s Day. The event was organised by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova and CRCT “ARTICO”, in partnership with UNICEF Moldova and CIOFILM, with financial support from the European Union.

Inspired by “Generation Alpha”, the first socio-educational series for children and adolescents in the Republic of Moldova, the activity brought to the forefront relevant topics also addressed in the episodes, such as child protection, combating bullying, the courage to speak up, empathy, and safety in schools and communities.

For several hours, the courtyard and spaces of CRCT “ARTICO” were transformed into an open-air film studio, where participants explored these themes through art, play, dialogue and creative exercises. The programme brought together more than 50 volunteers, artists, actors and facilitators, who contributed to creating an educational and engaging experience for the whole family.

The opening was marked by an artistic prologue held on the “Carpet of Courage”, where dance, music and messages shared by children highlighted the importance of empathy, respect and preventing violence among peers.



The programme was moderated by Tatiana Însurățelu, the actress who plays the role of the teacher in the “Generation Alpha” series, bringing to the stage a warm dialogue close to the audience.

At the “Open-Air Cinema” set, children watched episodes of “Generation Alpha” and took part in discussions with the young actors. One of the most anticipated moments of the programme was the recital by Ciao Patricia, the lead actress of the series, who brought children’s energy and emotion to the stage.

During the discussion panel, eight young actors spoke about their experience and shared messages about empathy, acceptance and friendship. The discussion was complemented by the intervention of Diana Pînzari, psychologist, who emphasised the importance of emotional support and a safe environment for children’s development.

At the “Production Set”, participants discovered children’s rights through creative and symbolic activities. They drew “superpowers” from the “Rope of Rights”, left messages on the “Filmstrip of Friendship” and took part in creative workshops and face painting, turning each exercise into a message about courage, respect and friendship.

The “Kids Talk Show” space became a media studio, where children experienced the roles of reporters, presenters and content creators. Through journalism and communication workshops, they conducted interviews, interacted with the actors from the series and took part in autograph sessions, photo activities and interactive reading moments.

Through this initiative, International Children’s Day became a space for dialogue and inspiration, reaffirming that every child has the right to grow up in a safe environment where their voice is heard and respected.

“The Joy of Being a Parent”: regional events support families raising children with developmental difficulties



Over 600 parents, teachers and specialists participated in the regional events “The Joy of Being a Parent”, organised in Bălţi, Ungheni, Chişinău and Cahul between 12 and 16 May.

The events created spaces for dialogue, learning and support for families raising and educating children who face developmental difficulties.

Together with specialists in the field of psycho-pedagogy, participants discussed the importance of early intervention, the

challenges families face when they notice the first signs of difficulties in speech, social interaction, behaviour or cognitive development, as well as the role of a safe, empathetic and inclusive environment for every child.

Throughout the events, parents had access to useful information, practical recommendations and interactive workshops dedicated to developing parenting skills, effective communication with specialists, acceptance and parental resilience.



“The Joy of Being a Parent” is organised by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova and the Republican Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance,

in partnership with UNICEF Moldova, with financial support from the European Union, within the programme “Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”.



Stronger Together

UNICEF joined Europe Day celebrations with interactive activities for children and families

The Great National Assembly Square came alive with European spirit as Moldova celebrated Europe Day under the theme “Europe is YOU. Peace. Freedom. Growth.”



The activities were organised within the programme “Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”,

At the UNICEF tent, children, parents and young people took part in interactive games and activities, while learning more about wellbeing in school, children’s rights, inclusive education and model schools.



implemented with the financial support of the European Union.



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UNICEF, with support from the European Union, supports the development of pedagogical mentoring in the Republic of Moldova

A good teacher needs not only knowledge, but also support, guidance and practical experience. This is why pedagogical mentoring is becoming increasingly important in the modernisation of education in the Republic of Moldova.

With financial support from the European Union, UNICEF supports the Ministry of

Education and Research in developing a national mentoring system that helps teachers and future educators be better prepared for the real challenges of the school environment. These activities are part of the programme “Advancing Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”, implemented by UNICEF and UNDP.



Over the past two years, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Research have supported the initial training of 1,000 national and institutional mentors, as well as the establishment of a national network of mentors. Currently, more than 800 institutional mentors are active in approximately 350 schools across the country, supporting their colleagues and contributing to the improvement of educational practices.

As part of the next stage, 25 mentor trainers were prepared to support the pedagogical internships of students enrolled in university teacher education programmes. Their role is to help future teachers connect the theory learned at university with real classroom experience.

During the training, participants strengthened their competencies in areas such as lesson observation, providing feedback, professional reflection and supporting adults in the learning process. As a result, pedagogical internships can become clearer, better guided and more useful for students preparing to become teachers.



Stronger Together

EU4Culture II opens new opportunities for Moldova's cultural and creative sector

Cultural and creative organisations in the Republic of Moldova are set to benefit from new initiatives under the EU-funded EU4Culture II programme, aimed at strengthening sustainable creative ecosystems across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region.

The programme has introduced two complementary initiatives designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and long-term sector development across the cultural and creative sectors in Moldova and in EaP countries.



Photo credit: Ecaterina Soseva for Goethe-Institut

The first initiative supports the establishment of multistakeholder creative platforms – Living Labs – in two regions of Moldova, Cahul and Ungheni, with outreach to Gagauzia and Bălți. These platforms will bring together cultural organisations, creative professionals, local authorities, educational institutions, businesses and civil society actors to co-create practical solutions in the form of roadmaps for local cultural and creative development, with a primary focus on the performing arts, visual

arts, applied arts and crafts, design, and digital and new media.

The second initiative targets cultural and creative intermediary organisations, such as networks, associations, cultural hubs, incubators and support organisations, recognising their important role in connecting cultural and creative actors, facilitating cooperation and helping local creative sectors become more resilient.

Through these initiatives, EU4Culture II aims to empower local cultural actors to develop partnerships, strengthen professional capacities, and create sustainable models for cultural and creative cooperation.

Participants selected under these initiatives will benefit from capacity-building opportunities, mentorship, new partnerships, increased visibility, and stronger links with European cultural networks.

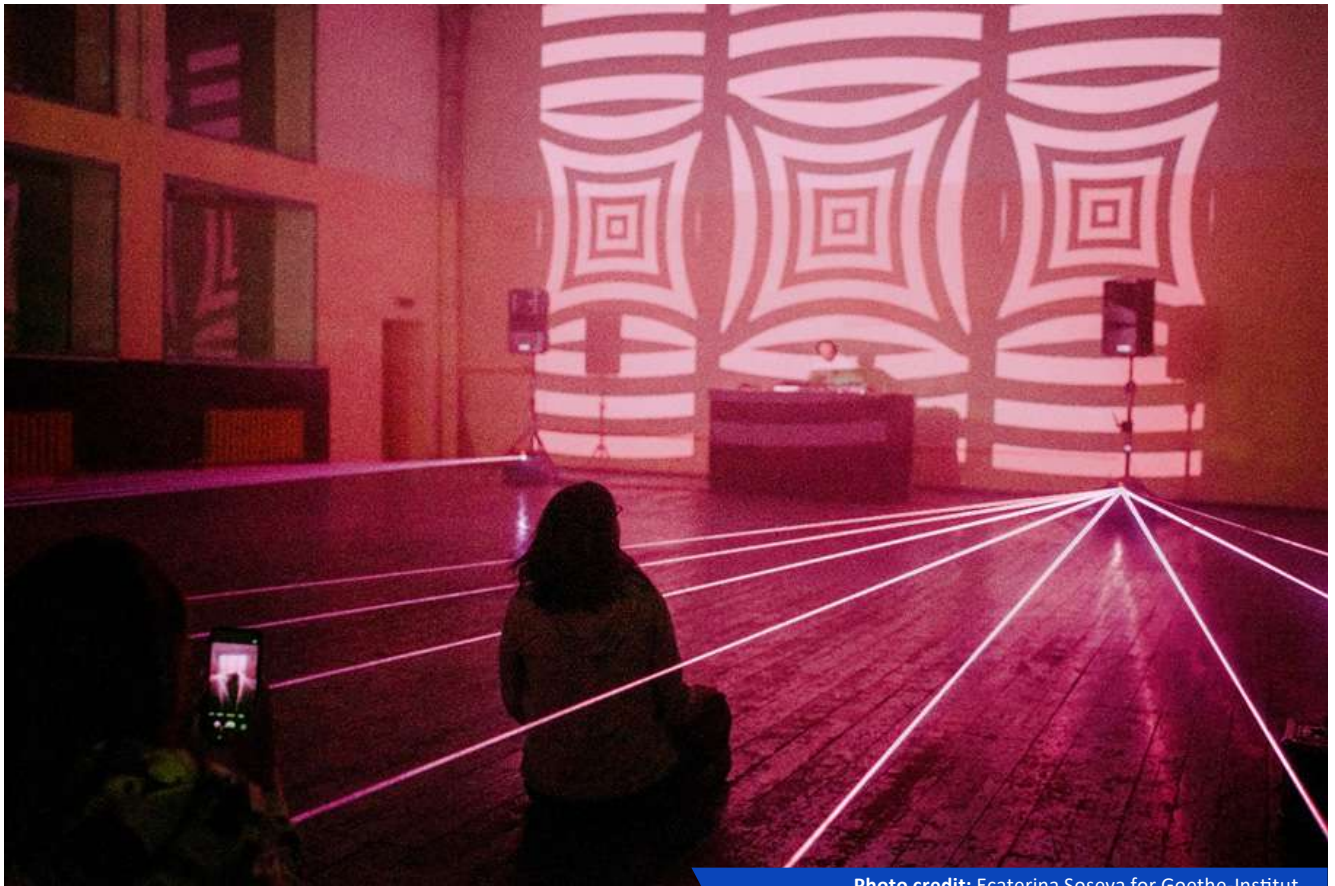


Photo credit: Ecaterina Soseva for Goethe-Institut

Funded by the European Union and implemented by the Goethe-Institut from 2025 to 2029, EU4Culture II strengthens the role of culture as a driver for economic growth, social development and resilience across the EaP region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Belarusian cultural community in exile).

Recognised as a flagship action of the European Commission's Culture Compass for Europe under the guiding principle "Enabling peace, working in partnership", the programme begins a new journey of

supporting stronger, more connected, and resilient cultural and creative sectors across the EaP region.

Further information:

- Intermediary Organisations:
<https://eu4moldova.eu/en/eu4culture-ii-open-call-for-proposals-for-cultural-creative-organisations-in-the-republic-of-moldova/>
- Living Labs:
<https://eu4moldova.eu/en/eu4culture-ii-open-call-for-proposals-for-the-establishment-of-living-labs-in-the-republic-of-moldova/>



Media Network for Human Rights and Social Cohesion: journalists strengthen collaboration for a more inclusive public discourse

On 27 May 2026, more than 30 journalists and media representatives from nine regions of Moldova, together with representatives of ethnolinguistic groups, took part in the workshop “Media Network for Human Rights and Social Cohesion”, held in Chişinău.

The workshop brought together two complementary initiatives: the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project, implemented by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace

Foundation funded by the European Union, and the “Raising Awareness of Inclusion and Social Cohesion in Moldova through the Production of Professional Human Rights-Based Media Content” project, implemented by the Human Rights Embassy in cooperation with the online media platform NewsMaker, with the support of Switzerland through the Independent Journalism Centre.



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"When it comes to social cohesion, there is always something to learn from the experiences of others. Especially as society continues to evolve and the challenges we face become increasingly numerous and diverse,"

said Ludmila Barba, participant in the event and Editor-in-Chief of Teleradio-Moldova.

Particular attention was given to the principle "Nothing about us without us," highlighting the importance of directly involving communities in the creation of media content that concerns them. Discussions emphasised the role of journalism in accurately reflecting Moldova's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity and in promoting authentic perspectives grounded in human rights and the active participation of all social groups.



Through the exchange of good practices and dialogue between journalists and representatives of ethnic communities, participants strengthened their capacity to report responsibly on sensitive issues and to develop human rights-based media

content. The workshop demonstrated that closer cooperation between the media and communities can help reduce stereotypes, improve fair representation, and foster more constructive public dialogue.



By supporting initiatives that strengthen the capacities of media professionals and foster cooperation between journalists and communities, the European Union contributes to building responsible journalism that reflects the ethnic, linguistic

and cultural diversity of society, promotes intercultural dialogue, and strengthens social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova. The activity was organised in partnership with the Human Rights Embassy Public Association.



Strengthening independent media and countering disinformation in Moldova

In May, Media-Guard organised the roundtable “Financing Public Interest Media and the European Integration Agenda”, which brought together journalists, media experts, donors, and representatives of European embassies to discuss the sustainability of independent media in Moldova. Participants addressed the growing challenges faced by public interest media, including online

harassment, SLAPP lawsuits, an unstable advertising market, and the heavy reliance on short-term donor funding. The discussion also highlighted the need for greater trust in local media organisations and more sustainable funding mechanisms that would allow independent newsrooms to focus on long-term development rather than constant survival.



On 29 June, a roundtable “False Narratives about the European Union in Gagauzia: How to Identify and Counter Them” was held in Comrat. Journalists, fact-checkers, researchers, and civil society representatives discussed how Russian propaganda and disinformation shape public perceptions of the European Union in Gagauzia.

Speakers emphasised that years of exposure to closed information ecosystems have distorted people’s understanding of reality and stressed the importance of clear, accessible communication, media literacy, and fact-checking. The event also explored practical strategies for countering false narratives ahead of the upcoming electoral period.

The roundtables were organised within the Top-down and Bottom-up Resilience-Building

in Moldova project, funded by the European Union and implemented by GLOBSEC and Ziarul de Gardă.



Strengthening dialogue and support: first national meeting of Roma community mediators

UN Human Rights has a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights for all people. Since December 2025, UN Human Rights Moldova has been successfully implementing the second phase of the EU-funded project “Strengthening the rights of

minorities in the Republic of Moldova.” One of the project’s focus areas is providing expert and technical support to the Agency for Interethnic Relations (the Agency) in strengthening its coordination mechanism with Roma community mediators.



On March 23, the Agency, with the support of UN Human Rights, organised the first national meeting of Roma community mediators. The gathering marked the launch of a regular platform designed to bring Roma community mediators and the Agency together to exchange experiences, raise field-level challenges, and receive timely institutional support.

During the meeting, several systemic challenges were raised. Mediators noted insufficient coordination between them and public institutions at both local and national

levels. While mediators are expected to bridge communities and institutions, they often lack formal channels of communication and inclusion in sectoral processes. Roma community mediators stressed the need to be systematically involved in meetings and information flows related to education, social protection, employment, and law enforcement at local and national levels. This lack of coordination results in limited access of mediators to up-to-date information from central authorities, particularly regarding legislative changes and opportunities within social programmes.

Budulai Miscoi, a community mediator from Bălți, underscored both the value and expectations of the new platform:

"This platform should not only allow us to voice problems, but also unite mediators and ensure that our voice is heard both locally and at the government level."

According to the Agency's plan, such meetings will be held on a quarterly basis and will address the coordination needs of mediators, who play a crucial role in facilitating access to education, healthcare, employment, social and other public services for Roma communities.



Dialogue for inclusion: EU4Youth and ANOFM promote Roma access to the labour market

In the context of International Roma Day, the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) held a roundtable discussion titled “Inclusion through Work – Opportunities and Solutions for the Integration of Roma into the

Labour Market”. The event brought together representatives of public institutions, civil society, and community mediators to discuss practical solutions for improving the labour market integration of Roma communities.



During the discussions, participants explored opportunities to strengthen cooperation between institutions, expand access to employment services and vocational training, and address persistent barriers such as discrimination, limited access to information, and challenges in the field of education. Igor Ciurea, a national consultant

for the EU4Youth programme, highlighted the project's ongoing commitment to promoting inclusive employment policies and supporting partnerships that improve economic opportunities for Roma communities in Moldova.

Details: <https://www.anofm.md/index.php/ro/node/21255>

“Păcii” and “Prieteniei” streets from Coșnița, Dubăsari district, are becoming models of local infrastructure, with support from the EU

Two streets in the village of Coșnița, Dubăsari district, are becoming models of local infrastructure. With support from the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, implemented by UNDP, sidewalks covering a total area of over 2,160 m² have been modernised and upgraded. The infrastructure project is the result of a joint financial effort,

with the European Union allocating over EUR 94,700, while the local community provided co-financing of circa EUR 15,340.

Now, the approximately 6,000 residents, as well as visitors of Coșnița village, enjoy not only the comfort but also the safety provided by the local infrastructure.



Photo: UNDP Moldova

“I live on Prieteniei Street, and we had problems because when the children went to school, they couldn’t walk on the sidewalk; they had to walk in the middle of the road. But that was a problem because cars drive fast. Now we have a sidewalk, and it’s nice, it’s for people,”

says with joy Elena, a resident of the Coșnița village.

Since the spring of 2024, the village of Coșnița, along with 11 other communities on both banks of the Nistru, has been involved in a participatory process to define development priorities. In their case, the priority was the modernisation of the two streets. It was also decided to raise funds, including from the diaspora, to develop the green space on “Prieteniei” Street in the village of Coșnița



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With the money collected by the local community and a contribution from the town hall, 126 trees of three varieties were purchased: Canadian redbud, maple, and catalpa.

"We are absolutely delighted to have had the opportunity to contribute and be part of an initiative that leaves something good and valuable for the people and future generations of the Cosnița community. For our family, our involvement in this campaign stemmed from our love and respect for the place we call home, and the results fill us with pride and gratitude."

We thank everyone involved and those who contributed, including financially, to make this beautiful project a reality for our community,"

says Inga Cotelea, a native of the village of Cosnița who now lives in the U.S.

One of the six infrastructure projects on both banks of the Nistru River selected to receive support from the EU and UNDP was implemented in Coșnița.

Thus, the European Union and UNDP continue to support improved cooperation between communities on both banks of the Nistru River through joint projects involving local partners, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjRkXcSI7g>



Inclusive communities for parents and children: 24 civil society organisations supported by the European Union



Several communities in the Republic of Moldova will benefit from integrated local services that will facilitate access for parents in vulnerable situations to employment opportunities and early childhood care services. This will be possible thanks to the 24 grants awarded to civil society organisations under the project “Enhanced local employment opportunities and access to nurseries for parents in vulnerable situations”, funded by the European Union, co-financed and implemented by the Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with Keystone Moldova PI and Expert-Grup AO. The grants, worth up to EUR 60,000 each, will support the development of local services tailored to the needs of parents and children in the beneficiary communities.

Through these grants, the beneficiary organisations will develop integrated local services designed to respond to the needs of parents – especially those in vulnerable situations – by facilitating access to employment opportunities and creating or expanding early childhood care services, including nurseries and other community-based services for children aged between 4 months and 3 years. In addition to developing infrastructure and services, the projects will provide professional counselling, career guidance and emotional support, contributing to building more inclusive communities and reducing social exclusion.



During the grant certificate award ceremony, Frederik Coene, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, highlighted the tangible impact of the investment:

"What we are launching today is very concrete. Through this initiative, we are contributing to the creation of real opportunities for parents, especially those in vulnerable situations – opportunities to work, support their families and build a better future."

Access to childcare services is essential, as it is both a social and economic issue. When parents, and especially mothers, can participate in the labour market, society as a whole benefits."

The project has a total budget of EUR 3,157,895, of which EUR 3,000,000 is funded by the European Union, while EUR 157,895 represents the contribution of the Soros Foundation Moldova. Over the 36 months of implementation, the initiative aims to support at least 600 parents in vulnerable situations and contribute to the creation of 24 local early childhood care services, facilitating their participation in the labour market and reducing social exclusion.



One hundred and twenty adults with disabilities in residential care will have access to community living

The process of social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova is becoming stronger, thanks to the support of the European Union and the direct involvement of central authorities and civil society. Non-governmental organisations will contribute to this process by developing 47 community-based social services – supported living services and family placements for adults. These services will enable at least one hundred and twenty adults with disabilities to leave the residential system and enjoy life in the community.

On 25 June 2026, in Chişinău, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Keystone Moldova, and the Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities from Moldova signed a Cooperation Agreement. The document lays down the framework for cooperation in carrying out several key interventions that will ensure the safe transition of people with disabilities from residential care to new community services.



Agreement took place within the “Inclusive Moldova: Communities for All” project, financed by the European Union, and implemented by Keystone Moldova in

partnership with the Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities from Moldova and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



EU, UNICEF and the UN Human Rights Office join efforts to support access to education for Roma children and refugee children

Hundreds of children in the Republic of Moldova continue to remain out of school, not because they lack potential, but because existing mechanisms do not always manage to respond to their realities and needs. Roma children and refugee children are among those most at risk of being left out of education.

To respond to this situation, a new European Union-funded initiative, “Strengthening Moldova’s Education System for the Most

Disadvantaged Children”, has been launched. The initiative is co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Human Rights Office in Moldova, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova. The project aims to strengthen the education system so that it can better respond to the needs of children who are still being left behind.



By mid-2027, the project will integrate the Accelerated Learning Programme into the national system, a flexible approach that helps out-of-school children recover basic competencies and return to formal education. It will also pilot a human rights-based approach in education, so that

the seven pilot schools become human rights-friendly schools, where every child is accepted and their full potential is valued. In addition, a coordinated data collection and monitoring mechanism will be developed to more effectively track school participation and prevent dropout.



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These interventions respond to persistent barriers that particularly affect Roma children: poverty, low literacy levels among parents, long-term marginalisation and situations in which children are required to contribute to the family income, leading them to leave school early.

Seven educational institutions will pilot the Accelerated Learning Programme and the “Human Rights-Friendly Schools” approach, integrating the principles of equality, participation and non-discrimination into the school culture.



“Ensuring equitable access to quality education for every child, leaving no one behind, is not optional, but an essential requirement for any modern and inclusive society, especially for European Union member states and for countries aspiring to join the European Union, which is, above all, a union of values. Education is not only about knowledge. It is about equal opportunities, dignity and equity. An education system fulfils its mission only

when it manages to respond to the needs of those facing the greatest barriers: children from low-income families, children with disabilities, children from minority communities and other children at risk of exclusion,”

**said Julda Kielyte, Team Leader,
Economic Growth and Competitiveness,
Delegation of the European Union to the
Republic of Moldova.**



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The project will be piloted in the following educational institutions:

- PI Gymnasium "Ivan Bondarev", Basarabeasca
- PI Lyceum "Vasile Alecsandri", Călărași

- PI Gymnasium "Grigore Vieru", Edineț
- PI Lyceum "Mircea Eliade", Nisporeni
- PI Lyceum "Mihai Eminescu", Otaci
- PI Lyceum "Dimitrie Cantemir", Rîșcani
- PI Lyceum "Aleksandr Pușkin", Soroca



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Community Committees: support begins with people, with EU support

For people arriving in a new country, knowing where to find support, what services are available, and who to turn to can be the key to a smooth integration. In Moldova, the Community Committees established through the Cities and Regions for All (CR4A) project offer exactly this kind of support: clear information, space for dialogue, and opportunities for active participation in community life.

Implemented by the Prague 5 Municipal Authority and People in Need, with the support of the European Union, the project strengthens the integration of refugees and migrants through accessible public services, stronger institutional cooperation, and the engagement of local communities.



Currently, four Community Committees are active in Chișinău, Bălți, and Cahul, bringing together 40 members who participate in thematic sessions focused on access to services, rights, protection, and community integration for refugees and migrants. These meetings are spaces where participants build knowledge, exchange experiences, and solve everyday challenges.

For Svetlana, a participant in one of the committees, involvement quickly became more than a volunteering opportunity.

"I came to Chișinău in 2023 with my daughter. She started school here. Moldova has become our second home."

Participating in the sessions gave her useful information and the feeling that she could contribute to the well-being of others.

"When we moved here, I had a lot of free time and saw an opportunity to take part in social initiatives. This has been very useful both for me and for the people around me, whom I can now support with advice or even by sharing a phone number they can call for help."

This approach, where community members themselves become sources of information and support, is a core element of the initiative.

The first ten sessions provide participants with information on safety, human rights, protection mechanisms, and services available in Moldova. In the next stage, committee members will organise information sessions within their communities, helping extend access to practical information for others facing similar circumstances.

Cooperation with public institutions is an essential part of this process. Specialists from different sectors contribute to thematic sessions; they offer practical guidance and clarify how existing services can be accessed.

For Elena, a member of one of the Community Committees, this session offered information with immediate relevance to her daily life.

"Today I learned something very important for parents of children with disabilities: where they can seek support. I learned the names of organisations and where they are located. This is very important."

The project "Cities and Regions for All (CR4A): Full Integration of Refugees and Migrants in Urban and Rural Areas" is co-funded by the European Union and contracted by ICMPD through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF). It is implemented by Prague 5 Municipal District and People in Need.



