



Donor Mapping 2020

Analysis of donor programs in Moldova and their correlation with the policy priorities

Version: 27 April 2020

This study is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID.) The contents of this study/report/publication Website are the sole responsibility of AO Centrul Analitic Independent „Expert-Grup” and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	3
INTRODUCTION	4
DONOR PROGRAMS IN MOLDOVA IN COMPARISON WITH POLICY PRIORITIES.....	4
<i>Economic Development and Infrastructure</i>	4
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	5
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7
SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	9
SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.....	15
SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.....	19
<i>Governance and Human Rights</i>	23
SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	24
SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.....	27
SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.....	40
<i>Social Areas</i>	42
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	42
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.....	44
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	45
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	48
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.....	53
<i>Environment</i>	54
USAID AND OTHER DONOR PROGRAMS: POTENTIAL OVERLAPPING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNCHRONIZATION	58
ANNEX I. LIST OF INTERVIEWS.....	66

ABBREVIATIONS

BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CPA	Central Public Authority
CSO	Civic Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LED	Liechtenstein Development Service
LPA	Local Public Authority
MADRE	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
MEI	Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure
MHSPL	Ministry of Health, Social Protection and Labour
MP	Member of Parliament
MTBF	Medium-Term Budgetary Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SoEs	State Owned Enterprises
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WB	World Bank

INTRODUCTION

The USAID/Moldova's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) 2013-2020 is coming to an end and USAID is taking actions into elaboration of the next 5-year CDCS (2021-2026). The CDCSs, according to their general purpose, provide a roadmap for how USAID will design and implement projects and activities, as well as define a Mission's chosen approach in a country, articulates the self-reliance trajectory and details the expected results. Thus, the purpose of this report is to provide USAID with evidence based, holistic and informed analyses, based on relevant data and information on the ground about the Government's priorities and donors' activities so as to properly anchor USAID programs and ensure their maximum efficiency and impact.

The report provides a holistic overview of the activities/actions carried out by the International Donor Community in Moldova. It analyzes the donor priorities and programs in terms of financed projects/initiatives, funding amounts, areas of interventions both geographical and sectorial and their main goals and targets. Also, the report incorporates an assessment of successes, lessons learned and changes in donor programming and priorities (including the reasons for introducing the changes).

The analysis includes a correlation between the donor programs on the one hand and country's policy priorities on the other hand. In this regard, was conducted a review of the most important development strategies of the Government and was assessed the Government's capacities to coordinate the donor assistance. These findings were compared to the donors' priorities, as well as the analysis of coordination efforts invested by the donor community in Moldova. It allowed to identify synergies between donors' support and policy priorities, but also gaps that could be filled in by future donor interventions.

The mapping and analysis of the correlation between policy priorities and donor projects was anchored into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Taking into account that Moldova adhered in 2015 to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the fact that the new National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030", planned to be approved in 2020, is fully anchored into the 17 SDGs of the Agenda 2030, the mapping was also conducted under the same policy framework. Thus, the analysis of donor programs, policy priorities and the correlation/gaps between them is structured according to the 17 areas covered by the Agenda 2030, which provides a comprehensive and consistent framework for such analyses.

DONOR PROGRAMS IN MOLDOVA IN COMPARISON WITH POLICY PRIORITIES

This section provides the analysis of the donor programs and policy priorities according to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, grouped by 4 key areas: (i) economic development and infrastructure; (ii) social; (iii) governance and human rights; and (iv) environment. The analysis identifies the correlation, synergies, but also gaps that could be useful for planning future donor interventions. The analysis also covers the differences in donors' engagement with different stakeholders, grouped in four categories: (i) central public authorities (CPAs); (ii) local public authorities (LPAs); (iii) CSOs/media; and (iv) firms.

Economic Development and Infrastructure

This section analyzes the following SDGs:

- SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030”, under its priority no. 2 (Increasing the access of the population to physical infrastructure, public utilities and living conditions), mentions explicitly the nationalized SDG target 6.2 (By 2023, achieve universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation for 65 percent of population and communities and by 2030, for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations). The same strategic policy document, under its priority no. 10 (Priority 10. Ensuring the fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment), mentions the nationalized SDG target 6.3 (By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, reducing the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse).

This priority is clearly specified in the sectorial policy planning document “National Strategy for Water and Sanitation for 2014-2028”, under its second objective (Extending the centralized systems for water and sanitation and increasing the level of access of the population to these services). Similarly, the National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 lists as one of its priorities “Ensuring the population with qualitative drinking water in sufficient quantities and the localities with sewage systems”.

So, the access of the population, especially at the local level, to good quality water and sanitation, with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups, is clearly a strategic priority for the Moldovan government.

Donor programs

There are important contributions, mainly by hard investments, made by the biggest development partners under this policy priority.

Thus, one of the most active in this area is the **GIZ**, which implements activities aimed at modernizing water supply and sanitation at the local level within its project *Modernization of local public services*, implemented during 2009-2021, with the total budgetary commitment of 86.5 million EUR¹. On some occasions, GIZ cooperates with other donors/implementing agencies for implementing projects in this area (e.g. cooperation with the Romanian Embassy for the project on ensuring water supply in the Rosu locality).

The World Bank is also considering to increase its support for the water and sanitation sector in the near future. Under its Country Partnership Framework for 2018-2021 it is stated that IFC will consider continued support for the rehabilitation of Chisinau’s water supply and sewerage infrastructure, and will explore further opportunities to help upgrade essential infrastructure at the subnational level in Moldova. Still, so far, there are no active or pipeline projects in this area. However, at the moment, there are no active projects in this field².

¹ https://www.giz.de/projektseiten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB#?region=4&countries=MD

² https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-list?lang=en&searchTerm=&countrycode_exact=MD

The EU Delegation is placing large investments in water supply and sanitation projects at the local level. It is one of the priorities under its integrated approach to donor support at the local level. Some relevant examples include:

- *Clean Water for Cahul* project, aimed at improving the living conditions of the population in Cahul through the reduction of health risks as well as to protect the environment and adopt a smarter use of natural resources (the project is implemented during 2014-2019, with the total budget of 10.8 million EUR³).
- *Construction of Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructure, as well as Energy Efficiency in public buildings* aimed at increasing the access of the Moldovan citizens to improved public services in the field of Water Supply and Sanitation and Energy Efficiency in public buildings (constructing and putting into service 10 Water Supply and Sanitation systems, as well as implementing 8 Energy Efficiency projects in schools throughout the country). The project is implemented by GIZ, during 2018-2021, with the total budget of 39.8 million EUR⁴.

Another major relevant player, but which restructured its activities in this field, is the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**. Until 2017, water and sanitation was a major priority for the SDC, being focused on the development of small rural water supply systems that cover entire villages, including the most disadvantaged areas. This intervention was closed after 12 years of operation, which had quite substantial results. Currently, the models and approaches used by SDC can be replicated by other donors (e.g. toolkits and guidelines for LPAs on water supply and sanitation, concepts on sanitation for villages and schools, platform of practitioners on water and sanitation across the country etc.). The SDC is currently focusing on the governance dimension related to water and sanitation, turning from hard, to soft interventions. Hence, the most relevant project that can be mentioned here is:

- *Strengthening the Institutional Framework in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Moldova* with the objective to improve the steering and management of the sector as well as the performance of key sector institutions, through working directly with the national institutions on sector capacity development, integrated water resource management, and a comprehensive water information system. The project is implemented during March 2014 – August 2020, with the total budget of 4.2 million CHF⁵.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

Overall, the donor programs cover extensively the policy priorities under this sector. Some minor gaps could be still identified:

- The emphasis is clearly put on the access to water, while more donor support on extending modern and sustainable sewage systems is needed.
- More attention should be addressed to the participation of the private sector in the process of ensuring water and sanitation for all (grants/preferential loans to private companies, PPP projects, technical assistance etc.), because most of the initiatives so far were focused on households and public institutions.

³ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/clean-water-cahul>

⁴ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/construction-water-supply-and-sanitation-infrastructure-well-energy-efficiency-public>

⁵ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page2.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2014/7F08870/phaseI?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030”, under its priority “Increasing the access of the population to physical infrastructure, public utilities and living conditions”, mentions the following specific objectives: facilitating the creation of regional eco-energy centers in order to increase the degree of energy autonomy at local level by using renewable energy resources, consolidation of centralized thermal energy supply systems in cities in order to increase the global efficiency of generating and supplying heat and domestic hot water and reducing the risk of pollution of cities with combustion products of the individual heating installations, developing a competitive energy market, promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, and reducing the energy poverty.

The Energy Strategy for 2030 is the most important sectorial policy planning document and focuses on the diversification and liberalization of the natural gas, electricity and thermal energy market, as well as on promoting energy efficiency, renewables and ensuring sustainability of the energy sector and combating climate change. The Strategy addresses the energy sector in a comprehensive manner outlining 9 specific objectives:

- 1) ensuring the security of the natural gas supply through the diversification of the routes and sources of supply, types of carrier (conventional, unconventional gas, liquefied natural gas) and through storage deposits, concomitantly with the consolidation of the role of the Republic of Moldova in the natural gas transit corridor;
- 2) strengthening the role of the Republic of Moldova as a transit corridor for electricity, by constructing new interconnection lines, connecting to the ENTSO-E system and strengthening the internal electricity transmission network;
- 3) creation of a powerful platform for electricity and thermal power generation through technological modernization, efficient central heating and efficient marketing;
- 4) improving the energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy sources;
- 5) ensuring the legislative, institutional and operational framework for real competition, the effective opening of the market, establishing the energy price in a transparent and equitable way, the integration of the energy market of the Republic of Moldova into the internal market of the EU;
- 6) ensuring the modern and competitive institutional framework for the development of the energy industry;
- 7) ensuring the increased use of renewable energy sources;
- 8) improving the energy efficiency;
- 9) introduction of intelligent electrical networks;

Donor programs

The biggest donors in Moldova have major interventions, both hard and soft projects, in the energy sector.

A major player is the **EBRD**, which states under its first priority from the country program “Improve Governance and strengthen Resilience by leading in the restructuring of the banking sector; and enhancing energy security”. Among the most relevant EBRD projects that contributed to strengthening the energy security could be mentioned:

- *Moldova Emergency Gas Purchase Facility* that ensured the mobilization of funds in record time (~3 months), with the purpose of allowing Moldova to procure one month of natural gas to back up potential supply disruption during winter 2019-2020⁶.

⁶ <https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/51585.html>

- EBRD placed an equity investment in the form of a capital increase in return for a stake in Vestmoldtransgaz SRL ("VMTG") in order to fund the construction of the natural gas pipeline Ungheni-Chisinau in Moldova with a length of ca. 120 km and a planned capacity of 1.5 bcm⁷.
- *Moldova Romania Power Interconnection Phase I*, whose objective is to support Moldova in diversifying its supply of electricity and strengthen the domestic transmission network, particularly in order to allow integration with the ENTSO-E network in the long run (total project budget is 270 million EUR, with EBRD contribution of 80 million EUR)⁸.

The **EU Delegation** in Moldova is also an important partner in the energy sector, being mainly focused on increasing the energy efficiency of the social and public buildings at the local level, where there is great potential for energy savings. There can be mentioned two active projects in this regard:

- *Construction of Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructure, as well as Energy Efficiency in public buildings* (mentioned above), which will implement 8 Energy Efficiency projects in schools throughout the country during 2018-2021⁹.
- *Thermal Rehabilitation of Educational Buildings in Cantemir – CanTREC*, with the objective to improve the energy efficiency and indoor comfort in 4 public buildings in Cantemir by taking comprehensive thermal rehabilitation measures aimed at the reduction of energy consumption and CO₂ according to Cantemir Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The project is implemented by the Cantemir Town Hall in partnership with NGO Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables. Total budget: 842, 800 EUR.

