STRONGER TOGETHER

# NEWSLETTER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



# EU – MOLDOVA:

## COOPERATION NEWS

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

# CONTENTS

## 01 MOBILITY AND PEOPLE


"Where's the Money?" – Across Moldova in Search of EU Investments. 10 stops, real projects and stories from local communities 8

Study visits to Brussels and Iași: EU Accelerator 3.0 finalists discovered how European institutions work 11

European Languages Festival 2026: young people from Euro Clubs celebrated European cultural diversity 13

Universities from the Republic of Moldova at EAIE Glasgow 2026: Partnerships, Visibility and New Perspectives for International Cooperation 15

The EUIPO promotes youth innovation and intellectual property awareness in the Republic of Moldova 17

Young people actively promoting gender equality and healthy relationships 19

EU4GenderEquality: change starts with the examples we see around us 21

59 young people, prepared for the country's European future: the 2026 edition of the joint EU-Denmark-Moldova internship programme has come to an end 22

The "STEAMing across borders" initiative empowers girls to shape the future through science and innovation 24

From local traditions to conversations about Europe: "Moldova in the EU – for real!" 27

The power of example: the people who took local budgets into their own hands and transformed their communities 28

Civic actors advance cooperation against disinformation and information manipulation in the Eastern Partnership 30

When parents are at work, where do children spend their summer holidays? 32

A summer beyond the classroom for children in Boghiceni village 34

Who decides whether afterschool activities work? Children themselves! 36

New mentoring programme strengthens practical training for future teachers 38

New tools aim to make mentoring more accessible and coherent for education professionals 39

## 02 STRONGER SOCIETY

Moldox Lab Gagauzia: 7 short documentaries about communities in Gagauzia, supported by the EU 40

Parents of children with disabilities and special educational needs form local groups to engage with authorities 43

Learning from Sweden strengthens gender equality capacities in Moldova 45

Five newsrooms commit to fairer, gender-sensitive reporting 48

DigiGuru Summer Camp empowers young people to strengthen information resilience across Moldova 50

Republic of Moldova and Romania, together for every child's right to grow up in a family 51

Policy dialogue advances civil society participation in migration governance 53

New guide empowers civil society to engage in Moldova's EU accession process 54

The European Union and IOM Continue to Support People in Vulnerable Situations Displaced from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova 55

Supporting mental health and resilience across Moldova 56

Financial assistance helps families meet urgent needs safely and with dignity 57

Bringing protection, healthcare and essential assistance closer to refugees in Moldova 58

Joint efforts for children: the European Union supports the development of community services by funding civil society organisations 59

The European Union is investing in community-based services for children with severe disabilities and in capacity building for non-governmental organisations 61

Independent living and community inclusion for people with disabilities are made possible with the support of the European Union 63

Building inclusive communities: the European Union supports the transition of people with disabilities to independent living 65

Strengthening Moldovan civil society's role in EU accession 66

EU support strengthens internal security and community resilience in Moldova 68

From Bălți to Comrat: defining the path to social cohesion 70

How the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights helps National Human Rights Institutions address contemporary challenges in equality and non-discrimination 72

Seven schools to pilot a new tool for assessing respect for children's rights 73

Public lecture prepares tomorrow's civil servants for inclusive governance 74

Roundtable rallies stakeholders to jointly advance gender-responsive healthcare in Moldova 76

Consultations between local authorities and civil society advance gender-sensitive local public policies 78

EU-supported training strengthens capacities for gender-responsive health services in Moldova 80

Training advances gender mainstreaming in Moldova's health policies and services 82

Training equips security services to prevent and address gender-based violence 84

Training series equips Gender Focal Points to mainstream gender and address digital security challenges 85

Webinar strengthens capacities to mainstream gender in public administration reform 87

Roundtable advances gender-sensitive border management and inclusive security 89

EU-supported training strengthens capacities for gender mainstreaming in public policies and budgeting 91

## 03 INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

EUPM Moldova: securing infrastructure today for a safer tomorrow 93

EUPM Moldova: EU support for Moldova's crisis preparedness 95

Data protection in the Republic of Moldova marks new era: legislation aligned with GDPR entered into force in August 96

Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs digital competency framework 98

New trainers to strengthen crisis communication training for first responders in Moldova 99

Strengthening Moldova's response to illicit firearms 100

The EUIPO supports the Republic of Moldova's EU integration path by fostering regional dialogue on IP and the audiovisual industry 101

EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova (EU4LEM): strengthening Moldova's law enforcement institutions and advancing alignment with EU standards 103

An assessment of Moldova's capacity to prevent and combat organised crime – the main insights and recommendations 106

Moldovan Delegation learned from Lithuania's experience in secure management of personal and biometric data 108

A tactical training exercise (codenamed "Armageddon") designed for forensic experts dealing with the investigation of explosion scenes 109

EU4PUBLIC ORDER: capacity-building of the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri of the Republic of Moldova 110

Labour Legislation, closer to EU standards in the fields of pay transparency and platform work 112

Strengthening risk management in migration and asylum 114

Improving procedures for granting residence permits for foreign nationals 115

The European Union supports the strengthening of the Republic of Moldova's capacities in the field of migration and asylum 116

A new stage in judicial vetting: specialised anti-corruption panels come under review 118

Moldova draws on Irish experience to advance people-centred justice reforms 120

EU Twinning Project supports advancement of risk management and internal managerial control in public sector 121

Modernising Internal Audit: EU Twinning Initiative Drives GIAS Alignment and Regional Shared Audits 122

Safeguarding national and EU financial interests: EU Twinning assistance strengthens anti-fraud mechanisms 123

Study visit to Poland to strengthen Integrated Border Management 124

Expertise that stays home: a story of laboratories, people and Moldova's capacity to grow 126

Nearly half of the prosecutors subject to external evaluation have been evaluated 128

## 04 ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT


€1 million in EU funding awarded to six organisations supporting Moldova's startup ecosystem 130

22 entrepreneurs from the left bank of the Nistru are receiving support to develop their businesses and improve energy efficiency 132

More accessible tools for submitting and resolving consumer complaints, developed with the support of the European Union 134

Four priority industries through the circular economy lens 135

Entrepreneurs across Moldova gain practical guidance on legal, tax, customs and administrative requirements for running a business 137

ESIL Moldova launches to strengthen Moldova's business angel ecosystem 139

BRIDGE Missions helps Moldovan companies access international markets 140

TechVillage 2026 brought 30 startups and 30 investors together in Moldova 141

From a family home on the banks of the Răut River to a symbol of rural tourism in Moldova, with the support of the German Government 142

Two schools and five demonstration farms bring research closer to farmers 144

From skills to investment: supporting 50 Moldovan agri-food SMEs to grow and compete 145

Latvia's experience supports the development of AKIS in Moldova 146


## 05 ENERGY RESILIENCE


EcoVoucher Programme helps the Mîndru family in Popeasca reduce their electricity bills 148

Renovation and energy efficiency works begin at the Clinical Psychiatric Hospital and the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery 151

## 06 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE


New air quality monitoring stations to be installed in Moldova by 2027 153

Strengthening capacities for more effective environmental management 155

From factory floor to ministry: Moldova maps industrial waste for a circular economy 157

The journey of water does not end at the tap 159

Moldovan SMEs prepared to access green finance 161


## 07 RESILIENT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION


Moldova Innovation Fund launches with over €1 million for technology projects 162

Nine young people become Digital Ambassadors and will turn ideas into actions for their communities 164

Deeptech GigaHack 2026 brought 400 participants together to build solutions to real-world challenges 166



# MOBILITY AND PEOPLE

## “Where’s the Money?” – Across Moldova in Search of EU Investments. 10 stops, real projects and stories from local communities

“Where’s the money?” is a question we often hear when discussing the European Union’s support for the Republic of Moldova. This time, the answers will be found on the ground: in the country’s towns and villages, in local businesses and initiatives, and, above all, in the stories of people who can show what this support has changed in their communities.




In September–November 2026, Europe Café, the European Union Information Centre, is rolling out “Where’s the Money?”, a campaign visiting 10 locations across Moldova: Hîncești, Telenești, Orhei, Rezina, Briceni, Călărași, Florești, Cimișlia, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and Bălți. Content creators, artists and local voices will travel across the country to discover EU-supported projects and initiatives, meet beneficiaries and show, in clear and practical terms, how European support makes a difference in

everyday life. The campaign will answer the question “Where’s the money?” through projects people can visit and the experiences of communities that have benefited from EU support.

Who is joining the search? Content creators Doina Danielean, Alexandru Ghețan and Dmitrii Leontiev will lead the journey, visiting projects, asking questions and sharing community stories with the public. They will be joined by artists Gabriel Nebunu, Mariana Mihăilă, Maria Iliuț and Vitalii Manjul, alongside local performers.

At every stop, the team will explore a few key questions: What has the EU supported locally? Who has benefited? What has changed, and how can we see that change today? The answers will come directly from people in those communities.

What will happen on the ground? The content creators will visit EU-supported projects and speak with entrepreneurs, teachers, farmers, young people and other community members about the changes these investments have made possible.

Sometimes, the answer to “Where’s the money?” will be a business that has been able to grow. Elsewhere, it may be an investment in a school, infrastructure or local services, an agricultural project, a youth initiative or an opportunity that has created jobs.

Local stories will also reach audiences online: The visits and conversations will be captured in videos, interviews and short stories featuring beneficiaries, published in Romanian and Russian. People who cannot attend the community events will be able to follow the campaign online.




Why “Where’s the Money?” The European Union is the Republic of Moldova’s leading partner and provider of support. Between 2021 and 2025, the EU allocated more than €1.2 billion in grants to Moldova. This support is complemented by the €1.9 billion Growth Plan for Moldova, the largest EU support package ever offered to the country.

These figures matter, but millions or billions of euros can feel abstract until people see how they relate to a village, a town, a school, a business or a family's life. "Where's the Money?" aims to make that connection, showing how European support translates into practical results for people and communities. The campaign is aimed especially at local residents, including those who have questions or doubts about European support. It offers concrete examples: projects people can visit, beneficiaries who can share their experiences and results they can see for themselves.

See. Ask. Discover. Throughout the campaign, audiences will be able to follow the route, explore the projects visited, hear people's stories and watch highlights from the events online. Residents of all 10 locations are invited to attend, follow the coverage and, above all, bring their own questions.

Sometimes, the best way to answer "Where's the money?" is to go, ask and see for yourself.

For more information and campaign updates, visit: https://eu4moldova.eu/where-is-the-money/

# Study visits to Brussels and Iași: EU Accelerator 3.0 finalists discovered how European institutions work

The young finalists of EU Accelerator 3.0 – EU Communicators concluded the programme with two study visits to Brussels and Iași, where they explored European institutions, education and mobility opportunities for young people, and Europe's cultural heritage.

From 12 to 15 July, members of the Euro Club at "Orizont" Theoretical Lyceum, the programme's winners, travelled to Brussels on a study visit awarded as the edition's grand prize. As part of the national "Eu mă integrez" campaign, they created original digital content that reached more than 650,000 people online.

The Brussels programme began at the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union, where Ambassador Daniela Morari spoke about the Mission's work, Moldova's relations with the EU and the country's path towards EU membership.




At the European Commission, the young participants learned more about the role of European institutions, the enlargement process and support for the Republic of Moldova. Their discussion with representatives of the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) focused on opportunities available through Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and other European education and mobility programmes.

Another highlight was the visit to the European Parliament, where participants toured the hemicycle and discussed the European legislative process, young people's civic engagement and European values.

They also had the opportunity to speak with Member of the European Parliament Eugen Tomac about the importance of participating in democratic life and promoting accurate information about Europe.

For the teams that took second and third place – the Euro Club at "Spiru Haret" Theoretical Lyceum in Chișinău and the Euro Club at "Constantin Stere" Theoretical Lyceum in Soroca – the programme concluded with a visit to Iași on 12 September.

At "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, participants toured the campus and learned more about the university's role in the European Higher Education Area, as well as study and mobility opportunities. The programme continued at the National Museum of Romanian Literature and the Palace of Culture.

The study visits to EU countries complemented the practical component of EU Accelerator 3.0, a programme for young people from the Network of EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs in the Republic of Moldova. Throughout the programme, participants worked with mentors and experts to learn how to research, analyse and turn information into communication campaigns relevant to their communities.

EU Accelerator 3.0 – EU Communicators was implemented under the European Union's "Strategic Communication and Support to Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova" (StratCom) project, through the Network of EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# European Languages Festival 2026: young people from Euro Clubs celebrated European cultural diversity

More than 100 students, teachers and Euro Club members from Chișinău, Soroca, Edineț and Comrat celebrated Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity at the third edition of the European Languages Festival, organised to mark the European Day of Languages.



Held at the "Vasile Alecsandri" Theoretical High School in Chișinău, the festival turned the school courtyard into a space celebrating European languages and cultures. Under the theme "Languages unite! How languages shape inclusion", young participants presented traditions and cultural elements from European countries, spoke in several languages, and brought poetry, music and dance to the stage.

The event brought together representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and EU Member States' embassies, including Nikolaos Krikos, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic; Armando Pascale, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Italy; Christa Gollner, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Austria; Loredana-Nastasia Pădurean, Counsellor at the Embassy of Romania; and Lilia Condratiuc, Counsellor at the Embassy of the Czech Republic. The event's host, Daniela Vacarciuc, Principal of "Vasile Alecsandri" Theoretical High School, supported students' involvement in activities promoting intercultural dialogue and openness to other languages and cultures.

The festival gave young people the opportunity to demonstrate their language skills and creativity, while also engaging in intercultural dialogue and exchanging experiences. Through activities prepared by the Euro Clubs, participants learned more about European cultures and the opportunities that foreign language skills can open up in education, exchanges and mobility.

“Learning a foreign language means more than learning new words. It means discovering another culture, being able to communicate with different people and seeing the world from a new perspective” was one of the messages highlighted during the event.

The European Languages Festival has been organised in the Republic of Moldova for the third consecutive year in the context of the European Day of Languages, marked annually on 26 September. Established in 2001, the day promotes linguistic diversity and encourages language learning throughout life.

The event was organised as part of the European Union-funded project “Strategic Communication and Support to Mass Media in the Republic of Moldova” (StratCom), through the EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs Network. The Network is a national initiative coordinated under the project, currently bringing together 33 EU Information Centres and Euro Clubs and approximately 1,100 young members from different regions of the country.

Through their activities, Network members help bring information about the European Union closer to young people and local communities, while creating opportunities for engagement, dialogue, learning and civic participation.



# Universities from the Republic of Moldova at EAIE Glasgow 2026: Partnerships, Visibility and New Perspectives for International Cooperation

Five universities from the Republic of Moldova (USM, UTM, ASEM, USMF and AMTAP) and 34 from Romania jointly promoted their educational offerings and opportunities for international cooperation at the European Association for International Education Exhibition – EAIE 2026, Europe's leading forum dedicated to the internationalisation of higher education. For the second consecutive year, the two countries were represented through a joint Romania–Republic of Moldova stand, strengthening academic cooperation and the visibility of higher education institutions in the region.

The event took place on 8–11 September 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland, bringing together more than 7,300 participants from over 100 countries. EAIE 2026 provided an extensive platform for promoting higher education institutions and developing international relations. The exhibition featured more than 250 stands, representing over 1,200 organisations, while the conference programme included more than 240 sessions and activities, delivered by over 350 speakers.



At the invitation of the European Commission, the National Erasmus+ Office and participants from the Republic of Moldova, together with colleagues from other EU candidate countries, attended a panel discussion entitled "Cooperation with the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine: From Capacity Building to Future Association". The discussion explored the experience gained through Erasmus+ projects already implemented in educational institutions across the region, as well as the programme's future prospects in the context of EU accession. From the Republic of Moldova, the national perspective was presented by Daniela Pojar, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the Technical University of Moldova.

The participation of Moldovan universities in the joint stand was made possible through cooperation between the Councils of Rectors of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the European Commission.

An important impetus for the participation of Moldovan institutions in EAIE 2026 was the Erasmus+ seminar "From Local to Global: Promoting the Internationalisation of Higher Education in the Republic of Moldova", held in Chișinău in April 2026. The event was organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova and brought together more than 65 representatives of the academic community and addressed, among other topics, the importance of universities' participation in international forums such as EAIE.

The annual EAIE Conference, the largest event of its kind in Europe, serves as a meeting point for universities, organisations and professionals in higher education, facilitating dialogue and the development of new international partnerships.

For universities from the Republic of Moldova, participation in EAIE 2026 provided an opportunity to showcase their educational offerings, expand their cooperation networks and strengthen their presence in the European Higher Education Area.



# The EUIPO promotes youth innovation and intellectual property awareness in the Republic of Moldova

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) supported the Youth Competition Award 'Intellectual Property and Sport: Start for Innovations!' in the Republic of Moldova, in the context of the EU-funded EU4IP project. The initiative, organised by the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI), in partnership with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the Romanian Copyright Office, brought together young participants from across the country to explore the links between intellectual property (IP), sport and innovation, an initiative that also connects with the EUIPO's broader youth oriented work.




The competition aimed to stimulate young people's interest in IP, nurture creativity and strengthen their understanding of how IP rights underpin inventiveness, value creation and economic growth. Over two days of contest sessions, participants engaged with IP-related topics, creativity and innovation, including awareness of counterfeiting and piracy.

The event featured contributions from IP practitioners and awareness specialists, fostering discussion on how to engage young people in understanding the societal and economic relevance of IP. By supporting the award ceremony, the EUIPO contributed to raising awareness of the value of IP among the younger generation. The activity also encouraged dialogue between AGEPI, educational institutions and other stakeholders to broaden participation and increase the visibility of IP issues among young people in the Republic of Moldova.

Supporting youth-focused awareness initiatives is part of the EU4IP project's broader objective of increasing the general public's understanding of IP and strengthening the capacities of the productive sector to protect, manage and enforce their rights. By encouraging young innovators to reflect on how ideas can be protected and commercialised, the EUIPO contributes to building a business environment in the Republic of Moldova that is increasingly aligned with EU practices and supportive of future creators, entrepreneurs and innovators.

The Youth Competition Award is a practical example of how awareness-raising, when combined with cooperation between national and European institutions, can reinforce innovation systems and empower the next generation to value and use IP effectively.

The EUIPO continues to shape international IP alliances with like-minded partner institutions on strategic topics such as inclusiveness, in order to empower children and teenagers to develop their creative potential and understand the role of IP in innovation. For more information about the EUIPO's IP in Education initiative that provides ready-to-use educational materials for teachers and students of all ages and levels, see: https://www.euipo.europa.eu/en/observatory/awareness/ideas-powered/ip-in-education-materials.

# Young people actively promoting gender equality and healthy relationships

Twenty-five young women and men learned how they can contribute to preventing gender-based discrimination and violence, as well as promoting healthy relationships, during the five-day "Voices Against Violence" 2026 summer camp, held from 25 to 29 June 2026.




*"When women's rights are restricted, the entire community loses its stability",*

***said Ștefan, a camp participant.***

Through interactive workshops, discussions and creative activities, participants explored topics such as gender equality, violence prevention, healthy relationships and consent, leadership and civic engagement.

*"It is impossible to have a balanced society when one part of us is denied the same opportunities to fulfil our potential and express ourselves",*

***said Ana-Maria, another camp participant.***



EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

As part of the creative project “Children Telling Stories”, the participants also used photography and visual storytelling to promote positive behavioural models. Their work was presented at the end of the camp in a mini-exhibition.

The summer camp was organised by the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (CNPAC), in partnership with UN Women Moldova, as part of the “Together Against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence” programme (Phase 2), funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA Moldova.

# EU4GenderEquality: change starts with the examples we see around us

As part of the "EU4GenderEquality: Together against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence" programme, men from diverse backgrounds and communities, including members of Fathers' Clubs, public figures and religious leaders, shared their stories about family, fatherhood and involvement. Their experiences show that being a present father and an engaged partner is, above all, about being there for the people you love, every day.

These stories remind us that there is no single way to be involved. Caring for children, being present, expressing emotions and sharing responsibilities at home can all become a natural part of men's lives.

Through these real-life examples, we promote positive alternatives to traditional gender roles and show that change can start at home with simple gestures, everyday choices and relationships built on care, respect and partnership.

The regional EU4GenderEquality programme, "Together against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence", is funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Women and UNFPA.

Discover their stories HERE.



# 59 young people, prepared for the country's European future: the 2026 edition of the joint EU-Denmark-Moldova internship programme has come to an end

A new group of young professionals has completed their internship within the joint Internship Programme of the European Union, Denmark and the Republic of Moldova, implemented within the project 'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration'. 59 students and graduates from the country and the diaspora, who engaged for two months in public institutions, received at the end of August their well-deserved certificates during a festive ceremony attended by Deputy Prime Minister Cristina Gherasimov, the Deputy Head of EU Delegation Máté Csicsai and the Danish Ambassador Søren Jensen.



The Internship Programme involved full-time activity – eight hours per day – and was focused on key topics related to the European integration process. Throughout the internship, participants were guided daily by mentors – experts of the host institutions. The young people also had the opportunity to attend weekly training sessions, as well as informal discussions with high-level national and international officials. Each intern received a monthly scholarship of Euro 250.

The selection process was rigorous, structured in two stages: the pre-selection of application files – almost 200 in total – and the final interview, conducted in Romanian and English, before a panel composed of representatives of the EU Delegation, the Government, and the 'Moldova is Europe' project. The evaluation focused on knowledge of EU–Moldova relations, fluency in English, motivation, and other relevant skills.

*"I would like to thank everyone who made this experience so beautiful for us. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity: both I and my colleagues had the opportunity to better understand how the public system works from the inside. I am grateful for all the people I met, for the debates we had, for the information sessions and, of course, for the connections we created,"*

***said Afina Scutari, a graduate of the programme who completed her internship at the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family.***

Graduates who obtained positive evaluations may benefit from direct employment in their host institution, provided they complete an additional month of internship.

Since the initiative's launch in 2022, more than 200 young people have taken part in the programme, and 21 of them have been employed in public institutions. The programme continues to create real opportunities for young people, offering them a platform to launch a career in public service.

