THE **EU** AND **MOLDOVA**

November 2026



Moldova has been an **EU candidate country** since 2022.

JULY 2016
Association Agreement and DCFTA enter into force

MARCH 2022
Moldova applies for EU membership

JUNE 2022
The Commission recommends candidate status

JUNE 2022
The European Council grants candidate status

NOVEMBER 2023
The Commission recommends opening accession negotiations

JUNE 2024
First IGC formally opens accession negotiations, screening process starts

SEPTEMBER 2025
Successful completion of the screening process

JUNE 2026
Second IGC formally opens negotiations on the Cluster 1 - Fundamentals

JULY 2026
Third IGC formally opens negotiations on the cluster 6 – External Relations

OCTOBER 2026
Fourth IGC formally opens negotiations on the clusters 2 – Internal Market and 3 – Competitiveness & Inclusive Growth

NOVEMBER 2026
Presentation of the indicative roadmap

Moldova has formally opened **four out of six** EU accession negotiation clusters and **24 out of 33** negotiating chapters. In November 2026, the Commission published an accession roadmap for the country, with indicative priorities.



EU GROWTH PLAN FOR MOLDOVA

In October 2024, the Commission proposed a Growth Plan for the Republic of Moldova, worth up to **€1.9 billion** for the period 2025-2027. Based on a more-for-more approach, the implementation of reforms determines the amount of funding that Moldova receives. It is **the largest ever stand-alone EU financial support package for the country**. It is expected to mobilise, an additional **€2.5 billion** of new investments from international financial institutions and the private sector.

The plan will boost Moldova's economy, accelerate reforms and benefit Moldovans directly by enabling **better roads, energy security infrastructure, modernised schools, new hospitals, support for small businesses, or the protection of Moldova's cultural heritage**.

Supporting the country's socio-economic convergence is essential for Moldova's EU accession.

To this date, Moldova has unlocked **€661 million** under the Growth Plan, while implementing key reforms.

The EU is Moldova's

- largest trade partner
- largest investor
- largest provider of financial assistance

EU SUPPORT TO MOLDOVA

The **EU is the largest provider of financial and technical assistance to Moldova**.

From 2021-2025, the EU allocated over **€1.2 billion in grants to Moldova**.

This support includes:

- **Direct budget support** to fund Moldova's energy security and clean energy transition and to help Moldova's consumers – **1.2 million households** – cope with rising electricity bills. Over **700,000 households** also received subsidies to help pay their heating bills following a surge in energy prices triggered by Russia.
- Support for **reforms in the justice sector** to protect judicial independence and to improve efficiency.
- Support for Moldova's **transition to a low-emission and resource-efficient economy**.







GLOBAL GATEWAY

The **EU's Global Gateway strategy** supports investments and mobilises the private sector and international financing institutions, towards more resilient economies. It delivers concrete benefits for people in areas such as **transport, energy, environment and climate, water and sanitation and digital development**.

In addition to the support in grants, in 2021-2025, the EU has mobilised **€1.7 billion** for investment projects in Moldova.

Ongoing investments include:

Providing energy efficiency improvements to healthcare and education institutions

across the country, including improvements of heating systems and installation of photovoltaic systems.

Rehabilitating the Valcinet-Ungheni-Chisinau-Cainari rail corridor

as part of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative.

Development of European Standard Gauge railway line between Ungheni and Chisinau

boosting trade and economic development and contributing to Moldova's physical integration into the EU rail network.

Improving insulation of buildings

installing more **energy efficient** lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation **systems**, integrating **renewable energy sources** and introducing efficient energy management practices.

Road transport infrastructure

building connections within Moldova and bringing the country closer to the EU.

In 2025, over 9,000 Small and Medium Enterprises benefited from EU support

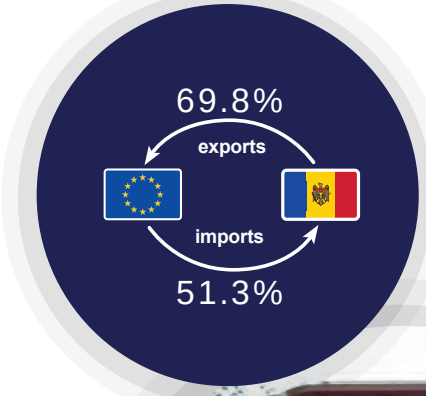
through the EU4Business project. Support is provided through enhanced access to finance, business development services and strengthened business enabling environment.

TRADE

The EU is Moldova's main trading partner. In 2025, the EU accounted for 55.9% of Moldova's total trade in goods (69.8% of total exports and 51.3% of total imports). Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €2 billion by 2024.

The **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area** is an integral part of the Association Agreement, in full effect since 2016.

Moldova is part of the **Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)** since October 2025**,** which, via participating banks, lowers transaction costs for businesses and citizens. It also deepens Moldova's integration into the European financial system and stimulates cross-border trade and investments.





FOREIGN, SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY COOPERATION

- Moldova maintains a high alignment rate with the EU's **Common Foreign and Security Policy**.
- Moldova continues to participate in EU crisis management missions and operations under the EU's **Common Security and Defence Policy**.
- In May 2024, Moldova became the first country to sign a **Security and Defence Partnership** with the EU, that elevated cooperation in this area to a new strategic level.
- The **EU Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM)**, launched in May 2023, provides **critical support to Moldovan institutions** in the field of security to build resilience against cyber and hybrid threats.
- Through the European Peace Facility, the EU is supporting the **strengthening of Moldova's armed forces** with close to €317 million for 2021-2026.
- Since 2023, an EU **sanctions regime against individuals and entities involved in actions destabilising the country** has been in place.



EU SOLIDARITY WITH MOLDOVA

- In response to the 2025 energy crisis and related price increases, the EU and Moldova agreed on a two-year **Comprehensive Strategy for Energy Independence and Resilience** aimed at eleminating Moldova's dependence on Russian energy and fully integrating Moldova into the EU energy market.
- This support came in addition to the extensive budget support provided for the energy sector in Moldova between 2021 and 2025, which helped compensate households for rising gas and electricity bills.
- In light of the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on Moldova, the EU has mobilised over **€93.5 million of humanitarian assistance** to support vulnerable Ukrainian refugees and families in Moldova.
- Moldova has participated in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism since 2023, strengthening its cooperation with the EU on disaster preparedness and emergency response.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS

- Since 2014, Moldovans have benefited from **visa-free travel to the EU**.
- The EU has funded over **5,000 exchanges** between EU and Moldovan citizens in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under **ERASMUS+** between 2021 and 2025.
- Since January 2026, Moldova has been part of **Roam Like at Home**.



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