The World Bank implements a couple of large projects in the energy field:

- *Moldova Power System Development Project*, with the objective to increase capacity and improve reliability of the power transmission system in Moldova. This intervention is in line with the Government priority to ensure energy security, because it will enable the effective operation of cross-border interconnection of electricity between Moldova and Romania. The project duration is 2019-2024, with the total budget of 70 million USD¹⁰.
- *District Heating Efficiency Improvement Project* contributes to improved operational efficiency and financial viability of Newco and to improve quality and reliability of heating services delivered to the population of Chisinau. The project is implemented during 2014-2020, with the total budget of 61.1 million USD¹¹.
- *Moldova Economic Governance DPOI project*, which was closed in July 2019, supported private sector development through leveling the playing field in access to business opportunities and resources in the overall economy and in its core sectors (agriculture, banking, and energy).

Swedish Embassy is focusing primarily on nuclear energy, closely linked with environment objectives, and implements a number of small but relevant projects to this policy area:

- *Safety analysis of RADON-site*, implemented during 2018-2019, with the total budget of 172,604 USD¹².
- *Physical protection of waste repository at Chisinau*, implemented during 2019-2020, with the budget of 51,759 USD¹³.
- *Inspection of radioactive sources* implemented during 2018-2020, with the budget of 15,523 USD¹⁴.

⁷ <https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/50410.html>

⁸ <https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/projects/psd/moldova-romania-power-interconnection-phase-i.html>

⁹ The project works towards increasing the access of the Moldovan citizens to improved public services in the field of Water Supply and Sanitation and Energy Efficiency in public buildings. It is implemented by GIZ. Total budget: EUR 39,800,000.

¹⁰ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI60829>

¹¹ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI32443>

¹² <https://opendata.se/activity/SE-0-SE-28-5010048-03-93-23510>

¹³ <https://opendata.se/activity/SE-0-SE-28-5010063-01-93-23510>

¹⁴ <https://opendata.se/activity/SE-0-SE-28-5010048-02-93-23510>

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

While the energy sector got a lot of attention from the largest donors in Moldova, placing significant financial and technical resources in this area, there are still some governmental priorities where more attention is needed by donors:

- Development and promotion of the renewable energy sources through building capacities in the public and private sector, streamlining the legislation and institutional framework, provision of grants and encouraging the attraction of private investments.
- Enhancing the competition framework in the energy sector, including the domestic market of petroleum products.
- Implementation of the 3rd Energy Package in the sector of natural gas and, implicitly, identifying solutions for conducting the unbundling in the natural gas sector, involving operators on both banks of Nistru.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” addressed this policy priority from two angles:

- First, the Strategy focuses on sustainable growth in incomes and tackling the inequalities, where it lists the nationalized SDG target 8.2 (Stimulate the growth of economic productivity at higher rate compared to the real wage growth, through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation). Under this objective, the Government plans to enhance the quality of jobs by increasing the relevance of the educational sector, fighting informal economy and stimulation of youth employment, as means to increase revenues of the population.
- Second, the Strategy focuses on enhancing the working conditions and reducing the informal employment. In this regard, three SDG nationalized targets have been included:
 - By 2030, align the employment rate to the average value in Central and Eastern Europe, and stimulate productive employment, decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and ensure equal pay for work of equal value (SDG 8.5).
 - Eradicate forced labor, child labor and end human trafficking (SDG 8.7).
 - Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers (SDG 8.8).
- Under this policy priority, the government aims to improve the working conditions by three main objectives: (i) incentivizing the employers to invest in the quality of jobs, promotion of corporate social responsibility, raising awareness among employers about the risks of informal and insecure jobs and encouraging the employment of Moldovan returning migrants; (ii) empowering employees through awareness raising activities and informing about their rights, developing the capacities of trade unions, developing proper social services to support vulnerable groups in getting proper jobs and integration of returning migrants; (iii) fostering the institutional and regulatory framework for prevention and penalization of informal and insecure employment.

At the sectorial level, there can be mentioned the National Strategy on Investment Attraction and Export Promotion for 2016-2020, which addresses the *supply side* of the economy. Its core vision is that the main driving forces of a robust and sustainable growth are the investments and exports, both being dependent on the level of implementation of the Association Agreement with EU. Namely, there can be emphasized two relevant policy objectives of this Strategy:

1. Maximizing the economic and development benefits of foreign direct investment by strengthening links with the national economy. Specific priorities:
 - Develop a more attractive system of investment incentives
 - Strengthening the links between foreign direct investment and the economy
2. Increasing the export capacities of domestic producers. Specific priorities:
 - Development of financial support instruments for exporters
 - Development of information support tools for exporters

Another sectorial policy planning document focused on the supply side of the economic growth, but this time more on the small and medium enterprises, is the National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020. Namely, one of its objectives is related to enhancing the access to finance of SMEs, through:

- Developing innovative financing schemes for SMEs
- Increasing the efficiency of remittances' transfers to Moldova
- Attracting long-term credit lines from international financial organizations
- Developing the system of credit guarantees for SMEs
- Facilitating the access of SMEs to public procurements.

The *demand side* of the economy is tackled by the National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021. The main scope of the Strategy is to increase the level of formal employment based on economic competitiveness, adequate skills and qualifications, under conditions of sustainable and inclusive development. Namely, it has two most relevant objectives.

1. Creating formal, non-discriminatory and productive employment opportunities. Specific priorities:
 - Elaborating and applying stimulatory policies for job creation at central and local levels
 - Facilitating the creation of jobs in rural areas and small towns
 - Combating undeclared work and promoting formal employment
 - Promoting the concept of social economy
 - Setting up an observatory of the labor market for carrying out analyzes in the economic fields, employment, demographics, human resources and labor market forecasts
 - Increasing the research and forecasting capabilities on the labor market
 - Ensuring better data collection for the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies and programs
 - Developing the capacities of research, analysis and integration of the gender dimension in the sectoral policies
 - Providing analytical and technical support to ministries, local and regional public authorities on how to elaborate development strategies, local / regional development policies, with a focus on employment.
2. Exploring the potential of migration for sustainable development. Specific priorities:
 - Strengthening the institutional and legislative framework needed to manage the labor migration process
 - Diversifying the opportunities for legal employment of migrant workers
 - Economic empowerment of migrants for channeling the remitted revenues as investments to the real sector of the economy and creating employment / self-employment opportunities.

Development of the tourism industry in the development regions is seen as a policy priority under the Regional Development Strategy 2016-2020 (specific objective related to ensuring sustainable economic development in the regions).

National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 also puts a major emphasis on labor market and migration. Namely:

- its first pillar is dedicated to social protection, family and children, focuses on ensuring social security for migrant workers in line with the bilateral agreements with the main countries of destination;
- its third pillar is dedicated to labor market, focuses on strengthening the national legislative framework related to employment, promotion of measures to increase the employment rate amongst young people, increasing the employment rate and reducing the unemployment rate through active and passive measures.
- its fourth pillar is related to migration issues: stimulating the return of emigrants; strengthening national capacities for efficient management of international migration flows; and consolidation of the diaspora for the active participation of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova established abroad in the economic, social and cultural development of the country of origin and of residence.

The National Strategy on migration and asylum (2011-2020) has the following specific objectives:

- Promoting circular migration model to maximize the positive effects of migration for persons, the host society and the Moldovan community as a whole.
- Counteracting irregular migration for employment purposes by streamlining measures promoted on before emigration, emigration and post emigration stages and making efficient measures to control the activity of agencies that provide mediation for employment abroad
- Counteracting and reducing brain drain, emigration of young people, women, providing protection measures to children without parental care due to their departure to work abroad under national programs for those categories of people.
- Maximizing the positive effects of circular migration by transferring new knowledge and skills to the returning migrants, diversifying the possibilities and facilitating the conditions for investing remittances in own businesses in the real sector of the economy, stimulating the establishment of joint ventures with the participation of migrants and the support of employers from the host countries etc.
- Strengthening the capacities of diplomatic missions and consular offices abroad in order to provide professional services for ensuring social and economic rights for migrant workers, ensuring an effective dialogue with the Moldovan community and diaspora in the host country, providing information and other assistance upon return / repatriation of migrants in the country etc.
- Strengthening links with the diaspora and promoting transfers of "social remittances" - democracy, economy, culture, gender relations, organization and community practices, contributing to the overall development processes in the country.

Another, more recent, policy planning document tackling the migration issue is the National Strategy "Diaspora 2025", which focuses on the following objectives:

- Elaboration and development of the strategic and operational framework of the diaspora sector, migration and development.
- Ensuring the rights of the diaspora and building trust.
- Mobilization, capitalization and recognition of the human potential of the diaspora.
- Direct and indirect involvement of the diaspora in the sustainable economic development of the Republic Moldova.

Donor programs

Taking into account the complex nature of this policy area, there are many donors with relevant interventions.

EBRD, in its country program, sets one of its strategic priorities - the enhancement of competitiveness - by supporting private firms in building capacity, and promoting commercialization of public utilities and infrastructure. Some of its most relevant specific interventions are related to the cleaning up of the banking sector (shareholder clean up, restarting operations with banks, restoring corporate governance)¹⁵ and facilitation of the access of SMEs to financial sources: funding SMEs (app. 50-60 SMEs per year) by providing credit lines to commercial banks, such as EuroCreditBank¹⁶, VictoriaBank and Moldova Agroindbank¹⁷ or acting as equity partner¹⁸.

The **IMF** has provided Moldova with technical assistance in a number of areas, including fiscal management, public expenditure, tax and customs, monetary accounting system, bank supervision, monetary policy/central bank organization, and in various statistical areas¹⁹. For example:

- in 2018 there was established the Central Securities Depository, which is one of the key reforms of Moldovan financial market implemented under the IMF's program with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)²⁰.
- Another example is the financial soundness indicators (FSIs) technical assistance (TA) mission, conducted with the support of the International Monetary Fund's European Department (EUR) and the IMF's Statistics Department (STA) in 2019, to improve Moldova's FSI compilation. The mission was financed by Netherlands Capacity Development Partnership Program²¹.
- Also, in 2018, IMF conducted the Public-Sector Debt Statistics (PSDS) technical assistance mission with the objective of improving Moldovan public sector debt statistics²². Other technical assistance is available upon request from the Government of Moldova.

The **World Bank**, under the objective of strengthening the rule of law and accountability in economic institutions, implements the following relevant programs:

- IFC Investment Climate Advisory & WB Cost of Doing Business
- Programmatic Financial Sector Monitoring
- Governance Reform Scorecard
- Promotion of economic Rule of Law
- State-Owned Enterprise Reform
- Considers potential IFC investments in the financial sector.

Among its current projects, the most relevant ones are:

¹⁵ This was mainly achieved in 2018, through EBRD encouragement of Banca Transilvania to become a majority shareholder in Victoriabank and purchasing 41.09 per cent stake in B.C. Moldova Agroindbank S.A. (MAIB) in an auction held by Moldova's Public Property Agency.

¹⁶ In 2018, EBRD provided a 10 million EUR loan to ProCreditBank Moldova under EU4Business-EBRD credit line, which are matched by EU grant funding, to boost trade with European Union. Period of implementation: 2014-2024.

¹⁷ In 2019, EBRD provided 2 loans worth €5 million each through the EU4Business-EBRD credit line, which are accompanied by EU grant-based funding which is part of the EU4Business initiative. Period of implementation: 2014-2024.

¹⁸ In 2018, The EBRD and the private equity firms AB Invalda INVL and Horizon Capital have today acquired a 41.09 per cent stake in B.C. Moldova Agroindbank S.A. (MAIB) in an auction held by Moldova's Public Property Agency.