# The “STEAMing across borders” initiative empowers girls to shape the future through science and innovation

*“One of our exceptional achievements within the project is SnapCare, an app designed to support controlled administration of medication for people who need assistance in following their treatment plans. We presented this app at the international e-ICON Contest in South Korea and won the second place. In addition, one of our colleagues will participate in the International Conference on Peace and Nuclear Non-Proliferation in Hiroshima, Japan,”*

***share the students from Gheorghe Asachi Lyceum, participating in the “STEAMing” initiative.***

Over 200 students alongside 55 schoolteachers from 10 regions across the Republic of Moldova are now better equipped with innovative, research-based learning strategies, following the implementation of the “STEAMing across borders” initiative funded by the EU, under the EVOLVE4GE project, and implemented by UN Women Moldova in partnership with the Academy of Innovation and Change through Education. The programme aimed at breaking stereotypes and empowering girls to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

*"STEAM prepares students for the future and encourages creativity, while working with modern technologies, and girls are very capable. We have used hands-on design challenges, collaborative online tools, and interactive digital methods. Girls are becoming more engaged, curious, and motivated,"*

***mentioned Diana Jelihovschi, a teacher from Sălcuța village.***

The project successfully established a broad international network, recruiting 103 international educators from 21 countries across 5 continents. STEAMing brought teachers of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics together with English teachers to design and deliver lessons across various subjects, showing students how science, maths and language connect in real learning.

*"What I enjoyed the most so far were the activities with Augmented Reality (AR) apps. I can now easily create AR science models.*

*I can show you the solar system floating on your desk or a dinosaur walking in your living room,"*

***adds another girl, 13 years old, from Ermoclia.***

The initiative also built cooperation across institutions and sectors, bringing together two of Moldova's leading educational institutions, the Technical University of Moldova and Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University through Clasa Viitorului. Together, they combined technical expertise with teaching know-how to create a richer, more connected learning experience for both students and educators.

*"We participated in a five-day summer camp and making robots and drones was a completely new and impressive experience for me. Most schools in our country don't have such laboratories, so this was a unique opportunity",*

***said a 14-year-old girl from Soroca.***




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

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

Over the course of a year, 10 science clubs were running and giving students exciting opportunities to explore STEAM activities tailored to the local context. The methodological guide "*STEAM Without Borders: Science from the Perspective of International Cooperation*" will further help even more teachers to turn lessons into experiences, bringing more science, technology, creativity, experimentation, collaboration and project-based learning into the classroom.

# From local traditions to conversations about Europe: “Moldova in the EU – for real!”

What does European integration mean for a community, and how can closer ties with the European Union contribute to local development? These are some of the questions that the “Moldova in the EU – for real!” campaign seeks to answer through direct dialogue with people, starting from the realities and needs of local communities.

Implemented by People in Need Moldova, in partnership with the National Rural Development Network LEADER and EcoVisio, the campaign is part of the “ActEU for Moldova – Active Communities for European Integration” project, funded by the European Union. Activities are organised in cooperation with Local Action Groups (LAGs) and civil society organisations across the country.




Launched in July, the campaign has already reached several localities in the regions of Bălți, Fălești, Ocnița, Taraclia and Gagauzia, joining local fairs, festivals and celebrations. The meetings have given participants an opportunity to learn more about the EU’s contribution to community development, the Republic of Moldova’s accession process and the opportunities offered through cooperation with the EU, while also discussing questions and myths surrounding European integration.

While every locality has its own traditions and priorities, all the meetings had one element in common: dialogue.

The conversations started with people’s questions and concerns and moved towards topics such as local development, European opportunities and the future of the Republic of Moldova.

Closer ties with the European family can be felt in everyday life: through the decisions people make, cooperation between citizens and authorities, respect for and promotion of human rights, as well as investments in infrastructure, culture, education, social services and healthcare. And “Moldova in the EU – for real!” continues to bring these conversations closer to people through new meetings in communities across the country.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# The power of example: the people who took local budgets into their own hands and transformed their communities

In Zubrești, a new gazebo and a well are not just simple infrastructure projects, but the result of over 1,000 hours of volunteer work by the villagers. In Basarabeasca, a simple tie vote on an online platform did not block a project, but convinced authorities to find extra money to build both a children's playground and a relaxation area. And in Anenii Noi, some students now walk to school more safely, wearing reflective accessories, because their parents and neighbours decided on a social theatre stage that road safety could no longer wait.

All these changes might seem small on a national scale, but they represent a profound transformation in how decisions are made in the Republic of Moldova. At the end of September, in Chișinău, the people behind these initiatives – mayors, NGO leaders, civil servants, and ordinary citizens – sat down at the same table during a workshop organised by People in Need Moldova. It wasn't a conference to report numbers, but an honest discussion about how participatory budgeting can heal the chronic mistrust between citizens and the state.

Supported by the INSPIRED Moldova programme, with funding from the European Union, five communities had the courage to test what happens when decision-making power descends to the grassroots level. Each locality wrote its own story.

In Basarabeasca, for example, they started from absolute zero. Neither the town hall nor the local association "Golubca" had ever done this before. Civil servants stood shoulder to shoulder with citizens to draft the operating regulation, and the entire voting process was moved online. The biggest surprise was the administration's reaction: seeing that over 200 people voted and that their desire was genuine, the local council decided to allocate additional funds from the budget to realise two ideas instead of one.

In rural areas, young people are often the hardest to convince to stay or get involved. However, the JEF Moldova association proved the opposite in five localities, including Cupcini and Rezina. Through a civic education caravan, young people aged 15 to 30 learned how a public budget works and turned their own ideas into reality, building youth spaces and obtaining sports equipment.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

They were not just spectators, but dialogue partners with the administration.

Sometimes, obstacles arise from a lack of accurate information. In Sîngera, the AmDC association understood that people cannot vote on a project if they are victims of disinformation. That is how a digital community platform was born, restoring transparency. The success was so resounding that the Sîngera Town Hall didn't let the initiative die when the grant ended, but transformed it into an official municipal programme for 2026.

Beyond the new gazebos, websites, or pedestrian crossings, the greatest victory of these pilot projects is the shift in mentality. When a person sacrifices their free time to write a project for their street, and the mayor listens and funds it, a shared responsibility is born. The locals of Zubrești, for instance, will take much better care of a well they built with their own hands.

But the biggest challenge, discussed extensively at the wrap-up event, is the future. The enthusiasm of these pilot projects must become an everyday rule in administration.

Participatory budgeting is taking root in Moldova. And the lesson these communities have taught us is simple: democracy is not just an abstract concept on television, but the way we decide, together, what our street, park, or school will look like tomorrow.

The initiatives are part of the "INSPIRED Moldova – Involving Civil Society in Decision-Making" project, supported by the European Union and implemented by a consortium formed of the European Partnership for Democracy, People in Need, ALDA, CONTACT Center, CPR, and DRI.

# Civic actors advance cooperation against disinformation and information manipulation in the Eastern Partnership

*"The objective of disinformation is simple: to divide, confuse, and weaken trust. Our response must therefore also be clear: to connect, inform, and strengthen trust. That is exactly what Resilient & Connected stands for. This programme is built on the idea that resilience is strongest when it is shared. It brings together civil society, independent media, fact-checkers, researchers, and international partners to detect, analyse, and respond to information threats more effectively",*

***stated Máté Csicsai, Deputy Head of EU Delegation Moldova.***

Over 70 representatives from civil society, independent media, research institutes, public institutions, and other stakeholders gathered in Chișinău for the kick-off event of Resilient & Connected: Joint Initiatives Against Disinformation – a regional programme to strengthen societal resilience against disinformation and foreign information manipulation interference (FIMI) in the Eastern Partnership region.




The launch comes at a time of increasing information manipulation, which undermines public trust, polarises societies, weakens independent voices, and distorts democratic debate – including in the electoral context and on European integration processes in Moldova and beyond in the region.

Against this backdrop, Resilient & Connected supports joint initiatives, which strengthen evidence-based responses, foster cross-border cooperation and research, and build capacity of civic actors to protect civic spaces, promote media freedom, and uphold democratic values.

The event also featured a Decision Lab, a hands-on exercise exploring information disorders in election contexts. Participants shared country-level experiences from across the Eastern Partnership, mapped dominant disinformation and FIMI narratives, reviewed stakeholder responses, and reflected on what worked, what fell short, and which gaps must be addressed going forward.

Launching a new EUR 200 000 scheme for disinformation analysis

During the event, the programme's implementing partners officially launched and presented a new grant scheme worth over EUR 200 000 for up to 15 civic initiatives supporting research and analysis on FIMI and disinformation across the Eastern Partnership countries.

The Resilient & Connected: Joint Initiatives Against Disinformation is a regional programme co-funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need, the Prague Civil Society Centre, and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.

# When parents are at work, where do children spend their summer holidays?

Summer holidays mean time off for children, but not for parents who continue to go to work. For many families, especially those with young children, this raises a very practical question: where and with whom does their child spend the day? In Căușeni, the EVA Centre responded to this need with eight weeks of day camp attended by 147 children from the town and neighbouring villages.

The EVA Summer Camp was part of the "EVA Afterschool Plus" initiative, through which the EVA Centre provides primary school children with a safe space after school, homework support, and opportunities for social interaction and personal development. At the same time, the programme responds to the needs of parents and caregivers, who can continue working knowing that their children are in a safe and supportive environment after school.




During the summer holidays, when school and the afterschool programme were on break, this need remained. The day camp allowed the EVA Centre to continue supporting children throughout the summer. Each week, a new group of children aged 6 to 14 came to the EVA Summer Camp for five days, with activities adapted to the participants' ages. During the day, children took part in games and personal development activities, spent time outdoors, went on visits and excursions and, above all, spent time together. In the evening, they returned home to their families.

This format also made the camp accessible to children for whom spending ten days at a residential camp in another locality, away from their families, would have been more difficult, including children with special educational needs. For some participants, the organisers say, the EVA Summer Camp was their only organised holiday experience of the summer.

Particular attention was given to safety. Children learned how to respond to different risks, from staying safe at home, on the street and while swimming to bullying and online safety. Some of these lessons came with experiences that the children looked forward to with great excitement. At the Căușeni Emergency Situations Directorate, they climbed into fire engines, tried on firefighters' protective gear and had a chance to use a fire hose.

Another favourite experience was the visit to the EduJoc Toy Museum. The children saw how wooden toys are made, chose a toy of their own and personalised it, before taking part in outdoor games.

Beyond excursions and games, the EVA Centre team also paid attention to how the children interacted with one another. Many joined a group where they did not know anyone, and some were initially shy and hesitant to speak or participate. Over the course of the week, educators saw them become more communicative, take part in group activities and form new friendships.

A simple exercise on the final day captured this change particularly well. The children sat in a circle, and each of them, in turn, received a small crown made of wheat stalks and wildflowers. The others would then give them a compliment. Educators observed how children who initially found it difficult to speak in front of the group gradually became able to tell their peers what they appreciated about them and, in turn, enjoy hearing what others appreciated about them.

With the start of the new school year, the EVA Centre resumed the afterschool programme that had been running before the summer holidays. Around 15 children in grades 1–3 now come to the centre every day after school. They receive a snack, do their homework, with support when needed, and take part in activities focusing on personal development, memory, attention and motor skills.

Support is also adapted to individual needs. Four of the children are Russian speakers but attend Romanian-language schools, so at the centre they receive additional support with vocabulary development, pronunciation and reading.

Whether during the summer holidays or after school, the aim remains the same: to ensure that children have a safe place to be while their parents are at work, and that parents can continue working knowing that their children are supervised and receive the support they need.



The “EVA Afterschool Plus” initiative is implemented by the Regional Centre for Women “EVA” within the project “BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time”, funded by the European Union and implemented by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation in partnership with APSCF and Junior Achievement Moldova.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# A summer beyond the classroom for children in Boghiceni village

In Boghiceni, a village of approximately 2,300 residents in Hîncești district, children's access to extracurricular activities is limited, partly due to distance. The village has no public transport connection to the district centre, and participation in clubs and other activities organised in town often depends on whether families are able to provide transportation.

For the 134 students of Boghiceni Gymnasium, some of these opportunities have been brought closer to home through the initiative "Beyond the Classroom: Extracurricular Experiences for the Future", implemented by the Institute for Rural Initiatives. Activities take place at the school itself through the "Kingdom of Students" Club, an afterschool programme launched this year. The Club was created to provide students with a friendlier, more relaxed space where they can learn and socialise, while strengthening their motivation to stay engaged in school and continue their education.

The Club continued its activities during the school holidays, with summer sessions organised in three groups according to the children's ages and interests. The programme included games and creative workshops, personal development activities, quizzes and guided discussions, giving children opportunities to practise communication, collaboration and teamwork.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

In one activity, for example, children explored science and engineering through STEM methods: they conducted experiments, learned about renewable energy and built structures from reused materials. In another workshop, this time dedicated to art, they took an imaginary journey to Japan. Using sponges, cardboard stencils and cotton swabs, they created landscapes and cherry blossoms, experimenting and finding their own creative solutions.

The adults working with the children are already noticing changes.

A Children's Advisory Council has also been established within the Club, giving children a say in the activities they take part in. Council members share their views, suggest activities and participate in decisions about how these activities can be improved.

With the start of the new school year, the "Kingdom of Students" continues to provide children with afterschool activities.

At their request, children also receive support with their homework. In total, between July and September, the "Kingdom of Students" Club organised 32 activities involving more than 90 children and recording over 200 instances of participation.

As a result, children in Boghiceni now have access within their own community to learning and development opportunities that, without public transport to the district centre, were previously much harder for them to access.

The initiative "Beyond the Classroom: Extracurricular Experiences for the Future" is implemented by the Institute for Rural Initiatives within the project "BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time", funded by the European Union and implemented by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation in partnership with APSCF and Junior Achievement Moldova.

# Who decides whether afterschool activities work? Children themselves!

How do we know whether afterschool activities give children what they need? The answer is to ask them directly. Within the BOOST project, 20 children and young people who are members of Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation's Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) are preparing to evaluate the afterschool activities provided through ten local initiatives supported by the project.

Preparing for this stage was one of the main objectives of the second edition of the CYAB Summer School, held in August. Over two days, CYAB members worked on the tools they will use to learn directly from children how they experience afterschool activities: what works, what difficulties they encounter and what could be improved.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

They also discussed the priorities for the Board's new mandate and welcomed seven new members to the team. In its new composition, the Board brings together 20 children and young people.

In September, CYAB members continued working on the final versions of four tools: a questionnaire, an interview guide, a focus group guide and an observation sheet. These will be used to evaluate the afterschool services provided through the ten local initiatives supported by BOOST. The feedback collected from children and young people participating in the activities will be analysed and turned into recommendations for the organisations providing the services and for Terre des hommes Moldova.

For the more experienced CYAB members, this work builds on what they learned during their first year on the Board. After receiving training in participatory research, they carried out a study on children's and young people's access to afterschool activities. They administered questionnaires and conducted interviews and focus groups, collecting and analysing the views of 4,639 respondents. The findings were subsequently presented to the organisations receiving BOOST grants.

The experience also changed their understanding of what it means to represent others.

From October, this work moves from preparation into the field. CYAB members begin visiting the ten local initiatives, where they will talk directly, as peers, with the children and young people taking part in the activities and use the tools they have developed. In this way, children's perspectives become part of the process through which afterschool services are evaluated and improved.

The Children and Youth Advisory Board operates within the project "BOOST: an outstanding afterschool time", funded by the European Union and implemented by Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation in partnership with APSCF and Junior Achievement Moldova. Through participatory research and direct involvement in monitoring and evaluation, CYAB members contribute to developing extracurricular activities that are designed not only for children, but together with them.

# New mentoring programme strengthens practical training for future teachers

For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, teachers who will guide the teaching practice of future educators are being prepared through a specialised programme based on new national regulations and European good practices in mentoring.

The first round of the Teaching Practice Mentor Training Programme, held from 24 to 28 August 2026, brought together 150 teachers from institutions serving as teaching practice centres.

The programme supports a shift from teaching practice focused mainly on observation towards a structured mentoring process. Future teachers will benefit from guidance, feedback and support to apply their knowledge in the classroom.

The initiative is organised by the National Institute for Education and Leadership, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and UNICEF, with financial support from the European Union under the programme "Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All."



# New tools aim to make mentoring more accessible and coherent for education professionals

New tools are being developed to strengthen access to quality mentoring for teachers and school managers across the Republic of Moldova.

Mentors from across the country tested and reviewed a set of resources designed to support their day-to-day work, including a mentor guide for applying competency standards, a professional assessment and development tool, a mentoring monitoring and evaluation system, a mentoring platform and access pathway, and the INEL Digital Library.

Their feedback and practical recommendations will help adapt these resources to the real needs of teachers and school leaders.

In the longer term, the tools are expected to contribute to a more accessible and coherent mentoring system, enabling education professionals to benefit from guidance, feedback and support throughout their careers.

The initiative is part of "Promoting Quality Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All," funded by the European Union and implemented by UNICEF and UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Institute for Education and Leadership.






# Moldox Lab Gagauzia: 7 short documentaries about communities in Gagauzia, supported by the EU

In Comrat, 12 young people from different ethnocultural, linguistic and social communities across the Republic of Moldova turned local experiences and stories into short documentary films. From 6 to 12 July 2026, with the support of the European Union, the seven-day Moldox Lab Gagauzia workshop brought participants together to explore documentary filmmaking and how it can be used as a tool for strengthening social cohesion.

Participants explored the main genres of documentary film, learned about dramaturgy and storytelling, and practised how a story can be developed and told through image and sound.

The films produced during the workshop focus on people and situations from everyday life. Traditions, crafts, memory, migration and community experiences became the subjects of the stories filmed by the participants. Through these personal stories, they sought to highlight realities and experiences that reflect the life and diversity of communities across Moldova.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

*"It is important for us that such initiatives also reach the regions and create opportunities for young people from different communities. Through film, they were able to talk about people, diversity and their lived experiences and bring these stories to a wider audience,"*

***said Natalia Djandjgava, Country Manager, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation.***

The programme also included a session dedicated to youth participation, including the participation of national minority representatives, in public life and their role in promoting intercultural dialogue.

The young participants discussed how different communities can become more visible and more actively engaged in society.

For communities, the films offer another perspective on local diversity. The stories created by the young participants highlight people and experiences that are less visible in the public space and provide a starting point for discussions about identity, culture and relations between communities.

Maria Arnaut and Ioachim Cabal produced a documentary film in Ferapontievca, Gagauzia bringing attention to the efforts and work of a local woman who is committed to preserving the village's identity and promoting its museum.




*"Our film demonstrates that ethnolinguistic diversity is not a barrier. Through the eyes of our protagonist, an Ukrainian woman who came to Gagauzia when she was young, we saw what social cohesion really means and how respect for culture can keep a community together,"*

***Maria said.***




On 12 July, the films premiered publicly, with around 50 people attending the screening. The audience included residents of the autonomous region, the protagonists of the films and invited guests.

Following the screening, the authors discussed the films' themes, inclusion, social cohesion and dialogue with the audience, as well as the stories behind their productions. For the young participants, this was their first experience of presenting their own documentary work to a wider audience.

The activity complements the workshop held in Chisinau, where another 12 young people explored documentary filmmaking. In November 2026, the films produced during both workshops will be presented at the MOLDOX International Documentary Film Festival in Chisinau. Taking part in the festival will give the authors an opportunity to share their stories with a wider audience and continue discussions on diversity and intercultural dialogue.

The activity was organised by the MOLDOX Association in partnership with CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, within the "Social Cohesion through Dialogue" project, implemented by CMI and funded by European Union. The project supports the effective and constructive participation of young people and national minorities in public life, public debates and democratic processes, and contributes to strengthening social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova.

# Parents of children with disabilities and special educational needs form local groups to engage with authorities

In Bălți, Orhei, Ialoveni and Edineț, parents and caregivers of children with disabilities and special educational needs have come together in local groups to discuss the challenges faced by families and bring these issues into dialogue with local authorities and institutions.

The process was carried out within the framework of the "Community Empowerment" project and was based on the experiences and needs identified by parents themselves. Over several months, group members met regularly, took part in training and mentoring sessions, and worked together to turn individual challenges into shared priorities.

An important step in this process was the organisation of community forums in each of the four localities. Parents had the opportunity to discuss the issues identified within the groups directly with representatives of local public authorities, public institutions and services, as well as specialists in the field. In this way, families' experiences became part of a broader discussion on available services, children's education, and cooperation between parents and local institutions.




At the end of the project, representatives of the four groups came together to share their experiences and discuss how their engagement could continue at the local level. Beyond the activities carried out, one of the outcomes of the process is the existence of groups that have gained experience in identifying common challenges, articulating their needs, and engaging in dialogue with relevant institutions.

The process is also continuing in other communities. Local groups are currently being established in Nisporeni, Sîngerei, Ungheni and Ștefan Vodă, while the groups formed in Bălți, Orhei, Ialoveni and Edineț will continue their activities after the project ends, setting their own priorities based on the needs of their members and communities.

The groups were formed within the "Community Empowerment" project, implemented by A.O. "Prietena Mea" in partnership with People in Need Moldova, as part of the "INSPIRĂ Moldova" initiative, funded by the European Union.

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).



# Learning from Sweden strengthens gender equality capacities in Moldova

Civil servants from Moldova, Armenia and Ukraine strengthened their capacities to advance gender equality through a study visit to Sweden (summer 2026), organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk – a project funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras. The 16 officials (11 women and 5 men) gained practical knowledge of how to mainstream, monitor, protect and sustain gender equality across policy areas. They also explored first-hand how cooperation between public institutions, independent oversight bodies, civil society and research institutions is vital to translate gender equality commitments into long-term structural change.




The participants included five Moldovan officials (all women) from the Ministry of Defence, the National Agency for Prevention and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the State Chancellery, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the National Bureau of Statistics. Their participation enabled the exchange of national experiences and approaches that can inform ongoing gender equality reforms in the Eastern Neighbourhood region.

The study visit's programme was structured around three interrelated themes: Sweden's gender equality machinery; accountability, rights and democratic oversight; and gender equality in times of crisis and conflict. The visit combined perspectives from government institutions, independent bodies and civil society to illustrate how different actors contribute to advancing, monitoring and safeguarding gender equality over time.