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Integration of refugees and migrants through accessible services and local collaboration

In Bălți, more than 3,000 refugees have found their place in the community and are building new lives. To foster their integration they need access to education, jobs, social and healthcare services, and an environment that supports and encourages them.

The Cartera-developed CUIB Parenting Support and Education Centre plays an

important role in this process. Here, dozens of people attend Romanian language courses, while some also build their skills through English classes or IT training. At the same time, people here receive psychological counselling and support in developing parenting skills.



"Since December, we have been implementing a project to support the social and educational integration of refugees and migrants in Bălți. We provide IT courses, Romanian and English language classes, and we have a lawyer, two psychologists,

and a positive parenting specialist working with beneficiaries,"

says Doina Petreanu, Project Coordinator and Manager of the CUIB Centre.

For many who arrived in the Republic of Moldova, the adaptation process comes with deep emotional challenges. In this context, psychological support is essential. The centre uses modern methods, such as VR-assisted therapy, which helps manage emotions and overcome fears.

"From the very beginning, refugees approached us with difficulties related to adaptation. Many live with various fears. One of the therapy methods we use is VR-based; it helps them overcome these states,"

explains Ana Duminica, psychologist at the centre.



The impact of these interventions is reflected in the experiences of beneficiaries. "Here, in a foreign country, we miss our relatives, we feel anxiety, we want to bring peace to our families – and the use of VR glasses helps us a lot,"

says Tatiana Slavova, a visitor to the centre.

For others, integration also means continuing their professional and personal journey.

"I am a master of sports in rowing, a world and European champion. I started practising arm wrestling, and last year I participated in a championship in Romania, where I represented the Republic of Moldova. If I want to compete, I need to speak Romanian,"

shares Vladimir Tarasenko, an athlete who visits the centre.

At the local level, efforts are supported by active collaboration between public authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs). In Bălţi, six civil society organisations directly contribute to the integration of refugees and migrants by providing tailored services and opportunities.

At the national level, 15 CSOs have received grants to implement integration and inclusion initiatives. These contribute to improving access to essential services,

strengthening institutional capacities, promoting good governance, protecting rights, and developing inclusion activities such as educational hubs and mentorship programmes.

The project “Cities and Regions for All (CR4A): Full Integration of Refugees and Migrants in Urban and Rural Areas” is co-funded by the European Union and contracted by ICMPD through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF). It is implemented by Prague 5 Municipal District and People in Need.



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Stronger Together

A European Moldova starts in local communities: launch of the “ActEU for Moldova – Activating Communities for EU Integration” project

Moldova can move closer to the European Union through the active engagement of its citizens and the development of strong local communities. From civic initiatives and dialogue with public authorities to projects that respond to people’s needs, meaningful change begins at home.

This is the main objective of the “ActEU for Moldova – Activating Communities for European Integration” project, launched by People in Need Moldova in partnership with the National Rural Development Network

LEADER (NRDLN) and EcoVisio, with financial support from the European Union.

The launch event brought together representatives of the 10 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and 10 civil society organisations selected to participate in the project. Participants were introduced to the project’s objectives and planned activities, discussed the upcoming implementation stages, and laid the foundation for a collaborative effort to strengthen civic participation and local development across the country.



The following Local Action Groups were selected under the project: 33 Vaduri, Movila Măgura, Lunca Răutului, Trei Coline, Drumul

Vechi Moldovenesc, Cișmeaua Sudului, Colinele Tigheciului, EcoPyretus, Gagauz Korafłari, and Lunca Prutului de Jos.

The project also brings together 10 civil society organisations: Clinica Juridică Bălţi, Clinica Juridică Comrat, A.O. „Genesis”, Centrul de Asistență Socială „Casa Speranțelor”, A.O. „ActiveWomen”, Femei pentru Femei / Women 4 Women, AFAD, Asociația pentru Inițiative Durabile, Rețeaua Națională a Consiliilor Locale ale Tinerilor din Moldova, and Asociația de Dezvoltare Durabilă „Generația Pro”.

Throughout 2026–2028, the project will support the development and strengthening of civil society organisations and Local Action Groups through organisational assessments, mentoring, and grants dedicated to community-led initiatives.

The project will also encourage civic engagement and facilitate dialogue between civil society and public authorities, contributing to the development of more resilient, inclusive, and better-prepared communities capable of addressing local challenges.

Implemented by a consortium consisting of People in Need Moldova, the National Rural Development Network LEADER (NRDLN) and EcoVisio, the project contributes to the implementation of the EU–Republic of Moldova Association Agenda 2021–2027. Through its activities, it promotes inclusive local development, democratic participation, gender equality, social inclusion, climate resilience, and environmental protection, thereby supporting the Republic of Moldova’s European integration process.

This material was produced within the framework of the “ActEU for Moldova – Activating Communities for EU Integration” project, funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of People in Need Moldova and its partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



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EUPM Moldova: Involving citizens for a resilient, European Moldova

On 9 May, EUPM Moldova joined thousands of visitors in Chişinău to celebrate Europe

Day, taking part in the European Village alongside Team Europe partners.



The event provided an opportunity to engage directly with citizens and highlight the European Union's continued commitment to supporting the Republic of Moldova's security, resilience and European future.

Visitors to the stand also took part in an interactive activity centred on the values that make Moldova truly resilient.

They expressed what resilience means to them by adding their own reflections to a collaborative installation, and highlighted the importance of strong democratic institutions, cooperation and mutual support in overcoming crises and challenges.



Together we make Moldova more resilient, safer, and united!



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

How do you turn a game into a learning experience? The principles behind high-quality extracurricular activities

“What is the educational objective of this game?” This question was at the heart of an intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) programme organised by Terre des hommes Moldova between 22 and 26 June. The training brought together 20 representatives from the 10 organisations awarded sub-grants under the EU-funded project “BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time”. The programme was delivered in Chişinău by Karine Minidré, a French specialist in educational play and training engineering.

Over five days, participants explored methods for transforming extracurricular activities into meaningful learning experiences with a clear educational purpose. The programme covered topics such as educational values, child development, activity design, psychosocial skills, leadership, and the use of play as a learning tool.



The training prepared a new group of trainers who will, in the next phase of the project, train professionals involved in the local BOOST initiatives.

Through this multiplier effect, the methods and tools introduced during the programme will reach those working directly with children and young people.



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It all starts with educational intention

For Karine Minidré, the most important competency of a trainer is being aware of the educational intention behind every activity.

"The most important competency, in my view, is being aware of our educational intention. We need to know why we are there and what we want to convey. What do we want children to develop? Greater autonomy? Confidence? Their personality? Everything starts with that awareness."

In this approach, learning is not simply about transferring methods. It is about creating environments where participants experiment, reflect and learn, including through failure.

"Failure is a very interesting way to learn. We need to accept losing. We might even become enthusiastic about failure, because it is a very, very good way of learning."



Putting children's best interests first

Participants say that one of the most valuable lessons of the training was changing the way they think about extracurricular activities. The focus is not on the game itself, but on its educational purpose and on the benefit it brings to the child.

"The child's best interests must be at the heart of every activity, every concept, every game and every action,"

**says Elena Lupan, Project Assistant
within the School After School initiative
in Orhei.**

She believes that one of the most valuable aspects of the training was learning to look beyond the game itself and identify the educational outcome it is designed to achieve.

"Even the simplest game should be designed around its educational objective and what we want children to gain from that experience."



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From training to extracurricular activities

In the coming months, the 20 trainers will deliver training sessions for professionals involved in the 10 local initiatives supported through the BOOST project. The methods and principles explored during the programme will therefore reach communities and contribute to the development of extracurricular activities where play is not an end in itself, but a tool through which children learn, grow and build confidence.

About the BOOST project

The project “BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time” is funded by the European Union and implemented between 2025 and 2028 by Terre des hommes Moldova, in partnership with the Alliance of NGOs Active in the Field of Social Protection of Children and Families (APSCF) 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.



How a Play Hub transformed children's free time in Grădinița village

After the village school closed in 2025, around 50 children from Grădinița began travelling every day to attend school in neighbouring villages. When they returned home, they no longer had a place to meet, learn or simply spend time together.

On International Children's Day, that changed. A new Play Hub (Ludoteca) was officially opened in Grădinița by Amici dei Bambini Moldova – a vibrant, child-friendly space where children can learn through play, take part in creative workshops, sports activities and personal development programmes.



On opening day, children eagerly explored every corner of the new space, discovered the games and immediately joined the activities prepared for them. For many, it was the first place in the village created especially for children. Some even said they would come back every afternoon.

The Play Hub responds to a real need within the community, but its purpose goes far beyond providing a place to play. It offers children a safe environment where they can learn, build friendships and develop social and emotional skills through non-formal education activities. At the same time, the initiative encourages young people to become more actively involved in community life and strengthens their civic engagement.



Around 50 children from Grădinița will directly benefit from the activities organised at the Play Hub. Through the Ludobus mobile service, play-based educational activities

will also reach approximately 300 additional children in the neighbouring villages of Plop-Știubei and Copanca, extending the initiative's impact across the area.



The Play Hub is one of ten local initiatives supported through the project “BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time”, funded by the European Union and implemented by Terre des hommes Moldova in partnership with the Alliance of NGOs Active in the Field of Social Protection of Children and Families (APSCF)

and Junior Achievement Moldova. Through funding, mentoring and capacity building, the project supports local organisations in developing extracurricular activities that provide children with opportunities for learning, personal development and active participation in their communities.



A safety lesson for children told through theatre

How do you teach children to recognise danger, ask for help and respond appropriately in risky situations? Children learn best when they are actively engaged. Through play, storytelling and interactive experiences, even complex topics such as safety and self-protection become easier to understand and remember.

This was the idea behind the educational theatre performance “The Little Town in the Meadow”, staged at the “Vasile Alecsandri” National Theatre in Bălţi on 21 May. The premiere brought together around 540 children from the municipality of Bălţi and the districts of Rîșcani, Făleşti, Glodeni and Sîngerei.



Through theatre, music and interactive moments, the bear Mishu, the rabbit Tsup and the squirrel Ritsa guided children through situations they may encounter in everyday life, including the dangers of heights, water safety, the risks of playing with matches, the

importance of adult supervision and the role of emergency services. Safety messages were woven into the story, making them easier for children to understand, remember and apply.



The children's response was enthusiastic. They actively participated throughout the performance, answered the characters' questions and eagerly interacted with them, demonstrating how engaged they were with the messages. At the end of the show, many children said they would like to see more performances like this, helping them learn through play and storytelling.

The experience continued beyond the theatre stage. Specialists from the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations introduced children to emergency vehicles and rescue equipment and spoke with them about simple measures that can help protect their lives and health.



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The performance marked the beginning of the activities implemented under the “WINGS – Empowerment for Resilience, Inclusion, Parenting and Learning” initiative, led by CASMED. In the coming months, the messages introduced through the performance will be reinforced through practical safety sessions, educational materials for children, activities for parents and training for local professionals.

The initiative is one of ten supported through the project “BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time”, funded by the European Union and implemented by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation in partnership with the Alliance of NGOs Active in the Field of Social Protection of Children and Families (APSCF) and Junior Achievement Moldova.



Civil society leaders and international partners gather in Chişinău to strengthen democratic resilience and civic space

From 19 to 21 May 2026, over 100 representatives of civil society organisations, international institutions, donor organisations, experts, and practitioners from the Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans,

Central Europe, and beyond gathered in Chişinău for the high-level convening “CSO Meter is Uniting for Change: Shaping the Future of Civil Society – Monitoring in a Changing World.”



The event was organised by the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) and the Promo-LEX Association within the framework of the EU-funded “CSO Meter: Empowered for Action” project and as part of ECNL’s “Uniting for Change” initiative. The three-day convening included a high-level public conference and a closed strategic workshop dedicated to civil society monitors and partners working in challenging and restrictive environments. The event provided an important platform for dialogue, solidarity, and strategic reflection at a time when civic space and democratic freedoms are facing growing pressures across the region.

Participants discussed democratic backsliding, authoritarian trends, disinformation, foreign interference, shrinking civic space, funding insecurity, and increasing pressure on independent media and civic actors. Discussions highlighted the uneven democratic challenges in the Eastern Partnership region, where Moldova and Ukraine continue pursuing reform-oriented and European integration paths under difficult conditions, while civil society actors in Belarus, Azerbaijan and Georgia operate under severe restrictions, including from exile or highly constrained environments.

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Throughout the conference, participants explored innovative approaches to strengthening civil society resilience and preparedness, including improved monitoring methodologies, digital tools and emerging technologies, cross-sector alliances, sustainable support for civil society organisations, and practical responses to evolving restrictions and hybrid threats. Particular attention was given to monitoring initiatives such as the CSO Meter and their role in transforming evidence into action.

The strategic workshop created a safe space for in-depth exchange and collaborative planning among civil society monitors and partners. Participants discussed ways to strengthen coordination in an increasingly restrictive regional environment, explored future scenarios affecting civic space, and examined more effective responses to emerging challenges, including through early warning systems, foresight methodologies, digital technologies and artificial intelligence.



Special attention was given to developments in the Republic of Moldova. Participants noted that Moldova continues to maintain a comparatively open environment for civil society and remains committed to its European integration agenda. At the same time, concerns were raised regarding hostile narratives targeting organisations receiving foreign support, disinformation, and the need to ensure that responses to hybrid threats fully respect human rights and democratic standards.

Participants welcomed ongoing reform initiatives in Moldova, including efforts to modernise public participation mechanisms and introduce anti-SLAPP protections for journalists, activists, and civil society organisations.

The convening concluded with a call for continued regional cooperation, sustained investment in civil society, and stronger collective preparedness to address emerging challenges affecting civic space and democracy.

The event was organised within the framework of the Action "CSO Meter: Empowered for Action", funded by the European Union. The project is implemented by ECNL together with its partners: Transparency International Anticorruption Center in Armenia, Promo-LEX Association in Moldova, and ISAR Ednannia in Ukraine. The event was co-financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Republic of Moldova, the Soros Foundation Moldova, the Swiss Cooperation Office in the Republic of Moldova, and The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through GIZ.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

EU Twinning project strengthens Moldova's migration management capacities through practical learning and EU expertise

As part of the EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of migration management and asylum legislation in line with the EU

acquis”, a series of study visits and expert workshops were organised in May and June 2026 to enhance the institutional and operational capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM).



EU-Moldova

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A study visit to the Swedish Migration Agency provided IGM representatives with first-hand insight into EU Member State practices in reception management, migration forecasting, crisis preparedness, implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the legal stay and integration of foreigners. Participants also visited reception, return and detention facilities, gaining practical knowledge of operational procedures and inter-institutional coordination.

Another study visit to Romania, held in Timișoara and Arad, enabled Moldovan officials to exchange experience with the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration on asylum procedures, international protection, return management,

public custody, humanitarian cooperation and the management of mixed migration flows. The programme showcased European standards and best practices in reception, protection of vulnerable persons and operational cooperation across migration and asylum systems.

Complementing these practical exchanges, the Twinning Project also delivered two specialised workshops with experts from Sweden, Romania and Greece. The first workshop focused on transitional measures for the gradual phase-out of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine, exploring pathways towards alternative legal statuses, voluntary return and reintegration, and effective information provision in line with the EU acquis.



The second workshop strengthened participants' understanding of EU visa management by examining the European legal framework, national practices and harmonisation requirements, providing both theoretical and practical perspectives on visa procedures across EU Member States.

Through these activities, the Twinning Project continues to strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration, foster cooperation with EU Member States, and support Moldova's progressive alignment with European migration and asylum standards.

Strengthening Border Police capacities for a safer border

The Border Police of the Republic of Moldova is strengthening its operational capacities through training sessions held between April and May 2026, under the EU4Borders Security – Moldova project, funded by the European Union.

The first activity, held on 28–29 April, was dedicated to assessing vulnerabilities at the border, an essential element for identifying and managing risks, as well as for the

adequate protection of people in vulnerable situations. During the “training of trainers” session, 12 Border Police officers were trained in the use of modern methodologies, risk analysis and the application of practical scenarios. This approach will make it possible to extend the training to a larger number of staff, contributing to the development of sustainable institutional capacity.



Continuing these efforts, on 6–7 May 2026 a new training session focused on identifying victims of human trafficking, bringing together border police officers and representatives of other law enforcement institutions.

The training, delivered by experts from the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Poland, addressed the methods used by criminal networks, indicators for identifying victims and European good practices in intervention and protection.

The EU4Borders Security – Moldova project continues to support the development of institutional capacities and cooperation in the field of border security.

The EU4Borders Security – Moldova project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) of Lithuania, the Solidarity Fund PL and the International Organization for Migration.



Moldova advances preparations for Schengen standards and the EU Entry/Exit system

The Republic of Moldova is advancing its alignment with EU border management standards through an expert mission under the EU4Borders Security – Moldova project. During assessments carried out on 25 May at Chişinău International Airport and on 28

May at the Costeşti–Stânca Border Crossing Point, border control infrastructure and equipment were evaluated against Schengen requirements, supporting preparations for the future implementation of the EU Entry/Exit system.



The mission provided recommendations to strengthen border management infrastructure and operational procedures, contributing to Moldova's ongoing efforts to modernise its border management system in line with the Schengen *acquis* and EU best practices.



Joint EU–IOM initiative supports displaced people and strengthens national migration and border management capacities

IOM, in partnership with the European Union and national authorities, highlighted key achievements under the EU-funded project “Supporting Protection, Transit, Voluntary and Informed Return and Reintegration

of Eastern Partnership citizens and third-country nationals affected by the conflict in Ukraine” during the final Steering Committee meeting and the official handover of the Otaci Border Police Sector.



The project supported refugees and third-country nationals with protection services, health assistance, and safe mobility solutions, while reinforcing national capacities through training, modern equipment, and upgraded infrastructure. More than 30,000 people received information, counselling, and

referral services; over 2,000 refugees were safely relocated to 16 European countries under the EU+ Air Transfer Programme, and more than 3,000 third-country nationals were assisted with voluntary humanitarian return to their countries of origin.

A major milestone is the reconstruction of the Otaci Border Police Sector, enhancing operational readiness and improving

services at one of the Republic of Moldova's busiest border crossing points.



Watch the [video](#) about the reconstruction of the Otaci Border Police Sector.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Protecting people on the move through safe and dignified pathways

Behind every journey is a person seeking safety, stability, and a chance to move forward.

Through the EU-funded project “Supporting Protection, Transit, Voluntary and Informed

Return and Reintegration of Eastern Partnership citizens and third-country nationals affected by the conflict in Ukraine”, IOM Moldova supported thousands of people on the move.



More than 2,000 refugees were safely relocated to 16 European countries through the EU+ Air Transfer Programme, while over 3,000 third-country nationals received

assistance to voluntarily return to their countries of origin.

Watch the [video](#).

Finding stability away from home: Victoria's journey

When Victoria fled Ukraine with her two daughters, she believed they would only be away from home for a short time.

Almost three years later, she is still hoping for the day she can return. Until then, a small

rented house in Moldova has become a place where her family feels safe, her daughters can grow and learn, and life can slowly begin to feel normal again.



"Home is peace. It is family gathered around the table, knowing that nothing is flying above your head,"

Victoria says.

Thanks to the generous support of the European Union, IOM is offering rental assistance for 100 vulnerable families who have fled the full-scale war in Ukraine and

are now living on the Left Bank of the Nistru River. This aid helps them maintain stability and safety during these challenging times.

[Read the full story.](#) Watch the [video](#).



EU-Moldova

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Handover of equipment and digital solutions provided by the European Union

EU-funded software and equipment donated by IOM at Palanca Border Crossing Point to strengthen border management



EU-funded software and equipment were handed over to the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova to strengthen border management and improve operational efficiency. The support includes upgrades to the Frontiera Information System, an autonomous energy system at the Palanca

Border Crossing Point, and outdoor LED information displays installed at the Palanca, Leușeni, and Sculeni border crossing points. Implemented by IOM Moldova, the initiative contributes to more efficient, resilient, and protection-sensitive border management.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Modernising customs infrastructure through digital solutions

IOM Moldova handed over EU-funded server storage equipment to the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, strengthening the institution's technical infrastructure and its capacity to securely manage and process operational data.

The new equipment supports the modernisation of customs procedures and the gradual implementation of EU customs information systems, contributing to more resilient, efficient, and digital public services.



Ensuring access to protection and assistance for vulnerable refugees in Moldova

Access to information, access to support

Timely and reliable information helps people access the assistance they need. Through the EU-supported initiative “Addressing the Urgent Humanitarian Needs of Vulnerable Refugees and Third-Country Nationals in the Republic of Moldova”, Ukrainians and migrants on the Left Bank of the

Nistru River received updates on available assistance, including the Multi-purpose Cash Assistance programme, protection services, mental health and psychosocial support, and feedback mechanisms. The initiative continues to help vulnerable people make informed decisions and connect with essential services.



A mother rebuilding life for children after the war

A mother rebuilding her life and securing a safer future for her children.

"I felt relief... for the first time, we could breathe a little,"

says Iryna, who fled Ukraine with her four children.

Arriving in Tiraspol with very limited resources, Iryna was determined to rebuild her family's life. Today, with financial support from the European Union, she is gradually restoring stability and helping ensure her children can live in safety and dignity.



Through the IOM Moldova multi-purpose cash assistance, families like Iryna's are able to meet urgent basic needs while taking the first steps towards recovery and self-reliance. This support provides vulnerable households with flexible, timely assistance to address their most pressing priorities in a dignified manner.

[Read the full story.](#)

Tailored support helps vulnerable people regain independence

Through the EU-funded programme, IOM Moldova continues to provide tailored assistance to vulnerable refugees and migrants, helping them overcome daily challenges and access essential support.



Among those supported is Yevhen, a 77-year-old refugee from Ukraine who received a wheelchair that helps him move more safely and maintain greater independence in everyday life. Since the beginning of

2026, IOM's Protection Mobile Teams have provided cash, accommodation, and in-kind assistance to hundreds of people in need, ensuring access to protection and essential services.



EU-funded rental assistance helps families find stability

Safe housing is a critical first step towards recovery. With the support of the European Union, 100 vulnerable refugee families on the Left Bank of the Nistru River are receiving monthly rental assistance, helping them access safe and adequate accommodation while rebuilding their lives. Regular post-assistance monitoring ensures the support reaches those most in need and helps strengthen the quality and accountability of the programme.





Co-funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



GRIGORIOPOL

Valeria, from Ukraine

“I came to the Left Bank in 2022 with my children, looking for safety. I have to take care of them, but my salary is too low. That’s why the money I receive to pay for our apartment is crucial right now.”



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

A ray of sunshine in the midst of war

"We had to move apartments twice, which was a lot of work for us. Our utility bills nearly tripled, so having this support to live here makes a huge difference. It may be an old apartment, but we feel a good energy here,"

says Olga, a Ukrainian refugee who received rental assistance from IOM Moldova through a project co-funded by the European Union.



Thanks to the generous support of the European Union, IOM is offering rental assistance from January to June 2026 for 100 vulnerable families who have fled the full-scale war in Ukraine and are now living on the Left Bank of the Nistru River. This aid helps them maintain stability and safety during these challenging times.

[Read Olga's story.](#)
Watch the [video.](#)



Stronger Together

EU Support Helps Strengthen Medical Assistance for Refugees on the Move

With the support of the European Union, IOM Moldova continues to strengthen the capacity of medical escort teams assisting refugees with severe health conditions. Through accredited Basic Life Support training, medical escorts are better equipped to respond to medical emergencies and

provide safe, dignified, and patient-centred care during travel. Since the start of the humanitarian response, 394 people with complex medical needs have received specialised support throughout their displacement, thanks to the dedication of 164 trained medical escorts.



Promoting Safe and Respectful Public Institutions

Creating safe and inclusive workplaces is essential to delivering quality public services. With support from the European Union, IOM Moldova delivered a training for specialists from the Customs Service of the Republic of

Moldova on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, gender-based violence, and workplace discrimination. The training reinforced professional standards, accountability, and reporting mechanisms, contributing to a more respectful and inclusive institutional environment.



Stronger Together

Strengthening civil society engagement in EU reforms

Nine civil society organisations have been selected to support Home Affairs reforms in the Republic of Moldova under the EU accession process.

Through the EU-funded **EU-CSOs4MIA** project, the organisations will strengthen their capacities and collaborate with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, contributing to

transparent, inclusive, and citizen-focused reforms. Implemented by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), the initiative supports stronger cooperation between civil society and public institutions on Moldova's path towards European integration.