¹⁹ <https://www.imf.md/imfmold.html>

²⁰ <https://bnm.md/en/content/central-securities-depository-began-its-operation>

²¹ <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/09/04/Republic-of-Moldova-Technical-Assistance-Report-Financial-Soundness-Indicators-Mission-48647>

²² <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2018/10/03/Republic-of-Moldova-Technical-Assistance-Report-Public-Sector-Debt-Statistics-46248>

- *Tax Administration Modernization Project*, with the objective to improve revenue collection, tax compliance and taxpayer services (approved on June 6, 2016, with the closing date on 30 November, 2023, and total budget of 20 million USD)²³.
- *Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project 2nd Additional Financing*, with the objective to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system, facilitating market access for farmers, and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices (approved on July 7, 2016, closing date is N/A, with the total budget of 10 million USD)²⁴.
- *Moldova Second Competitiveness Enhancement Project* with the objective to increase the export competitiveness of Moldovan enterprises and decrease the regulatory burden faced (approved on July 11, 2014, with the closing date of July 30, 2021 and total budget of 45 million USD)²⁵.

The **EU Delegation** is also implementing two relevant projects:

- *DCFTA SME Direct Finance Facility*. The Facility combines loans with EU grants to support direct SME financing in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It seeks to improve access to finance by providing guarantee schemes and technical assistance to increase the number of viable projects carried out by SMEs (project duration: 2014-2024, total budget of 10 million EUR, implementing partners: EBRD)²⁶.
- *Pare I+I programme* - provision of matching grants for businesses set up by returning migrants (project duration: 2010-2021, total budget depends on the number of beneficiaries, implementing partners: Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (ODIMM))²⁷.

The **SDC**, according to its country strategy, will contribute to an increase in job and income-generation opportunities for job-seekers, self-employed, as well as women and men in precarious employment by facilitating market systems development and the attraction of foreign investments in a few employment-intensive sectors with growth potential. Job creation shall also be fostered by promoting investments of foreign companies in Moldova. Jobs will be created as a direct result of program interventions, through multiplication effects (where investments in one sector create linkages in other sectors) and thanks to the crowding-in of additional market players. SDC and its partners will lead a dialogue with line ministries and the private sector to facilitate access to newly created jobs for excluded persons (e.g. by covering costs of transportation, accommodation, food). Among its recent specific interventions could be mentioned:

- *Revitalizing labour market in Moldova* aimed at training a qualified workforce and improving the investment climate, in order to promote demand-driven training but also help create new jobs in the private sector (period of implementation: 01.12.2017 - 31.12.2021 and total budget: CHF 5,350,000)²⁸.
- *Creating Jobs Opportunities Through Improved Market Systems* is aimed at the creation of attractive job opportunities, especially for young people, by enhancing the competitiveness of local private enterprises. Following a market systems development approach, it aims to remove key constraints that hamper the proper functioning of markets for the benefit of the poor and excluded (period of implementation: 01.09.2019 - 31.12.2030 and total budget: CHF 4,804,420).

Moldova - Making the Most of Migration with the objective to maximize the positive impact of migration on the country's socio-economic development through an improved institutional

²³ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI27734>

²⁴ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI57765>

²⁵ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI44103>

²⁶ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/dcfta-sme-direct-finance-facility>

²⁷ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/pare-ii-programme>

²⁸ <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.filterResults.html/content/dezaprosjcts/SDC/en/2017/7F09304/phase1?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html>

framework and engaged diaspora. (period of implementation: 01.01.2019 - 31.12.2022 and total budget: CHF 7,000,000)²⁹.

Under the Enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy priority, **Sweden** focuses on: improving the competitiveness of Moldovan companies, ensuring greater access to markets through modernization and increasing trade with the EU. Among the most relevant specific interventions could be mentioned:

- *Moldova Investment Climate Reform Project 2019 – 2023 (third phase)* with the objective to increase Moldova's private sector market competitiveness and agriculture exports by improving the business enabling environment and taking full advantage of the Association Agreement/Free Trade Agreement with the EU. The project duration is 2019 – 2020 (budget committed and paid in 2019 – USD 423,016)³⁰.
- *EBRD Women in Business Program*, with the overall objective is to stimulate the transition to a more competitive and inclusive economy in Moldova by strengthening women-led SMEs and promoting women's participation in business and enhance the role of women in economic governance. It aims at assisting women entrepreneurs in Moldova to have a real and fair chance of success by enhancing the competitiveness of their businesses. This is a joint project with EBRD, with the Sida contribution of 2,991,807 USD (commitments) for the period 2018 – 2023³¹. The contribution is going to promote Green Economy and environmentally safe production, and pays a specific attention to environmental impact and “greening” of the industrial production.
- *UNDP Building Capacities for Trade Transnistria* with the objective to improve the livelihood for people in the Transnistria region, in particular of the most vulnerable groups, generating job opportunities through strengthening the capacity and growth opportunities for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. The project is implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the duration of 2019-2023 and budgetary commitment of 2,421,768 USD³².
- *USAID Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP)* – Sida co-funded the project during 2016-2020 with a contribution of 43 million SEK (5 million USD). The Overall Development Objective of the Project is to promote a strong, diverse and export-oriented economy³³.

The **UK Embassy** is focusing on a number of programs aimed at ensuring sustainable economic growth. The most relevant interventions are related to:

- *providing support to the technical assistance elements of the Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP)*. The MCP is working to - Improve productivity and quality of products and services of Moldovan business. Increase sales on domestic market and exports on regional and global markets. Improve the enabling environment, regulatory framework and local institution's capacity for key sectors. The project duration is 2018 – 2021, with the budget of 1,800,000 GBP³⁴. In addition, the Embassy is considering a follow up to the MCP project in the near future.
- *Good Governance Fund - Supporting Economic and Governance Reform in Moldova*. This programme is comprised of a number of projects operational in Moldova, where support will focus on areas including business environment reform, addressing the skills mismatch, public administration reform and promoting inclusive and participatory governance. The activities are implemented through a range of partners including International Financial Institutions,

²⁹ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprospects/SDC/en/2014/7F08718/phase2?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

³⁰ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12688A0101-MDA-32130>

³¹ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512003101-MDA-32130>

³² <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12217A0101-MDA-32130>

³³ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512002001-MDA-32130>

³⁴ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300521>

multilateral organizations, private sector and CSOs. The project duration is 2020 – 2021, with the total budget of 3,560,000 GBP³⁵.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

While there is extensive donor support for this policy area, there are some specific government policy priorities that could benefit from more donor assistance:

- Tackling income inequalities
- Fighting informal employment in particular and informal economy in general
- Empowering SMEs to export and invest in highly productive industries
- Developing the system of credit guarantees for SMEs
- Promoting the concept of social economy
- Ensuring social security for migrant workers
- Promotion of measures to increase the employment rate of young people

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” includes a dedicated priority to this policy area: Increasing the access of the population to physical infrastructure, public utilities and living conditions. Thus, the government plans to improve the infrastructure by: (i) increasing the efficiency of public funds; and (ii) increasing the quantity of private funds for infrastructure. The strategy follows two nationalized SDG targets:

- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient physical and business infrastructure in the regions in order to support economic growth, development and the wellbeing of the population, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all (SDG 9.1).
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport (SDG 11.2).

At the sectorial level, the National Strategy on Investment Attraction and Export Promotion for 2016-2020 includes the objective on increasing the quality of industrial, transport and commercial infrastructure for the development of export-oriented sectors, with the following specific priorities:

- Development of industrial infrastructure (encouraging private investments in public infrastructure through fiscal and other facilities, defining earmarked public resources and external financial assistance for infrastructure modernization, building industrial spaces for production).
- Further development of infrastructure (including non-material) to support investments and exports (further development of free economic zones, industrial parks, digital parks, clusters etc.).

The National Strategy for Industry Development for 2019-2030 has the core vision to create a competitive environment in the industrial sectors, based on investments, increased productivity and technological modernization, which would ensure the convergence of the Republic of Moldova to the average levels of countries in the region. Respectively, a better business, financial, institutional and regulatory climate in the industrial sectors would result in greater growth, productivity, profitability, employment and internationalization of enterprises in the Republic of Moldova. The main objectives of the Strategy:

- Improving the competitiveness and business environment;

³⁵ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-I-300942>

- Increasing the investments and financing in the industrial sectors;
- Increasing the levels of training and employment;
- Increasing the level of technological innovation in the industrial sector.

The innovations component is reflected in the National Strategy "Innovations for Competitiveness" for 2013-2020. Namely, the document has three relevant objectives:

- Orientation of firms to innovations. Specific priorities:
 - Enhancing the legal framework for innovative activities;
 - Facilitating the access of innovators to financial resources;
 - Facilitating the networking and technological integration of domestic and foreign firms;
 - Ensuring governmental support to companies that innovate.
- Applying knowledge to solve global and societal problems. Specific priorities:
 - Increasing the effectiveness of innovation entities in implementing innovations based on research;
 - Facilitating the integration of Moldovan innovators and researchers into the global circuit of innovations and ideas.
- Stimulating demand for innovative products and services. Specific priorities:
 - Promoting broadband Internet as a platform for developing services and online innovations.
 - Public procurements to stimulate innovation activity (public acquisitions on competitive basis of research-development-innovation services, enhancing the quality of the public procurement system with regards to research-development-innovation services).

The priority to increase the competitiveness is reflected in the National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020, with a focus on:

- Enhancement and development of technical abilities of SMEs to innovate
- Facilitation of SMEs grouping in clusters, business incubators etc.
- Promotion of intellectual property for SMEs.
- Facilitation of SMEs access to domestic and foreign markets
- Implementation of management systems based on international and European standards.

A similar priority of raising the competitiveness is stressed in the National strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020, under the objective "Increasing the agrifood sector competitiveness by sector restructuring and modernization, with the following specific priorities:

- Modernization of the agrifood chain in order to comply with EU food safety requirements and quality standards
- Facilitating access to capital, input and output markets for farmers
- Reforming the education system, scientific research and rural extension services in the agrifood sector and creating information system integrated in agriculture.

The Strategy for Domestic Trade Development for 2014-2020 follows two relevant objectives:

- Enhancing the quality of domestic products. Specific priorities:
 - Encourage the domestic producers to implement modern technologies and create new products (mainly, ecological products).
 - Enhance the quality and reduce the costs of domestic products
 - Support the development of competences of domestic producers with regards to planning and promotion of sales
 - Stimulate the implementation Food Safety and Quality Management Systems at a large scale
 - Promote the healthy eating habits

- Elaborate national technical regulations in line with European directives
- Finalize the process of recognition of conformity certificates of the products' quality
- Developing a single information system for placing and supervising the placement of products on the market, with the interconnection of relevant regulatory bodies (Customs Office, National Agency for Food Safety, Consumers Protection Agency, Service for Public Health, Competition Council etc.).
- Diversifying distribution and selling channels of commercial goods and services. Specific priorities:
 - Support the development of an agrifood center at national level, as well as at regional/local level, with the necessary technical and logistical endowment (deposits, refrigerators, transport, marketing etc.)
 - Introduce the Code of good practices in the relation between producers and traders for agrifood products.
 - Encouraging the extension of producers' shops (brand shops), especially for domestic producers.
 - Implementation of international practices and requirements related to e-commerce.
 - Consolidation of the presence of the Competition Council on the markets in order to ensure free and fair competition.