Participants explored Sweden's institutional architecture for gender equality, including government coordination, gender mainstreaming across public agencies, and the use of sex-disaggregated data for policymaking. They examined the work of the Swedish Gender Equality Agency, Statistics Sweden (Statistiska centralbyrån), the Gender Equality Unit of the Government Offices, and the Swedish Social Insurance Agency – including approaches to economic equality, equal pay and parental leave.



Meetings with the Equality Ombudsman, the Swedish Women's Lobby and IKFF/WILPF Sweden provided perspectives on protecting human rights, engaging civil society and preventing gender-based violence. These discussions showcased the immense contribution of feminist organisations and of gender-sensitive research to responsive public policies.

In terms of advancing gender equality even in times of crisis and conflict, the study visit focused on civil preparedness, resilience and defence. Discussions with the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency, and the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations explored how gender perspectives can be integrated into preparedness systems, security policies and military operations in a changing security environment.

The study visit was part and parcel of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including by enabling the exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries in the region and EU Member States.



# Five newsrooms commit to fairer, gender-sensitive reporting

Five media outlets from across the Republic of Moldova are strengthening their skills and reviewing their editorial policies to make gender equality part of everyday journalism. They are taking part in a capacity-building programme on integrating a gender equality perspective into editorial work, run by the Association of Independent Press (API), one of Moldova's leading media organisations since 1997. The programme is part of the EVOLVE4GE project, implemented by UN Women Moldova and funded by the European Union.

How the media tells a story shapes how people see the world. When women appear in the news only as victims, or rarely as experts and leaders, audiences receive an incomplete picture of society. Five newsrooms are now working to change that, including two national outlets: the youth-oriented platform *diez.md* and the national broadcaster *Teleradio Moldova*, and three regional media outlets: *Studio-L*, from Căușeni, *Nordinfo.md*, from Bălți, and the Russian-language platform *Tuk.md*, covering Taraclia and Cahul. Together they reach audiences in the capital, the north, the south and Russian-speaking communities, bringing more balanced reporting to citizens in every corner of the country.



All five newsrooms have committed to reviewing their internal editorial policies, codes and guidelines through a gender equality lens.

During the first training sessions, participants explored a core idea: gender equality is not a separate topic, but an integral part of human rights, and fair coverage rests on trust, respect, public interest and balance.

Some outlets are already leading by example. Since 2016, diez.md has been committed to using feminine forms of professional titles when referring to women, a simple change that makes women's professional roles visible to young readers.

Over the coming months, each newsroom will receive tailored workshops, mentoring and on-site coaching, as well as support to produce in-depth media products on preventing violence against women, gender-sensitive governance and women's economic empowerment, giving the public more accurate and useful information on issues that affect daily life.

The programme will also leave lasting tools for the whole media sector: practical guides and tools on gender-sensitive journalism, available in Romanian, Russian and English. Journalism students and lecturers will benefit from sessions with experienced journalists, helping the next generation of reporters build these skills from the start.

# DigiGuru Summer Camp empowers young people to strengthen information resilience across Moldova

Twenty-one young people from different regions of Moldova strengthened their media literacy, critical thinking and ability to recognise and respond to disinformation during the second edition of the DigiGuru Summer Camp, held from 3–5 August.




The three-day programme equipped participants with practical skills to critically assess information and online content, recognise manipulation and disinformation, understand the opportunities and risks associated with artificial intelligence, and communicate these topics effectively to other young people.

The camp was opened by Iwona Piórko, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, who engaged with participants in an informal discussion on disinformation and the importance of strengthening young people's resilience in today's information environment.

The impact has already extended beyond the camp itself. In just a month and a half, seven participants have organised information sessions in their communities, reaching more than 250 young people.

Four participants have created digital content, including Reels, TikTok videos and Instagram carousels, while two others have written articles published by Ziarul de Gardă.

By turning participants into multipliers within their own communities, the initiative is extending media literacy knowledge beyond the original group and helping more young people develop the skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex information environment.

The DigiGuru Summer Camp was organised by the Media Guard Association in partnership with Ziarul de Gardă and GLOBSEC under the EU-funded project "Top-down and Bottom-up Resilience-Building in the Republic of Moldova."

# Republic of Moldova and Romania, together for every child's right to grow up in a family

For 18 months, more than 300 child protection professionals from the Republic of Moldova and Romania took part in training sessions, coaching and mentoring, as well as study visits, strengthening their skills to support the transition from institutional care to family- and community-based services. The activities took place within the project "Strengthening the cross-border partnership for the transition to community and family-based care" (ROMD00376), implemented throughout the Republic of Moldova, as well as in the counties of Iași, Galați, Vaslui and Botoșani in Romania, between April 2025 and September 2026, by CCF Moldova and Salvați Copiii Iași, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova.




In addition to the capacity-building activities, the project established a cross-border professional network connecting specialists from both countries and providing a shared space for communication and professional exchange, with the potential to sustain cooperation beyond the lifetime of the project. The project also included a public awareness component. The "Un loc la masă (A Seat at the Table)" campaign promoted every child's right to grow up in a family and a supportive community, reaching more than 800,000 people and generating over 4.5 million views and radio listens. Campaign materials reached audiences in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and other European countries.

On 9 September 2026, child protection professionals, representatives of central and local public authorities, and partner organisations from both countries gathered in Chișinău for the project's closing event. Discussions focused on the results achieved, lessons learned, and the next steps in advancing the reform of services for children at risk of family separation and those undergoing family reintegration.

The project "Strengthening Cross-Border Partnership for Transition to Community and Family-Based Care in Moldova and Romania" (ROMD00376) was implemented by CCF Moldova and Salvați Copiii Iași, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, with a total budget of €439,400.85, funded by the European Union and co-financed by the participating countries through the Interreg VI-A NEXT Romania–Republic of Moldova Programme 2021–2027.



# Policy dialogue advances civil society participation in migration governance

Representatives of civil society organisations came together for a policy dialogue on migration and mobility, bringing forward practical insights and recommendations from the communities they serve.

The exchange strengthened collaboration between civil society and public authorities, helping ensure that migration policies are inclusive, evidence-based, and responsive to the needs of migrants, refugees, and host communities. By creating space for meaningful participation, the dialogue contributed to more transparent and people-centred migration governance in Moldova.



# New guide empowers civil society to engage in Moldova's EU accession process

A new guide developed under the EU-funded EU-CSO4MIA project is helping civil society organisations better understand and engage in Moldova's EU accession process, particularly under Chapter 24, Justice, Freedom and Security.

Developed by IPRE in partnership with IOM Moldova, the publication offers practical guidance on monitoring reforms, contributing to public policy discussions, engaging with decision-makers, and strengthening advocacy efforts. By supporting more informed and meaningful participation, the guide contributes to a more inclusive and transparent EU integration process.

Available here
https://moldova.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1626/files/documents/2026-08/cso4mia_en.pdf



# The European Union and IOM Continue to Support People in Vulnerable Situations Displaced from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova

The European Union, through its humanitarian aid funding, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have launched a new humanitarian initiative to support people displaced from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova.

The 12-month initiative, which began on 1 July 2026, will focus on people at risk of being left behind, particularly those living in underserved areas, including the left bank of the Nistru River. It will also address the specific needs of third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine who often face barriers in accessing national services and humanitarian support.

With a contribution of EUR 1.7 million in humanitarian funding from the European Union, the action will provide multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable refugee households on the left bank of the Nistru River while strengthening health mediation, MHPSS and protection services across the Republic of Moldova. This support aims to help people meet their essential needs, including food and utilities, while promoting dignity and self-reliance.

The project will provide multipurpose cash assistance, health mediation, mental health and psychosocial support, and protection services to people in vulnerable situations.

Particular attention will be given to those at risk of being left behind, including people living in underserved areas and third-country nationals.




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# Supporting mental health and resilience across Moldova

With support from the European Union, IOM Moldova is providing mental health and psychosocial support activities for refugees and vulnerable community members on both banks of the Nistru River. Through group sessions and peer support activities, participants strengthen their resilience, wellbeing, and social connections.

By creating safe and inclusive spaces for interaction and self-reflection, these activities help reduce social isolation and foster more resilient communities.



# Financial assistance helps families meet urgent needs safely and with dignity

Through IOM's case management support, Svetlana and Tatiana have received financial assistance to help meet urgent needs and reduce protection risks. The financial assistance will ensure the family's access to basic goods and services, including uninterrupted access to education for the children, in a safe and dignified manner.

Funded by the European Union, this support helps reduce vulnerabilities, respond to immediate protection concerns, and ensure that people can live safely and with dignity while rebuilding their futures.

Since the beginning of 2026, 440 people have received financial assistance through IOM case management to help address urgent needs and strengthen their protection.



# Bringing protection, healthcare and essential assistance closer to refugees in Moldova

With the financial support of the European Union, IOM Moldova's Mobile Protection Team, together with an IOM health mediator, carried out outreach activities in several localities across northern Moldova, including Cărpineni, engaging with Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals. Through individual consultations and information sessions, participants received guidance on protection services, legal and documentation assistance, case management, and access to healthcare, including registration with a family doctor, management of chronic health conditions, and access to specialised medical care. The activities also enabled IOM to identify urgent needs and protection concerns and facilitate referrals to appropriate services. Since 1 July 2026, 120 people have received one-time financial assistance to help mitigate protection risks identified through IOM's case management services.



# Joint efforts for children: the European Union supports the development of community services by funding civil society organisations

At least 11 new services for vulnerable children and families will be developed in the Republic of Moldova. European Union funding will help around 500 children and 200 parents or carers, providing a safe environment and greater protection for children at community level.

The support is provided through a generous grant programme aimed at civil society organisations. Launched in Chișinău on 9 July 2026, the grant programme will enable the development of at least four Community Home social services for children with severe disabilities, as well as the development of at least seven social services and community programmes to prevent children from being placed in residential institutions.

Through this funding opportunity, civil society can directly support children and families in several regions of the country. The new community homes will ensure that at least 20 children with severe disabilities are transferred from residential institutions to inclusive environments, where they will receive personalised support from trained specialists. The initiative aims to provide children with access to high-quality, community-based services tailored to their individual needs.



In addition, over 500 children at risk and their families will benefit from social services and community programmes designed to prevent neglect, abandonment and separation from their families. These initiatives will help to provide the necessary support directly within the community, whilst at the same time strengthening the child protection system in the Republic of Moldova.

The grant programme was launched as part of the "Stronger Civil Society, Safer Childhoods: Supporting Moldova's Child Care Transformation" project. The project is financed by the European Union, co-financed and implemented by Keystone Moldova, Child, Community, Family (CCF Moldova), and Partnerships for Every Child. The strategic partnership between the project implementation team and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection ensures that the project's objectives are aligned with national priorities and policies in the field of child protection.

The development of new social services and community programmes will be achieved through collaboration between civil society organisations participating in the grant programme and territorial agencies for social assistance or local public authorities. Establishing these partnerships will ensure the continuity of services once the funded projects have come to an end, which will mean greater responsibility and involvement at the local level.

The "Stronger Civil Society, Safer Childhoods: Supporting Moldova's Child Care Transformation" project aims to strengthen the role of civil society organisations and expand access for at-risk children and their families to sustainable, family-centred, and community-based protection services. Project activities are scheduled to be carried out through January 2029, with a budget of 2.1 million euros allocated for the project.

# The European Union is investing in community-based services for children with severe disabilities and in capacity building for non-governmental organisations

Taking part in the grant competition designed for non-governmental organisations to develop Community Home social services for children with severe disabilities is more than just a funding opportunity. For civil society organisations, it is also an ideal opportunity to enhance their capacity to develop project proposals.



In this context, on 19 and 20 August 2026, representatives of non-governmental organisations and territorial agencies for social assistance took part in a training workshop. Organisations shortlisted during the first stage of the grant competition were invited to the workshop, with the aim of providing them with the information and knowledge needed to draft compelling project proposals. The grant competition is made possible by funding from the European Union, which supports civil society organisations active in the social sector.

The workshop combined theoretical sessions with practical exercises, which helped participants – both women and men – gain a better understanding of how the Community Home service for children with severe disabilities is organised and operates. The training played a key role in preparing civil society organisations to structure their ideas regarding future project proposals. Those attending the workshop also analysed the opportunities and challenges involved in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the services.

*"In practical terms, this training has given me greater clarity on how to develop the Community Home service, based on the support and care needs of children with disabilities. We had time to analyse the partnerships that will underpin the quality and sustainability of the new social service, as well as to plan the initial activities and the necessary resources. This will help us prepare a better-researched project proposal,"*

***said Ludmila Jalbă, administrator of the 'Eternitate' public association of parents of people with disabilities, at the end of the training.***

The European Union backs efforts to reform the child protection system in the Republic of Moldova through the project "Stronger Civil Society, Safer Childhoods: Supporting Moldova's Child Care Transformation". This project is co-financed and implemented by Keystone Moldova, Child, Community, Family (CCF Moldova), and Partnerships for Every Child, under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

# Independent living and community inclusion for people with disabilities are made possible with the support of the European Union

Access for people with disabilities to community living will be expanded, thanks to support from the European Union and the involvement of civil society. As part of the "Inclusive Moldova: Communities for All" project, at least 15 Supported Living social services and 30 Shared Living social services will be established and developed for people leaving residential institutions.

To broaden the network of community-based social services and ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities who have left residential care, the European Union is allocating 2,085,000 euros. The funds will be awarded to civil society organisations in various regions of the country, which will be selected following a call for grant proposals launched in Chișinău on 10 September 2026.

At least 15 organisations will receive funding and technical assistance to create and develop services that provide people with disabilities with personalised support, decent living conditions and genuine opportunities to participate in community life.



The grant competition is part of 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. This initiative contributes to the deinstitutionalisation process of adults with disabilities from the Temporary Placement Centre for Adult Persons with Disabilities in Bădiceni commune, Soroca district, and promotes the transition from residential care to community-based services.

Civil society organisations wishing to apply for funding are encouraged to establish partnerships with one of the territorial agencies for social assistance or the bodies responsible for social assistance in the municipality of Chișinău and the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia. Such partnerships and collaborations will ensure that services are developed in line with local needs, and that the sustainability of the new community services will become the responsibility of the authorities once the project is completed.

The "Inclusive Moldova: Communities for All" project aims to improve the quality of life and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova. The project's activities will conclude on 31 October 2029.

# Building inclusive communities: the European Union supports the transition of people with disabilities to independent living

On 22 September 2026, Chișinău hosted a national workshop dedicated to the social inclusion of people with disabilities and their transition from residential care to community living. The event, organised with the support of the European Union, brought together representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, territorial agencies for social assistance and their subunits, the Agency for the Management of Highly Specialised Social Services, and temporary placement centres for people with disabilities.



The workshop set up one of the first national platforms for dialogue on a coordinated process of deinstitutionalisation, involving public authorities, civil society and development partners. Participants explored ways in which adults with disabilities living in residential institutions can receive the support they need to live in the community, make decisions about their own lives, work and participate actively in social life.

Over 60 participants discussed the responsibilities of the stakeholders involved in the deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities, with discussions being followed by work in smaller groups. During this part of the event, participants identified the challenges and solutions for an effective, human rights-based deinstitutionalisation process, and also determined what commitments the relevant bodies should undertake to support the inclusion of adults with disabilities.

The event was organised as part of 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-Moldova
Stronger Together

# Strengthening Moldovan civil society's role in EU accession

How can Moldova's civil society help shape the country's path towards the European Union? This question brought together representatives of civil society organisations from across Moldova for the launch of the project Strengthening Civic Organisations for Participation and Engagement (SCOPE) and its training programme in Chișinău on 6 July.

The launch marked the beginning of a 2.5-year journey to strengthen the capacity of Moldovan civil society to participate meaningfully in the EU accession process, led by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee in partnership with Promo-LEX Association, the Independent Journalism Centre, and ARTICLE 19 Europe. The training programme and funding support available were presented by the consortium partners. By connecting NGOs, independent media, academia and public authorities, the project seeks to support more transparent, accountable and inclusive reforms in Moldova.



The first training camp (7–8 July) established the foundation for this work. It brought nominated participants from 20 civil society organisations together for an introduction to the EU accession process, workshops on leadership and organisational resilience, and a regional exchange on disinformation and democratic resilience. These (skills) sessions were intended to build a shared knowledge base and new connections among the cohort of participating organisations working across different areas, including human rights, media freedom, electoral integrity and good governance.

Participants identified shared challenges and potential areas for cooperation, which will provide a foundation for the continued peer-learning and collaboration throughout the SCOPE project.

Over the next 2.5 years, participating organisations will have opportunities to further strengthen their leadership and advocacy capacities and develop joint activities to engage in Moldova's EU accession process, reinforcing the knowledge, skills and networks they will need to play an active role in shaping Moldova's European future.

# EU support strengthens internal security and community resilience in Moldova

The European Union's support is helping strengthen Moldova's internal security and emergency response capacities, from modernising training infrastructure to enhancing community preparedness and border security.

During his visit to the Republic of Moldova in September 2026, Peter Wagner, Director and Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), visited facilities supported through the EU4Moldova Resilience – A Safe State, Resilient Communities project.




In Chișinău, the visit began at the training centre of the Central Sports Club "DINAMO", which now benefits from improved facilities for professional training and practical exercises. The renovation works, completed in May 2026, have helped strengthen operational readiness and provide safer and more efficient conditions for specialised training.

The visit continued in Rădeni, Strășeni district, where a new volunteer fire station built with the support of the European Union was inaugurated. The new facility strengthens local emergency response capacities, enabling the community to respond more effectively to risks and emergency situations.

On the second day of the visit, at Chișinău International Airport, EU representatives attended a practical demonstration by canine teams, highlighting the support provided to strengthen border security. Under the EU4Moldova Resilience project, six specially trained dogs were procured to detect the illicit movement of cash, helping improve inspections and strengthen the operational capacities of the beneficiary institutions.

Together, these investments demonstrate the EU's continued support for stronger institutions, enhanced operational readiness and more resilient communities across Moldova.

EU4Moldova Resilience – A Safe State, Resilient Communities is funded by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# From Bălți to Comrat: defining the path to social cohesion

What does a cohesive community look like? What prevents people from actively participating in community life? And what do civil society organisations need to become true agents of change?

These were just some of the questions at the heart of two consultative seminars organised by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in Comrat and Bălți within the framework of the "Confidence Building and Social Cohesion in Moldova" project.

The events brought together representatives of civil society organisations from the southern and northern regions of the country to discuss the challenges faced by local communities and identify solutions that can help strengthen civic participation, dialogue, and trust among people.

*"Alongside many other challenges our society faces, I believe social cohesion is an issue we must start addressing seriously, because we are witnessing a high level of aggression and impatience that lead only to unhappiness and societal stagnation,"*

***said Ecaterina Jekova, AO Freedom / Gagauz Media.***



Drawing on the practical experience of participating organisations, discussions focused on measures that could contribute to stronger social cohesion, including the creation of more spaces for dialogue, support for local civic initiatives, stronger cooperation between civil society and public authorities, and increased support for vulnerable groups to participate actively in community life.

The findings and recommendations emerging from the two consultative seminars will help shape future project interventions and ensure that activities are adapted to the realities and needs identified directly in the field. Through these consultations, the project seeks to develop solutions together with local stakeholders and build on the valuable experience of organisations working every day with communities across different regions of the Republic of Moldova.

"Confidence Building and Social Cohesion in Moldova" is a project funded by the European Union, co-funded by the German Government, and implemented by GIZ, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, and eGA.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# How the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights helps National Human Rights Institutions address contemporary challenges in equality and non-discrimination

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

In December 2025, UN Human Rights launched the second phase of the project "Strengthening the rights of minorities in the Republic of Moldova," funded by the European Union. One of the project's priorities is strengthening the capacity of the Equality Council and Ombudsperson's Office to apply international and European mechanisms in cases related to equality and non-discrimination.



Protecting minority rights requires not only effective national mechanisms, but also the capacity to apply international and European standards to specific situations. This has been the focus of a series of expert meetings organised by UN Human Rights Moldova.

The first four of nine meetings focused on strengthening the practical skills of staff from the Equality Council and Ombudsperson's Office in applying the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and using it in their day-to-day work.

The first seminar addressed language barriers and the access for minority representatives to public services and justice. Subsequent discussions focused on ethnic self-identification and the limits of administrative classification, including through practical exercises and a mock trial.

Attention was also given to emerging challenges related to the use of data and automated decision-making, including profiling and classification, the risks of indirect discrimination, personal data protection, and the need for meaningful human oversight.

The fourth meeting, held in September, focused on judicial review of algorithmic decision-making, procedural safeguards and the right to an effective remedy.

The practical focus remains a key element of the series. Participants analyse case law, work through concrete scenarios and exchange professional experience.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# Seven schools to pilot a new tool for assessing respect for children's rights

With support from the European Union, seven educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova will pilot a new methodology designed to help schools assess how well children's rights are respected, from participation and inclusion to preventing discrimination and ensuring a safe and equitable environment.

The tool will be tested in schools attended by Roma children, refugee children and children in vulnerable situations. It will help schools identify what is working well, where gaps remain and what can be improved so that every child feels respected, supported and safe.




Teachers, school principals, psychologists and support teachers contributed to the co-creation of the methodology together with the UN Human Rights Office in Moldova, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Research.

The initiative is part of the EU-funded project "Strengthening the education system in Moldova for the most disadvantaged children," implemented by UNICEF and the UN Human Rights Office in Moldova in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research.

# Public lecture prepares tomorrow's civil servants for inclusive governance

Participants in the EU-Moldova Joint Internship Programme strengthened their capacities for inclusive governance at a public lecture on "Gender equality in public administration".

The lecture began by introducing participants to gender equality and related concepts, strengthening their understanding of why equality matters for effective and inclusive public administration. The event emphasised that gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union, and highlighted Moldova's commitments to advancing equality between women in men in the context of its EU integration process.

To explore gender equality's practical relevance to public administration, the lecture examined how a gender perspective can be incorporated into everyday administrative processes and public policies. Unpacking the concept of gender-responsive public administration, participants explored gender mainstreaming as an approach for integrating gender considerations throughout the public policy cycle – from identifying problems and defining priorities to designing, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes. The event also addressed the purpose and basic principles of gender impact assessments, highlighting their role in identifying the different effects that policies and programmes can have on women and men.