Solidarity Cup 2026 brought together sport, teamwork, and cooperation

The Solidarity Cup 2026 brought together 20 football teams to promote teamwork,

cooperation, and solidarity among institutions.



Organised by the General Inspectorate of the Border Police with the support of the Moldovan Federation of Football and IOM Moldova, and funded by the European Union, the event provided an opportunity to

strengthen professional connections beyond formal settings. The competition highlighted the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, resilience, and respect, bringing participants together in a spirit of unity and cooperation.



Stronger Together

CEPOL supports Moldova's engagement in EU civilian crisis management

Law enforcement officials strengthened their understanding of European Union civilian crisis management and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions during a training activity organised by CEPOL. The activity, which took place in Chişinău from 11 to 15 May 2026 under the [EU4Security Moldova project](#), aimed to enhance participants' preparedness to operate in multinational mission environments and support Moldova's engagement with EU civilian crisis management initiatives.

Co-organised with the European Union Partnership Mission (EUPM) in Moldova, the programme focused on the practical functioning of EU crisis management structures and CSDP missions, including coordination mechanisms and cooperation in complex operational environments. Participants also explored the institutional framework of EU crisis management and the role of key European and international actors involved in civilian missions.



During the week, participants visited the EUPM Moldova facilities, gaining direct insight into the work of an EU civilian mission operating on the ground. Exchanges with mission representatives provided an opportunity to better understand the operational realities and interinstitutional coordination.

The activity brought together expertise from the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management and from various EU Member States, supporting the exchange of experiences and best practices related to civilian crisis management missions.



CEPOL strengthens leadership capacities across Moldova's law enforcement institutions

Senior law enforcement officials from the Republic of Moldova worked on strengthening their leadership capabilities during the latest training activity organised

by CEPOL, under the EU4Security Moldova project. Held in Chişinău from 22 to 26 June 2026, the activity brought together officials in managerial roles from the Ministry of Internal Affairs units.



Additionally, the activity provided a platform for strengthening cooperation across the Ministry of Internal Affairs by bringing together senior representatives from police, border management, emergency response, migration and other law enforcement

services. By exchanging experiences and developing a shared understanding of effective leadership, participants reinforced a common approach to organisational development and interagency cooperation.



Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova

The new EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova" commenced its activity, a new initiative that will strengthen public finance management and support the country's progress towards EU accession.

Over the next three years, the project will assist the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova in enhancing internal managerial control, modernising internal audit, improving financial control and establishing the Anti-

Fraud Coordination Service (AFCOS) in line with EU standards and international good practices.

Implemented by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic together with partners from Lithuania, Germany and Latvia, the project is expected to contribute to more transparent, accountable and efficient use of public resources, ultimately benefiting public institutions, citizens and Moldova's European integration efforts.



Key internal financial control reforms move forward with EU Twinning support

Throughout April-June, the EU-funded Twinning Project “Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova” advanced key reforms towards the Republic of Moldova’s alignment with the EU acquis under Chapter 32 – Financial Control.

Twinning experts helped strengthen national guidance on risk management and corruption risk assessment in the public sector, advanced the revision of the National Internal Audit Standards in line with international good practice, and supported the refinement of the draft National Anti-Fraud Strategy for 2026-2028 based on OLAF guidelines.



Work also began on developing procedures for the prevention, detection and reporting of irregularities and fraud.

The project’s early achievements were highlighted during a 16 June visit by representatives of the European Commission

and the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, underscoring the project’s contribution to stronger governance, greater accountability and better protection of national and EU financial interests.

Workshop on issuance of government securities in international markets; process and key elements

On 6–7 April 2026, the EU-funded PPF Project organised a workshop on “Issuance of government securities in international markets (Eurobonds); process and key elements” for the Ministry of Finance.

During the two days of the workshop, the PPF Project experts Constantinos Kyriakopoulos

and Daniela Cotorobai provided a structured overview of the (1) main characteristics and format of Eurobond issuance, (2) decision to issue and organisational arrangements, (3) selection of service providers such as lead managers and legal advisers, and (4) the key documentation requirements.



The workshop was opened by Ion Gumene, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, who emphasised the importance of the workshop in building the Ministry’s understanding of the process of international debt issuance. He noted that, if economic and fiscal developments justify accessing international markets in the future, the Ministry should be prepared and understand the required procedures and practical steps.

Participants included officials from the General Directorate for Public Debt, General Directorate of State Treasury, General Directorate for Budget Synthesis, General Directorate of Public Investment, General Directorate of Sectoral Budgetary Policies as well as the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

“Application of National Public Sector Accounting Standards: Challenges and Solutions” training course organised with the support of the PPF Project

As part of its continued support to the public sector accounting reform, the EU-funded PPF Project contributed to the organisation of the training course “Application of National

Public Sector Accounting Standards: Challenges and Solutions”, held on 20–21 May 2026 at the Ministry of Finance.



The training brought together over 30 chief accountants from central and local public authorities, as well as subordinate budgetary institutions. The event marked the launch of a wider series of training sessions to be delivered by the Ministry of Finance during May–October 2026 in Chişinău, Bălţi, Cahul and Comrat.

The two-day training programme focused on the practical application of four National Public Sector Accounting Standards (NPSAS) approved in December 2025: “Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors”, “Events after the Reporting Period”, “Inventories”, and “Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and

Contingent Assets”, which will enter into force on 1 January 2027.

Participants reviewed the main provisions of the standards, discussed the related regulatory amendments, and explored practical implementation aspects through groupwork and interactive discussions aimed at addressing common implementation challenges.

The training contributes to strengthening institutional capacities for the implementation of public sector accounting reform and reflects the continued assistance provided by the EU-funded PPF Project to the Ministry of Finance in advancing public finance management reforms.

Workshop on macroeconomic forecasting in R

On 26–28 May 2026, the EU-funded PPF Project organised a workshop on macroeconomic forecasting in R, at the request of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation.

Building on the earlier workshop in data analysis using R, which introduced foundational skills in data handling and analytical workflows, the workshop aimed to further strengthen applied macroeconomic forecasting capacity within public institutions through transparent, data-driven quantitative methods for policy-relevant analysis.



The event brought together officials from the Ministry of Finance (Macro-Financial Analysis Division of the Policies and Budget Synthesis General Directorate) and the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation (Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting Directorate).

Over three days, participants worked with time-series methods applied to Moldova's macroeconomic and fiscal data. The sessions covered ARIMA and SARIMA models, ETS methods, and more advanced

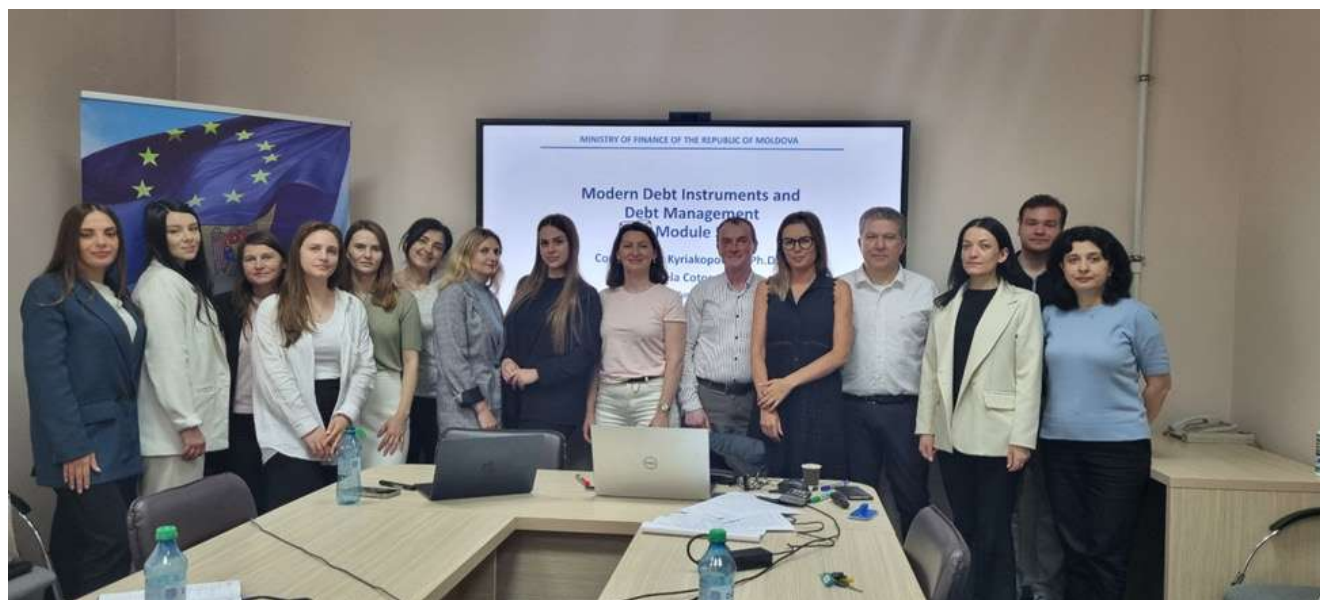
approaches including neural network autoregression and STL decomposition, which were combined through model-averaging forecasting techniques.

Interactive teaching was combined with practical exercises, allowing participants to implement forecasting models and interpret outputs in a structured way. A key exercise involved producing a 12-quarter forecast for macroeconomic and fiscal series, including real GDP, GDP components, and tax revenues, using multiple complementary models that capture distinct data patterns.

EU-funded PPF Project delivered a workshop on modern debt instruments and debt management

From 10 to 12 June 2026, the EU-funded PPF Project delivered a specialised workshop on Modern Debt Instruments and Debt

Management for officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation.



The workshop gathered representatives from the Public Debt and the State Treasury General Directorates and the Macro-Financial Analysis Division (Ministry of Finance) and Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting Directorate (Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation). It aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge and practical skills in applying debt management practices and financial market instruments in line with international standards.

Key topics covered modern debt management, including debt instruments, pricing techniques, yield curve modelling, liability management operations, portfolio

management, and debt risk assessment metrics such as Cost-at-Risk (CaR). The participants also learned methods for Eurobond pricing and debt hedging or reprofiling using swaps.

The workshop combined theoretical presentations with hands-on exercises, enabling participants to deepen their understanding of analytical tools and methodologies used in debt portfolio management and debt market operations.

The workshop was delivered by PPF Project experts Constantinos Kyriakopoulos and Daniela Cotorobai.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU-funded Twinning project strengthens parliamentary capacity in support of the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process

In April 2026, a study visit to Athens organised under the EU-funded Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process" brought together

representatives of the Moldovan and the Hellenic Parliament to exchange experience and explore approaches that can support the Republic of Moldova's European integration efforts.



The study visit provided an opportunity to explore the experience and good practices of the Hellenic Parliament in areas relevant to the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process. Given similarities in parliamentary structures and institutional development paths, the Hellenic experience offered

valuable insights into strengthening parliamentary oversight, public finance scrutiny, legislative procedures, digital transformation and the role of parliamentary committees in supporting European integration.

By strengthening knowledge and professional capacities, the Twinning initiative supports the development of more transparent, effective and modern parliamentary practices aligned with European standards.

It also contributes to closer institutional cooperation between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and parliaments of EU Member States.



With a budget of EUR 1.4 million, the Twinning Project supports the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in enhancing institutional capacity and aligning parliamentary practices with EU standards.

The project is implemented by a consortium of European partner institutions led by the European Programs Implementation Service of the Hellenic Parliament, together with the parliaments of Romania, Italy, Hungary and Austria.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Bringing Parliament closer to citizens through modern communication approaches

An open and accessible Parliament is a cornerstone of a strong democratic society. In the context of the Republic of Moldova's European integration path, strengthening

communication between citizens and institutions is essential for promoting transparency, trust and meaningful public participation.



Within the EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process”, new approaches to organising and promoting Parliament Open Days were explored, focusing on modern, inclusive and effective communication methods to strengthen dialogue between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and citizens.

Drawing on European experience and good practices, the initiative contributed to developing more effective ways to engage citizens through a combination of traditional, digital and interactive communication channels. These approaches support greater public awareness of parliamentary activities, encourage civic participation and help build stronger connections between the Parliament and the communities it serves.

The EU-funded Twinning Project supports the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in strengthening institutional capacity and advancing parliamentary practices in line with European standards. It is implemented

by a consortium of European partner institutions led by the European Programs Implementation Service of the Hellenic Parliament, together with the parliaments of Romania, Italy, Hungary and Austria.



EU-funded Twinning project brings Europe closer to citizens during Europe Day 2026

Europe Day 2026 in Chişinău created an opportunity for citizens to engage in dialogue on European values, democratic

principles and the role of strong institutions in supporting the Republic of Moldova's path towards the European Union.



The EU-funded Twinning Project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process" contributed to the Europe Day 2026 public activities in Chişinău together with representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, promoting dialogue and awareness about the country's European integration process.

The event offered citizens an opportunity to learn more about the European Union, ongoing reforms and the importance of institutional cooperation in advancing

the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process. Visitors discovered how the Twinning Project supports the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in strengthening institutional capacities, improving parliamentary practices and aligning with European standards.

Through direct engagement with citizens, the Twinning initiative introduced the public to its objectives and contribution to the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process, while highlighting the benefits of European cooperation, knowledge exchange and institutional development.



Stronger Together

Implemented with the support of the European Union, the Twinning Project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU

Accession Process” continues to support the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in developing modern parliamentary capacities and contributing to the country’s European integration efforts.



Strengthening institutional capacity through exchange on European programme management

As the Republic of Moldova advances on its European integration path, strengthening institutional capacity to effectively participate in European programmes and initiatives is essential.

Within the framework of the EU-funded Twinning project “Strengthening the

Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process”, Greek experts leading the Twinning initiative supported the exchange of knowledge and good practices aimed at enhancing the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova’s capacity to attract and engage with EU-supported programmes.



The transfer of expertise contributed to a better understanding of effective approaches for planning, coordinating and managing European initiatives in line with EU standards and procedures. These practices support stronger institutional coordination, increased efficiency and improved readiness to make effective use of European support.

Building such capacities is particularly important in the context of the Republic of Moldova’s EU accession process, as it enables institutions to better access available opportunities, manage future EU-funded initiatives and contribute to the successful implementation of reforms delivering long-term benefits for citizens.

The EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process” supports the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in strengthening institutional capacity and aligning parliamentary practices with European standards. The project is implemented by a consortium of European partner institutions led by the European Programs Implementation Service of the Hellenic Parliament, in cooperation with the parliaments of Romania, Italy, Hungary and Austria.



Stronger Together

EU-funded Twinning project supports youth engagement and participatory democracy in the Republic of Moldova

An exchange of European experience is strengthening the capacity of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova to engage young people and promote more open, inclusive and participatory democratic practices.

On 8 June 2026, parliamentary staff of the Republic of Moldova took part in a workshop dedicated to youth engagement, civic education and participatory democracy, organised within the EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process”.

Experts from the Hellenic, Romanian, and Austrian Parliament shared practical approaches and examples of initiatives that help parliaments become more accessible and responsive to young people and citizens. Discussions focused on tools such as youth parliaments, internship programmes, civic education platforms, democracy workshops, role-play simulations, digital participation mechanisms and direct dialogue between young people, elected representatives and parliamentary staff.



The exchange provided valuable insights into European practices that contribute to strengthening democratic literacy, public trust and institutional transparency. Participants explored how meaningful engagement opportunities can help young people better understand parliamentary processes, express their views and actively participate in democratic life.

The EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Moldovan Parliament and its role in the EU Accession Process” supports the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in strengthening institutional capacity and aligning parliamentary practices with European standards through cooperation with European partner institutions.



INSPIRED Moldova – from dialogue to digital solutions: EU support for participatory governance in Moldova

ALDA Moldova continues to strengthen participatory governance and civic engagement across the Republic of Moldova through a series of events organised within the framework of the EU-funded INSPIRED Moldova project, aimed at empowering civil society and enhancing inclusive decision-making processes at local level.

The initiative began with a roundtable discussion in Chişinău, bringing together representatives of local and national public administrations, civil society organisations, and international partners to foster dialogue on the role of civic participation in the ongoing reform of local public administration.



The discussion focused on key aspects of local governance reform, including voluntary amalgamation, decentralisation efforts, and the modernisation of public administration structures. Particular attention was given to public consultations and digital tools as essential mechanisms for improving transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in decision-making processes.

Participants exchanged views on how local authorities can strengthen trust in public institutions, create meaningful opportunities for youth participation, and better involve young people in shaping local development priorities. Several mayors from across the Republic of Moldova actively contributed to the discussion, emphasising the importance of youth councils, local initiatives, and participatory mechanisms in building more inclusive and future-oriented communities.

A dedicated session explored e-governance tools and participatory digital platforms, highlighting their growing importance in strengthening trust between citizens and institutions. In this context, participants discussed Moldova's accelerated digital transformation, including the development of the EVO platform – a unified point of interaction between citizens and the state, aligned with European Union requirements, designed to simplify access to public services, electronic signatures, and administrative procedures.

Following the roundtable in Chişinău, ALDA Moldova continued the series of practical workshops in Cahul and Bălţi, focusing on strengthening citizen participation in local governance through digital tools. Bringing together representatives of civil society and local public authorities, the workshops explored digital solutions that can improve communication between citizens and institutions, simplify access to public

services and information, and support more transparent, inclusive, and efficient decision-making processes.



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).

Cahul hosted the 3rd Regional Forum on Participatory Democracy with the support of the European Union

On 28 May 2026, the Municipality of Cahul hosted the third edition of the Regional Forum on Participatory Democracy, bringing together representatives of local public authorities, civil society organisations, and development partners.

The Forum brought together representatives of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, People in Need Moldova, the Interethnic Relations Agency, first- and second-level local public authorities, educational institutions, and civil society organisations.



During the opening session, Vitalie Ponomariov, Executive Director of the ECOU Association, highlighted the role of local participatory platforms in strengthening dialogue between citizens and public authorities. He emphasised that building a functional participatory democracy requires continuous cooperation between public institutions and civil society.

Irina Beşliu, Civil Society Programme Officer at the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, reaffirmed the European Union's support for strengthening public participation and stressed that European values such as transparency,

public accountability, inclusion, and continuous dialogue with citizens are essential elements of Moldova's accession process to the European Union.

Nadejda Pascaru-Botnaru, Programme Manager for Civil Society and Good Governance at People in Need Moldova, emphasised the importance of active civil society engagement in reform processes and highlighted the contribution of the INSPIRĂ Moldova initiative to the development of participatory mechanisms and the strengthening of good governance at the local level.



Discussions focused on the impact of the European integration process on the development of participatory democracy at the local level, strengthening dialogue between citizens and authorities, the role of local civic platforms, and the need to ensure inclusive participation of all social groups in decision-making processes. Participants emphasised that transparency, civic participation, and cooperation between public authorities and civil society are key elements in bringing Moldova closer to European standards.

The discussions examined the main provisions of the draft Law on Public Participation in Decision-Making, the opportunities it offers for strengthening civic participation, and the need to apply effective mechanisms for transparency and public consultation. Participants underlined that the success of the new legal framework will depend on active citizen engagement, openness from public authorities, and the transformation of public consultations into a genuine process of influencing public decisions.



Stronger Together

The third edition of the Regional Forum on Participatory Democracy demonstrated that Moldova's democratic and European future depends not only on the quality of reforms promoted at the national level, but also on the ability of authorities, civil society, and citizens to jointly build effective mechanisms for participation and dialogue at the local level.

At the end of the event, the ECOU Association presented six awards recognising contributions to the promotion of participatory democracy and civic engagement in southern Moldova:

- ◆ *Ms Zinaida Jorovlea, for her contribution to the development of the Citizens' Participation Committee in Gotești Commune, Cantemir District;*
- ◆ *Mr Ion Nistor, for his contribution to the development of the Citizens' Participation Committee in Vadul lui Isac village, Cahul District;*
- ◆ *Mr Dumitru Panait, for his contribution to the development of the Cahul Local Transparency Council;*
- ◆ *Mr Victor Koroli, for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in local decision-making processes;*

- ◆ *The "B.P. Hasdeu" Theatre of Cahul, for promoting civic spirit through the documentary theatre performance A Place Under the Sun, directed by Luminița Țăcu;*
- ◆ *The TUK.MD editorial team, for promoting participatory democracy at the local level.*

The event was organised within the ECOU Association project "CLT Cahul – The Voice of Citizens in Local Governance", part of the INSPIRED Moldova initiative, funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need Moldova.

The INSPIRED Moldova initiative aims to support civil society in the Republic of Moldova in actively influencing national policies and contributing to the country's European Union integration by engaging civil society organisations in policy-making processes at both national and local levels, including through a strong digital component. The initiative also promotes dialogue and cooperation with public authorities, ensuring that civil society becomes a key actor in advancing democracy in Moldova.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Challenges for courts in the digital age discussed at international conference

Judges and legal practitioners from constitutional courts of Council of Europe member States, the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the Venice Commission,

convened on 24 April in Chişinău to discuss the evolving role of constitutional courts in facing the challenges that digital transformation poses to constitutional democracy and the rule of law.



CURTEA CONSTITUȚIONALĂ A REPUBLICII MOLDOVA
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Chişinău 24 aprilie 2026



The international conference entitled “The Future of the ‘Marketplace of Ideas’ amid the Rise of the Internet, Fake News and Artificial Intelligence: Challenges for the Constitutional Courts” took place in the context of the Republic of Moldova’s Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

In their opening remarks, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova, the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Director for Programme Co-

ordination at the Council of Europe, and the Vice-President of the Venice Commission, mentioned the importance of safeguarding the pluralism of ideas and the information space grounded in democratic values, adequately regulating digital platforms, maintaining the right balance between freedom of expression and efforts to counter disinformation and harmful speech, and strengthening judicial dialogue and cooperation in addressing the challenges generated by the digital environment.



Stronger Together

The Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights further examined in her keynote speech the legal challenges posed by artificial intelligence from the perspective of the Court's mandate, legal doctrine and case-law.

The Vice President of the Venice Commission, Timothy Otty, briefed participants about the updated Rule of Law Checklist, adopted in December 2025, as an essential framework to ground all responses to the challenges arising from digital technologies and artificial intelligence on the principles of legality, legal certainty, prevention of abuse of powers, checks and balances, equality and non-discrimination, and access to justice.

The exchanges between participants focused on courts' engagement with platforms, algorithms and artificial intelligence, as well as the impact of such engagement in the future of constitutional adjudication itself.

The international conference was organised under the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova in partnership with the European Union within the framework of the joint project "Support for Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova," which reflects a shared commitment to supporting the Republic of Moldova in strengthening its institutions, advancing reforms, and fully aligning with European standards.



Stronger Together

The Council of Europe promotes cooperation between justice sector stakeholders through the signature of an updated Interprofessional Charter

Enhancing trust in the justice system by increasing its quality and independence through cooperation among legal professions and the role of legal education in attracting honest qualified professionals, were at the centre of the discussions that took place during the

4th edition of the Annual Conference of Justice Sector Stakeholders, held under the theme “Strengthening Interprofessional Cooperation: Current Benchmarks and Joint Commitments for Integrity and Trust in Justice.”



The event brought together judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Superior Council of Magistrates (SCM), Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP), General Prosecutor’s Office and Bar Association, in a dialogue dedicated to strengthening interprofessional cooperation, professional integrity, and increasing public trust in the justice system.

During the conference, the Interprofessional Charter of Judges, Prosecutors, and Lawyers of the Republic of Moldova was signed – a document reaffirming a joint commitment to mutual respect, independence, integrity, and professional accountability, with due regard to the distinct status of each legal profession.

"This conference enabled legal professionals, justice actors and institutions, to reflect on challenges and opportunities to make the professions of judge and prosecutor more attractive in view of the need to increase the number of duly qualified judges and prosecutors, as a pre-condition for increasing citizens' trust in the justice system",

mentioned the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chişinău, Mr. Falk Lange.

The discussions highlighted inter alia the importance of interprofessional dialogue to improve the functioning of the justice system, as well as the impact of legal professionals' working conditions, on integrity and public trust given the relationship between professional integrity and legal professionals' reputation.

The event was organised with the support of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Support for Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova".



When EU law meets Moldovan courts: building the foundations for European integration

As the Republic of Moldova advances steadily on its path towards European Union membership, preparing its justice system for the demands of EU law has become one of the most pressing priorities. Against this backdrop, a series of training sessions held in Chişinău from 18 to 27 May 2026 brought together 158 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the State Chancellery for an intensive week of learning, dialogue and practical exchange.