Another important Strategy under this policy area is the Transport and Logistics Strategy 2013-2022. Its main scope is to create a system of efficient transport and logistics that supports the needs of citizens for mobility and which facilitates trade on domestic and international markets, and enhances the role of the Republic Moldova as a link between the EU states and the CIS. It has four relevant objectives:

- Providing adequate road infrastructure and quality road transport services under complete safety. Specific priorities:
 - Reducing the costs for road transportation;
 - Ensuring the proper rehabilitation, modernization, repair and maintenance of main and local roads;
 - Ensuring the access to national and local roads;
 - Reducing the number of road traffic accidents;
 - Ensuring the legal and institutional framework for network planning, operation and maintenance of roads;
 - Integration of the road network of the Republic of Moldova into the European network;
 - Ensuring the safety of transport of goods and passengers
- Providing quality services for rail transport passenger at an acceptable cost for the society and the support of the domestic and international trade operations when transporting goods for medium and long distances. Specific priorities:
 - Implementation of the first, second and third railroad package;
 - Increasing the investments in infrastructure and equipment;
- Providing quality air passenger and freight services at a cost acceptable to society and entrepreneurs by developing the civil aviation sector, creating a competitive market environment and security assurance in line with international standards. Specific priorities:
 - Liberalization of the aviation market and harmonization of the regulatory framework in civil aviation with EU regulations;
 - Strengthening the civil aviation sector;
 - Privatization of the civil aviation sector in the Republic of Moldova;
 - Increasing the investments in infrastructure and equipment;
- Ensuring strategic access to inland naval shipping, by encouraging the development of logistics ports and efficient hinterland connections, as well as high quality private commercial transport. Specific priorities:
 - Enhancing the regulations related to the naval transportation;
 - Regulating the access to ports' operation;

- Maintaining the minimum guaranteed port access depth;
- Reactivation of transport on inland waterways on Prut and Dniester rivers.

The objective of infrastructure modernization is also reflected in the Regional Development Strategy 2016-2020, which puts emphasis on the development of regional and local infrastructure.

The component related to innovations is covered by the Strategy for IT and Digital Innovative Ecosystem Development 2018-2023. The main scope of the Strategy is to develop conditions for enhancing competitiveness, diversification of the IT industry, stimulating startups and orientation towards digital innovation in all sectors of the economy. Its main objectives area:

- ensuring a competitive IT business environment;
- competitive human capital in the field of ICT;
- ICT based innovations;
- IT investment and export support.

The innovations component is also partly reflected in the Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020, whose one of the objectives is to strengthen the research in the field of public health in order to ensure the substantiation of policies based on scientific evidence.

Donor programs

Infrastructure modernization attracts important amounts of resources from Moldova's key development partners.

One of the most important development partner that focusses on infrastructure is the **World Bank**, with about 10 ongoing infrastructure projects. Most relevant ones being:

- *Local Roads Improvement Project* with the purpose to provide safe and sustainable local road accessibility to education, health and market facilities along selected corridors (the project was approved on October 2015, with the closing date of March 2022 and total budget of 80 million USD)³⁶.
- *Modernization of Government Services in the Republic of Moldova* with the purpose to improve access, efficiency, and quality of delivery of selected government administrative services (the project was approved on August 2017, with the closing date of June 2023 and total budgetary commitment of 20 million USD)³⁷.
- *Moldova Second Competitiveness Enhancement Project* with the purpose to increase the export competitiveness of Moldovan enterprises and decrease the regulatory burden faced (the project was approved on July 2014, with the closing date of July 2021 and total budgetary commitment of 45 million USD)³⁸.

Also, the World Bank plans to increase the support to agriculture, mainly by providing support to farmers through matching grants and analytical/consulting support. Still, there are no relevant active or pipeline projects yet.

The **EU Delegation** implements a number of relevant projects related to transport and quality infrastructure, the most important being:

- *Construction of RI Bahmut Bypass* with the initial project duration of 2017-2019 (the project is still ongoing) and total budget of 5,325,090 EUR³⁹.
- *Support to Quality Infrastructure Framework within a DCFTA context in the Republic of Moldova* with the objective to support Moldova in "strengthening the country's Quality Infrastructure

³⁶ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI50357>

³⁷ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI48537>

³⁸ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI44103>

³⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/construction-ri-bahmut-bypass>

framework within the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area context”. The project duration is 2017-2020 and total budget of 3,683,800 EUR⁴⁰.

EBRD is also actively financing infrastructure projects in Moldova. One relevant example is the “*Moldovan Railways Restructuring Project*”, where EBRD provided a loan to the CFM (Railway SOE) for the implementation of the project, that has as scope the improvement of the railway infrastructure and modernization of the rolling stock in order to enable CFM to enhance efficiency and safety of railway services and to improve the overall performance of its railway operations. The project duration is 2014-2020 with the total budget of 119,25 million EUR⁴¹.

The **Government of Sweden through Sida/Swedish International Development Agency** together with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the framework of the project “*ICTEC Excellence Centre*” developed Tekwill – a space where people connect ideas, resources, science and industry to enhance excellence in information technology. The overall goal was to enhance the competitiveness of the ICT sector in the Republic of Moldova by creating a viable ICT entrepreneurship ecosystem. The project duration is 2016-2022, with the total budgetary commitment of Sida of 6,148,542 USD⁴².

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Promotion of innovative policy solutions at the local level
- Stimulating the absorption of innovations at the level of firms and society.
- Strengthening the civil aviation sector
- Consolidating the presence of the Competition Council on the market in order to ensure free and fair competition
- Modernization of quality infrastructure
- Implementation of EU quality standards at the level of firms.
- Promotion of intellectual property for SMEs.

SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030”, under its priority “Increasing the access of the population to physical infrastructure, public utilities and living conditions, includes the nationalized SDG target 11.2 “By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport”. Among the specific policy measures mentioned in this document, the following could be mentioned:

- Development of mechanisms to facilitate the access of the local public authorities to budgetary sources for co-financing the budget support programs from the development partners.
- Anchoring infrastructure investments in spatial planning documents at national and local level.
- Providing information and support to local public authorities in the field of accessing and administering external funds and grants in the field of infrastructure and environment.

⁴⁰ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-quality-infrastructure-framework-within-dcfta-context-republic-moldova>

⁴¹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/moldovan-railways-restructuring-project>

⁴² <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512000201-MDA-22040>

The National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020 stipulates the objective to facilitate the SMEs development in regions, with the following three specific priorities:

- Stimulation of a balanced development of SMEs across the entire territory of the country
- Ensuring the development of support infrastructure for SMEs in the regions.
- Promotion of SMEs' participation in cross-border and regional cooperation projects.

The Strategy for Domestic Trade Development 2014-2020 includes the objective “Development of the infrastructure for domestic trade and its further extension in rural areas”, with the following specific priorities:

- Evaluation of the existing infrastructure for domestic trade at the local level
- Elaboration of urbanistic plans for territorial development
- Ensuring that the units for domestic trade are placed in accordance with the urbanistic plans
- Grant tax facilities for extending the infrastructure for domestic trade that is placed in rural areas and serves social purposes.

The National strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 under its objective “Enhancing the quality of life in rural areas” prioritizes the allocation of necessary resources for physical infrastructure and services infrastructure in rural areas.

The Regional Development Strategy 2016-2020 mentions two relevant policy objectives:

- Ensuring access to public goods and services. Specific priorities:
 - Development of regional and local infrastructure.
 - Development of principles of regionalization of public services related to solid waste management and water supply and sewerage.
- Ensure sustainable economic development in the regions. Specific priorities:
 - Developing the concept of the network of urban centers.
 - Consolidation and development of regional economy.
 - Consolidation and development of the tourism industry in the development regions.

The National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 mentions two key priorities: (i) access to housing, with a focus on the creation of financial, legal and institutional conditions for the insurance of the population with housing and the management of the housing fund; and (ii) regional development, with a focus on strengthening the institutional framework and creating premises for regional development, ensuring uniform conditions of development for all localities in the country.

Donor programs

More and more donors are becoming increasingly oriented to support local development projects.

The **EU Delegation** implements a series of major projects aimed at local and regional development:

- *EU Focal Regions: Cahul and Ungheni, inclusive economic empowerment of focal regions in the Republic of Moldova* is aimed to strengthen the economic, territorial and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova through facilitating inclusive, sustainable and integrated local socio-economic growth and improving the standards of living of the citizens in the so called "micro - region" area of Ungheni and Cahul. Project duration is 2019-2024 with the total budget of 23,5 million EUR. The project is implemented by UNDP (some components are implemented by UNICEF)⁴³.
- *Establishing Regional Business Information and Support Centre for the Gagauzia Region of the Republic of Moldova* with the goal to create a more efficient and supportive local business

⁴³ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/eu-focal-regions-cahul-and-ungheni-inclusive-economic-empowerment-focal-regions-republic>

environment. The project duration is 2018 – 2020, with the total budget of 428,172 EUR, and is implemented by the Executive committee of ATU Gaguzia⁴⁴.

- *Support to SMEs in Rural Areas (PARE I+I and WiB)* with the specific objective to reduce economic and social disparities in rural areas through the introduction of active employment initiatives through the development of rural small and medium sized enterprises. The project duration is 2019-2021, total budget is 4 million EUR and is implemented by the Organization for Small and Medium Size Enterprise Sector Development (ODIMM)⁴⁵.
- *Development of Rural Areas in the Republic of Moldova (DevRAM)* which has two specific objectives: (i) to integrate Moldovan-grown soybeans into domestic and global value chains; and (ii) implementation of infrastructure interventions to improve safe water supply and sanitation and contribute to adaptation to climate change; assistance to local authorities in tariff-setting and capacity building to ensure financial sustainability of the water and sanitation infrastructure operation and maintenance. The project is implemented during 2017 – 2021, with the total budget of 8.2 million EUR, by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)⁴⁶.
- *Civil society engagement in improving the rural development processes and promotion of efficient models for sustainable local development.* The overall Objective of the project will focus on Increasing the role of the civil society in improving the rural development processes through participation, accountability and promotion of efficient tools for sustainable local development. As an outcome, civil society will have a stronger voice in formulating and shaping the national development strategies and also will take active part in implementation of those strategies and priorities. The project is implemented during 2019-2022, with the total budget of 636,670 EUR, by the Federation of Agricultural Producers from Moldova (FARM)⁴⁷.
- *Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development (AGREED)* with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Moldovan local authorities to perform a transparent and participatory governance in their communities, with a specific reference to the policy making process related to the upcoming decentralisation reform. The project is implemented during 2019-2021, with the total budget of 479,038 EUR by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA⁴⁸.
- *Creation of excellence center through piloting demonstrative new energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy sources in Festelita community, Stefan-Voda district* with the objective to contribute to the achievement of the sustainable local energy policy by enabling LPA of Festelita village to implement investment projects, incorporated in its SEAP under the Covenant of Mayors and thus bridging the gap between the SEAP and its practical implementation. The project duration is 2018-2020, total budget – 800,000 EUR and is implemented by “Moldova Social Innovations Fund” NGO⁴⁹.
- *Startup City Cahul (UE pentru Moldova: Startup Oraşul Cahul).* The €7 million project (2020-2023) will support inclusive economic development by increasing the potential of the digital economy and enhancing regional competitiveness and its business and investment environment through: support to the creation of a Regional Innovation and Technology Centre; support to the National Moldovan Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) promotion campaign and development programmes; and developing a seed funding and acceleration programme for ICT related start-ups.

⁴⁴ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/establishing-regional-business-information-and-support-centre-gaguzia-region-republic>

⁴⁵ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-smes-rural-areas-pare-i-i-and-wib>

⁴⁶ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/development-rural-areas-republic-moldova-devram>

⁴⁷ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/civil-society-engagement-improving-rural-development-processes-and-promotion-efficient>

⁴⁸ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/agreed-activating-governance-reform-enhancing-development>

⁴⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/creation-excellence-center-through-piloting-demonstrative-new-energy-efficiency-technologies>

Another important development partner focusing on local development is **Poland**, which focuses on supporting rural development, urban revitalization, promoting good governance at the local level and supporting SMEs in rural areas. Most of these projects are implemented through the **Solidarity Fund**.