The lecture highlighted the importance of sex-disaggregated data as a foundation for evidence-based policymaking. Participants discussed how reliable data can help public authorities identify differences in the situations and needs of women and men, improve policy design, and assess whether public interventions are reaching different groups effectively. They also learned about the roles and responsibilities of civil servants, including how officials can advance gender equality in policy development, programme implementation, public consultations, administrative decision-making and public service delivery.

The event was a valuable opportunity to engage a new generation of public administration professionals in discussions about gender equality and highlight its relevance for effective, equitable and people-centred governance in Moldova's EU integration context.

Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk, funded by the European Union, the lecture brought together principally interns from Central Public Authorities across the country. By combining conceptual knowledge with practical perspectives, the event equipped these future public servants with the skills to recognise opportunities for integrating gender considerations into administrative work, and for advancing equal opportunities, non-discrimination and inclusive public services.

# Roundtable rallies stakeholders to jointly advance gender-responsive healthcare in Moldova

A roundtable on "gender equality in the health sector" identified real needs, common priorities and practical recommendations to advance responsive, inclusive and evidence-based health policies and services in the Republic of Moldova.

The hybrid online and face-to-face roundtable brought together representatives of the National Agency for Public Health, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, institutions providing hospital and primary healthcare services, non-governmental organisations, and gender equality experts from UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Effective, equitable health policies require a clear understanding of how women and men may experience health services, risks and outcomes differently – as well as how these differences can be reflected in policy planning and institutional decision-making. This is why the roundtable particularly focused on the availability and use of sex-disaggregated data. Participants discussed the how such data sheds light on diverse health and social needs, and how it supports evidence-based policies and programmes. They identified gender indicators that are relevant to the activities of the National Agency for Public Health, and explored how these indicators can contribute to the systematic monitoring of gender-related differences in healthcare and outcomes. Examining existing data-related challenges, the roundtable highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional procedures and capacities to collect, analyse and use reliable gender data. Participants noted the need for better coordination between institutions to ensure the consistency and usefulness of health and social statistics.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

By providing space to discuss the legal and conceptual framework surrounding gender equality in the health sector, the roundtable enabled stakeholders to clearly connect national commitments and institutional responsibilities with practical approaches to gender mainstreaming. The consultation concluded with participants agreeing on follow-up actions and outlining practical recommendations to improve internal processes at the National Agency for Public Health, strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, and enhance the availability and use of gender-sensitive health data. This roundtable was part of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including in Moldova.

The project collaborates with governments, civil society and development partners to advance gender mainstreaming across public policies in healthcare and other key sectors.

Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras, the event served as a platform for consultation between the national institutions, healthcare providers, civil society and international organisations. By enabling the exchange of experiences and practical approaches between diverse stakeholders, the event advanced gender-responsive approaches to healthcare from a whole-of-system perspective.

# Consultations between local authorities and civil society advance gender-sensitive local public policies

A roundtable consultation between the authorities of Păpăuți Village Hall and civil society organisations yielded forward-looking recommendations for more inclusive, participatory and gender-sensitive local administration that benefits local communities.

Entitled "Gender-sensitive local public policies: Experiences, challenges and opportunities for local communities", the event enabled participants to reflect on existing gender mainstreaming practices, as well as policies, strategies and local plans that already address, explicitly or implicitly, the different needs of women and men. To better understand community needs from a gender perspective, participants discussed who takes part in local decision-making, how women and men are represented in community consultations and other participatory processes, and what barriers may limit their involvement.

Civil society organisations shed light on groups whose specific needs may remain insufficiently addressed by local policies and services.

The roundtable paid particular attention to local public administration reform and the voluntary amalgamation process. Participants discussed the importance of integrating gender considerations from the outset of territorial and administrative changes, rather than addressing these at a later stage. They examined questions around the equitable representation and participation of women and men from different localities within future amalgamated structures. Exploring European experiences from France, Denmark and Estonia provided examples of how to strengthen inclusive participation in local governance.



The discussions also highlighted civil society's important role in shaping and advancing gender-responsive local policies. Through consultations, community engagement, monitoring and constructive cooperation with local authorities, civil society organisations can contribute to ensuring that local policies respond effectively to the diverse needs of community members.

The roundtable consultations resulted in a set of practical proposals for stronger cooperation between local public administration and civil society, including holding systematic consultations, improving participation mechanisms, using sex-disaggregated evidence in local planning, and engaging underrepresented groups in decision-making and monitoring processes.

Participants highlighted the importance of implementing these recommendations to empower communities by ensuring that the perspectives and needs of women and men are considered throughout the policy cycle.

Organised with the support of the EU4Gender Equality Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras, the event provided a platform for open dialogue and the exchange of experiences on mainstreaming gender into the development, implementation and monitoring of public policies at the local level. It brought together representatives of the local public administration, civil society and gender equality experts.

# EU-supported training strengthens capacities for gender-responsive health services in Moldova

A training course in Moldova honed the capacities of health sector professionals to produce high quality, policy-relevant gender data – and thereby inform health policies and programmes that respond to women's and men's real needs.

Through presentations, practical discussions and applied exercises, the training supported participants to connect indicators, metadata, data collection, analysis and reporting into a coherent information cycle. The course began with an introduction to results-based management, highlighting the relationship between objectives, expected results, indicators and data.

Participants explored how a results-based approach can help institutions systematically measure progress and assess whether interventions are achieving their intended outcomes.

The training delved into metadata – the essential information that explains what an indicator measures, how it is defined, which population or phenomenon it covers, the data source, methodology, frequency of collection and other relevant characteristics. Participants learned how vital it is to understand and consistently apply metadata to ensure that indicators are interpreted correctly and remain comparable across reporting periods and institutions.



The training also introduced participants to relevant indicators for analysing gender equality in health. These can reveal differences between women and men, and support the evidence-based identification of health inequalities. Participants learned how to use sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators to strengthen the analysis of health outcomes, access to services and other dimensions of populations' health.

Addressing the important topic of women's and men's health profiles, the training equipped participants to analyse health data from a gender perspective so that they can identify different patterns, risks and needs. Participants learned to use sex-disaggregated data as an important starting point, and to consider broader social and contextual factors in order to accurately interpret differences.

Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project in partnership with UN Women, the training equipped representatives of key institutions to interpret gender indicators correctly, apply metadata consistently, and generate evidence to inform gender-responsive decision-making. It also contributed to harmonising approaches to health-related reporting across institutions. Entitled "Using gender indicators and relevant metadata to enhance data collection, analysis and reporting", the training engaged participants from the Ministry of Health, the National Agency for Public Health, the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, and territorial Public Health Centres.

# Training advances gender mainstreaming in Moldova's health policies and services

An EU-supported training course in Moldova advanced inclusive public health policies and services by strengthening the capacities of sectoral professionals to mainstream gender equality in their daily work.

The training on "Gender mainstreaming in health policy documents and public health services" familiarised participants with gender equality in public health from a multidimensional perspective, recognising that women and men experience different health risks, access barriers and outcomes. They learned about the conceptual and legal framework for gender equality in public health, including relevant European Union approaches and directives, and the importance of integrating gender equality principles into national health policies and institutional practices.

A dedicated session examined the health profiles of women and men. Participants learned how biological, social, economic and behavioural factors can influence health risks and outcomes, and why reliable evidence is vital for identifying differences and inequalities. The training equipped them to use sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators to better understand population health and inform targeted interventions.



The training also showcased practical ways to integrate a gender perspective into health policy documents. Participants learned how to incorporate gender considerations at different stages of the policy cycle – from situation analysis to identifying health needs and priorities, formulating policy objectives, implementing interventions, and monitoring and evaluation. This approach contributes to policies that respond more effectively to women's and men's diverse needs and circumstances.

Finally, participants learned how to integrate gender considerations into public health services, paying particular attention to disease prevention, health protection and promotion. They became well-versed in gender-responsive approaches that contribute to accessible, appropriate services, improve communication with different population groups, and strengthen the effectiveness of public health interventions.

Spanning two half-day sessions (24–25 September 2026), the training was organised by the EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras. Its participants from the Ministry of Health and the National Agency for Public Health learned to implement gender mainstreaming not as a separate activity, but as an integral component of effective public health planning and service delivery.

# Training equips security services to prevent and address gender-based violence

Officials in Moldova's security sector gained stronger capacities to prevent and address gender-based discrimination, violence and workplace harassment through a training course in Chișinău, organised by the EU4GenderEquality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union. The training on "Preventing and managing gender-based violence and harassment" equipped 23 participants from the Security and Intelligence Service to challenge stereotypes, promote equal opportunities, and enforce the legal framework on countering violence.

At its core, the training prepared participants to translate legal and conceptual knowledge into practical approaches for prevention, reporting, response and institutional accountability in the security sector. It began by outlining a gender perspective, examining what an inclusive security sector means in practice and how gender considerations contribute to institutional effectiveness. An interactive exercise on "inequalities in security" enabled participants to identify and reflect on differences in women's and men's security experiences and needs.

Participants learned about the meaning and consequences of gender-based discrimination, how to identify gender stereotypes, and distinctions between sexist and neutral language. Brainstorming exercises shed light on the potential consequences and organisational risks associated with discriminatory practices and harassment. A special session outlined different forms, causes, risk factors and consequences of gender-based violence and sexual harassment. It showcased how harassment can manifest in the workplace, its effects, and its relationship with organisational culture. Interactive exercises honed participants' skills in identifying obstacles to prevention, reporting and effective institutional responses.

The training also gave participants a thorough grounding in the legal and policy framework for preventing and combatting gender-based discrimination, violence and harassment – at both the national and international levels. To help them translate conceptual knowledge into practical action, a dedicated session demonstrated practical approaches to documenting and reporting cases of sexual harassment within security institutions. A final session explored how to foster safe, inclusive institutional cultures by strengthening reporting and accountability mechanisms, including the role of leadership, gender units and other responsible actors.

# Training series equips Gender Focal Points to mainstream gender and address digital security challenges

A series of training sessions for Gender Focal Points at local and central public authorities in Moldova strengthened institutional capacities to advance gender equality across public administration.




Held both online and in-person, the trainings connected gender mainstreaming approaches with emerging digital challenges relevant to public administration. The sessions built capacities in four complementary areas: gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessments, the roles and responsibilities of Gender Focal Points in public institutions, digital security, and artificial intelligence. Culminating in participants' development of personal action plans, the trainings enabled Gender Focal Points to translate their newly acquired knowledge into practical measures for gender-responsive governance, digital security and the responsible use of artificial intelligence within their institutions.

The sessions on gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessment strengthened participants' understandings of Moldova's national legislation, policy framework and institutional mechanisms to advance gender equality. They learned how to integrate a gender perspective into public policies and decision-making processes, both in terms of policy development and institutional governance. This involved exploring the intricacies of gender analysis, gender impact assessments and gender-responsive budgeting – including the development of gender-sensitive objectives and performance indicators.

A dedicated session on a practical guide for Gender Focal Points helped participants better understand their institutional mandates, roles and responsibilities. They explored the work of gender mechanisms in public institutions, coordination, monitoring and the integration of gender equality into policies, programmes, projects and institutional processes.

A session on "digital security and gender" introduced participants to digital threats, how these affect women and men differently, and the legal aspects of data protection, digital rights and non-discrimination. Participants gained practical skills for improving account security, securing institutional communication, and managing security incidents, including gender-based abuse.

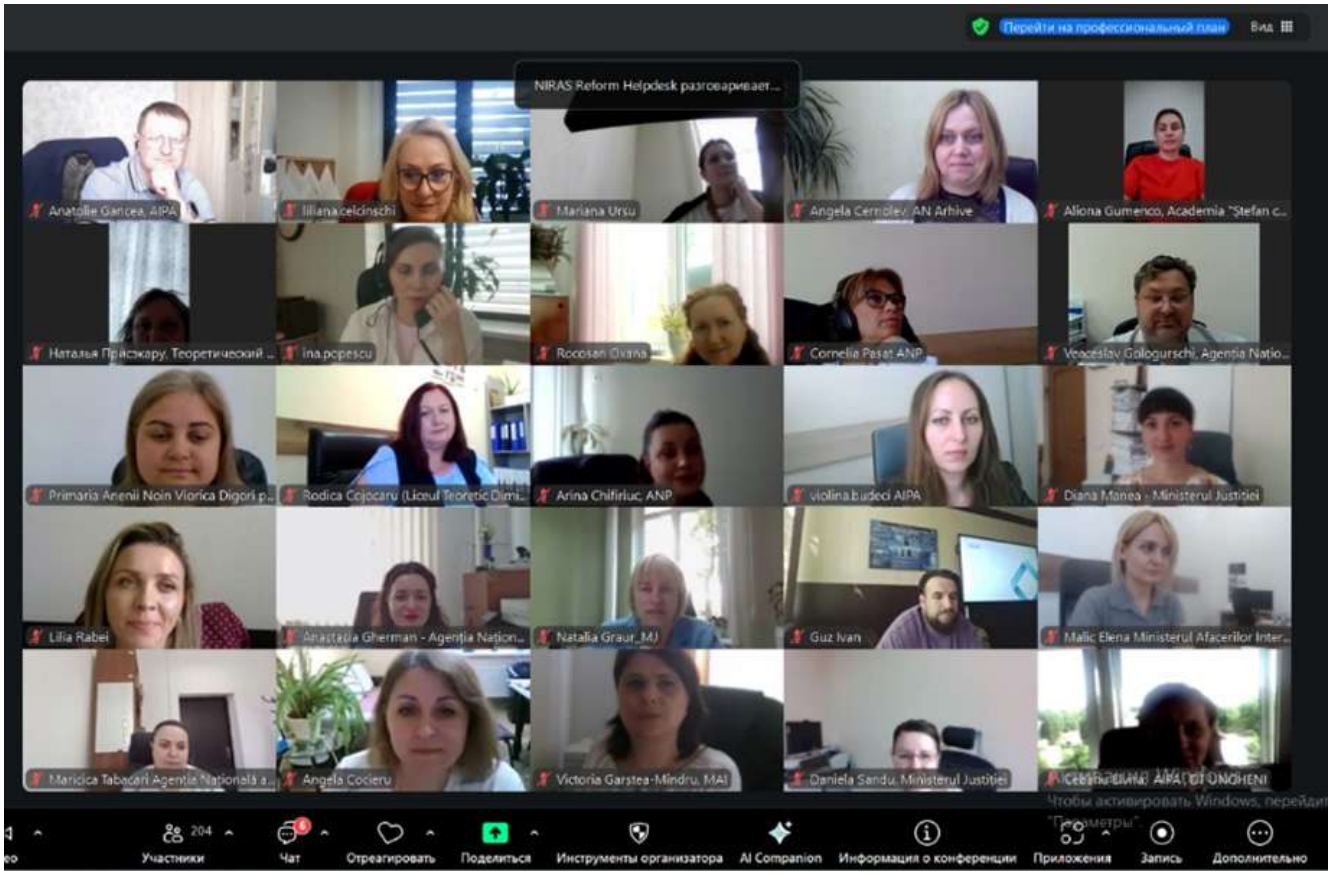
The final session explored the opportunities and risks of generative artificial intelligence. Through practical examples, such as the use of Claude, participants learned about model selection, privacy settings, memory, custom instructions, prompting, and how to apply tools. They explored the challenges of gender-related AI risks, including algorithmic bias, the digital adoption gap, deepfakes and gendered disinformation. Participants also examined the responsible use of AI when working with sensitive information, such as gender-based violence data.

This series of trainings was part of the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment across the Eastern Neighbourhood region, including in Moldova, by advancing gender mainstreaming across public policies.

# Webinar strengthens capacities to mainstream gender in public administration reform

A dedicated webinar strengthened civil servants' capacities to translate gender equality commitments into concrete institutional practices, policies, budgets and workplace measures that advance more inclusive and effective public administration in the Republic of Moldova. Participants learned to apply gender mainstreaming tools across key public administration areas, including policy planning, programme-based budgeting, institutional governance and human resource management. They particularly gained skills in integrating gender equality throughout the policy cycle and advancing inclusive, equitable institutional approaches. The webinar began by introducing participants to the conceptual, legal and institutional framework for gender equality and gender mainstreaming in Moldova. They reflected on progress at the global, regional and national levels, and the use of gender equality indicators and tools. These included a gender mainstreaming checklist and a comparative analysis of gender gaps.

To help civil servants integrate a gender perspective into central and local public policies and decision-making processes, the webinar explored the roles of institutional gender mechanisms, coordination groups and Gender Focal Points. Practical exercises strengthened participants' capacities to work with sex-disaggregated data, gender indicators, gender analysis and gender impact assessment tools. They learned how to identify the relevance of policies and programmes from a gender perspective, understand the causes of gender inequalities, and incorporate gender considerations throughout the policy cycle.




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

The event also enhanced understandings of gender-responsive budgeting. Case studies and hands-on exercises demonstrated how to integrate gender in programme objectives, results, performance indicators and budgets. By applying these approaches to examples covering different sectors, including education, participants gained experience of developing gender-sensitive objectives and indicators for programme-based budgeting.

The webinar also addressed the internal dimensions of gender mainstreaming in organisations, focusing on institutional gender equality action plans and gender-sensitive human resource management. Discussions covered equal opportunities, recruitment, career development, equal treatment and workplace equality. Finally, participants learned how to address gender-based discrimination, sexist language, sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the workplace, including through legal standards and via prevention and response measures.

Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras, the online event brought together 283 participants from local and central public authorities and other public institutions across the country.

# Roundtable advances gender-sensitive border management and inclusive security

Stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova identified practical ways to advance gender-sensitive border management and inclusive security at a roundtable discussion organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras. The event reaffirmed the importance of inter-institutional cooperation and dialogue for rights-based security and border management systems. It also advanced a common understanding of the relevance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and gender-sensitive approaches for enhancing institutional effectiveness and public trust.

The hybrid online and face-to-face event brought together participants from diverse organisations – reflecting wide-ranging commitment to inclusive dialogue in Moldova's security sector. They included representatives of the General Inspectorate of Border Police, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, civil society organisations, and foreign experts.



Discussions were closely linked to the objectives of the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, while also taking into account relevant European standards and the operational realities of border authorities. Participants examined the operational challenges of interacting with members of groups living in vulnerable situations, and agreed on the importance of empathetic and non-discriminatory communication, diversity-sensitive approaches, and adapting interventions to different forms of vulnerability.

The event highlighted ways to respect fundamental rights in border control processes. Experts discussed mechanisms for ensuring non-discrimination, protecting asylum-seekers and other groups in vulnerable situations, preventing discriminatory profiling, and strengthening accountability mechanisms within border management institutions. Participants learned about gender-sensitive screening, alongside the identification and protection of victims of human trafficking through survivor-centred protection approaches. An "interventions" panel facilitated the exchange of practical experiences and good practices related to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda at airports and land border crossings. Participants also pinpointed the institutional and operational measures needed for gender-sensitive border management aligned with EU standards.

# EU-supported training strengthens capacities for gender mainstreaming in public policies and budgeting

A three-day training course in the Republic of Moldova enhanced civil servants' capacities to mainstream gender throughout the policy cycle – from project design and strategic planning to financing, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and performance-based budgeting.

The training equipped participants with practical knowledge, methodologies and tools to mainstream gender into institutional policies, programmes and budgeting processes by outlining how to integrate gender perspectives into project initiation and development. Participants explored the principles and conditions for gender mainstreaming, examined how gender considerations can be incorporated throughout the entire project cycle, and applied their new knowledge through case studies. Interactive group work introduced the gender equality and social inclusion proposal checklist as a hands-on instrument for assessing project proposals.

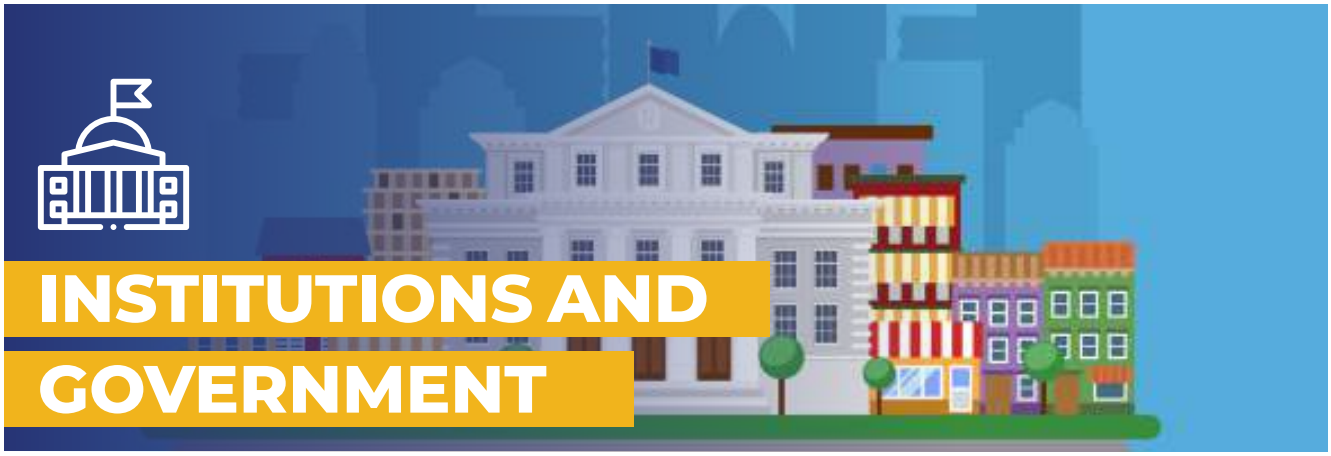
The second day of the training deepened participants' understandings of gender-responsive public policymaking. Sessions addressed methodologies for integrating gender equality into public policies and strategic planning documents, gender analysis tools, stakeholder mapping, the use of sex-disaggregated data, and social and environmental screening indicators. Participatory exercises enabled participants to analyse institutional scenarios and identify opportunities for strengthening gender-sensitive service delivery and decision-making processes.