Organised by the Council of Europe Office in Chişinău, in cooperation with the

National Institute of Justice, the sessions were designed to deepen participants' understanding of the EU acquis and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), notably through case studies and peer-to-peer exchanges focused on civil, commercial and criminal judicial cooperation and the protection of human rights. These exchanges enabled participants to discuss practical challenges related to the application of EU law and to learn from Romania's experience in integrating European legal standards into national practice.



During the commercial and civil exchange, participants and trainers discussed practical cases involving two or more countries. They examined the factors that determine which national legislation should apply, highlighting the challenges that can arise when citizens or companies from different jurisdictions are involved.

In the area of criminal justice, participants also examined EU procedural rights

standards, relevant CJEU case law and mechanisms for cross-border judicial cooperation through practical case studies and peer-to-peer exchanges. Particular attention was given to procedural safeguards in criminal proceedings and to cooperation instruments used within the European Union, including evidence gathering, extradition and the recognition of judicial decisions.



Stronger Together

An additional area explored in-depth during the trainings included the role of the judiciary in safeguarding freedom of expression, the protection of journalists and the role of courts in ensuring the effective implementation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The sessions demonstrated that effective European integration is not only a legislative or institutional process – it is, above all, a question of human capacity. Equipping legal professionals to apply EU law confidently is essential to building a justice system

that meets European standards and serves citizens effectively.

The events were organised with the support of the joint European Union and Council of Europe project “Support for Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova”, the Council of Europe Projects “Strengthening the human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova phase II” and “Advancing Media Freedom in the Republic of Moldova” which are part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova for 2025–2028.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Moldovan judges and students deepen their understanding of European human rights standards in a dialogue with ECHR judges

Judges and staff of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova welcomed judges of the European Court of Human Rights, Lätif Hüseyinov, judge elected in respect of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Artūrs

Kučs, judge elected in respect of Latvia, for a direct exchange on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court.



The discussions centred on how courts should reason their decisions, what guarantees are needed to ensure a fair trial at constitutional level, and where the boundaries of judicial freedom of expression lie. The dialogue allowed Moldovan judges to engage directly with Judges Lätif Hüseyinov and Artūrs Kučs, hearing first-hand how the Strasbourg Court has approached these questions in its most recent case law and testing that understanding against their own experience.

On the same day, Judge Hüseyinov and Judge Kučs gave a lecture to students and

staff of the National Institute of Justice of the Republic of Moldova on trafficking in human beings and freedom of expression in the digital era.

The seminars were organised in the framework of the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe, “Support for Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova” and aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise while strengthening judicial cooperation between the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova and the European Court of Human Rights.

Exchange on human rights standards with ECtHR Judge Sebastian Rădulețu

How can national courts apply the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights more effectively? This was the central theme of the visit to the Republic of Moldova by Sebastian Rădulețu, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights elected in respect of Romania.

Throughout the day, Judge Rădulețu engaged in a dialogue with judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova and delivered a public lecture at the National Institute of Justice.



The discussions focused on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights, recent developments in the European Court's case law, including non-conviction-based confiscation, as well as the role of Protocol No. 16 in strengthening judicial dialogue between national courts and the European Court of Human Rights.

Beyond the legal discussions, the events created an opportunity for an open exchange of ideas, practical examples and professional experience, highlighting the importance of judicial cooperation in strengthening the protection of human rights.

The visit was organised within the framework of the joint project of the European Union and Council of Europe "Support to Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova" and aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise while strengthening judicial cooperation between the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova and the European Court of Human Rights.

Building national capacities in open-source intelligence for combating financial crime

The evolving threat environment in the Republic of Moldova requires law enforcement and prosecutors to strengthen their ability to effectively gather, analyse, validate and use open-source intelligence (OSINT).

In response to these challenges, the Council of Europe organised a series of capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the practical investigative skills of participants from law enforcement agencies, the Office for the Prevention and Fight against Money Laundering, and the General Prosecutor's Office.



The training focused on enhancing the use of OSINT tools and methodologies to support investigations into money laundering, terrorism financing, and related offences. Through hands-on exercises and scenarios, participants explored the OSINT cycle, related legal and ethical frameworks, operational security, and techniques such as metadata analysis, cryptocurrency tracing, geolocation, and social media investigations.

As a result, participants enhanced their capacity to lawfully, ethically, and efficiently collect, analyse, and use open-source data in their investigations. They also developed skills to identify and mitigate risks, apply technical tools effective strategies for gathering evidence and support investigations related to cross-border organised crime, cyber-enabled financial crime, corruption-related money laundering, use of virtual assets, as well as hybrid threats.

The activity was co-organised within the framework of the projects: "Action against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in the Republic of Moldova", funded by a grant from the U.S. Government, and the

"Enhancing the anti-money laundering and asset recovery regime in the Republic of Moldova", implemented under the joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Partnership for Good Governance".



Moldovan authorities strengthen their capacity to combat money laundering in line with European standards

As the Republic of Moldova advances on its path towards European Union membership, strengthening the country's ability to prevent and detect financial crime remains a key priority.

In 2024, the European Union adopted a comprehensive reform of its framework for preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which is commonly

known as EU Anti-Money Laundering Package. The new rules aim to harmonise rules across the EU, making financial systems more transparent, strengthen the identification of suspicious transactions, improve access to information on the real owners of companies, and enhance cooperation between authorities responsible for combating financial crime.



As the Republic of Moldova continues aligning its institutions with the EU standards, understanding these changes are becoming increasingly important to further implement them effectively. To support this process, the Council of Europe organised a four-day workshop in Chişinău for key national stakeholders – the Financial Intelligence Unit, the National Bank of Moldova, the National Commission for Financial Markets, the Public Services Agency, and the State Tax Authority.

Throughout the workshop, participants explored how the new EU standards can be applied in practice and discussed approaches to potential challenges that authorities may encounter when implementing the new requirements. Particular attention was given to the responsibilities of entities required to identify and report suspicious activities, assessing and addressing money laundering risks, verifying customer identities, increasing transparency regarding company ownership, and strengthening the effective implementation of preventive measures.



By helping professionals build knowledge and skills to protect the financial system, the workshop contributes to more effective detection and prevention of financial crime. In the long term, these efforts are expected

to contribute to safeguarding the integrity of the economy, supporting transparency, and helping create a safer and more competitive economic environment for citizens and businesses alike.

The activity was co-organised within the framework of the projects: “Action against money laundering and terrorism financing in the Republic of Moldova”, funded by a grant from the U.S. Government, and the “Enhancing the anti-money laundering and

asset recovery regime in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented under the joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe “Partnership for Good Governance”.



CEPEJ online workshop on the use of artificial intelligence in justice in the Republic of Moldova

Artificial intelligence is increasingly part of discussions on the future of justice systems across Europe. While it can offer potential benefits, such as supporting more efficient case management or improving access to legal information, it also raises important questions. Preventing bias, ensuring transparency towards the public and preserving human judgement at the centre of judicial decision-making are among the challenges associated with the AI-driven digital transformation of justice. These questions can carry particular weight for constitutional courts, whose role involves the interpretation of constitutional principles and the protection of fundamental rights.

It is in this context that CEPEJ organised an online workshop on artificial intelligence for judges and staff of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova, bringing together national participants and Council of Europe experts. Discussions focused on how AI is reshaping judicial institutions, with particular attention to constitutional justice, and explored both the opportunities and risks that AI presents for judicial systems and their implications for judicial independence, transparency and public trust.

The workshop placed these questions within the evolving European regulatory and ethical framework, including the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the European Ethical Charter on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Systems and their environment, and the CEPEJ Guidelines on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Courts.

Such exchanges support a balanced approach to technological innovation while preserving the principles on which justice systems are founded. They contribute to ensuring that the judiciary remains both technologically aware and firmly anchored in the principles of independence, impartiality and human judgement, thereby helping to maintain public confidence in constitutional justice.

This activity was organised within the framework of the Project "Support to further modernisation of court management in the Republic of Moldova", co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe in their "Partnership for Good Governance".



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Launch of the OECD Justice Review of Moldova: from analysis to action

As part of the ongoing EU-funded OECD project *Supporting the Ministry of Justice and Justice Sector Reforms in the Republic of Moldova* (2024–2026), the OECD launched the [Justice Review of the Republic of Moldova](#) on 11 June 2026 in Chişinău.

The launch opened and closed with remarks from Dumitru Vleju, State Secretary of Justice of the Republic of Moldova; Martina Spornbauer, Team Leader for Governance

at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova; and János Bertok, Deputy Director of Public Governance at the OECD.

The event marked a key milestone in the OECD project and brought together more than 65 representatives from Moldovan justice institutions, government bodies, civil society and international organisations, embassies and development partners.



Photo: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

The launch provided an opportunity to present the Review's evidence-based assessment of Moldova's justice sector and to consider how its recommendations can support the country's justice reform agenda, EU accession path and forthcoming Justice Sector Strategy. A policy discussion between the Ministry of Justice and civil society organisations, moderated by William Thompson, Head of Eurasia at the OECD Global Relations and Co-operation Directorate, focused on the defining objective of the next phase of justice reform, how to move from reform ambition to reform results, what a whole-of-sector approach means in practice, and how people-centred justice can better respond to the needs of people and businesses.

From recommendations to implementation

Following the launch, the OECD convened the project's Advisory Group with the participation of the Working Group responsible for developing the next Justice Sector Strategy. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of progress, including preliminary findings from the OECD's evaluation of Moldova's Justice Sector Strategy 2022–2025. A co-design workshop aimed to support the development of an action plan identifying concrete steps for the implementation of the OECD Review's recommendations. The action plan is being aligned with other national planning instruments, including the National Programme for EU Accession 2025–2029, and is expected to serve as an important foundation for the next Justice Sector Strategy.



Photo: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

Building on the Review's findings, the OECD will continue working with Moldovan counterparts and partners to support implementation of the recommendations,

strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry and promote a more accessible, effective and people-centred justice system. The report is available [here](#).



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Money in Politics 2026 Regional Conference strengthens cooperation to safeguard electoral integrity

On 16–17 June 2026, Chişinău hosted the seventh edition of the Money in Politics Regional Conference, bringing together electoral management bodies, oversight institutions, international organisations and experts from more than 20 countries to address key challenges related to political finance and electoral integrity.

The conference concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the central electoral authorities of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Albania and North Macedonia, marking a significant step towards stronger regional cooperation and democratic resilience.



Held under the theme “From Virtual Money to Real Influence: New Frontiers for Democratic Resilience”, the conference provided a platform for dialogue across six thematic sessions on the challenges of political finance in the digital age, the use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in electoral oversight, countering disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference

(FIMI), political finance transparency, enforcement mechanisms, and institutional cooperation to prevent cross-border electoral corruption. Discussions highlighted the need to strengthen institutional capacities and adapt oversight mechanisms to the evolving risks of the online environment.

The conference also showcased the Republic of Moldova's experience in developing modern political finance oversight mechanisms through interinstitutional cooperation, digital monitoring tools and strategic public communication. Participants exchanged good practices and explored practical solutions to reinforce democratic institutions and support the country's European integration process.

The Memorandum of Cooperation establishes a long-term framework for collaboration in areas including political finance transparency, countering disinformation and foreign interference, cybersecurity, the digitalisation of electoral processes, and the alignment of national legislation with European standards. It provides for exchanges of expertise, joint training activities, thematic working groups and annual cooperation plans among the signatory institutions.



It is also important to note that the Memorandum is not a stand-alone achievement, but rather consolidates and formalises the long-standing cooperation between the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova and International IDEA. It builds on the outcomes of the advocacy visit to the European Union institutions in Brussels (2–5 March 2026),

organised by International IDEA, during which the initiative to establish a regional alliance of electoral authorities from EU candidate countries was launched. The visit reaffirmed the importance of cooperation among these institutions in strengthening democratic resilience, safeguarding electoral integrity and advancing the European integration process.

The conference was organised by the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova in partnership with International IDEA, the European Union Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM), the Council

of Europe, UNDP, NDI and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), with financial support from the European Union and the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Canada.



Strengthening electoral integrity and public oversight in Moldova

Between April and June 2026, the EU-funded Resilient Democracy through Anti-Corruption (REDACT) project continued to strengthen Moldova's resilience against corruption, with a focus on electoral integrity, illicit political finance, institutional capacity-building, civic engagement, and independent oversight. Implemented by UNDP Moldova, the project reached law enforcement officers, justice sector professionals, journalists, civil society organisations, and local communities across the country.

Nearly 200 police officers from Orhei, Taraclia, Comrat, and Ceadr-Lunga improved their ability to detect, document, and investigate electoral corruption offences, including vote-buying, illicit political party financing, illegal political advertising, and paid participation in protests. Practical exercises based on real-life scenarios supported the development of investigative skills ahead of future electoral processes.



At the same time, more than 240 judges, prosecutors, investigators, and anti-corruption officers strengthened their expertise in handling electoral corruption and illicit financing cases. Specialised trainings delivered by the National Institute of Justice focused on evidence standards,

complex electoral cases, cryptocurrencies and virtual assets, blockchain technologies, international cooperation mechanisms, and digital evidence management. These efforts contribute to a more effective response to emerging forms of corruption and financial crime.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

The use of open-source intelligence (OSINT) in criminal investigations also advanced through a training-of-trainers programme attended by 10 representatives of law enforcement institutions. Participants developed skills in social media analysis, geolocation,

website investigations, identification of manipulated content, artificial intelligence applications, and digital security, helping expand national expertise in modern investigative techniques.



Public resilience and civic participation were strengthened through community outreach initiatives in Taraclia and Copceac, where residents received information on electoral integrity, informed voting, and the importance of reliable information sources. Local partners organised discussion forums, focus groups, awareness activities, and distributed around 4,000 informational materials in Gagauz, Bulgarian, Romanian, and Russian.

In Comrat, a civic dialogue platform brought together civil society representatives, experts, local organisations, and active

citizens to discuss electoral integrity, anti-corruption measures, democratic resilience, and public participation. The discussions highlighted the importance of cooperation between institutions, communities, and civil society in protecting democratic processes.

Creative civic engagement initiatives also encouraged public participation, particularly among youth and local communities. The "Integrity Unites Us" competition in Orhei promoted integrity through art, poetry, and video storytelling, offering participants an opportunity to express democratic values through creative formats.

Transparency and public scrutiny of electoral corruption cases were enhanced through the launch of a new online platform anticoruptie.crijm.org developed by the Legal Resources Centre of Moldova. The platform provides accessible information on more than 65 court cases related to electoral corruption, illicit party financing, and other offences affecting electoral integrity, supporting journalists, experts, civil society organisations, and citizens in monitoring judicial proceedings.

Media oversight capacities were further strengthened through a summer school on investigative journalism attended by 25 journalists from across Moldova.

Participants explored techniques for investigating electoral corruption, political financing, candidate integrity, fact-checking, digital research tools, and journalist security, contributing to stronger public-interest reporting ahead of future electoral cycles.

The European Union and UNDP continue to support efforts that strengthen the capacities of justice sector professionals, law enforcement institutions, civil society and media representatives, helping enhance electoral integrity, transparency, accountability and resilience to emerging forms of corruption in an increasingly digital environment.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Moldova's voice on democratic resilience heard at GLOBSEC Forum 2026

At GLOBSEC Forum 2026, held in Prague on 21–23 May, the Republic of Moldova brought its frontline experience to European debates on security, resilience and hybrid threats.

President Maia Sandu [spoke](#) on the Forum's main stage about Moldova's response to Russian pressure, underlining the importance of strong institutions, energy security and close cooperation with European partners. She was also honoured with the GLOBSEC

Award for her leadership and commitment to Moldova's European future.

The Republic of Moldova was represented at the GLOBSEC Forum 2026 not only by its highest representative, President Maia Sandu: seven representatives of Moldovan public institutions, CSOs and media also had the opportunity to join the conference and contribute to its debates, within the project supported by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.



Moldovan expertise was also visible in several side discussions. Ana Revenco, Director of the Centre for Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation, spoke in the session *"Battlefields in minds and societies: How to build societal cohesion and consensus in increasingly polarised societies?"*

alongside representatives of the European Commission and other European countries. The discussion focused on rebuilding trust, strengthening social cohesion and engaging citizens in democratic resilience, and brought together over 50 experts and various stakeholders.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



Mariana Colun, investigative journalist at Ziarul de Gardă, contributed to a debate on Russia's use of information manipulation and emerging technologies to destabilise democratic societies and shared insights

from Moldova's parliamentary elections last year. Daniel Vodă, Associated Senior Expert at IPRE, joined a discussion on the weaponisation of history and the role of evidence-based memory in countering hybrid threats.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Stella Jantuan, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova on political issues, relations with public authorities and civil society, and Valeriu Paşa, Chairman of WatchDog.MD, also took part in multiple side sessions and exchanges with

European partners. Together, Moldova's delegation highlighted the country's reform path, democratic resilience and European integration as part of wider European security discussions.



Stronger Together

EUPM Moldova: Effective crisis management through secure communications

On 5 June, EUPM Moldova delivered a new batch of TETRA communication equipment to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), marking

another important step in strengthening Moldova's crisis response capabilities and resilience against hybrid threats.



The donation forms part of the EUPM Moldova project “Modernising the TETRA Network for Enhanced Security, Governance and Resilience”. The new equipment will reinforce the Ministry's secure communications network, enabling encrypted, real-time information exchange between dispatch centres and operational teams during emergencies and daily operations. The upgraded system will help ensure continuity

of communications even in complex or exceptional situations, supporting faster, better coordinated interventions. Beyond the equipment donation, the project also includes a comprehensive training component. Seventy-five MAI personnel will be trained as instructors, ensuring the effective and sustainable use of the TETRA system across beneficiary institutions.



EUPM Moldova's Head of Mission, Kirsten Joppe, reaffirmed the European Union's continued commitment to supporting Moldova in modernising its crisis management capabilities, strengthening resilience to hybrid threats, and developing secure communication systems.

The initiative reflects EUPM Moldova's continued commitment to supporting Moldova's civilian security sector through practical assistance that enhances operational effectiveness, interoperability, and the country's overall resilience.



Better decisions, better services: Moldova rethinks how ministries work

How can ministries be better organised? How can they plan, cooperate and deliver better results? These key questions brought together around 50 Moldovan senior officials and EU experts at a roundtable on 2 April in Chişinău. The event was organised within the EU and Denmark funded project “Moldova is Europe

– Support for EU Integration” in close cooperation with the State Chancellery and OECD/SIGMA. The focus was on one major goal: making public administration work in a way that truly benefits citizens, not only now as part of accession negotiations, but also in the future as an EU Member State.



Recent findings from a comparative study by the OECD/SIGMA – conducted across nine EU candidate countries – as well as EU project assessments, reveal that Moldova’s ministries face several challenges. These include the politicisation of certain management positions and the lack of clear performance management frameworks. During the discussion, EU experts and Moldovan senior officials shared insights and practical ideas to improve the current situation. The joint message was clear: with better organisation, clear roles and professional leadership, ministries can deliver better results for everyone.

Martina Spornbauer, Team Leader for Governance, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, added:

“Public Administration Reform is crucial in accession negotiations, but more importantly, its successful completion is essential for Moldova to function efficiently as an EU Member State and to fully benefit from all the technical and financial opportunities the EU offers.”

The roundtable discussion is part of ongoing efforts to support Moldova in building a modern, transparent and professional public administration – one that is closer to citizens and aligned with EU practices.

Moldova strengthens sanctions implementation mechanism

As the Republic of Moldova advances on its European path, aligning with EU rules on restrictive measures – commonly known as sanctions – is both a legal obligation and a critical element of national security. A three-day expert mission, organised through the European Commission's TALEX instrument

and taking place on 14–16 April 2026 in Chişinău, is supporting Moldovan authorities in strengthening the implementation of these measures. The event is organised in cooperation with the State Chancellery and the EU- and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.



Around 35 representatives from the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, line ministries, central public authorities and institutions responsible for sanctions monitoring and enforcement are attending the event.

The mission brings together senior experts from Croatia, Germany, and Slovenia, who are sharing practical experience and guiding Moldovan officials in improving how international restrictive measures are applied. Discussions focus on how restrictive measures are designed and enforced across the EU and how Moldova can adapt these approaches to its own institutional framework. Participants are also exploring practical ways to improve inter-agency cooperation, strengthen monitoring systems, and ensure clear and reliable record-keeping.

Particular attention is being given to identifying and preventing attempts to bypass restrictive measures, as well as to applying effective penalties in cases of non-compliance. Strong administrative systems, well-trained staff, reliable tools and clear coordination between institutions are key to ensuring that these measures are applied consistently and effectively.

This expert mission is part of the EU's broader efforts to support Moldova in building strong, transparent and effective institutions. By improving how restrictive measures are implemented, Moldova is taking another important step towards EU integration and strengthening its role as a reliable partner on the international stage.



Stronger Together

Moldova strives to regulate the circulation of movable cultural goods, in line with best European practices

Key stakeholders of the sector – about 50 representatives of museums, regional culture divisions, the Ministry of Culture, the Customs Service and the General Police Inspectorate – took part in the public discussions organised in the framework of the EU- and Denmark-

funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, to share views on the concept paper of the “Integrated Programme for the protection of movable cultural heritage, 2026–2030”.



The discussions started by presenting international best practices and cooperation mechanisms in this regard, stressing the importance of aligning to international standards in the process of protecting and valorising movable cultural heritage, whereas in the second part of the meeting participants worked in small groups to formulate proposals and recommendations contributing to the development of an efficient normative framework adapted to the realities of the sector.

The importance of preserving movable cultural goods as part of a nation's heritage, ensuring clear regulations of their registry and circulation, was underlined during the event.

The joint discussion served as a platform to identify the most efficient solutions and ensure that the developed normative framework responds to the sector's needs.



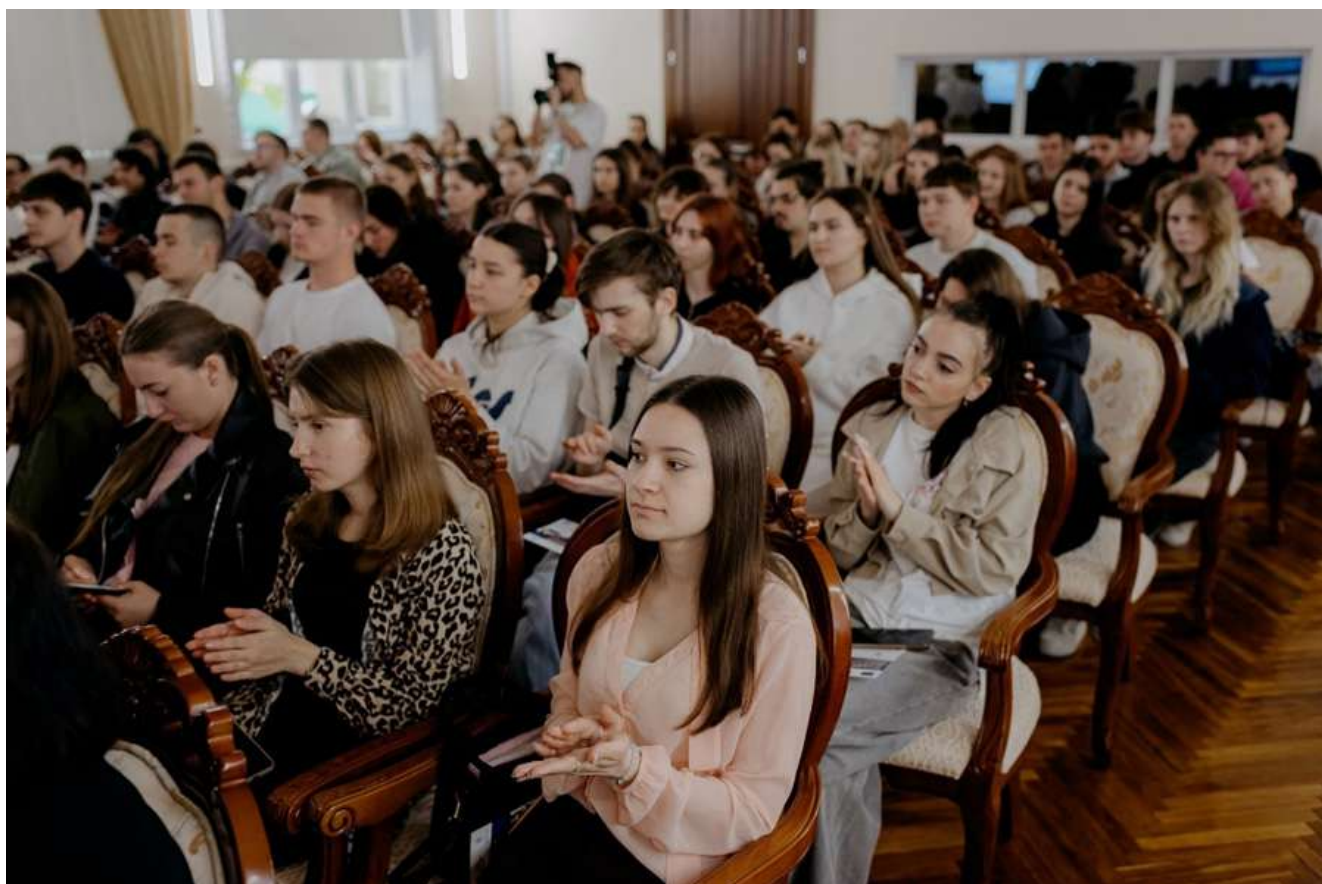
EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

A large-scale information campaign on internship opportunities for young people was held throughout the country

The national information campaign of the fifth edition of the Joint Traineeship Programme of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova was held throughout the country: over 500 students from the State University of Moldova, the Academy of Economic Studies, the State Pedagogical University and the “Alecu Russo” State University of Bălţi learned about the conditions for applying for paid internships in state institutions and the benefits that come with them.