Sweden also focuses a lot on local development, with special emphasis on Gagauzia and Transnistrian regions:

- *Strengthening Capacities for a Better Functioning Gagauz Autonomy* with three specific objectives: (i) improved capacities in Gagauzia ATU, and among executive institutions in Chisinau, in clarification of competences; policy development; and institutional mechanisms governing center autonomy relationships; (ii) improved relationships and increased trust between parliamentary and other political actors in Chisinau and Comrat to create political consensus and support for implementation and better functioning of the autonomy; and (iii) increased participation and inclusivity among a broader group of stakeholders in Gagauzia and Chisinau on clarification of competences, targeted sectoral policy development and institutional mechanisms governing center autonomy relations. The project is implemented during 2019-2022 with a total committed budget of 2,648,949 USD⁵⁰.
- *UNDP Building Capacities for Trade Transnistria* with the objective to improve the livelihood for people in the Transnistria region, in particular of the most vulnerable groups, generating job opportunities through strengthening the capacity and growth opportunities for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. The project is implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the duration of 2019-2023 and budgetary commitment of 2,421,768 USD⁵¹.
- *USAID Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP)* – Sida co-funded the project during 2016-2020 with a contribution of 43 million SEK (5 million USD). The Overall Development Objective of the Project is to promote a strong, diverse and export-oriented economy⁵². Within this project, Sweden is promoting local tourism in Moldova. Namely, with the focus on diversifying and improving the quality of products and services including through: branding and marketing, launch of the first tourist information center to guide visitors, elaboration and promotion of tourist activities, maps and hiking routes, Moldovan culture, and gastronomic experiences, refurbishment of local B&B, that can contribute to the local economy and offer an authentic tourism experience.

UNDP Moldova activities in this policy area focus on three key priorities:

- Understanding the inequalities in urban and rural areas, with a focus on urban areas (monetary and non-monetary inequalities).
- Regional and local development: service provisions, building local government capacities, community mobilization (including in Gagauzia, Taraclia and Transnistria).
- Increasing emphasis on regional development: identification of growth poles, possibilities of improving services at the regional level, empowering the regional growth poles, testing smart solutions at the regional level.

Under the above-mentioned priorities, the following projects can be analyzed:

- *Migration and Local Development (MIDL II)*. The Overall Goal of the initiative is maximizing the impact of migration on the socio-economic development through an improved institutional framework and engaged Diaspora. It follows two outcomes: (i) Moldovan labor, potential, actual and returning migrants benefit from comprehensive employment support services; (ii) community members, including migrants are meaningfully engaged in the local development process. The project is funded by Sida, with some co-funding from UNDP Moldova, the total budget being 6,4 million USD. It is implemented during January 2019 – December 2022⁵³.

⁵⁰ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-13292A0101-MDA-15112/>

⁵¹ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12217A0101-MDA-32130/>

⁵² <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512002001-MDA-32130/>

⁵³ https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/MDA/MIDL_Project%20document_FE.pdf

- *Sustainable and Resilient Communities through Women Empowerment* with the main objective to build inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities and create an enabling environment for women's economic, social and educational empowerment. The project is implemented during march 2020 – march 2023, with the total budget of 2,281,275 USD⁵⁴.
- *Moldova Sustainable Green Cities*. Objective is to catalyze investments in low carbon green urban development by an integrated urban planning approach and by encouraging innovation, participatory planning and partnerships among and between a variety of public and private sector entities. The project is implemented during September 2017 – September 2022, with the total budget of 2,7 million USD.

The **GIZ** focuses on the modernization of local public services, as well as the support to LPAs and local CSOs in this regard. The most relevant project is:

- *Modernization of Local Public Services*. The project supports investments in infrastructure, as prioritized in a participatory process. The project's measures include the provision of training in regional planning and programming, public procurement, corruption prevention and the management of local public services. The main objective of the project is: conditions have improved for a citizen-oriented implementation of regional development policy in priority sectors of local public service provision. It is implemented during January 2016 – December 2021, with the total budgetary commitment of 86,5 million EUR⁵⁵.

World Bank implements most of its projects at the central level, with few exceptions:

- *Land Administration and Local Revenue Project*, whose key objective is to improve the quality and transparency of the land administration and property valuation systems. The project duration is 2018-2024 with the total budget of 35 million USD⁵⁶.
- *Local Roads Improvement Project* with the purpose to provide safe and sustainable local road accessibility to education, health and market facilities along selected corridors (the project was approved on October 2015, with the closing date of March 2022 and total budget of 80 million USD)⁵⁷.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Stimulation of access to affordable housing.
- Elaboration of urbanistic plans for territorial development
- Development of the support infrastructure for SMEs in the regions
- Promotion of SMEs' participation in cross-border and regional cooperation projects
- Providing technical assistance and guidance to LPAs in accessing and managing external funds.

Governance and Human Rights

This section analyzes the following SDGs:

- SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

⁵⁴ https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/MDA/00118991_ProDoc_ResComWomEmp.pdf

⁵⁵

https://www.giz.de/projektdate/index.action;jsessionid=6093E6EEF76CD4C660DF0B5EC6C6A565?request_locale=en_GB#?region=4&countries=MD

⁵⁶ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI61238>

⁵⁷ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI50357>

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Government priorities

This policy issue, similarly with the issue of inequalities, is regarded by policy makers as a cross-cutting topic. Nevertheless, some strategic planning documents emphasize it as a key sectorial priority.

The NDS “Moldova 2030” addresses the gender equality issue in two of its strategic priorities. The first one is “Ensuring the work-life balance”, which includes the nationalized SDG target 5.4 (Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies). It focuses on the following specific objectives:

- Promoting a balanced approach towards personal and professional life and encouraging the population to allocate enough time for personal development. This objective is inter-linked with other priorities and objectives of the Strategy, namely the access to pre-school education, reform of the childcare system, increasing the flexibility of the labor market and jobs, and adaptation of the infrastructure for the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Encouragement of personal development is aimed through increasing the flexibility of the educational program, promotion of lifelong learning, promotion of healthy lifestyle and gender equality.

Another relevant priority of NDS “Moldova 2030” (Ensuring an efficient and inclusive government and rule of law), includes the nationalized SDG target 5.2 (Prevention and elimination of violence against girls and women, including trafficking) and focuses on the following specific objectives:

- Mainstreaming the gender dimension in the process of elaboration and implementation of all public policies in all spheres.
- Increasing the accountability of the government with regards to the implementation of gender policies.

The most relevant sectorial policy planning document is the Strategy for equality between women and men 2017-2021. There can be mentioned three relevant objectives that reveal a systemic and comprehensive approach towards the issue of gender balance:

- Ensuring a complex approach towards ensuring gender equality. Specific priorities:
 - Strengthening the institutional and legal mechanisms for the promotion of women in the decision-making process
 - Harmonization of national legislation to European standards on equal pay for work of equal value
 - Modification and harmonization of the regulatory framework regarding fair social security policies for women and men
 - Improving the policy framework for families with children in order to ensure the fair involvement of parents in raising and education of children
 - Improving the framework of policies and services of social assistance through the gender dimension
 - Integrating the gender dimension into the healthcare policies and into the training programs for the medical professionals
 - Promoting the healthy lifestyle among women and men through information, education and increasing the access to health services.
 - Integration of the gender dimension in the initial and lifelong training of teaching staff in order to overcome stereotypes and ensure gender consciousness.
 - Including the gender dimension into the career guidance process for the purpose of accessing non-traditional trades.

- Adjusting the sectoral strategies of adaptation to climate change to include the gender dimension.
- Combating stereotypes in society and promoting non-violent communication. Specific priorities:
 - Promoting gender balance in media and advertising
 - Increasing awareness of public opinion on the perception about gender stereotypes and nonviolent communication.
- Integration of gender sensitive budgeting in the process of elaborating the budget programs. Specific priorities:
 - Promoting gender mainstreaming in budgetary programs by establishing gender sensitive indicators
 - Strengthening the capacities of the central and local public authorities on the importance of the implementation of gender-based budgeting.

Another important sectorial policy planning document is the Strategy for combating and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023. It has two relevant objectives.

- Prevention of gender-based and domestic violence by promoting zero tolerance against this phenomenon in order to reduce it in the Republic of Moldova. Specific priorities:
 - Elimination of stereotypes and prejudices about gender-based and domestic violence through information, awareness and encouraging the reporting of cases of violence.
 - Development and consolidation of competences of specialists working in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, based on a common state-level vision and through the initial and continuous training of all professionals involved in preventing and combating this phenomenon.
 - Increasing the effectiveness of prevention activities through the early intervention of professionals and the promotion of nonviolent behaviors in interpersonal relationships.
 - Strengthening the educational system with the purpose to ensure the education of youth based on the values of equality between women and men and the culture of non-violent interpersonal communication.
- Strengthening the protection mechanism and assistance for victims of violence against women and domestic violence. Specific priorities:
 - Development of specialized and accessible services for victims of gender-based and domestic violence, according to international standards.
 - Creation of protection and assistance services for victims of sex offenses.
 - Promoting women's economic empowerment and socio-economic independence.
 - Strengthening the response of the health system in cases of domestic violence.

Some sectorial strategies are emphasizing the economic empowerment of women, as a means to ensure gender balance.

It is worth pointing out the National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020, which includes the objective “Developing the entrepreneurship among women”, with the following specific priorities:

- Facilitating the access of women entrepreneurs to training and information resources.
- Promotion of the entrepreneurial spirit among women.
- Facilitating the access of women entrepreneurs to financing.

Another relevant document is the National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021. Thus, under its objective “Creating formal, non-discriminatory and productive employment opportunities”, it focuses

on developing the capacities of research, analysis and integration of the gender dimension in the sectoral policies. Also, under its another objective “A better governance of the labor market”, the strategy focuses on improving the monitoring and evaluation sensitive to the gender dimension of the employment measures.

Donor programs

One of the most active donors in promoting gender balance is **Sweden**. In line with the Feminist Foreign Policy, Sweden aims to integrate the gender equality perspective in all reform cooperation programs. Besides that, Sweden has several targeted cooperation programs in Moldova focused on achieving results mainly in three areas:

- women’s enhanced political participation;
- women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and a life free of violence for women and girls;
- important partnerships in this field with UNDP, UN Women, EBRD and the EU Delegation;
- a special attention and targeted support is provided to grassroots organizations active nationally and locally.

The most relevant projects funded by **Sweden** in this policy area include:

- *Support to UN Women Moldova in SN 2016-2020 implementation* with the goal to strengthen the capacities of the UN Women Country Office in Moldova in the implementation of its core mandates: normative, operational and coordination. The project is implemented during 2016-2022 with the total budgetary commitment of 5.4 million USD⁵⁸.
- *Core (and pre-core) support to CSOs dealing with gender issues*. Thus, Sweden supports the most active CSOs in this regard (Women Law Center⁵⁹, Artemida⁶⁰, Vesta⁶¹) for promoting gender equality and fighting gender-based violence.
- *EBRD Women in Business Program*, with the overall objective is to stimulate the transition to a more competitive and inclusive economy in Moldova by strengthening women-led SMEs and promoting women’s participation in business and enhance the role of women in economic governance. It aims at assisting women entrepreneurs in Moldova to have a real and fair chance of success by enhancing the competitiveness of their businesses. This is a joint project with EBRD, with the Sida contribution of 2,991,807 USD (commitments) for the period 2018 – 2023⁶².

The **EU Delegation** is implementing the following most relevant projects:

- *Women’s Access to Justice: Delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards*, with the objective of strengthening access to justice for women, especially women victims of violence in line with the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention and contributing towards the Eastern Partnership countries ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The project is implemented during 2019-2021 with the total budget of 1.1 million EUR, by the Council of Europe⁶³.
- *Increasing the observance of women’s rights in Moldova through combating gender based violence*, with the objective to combat gender based violence in Moldova through a joint and comprehensive effort. The Action brings a holistic approach towards the issue in general and

⁵⁸ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512002201-MDA-15170>

⁵⁹ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512000901-MDA-15150>

⁶⁰ <http://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-13521A0101-MDA-15180>

⁶¹ <http://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-13522A0101-MDA-15170>

⁶² <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512003101-MDA-32130>

⁶³ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/women%E2%80%99s-access-justice-delivering-istanbul-convention-and-other-european-gender-equality>

the assistance provided to victims of gender based violence, in particular. The action also seeks to improve national legislation and policies on gender based violence, and their enforcement; to raise public awareness about the issue and to increase the protection of women, victims of gender based violence. The project is implemented during 2016-2019 (the project is still active), with the total budget of 368,421 EUR⁶⁴.