The final day of the training was dedicated to gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). Participants examined the concept, its benefits, and related institutional responsibilities. They learned how to better integrate gender-sensitive objectives and performance indicators into programme budgeting. Through practical exercises, participants revised budget programme objectives and indicators relevant to the National Agency for Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, discussed the availability of sex-disaggregated data, and identified entry points for embedding gender equality into budget planning and implementation.

By the end of the programme, participants demonstrated improved understandings of gender mainstreaming, evidence-based policymaking and gender-responsive budgeting. By strengthening civil servants' knowledge and skills, the training contributed to stronger institutional capacities for promoting gender equality across public administration, and improving the effectiveness of policies and services to address violence against women and domestic violence across Moldova.

Organised by the EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Niras, in partnership with UN Women Moldova, the training engaged officials from the National Agency for Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (NAPCV) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.




# EUPM Moldova: securing infrastructure today for a safer tomorrow

On 2 July, EUPM Moldova and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of the Republic of Moldova brought together technical experts and decision-makers for a workshop focused on support for Moldova's security infrastructure. Under the forward-looking theme "From Tomorrow to a 15-Year Vision – Building the Future Now", the event placed long-term planning and resilience at the centre of discussions on the future of secure communications.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

At the heart of Moldova's communications architecture, the network helps ensure that institutions can communicate securely and reliably when it matters most. Recognising that tomorrow's challenges require action today, the workshop sought to transform current needs and lessons learned into a shared 15-year vision for a stronger and more resilient network.

Experts, technicians and decision-makers from across the MIA system, together with representatives of Romania's Special Telecommunications Service, examined the network from both an operational and strategic perspective. Looking beyond immediate requirements, participants also addressed future equipment, training, technical support and mechanisms for monitoring progress, helping translate the long-term vision into concrete priorities for the years ahead.

Through this joint effort, EUPM Moldova continues to support the MIA in building secure and resilient communications capable of standing the test of time, strengthening preparedness today while laying the foundations for Moldova's response capabilities of tomorrow.

# EUPM Moldova: EU support for Moldova's crisis preparedness

EUPM Moldova, together with Peter M. Wagner, Head of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), visited the National Crisis Management Centre of the Republic of Moldova for an exchange on strengthening national crisis preparedness, coordination and resilience.

The visit highlighted the EU's practical support to Moldova's crisis-management architecture. EUPM Moldova delivered crucial equipment to the Centre, designed to strengthen secure communications across government and contribute to more effective coordination between the institutions responsible for responding to crises and ensuring continuity of operations. The exchange also provided an opportunity to discuss Moldova's evolving crisis-management architecture and its proven efficiency one year after its establishment and the management of up to ten crises during this time.

Through equipment donations, strategic advice and continued cooperation with national partners, EUPM Moldova and the wider EU remain committed to strengthening Moldova's preparedness and whole-of-government resilience in the face of evolving security challenges that affect both Moldova and the whole continent.



# Data protection in the Republic of Moldova marks new era: legislation aligned with GDPR entered into force in August

Representatives of the private sector, public authorities, European institutions, and leading international experts gathered on 10 July for the national conference "New Era of Data Protection: Implementation of the GDPR" – an event dedicated to supporting businesses in preparing for the Republic of Moldova's new data protection framework aligned with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Organised by the EU- and Denmark-funded project 'Moldova is Europe – Support for EU Integration' and the National Centre for Personal Data Protection, the conference provided a platform for dialogue on the practical implications of the new legislation, the responsibilities of businesses, and the opportunities arising from closer alignment with European data protection standards.




The event opened with welcoming remarks by Victoria Muntean, Director of the National Centre for Personal Data Protection, and Martina Spernbauer, Team Leader on Governance at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, who emphasised the importance of strengthening personal data protection as part of Moldova's European integration process and the country's commitment to building a trusted digital economy.

The keynote address was delivered by Tamar Kaldani, Data Protection Commissioner at the Council of Europe, who outlined the essential pillars for building an effective data protection system, including a modern legal framework, an independent supervisory authority, and a strong culture of compliance.

Participants also heard from Max Schrems, Honorary Chairman of NOYB – European Center for Digital Rights, who shared insights into the evolution of GDPR implementation across Europe, highlighting lessons learned from enforcement practice and the future of digital rights.

Participants were familiarised with Moldova's new data protection law, including the key obligations for organisations, the implementation timeline, and the expectations of the supervisory authority.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in four thematic panel discussions covering the practical aspects of GDPR compliance. International experts from Latvia, Malta, Italy, and Slovenia discussed data subject rights, data protection impact assessments, information security, the role of data protection officers, certification mechanisms and codes of conduct, as well as GDPR enforcement, investigations, cross-border cooperation, and the determination of administrative fines.

The conference offered participants practical guidance and an opportunity to exchange experiences with some of Europe's leading data protection practitioners, helping organisations better understand the steps required to achieve compliance under the new legal framework.

The event reflects Moldova's continued efforts to align its personal data protection system with European standards, strengthen legal certainty for businesses, and promote responsible processing of personal data in an increasingly digital economy.

# Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs digital competency framework

On 15 July, in Chișinău, the EU4Security Moldova project kicked off a new initiative to enhance digital competencies within Moldova's law enforcement and judicial sectors. The Digital Competency Framework will establish a unified, role-based framework, ensuring consistent training and expertise in critical areas like cybersecurity, digital forensics, and data analysis.

The endeavour will identify the gaps in digital expertise across roles, establish clear benchmarks and deliver modular training programmes to cover these needs.

# New trainers to strengthen crisis communication training for first responders in Moldova

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) now has new trainers prepared by CEPOL through the EU4Security Moldova project in crisis communication. Their teaching competencies will enable them to train colleagues across regional units and at the IGSU training centre. CEPOL also supports the development of training competencies by preparing a crisis communication manual and a trainer's guide. These resources will provide trainers with a common foundation for future training sessions.

This will help more first responders access training tailored to crisis situations. The train-the-trainers course took place in Chișinău from 14 to 18 September.



# Strengthening Moldova's response to illicit firearms

Moldova has taken another step towards strengthening its response to illicit firearms trafficking through a specialised operational training course held in Chișinău from 14 to 16 September 2026, organised by the EU4Security Moldova project.

Focused on how the National Firearms Focal Point (NFFP) and its partners can raise Moldova's capacity to tackle illicit firearms, the course brought together representatives from the police, border police, customs service, and prosecutor's office.

Built around the fictional cross-border case "Operation PHANTOM", the scenario-based training enhanced practical skills in firearms investigations, traceability, international information exchange, and analysis, helping participants handle complex cases more effectively.

The course also highlighted the coordination role of the NFFP in connecting relevant institutions, facilitating information-sharing and supporting a more coherent national response to firearms-related crime.

This training forms part of the project's broader efforts to strengthen the capacity of Moldovan law enforcement and partner institutions to combat illicit firearms more effectively.



# The EUIPO supports the Republic of Moldova's EU integration path by fostering regional dialogue on IP and the audiovisual industry

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) supported a regional conference on promoting creative industries, held in Chișinău on 29–30 September 2026, in the framework of the EU-funded EU4IP project.

Following the successful conference on IP and creative industries held in 2025, this year's event was co-organised by the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI), the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other international partners. It brought together representatives of public institutions, intellectual property (IP) professionals, creators and international experts from the Republic of Moldova, the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Armenia to discuss the role of intellectual property in fostering the development of the audiovisual industry.



The conference provided a platform for discussions on the contribution of copyright and related rights to the creative economy, as well as on effective IP strategies that can support innovation, creativity and business development in an increasingly digital environment. Participants exchanged views on the international and European legal frameworks for copyright and related rights, as well as on the role of IP in supporting the growth and competitiveness of the audiovisual sector.

Particular attention was given to the ownership, licensing and transfer of rights in audiovisual works, collective rights management mechanisms, and the monetisation and distribution of audiovisual content in the digital environment. Discussions also addressed cross-border licensing, international co-productions, digital rights management, artificial intelligence, online enforcement and the evolving role of copyright authorities in responding to technological developments affecting the audiovisual sector.

The conference further examined the role of education, capacity building and international partnerships in supporting the development of creative industries. Participants exchanged views on how cooperation between IP offices, public authorities, international organisations and industry stakeholders can contribute to a more dynamic and resilient creative IP system.

This is the second regional initiative under the EU4IP umbrella and the first one bringing together participants from the Western Balkans, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Armenia. The conference provided an opportunity to strengthen regional dialogue, exchange experiences and explore future cooperation in the audiovisual and IP fields.

Through the EU-funded EU4IP project, the EUIPO continues to support EU accession ambitions of the Republic of Moldova by aligning its IP framework with EU standards and international best practices, contributing to a more predictable and accessible environment for creators, rights holders and businesses.

In the field of copyright, the EUIPO Copyright Knowledge Centre serves as a central access point for copyright information and resources. It brings together copyright-related information, studies, case law, training materials and databases, while also providing information on developments in copyright, including generative artificial intelligence.

# EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova (EU4LEM): strengthening Moldova's law enforcement institutions and advancing alignment with EU standards

Funded by the European Union, EU4LEM helps Moldova's police, border, customs and migration authorities align with EU standards under Chapter 24 of the accession process. Between July and September 2026, the project delivered noticeable results: overall progress and a wider mandate, the fight against organised crime, preparation for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, border and reception management, forensics and criminal intelligence, and the digital modernisation of local police.

**40+** activities delivered

**61** European experts mobilised

**635** border and law enforcement staff trained in EU IBM

**90+** specialists trained against organised crime

**41** live fingerprint scanners delivered

### EU4LEM at 18 months: a wider mandate

Eighteen months after its launch, EU4LEM has delivered more than 40 trainings, technical assistance missions and study visits. The results were reviewed in Chișinău on 21 September 2026 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the EU Delegation and partners from France and Lithuania.

- **Chapter 24 milestones:** the first cybersecurity strategy of Moldova's National Police; a national assessment of capacity to fight organised crime; a draft law on police cooperation setting out how DNA, fingerprints and facial images can be exchanged with EU partners.
- **A larger mandate:** duration extended from 36 to 48 months and budget from €6 million to €9 million, to fund a new migration component.
- **Next steps:** a national criminal intelligence architecture, an EU-standard forensic laboratory in Cahul, training on digital evidence and financial investigations, and support for regional police modernisation.

### A roadmap against organised crime

On 16 July 2026, international experts presented the final findings of an assessment of Moldova's capacity to prevent and combat organised crime, benchmarked against EU Member State practice. It was carried out with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organised Crime and Special Cases, the General Police Inspectorate, the Border Police, Customs, the National Anti-Corruption Centre and the anti-money-laundering service.

The report identifies where legal and operational frameworks can be improved and sets out a step-by-step implementation sequence. It is the foundation for the next phase of support, and the EU Delegation has underlined its importance for the Chapter 24 benchmark on organised crime.

### Preparing for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

A comprehensive assessment now gives Moldova an evidence-based picture of its readiness for the future EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Going beyond legislation, it examined how the system would work in practice across ten areas, from Eurodac, screening and reception to asylum procedures, return, solidarity, crisis preparedness, fundamental rights and integration. According to the EU Delegation, it is the first assessment of its kind delivered for an EU candidate country.

The key finding: Moldova does not start from zero. Functioning institutions, procedures, safeguards and digital tools are already in place, but preparedness is uneven. A Priority Implementation Framework sets a clear sequence: governance and legal decisions first, then an operating model, resources, digital and infrastructure investments. The findings were discussed with national and EU Member State institutions at the 24–25 September 2026 event organised by GIM.



New IT infrastructure, Ialoveni Police Inspectorate

**Safer borders and dignified reception**

**EU-standard facilities:** an EU engineer-architect assessed the Accommodation Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers and the Retention Centre in Chișinău, producing a costed renovation plan focused on accessibility, safety and the needs of vulnerable people.

**Border preparedness:** an assessment of the border authorities' readiness for the Pact analysed the operational impact of strategic decisions on frontline staff.

- **Fighting smuggling and trafficking:** officers from the migration and border police inspectorates, Customs, the Intelligence and Security Service and the General Police Inspectorate were trained on investigating migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, including labour and sexual exploitation.
- **Anticipating crises:** migration and border staff learned forecasting tools and EU risk-analysis methods to anticipate migratory pressure. Trainers from the Ștefan cel Mare Academy took part to carry the methods into future courses.

### Modern forensics and intelligence-led policing

French Gendarmerie forensic experts (IRCGN) and specialists of the Centre for Forensic and Judicial Expertise assessed Moldova's ballistic facilities in July and September 2026. Authorities now have a technical and financial roadmap to modernise ballistic infrastructure to European standards, for more reliable scientific evidence in court. In parallel, work advanced on a national criminal intelligence architecture, and criminal analysis units received improved digital infrastructure to collect, store and analyse information securely.

### Ialoveni Police Inspectorate goes digital

The Ialoveni Police Inspectorate now operates with fully modernised, EU-funded IT infrastructure, inaugurated on 22 September 2026 after works were completed on schedule. Together with 41 live fingerprint scanners and 12 AFIS licences delivered to the police, it paves the way for electronic fingerprint collection in line with EU data-exchange rules. The Ministry of Internal Affairs sees Ialoveni as a model for the modernisation of regional police units.

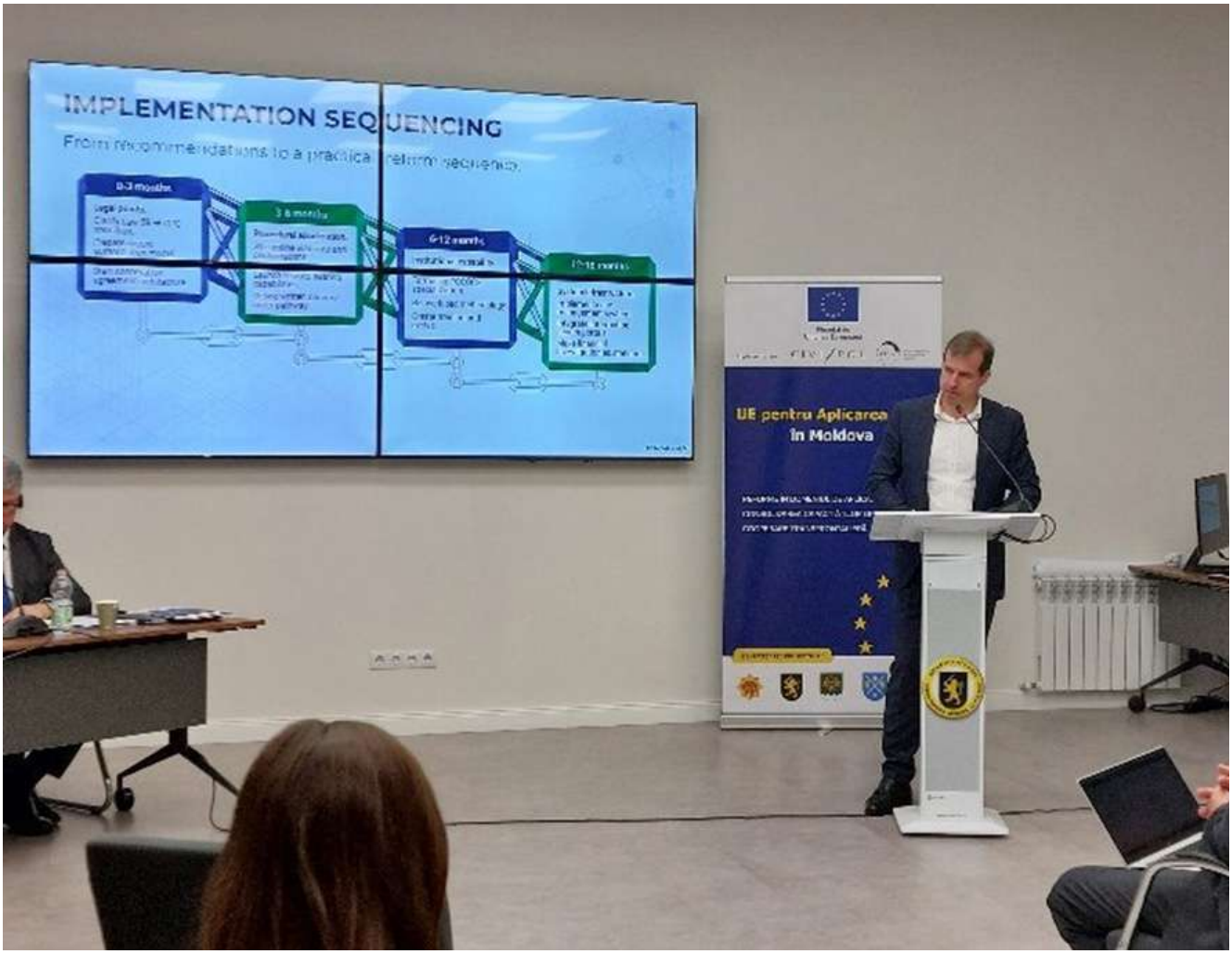
# An assessment of Moldova's capacity to prevent and combat organised crime – the main insights and recommendations

On 16 July 2026, EU4LEM experts presented a thorough evaluation of the preparedness of Moldovan law enforcement agencies to tackle organised crime, as well as their adherence to the best practices of EU Member States.

This assessment was implemented in close and active cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Office of the General Prosecutor, the Office of the Prosecutor for Combating Organised Crime and Special Cases, the General Police Inspectorate, the General Inspectorate for Border Police, the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, the National Anti-Corruption Centre, the Office for the Prevention and Fight Against Money Laundering and other law enforcement agencies involved in preventing and investigating organised crime.



International experts provided specific and detailed insights into areas where Moldova's legal and operational frameworks for combating organised crime could be improved. They submitted a report on the results of the assessment to the relevant institutions, which will be very useful for improving the legal framework and working methods of the Moldovan law enforcement agencies. The experts shared the opinion that the proposed changes would enable the Moldovan justice and law enforcement systems to respond more effectively to the increasingly serious threats posed by organised crime.



# Moldovan Delegation learned from Lithuania's experience in secure management of personal and biometric data

On 20–24 July 2026, a delegation from the Republic of Moldova visited Lithuania to learn about the country's good practice in the management of personal data, including biometric data, by law enforcement agencies. The study visit was organised under Activity 1.2.1.7 of the Project Work Plan, which assesses Moldova's technical and legal framework for establishing a database of facial images and enabling the automatic exchange of Prüm facial images under Council Decision 2008/615/JHA, as amended by Prüm II Regulation 2024/982.




Over the course of the week, the programme combined policy discussions, practical demonstrations and institutional visits. The delegation learned about the responsibilities, legal framework and database architecture of Lithuania's Information Technology and Communications Department, as well as police and forensic data management (DNA, fingerprints, facial recognition) and data exchange under Prüm and the upcoming Prüm II requirements. Participants examined the use of personal data in border control and migration management and the implementation of EU systems such as eu-LISA-managed databases as well as EURODAC and MIGRIS (Lithuanian national), and at Vilnius Airport they saw border-check IT tools in practice. They were also introduced to advanced technologies from the Lithuanian company Neurotechnology, including biometric identification and AI applications for law enforcement. A concluding session summarised the key findings and next steps to strengthen Moldova's preparedness for EU membership requirements.

The visit strengthened participants' knowledge of secure, efficient and EU-compliant data management in law enforcement.

# A tactical training exercise (codenamed “Armageddon”) designed for forensic experts dealing with the investigation of explosion scenes

Forensic experts from the General Police Inspectorate completed a five-day study visit to Lithuania on 7–11 September 2026. The visit was organised under the EU4LawEnforcement – Moldova project. It focused on strengthening the skills needed to investigate explosion scenes.



The programme began at the Forensic Science Board in Vilnius and continued with the tactical exercise "Armageddon" in Naujoji Akmenė, led by Lithuanian Police representatives. The exercise simulated complex, high-intensity scenarios that required rapid response, specialised forensic expertise and close inter-agency coordination. It covered tactical emergency response, ballistic analysis, explosion scene investigation, and search and rescue. The delegation also toured the laboratories of the Forensic Science Service and discussed post-blast examination methods with its management. Finally, they visited the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) section of the Anti-terrorist operations unit "Aras" to review equipment and exchange views on EOD competency and training.

The visit gave Moldovan experts practical experience and a chance to exchange knowledge with their Lithuanian colleagues, supporting the wider goal of aligning Moldova's law enforcement capacities with European Union standards.

# EU4PUBLIC ORDER: capacity-building of the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri of the Republic of Moldova

Between July and September 2026, several capacity-building activities were carried out under the EU4PUBLIC ORDER Project for the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri of the Republic of Moldova, including international exchanges and intensive field training. These activities contributed to strengthening operational readiness, while keeping human rights, proportionality and public safety at the centre of public order interventions.

In August, ten Moldovan Carabinieri officers took part in a study visit to Pisa, Italy. The programme included visits to the Pisa Provincial Carabinieri Command (Comando Provinciale dei Carabinieri di Pisa) and the Training Centre of the 2nd Carabinieri Mobile Brigade. The officers explored Italian approaches to public order management, operational planning, specialised training and interinstitutional coordination. Practical demonstrations and exchanges with Italian counterparts offered direct insight into how complex incidents can be managed through clear command structures, disciplined teamwork and continuous risk assessment.

From 7 to 18 September, personnel of the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri of the Republic of Moldova took part in a two-week Public Order Techniques course held in Chișinău. The training combined human rights principles and European ethical standards for law enforcement with practical approaches to public order management, supporting lawful, proportionate and coordinated interventions.



Photo: Study visit to the 2nd Carabinieri Mobile Brigade Training Centre in Pisa, August 2026

Through scenario-based practical sessions, a final exercise, assessments and an After-Action Review, participants strengthened their operational preparedness, teamwork and decision-making in complex public order situations. The course also helped identify areas for further improvement and contributed to a more consistent and coordinated response capacity, reducing operational risks and supporting safer public events and public spaces across Moldova.