The speakers of the events, including Alexandru Munteanu, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, and Mate Csicsai, Head of the Political Section within the EU Delegation, shared their professional paths and perspectives on what it means to work in public administration and encouraged young people through their examples to apply for the internship programme.



Students, master's students and recent graduates up to 30 years old can spend two summer months working in central public institutions in the Republic of Moldova. Each intern receives a monthly allowance of EUR 250, funded by the European Union and Denmark. Graduates who complete a third additional month of internship in the same institution can apply for a civil service position without a competition and without a probationary period – a benefit granted by the legal framework in the field of internships.

During the pre-selection period, almost 200 applications were received, of which 70 participants were selected following interviews. The internship programme starts in July.

Over 200 students participated in the four previous editions of the Programme, many of whom are now employed in the civil service. The internship programme is carried out within the EU and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.



Bureau of European Integration staff strengthen their skills with the support of “Moldova is Europe” experts

Efficient coordination of EU affairs is vital not only before accession, but also after the country becomes a member state: this was the motto of the training delivered

by “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration” expert Andrej Engelman to about 40 representatives of the Bureau for European Integration.



The discussion focused on coordinating the participation of Moldovan administration representatives in the work of comitology committees in the period leading up to Moldova’s accession to the EU.

The second part was dedicated to the coordination of EU affairs in the context of membership, where the country primarily focuses on its activities within the Council. The reasons for setting up a new coordination system were presented, along with the essential characteristics and decisions regarding the role of individual institutions that the country must adopt.

The “Slovenian model” for coordinating EU affairs was also presented, along with the

future needs regarding experts who will work in the central unit for coordinating EU affairs and the future Moldovan Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels following accession.

Participants were also familiarised with potential challenges facing candidate countries in the period between the conclusion of negotiations and the signing of the accession treaty on the one hand, and actual accession to the EU, on the other.

The delivery of the training was supported by the EU- and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.

Alignment of VAT legislation – hot topic on the agenda of the Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance is hosting a four-day seminar dedicated to the transposition of the VAT Directive, bringing together 50 specialists from across the institution to strengthen their technical knowledge and

support the alignment of national legislation with European Union standards. The capacity building activity is organised with the support of the EU- and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.



The topic is high on the agenda of the Ministry of Finance, given its importance for Moldovan business. Clarity on the path towards alignment with the EU acquis would support company growth and economic integration, making investment decisions and cross-border commerce easier.

The seminar was officially opened by Deputy Secretary General Lidia Ababii, who emphasised the importance of advancing the harmonisation of the national fiscal framework with the EU acquis and enhancing the institutional capacities of public administration specialists involved in tax policy development and implementation.

The training sessions are delivered by the project senior expert Adriana Nutu, who provides participants with in-depth guidance

on the principles, mechanisms, and practical aspects related to the implementation of the VAT Directive. The seminar covers key topics including VAT structure and scope, taxable transactions, exemptions, compliance mechanisms, and best practices applied within the European Union.

Over the course of four days, participants will engage in interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises meant to strengthen their understanding of the legislative and administrative requirements necessary for a smooth and efficient transposition and application of the Directive.

The seminar is part of the project’s objective to consolidate the capacities of line ministries necessary for the successful implementation of reforms.



Stronger Together

Alignment with the EU own resources system: an important stage in the accession process

The Ministry of Finance is strengthening its capacities for alignment with the European Union's own resources system: a two-day workshop was organised with the support of the EU- and Denmark-funded project "Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration". About 20 participants from the

Ministry of Finance took part in the event, which brought together EU experts, as well as members of the working group involved in the process of negotiation, transposition and alignment with the provisions of the EU acquis for Chapter 33 – Financial and budgetary provisions.



Opening the workshop, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry, Lidia Ababii, emphasised that the preparation for the alignment with the European Union's own resources system represents an important stage in the accession process of the Republic of Moldova.

Participants analysed the draft Regulation on administrative procedures for the own resources system. At the same time, experts provided recommendations for improving the document and listed the actions to be taken in order to fully align to the EU acquis in this field.

The agenda also included sessions dedicated to the main components of the EU's own resources system, such as traditional own resources, the contribution based on value added tax, the contribution related to the amount of non-recycled plastic packaging waste and the contribution calculated according to gross national income. The inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and information flows necessary for the management of these resources were also analysed.

The activity contributes to the preparation of national institutions for the implementation of the requirements of Chapter 33 "Financial and budgetary provisions".



Stronger Together

64 young people will spend two summer months in public institutions, as part of the joint Internship Programme of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova

64 young people, selected from nearly 200 applicants, will spend two summer months working hand in hand with civil servants in public institutions, as part of the joint Internship Programme of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Students, master students and recent graduates from Moldovan and foreign universities who wish to pursue a

career in the public administration will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience and learn directly how civil service works, the Programme being at its fifth edition. Each month, interns will receive an allowance of EUR 250, funded by the European Union and Denmark in the framework of the “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration” project.



The opening ceremony marking the start of the Programme took place in the presence of Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Danish Ambassador Søren Jensen, and Secretary General of the Government Alexei Buzu. The event also marked the launch of the next edition of the Government's Internship Programme, which brings together an additional cohort of 85 young interns.

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

“Public institutions need your ideas, your creativity, and your energy. They need people who are ready to look at challenges from a fresh perspective, to make institutions better prepared for the future. The European Union is proud to support this programme because we believe that young people are among Moldova’s greatest strengths.”



Stronger Together



Graduates of the previous editions of the Programme, currently working in the civil service, shared their thoughts on ways in which the internship experience helped them secure a position as a civil servant.

Those who successfully graduate the programme can enter civil service without competition and without a testing period, provided that they receive “very good” as assessment from their mentors: the legal framework has been adopted in this respect after the first successful editions of the Internship Programme.



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The Internship programme is designed to strengthen participants' professional skills

and improve their long-term employment prospects.



The experience also includes regular training sessions, seminars and workshops to enhance interns' theoretical and practical



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

Modern training and equipment for Moldova's Public Order Forces

The "EU4Public Order" project continues 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 by enhancing their ability to manage public order in compliance with EU standards. It focuses on improving operational effectiveness, promoting cybersecurity readiness, integrating human rights and gender equality, and modernizing public order management.

The second quarter of 2026 continued with a series of activities aimed at consolidating tactical and operational skills. From April 27 to 30, the first CQB course was held - a key initiative that allowed personnel to refine operational procedures and decision-making capabilities in complex, high-risk scenarios. During these days, 25 operators had the opportunity to exchange knowledge on advanced tactical procedures, significantly improving interoperability and cohesion in operational responses.



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This was followed, from May 12 to 14, by a study visit titled "Public Order Training" (P.O.T.), held at the Carabinieri Training Centre in San Piero a Grado (Pisa), Italy, with the participation of 8 officers from the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri of the Republic of Moldova. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen institutional cooperation, exchange European best practices, and deepen knowledge of public order management procedures and operational methodologies applied by the Italian Carabinieri.

Parallel to the training activities, the project significantly accelerated the enhancement of

digital and mobility capabilities for the units. In June, advanced technical equipment was delivered, providing modern tools essential for optimizing field activities. Furthermore, the vehicle fleet was expanded with the addition of 13 new vehicles.

This major logistical update aims to increase the effectiveness of public order missions and ensure greater safety for citizens, supporting the alignment of Moldovan law enforcement capacities with European standards and contributing to a more modern, efficient and responsive public security system.



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ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Startup Moldova Summit 2026: 2,000 participants and new opportunities for access to capital and international expertise to Moldova

Startup Moldova Summit 2026, the largest edition of the country's flagship startup event, brought together more than 2,000 participants in Chişinău, including over 150 startups, investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and ecosystem leaders from Moldova and abroad. Co-financed by EU4Innovation East, the summit demonstrated the rapid growth

of Moldova's innovation ecosystem through high-level discussions, practical workshops, startup showcases, and the national final of the Startup World Cup, where the winning startup secured the opportunity to compete in San Francisco for a chance to win a USD 1 million investment.



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The event also marked important progress in strengthening Moldova's innovation ecosystem through new international partnerships. Memorandums signed between Startup Moldova and Unicorn Factory Lisbon, as well as between Moldova Innovation Technology Park, Startup Moldova, and the Ukrainian Startup Fund, will expand startups' access to acceleration

programmes, investment opportunities, European expertise, and international markets. A new partnership with SeedBlink will further facilitate access to private capital through modern investment and equity management tools, helping connect Moldovan startups with European investor networks.



Speaking at the summit, representatives of the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional cooperation. Through EU4Innovation East, the EU continues to help strengthen Moldova's startup ecosystem by improving access to finance, fostering cross-border collaboration,

and creating new opportunities for founders to scale their businesses internationally. Startup Moldova Summit 2026 highlighted Moldova's growing position as an emerging innovation hub, with an increasingly dynamic startup community ready to compete and collaborate on the European and global stage.

Moldovan startups represented at VivaTech 2026 through the EU4Innovation East Pitch Competition

Moldova was represented at VivaTech 2026 through three startups selected during the national EU4Innovation East Pitch Competition, co-organised with YEP Moldova at Artcor in Chişinău. Following a competitive national pitch event, Oto QR, SelfTalk, and LyricFluent were chosen to present their solutions on the international stage in Paris, joining peers from Armenia and Ukraine in showcasing the region's most promising innovations.

At VivaTech, the Moldovan startups pitched their products before an international jury as part of the EU4Innovation East Pitch Contest. Oto (Moldova) achieved a strong result by securing third place, while SelfTalk and LyricFluent gained valuable visibility and feedback from investors, innovation experts, and ecosystem leaders. Their participation highlighted the strength and diversity of Moldova's emerging startup ecosystem across sectors such as digital services, healthtech, and education technology.



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The initiative reflects the European Union's ongoing support for integrating Moldovan startups into European and global innovation ecosystems. By enabling access to high-level international platforms such as VivaTech, EU4Innovation East helps founders gain

visibility, connect with investors, and explore new markets. The participation of Moldovan startups reinforces the country's growing position as an emerging innovation hub with increasing capacity to develop scalable, globally relevant solutions.



Entrepreneur's Day 2026: ODA and the European Union mark the successful completion of the "EU for SMEs" project, which supported 377 businesses and more than 5,600 jobs

The Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA), the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, and the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova marked today, during the third

edition of Entrepreneur's Day, the successful completion of the "EU for SMEs" project, one of the most significant initiatives supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova.



Through the project, 377 investment projects were financed, with grants amounting to EUR 7.17 million, generating total investments of EUR 15.5 million in the national economy. At the same time, the support provided contributed to the creation of 1,575 new jobs and the preservation of more than 4,050 existing jobs.

Of the project's total beneficiaries, 300 are businesses operating in rural areas, while 160 are enterprises established and led by women.

Under the entrepreneurial capacity-building component, more than 615 people benefited from training and information activities.



At the opening of the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Digitalisation, Eugeniu Osmochescu, highlighted the importance of the partnership between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union for the development of the SME sector:

"The 'EU for SMEs' project is a concrete example of how the partnership between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union generates tangible results for the economy and for citizens. Through the investments made, hundreds of entrepreneurs have been able to modernise their businesses, create jobs and become more competitive. The development of the SME sector remains a strategic priority for the Government, and the experience of this project confirms that investing in entrepreneurs means investing in the country's economic future."

The project was implemented during the 2023–2026 period and contributed to strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises by facilitating access to non-reimbursable

financing, developing entrepreneurial skills and supporting investments in sustainable businesses.

The European Union continues to support the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova through the implementation of the Growth Plan for Moldova, which provides significant resources to stimulate investments, strengthen business competitiveness, develop economic infrastructure and accelerate the country's economic integration into the European Single Market.

The "Entrepreneur's Day 2026" event was organised with the financial support of the European Union through the "EU for SMEs" project, as well as through the project "Support for the SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova – Technical Assistance for Access to Credit", funded by the European Union, managed by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, in partnership with ODA. The event also benefited from the financial support of the CONNECT Moldova–EU project, funded by the European Commission through EISMEA.



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Stronger Together

FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK: financing opportunities for local business development presented at Entrepreneur's Day 2026

During the 3rd edition of Entrepreneur's Day, the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, presented the results and future prospects of the FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK financing facility.

During the session dedicated to the FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK financing

product, Vadim Indoitu, Deputy Director of ODA, and Tomasz Horbowski, Country Director of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, highlighted the impact of investments supported through this financing facility, emphasising its contribution to the development of sustainable businesses, improved energy efficiency, and enhanced competitiveness of enterprises in the Republic of Moldova.



To date, the FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK financing product has supported 65 investment projects, generating total investments of MDL 244 million in the economy and facilitating loans exceeding MDL 121 million. At the same time, the implemented investments have contributed to an annual reduction of more than 11,236 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, 91% of the financing provided has been directed to rural areas.

The FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK financing facility is supported by the European Union, managed by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), and implemented by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA) and Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.



Business Voucher: support for early-stage entrepreneurs

For many entrepreneurs just starting out, the challenge is not a lack of ambition, but a lack of technical support to turn a good idea into a clear, well-reasoned, and bank-ready financing proposal. In this context, the Business Voucher mechanism, developed as part of the project "Support for the

SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova – Technical Assistance for Access to Credit," offers entrepreneurs access to specialised consulting services for preparing business plans and the documentation needed to access financing through the FACEM Sustainable Investments BGK product.



For entrepreneurs just starting out or those who want to grow their business through investments in energy efficiency, modern technologies, or sustainable solutions, the Business Voucher can make the difference between a promising idea and a project ready for financing. Through this programme, entrepreneurs receive support from business

consultants who help them structure their investment idea, prepare a business plan, estimate costs, and put together a clearer application for financial institutions. As a result, the process of securing a loan becomes easier to understand and better organised.

The Business Voucher is intended for entrepreneurs who have solid ideas but lack the resources or expertise needed to develop a comprehensive investment plan. With this support, businesses can be better prepared to access financing, including for green investments, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. The programme also helps foster better relationships between entrepreneurs, consultants, and the financial sector. When a business can clearly articulate its needs, objectives, and the impact of the investment, its chances of securing financing increase.

Through the [Business Voucher](#), [FACEM's Sustainable Investments BGK](#) product offers access to financing and practical support to prepare entrepreneurs. It is an opportunity for SMEs that want to invest responsibly, reduce costs, become more competitive, and contribute to a greener economy.

This material was produced as part of the project "Support for the SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova – Technical Assistance for Access to Credit," funded by the European Union, managed by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in partnership with ODA.



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Exchange of European experience on sustainable finance in Moldova

What does sustainable finance according to European standards mean in practice? Two representatives of the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (hereinafter ODA) looked for the answer at Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (hereinafter BGK) in Warsaw, Poland, as part of an internship programme focused on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) risk assessment and the development of green financing instruments.

The period from 24 to 30 May 2026, during the programme, participants analysed how BGK, a development bank in the European Union, applies European sustainability requirements in its lending, investment, and

reporting processes. The sessions covered the collection and verification of ESG data, risk assessment, the integration of results into financing decisions, and reporting in accordance with European standards, including ESRS and CSRD.

Participants also engaged in a practical exercise, applying BGK's ESG risk assessment methodology to a European company. This experience provides ODA with useful insights for developing tools tailored to SMEs in the Republic of Moldova, including ESG self-assessment mechanisms, informational materials, and training programmes for entrepreneurs interested in green investments.



"The internship gave me a clearer understanding of European sustainability standards, and this expertise will be put to good use in the work of the Organisation for the Development of Entrepreneurship. At the same time, the European best practices studied at BGK will contribute to the development of tools and products through which the ODA can support entrepreneurs in making green investments, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing their environmental impact. We learned how to identify and manage climate and sustainability risks, and this experience will help us provide entrepreneurs with more effective recommendations for developing resilient and competitive businesses in the long term."

said Ludmila Cojocari, Senior Specialist, Compliance Assessment Section, Moldova's Fund for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth (FACEM), ODA.



This internship was implemented as part of the project "Support for the SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova – Technical Assistance for Access to Credit," funded by the European

Union, managed by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in partnership with ODA.



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Stronger Together

EU and European partners' support helps Pergament.md expand production and export capacity

CĂPĂȚÎNĂ-PRINT SRL, operating under the Pergament.md brand, is expanding its operations and investing in the development of its production and export capacities through the FACEM Impact financing facility.



Managed by entrepreneur Anton Căpățînă, the company secured a loan of MDL 5 million, granted for a period of eight years under favourable financing conditions.

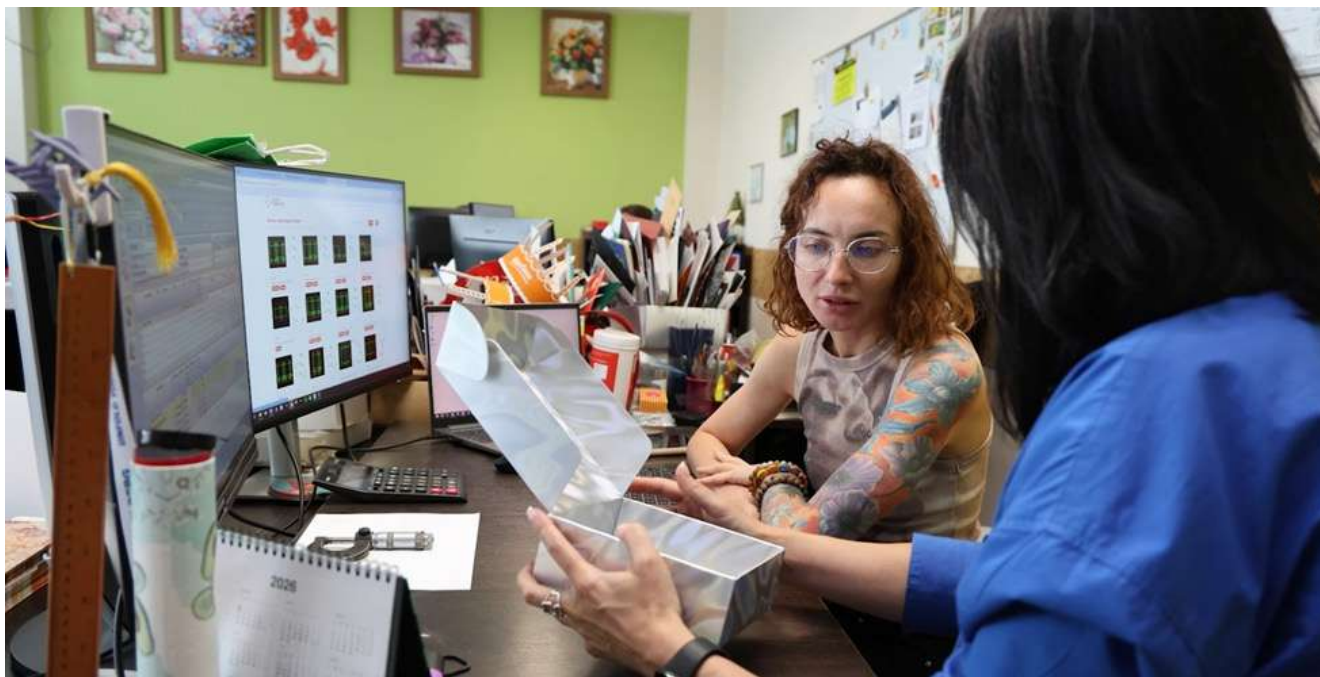
The total investment amounts to MDL 7.1 million and is being used to acquire a larger production and storage facility located outside Chișinău.

The new premises will enable the company to expand its operational capacity, streamline logistics processes, and respond more effectively to growing demand in external markets. Through this investment, Pergament.md is strengthening its market position while creating new opportunities to enhance its competitiveness and expand its export activities.



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"Access to long-term financing allows us to make strategic investments that will support the company's growth in the years ahead. Expanding our production facilities is an important step towards increasing our capacity to serve customers both in the Republic of Moldova and abroad,"

said Anton Căpățină, the company's founder and manager.

FACEM Impact is part of the "SME Development Facility in Moldova" project, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank KfW. Implemented by the Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA), the facility complements the efforts of the European Union and international development partners to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Republic of Moldova.



Stronger Together

EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme supports the modernisation of the Cupcini Vocational School

Approximately 400 students and 70 teachers at Cupcini Vocational School are now benefiting from the modernisation of the school implemented within the EU4Moldova:

Local Communities programme, financed by the European Union and the Government of Austria, implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).



The modernisation works have transformed the school's infrastructure. They included the renovation of the roof in the students' dormitory and canteen, the waterproofing of the foundation and renovation of the dormitory façade, the upgrading of bathrooms, the installation of photovoltaic systems, and

the equipping of practice classrooms with necessary tools and technologies. These improvements provide young people with modern, safe, and sustainable learning conditions, supporting their professional development and facilitating their smooth integration into the labour market.



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Beyond infrastructure, the project has invested in strengthening skills and capacities. Teachers have been empowered with efficient management skills, and digital pedagogy and innovative teaching methods through targeted training sessions. Students have acquired essential 21st-century skills that prepare them for future careers.

Modernisation drives systemic progress in vocational education. The integration

of the Teacher's Electronic Register and the Student's Electronic Agenda into the Education Management Information System (EMIS) enhances transparency and accountability by enabling real-time monitoring of performance and progress. These digital instruments reinforce the VET system's monitoring capacity and provide sustainable benefits for evidence-based policy development.



  EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Furthermore, the Moldovan VET system was supported with the elaboration of new textbooks for five qualifications, aligned with national and international Occupational and Qualification Standards.

The infrastructure investments for the modernisation of the educational institution in Cupcini amounted to approximately EUR 337,000, being financially supported by the

European Union and the Republic of Austria. Within the EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme, other three VET institution like Leova Vocational School, Leova rayon, Bratuseni VET College, Edinet rayon and Straseneni VET college, Straseneni rayon, were modernised to assure a quality condition of learning and teaching.



EU4Moldova: Local Communities programme – completion of three new wastewater systems in Strășeni rayon

The villages in Gălești, Căpriană, and Scoreni (Strășeni rayon) are now benefitting from new wastewater systems, marking a major step forward in improving public services and living standards of the people in rural communities!

With a total investment of EUR 1.82 million, provided by the European Union and Austria,

in partnership with Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD), Local Public Authorities (LPAs), and implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the projects strengthen the safe wastewater disposal, local water governance, enhance essential public services, and build climate-resilient communities in Strășeni.





Through these European investments, approximately 1,000 households in the targeted villages are benefiting from improved sanitation infrastructure. Public institutions were first connected to the new sewage network, ensuring that children, teachers, and citizens have access to safe and modern sanitary conditions.

Officials, community members and partners gathered today to celebrate this achievement at the closing event, which symbolically marked the launch of the three new wastewater treatment plants. The ceremony underscored the shared commitment of the European Union to fostering sustainable development and stronger local communities in Moldova.

Furthermore, the newly inaugurated systems are designed with scalability in mind, ensuring that infrastructure could be upgraded to the evolving needs of the local population. Beyond immediate improvements in sanitation, the investments contribute to better public health, environmental protection, and overall quality of life in the targeted communities.

This first phase of investments has delivered modern wastewater treatment plants and new sewage networks, supporting local public authorities to provide this basic public service to the population. This investment aims to reduce the huge disparities between urban and rural wastewater service coverage ratio; the project creates equal opportunities for growth and development among rural residents.

The programme EU4Moldova: Local Communities was launched in 2022 as a Team Europe initiative of the EU, Austria, Germany and Poland, and was designed to improve quality of life and strengthen community resilience in the Edineț, Strășeni, and Leova rayons. Its

objectives include enhancing public services, expanding access to infrastructure, fostering business development and job creation, and supporting community-led initiatives.