- *Strengthened Gender Action in Cahul and Ungheni districts*, with the objective to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through enhanced implementation of gender mainstreaming in local public policies and combating domestic violence affecting women and children. The project is implemented during 2020-2022, with the total budget of 5 million EUR, by the UN Women Moldova⁶⁵.

SDC, under its priority "Economic development and employment" is planning actions aimed at decreasing gender stereotypes in professional choices and encouraging young women to choose non-traditional fields of study, in line with CEDAW recommendations. Furthermore, the program will promote reforms in the Labor Code that allow for a better combination of motherhood and work.

The gender balance is becoming increasingly a cross-cutting issue across most of donor programs. For example, **IMF**, which is primarily focused on financial sector and public finances is planning to put increasing emphasis on gender inequalities. **The World Bank**, under the objective of enhancing quality and relevance of education and training institutions to enable acquisition of job-related skills, it is tackling gender inequality in labor market. The **LED** is considering gender as a cross cutting issue across its support measures related to formal and non-formal education, as well as advocacy work in education.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Integration of gender dimension into the public policies
- Integration of the gender dimension in the initial and lifelong training of teaching staff in order to overcome stereotypes and ensure gender consciousness
- Including the gender dimension into the career guidance process for the purpose of accessing non-traditional trades
- Integration of gender sensitive budgeting in the process of elaborating the budget programs
- Strengthening the protection mechanism and assistance for victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Government priorities

This SDG widely reflected across the policy documents, because institutions, justice and good governance are the key policy priorities for the Government.

The NDS "Moldova 2030" includes the priority of ensuring an efficient and inclusive government and rule of law, under which the document integrated several nationalized SDG targets:

- Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all women, men and children (SDG 16.3);

⁶⁴ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/increasing-observance-women%E2%80%99s-rights-moldova-through-combating-gender-based-violence>

⁶⁵ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/strengthened-gender-action-cahul-and-ungheni-districts-eva>

- Significant reduction of corruption and bribery in all its forms (SDG 16.5);
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (SDG 16.6);
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (SDG 16.7).

The specific objectives that can be mentioned here are:

- Consolidation of the justice sector, to ensure the independence and eliminate the premises for corruption in all areas, which can boost the confidence of people and investors in the act of justice.
- Reforming the public administrations, at central and local levels, with a special focus on increasing the capacities and integrity in the public sector, evidence-based public policies, enhancing the quality and accessibility of public services at central and local levels, based on intelligent and participatory planning and implementation of digital and social innovations.

Another relevant priority included in the NDS “Moldova 2030” is related to promoting a peaceful, safe and inclusive society, which integrates the following nationalized SDG targets:

- Continuous and dynamic reduction of all forms of violence, especially family violence and sexual violence (SDG 16.1).
- End abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (SDG 16.2).
- Combat all forms of organized crime and arms trafficking (SDG 16.4).

It also includes the following specific objectives:

- Promotion of a violence-free environment at work, in school and everywhere in life.
- The focus is on crime prevention through ensuring proper infrastructure and opportunities at school, limiting the exposure of youth to violent and other improper information and media, combating the hate speech and other sources of extremism, revision of the mechanism for access to guns, increasing the border security.
- Prevention of crises and climate disasters.
- Increasing the road safety.
- Fostering the relation between the communities and police.

At the sectorial level, the policy planning documents can be structured into those tackling the public administration and services, the issue of corruption and integrity, good governance and institutional capacities, and, last but not least, the business regulatory environment seen from the perspective of institutions and governance.

The most relevant policy planning document that addresses the good governance and institutional strengthening policy objective is the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2016-2020, namely due to the following objectives:

- Ensuring a coordinated and unified approach to the modernization of public services
- Increasing the quality and accessibility of public services by re-engineering the operational processes and digitization by creating the network of universal centers for the provision of public services.

Another strategically important policy planning document is the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy for 2017-2020, which includes the following objectives:

- Ensuring the ethical conduct of the deputies, enhancing the anti-corruption role in the Parliament, increasing the transparency of the legislative process and the activity of the parliamentarians.
- Developing integrity, accountability, transparency and resilience to the risks of corruption of public officials, Government members and local elected officials.

- Increasing the provision of justice and anti-corruption authorities in preventing, combating and sanctioning corruption, improving the mechanism for recovering assets and ensuring the compensation of persons harmed by corruption.
- Increasing political integrity and strengthening control over the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns.
- Strengthening the capacities of the Court of Accounts to prevent corruption in the field of financial resources management and the use of public assets, as well as external financial assistance.
- Development of the functions of the People's Advocate for the prevention of corruption by making public institutions responsible for respecting human rights and ensuring the protection of whistleblowers.
- Promoting a fair, competitive business environment based on standards of corporate integrity, transparency and professionalism in the interaction with the public sector.

Most of the policy planning documents integrate the priority of governance and strengthening the capacities of national institutions as a key precondition for achieving the sectorial policy objectives. It reveals the strategic nature of this SDG target. Thus, a series of strategies tackle the issue of governance and quality of institutions from the perspective of business climate and labor market.

The National Strategy on Investment Attraction and Export Promotion for 2016-2020, as a key precondition for retaining, attraction and expansion of investments, as well as promotion of exports, aims at achieving two specific objectives that are closely related to fostering the legal and institutional framework:

- Fostering the business regulatory framework, with the specific priorities:
 - Preventing and efficiently resolving investment disputes
 - Improvement of the fiscal-customs policies and administration
 - Increase business confidence in the state and transparency of business-state relations
 - Strengthening the statistical framework for investment and export activities
 - Accelerating the process of implementing the provisions of the Strategy for the reform of the regulatory framework for entrepreneurial activity for the years 2013-2020
- Enhancing the capacities of national institutions, with the specific priorities:
 - Transforming the Organization of Investment Attraction and Export Promotion of Moldova into an efficient and professional agency in the field of attracting investments and promoting exports.
 - Strengthen economic diplomacy in the field of promoting foreign direct investments.

The National Strategy "Innovations for Competitiveness" for 2013-2020 includes the objective of adopting an open governance model of the research and innovation sphere, with the following specific priorities:

- Institutional reform in the field of research and innovation
- Ensuring the training of personnel for strengthening the competences in the field of innovative policies
- Improvement of the statistical record system of innovation activities and policies
- Ensuring transparency of public communication and consultation processes.

Another relevant document is the National Strategy for Business Regulatory Framework for 2013-2020. It focuses on the intelligent regulation of the business activity, which consist of efficient public policies, adaptive approach to changing needs and environment, joint responsibility of the government, private sector and citizens, as well as clear and well-enforced game rules. In order to achieve this vision, the Strategy follows three key objectives:

- Developing an enabling regulatory framework, with the specific priorities:
 - Develop the mechanism for revising the existing regulatory framework to improve competitiveness (e.g. ex-post analyses, standard cost models etc.).

- Develop the institution of the Regulatory Impact Assessment.
- Developing the necessary incentives for the efficient implementation of reforms, with the specific priorities:
 - Optimization of the regulatory framework and of administrative procedures (emphasis on the State Tax Service and Customs Office).
 - Development of incentives for improving the business environment by the regulatory authorities (SMART KPIs for the activity of public institutions, reducing administrative discretion as a means to fight corruption).
- Enhancing the communication and encouraging the participation of relevant stakeholders, with the specific priorities:
 - Enhancing the communication at the national level and engagement with the domestic relevant stakeholders;
 - Enhancing the communication on the business regulatory framework at the external level.

The National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020 follows the scope to create a favorable business climate, promote entrepreneurial culture for supporting the SMEs and ensuring the social cohesion. In this regard, one of its objectives is “Tailoring the regulatory framework to the needs of SMEs”, with the focus on:

- Enhancing the regulatory framework for SMEs.
- Reducing administrative barriers and regulatory costs for SMEs.
- Optimization of regulations for commercial activities of SMEs.

The Strategy for IT and Digital Innovative Ecosystem Development 2018-2023 includes the objective of ensuring a competitive IT business environment.

The National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021 includes as one of its objective to ensure a better governance of the labor market. In this regard, the following specific priorities are mentioned:

- Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family for the elaboration and coordination of the implementation of employment policies.
- The modernization of the National Agency for Employment at national and local level.
- Better regulation of the activity of private employment agencies.
- Development of the State Labor Inspectorate to improve the application of labor law.
- Developing the social dialogue system for a better impact on the labor market.
- Reforming the financing and governance of the labor market.
- Diversification of services and extension of personalized employment packages for vulnerable groups.
- Improving the monitoring and evaluation sensitive to the gender dimension of the employment measures.
- Improving the measures to empower the beneficiaries of social assistance with skills relevant for the jobs market.
- Better regulation of nonstandard forms in the labor market.

The policy objectives of institutional fortification and promotion of good governance is also actively promoted by many sectorial strategies.

The Strategy for Domestic Trade Development 2014-2020 also emphasizes on institutions. Under one of this objectives “Enhancing the normative and institutional framework for regulating the domestic trade, in line with the European requirements.”, the following priorities are listed:

- Review of the legal and normative framework related to the domestic trade in goods and services.
- Elimination of loopholes (gaps) and of erroneous interpretations in the legislation.
- Adjustment of the legal norms related to the domestic trade.

- Defining new norms and regulations for the domestic trade.

The Energy Strategy for 2030 emphasizes on the institutional and competition framework, under its two relevant objectives:

- Ensuring the legislative, institutional and operational framework for fair competition, the effective opening of the market, establishing the energy prices in a transparent and equitable way, the integration of the energy market of the Republic of Moldova into the EU market.
- Ensuring the modern and competitive institutional framework for the development of the energy industry.

Unlike most of the strategies, the Transport and Logistics Strategy 2013-2022 integrates the institutional framework and governance as cross-cutting priority across its objectives. Namely:

- Under the objective “Providing adequate road infrastructure and quality road transport services under complete safety”, the document includes as specific measure “Ensuring the legal and institutional framework for network planning, operation and maintenance of roads.
- Under the objective “Providing quality services for rail transport passenger at an acceptable cost for the society and the support of the domestic and international trade operations when transporting goods for medium and long distances”, the document includes as specific measure “Implementation of the first, second and third rail road package”.
- Under the objective “Providing quality air passenger and freight services at a cost acceptable to society and entrepreneurs by developing the civil aviation sector, creating a competitive market environment and security assurance in line with international standards”, the document includes as specific measure the “Liberalization of the aviation market and harmonization of the regulatory framework in civil aviation with EU regulations”.
- Under the objective “Ensuring strategic access to inland naval shipping, by encouraging the development of logistics ports and efficient hinterland connections, as well as high quality private commercial transport”, the document includes as specific measure “Enhancing the regulations related to the naval transportation”.
- Under the objective “Ensuring a transparent and compatible institutional and legal framework for the logistical sector, as well as facilitating international trade by implementing international conventions of which the Republic of Moldova is a party”, the document includes a series of specific measures, such as:
 - Increasing the efficiency of the customs bodies by ensuring the payment collection through modernization of the IT and software infrastructure;
 - Implementation of the provisions of the commitments assumed according to the international treaties in the field of cross - border traffic and trade facilitation to which the Republic of Moldova is a party
 - Development of the national normative framework according to the international standards;
 - Development of cross-border cooperation and implementation of joint customs control at border crossing points;
 - Introducing the mechanism of exchange of customs information with EU, in order to facilitate the import / export procedures at the EU border with the Republic of Moldova.

The Regional Development Strategy 2016-2020 includes the objective of improving the governance in the area of regional development, with the following specific priorities:

- Enhancing the regulatory framework related to regional development.
- Fostering the institutional framework and administrative potential.
- Enhancing the system for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of policies related to regional development.