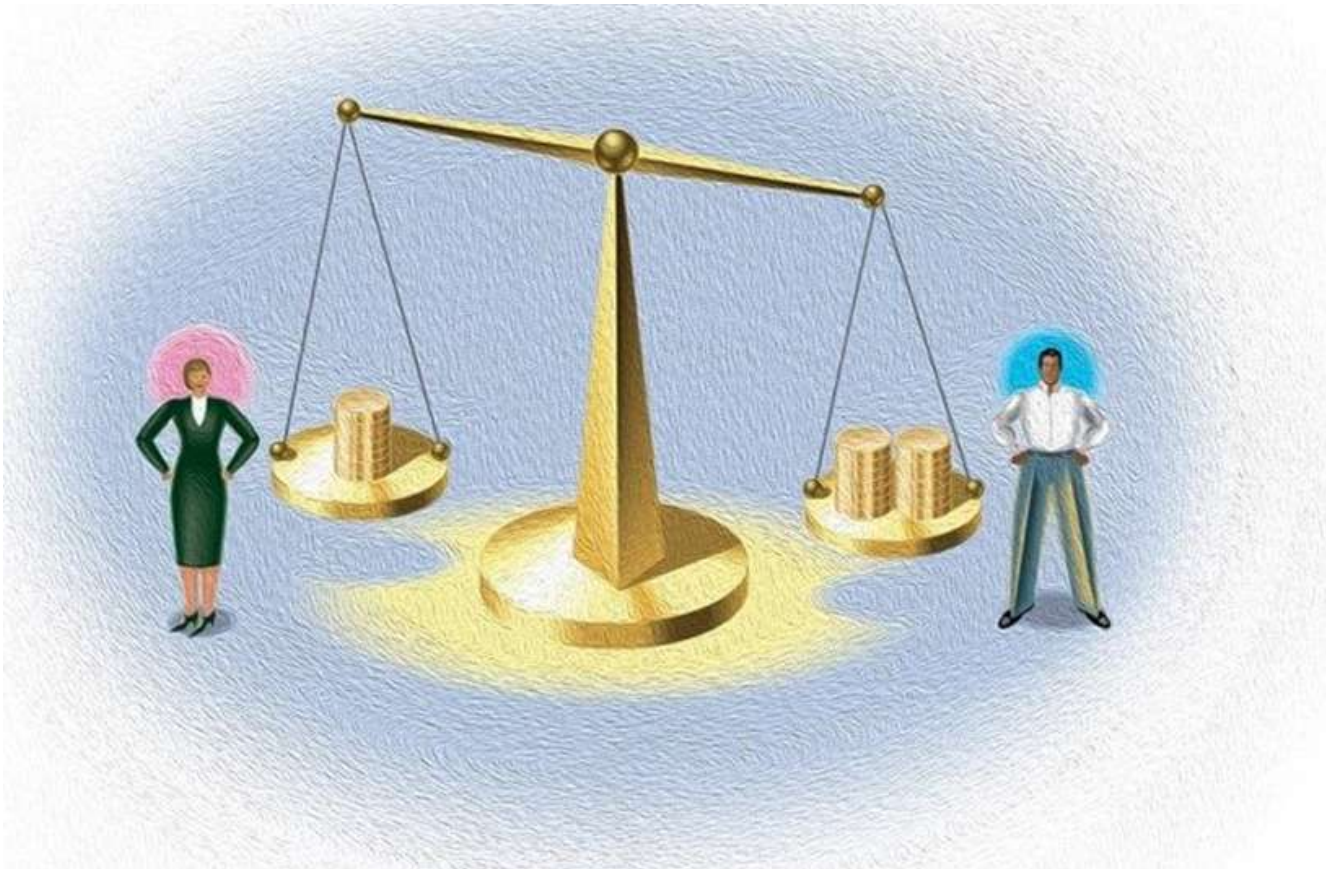
The progress achieved between July and September 2026 through activities carried out under the EU4PUBLIC ORDER Project has also laid a stronger foundation for continued institutional cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Italy. By combining European standards, exchanges of experience between Carabinieri officers and scenario-based practice, the Project supports the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri in developing professional and accountable services that are better prepared to respond to evolving public order challenges.

# Labour Legislation, closer to EU standards in the fields of pay transparency and platform work

Moldova is advancing efforts to align its labour legislation with EU standards, with particular focus on two major and complex areas of recent EU labour law: pay transparency and platform work.

As part of the ongoing cooperation under the EU-Denmark funded Moldova is Europe project, support has been provided to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in the process of transposing two key EU directives: the EU Pay Transparency Directive (Directive 2023/970) and the EU Platform Work Directive (Directive 2024/2831).

Adopted in May 2023, the EU Pay Transparency Directive establishes measures aimed at ensuring the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between women and men.



Its transposition will require, among other measures, the development of a clear approach to determining work of equal value at enterprise level, as well as mechanisms for monitoring compliance and addressing potential pay inequalities. Public authorities will also have an important role in collecting and analysing relevant data and enforcing the applicable rules.

For the Republic of Moldova, the proposed institutional framework envisages an important role for the State Labour Inspectorate and the Equality Council in implementing and enforcing the new requirements.

The EU Platform Work Directive, adopted in November 2024, seeks to improve working conditions and strengthen the rights of

people working through digital labour platforms, including those providing taxi, food delivery and cargo delivery services.

One of the directive's key innovations is the establishment of a legal presumption of employment where digital labour platforms exercise control and direction over the work performed. The directive also introduces rules aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in the management of workers through algorithmic systems.

The transposition process involved an assessment of different regulatory options, taking into account Moldova's legal framework and administrative capacities. Comparative analysis of approaches and good practices from relevant EU Member States has also been carried out to identify solutions that could be effectively adapted to the Moldovan context.

The process included consultations with key stakeholders, including trade unions, employers, public authorities and civil society representatives. Their contributions have been taken into account in developing the proposed recommendations.

Based on this work, draft legislative amendments required for the transposition of the two EU directives have been prepared, with particular attention to amendments to the Labour Code and related legislation.

The transposition of these directives represents an important step in Moldova's efforts to bring its labour legislation closer to EU standards, while ensuring that the proposed reforms are compatible with the country's legal framework and institutional capacity.

# Strengthening risk management in migration and asylum

On 16–17 July 2026, the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) brought together professionals for a two-day training workshop focused on strengthening internal management control and risk management in the field of migration and asylum.

Held under the EU-funded Twinning Project, the workshop explored practical approaches to identifying, assessing and monitoring risks that may affect GIM's strategic and operational objectives. Participants also had the opportunity to exchange experience with Romanian public authorities and explore good practices that can support a more integrated and effective institutional approach to risk management.

The discussions highlighted the importance of embedding risk management into everyday institutional processes, helping GIM anticipate challenges, strengthen decision-making and enhance its capacity to achieve its strategic objectives.



# Improving procedures for granting residence permits for foreign nationals

From 3–5 August 2026, a dedicated workshop focused on strengthening procedures for granting residence rights to foreign nationals who have been living in the Republic of Moldova on a long-term basis, as well as to those in vulnerable situations.

The workshop resulted in the development of two new working procedures designed to help GIM specialists handle applications and specific cases more effectively and consistently.

Through this work, the General Inspectorate for Migration is further strengthening its procedures and operational capacity, contributing to clearer, safer and more efficient services for both citizens and foreign nationals.



# The European Union supports the strengthening of the Republic of Moldova's capacities in the field of migration and asylum

With the support of the European Union, the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) has strengthened its capacities to manage migration and asylum, including by developing its procedural framework, training staff and adopting European good practices. These results were achieved under the Twinning project "Strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of the migration management and asylum legislation in line with EU acquis", implemented by the General Inspectorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs between April 2025 and September 2026. The project, with a budget of EUR 1.25 million, was provided by the European Union and carried out in partnership with Sweden, Romania and Greece.

The project supported the development of GIM's procedural framework and professional competences in the field of migration and asylum management, as well as the adoption of European good practices.



The support provided through the project targeted areas of importance for GIM's work, such as asylum, temporary protection, legal migration and the stay of foreigners, family reunification, integration of foreigners, case management for vulnerable persons and unaccompanied minors, crisis preparedness, digitalisation and interoperability of processes, personal data protection, and preparation for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The project "Strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of the migration management and asylum legislation in line with EU acquis" was implemented between April 2025 and September 2026, with a total budget of EUR 1,250,000, funded by the European Union and implemented by the General Inspectorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova. The implementing partners are the Swedish Migration Agency, as lead partner, the General Inspectorate for Immigration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania, as well as the Centre of International and European Economic Law and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum of the Hellenic Republic.

# A new stage in judicial vetting: specialised anti-corruption panels come under review

The external evaluation of judges has entered a new stage with the assessment of judges who currently hear, or have previously heard, corruption and corruption-related cases. A total of 16 judges in this category are part of the broader vetting process within the judiciary.

The first hearings involving judges from specialised anti-corruption panels took place in September, and the Judicial Vetting Commission has already announced the first results. Six of the 16 judges have been heard, and in three cases the Commission recommended that the judges pass the external evaluation and submitted its reports to the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM), which is responsible for reviewing the findings and taking the corresponding decisions.

The evaluation focuses on the financial and ethical integrity of judges dealing with some of the most sensitive categories of cases. The process examines, among other matters, information concerning assets, income and expenditure, lifestyle, potential conflicts of interest, and compliance with standards of professional ethics.



The hearing is an important stage of the process, giving judges an opportunity to provide explanations and additional documents, and to clarify issues identified during the evaluation before the Commission reaches its conclusion. Hearings are generally public. Where sensitive information or personal data concerning third parties are discussed, certain parts may be held in closed session in accordance with the applicable procedures.

The evaluation process also includes a re-evaluation mechanism. Where the SCM rejects a report and considers that further examination is required, it may refer the case back to the Commission for re-evaluation once. To date, 16 reports have been returned to the Commission for this purpose. Of the 12 re-evaluation procedures completed so far, the Commission maintained its initial conclusion in 10 cases and changed it in two.

The evaluation of judges serving on specialised panels thus extends the vetting process to a category of judges who play an important role in adjudicating corruption cases and marks the continued implementation of the external evaluation mechanism within the judiciary.

# Moldova draws on Irish experience to advance people-centred justice reforms

From 22 to 24 September 2026, senior representatives of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova took part in a study visit to Dublin, Ireland, to draw lessons from Irish experience that can support Moldova's ongoing justice reforms and EU accession process.

The visit formed part of the EU-funded OECD project *Supporting the Ministry of Justice and Justice Sector Reforms in the Republic of Moldova and supported follow-up to the OECD Justice Review of the Republic of Moldova*. Published in June 2026, the Review highlights the importance of ensuring that institutional reforms translate into more accessible, effective and people-centred justice services.



Through exchanges with Irish justice institutions, the Moldovan delegation explored practical approaches to strategic governance, court modernisation and digitalisation, access to justice, legal aid and people-centred service delivery. Particular attention was given to how justice institutions can better understand and respond to people's needs, use evidence to inform policy and services, and strengthen co-ordination across the justice sector.

The programme brought together the Moldovan delegation with the Irish Department of Justice, Courts Service, Legal Aid Board, Legal Services Regulatory Authority, Citizens Information Board and Judicial Council, and included a visit to the Four Courts. The exchanges provided concrete examples and lessons that can inform the next phase of Moldova's justice reforms, including efforts to make justice services more accessible, responsive and focused on the needs and experiences of citizens.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# EU Twinning Project supports advancement of risk management and internal managerial control in public sector

Assisted by experts from the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova", the Ministry of Finance approved, on 29 July 2026, the Guide on Risk Management in the Public Sector. The Guide provides public institutions with practical tools to identify and address risks, including potential fraud and corruption, before they can affect public funds.

In parallel, EU Twinning experts provided technical input on the new Guide to the Delegation of Powers and Responsibilities in the Public Sector. The Guide helps clarify who is responsible for key decisions and processes within public institutions, with pilot testing launched at the Ministry of Finance in September.

Together, these measures are helping public institutions identify risks earlier, clarify responsibilities, strengthen safeguards for public funds, and prevent financial abuses.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# Modernising Internal Audit: EU Twinning Initiative Drives GIAS Alignment and Regional Shared Audits

The alignment of the Republic of Moldova's public internal audit function with European and global benchmarks advanced during the third quarter of 2026. Technical assistance provided by the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova" enabled the Ministry of Finance to complete the expert review of the new National Internal Audit Standards, ensuring alignment with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS). Key enhancements focus on governance safeguards, institutional independence, and auditor objectivity across public entities.

These efforts to strengthen the internal audit function are complemented by steps to expand professional capacity and access to internal audit services across the public sector. To overcome capacity constraints in local public administration, an innovative shared internal audit model was established to launch joint internal audit engagements in public procurement, extending rigorous financial oversight to local communities.



# Safeguarding national and EU financial interests: EU Twinning assistance strengthens anti-fraud mechanisms

Throughout July–September 2026, experts of the EU-funded Twinning Project "Support to the Public Internal Financial Control in Moldova" co-developed a comprehensive methodological framework with the State Financial Control Inspectorate (SFCI), consisting of formal guidance and procedural instructions aligned with the 2025 OLAF Handbook on reporting irregularities. This methodological advancement directly supports Moldova's integration into EU anti-fraud reporting channels, further strengthening the country's mechanisms for preventing, detecting, and reporting irregularities affecting national and EU financial interests.

On 27 July 2026, following formal coordination, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) granted SFCI direct access to the EU Irregularity Management System (IMS), providing Moldova with a direct channel to report and follow up on irregularities affecting EU funds, thus contributing to stronger safeguards.



# Study visit to Poland to strengthen Integrated Border Management

Ten representatives of the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova took part in a study visit to Poland from 19 to 25 July 2026. The aim of the visit was to strengthen institutional and operational capacities in the field of Integrated Border Management (IBM) by familiarising participants with European best practices regarding border security, operational coordination, information exchange and inter-agency cooperation.

Over the course of a week, the delegation visited key structures within the Polish border management system, including the General Command of the Border Police in Warsaw, operational centres and territorial units responsible for protecting the European Union's external border. The programme also included a visit to Frontex headquarters, giving participants a first-hand insight into European cooperation mechanisms and the standards applied within the Schengen Area.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

The experience gained during this visit will help to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Border Police and to ensure the ongoing alignment of national practices with European Union and Schengen Area standards. Through the exchange of expertise, cooperation and investment in people, EU4Borders Security – Moldova is turning the partnership between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova into tangible results for a border that is safer and better prepared for the challenges of the future.

This activity is part of the 'EU4Borders Security – Moldova' project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) in Lithuania, Solidarity Fund PL and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Moldova).

# Expertise that stays home: a story of laboratories, people and Moldova's capacity to grow

Every morning, before an inspector, producer or exporter receives a test result, a process that few people ever see begins in a laboratory in Chișinău. Samples are carefully prepared, every step is checked, and precision is non-negotiable.

Behind a single laboratory result are hours of work, advanced equipment and professionals who know that, sometimes, protecting people's health begins with a trace only they can detect.



The EU-funded UNIDO project "Improving the standards compliance through increased national capacities for residue monitoring" (hereinafter referred to as "the EU–UNIDO Project") responded to this need by equipping the laboratory with refrigerated centrifuges, water purification systems, evaporators, solid-phase extraction (SPE) systems, shakers, analytical balances, and other equipment required for safe disposal of laboratory waste. By providing a modern incinerator, the project contributed to establishing laboratory waste treatment capabilities fully compliant with international standards of biosafety and best available practices. But infrastructure was only one part of the investment.

The development model was based on transferring expertise, rather than substituting for it. CNSAPSA specialists received training in reference laboratories in Romania, after which Romanian experts travelled to Chișinău to support the implementation of the methods under the laboratory's actual working conditions.

Today, the laboratory has accredited new methods for detecting important groups of residues and contaminants, while others are being prepared for implementation and accreditation. Yet every new method involves much more than equipment alone: technology, training and practical experience must work together.

The significance goes beyond the number of samples analysed. As the Republic of Moldova aligns its food safety system with EU requirements, the capacity to generate reliable and recognised laboratory results domestically is becoming an essential part of the infrastructure needed for effective official controls, consumer protection and demonstrating the compliance of Moldovan products.

The expansion of CNSAPSA's analytical capacities has also enabled the Centre to take on analyses that were previously outsourced abroad, strengthening cooperation with the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA) while contributing to a more efficient use of public resources.

Yet, specialists speak about these achievements with the same measured perspective they bring to the remaining challenges. Access to consumables and reference materials remains difficult, qualified personnel are in short supply, and further laboratory development requires continued investment in infrastructure and professional expertise. Cooperation with European reference laboratories and participation in international proficiency testing therefore remain essential.

Perhaps this is where the maturity of such a process becomes most visible: when an institution gradually moves from receiving expertise to building and developing it from within.

Beyond equipment, methods and accreditation, this may ultimately be the investment that matters most: expertise that stays at home. National capacity that enables the Republic of Moldova to respond more effectively to its own needs and, step by step, become an integral part of the European food safety system.

# Nearly half of the prosecutors subject to external evaluation have been evaluated

So far, the Prosecutor Vetting Commission has completed the ethical and financial integrity assessments of 79 prosecutors and candidates. Of these, 47 passed the evaluation, 29 failed, and in three cases the proceedings were terminated because the individuals had already been assessed under other laws.

Of the 190 prosecutors and candidates initially notified, 27 resigned within the statutory 20-day period following notification. This left 163 individuals in the evaluation process. The Commission has completed the assessment of 79 of them, representing 48% of those remaining in the process.

The external evaluation, also known as vetting, checks whether prosecutors and candidates for certain positions in the prosecution system meet the ethical and financial integrity requirements set by law.



**What Do the Vetting Results Show?**

For candidates to the specialised boards of the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP), assessed under Law No. 26/2022, the Vetting Commission has issued 32 decisions. Fifteen candidates met the integrity requirements and passed the evaluation, while 17 did not meet the requirements set by law.

For prosecutors from specialised prosecution offices and the General Prosecutor's Office, assessed under Law No. 252/2023, the Commission has issued 44 reports and three decisions ending the evaluation process. The Commission recommended that 32 prosecutors pass the evaluation and that 12 fail.

**What Happens After the Commission's Evaluation?**

The Commission's decision is not always the final step. For evaluations carried out under Law No. 252/2023, the reports are reviewed by the Superior Council of Prosecutors. The Council can accept the Commission's report and confirm that a prosecutor has passed or failed the evaluation. It can also reject the report and order the evaluation procedure to be resumed, but only once.

To date, the SCP has reviewed 43 of the 44 reports issued by the Commission. Of these, 30 positive reports were accepted. In the case of negative reports, the SCP accepted only four of the Commission's 12 recommendations that the prosecutors fail the evaluation.

**The Vetting Results Can Be Challenged in Court**

Under Law No. 26/2022, 11 of the Commission's 17 decisions that candidates failed the evaluation were challenged in the Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ). All 11 challenges were dismissed.

Under Law No. 252/2023, six decisions by the Superior Council of Prosecutors were challenged in the SCJ: two by the Commission and four by prosecutors. One of the challenges filed by a prosecutor was rejected, while the other five are still being considered by the court.



# ECONOMY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

## €1 million in EU funding awarded to six organisations supporting Moldova's startup ecosystem

Six organisations in Moldova have received more than €1 million in grants under the EU4Innovation East project to develop programmes supporting startups and entrepreneurs across the country.

The selected programmes will support entrepreneurs at different stages of development, from idea generation and incubation to acceleration, investment readiness and internationalisation:

**ATIC – ASCEND:** training for young people and IT specialists, targeting at least 20 prototypes.

**Dreamups – Startup Growth Pipeline:** support from idea development through incubation, acceleration and scaling.

**Startup Moldova – IGNITE:** EU market access, expansion grants and the development of startup.md.

**Technovator – Moldova Deep Innovation Pathway:** DeepTech support, GigaHack 2026, microgrants and pre-acceleration.

**XY Partners – MISSION 5: HealthTech:** clinical validation, five pilot projects and investment opportunities of up to €200,000.

**Yep!Moldova – Startup101 Academy:** support for more than 1,000 young participants and the development of 50 MVPs, with support from diaspora experts.




The grants come as Moldova's startup ecosystem continues to grow, with more than 300 active tech startups and a 91.9% growth rate recorded in the StartupBlink Global Startup Ecosystem Index.

# 22 entrepreneurs from the left bank of the Nistru are receiving support to develop their businesses and improve energy efficiency

22 entrepreneurs from the left bank of the Nistru will benefit from support worth around 414,000 EUR from the European Union and Sweden to develop, modernise and boost the competitiveness of their businesses. Through UNDP, they will receive equipment, services and mentoring.

The entrepreneurs were selected via a business plan competition. Of these, seven small and medium-sized enterprises will receive assistance from the EU and the UNDP, totalling more than 215,000 EUR, aiming to improve efficiency and expand economic activity.

A further 15 enterprises will receive funding from Sweden, totalling more than 198,000 EUR. Through these investments, the enterprises will be able to reduce their energy consumption and costs, integrate renewable energy solutions, apply circular economy principles, and modernise their production processes and business models.



**Among the selected entrepreneurs is Marina Petriman from Parcani, who runs a business specialising in mushroom cultivation:**

*"Receiving support to improve energy efficiency is an important step for our business. High costs for electricity and heating limit our opportunities for growth and development. Thanks to this support, we will be able to implement energy-saving technologies, reduce operational costs and channel the savings into the further development of the business and the improvement of working conditions".*

The first Centre of expertise in energy efficiency is to be established in Tiraspol

To promote energy-resilient businesses, the first Centre of Expertise in Energy Efficiency on the left bank of the Nistru River was established in Tiraspol, with support from the UNDP and Sweden.

The centre will contribute to the development of competencies in the field of energy auditing and efficiency. Through training, mentoring and consultancy services, companies will be able to reduce their energy consumption and operational costs, boost their competitiveness and adapt more easily to the demands of the green economy.

*"Against a backdrop of high energy costs and the need to use resources more efficiently, businesses need not only funding but also access to expertise, energy audit services, training and practical solutions tailored to their needs. The centre will be developed on the basis of the experience and best practices accumulated on the right bank of the Nistru,"*

***said Danila Caloșin, an energy efficiency specialist from Tiraspol.***

# More accessible tools for submitting and resolving consumer complaints, developed with the support of the European Union

On 25 August, the European Consumer Centre in the Republic of Moldova (ECC Moldova) presented the results of the project "Facilitating Consumer Access to Redress and Complaint Resolution Mechanisms", implemented over a period of 12 months with the financial support of the European Union.