EU4Moldova: Local Communities provides safe drinking water to Edineț and Cupcini

Edineț and Cupcini towns now have access to safe drinking water in their homes, businesses, and schools. The official inauguration of the Edineț Water Treatment Plant took place on June 24th, marking a

significant milestone for the region. The project was funded by the European Union, Austria, and Moldova within the framework of the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme.



The total investment for the construction of the Water Treatment Plant, the rehabilitation of three pumping stations, partial rehabilitation of the transmission main, and the construction of the intake pumping station amounted to approximately 6 million EUR. Around 25,800 inhabitants of Edineț and Cupcini town will benefit from these improved services and reliable access to high-quality drinking water.

During the implementation period, the following objectives were achieved:

- ✓ A new Water Treatment Plant with a daily production capacity of 5,184 m³;
- ✓ One rehabilitated reservoir to secure clean water storage and constant flow;
- ✓ A new raw water intake and pumping station at the Racovăț Reservoir (Bădragii-Vechi lake) with a 90 l/s capacity, alongside the reconstruction of 2 km of the existing transmission main in critical areas;
- ✓ New pumps and electrical systems at three pumping stations to ensure efficient and reliable operation.



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The project was implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), as part of the “EU4Moldova: Local Communities” programme, which was launched in 2022 as a Team Europe initiative. Designed to improve

the quality of life and strengthen community resilience within the Edineț, Strășeni, and Leova rayons, the programme’s comprehensive objectives include enhancing local public services and expanding access to essential infrastructure.



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Additionally, the initiative focuses on fostering business development, creating job

opportunities, and supporting community-led local development.



Stronger Together

“If not me, then who?” – Ianna Gaja and the invisible discipline of quality in industry

As we walk down the long corridors leading to the production units, we pass dozens of employees. Her authority does not come from her title. It is felt in the way people greet her, in the clarity of her brief, composed exchanges

with section managers, laboratory staff and production workers. It is also visible in the ease with which colleagues approach the Production Director.



– Ianna, when will salaries be paid?

– As usual, by the 20th, without delays.

Ianna Gaja is Production Director at “Slavena Lux” and oversees three major areas: fish processing, meat processing and the production of semi-finished products. She is responsible, simultaneously, for both volume and quality.

Anticipating quality standards in the meat and fish industry

On the local market, the difference between quality certifications may seem theoretical. For Ianna, it is deeply operational.

ISO standards validate the final product. IFS (International Featured Standards), however, require evidence at every stage of the production chain. It is not enough to deliver a safe product – you must demonstrate, through documentation and measurable data, that every risk has been anticipated and controlled.

“ISO standards require a safe final product. IFS goes much further – from waste management and traceability to environmental responsibility,”

explains Ianna Gaja.

“If a company does not invest consistently and cannot prove it with real evidence, then product quality is compromised.”



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In the Republic of Moldova, this standard is still rare. “There are only eight or nine IFS-certified companies. Ours is the only one in this group processing both meat and fish,” she adds.

In this context, Ianna’s work goes beyond applying rules – it means opening a path in an industry where today’s requirements, proactively assumed by the company, often anticipate tomorrow’s regulations.

Even labelling is not a marketing tool, but a technical document. Any claim related to vitamins or micronutrients must be supported by measurable evidence, not assumptions.

How it all began

Ianna graduated from the Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Food Technology.

In 2011, she left university without a clear image of her future profession. She describes herself at that time as having “very little understanding” of her career direction, but she knew one thing for certain – she did not see herself spending her life in a kitchen.

Instead, she had acquired unexpected technical skills. She knew how to use a soldering gun, improvise technical solutions in unforeseen situations (even using aspirin as a soldering flux), recognise refrigeration system components and design cooling equipment.



Her first job came after a career fair: she became a technologist at a dairy factory in Soroca. She chose the position for its growth potential. She worked night shifts while completing her graduation thesis during the day. After nine months, she was promoted to Quality Manager – a role where she began to build what would later become her professional reflex: procedure.

This period coincided with a transition in management from a French team to a local one within the Lactalis group – a defining moment in her professional development.

One incident from that time shaped this approach permanently: a truckload of milk contaminated with antibiotics was fully discarded – without negotiation. From that moment on, one principle became absolute: quality and safety are non-negotiable.

Motherhood – another form of balance

Ianna has been working at “Slavena Lux” for nine years. Even maternity leave did not mean a complete break. She chose a flexible arrangement, coming to work for short periods each day.

Her youngest son became, as she says, “a full member of the Slavena family.” Until the age of one and a half, he was cared for by colleagues in the factory yard while she worked. It was a conscious choice, supported by the company, allowing her to remain connected to her work and team.

Where it all comes from

Ianna did not have a single role model, but she grew up in an environment where work was a constant.

Her analytical thinking comes from her father, a machinist who worked with programmable equipment. Her mother worked in the light industry, eventually becoming Head of Production.

These were her first references for discipline and leadership. The rest, she says, was shaped “in the yard” – a reference not meant metaphorically. Growing up in the 1990s, school experiences and social pressures – what today might be called bullying – formed the reflex: “If not me, then who?”

A message for women entering industry

Her message to young women is direct and pragmatic: invest not in grades, but in knowledge.

“Try. Test things. See them through – consistently, carefully, with perseverance – before deciding whether this field is for you.

Listen to those who will have to implement your decisions. Stay human. Pay attention to the team’s emotional state, especially during process optimisation. Don’t be afraid to ask directly: What would be more convenient for you? What do you think?

Ianna Gaja, the protagonist of this interview, is among the most active and committed beneficiaries of the initiatives for small and medium-sized enterprises delivered under the EU–UNIDO project “Improving the standards compliance through increased national capacities for residue monitoring”.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EBRD expands risk-sharing support for Moldova's maib

- EBRD unlocks EUR 50 million in new lending with portfolio risk-sharing guarantee to maib
- EU-supported facility builds on 2024 pilot to expand MSME access to finance
- Support for capital relief and lending capacity in Moldova's largest bank

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing a new portfolio risk-sharing (PRS) facility of up to EUR 25 million to maib, the country's largest bank. The unfunded guarantee will unlock up to EUR 50 million in new lending to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).



The new agreement was signed by the EBRD's Managing Director for [Ukraine](#) and [Moldova](#), Arvid Tuerkner, at the [EU-Moldova Investment Conference](#) in Chisinau.

Building on a successful first PRS transaction in 2024, the facility will enable maib to expand lending while optimising capital use under evolving regulatory requirements. By sharing credit risk on newly originated loans, the EBRD will help free up capital and strengthen the bank's capacity to finance private-sector growth.

The facility is supported by first-loss risk coverage provided by the European Union's European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) Financial Inclusion, which promotes sustainable investments in EU partner countries. It is designed to help address a key market gap by enabling partner banks to expand lending using their own balance sheets, while managing risk and optimising capital use under tightening regulatory requirements.



EU-Moldova

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Through the portfolio risk-sharing structure, the EBRD will share credit risk on newly originated loans to MSMEs, freeing up capital and enhancing the bank's capacity to extend further financing. This allows maib to increase on-lending without compromising its regulatory capital position, thereby supporting business growth and economic activity.

The project is expected to improve access to finance for underserved segments, including women- and youth-led businesses and enterprises in regions outside the capital. It will also strengthen maib's resilience to economic shocks by diversifying its

portfolio and reducing exposure to credit risk, contributing to a more stable and competitive financial sector.

The operation is aligned with the EBRD's strategy for Moldova for 2023-2028 and its Financial Sector Strategy. By supporting local banks in expanding MSME lending and enhancing risk management, the EBRD continues to promote a more inclusive, competitive and resilient financial system. In a relationship spanning more than three decades, the EBRD has invested more than EUR 3 billion in Moldova in 199 projects.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

With EU and EBRD support, Vefasistem strengthens its path towards international competitiveness

With support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union, Vefasistem Companie SRL – one of Moldova's leading producers of PVC and aluminium windows and doors and architectural solutions – is taking its next step towards international competitiveness.

Founded in 2008 and headquartered in Bălți, Vefasistem has built a strong local manufacturing base, a nationwide retail network, and export links to markets in Europe, the USA and Canada. The company's production facilities already comply with European quality standards, and its portfolio includes PVC and aluminium windows and doors, sliding systems, and complementary solutions designed for comfort, safety and energy efficiency.



To strengthen Vefasistem's progress in complying with European quality standards, and building on the success of earlier cooperation supported by EU donor funding in 2016, the EBRD is supporting the company through advisory services aimed at implementing an integrated management system aligned with ISO 9001 for quality, ISO

14001 for environmental management, ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety, and ISO 50001 for energy management. This support will help Vefasistem prepare for certification, strengthen operational control, improve resource efficiency and reinforce safer, greener production practices.



Stronger Together

The expected impact is tangible: by December 2026, Vefasistem aims to increase turnover to EUR 14 million, improve profitability, raise labour productivity, reduce energy consumption by around 10%, and obtain certification against these

international standards. These results will support the company's ambition to diversify its client portfolio, access new markets, and compete more effectively in local tenders and international supply chains.



Backed by EBRD support and donor expertise, Vefasistem is turning compliance into competitiveness – and sustainability into growth. As a registered supplier under the EBRD's Residential Green Economy

Financing Facility in Moldova, the company shows that Moldovan manufacturers can deliver European-quality products while investing in safer, greener and more resilient operations.

Stronger employment services and new opportunities for young people in Moldova, through the EU4Youth programme

Young people across Moldova are benefiting from stronger employment services, improved career support and greater access to entrepreneurship opportunities following the completion of the technical assistance component under the EU4Youth Phase III: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme.

The initiative has helped strengthen cooperation between public institutions, local authorities, civil society organisations and development partners, creating a more coordinated approach to supporting young people as they enter the labour market. Public Employment Services in Moldova have also enhanced the quality of their support through regional peer learning, institutional self-assessment and the adoption of good practices.

Particular progress has been made in reaching young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). By promoting entrepreneurial, digital and life skills alongside tailored employment services, the Programme has expanded opportunities for young people to build sustainable careers and improve their economic prospects.

The programme also delivered tangible results through the Youth Guarantee for Roma initiative, helping improve outreach and access to employment services for young Roma in several regions of Moldova. The experience highlighted how cooperation at local level can make employment support more accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities.



ANOFM Employment Fair brings young people and employers together across Moldova

More than 50 employers and over 2,000 job opportunities were brought together during the nationwide Employment Fair organised by the National Employment Agency (ANOFM). The event offered young people

and jobseekers the opportunity to connect directly with employers while accessing career guidance, vocational training information, and employment support services.



As part of the event, Evgeniia Petrivska, International Key Expert of the EU4Youth Phase III: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme, moderated two information sessions for employers and young participants. The discussions focused on labour rights and responsibilities, decent work standards, labour market trends, and good recruitment practices, encouraging informed dialogue between employers and future employees.

The Employment Fair reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen employment services and improve young people's access to the labour market. Through its cooperation with national institutions, the EU4Youth: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme contributes to initiatives that support skills development, promote inclusive employment practices, and facilitate the transition of young people into decent work.

Details:

<https://www.anofm.md/ro/node/21294>



Stronger Together

Impact Days 2026 brings together Moldova's social entrepreneurship community

More than 140 entrepreneurs, experts, representatives of civil society organisations, public institutions, and development partners gathered in Chişinău for the fourth edition of Impact Days, an event dedicated to social entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development.

Over two days, participants explored key topics for developing high-impact initiatives, including responsible business

models, strategic communication, artificial intelligence, labour market inclusion, leadership, cybersecurity, and funding opportunities. The event, supported by the EU4Youth programme, provided a platform for knowledge exchange, dialogue, and the development of new partnerships among organisations and entrepreneurs working to create positive change in communities across Moldova.



For the first time at Impact Days, a panel discussion dedicated to the professional integration of people from ethnic minority groups took place on the first day of the event. The discussion began with an overview of the realities of the labour market in the Republic of Moldova and explored

both the challenges in the hiring process and examples of solutions and inclusive practices already in place. The panel provided participants with concrete and relevant ideas on how inclusion can be put into practice as part of a more efficient and resilient labour market.



Stronger Together



Impact Days 2026 was organised by the Social Entrepreneurship Hub, an initiative of the EcoVisio Public Association.

The event was implemented with the support of the EU4Youth: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme, implemented by the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) in the Eastern Partnership countries, with the support of the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

The event was supported by the European Union, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and UNDP Moldova, within initiatives implemented by the East Europe Foundation Moldova, in partnership with EcoVisio, the European Business Association Moldova, and the Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Moldova.

Impact Days 2026 was organised in partnership with Lezart Studio, ADV Group, unde.io, and the MOLDOX Festival.

Details: [here](#).



Stronger Together

Artificial intelligence that makes a difference in people's lives: how EU4Youth helped Denis Zacon achieve his social mission

After gaining experience at one of the world's leading fintech companies, Stripe, Denis Zacon returned to Moldova determined to make artificial intelligence more accessible to businesses, public institutions, and civil society. With the support of the EU4Youth:

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme, he founded AI Skills, a company that helps organisations integrate AI into their daily work through tailored training and practical solutions.



Through the Building Back Better Through Social Entrepreneurship project, implemented by Junior Achievement Moldova under the EU4Youth programme, Denis received a grant of approximately EUR 5,000, enabling him to invest in equipment,

promote his services, and grow his business. Alongside commercial training, he provides free AI workshops to public institutions and non-governmental organisations that create positive social impact but have limited financial resources.



Today, AI Skills works with private companies, public institutions, and NGOs across Moldova, demonstrating that innovation and entrepreneurship can go hand in hand with social responsibility. Denis's journey shows how the EU4Youth programme empowers young entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses that generate both economic value and meaningful social change.

Read more about Denis Zacon here: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/stories/artificial-intelligence-that-makes-a-difference-in-peoples-lives-how-eu4youth-helped-denis-zacon-achieve-his-social-mission/>

Florin Teslari: how a young entrepreneur builds a social enterprise from the ground up, with support from the EU4Youth: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme

Florin Teslari never planned to become a mushroom entrepreneur. With a background in engineering, he transformed his family's traditional mushroom farm into Teslari ORIGINS, a social enterprise producing 16 varieties of exotic mushrooms and

innovative home-growing kits. Supported by the EU4Youth: Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship programme, Florin combined technology, sustainability, and entrepreneurship to build a business that delivers both economic and social value.



Through the Building Back Better Through Social Entrepreneurship project, implemented by Junior Achievement Moldova under the EU4Youth programme, Florin received mentoring, training, and financial support that enabled him to expand production, develop new products,

and strengthen his business model. Beyond selling mushrooms, his enterprise promotes environmental awareness, educates families about sustainable food production, and creates employment opportunities for people from vulnerable groups.

Today, Florin's story demonstrates how innovation and social entrepreneurship can transform a family business into a sustainable enterprise with a positive impact on local communities. Through the EU4Youth programme, young entrepreneurs like Florin are gaining the skills and support needed to turn ambitious ideas into businesses that benefit both people and the environment.

Read more about Florin Teslari here:

<https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/stories/how-one-young-entrepreneur-is-building-a-social-business-from-scratch-with-the-support-of-eu4youth/>



Stronger Together

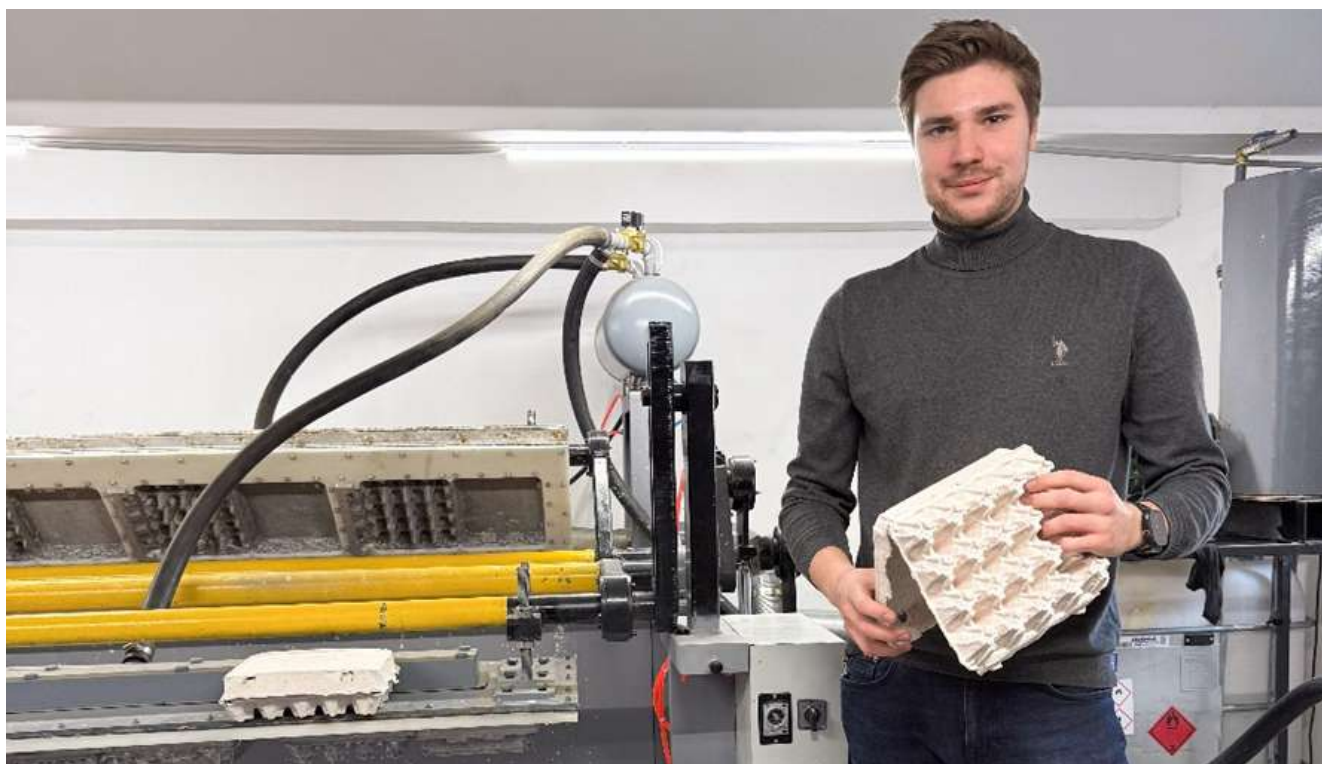
NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA | APRIL – JUNE 2026

Valentin Railean: how a young entrepreneur from Moldova is turning paper waste into sustainable packaging, with the support of the EU

Inspired by the paper waste generated at his family's printing house, Valentin Railean set out to create an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic packaging. With the support of the EU4Youth: Youth Employment

and Entrepreneurship programme, he founded Repack Company, a social enterprise that transforms paper and cardboard waste into sustainable packaging for eggs, fruits, and vegetables.



Through the Building Back Better Through Social Entrepreneurship project, implemented by Junior Achievement Moldova under the EU4Youth programme, Valentin received mentoring, entrepreneurship training, and grant funding that helped him refine his business idea, purchase production equipment, and prepare for large-scale manufacturing. The programme also connected him with industry experts and partners, enabling him to overcome technical challenges and accelerate the development of his business.

Today, Repack Company is preparing to expand

its product range beyond egg cartons to include packaging for fruits, vegetables, perfumes, and electronic components. Valentin's entrepreneurial journey demonstrates how innovation, circular economy principles, and targeted support from the EU4Youth programme can transform environmental challenges into sustainable businesses with long-term economic and social impact.

Read more about Valentin Railean here: <https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/stories/how-a-young-entrepreneur-from-moldova-is-turning-paper-waste-into-sustainable-packaging-with-the-support-of-eu4youth/>



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

A more stable, transparent and investor-friendly financial system – the aim of aligning the secondary credit market with EU standards

Moldova is in the process of drafting a law that will protect borrowers and bring clear, transparent rules to the secondary credit market – inspired by European Union legislation and practice. The new framework will extend borrower protections beyond the moment a loan is granted, regulating also the stages of debt collection and loan management. To support this process, 11

representatives of the National Commission for Financial Markets and the Ministry of Finance participated in a two-day training dedicated to aligning Moldova's draft legislation with the EU Directive 2021/2167 on credit servicers and credit purchasers. The event took place on 2–3 April and was organised within the EU and Denmark funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.



The training sessions were facilitated by Angela-Margareta Oprea, Senior Non-Key Expert on Consumer Protection in Financial Services within the project. The first day covered EU Directive 2021/2167's requirements in depth and reviewed how EU member states have transposed it, with special attention to the institutional capacity of the National Commission for Financial Markets to supervise the new framework. The second day started with reviewing the Moldovan draft law and formulating recommendations for its improvement. The day continued with an extended meeting with 19 private sector

representatives – commercial banks, non-bank credit organisations, and debt collection companies – to present the new regulatory requirements and their impact on the business models of the entities concerned.

Aligning financial market legislation with EU rules is not just a legal formality – it is a building block for a more stable, transparent, and investor-friendly financial system that ultimately benefits consumers. The two-day training is a direct contribution to this effort, strengthening the capacity of Moldova's financial regulators to draft and implement legislation that meets EU standards.

From idea to business: training for start-up entrepreneurs continues in Căușeni

At the end of April, around 100 entrepreneurs from southern Moldova are gathering in Căușeni for something most of them have been needing for a while: straight answers about how to run a business properly.

From 28 to 30 April, participants from Căușeni, Anenii Noi, Ștefan-Vodă, and Basarabeasca are working directly with tax inspectors, customs officers, accountants, and finance specialists — asking questions and getting practical answers to real problems.



The training programme is organised by the EU- and Denmark-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”.

Everyone who completes the training receives a certificate — but more importantly, the knowledge to avoid costly mistakes early on.

The Căușeni training marks the sixth edition of the Start-Up Entrepreneurs Programme, launched in 2025, which has already reached over 500 participants across Moldova. Further sessions are planned in Ungheni (July) and Comrat (August).

The sessions cover what actually matters for entrepreneurs just starting out:

- ✓ how to handle taxes;
- ✓ what accounting records to keep — and how;
- ✓ how import and export works in practice;
- ✓ the documents every business owner needs to understand, and more.



Stronger Together

Better protection for credit consumers: Moldova adopts EU standards to draft national law

Moldova needs transparent and clear rules on how and in what conditions citizens take loans to purchase a house (residential property) or access consumer credit. The National Commission for Financial Markets took a step in this direction, hosting a working session

dedicated to modernising the legislation that protects consumers of financial services. The session was organised on 27 April in the framework of the EU- and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”.



At the heart of the discussions were two important draft laws – one on mortgage credit and one on consumer credit – both designed to bring Moldovan legislation in line with European Union standards.

Piotr Adamczewski, EU expert within the project, guided participants through the requirements of two key European directives related to credit consumers (Directives 2014/17/EU and 2023/2225). He emphasised the obligations financial institutions must

meet and how these can be translated into national legislation. The ultimate goal: greater transparency and greater security for citizens accessing credits in Moldova.

The session is part of a broader technical assistance programme delivered under the European project, which also included the development of detailed GAP analyses, along with concrete recommendations for improving national regulatory acts.

Entrepreneurs from the north of the country learn how to start and operate a business in conformity with the law

Over 100 young and aspiring entrepreneurs who want to start a business or have recently launched one took part in a three-day training programme organised by the EU- and Denmark-funded project “Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration”, in partnership with the

Ministry of Finance, the Customs Service, the State Tax Service and the “Monitorul Fiscal” publication. The programme is in its seventh round, bringing together participants from the districts of Edineț, Dondușeni, Ocnița, Briceni and Rîșcani.



Over the course of three days, participants covered key tax, customs, and financial aspects essential for starting and growing a business. The programme included topics such as tax administration, public procurement, customs regulations, voluntary compliance, and the use of electronic services provided by public institutions.

The sessions were delivered by experts from the Ministry of Finance, the State Tax Service, and the Customs Service, who provided up-to-

date information on the regulatory framework and answered participants' questions.

The initiative aimed to strengthen entrepreneurial skills and support business development by equipping participants with the knowledge needed to operate successfully in a modern and competitive economic environment.

The programme will continue in the municipalities of Ungheni and Comrat in July and August 2026.

Consistent application of competition and State aid rules is essential for fair competition: highlights of the training for legal professionals

Over 40 legal professionals gathered at the National Institute of Justice for a specialised training on the theoretical and practical

aspects of competition law and State aid, aimed at strengthening the application of European Union competition rules in the context of Moldova's EU accession path.



The training focused on the implementation of competition and State aid legislation in line with the EU acquis, providing participants with practical knowledge on detecting and addressing anti-competitive practices, as well as understanding the legal framework governing State aid.