The National Strategy for Water and Sanitation for 2014-2028 includes two relevant objectives:

- Decentralization of public services for water and sanitation
 - Development by companies that provide water and sanitation services of individual development plans, in accordance to the local peculiarities and priorities, as well as in accordance to environmental objectives.
 - Fostering the regulatory framework and excluding regulatory overlaps between the responsibilities of regulatory bodies and those of LPAs.
 - Simplification of procedures for obtaining permissive documents.
- Promotion of market economy principles and attracting private capital
 - Introducing the obligation to auction the services in all cases in which the operator registers financial losses or cannot ensure a quality corresponding to the water and sanitation services they provide.
 - Withdrawal of operating licenses to the supplying agents that do not meet the established performance criteria.
 - Reorganization of the municipal enterprises subordinated to the public authorities.
 - Ensuring transparency in the process of delegating the management of public water supply and sanitation services.

The Strategy for combating and preventing gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023 includes the objective “Increasing the efficiency of the investigation process and prosecution of acts of gender-based and domestic violence”, with the following specific priorities:

- Ensuring prompt and efficient intervention of relevant authorities
- Ensuring accountability and resocialization of aggressors through the development of services and supervisory mechanisms
- Ensuring effective assistance measures and access to justice for victims of domestic violence, including victims of sexual violence
- Reducing stereotypes among professionals involved combating violence.

The Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020 includes the objective “Adjusting the organizational structure and improving the financing of the State Public Health Surveillance Service in order to carry out the essential operations and public health services in collaboration with other sectors”.

The National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 integrates institutional and governance priorities across many of its objectives:

- Under the “Labor market” pillar it focuses on strengthening the national legislative framework in the field of employment.
- Under the “Migration” pillar it focuses on strengthening national capacities for efficient management of international migration flows.
- Under the “Access to housing” pillar it focuses on the creation of financial, legal and institutional conditions for incusing the population with housing and management of the housing fund.
- Under the “Regional development” pillar it focuses on strengthening the institutional framework and creating premises for regional development, ensuring uniform conditions of development for all localities in the country.
- Under the “Statistics” pillar it focuses on capacity building in the field of national statistics for increasing the efficiency of research and improving the demographic databases.

The Strategy for equality between women and men 2017-2021 includes two relevant objectives:

- Strengthening the institutional mechanism for insuring the equality between women and men, with the following specific priorities:
 - Strengthening human resources in ministries and authorities of central administration.
 - Increasing the efficiency of the activity of the Government Commission for equality between women and men.
 - Strengthening human resources of the local public authorities.

- Promoting gender equality in the security and defense sector, with the following specific priorities:
 - Ensuring women's access to leadership roles and executive positions in the field of security and defense
 - Gender mainstreaming in sectoral policies in the field of security and defense.

Donor programs

Taking into account the strategic importance of this policy area, most of donors are implementing projects aimed at institutional fortification and promotion of good governance. Generally, the projects under this policy area can be grouped under two pillars: (i) projects targeting public institutions (e.g. ministries or regulatory agencies), consisting of technical assistance and twinning programs, aimed at building capacities and advancing reforms; (ii) projects targeting CSOs and mass-media, aimed at raising accountability of the government, promoting good governance and building resiliency. Given the increased political unpredictability and on-and-off commitment to reforms in the last years, more and more donors are moving their focus on the second pillar, while the first pillar projects are deployed only in case of clear buy in for reforms from the beneficiary institution.

The most important development partner in the area of institutional development and public administration reform is the **EU Delegation**. Currently, it implements the following relevant projects:

- *Support to the implementation of the European Union High Level Advisers' Mission*, with the objective to support the Government of the Republic of Moldova to implement its reform Agenda; in particular, to assist the Government in developing the capacities required for the implementation of the Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as well as to ensure the necessary follow-up for the post Visa Liberalization stage. The project duration is 2019-2022, with the total budget of 11 million EUR⁶⁶.
- *Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development*, with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Moldovan local authorities to perform a transparent and participatory governance in their communities, with a specific reference to the policy making process related to the upcoming decentralization reform. The project duration is 2019-2021, with the total budget of 479,038 EUR⁶⁷.
- *Strengthening of the policy development process in the context of the implementation of the Association Agreement*, with the objective to support three main institutions (MFAEI, State Chancellery and Ministry of Finance) to perform the tasks related to policy development, which entails all stages of policy-making process, starting by the identification of needs, the policy drafting, costing, draft budgeting, and the endorsement of legal acts necessary for its effective implementation. The project is implemented during 2018-2020, with the total budget of 1.8 million EUR⁶⁸.
- *Support to the professional capacity development and motivation of the Public Administration employees in the Republic of Moldova*, with the objective to contribute to the horizontal public administration reform process in Moldova by improving efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of Moldovan Public Administrations on national and sub-national level in line with the European Principles of Public Administration defined by the SIGMA Program and improving professional capacity and motivation of public employees. The Motivation project team is supporting the enhancement of the existing public servants' system with advice to responsible authority (State Chancellery) in revising the previous normative system and

⁶⁶ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-implementation-european-union-high-level-advisers%E2%80%99-mission>

⁶⁷ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/agreed-activating-governance-reform-enhancing-development>

⁶⁸ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/strengthening-policy-development-process-context-implementation-association-agreement>

system of public servants' professional development. The Motivation project team consists of a number of Senior and Junior experts from a variety of areas, including legal, capacity building and training experts from several EU and IPA countries and from the Republic of Moldova. The project is implemented during 2018-2020 with the total budget of 2 million EUR⁶⁹.

- *Support to Public Administration Reform process* with the objective to enhance the institutional and human resources capacity of the central and local public administrations to elaborate and implement evidence-based policy and to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of high quality administrative services in line with the European Principles of Public Administration. The project is implemented during 2018-2020 with the total budget of 2.8 million EUR⁷⁰.
- *Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova* with the objective of strengthening the capabilities of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova for effective approximation to EU norms and standards in line with Chapter 6 to the Association Agreement between the European union and the Republic of Moldova, including systematic production of gender and age disaggregated data, wherever appropriate. The project is implemented during 2019-2021 with the total budget of 1.8 million EUR⁷¹.

EBRD is also playing an important role by supporting the Economic Council to the Prime Minister, as a platform for enhancing the inter-institutional communication and cooperation on enhancing the business climate and addressing the most pressing economic issues. EBRD is also supporting the Government in the modernization of the public procurement system, through the implementation of the E-procurement and M-Tender systems.

Another important player in this area is the **World Bank**. Under the objective of improving efficiency, quality & inclusive access to public service, the Bank implements the following actions aimed at institutional building:

- *Modernization of Government Services in the Republic of Moldova* with the purpose to improve access, efficiency, and quality of delivery of selected government administrative services (the project was approved on August 2017, with the closing date of June 2023 and total budgetary commitment of 20 million USD)⁷².
- *Tax Administration Modernization Project*, with the objective to improve revenue collection, tax compliance and taxpayer services (approved on June 6, 2016, with the closing date on 30 November, 2023, and total budget of 20 million USD)⁷³.
- *Improving Access to Justice with a Focus on Families Affected by Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence Project*, which is in pipeline, the duration being 2020-2023 and the budget of 0.5 million USD⁷⁴.

Germany, through **GIZ**, provides consistent technical support to the Government under two key projects, as well as confidence building measures in Transnistria:

- *Economic Policy Advice to the Moldovan Government II*, which consists of a number of TA projects on economic development for the Prime Minister's team of economic advisors and the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure. All in all, the project comprises advisory services in the following four, mutually reinforcing, areas: (i) Enabling framework – policy advice for sustainable economic development; (ii) Investment promotion; (iii) Linkages – supporting local SMEs in becoming suppliers to foreign investors; and (iv) Disadvantaged groups – supporting

⁶⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-professional-capacity-development-and-motivation-public-administration-employees>

⁷⁰ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-public-administration-reform-process>

⁷¹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/technical-assistance-support-national-bureau-statistics-republic-moldova>

⁷² <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI48537>

⁷³ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI27734>

⁷⁴ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/PI72747>

integration into the labour market. The project duration is November 2018 – December 2021 and total budgetary commitment – 7.5 million EUR⁷⁵.

- *Support to the Moldovan Government for the implementation of the 2030 agenda*, with the objective of strengthening capacities and processes for the implementation of the 2030 agenda. The project is implemented during March 2020 – September 2022, with the total budget of 2.5 million EUR⁷⁶.
- *Confidence building measures Transnistria*, with the objective to create a basis for confidence building in Moldovan health system in Transnistrian region. The project is implemented during September 2019 – November 2022, with the total budget of 1.3 million EUR⁷⁷.

The **Czech Embassy** mentions good democratic governance as one of its core priorities, according to the country program. Namely, it focuses on:

- The creation of efficient, responsible and transparent institutions at all levels, promotion of responsible, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- To improve the business climate and to strengthen the parameters of the market economy.
- Development of capacities of civil society and of central and local government institutions at all levels, especially through the sharing of know-how with Czech entities including decision making mechanisms and policy making.

Under these priorities, the following specific interventions can be mentioned:

- Support the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) with the implementation of GIS data and Regional Development Strategy.
- Support to the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure for implementation of Eurocodes.
- Expert on demand – technical assistance based on demand from authorities (e.g. feasibility study for the Emil Racovita Cave; support to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (MHLSP) on statistics and demography).
- Transition program – support of CSOs in building of civil society (focus on Transnistria).

The **UK Embassy/DFID** is very active in the area of good governance, human rights and security/confidence building measures. The most relevant projects are:

- *Good Governance Fund - Supporting Economic and Governance Reform in Moldova*, which is a demand-driven technical assistance to central public authorities on economic governance issues, with a focus on financial sector, economic development, business climate and SoEs. The project started in 2017, and now it is in its last stage of implementation (February 2020 – March 2021), with the budget of 3.6 million GBP⁷⁸.
- *Good Governance Fund - Moldova Competitiveness Project* is providing support to the technical assistance elements of the Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP), which focusses on improving productivity and quality of products and services of Moldovan business, increasing sales on domestic market and exports on regional and global markets, and improving the enabling environment, regulatory framework and local institution's capacity for key sectors. The project is implemented during December 2018 – March 2021, with the total budget of 1.8 million GBP⁷⁹.

⁷⁵

https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action;jsessionid=6093E6EEF76CD4C660DF0B5EC6C6A565?request_locale=en_GB#?region=4&countries=MD

⁷⁶

https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action;jsessionid=6093E6EEF76CD4C660DF0B5EC6C6A565?request_locale=en_GB#?region=4&countries=MD

⁷⁷

https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action;jsessionid=6093E6EEF76CD4C660DF0B5EC6C6A565?request_locale=en_GB#?region=4&countries=MD

⁷⁸ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-I-300942>

⁷⁹ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-I-300521>

- *Support to Independent Media in Moldova* aims to promote the development of independent, professional media that gives citizens access to a variety of perspectives, and to create a media sector that is more resilient to political and financial pressures. The project is implemented during December 2018 – March 2021, with the total budget of 640,000 GBP⁸⁰.
- *Good Governance Fund - Enhancing democracy in Moldova through inclusive and transparent elections* with the aim of supporting reform to Moldova's political party finance law, to conduct an extensive civic education campaign, and to provide a targeted outreach campaign for women and young voters. The project is implemented during December 2017 – March 2020, with the total budget of 780,000 GBP⁸¹.