- the **Consumer Guide to Submitting Complaints**, which explains how to formulate and submit a complaint and outlines the steps available to resolve the problem;
- the **Standard Consumer Complaint Form**, designed to help consumers present their requests to businesses clearly and in a structured manner;
- the **Guide for Businesses on Resolving Consumer Complaints**, which provides practical recommendations on receiving, reviewing, documenting and resolving complaints;
- the **Consumer Information Poster**, intended to inform consumers at commercial premises about their rights and the protection mechanisms available to them.

**Aurica Butnari, Programme Manager at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, said:**

*"The European integration process involves not only incorporating European legislation into national law, but also developing the capacity to apply these rules effectively. In recent years, consumer protection has received substantial support from the European Union, including through the active involvement of civil society.*




*Practical tools have been developed to make information and rights protection mechanisms more accessible to citizens. These include the Consumer Call Centre, with a single contact number; the online platform for submitting petitions, integrated into the e-Democracy platform; and the European Consumer Centre in the Republic of Moldova. As the Republic of Moldova moves forward on its path towards European integration, it has a unique opportunity to strengthen the institutional and legislative framework in this field and, most importantly, to turn reforms into tangible benefits for citizens."*

Over the 12 months of implementation, the project organised information sessions for consumers, training sessions and consultations for businesses and business associations, as well as activities involving representatives of the legal and academic communities. The tools developed through the project were promoted through an online and offline communication campaign and distributed with the support of public authorities and partner institutions.

The video recording of the event is available HERE.

# Four priority industries through the circular economy lens

Four new sectoral analyses provide a clearer picture of circular economy opportunities in key industries in the Republic of Moldova and lay the groundwork for concrete interventions at the value chain level.

Under the EU4Green Recovery East Programme, funded by the European Union, four sectoral analyses focusing on the circular economy in the Republic of Moldova have been developed.

Prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the analyses cover four sectors identified as priorities for circular economy interventions: agri-food and beverages, textiles and clothing, plastics, and construction materials.

They represent the first integrated assessments of this kind for these sectors in the Republic of Moldova and provide an analytical basis for understanding where the application of circular economy principles can generate economic and environmental benefits.



**Areas with potential for circular solutions**

The reports combine official statistical data on production and trade with information collected through surveys and consultations with relevant stakeholders. They examine material flows, trade exposure, key circularity challenges, and value chains with high potential for intervention across each of the four sectors.

For each sector, the analyses identify preliminary areas for intervention and opportunities to develop and scale up circular solutions adapted to Moldova's economic and market conditions. The reports also include a preliminary gender assessment.

Beyond providing an overview of the four industries, the analyses also serve as a starting point for the next stage of the Programme: moving beyond the sectoral perspective to identify concrete circularity opportunities.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

**Two priority value chains**

In the next stage, the analysis will focus on the detailed mapping of two priority value chains: **clothing and wine**.

This will allow for an in-depth examination of material flows, stakeholders and stages of value creation, as well as losses and waste generated along the value chains. At the same time, it will help identify more precisely concrete opportunities for applying circular solutions.

The results will subsequently contribute to the development of pilot projects and policy recommendations. The reports provide more than a snapshot of the current situation. They offer a basis for turning data and analysis into solutions tailored to Moldova's economic realities and for gradually moving from identifying circularity potential to testing it in practice.

*The reports are available here as Working Drafts for information and review. The findings, data and recommendations presented are preliminary and may be updated or revised during subsequent stages of the EU4Green Recovery East Programme.*

# Entrepreneurs across Moldova gain practical guidance on legal, tax, customs and administrative requirements for running a business

Over 1,000 young and aspiring entrepreneurs took part in the 9 rounds of training covering all regions in Moldova, during 2025–2026. Participants gained access to information and practical guidance on the legal, fiscal, customs and administrative framework necessary for starting and running a business.

The last round of training took place between 11 and 13 August in Comrat, bringing together about 140 participants from the districts of Ceadîr-Lunga, Taraclia, Cantemir, Comrat and Leova. The trainings were attended by both entrepreneurs at the beginning of their journey and people who intend to launch a business.

During the trainings, participants had the opportunity to interact with representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Customs Service and the State Fiscal Service, as well as other experts.

The agenda included the main aspects that an entrepreneur must know in order to carry out his/her activity in compliance with the legal provisions: from the registration of a legal entity, tax obligations, accounting and financial management, to procurement, customs procedures and the conduct of foreign economic activity.



A special emphasis was placed on the practical component of the trainings. During the question and answer sessions, the participants were able to address concrete situations encountered when starting or developing a business and received clarifications and recommendations directly from specialists in the field.

The training programme was 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 publication 'Fiscal Monitor FISC.md', and aimed to increase the level of knowledge of the legal, fiscal and administrative framework necessary for the initiation and sustainable development of businesses.

Throughout 2025–2026, trainings were organised in Chișinău, Bălți, Cahul, Orhei, Căușeni, Ungheni, Ialoveni, Edineț and Comrat, ensuring access to training and expertise for future and current entrepreneurs from different regions of the country.

According to organisers, investing in informing and training entrepreneurs contributes to a better understanding and application of the legal framework, increasing the degree of compliance and, implicitly, to the development of sustainable businesses.

# ESIL Moldova launches to strengthen Moldova's business angel ecosystem

Moldova's startup ecosystem is growing, but access to early-stage investment remains a key challenge for founders. To help address this gap, EU4Innovation East is supporting the launch of ESIL Moldova (Early Stage Investing Launchpad Moldova), a new initiative focused on strengthening the country's business angel community.




Over the next two years, ESIL Moldova will provide aspiring and experienced business angels with training, mentoring, networking opportunities and connections to established investor communities across Europe. The programme will also create opportunities for startup pitching and encourage cross-border investment partnerships, particularly with Romania's angel investment ecosystem.

Participants will take part in workshops, peer-to-peer learning sessions, masterclasses and pitching events covering topics such as startup evaluation, deal flow, syndication and cross-border investing. Activities will take place both in Chișinău and online.

The initiative builds on the experience of the Early Stage Investing Launchpad (ESIL), which has supported the development of business angel ecosystems across Europe since 2017, including in Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary and Croatia.

Interested in business angel investing and Moldova's startup ecosystem? Learn more about ESIL Moldova and subscribe for updates on upcoming activities and opportunities: ESIL Moldova

# BRIDGE Missions helps Moldovan companies access international markets

Accessing international markets can be an important step for Moldovan companies and startups looking to find new customers, build partnerships and explore investment opportunities.

Through BRIDGE Missions, eligible companies from the Republic of Moldova can receive up to €1,500 in support for participation in international trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, forums and other relevant events. The programme covers two of three eligible cost categories: international transport, accommodation and participation fees.

For companies in the IT and tech sector, international events can provide opportunities to connect with potential investors, customers and business partners, as well as with international innovation and technology ecosystems.




The programme has already supported hundreds of companies. Between 2022 and 2025, 599 companies benefited from BRIDGE Missions, while in 2025, the programme contributed to the generation of $1.5 million in exports.

If you represent a Moldovan company or tech startup and are planning to attend an international event relevant to your business, you can check your eligibility and apply through the BRIDGE Missions programme.

Learn more and apply: bridge.invest.gov.md

*BRIDGE Missions is implemented by the Investment Agency, with the support of Innovate Moldova, funded by Sweden and the United Kingdom, with the support of EU4Innovation East and the Ukraine-Moldova American Enterprise Fund (UMAEF).*

# TechVillage 2026 brought 30 startups and 30 investors together in Moldova

From 18 to 20 September, 30 startups and 30 investors from more than 10 countries came together for TechVillage 2026, an international event focused on early-stage technology and AI startups.



Held in Chișinău and Orheiul Vechi, the three-day event was designed to create space for founders and investors to build meaningful relationships, exchange feedback and explore potential investment opportunities. This year's edition focused on startups developing AI-based solutions with existing traction, clear growth strategies and concrete fundraising plans.

Unlike large-scale conferences, TechVillage brought together a deliberately small group of participants, allowing founders and investors to interact through startup presentations, one-to-one discussions, shared activities and informal conversations. Beyond the formal programme, meals, local experiences and team activities provided additional opportunities for participants to get to know each other and continue discussions outside the stage.

The event also offered international participants an opportunity to experience Moldova beyond its startup ecosystem, with Orheiul Vechi, local gastronomy and cultural experiences forming part of the programme.

By bringing together founders and investors from Moldova and other European ecosystems, TechVillage aims to strengthen cross-border connections and showcase Moldova as a destination for international startup investment.

The 2026 edition concluded with new connections, ongoing conversations and potential partnerships that participants can continue to develop beyond the event.

# From a family home on the banks of the Răut River to a symbol of rural tourism in Moldova, with the support of the German Government

More than two decades ago, the Benzing family opened a business in Trebujeni that would change the way Moldova views its own rural tourism.

The "Casa din Luncă" guesthouse, considered the first rural guesthouse in the country, was born from a simple yet bold idea for its time: to turn hospitality, gastronomy, and local traditions into an authentic experience for tourists.

Today, the business run by Oxana Benzing has stood the test of time and continues to grow. Located on the banks of the Răut River, in the village of Trebujeni, near the Orheiul Vechi complex, the entrepreneur continues to invest in better conditions for visitors and in infrastructure that allows her to offer increasingly competitive tourism services.

For this new stage of development, the company chose the FACEM Impact financing product, accessing a long-term investment loan under favourable conditions.



With this financing, "Casa din Luncă" carried out a series of investments aimed at raising the standard of services offered to tourists: it built a swimming pool, installed a wastewater treatment station, and set up a pergola, turning the guesthouse into an increasingly attractive and comfortable space for visitors.

A family business, a story spanning more than 20 years, and living proof that the right investments, made at the right time, can carry a tradition forward.

The FACEM Impact financing product is part of the "SME Development Facility of Moldova" project, funded by the German Government through the German Development Bank (KfW).

To date, through the FACEM Impact financing product, 33 entrepreneurs have accessed favourable loans totalling 78 million lei, which will generate investments of 130.3 million lei.

The beneficiary companies estimate that, following the implementation of their investment projects, 109 new jobs will be created. Currently, the financed enterprises support 746 jobs. The financing is provided in the national currency, and the entire mechanism is coordinated by the Moldova Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth Fund (FACEM), under the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA).

Entrepreneurs planning investments for business development can access, through the FACEM Impact financing product, up to 5 million lei, with a fixed interest rate starting from 4% and a repayment period of up to 10 years, negotiated with partner financial institutions.

An additional advantage is the possibility of benefiting from VAT exemption with the right of deduction for goods and services paid from the loan, which can reduce the cost of the investment for the company.

At the same time, the investment project financed through FACEM Impact can also benefit from other forms of support for accessing financing managed by ODA, including grants and financial guarantees, in accordance with the institution's national and internal regulations.



# Two schools and five demonstration farms bring research closer to farmers

Farmers in Moldova now have two new venues where they can learn from practical demonstrations: the Organic Farmers' School, hosted by the National Institute for Applied Research in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (INCAAMV), and the Industrial Hemp School, organised at the National Centre for Seed Research and Production (CNCPS) in Porumbeni. Both were inaugurated as part of the Production component of the Team Europe Initiative 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems', implemented by the Czech Development Agency.



By the end of August 2026, the training activities under this component had brought together 336 unique participants. At the same time, 14 specialists are undertaking the train-the-trainer programme in sustainable agriculture, integrated production and organic farming, whilst a further nine are receiving training in the field of industrial hemp. Practical guides on organic farming have also been finalised, which farmers and agricultural advisers can use as reference materials.

In the field, five demonstration farms have individual action plans and baseline soil analyses. Two are organically certified and demonstrate organic production practices; the other three are testing the principles of integrated production. The project is also evaluating maize hybrids, as well as varieties of peas and industrial hemp, under different growing conditions. The data obtained will help to formulate recommendations tailored to conditions in Moldova.

In parallel, the feasibility study for developing INCAAMV's laboratory capacities has been finalised, and the equipment requirements have been established. The functional and technical requirements for the future Organic Farming Register have also been drawn up. These results will pave the way for more useful analysis and record-keeping services for the agricultural sector.

The Team Europe initiative 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems' is funded by the European Union and the Czech Republic and implemented by the Czech Development Agency, Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and the Latvian Centre for Rural Consultancy and Training.

EU-Moldova

Stronger Together

# From skills to investment: supporting 50 Moldovan agri-food SMEs to grow and compete

For many small and medium-sized enterprises in Moldova's agri-food sector, the challenge is not a lack of ideas, but the ability to turn them into well-planned and sustainable investments. To address this, the Integrated Capacity Development and Investment Support Programme, implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova under the EU-funded *Sustainable Agri-food Systems – Business* project, is supporting 50 agri-food SMEs to strengthen their management capacities, improve business planning and prepare for investments that can increase their competitiveness.




The programme combines practical training, individual consultancy, tailored business plans and investment support, helping entrepreneurs identify their development priorities before investing.

Of the 50 participating SMEs, 30 will be selected to receive investment grants of up to €20,000. The grants will support investments in production and post-harvest processes, processing, storage, packaging, digitalisation and operational efficiency.

The programme also supports businesses in areas that can help them access new markets and create greater value, including quality standards and certification, branding and marketing, participation in trade fairs and business-to-business meetings.

For the first group of 22 participating SMEs, discussions with entrepreneurs showed a strong demand for practical tools to support investment decisions, manage risks, improve processes and develop market-oriented businesses.

By combining capacity development with investment support, the programme aims to contribute to more competitive and resilient agri-food businesses, higher value-added products and stronger links to markets and value chains.

In this way, EU support goes beyond financing individual investments – it helps businesses build the capacity to grow sustainably and contribute to a stronger agri-food sector and rural economy in Moldova.

The 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems – Business' project is financed by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, as part of the Team Europe initiative 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems' carried out in collaboration with the Czech Development Agency and Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

# Latvia's experience supports the development of AKIS in Moldova

How can a system be built where research, advisory services, education and farmers work more effectively together? This was one of the key questions explored during a study visit to Latvia, organised from 17 to 21 August 2026 for 14 representatives of Moldova's AKIS Expert Group and the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Centre.

The study visit, organised under the EU-funded *Sustainable Agri-food Systems – Business* project, aimed to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders involved in developing and operationalising Moldova's Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) and identify solutions that could be adapted to the needs of Moldovan farmers.

Participants explored Latvia's experience in AKIS coordination, agricultural advisory services, connecting research with businesses and transferring knowledge and innovation to farmers. Meetings with public authorities, advisory services, research institutions and agricultural businesses provided practical examples of how these elements can work together.

Particular attention was given to the role of agricultural advisers as a link between research, public policies and realities on farms. Participants also examined how farmer groups, cooperatives, demonstration activities and partnerships between researchers and businesses can support the testing and adoption of innovative solutions.




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

*"Our aim is not only to establish a new institutional mechanism, but to build an ecosystem where knowledge, experience and innovation can move more effectively from research and expertise to farmers, while farmers' real needs are communicated back to those generating knowledge and shaping policies,"*

***said Xenia Marcov, Project Coordinator at Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.***

The experience gained in Latvia will help identify solutions that can be adapted to Moldova's context. Key areas identified for further development include stronger coordination among AKIS stakeholders, farmer interest groups, closer cooperation between research, education and the agricultural sector, digital tools for knowledge exchange, and demonstration activities to facilitate the transfer of innovation.

Through experience-sharing with Latvian partners, EU support contributes to developing an AKIS that is better connected to farmers' needs and able to facilitate their access to knowledge, expertise and innovative solutions.

The 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems – Business' project is financed by the European Union and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, as part of the Team Europe initiative 'Sustainable Agri-Food Systems' carried out in collaboration with the Czech Development Agency and Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre.




# EcoVoucher Programme helps the Mîndru family in Popeasca reduce their electricity bills

Ina Mîndru, a mother of four children from Popeasca village, Ștefan Vodă district, benefited from the EcoVoucher Appliance Voucher Programme, which enabled her to replace her old washing machine with a new, energy-efficient model.

For the Mîndru household, the washing machine is one of the most essential home appliances. With four children, laundry is done every day, and the proper functioning of this appliance has a direct impact on the family's daily routine. Their old washing machine consumed a significant amount of electricity due to its low energy efficiency class and no longer met the needs of their large family.



EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

Moreover, when the old washing machine suddenly broke down, replacing it became a necessity. However, due to financial constraints, the purchase had to be postponed. The EcoVoucher Programme, financially supported by the European Union, made it possible for the family to purchase a new energy-efficient appliance, which has already helped reduce their electricity bills.

*"Our old washing machine suddenly broke down. At first, I thought about calling a repair technician. In a large family, postponing such an expense is difficult. We do laundry constantly. The children change clothes in the morning, in the evening, they go out to play and come back with more clothes to wash,"*

***says Ina Mîndru.***

Around the same time, Ina received an SMS informing her that she had been selected to receive a 6,000 MDL voucher under the EcoVoucher Programme.

*"At first, I couldn't believe it. I thought it might not be real. To make sure, I called the programme's Green Line number indicated in the SMS. They confirmed that I had indeed received a voucher and that I could use it to buy either a refrigerator or a washing machine. Since ours had just broken down, I chose the washing machine,"*

***she recalls.***

After confirming the voucher, Ina Mîndru visited one of the programme's partner stores to choose a new washing machine. The financial support provided through the EcoVoucher Programme covered most of the appliance's cost, while the family paid only the remaining difference.

*"We added another two thousand lei and bought an energy-efficient washing machine with a larger capacity,"*

***she says.***

The purchasing and delivery process was simple. After completing the necessary documents, the new washing machine was delivered directly to the family's home, while the old appliance was collected for recycling.

*"I filled in a request for home delivery and for them to take away the old machine. That's exactly what they did. Everything happened very quickly,"*

***the beneficiary explains.***

The new washing machine better meets the family's needs while helping reduce electricity consumption. For large families, energy-efficient appliances mean not only greater comfort but also lower monthly electricity expenses. According to the beneficiary, the programme provides tangible support to households that cannot always afford to replace an old, energy-consuming appliance immediately.

**What does the EcoVoucher Programme offer?**

- Government support for purchasing a new energy-efficient household appliance that consumes less electricity and helps reduce energy bills.
- A 6,000 MDL voucher, covering up to 70% of the cost of a refrigerator (energy classes A–D) or a washing machine (energy class A).
- Access to high-quality household appliances that combine energy efficiency, durability and compliance with European standards.
- Free collection and recycling of the old appliance.

Priority is given to families with two or more children and households where two residents are over the age of 63.

The EcoVoucher Appliance Voucher Programme was developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova with the financial support of the European Union. The current edition is implemented by the National Center for Sustainable Energy (CNED) under the project "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies for Moldova" (E4M), implemented by GIZ together with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and financed by the German Government, with co-financing from the European Union, Norway and Denmark. The current edition of the Programme is financed by the European Union.

# Renovation and energy efficiency works begin at the Clinical Psychiatric Hospital and the Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

The Clinical Psychiatric Hospital and the "Diomid Gherman" Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery are undergoing extensive renovation and energy efficiency upgrades. Works have already begun, making them the first two of the ten hospitals included in the Moldova Energy Efficiency Project to enter the construction phase. The investments will help reduce energy consumption while improving conditions for patients and medical staff.

The works contracts for both institutions have been signed, and construction teams have begun setting up the sites and carrying out the first interventions. At the same time, final technical and administrative arrangements are being completed, together with the safety measures required to carry out construction in fully operational healthcare facilities. The works will be implemented in stages, allowing the hospitals to continue operating throughout the renovation period while minimising disruption for patients and staff.



At the Clinical Psychiatric Hospital, building no. 3 and the children's ward will be renovated, while at the "Diomid Gherman" Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, the works will cover building no. 2. The upgrades will include thermal insulation of the buildings and the replacement of windows and doors, modernisation of heating and ventilation systems, electrical installations and lighting, as well as the installation of photovoltaic panels. Interior spaces and sanitary facilities will also be renovated, water supply and sewerage systems upgraded, and access and evacuation

routes improved, including ramps for people with reduced mobility. The works will also include seismic strengthening of the buildings, along with additional fire safety and lightning protection measures.

Once completed, the upgrades will make the buildings more energy efficient, reducing both energy consumption and maintenance costs. Patients and medical staff will benefit from renovated spaces and more comfortable conditions, while the increased use of renewable energy will help reduce the hospitals' environmental impact.



With a total value of €72.4 million, the Moldova Energy Efficiency Project will deliver energy efficiency upgrades across ten public hospitals in the country, which together serve more than one million patients each year and employ around 10,000 people. The investments are expected to generate annual savings of approximately €2.8 million and reduce $CO_2$ emissions by around 6,600 tonnes per year.

The project is implemented by MEPIU under the Ministry of Energy and financed by the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Government of the Republic of Moldova.




# New air quality monitoring stations to be installed in Moldova by 2027

Moldova is expanding and modernising its national air quality monitoring network with ten new automatic stations to be installed by 2027. The extended network will complete the existing infrastructure and will allow environmental authorities to obtain more accurate data on pollution levels in different parts of the country.

The new stations will be sited in the municipality of Bălți and in Edineț, Cahul, Varnița and Ghidighici, complementing the already operational stations in Chișinău, Mateuți and Leova.




EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

All ten stations will monitor the concentrations of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter. At the same time, depending on the type and classification of each station, other relevant air pollutants will also be monitored.

In this context, the Updated Strategy for Implementation of EU Compliant Air Quality Monitoring and Management until 2030 was presented. The document, as well as the technical specifications for equipment needed at the monitoring stations and laboratories, were prepared by experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring Authority, the Environment Agency and UNDP, within the Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment", funded by the European Union.