Discussions covered anti-competitive agreements prohibited under competition law, including price-fixing cartels, market and customer sharing arrangements, exchanges of commercially sensitive information, bid rigging in public procurement procedures, and resale price maintenance agreements.

Participants analysed real-life scenarios and engaged in interactive exercises, applying legal principles to concrete situations and thus deepening their understanding of competition enforcement.

Judges explored the provisions of EU State aid law, including the concepts of State aid, existing and new aid, illegal aid, incompatible

aid, and the recovery of unlawfully granted support.

Additional case studies examined the concept of selectivity in fiscal measures and the legal challenges associated with recovering incompatible or unlawful State aid, offering participants practical insights into the application of these principles in judicial proceedings.

The event contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of Moldova's judicial system and legal community in the field of competition and State aid law. Enhanced understanding and consistent application of these rules are essential for ensuring fair competition, promoting transparency, and advancing the country's alignment with European Union standards.

The training was organised in the framework of the EU- and Denmark-funded project "Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration".



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU4Digital supports Invest Moldova Agency export promotion study visit to Lithuania

To help drive economic growth in Moldova, the EU4Digital Facility co-organised a visit to Lithuania by the Export Promotion team of Invest Moldova Agency (IMA) on 23–24 April 2026. The focus was to learn from Lithuanian institutions and businesses with practical experience in supporting exports.

The IMA plays an important role in the Republic of Moldova's economy through its mission to drive the country's sustainable economic development by attracting investments and promoting exports. Export growth is essential to strengthening Moldova's competitiveness and resilience, so increasing the capacity to support export promotion is of benefit not only to individual firms, but to the economy as a whole.



During the study visit, the Moldovan delegation met with representatives of the [Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists](#) (LPK), Lithuanian businesses in the agricultural and electronics manufacturing industries, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, and with [Innovation Agency Lithuania](#) – the country's key institution responsible for export promotion. The meetings provided the IMA team with practical insights into how export support is organised in Lithuania,

how business needs are identified, and how targeted export promotion initiatives can be designed and delivered.

This visit concluded wider EU4Digital support to Invest Moldova Agency, which had included work on [IMA's 2025–2030 strategy](#) and strategy governance framework, an investor due diligence framework, and earlier roadshows to [Germany](#) and [Lithuania](#). Together, these activities have helped strengthen IMA's capacity to support investment attraction and export promotion in Moldova.

ASEM students learned about consumer rights during a public lecture organised by ECC Moldova

At the end of the academic year, students of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM) took part in the public lecture "Consumer Rights: What Every Young Consumer Should Know", organised by the European Consumer Centre in the Republic of Moldova (ECC Moldova) in partnership with the university. The event provided students with an opportunity to learn more about consumer rights and the mechanisms available to protect them.

The lecture covered topics such as the right to accurate information, online shopping, unfair commercial practices, legal and commercial guarantees, and the ways consumers can protect their rights when these are violated. Particular attention was paid to drafting and submitting consumer complaints, communicating effectively with traders, and using the available consumer dispute resolution mechanisms.



Participants asked questions and discussed practical cases arising in consumer-trader relationships, exploring the steps required to resolve specific consumer issues and the role of the institutions responsible for protecting consumer rights.

This event was organised within the framework of the project “Facilitating Consumers’ Access to Redress and Complaint Resolution Mechanisms”, implemented by ECC Moldova with the support of the European Union.





ENERGY RESILIENCE

The first investments in energy efficiency bring better conditions for beneficiaries of social services

The energy modernisation of social services is beginning to produce concrete results in the Republic of Moldova. The first two investments completed under the project “Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in

Social Services” demonstrate that energy efficiency means more than reducing energy consumption – it means better social services, safer conditions and increased comfort for beneficiaries.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

At the “Încredere” Regional Centre for Social Integration and Benefits in Nisporeni, the first investment under the project has been completed. The building benefited from comprehensive energy modernisation works, including thermal insulation of the exterior walls and attic floor, as well as other interventions aimed at reducing energy

losses and improving the environment in which social services are provided. The investment, worth MDL 1,306,336.42, was carried out over five months and will contribute to improving the quality of services provided to the Centre’s beneficiaries.



Similar results were also achieved at the “CREDO” Day Centre in Sîngerei, where the energy modernisation works included thermal insulation of the building, renovation of the façade, installation of a modern LED lighting system, installation

of heat recovery units, modernisation of the electrical networks and arrangement of outdoor spaces. Completed in May 2026, the interventions will reduce energy consumption and provide better conditions for the beneficiaries of the social service.



Stronger Together



The two projects are part of the 35 local initiatives supported through the project “Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency in Social Services”, funded by the European Union and co-financed and implemented by the Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with Keystone Moldova PI and the “Social Innovation Fund of Moldova” AO.

These investments demonstrate how cooperation between the European Union, civil society organisations and local authorities contributes to the development of social services that are more efficient, more sustainable and closer to people’s needs.

Budgeting, financing and artificial intelligence: practical tools for better local projects

Local public authorities that are members of the LEEN Moldova network and signatories of the Covenant of Mayors – East in the Republic of Moldova participated in a series of training

sessions dedicated to the management of energy efficiency projects. The sessions focused on financial planning, budgeting, resource mobilisation and the use of modern digital tools.



During the second edition of Module 1, participants deepened their understanding of the technical and financial aspects required to prepare solid energy efficiency projects in the public sector. The programme covered:

- ❖ *cost analysis and assessment of energy-saving potential;*
- ❖ *determining the return on investment;*
- ❖ *developing the project budget structure;*
- ❖ *distinguishing between eligible and non-eligible costs;*
- ❖ *identifying available funding sources and co-financing mechanisms.*

Complementing the budgeting sessions, four practical trainings on the use of artificial intelligence in project management were organised between 5 and 13 May 2026. These sessions aimed to strengthen the digital skills of local public authorities and support the integration of AI tools into the planning, analysis, drafting, communication and reporting processes of energy efficiency projects.

Participants explored the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, the principle of human oversight, the management of risks related to inaccurate information, the protection of sensitive data and effective communication with AI tools, using the R-C-T-F structure: Role, Context, Task and Format. They also practised:

- ▶ *defining and reformulating problems;*
- ▶ *developing the “Problem Tree”;*
- ▶ *validating project needs through statistical data and local context;*
- ▶ *formulating the project goal and SMART objectives;*
- ▶ *developing the “Solution Tree” and completing the Project Canvas.*

These trainings, organised under the LEEN Moldova programme with the financial support of the Government of Germany through the GIZ-implemented E4M project, contribute to strengthening the capacities of local authorities to develop well-structured, financially sustainable energy efficiency projects that meet current funding requirements.

At the same time, the integration of digital skills and artificial intelligence tools supports local public authorities in improving the quality of their projects, using resources more efficiently and accelerating local action in the fields of sustainable energy and climate change.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Sustainable Energy Days 2026: green education, creativity and community engagement in CoM-East signatory municipalities

In the context of the European Sustainable Energy Week – EUSEW 2026, held under the theme “A clean, secure and competitive Energy Union”, several Covenant of Mayors – East signatory communities from the Republic of Moldova organised local activities dedicated to sustainable energy education, environmental protection and civic engagement.

In Ceadâr-Lunga, Anenii Noi and Vişniovca, children, pupils, parents, teachers and local authorities took part in interactive, creative and educational activities designed to explain, in an accessible way, the importance of saving energy, using resources responsibly, protecting nature and adopting a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

In the municipality of Ceadâr-Lunga, the activities began at Kindergarten No. 1, where children from the preparatory groups took part in the quest-style game “Green Mission: Saving the Planet Together!”. The programme included thematic stations dedicated to environmental protection rules, separate waste collection and care for trees, and concluded with an ecological flash mob. Other early education institutions in the municipality organised bicycle races, planting activities, educational visits to nurseries, creative exhibitions, simple experiments about energy, water and nature, as well as activities focused on reusing materials.



In Anenii Noi, kindergartens and educational institutions promoted sustainable energy through interactive games, experiments, drawings, practical activities and creative performances. Children discovered what energy is, how light, water and heat can be saved, and how natural sources – the sun, wind and water – can contribute to a cleaner future. At the same time, students from local high schools took part in the “We Choose the Bicycle, We Save the Planet!” action, promoting eco-friendly transport, sustainable mobility and a healthy lifestyle.

In the village of Vişniovca, the Mayor’s Office, educational institutions and local

partners organised a broad community programme under the title “Green Energy Day in Vişniovca”. The activities included thematic lessons, creative workshops, interactive presentations, the creation of promotional materials, recycling activities, exhibitions dedicated to energy-efficient homes, symbolic planting actions, eco-contests and a community march with the message “For a Green Future!”. The event brought together children, parents, seniors, volunteers and representatives of local institutions, demonstrating that the green transition begins with cooperation and community involvement.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Through these initiatives, the Covenant of Mayors – East signatory communities reaffirm their commitment to promoting energy efficiency, sustainable energy and

local climate action, contributing to the development of cleaner, healthier and more resilient communities.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Moldova tests gas emergency procedures, strengthening crisis response mechanisms

Moldovan authorities and energy sector stakeholders – including system operators, suppliers, traders, and large consumers – participated on Tuesday, 9 June, in a table-top exercise on gas security of supply. The exercise simulated medium- and high-impact scenarios and tested real-

time operational responses in line with the national emergency plan.

The event was organised under the Moldova Energy Independence and Resilience project, implemented by the Energy Community Secretariat and co-financed by the European Union.



This marks the first exercise of its kind in Moldova, representing an important step in strengthening the emergency preparedness and crisis response capacity of the Energy Community Contracting Party.

Lessons learned will be shared regionally through the Gas Security of Supply Coordination Group and will directly inform the national gas risk assessment.



Stronger Together

This marks the first exercise of its kind in Moldova, representing an important step in strengthening the emergency preparedness and crisis response capacity of the Energy Community Contracting Party.

Lessons learned will be shared regionally through the Gas Security of Supply Coordination Group and will directly inform the national gas risk assessment.

Moldova's reliance on imported natural gas – the main fuel for electricity and heat generation – makes its energy system particularly vulnerable to seasonal demand fluctuations and supply disruptions. This vulnerability was highlighted during the 2021 energy crisis, when interruptions in gas supplies from Russia exposed structural weaknesses in energy security.

Since then, Moldova has advanced EU-aligned reforms aimed at strengthening resilience, diversifying supply sources, and reducing dependence on single suppliers.

A key milestone was reached on 1 April 2026, when Moldova opened its gas market to large non-household consumers, representing more than half of national demand. The reform is expected to enhance competition and improve access to more diversified and competitive gas supplies.

In addition, Moldova has gone beyond EU requirements by securing gas storage volumes exceeding 20% of average annual consumption and, since 2025, extending storage arrangements to the Transnistrian region, thereby reducing systemic risks.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU expands support for energy-efficient healthcare infrastructure in Moldova

The European Investment Bank's development arm, EIB Global, is expanding support for the modernisation of Moldova's healthcare sector under the Moldova Energy Efficiency Project. The expansion comprises an additional EUR 10 million European Union investment grant managed by EIB Global and

mobilised through the EU's [Neighbourhood Investment Platform](#). The grant will finance renovation works in selected hospitals, helping reduce energy consumption and operating costs while improving conditions for patients and healthcare professionals.



The new financing complements the Moldova Energy Efficiency Project, bringing the total investment in the upgrade of 10 public hospitals across the country to EUR 72.4 million. Financed by the EU, the EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the overall project is expected to benefit more than 1 million patients and over 10,000 healthcare professionals annually while cutting energy consumption in the hospitals by around 40% and strengthening Moldova's energy security.

Under the programme, approximately 203,000 square metres of hospital space will be renovated nationwide by July 2028. Planned works include thermal insulation, the replacement of windows and doors, upgrades to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, the installation of energy-efficient lighting and photovoltaic panels and improvements to accessibility and fire safety.

**Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova
Alexandru Munteanu stated:**

"I would like to thank the European Union for standing by Moldova, not only through political support, but also through investments that bring real improvements to people's lives in our communities. Europe is not only about institutions and decisions taken in Brussels or Luxembourg. Europe is about the hospitals people turn to when they need care. Hospitals that will use less energy and dedicate more resources to patients. It is about a better quality of life. And that is exactly what we are building together."



**Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European
Union to the Republic of Moldova,
commented:**

"The EU support is helping deliver tangible improvements for people across Moldova. More energy-efficient healthcare facilities

mean better conditions for patients and medical staff, lower energy costs and better care. This investment is more than just funding; it reflects our commitment to supporting Moldova's sustainable development and its path towards a greener and more resilient future."



Stronger Together

EIB Vice-President Karl Nehammer, who oversees the Bank's operations in Moldova, added:

"When people think about healthcare, they think about doctors, nurses and treatment. But the quality of care is also shaped by the buildings where that care is delivered. A warm hospital in winter, reliable heating, good ventilation and comfortable conditions for patients and medical staff all make a difference. This investment will help modernise healthcare facilities across Moldova, improving everyday conditions while reducing energy costs and strengthening resilience."

The Moldova Energy Efficiency Project is carried out with the financial support of the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The project is implemented by the Consolidated Unit for the Implementation and Monitoring of Energy Projects, under the coordination of the Ministry of Energy.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



Finland–Moldova–Ukraine partnership for cleaner air

The Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) organised a two-week internship on air quality dispersion modelling in Helsinki, Finland, from 18 to 29 May 2026. The training brought together specialists from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and marked an important step in strengthening national capacities for air quality monitoring, assessment, and management in line with

European Union requirements. Air quality dispersion modelling is one of the key components of the EU air quality assessment framework. It enables authorities to assess the impacts of emissions on ambient air quality and population exposure, identify pollution hotspots and support the development of effective air quality policies.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

The four Moldovan participants, representing the Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring Authority, the Air Quality Laboratory of the Environment Agency, and the Faculty of Biology and Geosciences of the State University of Moldova, benefited from the FMI training programme. Designed as a hands-on course, the programme enabled participants to carry out modelling exercises under the guidance of FMI experts. A case study based on traffic emissions in Chişinău provided participants with an opportunity to apply modelling tools to real-world scenarios and learn how to interpret results for decision-making purposes.

One of the outcomes of the training was the development of a methodology for air quality modelling, including Standard Operating

Procedures (SOPs) for the application of dispersion models. This methodology will support the harmonisation and further development of air quality modelling practices in Moldova and facilitate the implementation of EU standards for air quality assessment and management.

The data, analyses, and modelling results generated during the training can be used to support the preparation of Moldovan Air Quality Plans, as well as the implementation of the National Air Pollution Control Programme under the EU National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive. These tools are essential for supporting sustainable urban development and designing effective emission reduction measures.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

As Moldova and Ukraine advance on their path towards European Union membership, both countries are undertaking extensive reforms to harmonise their environmental legislation and air quality monitoring systems with EU standards. In addition to developing legislation and expanding monitoring networks, strengthening expertise in air quality modelling is essential for modern air quality management and evidence-based policymaking.

Thus, the training contributes to the long-term development of air quality management systems in Moldova and Ukraine, supporting

both countries in meeting European environmental standards, protecting public health, and enhancing cooperation between the countries. The activity was implemented under two international cooperation initiatives: the EU-funded Twinning Moldova Project Air Quality and Environment and the Ukraine–Finland Air Quality Monitoring (UFAIR) project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Both projects support Moldova and Ukraine in their efforts to align environmental governance and air quality management practices with EU legislation.



Moldovan – Swedish pilot exercise: testing EU approaches to chemical control in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova has carried out a Moldovan – Swedish pilot exercise aimed at strengthening controls in the field of chemicals management. The Ministry of Environment

and the Environmental Protection Inspectorate tested European inspection methodologies through joint on-site inspections of economic operators.



The activity focused on the implementation of legislation on chemicals management and was conducted with the support of Swedish experts, who shared EU experience in market surveillance, inspection procedures, and the enforcement of regulatory requirements.

The exercise combined training sessions with practical field inspections. Participants examined the control of chemicals and mixtures throughout the regulatory chain, including classification, labelling, and

packaging, as well as the assessment of Safety Data Sheets, which provide essential information on the safe use, storage, and handling of chemical products.

The joint inspections enabled authorities to apply the methodologies in practice, better understand challenges faced by businesses, and strengthen cooperation between institutions responsible for control and enforcement.



Through this pilot exercise, the Republic of Moldova is adopting EU best practices that will contribute to more effective and coordinated inspections. The objective is to ensure the responsible management of chemicals and to reduce risks to human health, consumers, workers, and the environment.

The activity was carried out under the Twinning project “Air Quality and Environment”, funded by the European Union. The project is implemented at the Ministry of Environment by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Agency.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

EU supports the development of green skills in key economic sectors

A roadmap for the development of green skills in key economic sectors was presented on June 29 at the Technical University of Moldova (UTM).

The document was developed with the support of the European Union as part of the project

“Enabling an inclusive green transition in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova. Based on this document, a national capacity-building programme will be launched to prepare the workforce, institutions, and the education system for the demands of the green transition.



The programme is co-created with stakeholders' involvement, through interactive sessions and by applying methods of systems thinking and interdisciplinary collaboration. All of this is done in partnership with Climate KIC, one of Europe's leading climate innovation communities.

As a result, public institutions need experts who are ready to implement and ensure compliance with increasingly complex environmental legislation aligned with EU standards. At the same time, educational institutions should adapt their curricula and training programmes to prepare current and future professionals in the environmental field.

"The green transition is about resilience. It is about building a society and an economy that can thrive and prosper for generations to come. This starts with investing in skills and education. The EU can only innovate and make the green transition happen on the ground if people are on board and prepared,"

said Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy, who attended the dialogue bringing together students, recent graduates, universities, and vocational education institutions.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

The event provided a forum for discussion on the green skills of the future and the career opportunities created by the green transition.

"The green transition requires not only new technologies, but also new competencies. At the Technical University of Moldova, we are continuously adapting our educational programmes to equip students with the green skills demanded by the labour market and the future economy. The creation of the Green Tech Hub Innovation Centre is a concrete example of this commitment, providing a collaborative environment where education, research, entrepreneurship, and industry come together to develop practical solutions for a sustainable future",

said Viorel Bostan, rector of UTM.

"I was pleased to learn that there are more and more career opportunities in fields that help protect natural resources, reduce pollution, and promote energy efficiency. I believe that we, as young people, have an important role to play in this transformation and that, by choosing such professions, we can help create a greener and more prosperous Moldova," said

Dragoş Scurtu, a student at the Cruzeşti Middle School and Kindergarten Educational Complex.

The universities and colleges specialising in the environment and sustainability that attended the event presented their educational offerings to the new generation of students interested in green fields and sustainable development. One of the spaces featured was the Green Tech Hub, located at UTM.



Developed on the UTM campus, the Green Tech Hub will bring together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, startups, and partners from the public and private sectors to transform innovative ideas into concrete solutions for a greener and more sustainable future.

The European Union, through the project “Enabling an inclusive green transition in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova, will equip the Green Tech Hub with a laboratory dedicated to testing construction materials and integrating waste as a raw material into production processes. At the same time, the EU and UNDP support community development by organising hackathons, pre-acceleration programmes, and initiatives focused on developing green skills.

The Green Tech Hub also includes a modern innovation and prototyping lab, equipped with 3D printers, CO2 laser equipment, CNC (computer numerical control) machines, machinery for recycling plastics and textiles, as well as spaces dedicated to educational activities and collaborative projects.

The Green Tech Hub is being developed through a collaboration between the Technical University of Moldova and UNDP Moldova, with support from the European Union and the Innovate Moldova programme, funded by Sweden and the United Kingdom.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

The European Union supports expansion of waste management and recycling infrastructure

Five recycling companies in the Republic of Moldova will receive support totalling up to EUR 425,000 to develop their waste management and recycling activities. The assistance is

provided by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of the project “Enabling an inclusive green transition in the Republic of Moldova.”



The selected companies will receive equipment, services, and specialised technical assistance worth up to EUR 85,000 each. All of this will contribute to the creation of new recycling facilities, the modernisation and expansion of existing capacities, the implementation of technical solutions to reduce environmental impact, as well as the development of digital systems and IT solutions dedicated to waste management.

“Moldova’s economic growth is closely tied to natural resources, from agriculture to energy. Yet, climate change, pollution and inefficient resource use threaten this foundation. The cost of inaction is important. Conversely, the opportunities of action are substantial. The circular economy can create jobs, reduce dependency on imports, and attract investment, all while protecting the environment”,

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



Stronger Together



The companies were selected through a competitive process, taking into account the estimated impact on increasing recycling capacity, the technical feasibility of the investments, financial sustainability and the applicants' operational capacity to implement the projects. The beneficiaries' own contribution is equal to the value of the non-monetary support provided.

"For our company, the investment enabled by the UNDP–EU project represents more than just the modernisation of equipment. It will allow us to expand our processing capacity and strengthen our contribution to the collection, recycling, and recovery of plastic waste in the municipality of Bălți and the northern region of the Republic of Moldova. The investment will help increase the amount of recycled waste, develop the circular economy and reduce the environmental impact, laying the groundwork for a more efficient and sustainable recycling infrastructure in the long term,"

said Ion Zaiț, the manager of a recycling company.

When nature becomes an investment, not a cost: Green Finance and Investment Forum Moldova 2026

On 29 June 2026, the first edition of the Green Finance and Investment Forum Moldova brought together more than 200 representatives of government institutions, financial institutions, businesses, development partners and international organisations to explore one of Moldova's defining questions on its path towards EU accession:

how can green ambitions become green investments? The Forum was opened by Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu, followed by a keynote address by Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, and welcoming remarks by the Minister of Environment Gheorghe Hajder.



One message resonated throughout the discussions: Environmental protection was no longer presented as a trade-off against economic growth. Quite the opposite. From the European Commission to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, from financial institutions to business leaders, a remarkably consistent vision emerged: investing in nature means investing in economic resilience, competitiveness and long-term prosperity.

The answer, speakers agreed, lies not only in mobilising finance, but in a broader shift of perspective – one that increasingly recognises healthy ecosystems as essential infrastructure for sustainable economic development.

"Environmental policy has become economic policy"

With these words, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Jessika Roswall, captured perhaps the central idea of the day. Healthy ecosystems, she argued, are no longer simply something societies choose to protect, they have become the very foundation of resilient economies. Water, biodiversity, fertile soils and healthy forests are not environmental luxuries, but productive assets upon which industries, agriculture, infrastructure and communities all depend.

"When we invest in ecosystems – or in sustainability – we are not being generous to nature,"

Her Excellency reminded participants,

"We are investing in our future."

And this broader philosophy resonated strongly with Moldova's own leadership. Opening the Forum, Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu challenged the

traditional narrative that economic growth and environmental protection compete with one another.

"The question is no longer whether we invest,"

he noted,

"but how we invest."

Green development, he stressed, is not pursued because Europe expects it, but because future generations of Moldovans depend on it.

Minister of Environment Gheorghe Hajder echoed this vision, pointing to the country's accelerating commitment to EU environmental standards. Environmental legislation, he explained, ultimately means cleaner air, safer water and stronger communities, while businesses increasingly recognise environmental investments not as burdens but as drivers of future competitiveness.

Throughout the Forum, discussions moved beyond principles towards implementation.



Stronger Together

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One example during the discussions was Chişinău's successful green transport project, financed through a municipal bond issuance, still a pioneering instrument in the region. While such financing mechanisms remain largely untapped across neighbouring countries, the experience demonstrates that innovative green finance is no longer a theoretical concept, but an emerging reality capable of accelerating sustainable investment at local level.

On the other hand, Government representatives described ongoing efforts to strengthen sustainability reporting, green public procurement, environmental governance and access to international financing, while acknowledging that administrative capacity remains just as important as financial resources. The recurring message was that successful green transition requires coordination across ministries, local authorities, financial institutions, businesses and international partners alike.

It is precisely within this collaborative space that the EU4Green Recovery East Programme, funded by the European Union, contributes. As a strategic partner of the Forum, the Programme supports the dialogue needed to translate policy ambitions into practical investment, strengthen institutional capacities and connect public authorities, businesses and financial actors around a shared vision of resilient, resource-efficient development. During the event, EU4Green Recovery East Programme Representative in Moldova, Andrei Isac, moderated the panel on decentralised green investments and access to finance, highlighting the importance of stronger synergies among EU funded programmes, public authorities, development partners and local stakeholders in accelerating Moldova's green transition.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Moldovan Covenant of Mayors – East signatories strengthen their capacities in landscape restoration and nature-based solutions

Thirty active signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy from the Republic of Moldova took part in a practical training dedicated to landscape restoration, afforestation, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems. The event, titled “Landscape Resto-

ration through Afforestation, Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems: Planning, Implementation and Management Methods”, was held at Eco Resort Butuceni, Orhei, within the framework of the European Union-funded project “Covenant of Mayors – East”.