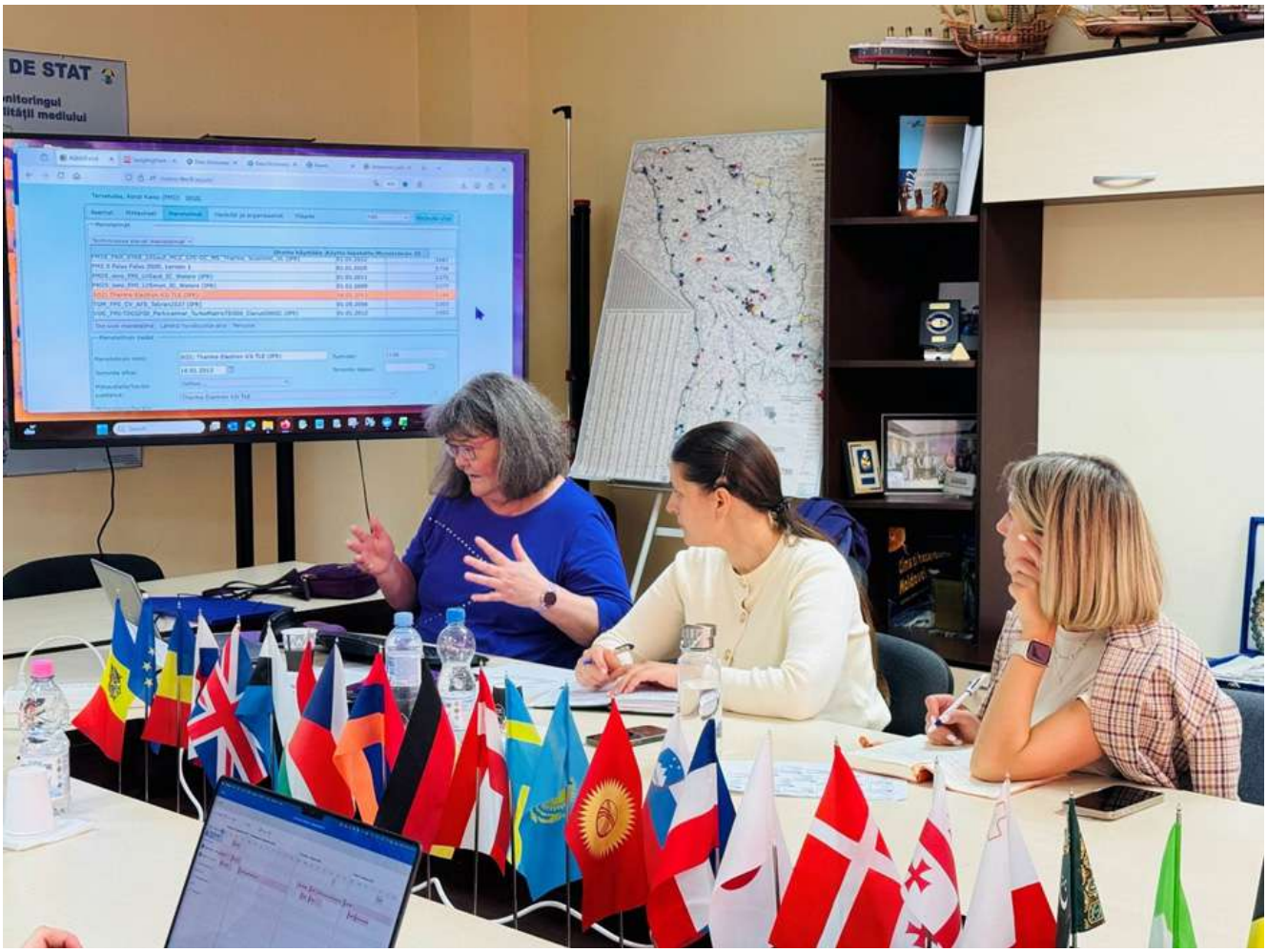
The strategy is aligned with the European air quality requirements and reflects the progress registered in Moldova during 2025–2026. This comprehensive study will form the basis for the development of the national air quality monitoring and management system in the coming years.

The expansion of the monitoring network will allow authorities to more accurately assess the pollution levels, identify emission sources and adopt data-based measures to improve air quality. The system modernisation will contribute both to the protection of public health and environment, and to the approximation of the Republic of Moldova to European Union air quality standards.

The Twinning project “Air Quality and Environment” is funded by the European Union, and it is implemented in Moldova by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Agency. The project contributes to building institutional capacities, modernising air quality monitoring infrastructure, and developing specialised laboratories.

# Strengthening capacities for more effective environmental management

In September, the EU-funded Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment" supported Moldovan environmental institutions in strengthening their capacities through a series of training sessions and workshops delivered with the support of experts from Lithuania, Sweden and Finland. The activities focused on three key areas: waste management, chemicals management and air quality management.




In the framework of the Waste management and circular economy component, the representatives of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Environment Agency and Ministry of Environment strengthened their abilities in assessing environmental damage and conducting inspections. The Lithuanian experts presented tools and practical examples on how to collect evidence, calculate the damage, and evaluate the environment reconstruction plans. The exchange of experience regarding end-of-waste status and waste traceability resulted in identifying solutions aimed at improving national practices. This activity supports the development of more efficient and clearer control procedures, while contributing to increased protection of the environment and communities.

As part of the Sound management of chemicals component, experts from the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) supported the Ministry of Environment and the Environment Agency during the initial development phase of the national Help Desk. The workshop helped clarify the role and functions of the Help Desk and identify the actions needed to develop a functional Help Desk that will facilitate access to information and consultation for economic operators and other stakeholders, supporting them to ensure compliance with chemical management requirements.

Within the Air quality management, control and enforcement and Improved integrated environmental data system components, experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute worked with specialists responsible for air quality monitoring and IT in order to strengthen their capacities related to the preparation, management, and reporting of air quality data to the European Environment Agency (EEA). Developing a working version of the database and familiarising staff with reporting tools represent concrete steps towards initiating national data reporting to the EEA, starting with the information collected from the existing air quality monitoring stations.

Through these activities, the project contributes to the development of better-prepared institutions, more efficient processes, and environmental services that are more accessible and transparent. Adopting and adapting European experience and best practices supports the development of the tools and mechanisms needed for the effective implementation of the national legal framework and for the gradual alignment of institutional practices with EU requirements. In the long term, these strengthened capacities contribute to more efficient environmental management, better environmental protection, and direct benefits for the citizens and communities of the Republic of Moldova.

The Twinning project "Air Quality and Environment" is funded by the European Union, and it is implemented in Moldova by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, in partnership with the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Chemicals Agency. The project contributes to building institutional capacities, modernising air quality monitoring infrastructure, and developing specialised laboratories.

# From factory floor to ministry: Moldova maps industrial waste for a circular economy

On 8–9 September 2026, experts supported by the EU-funded EU4Green Recovery East programme visited companies in Chișinău and Bălți, in the Republic of Moldova. Their aim was to find out what happens to industrial waste once it leaves the production line, and how more of it could be kept in use. On 10 September 2026, the findings of these visits fed into a meeting in Chișinău of Moldova's Inter-ministerial Working Group.




### Why map industrial waste?

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) led the visits with international and national experts, as part of its work to map industrial waste in Moldova. The team wanted to complete official data with first-hand observations. This helps show where materials are lost and where they could be reused, recycled or recovered instead of becoming waste. This is the idea behind the circular economy: an economic model that keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible.

### From electronics to textiles

In Chișinău, the team started at the Free Economic Zone, where electronics, glass-fibre and plastics companies work side by side. Experts looked at waste such as metal and electronic scrap, mineral residues and plastic offcuts. They then visited the textile manufacturer Steaua Red. Textiles are one of Moldova's four priority sectors for the circular economy, but also one of the least documented.

The next day, in Bălți, representatives of the Ministry of Environment and the Chamber of Commerce joined the team. They visited Floarea Soarelui SRL, Raut Industrial Park, FinPlast SRL and CB-TEX SRL, covering food production, electronics, plastic recycling and textiles.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

**From field evidence to policy**

The team presented its first findings at a meeting with the Ministry of Environment and the Environment Agency. Discussions covered gaps in waste data, investment needs and legal barriers to reusing materials. Experts also explored industrial symbiosis, where one company's waste becomes another company's raw material. The results will help shape Moldova's future policies and investment priorities for its transition to a circular economy.

On 10 September 2026, the findings of these visits fed into a meeting in Chișinău of Moldova's Inter-ministerial Working Group for promoting the Green and Circular Economy, Environment, Social and Governance.

More than 50 participants attended. They included Oleg Bivol, State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization; Gabriela Capcelea, Head of the Circular Economy Policies and Economic Instruments Section at the Ministry of Environment; and Bruno Declercq from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova. The group also reviewed the programme's wider circular economy work in Moldova. This includes four priority sectors (agri-food and beverage, textiles and apparel, plastics, and construction materials) and a technology foresight study, which looks at the trends and barriers shaping the country's circular transition.

# The journey of water does not end at the tap

**What three wastewater treatment plants tell us about water, investment and quality of life in Moldova's communities**

When we talk about water, we most often talk about what reaches us: where our drinking water comes from, the networks that deliver it, and the quality of water from our taps or wells. More recently, we have also been talking about drought and the need to use an increasingly vulnerable resource with greater care. But the journey of water does not end at the tap.



Once we use it, a much less visible and more technical part of its journey begins: the collection, transport and treatment of wastewater before it is returned to nature.

For Eugen Castraveț, an expert who recently assessed three wastewater treatment plants in the Republic of Moldova, this is one of the less discussed indicators of a community's quality of life: "A well-performing wastewater treatment plant is an indicator of a community's quality of life and of its responsibility for people's health. Because development is reflected not only in the water that reaches our taps, but also in the water we return to nature."

This perspective is grounded in more than a decade of experience in water and wastewater infrastructure. A graduate of the Technical University of Moldova, with a background in mechanical engineering and water supply and sewerage systems, Eugen Castraveț has managed projects involving the rehabilitation of water and sewerage networks and wastewater treatment plants. He was contracted by UNIDO under the EU4Green Recovery East Programme to assess selected wastewater treatment plants and propose measures for process optimisation and energy efficiency improvement.

Behind this infrastructure, which often remains out of sight, are complex and costly processes requiring technology, energy, monitoring, qualified staff and continuous investment.

**Wastewater can become a resource again**

A wastewater treatment plant does not produce treated water alone. The process consumes energy and generates sludge, and how these are managed affects the efficiency of the entire system. Treated wastewater can, in turn, be reused, including in agriculture, provided that the necessary quality requirements are met. In a country increasingly affected by drought, this perspective becomes even more important.

**Before investing, we need to know what is happening in the system**

One recurring theme in the technical assessments is the importance of data. Flow meters, sensors, sampling and process control allow operators to monitor wastewater quality at the plant inlet, the performance of the treatment process, and water quality at the outlet. Without this information, even costly investments can be difficult to manage effectively.

**The journey of water must be completed**

For Eugen Castraveț, however, the issue goes beyond infrastructure. In times of drought, we are learning to pay closer attention to where our water comes from, how much we have and how much we use. This is essential. But the cycle is not complete if we stop there.

*"It is very important that we talk about water sources and how we manage this resource, especially now, in times of drought. But we also need to talk about how we treat wastewater and return it to the natural cycle. The journey of wastewater must be completed properly, all the way to the end."*

For Moldova's small rivers, the stakes are even higher. The water we return to nature becomes part of the resource on which ecosystems, communities and economic activities depend. Only then can the journey of water begin again.

**Three cities, three different realities**

In May 2026, Eugen Castraveț visited the Căușeni, Fălești and Ungheni wastewater treatment plants to look beyond the data available in documents: how the infrastructure actually operates, where energy and resources are being lost, and what solutions could realistically work for each locality. The three visits revealed very different situations.

In Căușeni, where the plant underwent extensive rehabilitation between 2020 and 2025, the next step is to make better use of the existing infrastructure through improved monitoring and process control, as well as greater energy efficiency.

In Fălești, the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant is already among the city's development priorities. This creates an opportunity to integrate energy efficiency, sludge management and process optimisation solutions from the design stage.

In Ungheni, the field visit showed that the current situation differs significantly from that reflected in some of the previously available data. The condition of the existing infrastructure and changes in wastewater volumes require a more in-depth assessment before deciding where and how investment would be most effective.

The pre-feasibility assessments were carried out under the EU4Green Recovery East Programme, funded by the European Union, as part of the support provided for developing more efficient and resilient water infrastructure that is better aligned with European requirements.

The three cases point to the same conclusion: there is no one-size-fits-all approach to modernising wastewater treatment infrastructure. Sometimes an existing investment needs to be optimised; elsewhere, new infrastructure is required; and in other cases, the first step is an accurate diagnosis.

# Moldovan SMEs prepared to access green finance

Over 60 entrepreneurs and representatives of SMEs from Chișinău and Bălți took part in the capacity-building programme to transform their businesses into sustainable projects ready for green funding.




Working on real-life scenarios from their own businesses, participants learnt to analyse costs, identify sustainable investments and choose between grants, loans and blended finance. Bank assessment simulations helped them understand what financiers are looking for and how to build a compelling project proposal.

*"Each module gave us clarity on the next steps we need to take. We are a company focused on green construction, and many of the solutions discussed – including reuse, recycling and resource conservation – will be applied in our work,"*

***said Silviu Răcilă, founder of "Hemp Build Solutions" SRL.***

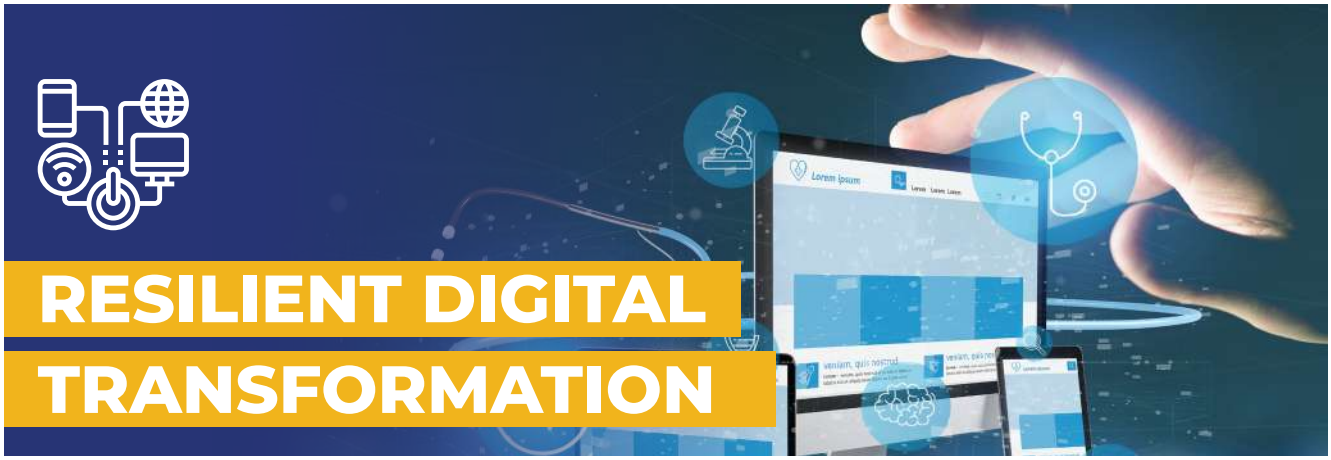
The training sessions contribute to the development of efficient, competitive SMEs that are prepared for the green transition and help bring the Republic of Moldova closer to the European market.

**Among the first results shared by the entrepreneurs are:**

- the development of a new premium product made from mirror scraps, which transforms materials left over from the production process into a value-added resource;
- the creation of a web application designed to provide users with easier access to useful services and solutions;
- securing a business development grant, which will enable the plans drawn up to be turned into a concrete investment.

The training sessions were carried out as part of the project 'Support for the SME sector in the Republic of Moldova – Technical Assistance for Access to Loans', funded by the European Union, managed by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) and implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in partnership with ODA.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together




# Moldova Innovation Fund launches with over €1 million for technology projects

Moldova Innovation Fund has been officially launched, providing more than €1 million in grant funding for technology startups and innovative projects developed in the Republic of Moldova.




Operated by Moldova Innovation Technology Park (MITP), with funding from the European Union through EU4Innovation East, the Fund will support projects at early stages of development, with grants of up to €20,000 for pre-seed projects and €40,000 for early-stage projects.

The funding can be used for activities including idea validation, prototype development, technology testing, product improvement and market validation.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

The Fund covers a broad range of technologies, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, govtech, agritech, biotechnology, big data, cloud and robotics, as well as innovative hardware and software solutions.

The Fund will operate through four funding calls over the next 24 months, giving projects at different stages multiple opportunities to apply. The first call is now open.

Applications are submitted through the Moldova Innovation Fund platform, where applicants can also find eligibility criteria, funding conditions, required documents and information about the selection process.

The Fund is financed for an initial period of 24 months and is designed to provide a more predictable pathway for technology projects to move from idea and prototype development towards market readiness and investment.

Apply and find out more: Moldova Innovation Fund

# Nine young people become Digital Ambassadors and will turn ideas into actions for their communities

Nine young people from different regions of the Republic of Moldova have been named Digital Ambassadors within the "Inspire Change Now" campaign, implemented by People in Need Moldova through the INSPIRĂ Moldova project, funded by the European Union. The award ceremony marked the completion of an initiative that encouraged young people to use the online environment to promote civic engagement and topics relevant to their communities.

Following the evaluation process, nine participants were selected for the originality, relevance, and impact of their messages, becoming Digital Ambassadors.

*"Young people play an essential role in building a democratic and prosperous future for the Republic of Moldova. Change begins with people who have the courage to say 'it is possible'. And often, these are young people. The European Union stands with you so that your ideas can come to life, so that you can get involved in your communities and demonstrate that every voice matters. Do not wait for the future – help build it, starting today,"*

***said Irina Beșliu, Civil Society Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.***




Beyond recognising the participants' achievements, the award ceremony also opened a new stage of the programme. Digital Ambassadors were invited to present their own community initiatives inspired by the topics promoted during the campaign. People in Need Moldova will assess the possibility of supporting the implementation of the most relevant and feasible proposals by providing the necessary goods, worth up to 5,000 MDL for each selected initiative, thus giving young people the opportunity to turn ideas into actions with real impact.

For participants, the Digital Ambassadors Programme represented more than a content creation campaign. It was an opportunity to make their voices heard, inspire other young people, and demonstrate that change begins with everyone's involvement.

EU-Moldova
Stronger Together

*"The experience within the campaign was an opportunity for me to make my voice heard in the community, contribute to combating disinformation, and inspire other young people to become active and engaged. I understood that each of us can contribute to change, and sometimes a single message can have a greater impact than we imagine,"*

***explained Alexandra Gheorghiță, Digital Ambassador.***

Through this programme, People in Need Moldova continues to support young people who choose to use the digital environment responsibly and actively contribute to the development of their communities.

The campaign reflects the objectives of the INSPIRED Moldova project, demonstrating that civic participation and democratic dialogue can also be strengthened through online platforms when they are used to inform, inspire, and generate positive change.

The INSPIRED Moldova project 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).



# Deeptech GigaHack 2026 brought 400 participants together to build solutions to real-world challenges

The fourth edition of Deeptech GigaHack, Moldova's flagship deeptech hackathon, took place from 25 to 27 September 2026 at Tekwill in Chișinău, bringing together more than 400 participants, mentors, jury members, organisers and partners, including international specialists from Romania, Georgia, Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event also included around 209 hours of mentoring.




Over 48 hours, 12 multidisciplinary teams worked on seven challenges based on real-world problems in artificial intelligence and machine learning, HealthTech, cybersecurity, AgriFood, Smart City and GeoTech, as well as an Open Challenge where participants could develop their own ideas. Teams competed for a total prize pool of 300,000 MDL, working with mentors and industry experts to turn concrete challenges into prototypes and demonstrate how their solutions could work in practice.

The projects developed during the hackathon addressed challenges across business, agriculture, public administration, healthcare, cybersecurity and the circular economy. Among the seven awarded projects were LeadRadar, an AI-powered tool designed to identify potential business leads from publicly available information and generate personalised outreach messages; Bloomsense, which uses drone imagery and AI to identify areas requiring attention in vineyards and could reduce field inspection time by an estimated 72%; and FOLDBACK, a recyclable polypropylene food container designed to fold into a compact form after use and enter existing plastic collection systems.

Other winning solutions included FIR (Find, Inform, Resolve) – Fiecare Întrebare Rezolvată, a digital assistant designed to simplify citizens' interaction with municipal administration by providing answers based exclusively on official sources; Notavra, developed by a team from Bosnia and Herzegovina to automatically transcribe medical conversations and identify actions and decisions while supporting local processing of sensitive data; and VOX, which explores the use of affordable acoustic sensors to detect and locate drones and provide early warnings.

The cybersecurity challenge took a different format, with participants competing in a Red Team vs. Blue Team exercise designed to simulate attacks on critical infrastructure. Red Teams worked to identify and exploit vulnerabilities in a Cyber Range environment, while Blue Teams focused on detecting and responding to the simulated attacks. The challenge was designed to test participants' ability to work in scenarios similar to those faced by cybersecurity professionals in real-world environments.

The 2026 edition also expanded GigaHack's international reach, welcoming specialists and participants from several countries and creating opportunities for teams to exchange expertise and perspectives. The event brought together developers, researchers, designers, entrepreneurs and other specialists around concrete problems proposed by companies and institutions.

Beyond the competition itself, the organisers announced a follow-up programme for selected teams. Fifteen teams will receive further mentoring and support to develop and test their solutions and connect with potential partners, creating a pathway for promising prototypes to continue beyond the hackathon and move towards products with real-world applications.

Deeptech GigaHack 2026 was organised by Technovator, with the support of EU4Innovation East, a regional project funded by the European Union, co-financed by the Government of France and implemented by Expertise France, the Ukraine-Moldova American Enterprise Fund (UMAEF) and the Innovate Moldova Programme, funded by Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the Central European Initiative (CEI) through the CEI Know-how Exchange Programme 2025, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic.

Learn more: Deeptech GigaHack



This newsletter is produced within the framework of the project "EU Visibility and communication in the Republic of Moldova 2025-2026". The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the GOPA PACE S.A.

**Contact data:**

The European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova:
Delegation-Moldova@eeas.europa.eu

**Editorial team:**

Svetlana Japalau, Team Leader,
svetlana.japalau@eu4moldova.eu

Natalia Ionel, Key Expert,
natalia.ionel@eu4moldova.eu

The content of this publication is the exclusive responsibility of the GOPA PACE S.A. and the editorial team, and it does not in any way reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

EU-MOLDOVA: STRONGER TOGETHER