The participants represented local authorities that have already developed and adopted Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and are currently working to implement climate measures at community

level. The training focused on helping local authorities turn SECAP commitments into concrete climate adaptation actions, using nature-based solutions as practical tools for increasing local resilience.

The first part of the programme addressed the European and national climate, environmental and risk management framework, as well as the role of local public authorities in integrating climate adaptation measures into local strategic planning. Special attention was given to the key stages of landscape restoration planning, including data collection, the identification of degraded land, the selection of appropriate intervention methods and the involvement of local communities.

During the practical session, participants worked in groups to develop landscape restoration concepts for selected areas. They analysed possible afforestation measures, agroforestry and silvopastoral solutions, the role of stakeholders and the benefits these interventions can bring in terms of climate adaptation, biodiversity protection and sustainable land management.

The training also provided an opportunity to announce the intention to develop a cooperation agreement between the Covenant of Mayors – East and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova.

Such cooperation could further support signatory local public authorities in advancing climate resilience, adaptation to climate change and the sustainable management of rural landscapes.

The programme included field visits to Orhei National Park, where participants explored practical examples of ecosystem restoration and protection, sustainable pasture management and the integration of trees, forest shelterbelts and natural vegetation into rural landscapes. Experts presented how restoration interventions are planned and managed in line with local conditions, biodiversity considerations and community needs.

By taking part in this training, Moldovan signatories of the Covenant of Mayors – East are better equipped to implement the measures included in their SECAPs. Their efforts contribute to the restoration of rural landscapes, the expansion and rehabilitation of forests, the protection of biodiversity and the strengthening of community resilience to climate change.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

Europe Day: sustainable communities, green energy and civic engagement in Chişinău and Soroca

On Europe Day 2026, the Covenant of Mayors – East stand at the European Village became an open space for dialogue, education and civic engagement.

The activities organised brought visitors closer to the message of sustainable communities, energy efficiency and local action for a greener future.



In Chişinău, the event focused on education, innovation and the professions of the future. Together with representatives of the Technical University of Moldova, young people discussed green technologies, energy efficiency, smart cities, innovative solutions for the communities of tomorrow and the skills needed for sustainable development.

Visitors were invited to take part in the “Tree of Green Promises” activity, leaving personal messages and commitments to protect the environment and use resources responsibly. Their promises focused on saving energy, recycling, using public transport, walking, protecting nature and adopting responsible behaviour within the community.

For children, EcoDino turned climate and energy messages into an interactive experience full of colour and joy.

Through games and educational activities, children learned that simple actions, repeated every day, can help protect the planet. The activities conveyed the idea that every child can become a climate hero – at home, at school and in the community.

The Covenant of Mayors – East stand in Chişinău was also visited by high-level representatives, including the Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Iwona Piórko, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Alexandru Munteanu, and the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Igor Grosu. Their visit reaffirmed the importance of local action in the Republic of Moldova’s European path and the role of communities in promoting energy efficiency, green solutions and sustainable development.



The message of sustainable communities was carried forward to Soroca, where the European Village brought together children, young people, families, visitors and partners around European values, education and local engagement. At the Covenant of Mayors – East stand, children took part in creative activities dedicated to nature and the environment, including painting on pebbles and working with recyclable materials, expressing care for the planet through colour and imagination.

Europe is YOU. Peace. Freedom. Growth.



Stronger Together

Covenant of Mayors – East at 15: local communities turn climate commitments into concrete projects

The green transition is built not only through national strategies or ambitious European objectives, but above all through local action, concrete projects and communities that choose to invest in a cleaner, safer and more resilient future. This was one of the central messages of the Anniversary Conference dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Covenant of Mayors in the Eastern Partnership region, held on 20–21 May 2026 in Chişinău.

Organised within the framework of the European Union-funded “Covenant of Mayors – East” project, the conference brought together more than 200 representatives of signatory cities, national and European institutions, international financial organisations and partner initiatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as well as

representatives of European Union Member States and international organisations.

The event marked 15 years of local climate and energy action in the Eastern Partnership region and provided a platform for dialogue on lessons learned, current challenges and priorities for the next stage of the initiative.

On 20 May, the conference was opened by Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, and Sergiu Lazarencu, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Climate and Green Transition. The opening remarks highlighted the essential role of cities and local communities in the transition towards a more sustainable future, as well as the importance of the Covenant of Mayors in transforming climate objectives into plans, projects and measurable results.





Throughout the conference, participants examined the lessons accumulated over 15 years of implementation of the Covenant of Mayors – East, the challenges faced by municipalities and the priorities needed to accelerate local climate action. Discussions focused on moving from climate plans to investment projects, strengthening institutional capacities, accessing finance, multi-level governance and integrating urban resilience in the context of climate, energy and security crises.

The Republic of Moldova was represented through concrete examples of communities that are turning the commitments made under the Covenant of Mayors into visible actions for citizens. Mariana Mitrea, Deputy Mayor of Strășeni municipality, underlined

that the participation of Moldovan localities in the Covenant of Mayors has transformed climate action from a general concept into a structured, measurable and results-oriented process.

The event also hosted the CoM East Awards, which recognised eight signatory municipalities for their progress in low-carbon and climate-resilient development. Out of 67 applications submitted from Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the winning localities were Vanadzor, Sheki, Ceadâr-Lunga, Sireți, Chernivtsi, Myrhorod, Rivne and Slavutyich. Each awarded locality received a voucher of up to EUR 1,000 for follow-up activities, including tree planting or local awareness-raising campaigns.



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The second day of the conference took place at the Castel Mimi complex, where participants discussed integrated urban resilience in the context of multiple crises and had the opportunity to explore sustainable practices in energy efficiency, renewable energy, circular economy, waste management, sustainable agriculture and community engagement.

The anniversary conference confirmed that the next stage of the Covenant of Mayors – East will focus on implementation: developing investment projects, strengthening municipal capacities, creating more accessible financing mechanisms and fostering closer cooperation between local authorities, national governments, European Union institutions and international partners.



Strengthening Moldova's environmental institutions: bridging the gap between legal provisions and day-to-day implementation

Experts from the EU- and Denmark-funded project "Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration" carried out an assessment of the country's environmental institutions, as part of the actions included in the Reform Agenda. The assessment focused on the Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Agency and the Environmental Inspectorate.

The results were presented during a meeting held at the Ministry of Environment, attended by senior representatives of the environmental sector, the Delegation of the European Union and the project team. The experts emphasised that the reform process extends beyond aligning national legislation with European Union requirements. Equally important is to ensure that environmental laws are effectively implemented in practice. The assessment highlighted the need to bridge the gap between legal provisions and day-to-day implementation.

To achieve this, the report recommends greater investments in human resources, the development of clear internal procedures, improved work processes, and stronger digital systems.

In regard to the Environmental Agency, while environmental legislation has largely been aligned with EU standards, the report found that many internal procedures required to support effective implementation are still lacking. The report also noted that many tasks continue to be carried out manually, limiting the use of data and system-based

analysis. Staffing shortages were identified as an additional challenge.

With regard to the Environmental Inspectorate, the findings highlighted the important connection between environmental permitting and inspection activities and pointed to the need for clearer procedures and greater transparency.

During the discussion that followed, participants agreed that the most important factor for successful reform is people. Attracting and retaining qualified specialists, as well as providing suitable working conditions, was identified as a priority. Strengthening human resources would create the necessary foundation for developing effective procedures and ensuring that information technology systems function properly.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together



Europe Day 2026 in Moldova: innovation, creativity and digital skills at the European Village

As part of Europe Day 2026 celebrations in the Republic of Moldova, held under the theme “Europe is YOU: Peace. Freedom. Development.”, EU4Innovation East supported the Innovation and Digitalisation Tent at the European Village in Chişinău. Together with key ecosystem partners, including Moldova Innovation Technology Park, Startup Moldova, Dreamups, Technovator, XY Partners, YEP Moldova, Clasa

Viitorului, and innovative startups Sigmoid and DeepGuard, the initiative showcased how innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital technologies are creating new opportunities for Moldova’s future. Visitors explored interactive activities ranging from artificial intelligence challenges and startup workshops to robotics demonstrations and digital innovation games.



  EU-Moldova
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The Innovation and Digitalisation Tent provided an engaging space where children, young people, and families could experience innovation firsthand, discover emerging technologies, and learn about entrepreneurship in an accessible and interactive way. By connecting citizens with Moldova's growing innovation ecosystem, the initiative highlighted the European Union's

continued commitment to fostering digital skills, creativity, and innovation. Through EU4Innovation East, the EU continues to support the development of an inclusive and competitive innovation ecosystem that empowers the next generation of entrepreneurs and digital innovators in the Republic of Moldova.



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

The European Union supports the development of digital skills and promoting the responsible use of artificial intelligence

On 28 and 30 April 2026, over 45 representatives of public authorities working in the field of national and ethnic minorities participated in an online training programme dedicated to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their professional activities.

The training was organised as part of the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project, funded by the European Union and implemented by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation.



The programme aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge and develop practical skills in applying artificial intelligence solutions to everyday institutional work. Participants explored how AI tools can improve document drafting, information analysis, workflow management, and communication with citizens, contributing to greater institutional efficiency and the delivery of more accessible and inclusive public services.

The training brought together representatives of the Interethnic Relations Policy Service and the Interethnic Relations Agency under the Ministry of Education and Research, the Interethnic Relations Agency, the Equality Council, and the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman)—institutions that play an important role in promoting human rights, protecting minority rights, and strengthening social cohesion.



EU-Moldova

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The sessions were facilitated by Veaceslav Cunev, an information technology specialist with more than 30 years of experience and a professor at the Technical University of Moldova, who shared practical examples of integrating AI tools into public administration.

Throughout the training, participants explored both the opportunities and responsibilities associated with the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector.

Discussions focused on the ethical use of AI, data protection, and the importance of verifying information generated by AI systems. Participants also examined practical solutions that can improve communication with representatives of national and ethnic minorities while making administrative processes faster and more responsive to citizens' needs.



With financial support from the European Union, UNICEF is contributing to the modernisation of model schools in the Republic of Moldova

At “Boris Dînga” Theoretical Lyceum in Criuleni, images captured during a biology lesson show how technology is being integrated into the learning process. Interactive boards, computers and other digital equip-

ment help teachers deliver dynamic lessons, while supporting students to better understand complex processes through visual examples, practical exercises, interactive tests and group activities.



For students, technology means more than a modern classroom tool. It gives them the opportunity to see, explore and better understand what they are learning.

“I believe that a big part of learning is visualisation. With the help of a laptop and an interactive board, we can see complex processes,”

says Tanga Daniel, an 11th-grade student.



The same idea is shared by Roşca Ionalina, also an 11th-grade student, who says that lessons become clearer when information is presented visually.

"For me, an interesting biology lesson is when we watch video materials that show the structure of the kidney or different biological processes. The interactive board helps us see these materials, but also take tests or quizzes,"

says Ionalina.

"I always tell my students that when they leave school, they may not remember every detail, but it is important that they have a general understanding and developed competencies. When we use digital technologies, children can complete classroom activities or assessments more easily, because this knowledge is not simply memorised, but understood through practice,"

says biology teacher Olga Rotari.

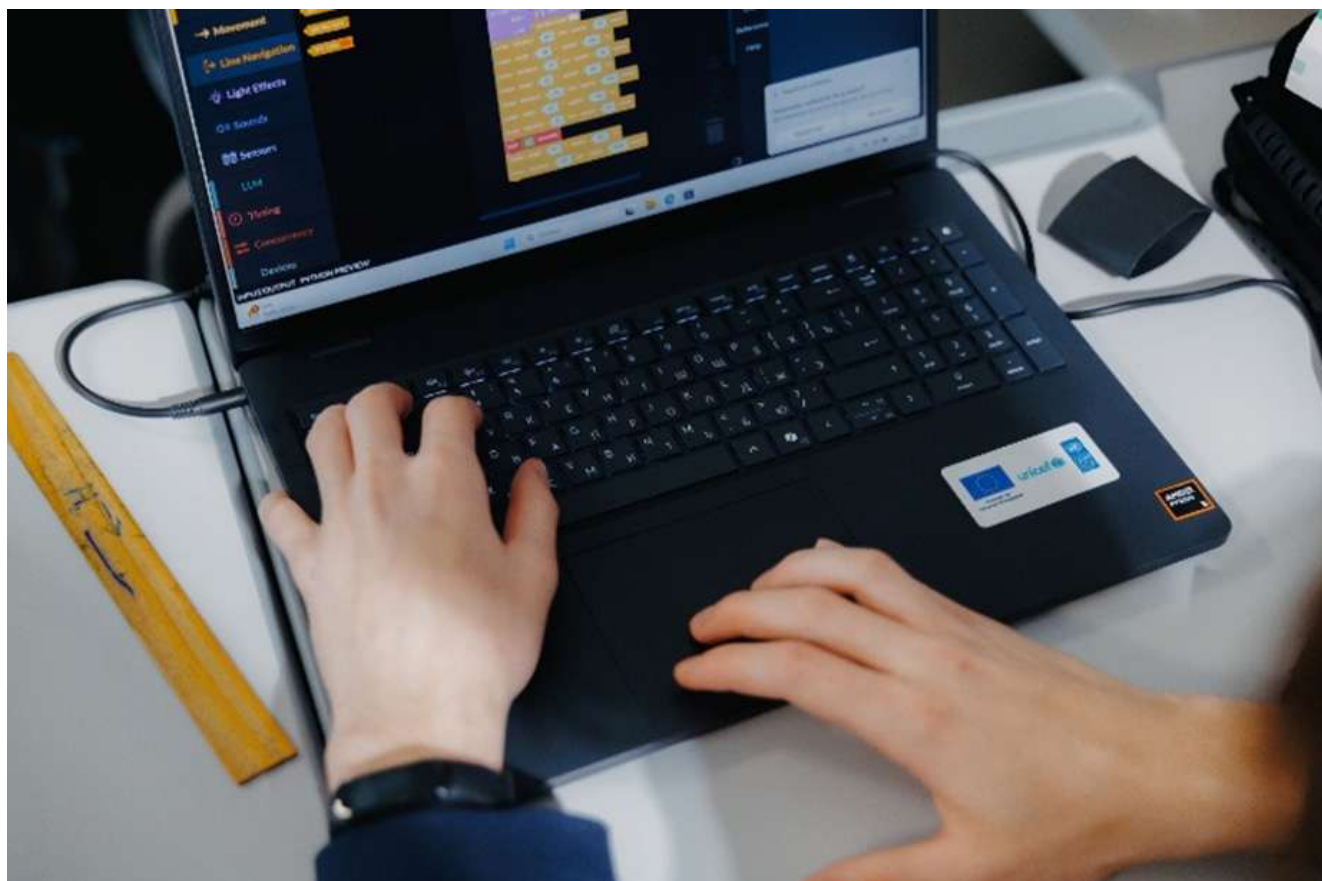


EU-Moldova

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

As part of the programme, 10 model schools in the Republic of Moldova are benefiting from modern digital equipment, from interactive boards and computers to STEAM laboratories. These resources support visual and practical lessons, adapted to students’ needs, contributing to the development of an inclusive, modern and resilient education system for every child.



UNICEF at the Moldova Digital Summit: bringing digital transformation closer to schools, teachers and children

Digitalisation is an important part of the Republic of Moldova's path towards modernisation, more efficient services and deeper European integration.

At UNICEF, this transformation must include every child. Education is one of the areas where digitalisation can have a direct impact: modern resources for students and teachers, better decisions based on data, and a more equitable and inclusive education system.

That is why UNICEF supports the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova in implementing the Roadmap for the Digitalisation of the Education Sector, with support from the Global Partnership for Education and the European Union in the Republic of Moldova.



In this context, the team participated in the Moldova Digital Summit over two days, contributing to discussions on the role of digitalisation in the development of the Republic of Moldova.

On the second day, dedicated to education, together with partners, the team presented initiatives and results that bring digital transformation closer to schools, teachers and children. Among them:

School connectivity through Giga – Through the Giga initiative, UNICEF supports school connectivity and the monitoring of connection quality, so that students and teachers can more easily access digital learning resources.

Schools equipped with modern technologies for digital learning – 140 educational institutions have been equipped with interactive boards and computers.



Digital skills for teachers – More than 10,000 teachers are involved in developing digital skills through DigiProf.

Data-based education management – The modernisation of SIME and the development of EduTrack support education decisions based on clear data and connected to the real needs of schools.

Artificial intelligence in education – 26 lessons have been developed for students, with a focus on the responsible use of artificial intelligence, critical thinking and creativity.

Inclusive technologies for children with special educational needs – 95 schools have been equipped with assistive technologies to support the participation of children with disabilities and special educational needs.

Digital resources and modern educational content – 10 digital textbooks contribute to a more accessible, interactive and student-centred learning process.

Moldova's digital leadership powered by women

Women still represent only 24% of the global cybersecurity workforce, according to the Global Cybersecurity Forum's 2024 Cybersecurity Workforce Report. At the same time, countries need more cyber professionals than ever – not only technical experts, but also people working on policy, law, cyber diplomacy, crisis communication, education, data analysis and public awareness. For Moldova, this is especially relevant as the country strengthens its cyber resilience and continues its European path.

Cybersecurity has become part of Moldova's wider security and European integration agenda. Recent years have shown how closely cyberattacks, disinformation and attacks on democratic processes are connected. In this context, resilience is not only about systems and technology. It is also about people, institutions, public trust and the ability to work together under pressure.



This is why bringing more women into cybersecurity matters. It helps widen the talent pool, strengthen decision-making and make sure that different perspectives are included when shaping the country's digital future.

This was one of the key messages of the Women in Cyber Moldova National Forum 2026, held in Chișinău as part of the Europe Day programme. The forum brought together

representatives of public institutions, European partners, academia, the private sector and civil society to discuss security, solidarity, Moldova's European path and the role of inclusive leadership in building resilience.

Natalia Spînu, Director of the European Institute for Political Studies of Moldova and one of the key voices behind Women in Cyber Moldova, underlined that the initiative start-

ed from a clear need: to close the gender gap in cybersecurity by connecting women across institutions, making their work more visible and opening the door for more women to enter the field.

Since its launch, Women in Cyber Moldova has brought together more than 500 women from different districts of the country,

showing how women already contribute to cyber resilience through policy, law, crisis response and decision-making. For Spînu, this is not a symbolic question, but a strategic one: bringing women into cybersecurity is part of building a stronger, more democratic and more European Moldova.



For the European Union and its partners, supporting women in cyber is part of Moldova's European path. Secure digital services, resilient institutions, protected personal data and trusted public systems all depend on people with the skills and confidence to understand and respond to cyber risks.

The Women in Cyber Moldova National Forum 2026 was co-organised by the European Institute for Political Studies of Moldova, EUPM Moldova and e-Governance Academy, with support from the EU-funded Improving Cyber Resilience in the Eastern Partnership Countries 2.0 project.



Stronger Together

EUPM Moldova: Weaving commitment and cooperation into Moldova's digital security architecture

On 12–13 May, EUPM Moldova supported the organisation of the Moldova Cybersecurity Forum 2026 in Chişinău, reaffirming the European Union's commitment to strength-

ening the Republic of Moldova's cyber resilience and fostering strategic cooperation in an increasingly complex security environment.



Bringing together representatives of Moldovan institutions, European and international partners, cybersecurity experts, and private-sector stakeholders, the forum served as a platform to exchange best practices and discuss practical solutions for addressing evolving cyber threats. The agenda focused on regional cyber defence, the development of national cyber architectures, the protection of critical infrastructure, and strengthening cooperation across the European cybersecurity ecosystem.

As a longstanding partner in Moldova's efforts to enhance its resilience and security, EUPM Moldova continues to support initiatives that improve the country's preparedness against cyberattacks and hybrid threats. The forum highlighted the impor-

tance of resilient digital infrastructure and coordinated responses to emerging security challenges in the ever-evolving cyber domain.

The Moldova Cybersecurity Forum 2026 was organised by the Cyber Security Agency of the Republic of Moldova (ASC) and the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization. The event was held in collaboration with the National Institute for Cyber Security Innovations (Cybercor) and supported by international and regional partners, including the Innovate Moldova programme, the European Union Partnership Mission to the Republic of Moldova (EUPM), the National Cyber Security Directorate of Romania, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.

Inside the iceberg: how Moldova is reforming its communications sector

Moldova has officially been included in the [EU's 'roam like at home' zone](#) since 1 January 2026, allowing Moldovan citizens to use mobile communications in EU and EEA countries under the same conditions as when they're at home. But this is only the

visible tip of the iceberg. How did Moldova achieve this breakthrough, who is paying for it, and why is high-speed internet in rural areas no longer just a matter of laying cables? We got an inside view from some of the experts involved.



Roaming charges couldn't simply be scrapped

Removing roaming charges was not just a political decision. It required almost two years of complex legal and technical work. Moldova and Ukraine became the first countries outside the EU and EEA to join the regulated European roaming zone, which meant aligning national legislation with EU rules.

With support from EU4Digital, Moldovan specialists reviewed existing laws and government decisions and transposed European norms into the new Electronic Communications Code. A dedicated roaming law, adopted by Parliament in April 2025, set out tariff structures, calculation formulas, and rules for shared infrastructure use.

The aim was clear: Moldovan citizens travelling abroad should benefit from the same technical and legal protections as EU residents. EU4Digital experts note that Moldova stood out for the strong engagement and cooperation shown by its authorities throughout the process.

Who pays for it?

For local operators, the reform also brings financial pressure. Moldova is a small market, while mobile packages in the EU are generally more expensive than local tariffs. As a result, when Moldovan subscribers use roaming in Europe, local providers may have to cover the cost difference.

More than affordable roaming

The reforms go beyond roaming. The National Regulatory Agency for Communications, ARCOM, now has stronger tools to protect subscribers and promote fair competition. New rules prevent providers from locking customers into service bundles unfairly.

For example, if a customer has valid reasons to terminate one part of a bundle, such as internet or TV, they can terminate the whole package without penalties. Providers must also give customers a short, standardised summary of key contract terms before signing. ARCOM can penalise companies that fail to comply and has launched tools such as a real-time tariff comparison platform and an interactive coverage map.

Quality connectivity for cities and villages

According to EU4Digital expert Andrejs Dombrovskis, Moldova has made serious progress in legal and regulatory reform. The next challenge is ensuring that investment keeps pace and that high-quality connectivity reaches all areas, not only large cities.

Moldova already has strong infrastructure. Mobile broadband covers around 99% of the population. In 2025, fixed-internet penetration reached 83.6% of households, while fibre-optic access grew to 81.6%. In rural areas, fibre-optic penetration rose from 59.4% to 66.4% in just one year.

The Ministry believes the main challenge is not only infrastructure, but also digital skills, especially among older people and rural residents. Training programmes through Unified Service Centres and public libraries help citizens use online public services and mobile signatures.

Moldova is also advancing in 5G rollout. Orange Moldova, Moldcell and Moldtelecom have launched commercial 5G networks, with more than 1,250 base stations combined. Around 40% of the population in densely built urban areas now has access to 5G signal.

Transformation for integration

EU4Digital's reports and recommendations on 5G readiness, broadband access and market competitiveness have helped Moldovan policymakers make evidence-based decisions. Through DESI-related workshops, stakeholders have also learned how to measure digital progress against European benchmarks.

The goal of these reforms is simple: people should not have to think about connectivity. Whether working, running a business or travelling, digital services should function reliably, fairly and without barriers – in Moldova and as part of the EU's Digital Single Market.

GDPR practices and standards enablement in Moldova

EU4Digital's "GDPR practices and standards enablement in Moldova" report serves as a practical roadmap for strengthening data protection implementation in Moldova, as the country moves from legislative alignment to practical application.

The report is the result of EU4Digital support for the implementation of data protection

principles and standards in the legislative frameworks of Moldova, in line with the European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is essential for the effective and secure functioning of cross-border solutions to enable citizens and businesses to take advantage of digital opportunities.



The report presents an overview of EU best practices, drawing on the experience of Data Protection Inspectorate (DPI) authorities in Romania, Lithuania and Latvia, and illustrating how GDPR rules are supervised, enforced and communicated in practice. The report also benchmarks Moldova's DPI institutional readiness and the country's data protection framework against GDPR

requirements and common supervisory approaches as applied by EU data protection authorities. This highlights priority areas that are necessary to ensure the DPI's full preparedness for the transition.

Finally, the report presents recommendations for GDPR implementation strategies, as well as an action plan and strategy for personal data protection enablement.



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