UNDP Moldova is another development partner (implementing agency) actively engaged building capacities of public institutions and implementing confidence building measures (mainly, projects involving the Transnistrian region). UNDP is an implementing agency, the main projects in this policy area being funded by the European Commission, Swedish Government, USAID, and a distinctive feature of this institution is that it works with funding and co-funding from the Moldovan Government. Its most relevant interventions are the following:

- *Confidence Building Measures Programme V (CBM V)*, which aims at improving the living conditions of the population on the both sides of the Nistru river through their mutual cooperation. The project is implemented during 2019-2021 with the total budget of 9.4 million EUR (7.2 million USD are funded by the European Commission)⁸².
- *Electoral Support Phase III* aims to support the development of the Civil Status and Address IT-based Registers to be interoperable with the State Register of Voters, enhance the IT System managed by the CEC and strengthen the systems of civic/voter information and education. The project is implemented during 2017-2020, with the total budget of 4 million USD (main donors: USAID – 1.8 million USD; and DFID – 1.1 million USD)⁸³.
- *Strengthening Parliamentary Governance/Parliament II*, with the objective of strengthening Parliamentary Governance in Moldova, and improving the legislative and accountability frameworks and functions of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in effective, inclusive and transparent manner. The project is implemented during 2016 – 2020, with the total budget of 3.6 million USD (3.4 million USD are funded by Sida)⁸⁴.
- *Strengthening Ministry of Internal Affairs* with the objective to increased transparency, accountability and efficiency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and its internal subdivisions. The project is implemented during 2017-2020 with a substantial contribution of the Government of Moldova (3 million USD)⁸⁵.
- *Curbing Corruption by Sustainable Integrity* with the objective of curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in Moldova. The project contributes to achieving a sustainable integrity and anticorruption system in Moldova. It is implemented during January 2019 – December 2021, with the total budget of 2 million USD (main financing comes from the Government of Norway – 1.5 million USD)⁸⁶.
- *Support to Security Sector Reform* that aims to create a secure environment that is conducive to development, poverty reduction, good governance and rule of law. The project is implemented during April 2018 – December 2020, with the total budget of 2.5 million USD (the main contribution comes from the Government of Moldova – 2.3 million USD)⁸⁷.
- *Support to Justice Sector Reform in Moldova* with the objective to support the Government of the Republic of Moldova in effective design and implementation of the reform of the Justice

⁸⁰ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300519>

⁸¹ <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300477>

⁸² <https://open.undp.org/projects/00101999>

⁸³ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00094503>

⁸⁴ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00088088>

⁸⁵ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00101611>

⁸⁶ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00115715>

⁸⁷ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00109897>

Sector and other connected areas. The project is implemented during July 2011 – December 2020 with the total budget of 6 million USD (with the main contributions coming from the US Department of State – 2.8 million USD, Government of Moldova – 1.3 million USD and US International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs – 1.1 million USD)⁸⁸.

- *Support Law Enforcement Reform* with the objective of modernizing the Police/internal affairs human resources system and enhancing the capacities of MIA and GPI for coordination and implementation of Police Development Strategy. The project is implemented during October 2019 – August 2021 with the total budget of 1.7 million USD⁸⁹.
- *Strengthening Human Rights in The Transnistrian Region* with the objective of creating an enabling environment for the rights holders to exercise their rights and for the duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, aiming to reduce inequalities and ensure the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in the TN region. The project is implemented during July 2019 – July 2022 with the total budget of 0.3 million USD (funded by Sida)⁹⁰.
- *Access to Justice Project* with the objective to contribute to the increase in trust to justice institutions in Moldova through strengthening access to justice and qualitative justice services. The project is implemented during September 2019 – December 2022, with the total budget of 645,000 USD (funded by Sida)⁹¹.

Sweden is carefully considering technical assistance projects to public institutions and deploys resources only in case of a clear and bold beneficiary buy in and commitment for reform. It works primarily with UNDP Moldova, UN Women and CSOs. Also, similarly with UNDP Moldova, Sweden is active in the Transnistrian and Gagauzia regions, by implementing confidence building, economic empowerment and human rights projects. Specific interventions include:

- *Police Reform Support in Moldova* that supports the Moldovan Police to develop and implement a national model and method of Community Policing that will strengthen the partnership between the police and the local community and respond to the different security needs and priorities of men, women, girls and boys, as well as marginalized groups in the community. The project is implemented during 2017 – 2021, with the total budgetary commitment of 3.8 million USD⁹².
- *Inception phase Building Capacities for Trade Transnistria* with the objective to provide Support to confidence building and conflict resolution across the Nistru river through building advance capacities for trade and export to the EU countries. The project is implemented during 2018-2020 with the budget of 23,014 USD (the budget is small because this is the inception phase of the project, but it reveals the overall direction of this donor towards this region)⁹³.
- *One UN Joint Action in Human Rights in the Transnistrian region* that intends to foster commitment at the level of the decision-makers in the Transnistrian region and civil society for human rights-oriented reforms in general and particularly in the area of disability, child's rights, Roma, rights of people living with and affected by HIV, rights of prisoners, and people in prisons, vulnerable women and rights of people who use drugs, facilitating the establishment of multidimensional cooperation, cross-river knowledge exchange and development based on best practices existing on both banks of River Nistru (the left bank being the Transnistrian region). The project is implemented during 2019-2022 with the total budgetary commitment of 3.1 million USD⁹⁴.
- *Strengthening Capacities for a Better Functioning Gagauz Autonomy* that follows three objectives: (i) Improved capacities in Gagauzia ATU, and among executive institutions in Chisinau, in clarification of competences; policy development; and institutional mechanisms governing

⁸⁸ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00062264>

⁸⁹ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00114863>

⁹⁰ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00109978>

⁹¹ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00094506>

⁹² <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512002801-MDA-15132>

⁹³ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12935A0101-MDA-32130>

⁹⁴ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12719A0101-MDA-15160>

center autonomy relationships; (ii) Improved relationships and increased trust between parliamentary and other political actors in Chisinau and Comrat to create political consensus and support for implementation and better functioning of the autonomy; and (iii) Increased participation and inclusivity among a broader group of stakeholders in Gagauzia and Chisinau on clarification of competences, targeted sectoral policy development and institutional mechanisms governing center autonomy relations. The project is implemented during 2019-2022 with the total budget of 2.7 million USD⁹⁵.

- *Core support to NGOs* with the objective to strengthen the civil society in Moldova, Sweden being the only donor in Moldova that provides such discretionary and substantial support to NGOs.

The **SDC** is planning for the near future to focus on governance in the health sector and at the local level. Under the Local Governance priority, SDC aims to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Its main targets are:

- People's participation in decision-making at local level.
- Women holding a function in Local Government.
- Institutions and local decision making bodies.

Currently, it implements the following relevant projects:

- *The Engaging Citizens and Empowering Communities* project aims to strengthen civil society organisations by enabling them to play a crucial role in promoting and safeguarding the rights and interests of vulnerable and marginalised people in Moldova. It is implemented during December 2015 – June 2021 with the total budget of 3.2 million CHF⁹⁶.
- *Fostering Active Civic Engagement* with the objective to contribute to an inclusive, peaceful and democratic Moldovan society with engaged citizens. Namely, the project follows three outcomes: (i) The new civic education curriculum and regulatory framework are tested in practice; (ii) Teachers, youth workers, local public authorities and community-based organizations present opportunities for children's and youth participation; and (iii) Girls and boys actively participate in decision-making processes at the local level (in the school, in youth clubs, in the communities). The project is planned to be implemented during June 2018 – September 2030, with a total budget of 3 million CHF⁹⁷.
- *Contribution to Confidence Building Measures Program in Transnistria – Promoting Confidence in the Health Sector*, with the objective to ensure the population of Moldova, especially the part living in Transnistria (approximately 500'000 people) with access to comprehensive quality maternal and child health services and improved immunization. The project is planned to be implemented during March 2016 – December 2021 with the total budget of 2.9 million CHF⁹⁸.

Poland, through the Solidarity Fund, is implementing confidence-building measures among communities on the both sides of the Nistru river. Local development is the main instrument to consolidate the mutual trust among these communities. In the framework of the "Access to success: partnership for self-sustainable community development" (A2S), the Solidarity Fund contributes to establish inter-sectorial and inter-municipal relationships through creating cooperation opportunities among communities. The project budget is 779,775 EUR, being implemented during March 2017 – July 2019 (there are plans to ensure the continuity of such interventions).

⁹⁵ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-13292A0101-MDA-15112>

⁹⁶ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprosjcts/SDC/en/2013/7F08872/phase1?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

⁹⁷ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprosjcts/SDC/en/2018/7F08898/phase1?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

⁹⁸ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page2.html/content/dezaprosjcts/SDC/en/2013/7F08818/phase2?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

Netherlands, through the MATRA program, is focusing on three main relevant directions:

- Human rights: support to LGBT community, promotion of media freedom, support to ethnic minorities and prevention and combating of human trafficking.
- Democracy and good governance: projects focused on LPAs; Elections monitoring: at the central and local levels.
- Justice and rule of law: integrity, promotion of probation as an alternative to detention, promotion of juridical literacy.

The **Soros Foundation** includes two relevant programs for this policy area. Under the justice and human rights priority area, the Foundation focuses on:

- Implementation of human rights principles by the policy.
- Stimulating human rights activism.
- Extending the access to justice for vulnerable groups.
- Promotion of functional and independent justice.

Under the good governance priority area, the Soros Foundation is promoting responsibility, transparency and integrity in order to combat corrupt and inefficient practices at central and local government level, being focused on:

- Monitoring the incomes and integrity of public servants.
- Supporting anti-corruption efforts.
- Promoting civil participation to fight corruption.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement.
- Supporting education sector reform.
- Promotion of quality and independent investigative journalism.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Promotion of good governance at the local level, by fostering the capacities, transparency and inclusiveness of LPAs
- Promotion of good governance among CSOs
- Promotion of good governance among firms
- Confidence building measures across the country, through building economic, social and cultural bridges within the country
- Stimulating the access to justice for SMEs and vulnerable groups of the population
- Fostering crises prevention and management systems at the level of central and local public authorities, firms and CSOs
- Fostering the institutional capacities in the innovations sector, statistics and regional development.
- Develop the mechanism for revising the existing regulatory framework to improve competitiveness (e.g. ex-post analyses, standard cost models etc.).
- Enhancing the institutional and regulatory framework for SMEs.
- Improving the governance in the labor market.
- Fostering the institutional capacities in the road, rail, naval and air travel.
- Support to the institutional reform in the environmental sector.
- Support to the local territorial reform.
- Increasing the efficiency of the investigation process and prosecution of acts of gender-based and domestic violence.
- Strengthening national capacities for efficient management of international migration flows.
- Digitalization of public services.

SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Government priorities

Due to the complexities of policy priorities of the NDS “Moldova 2030”, it is based on the general approach of the inter-institutional collaboration. Thus, the principle of no-one left behind and the lifecycle approach, by default, implies the cooperation among ministries because the priorities are not set based on the ministries’ specific mandates, but are rather anchored into the objective of enhancing the wellbeing of the population. Thus, the core philosophy of NDS “Moldova 2030” differs from other policy planning documents, relying on the systemic approach towards public policies.

At the sectorial level, some strategies emphasize on business partnerships. Thus, the National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020 includes the objective on developing business partnerships, with the following specific priorities:

- Developing public-private partnerships
- Developing "business-to-business" partnerships
- Facilitation of the participation of the private sector to the processes of improvement the business regulatory framework.

Similarly, the Strategy for Domestic Trade Development 2014-2020 includes the priority of developing public-private partnerships and partnerships between schools and private sector in order to enhance the skills of employees working in domestic trade.

Other strategies integrate the objective of building partnerships as a means for institutional strengthening. Thus, the National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021 mentions across its objectives the following priorities:

- Developing the capacities of research, analysis and integration of the gender dimension in the sectoral policies.
- Providing analytical and technical support to ministries, local and regional public authorities on how to elaborate development strategies, local / regional development policies, with a focus on employment.
- Stimulating cooperation and establishing partnerships between research and development institutions, public authorities, educational institutions and enterprises.
- Developing the social dialogue system for a better impact on the labor market.

Some strategies, primarily in the social and human rights sector, emphasize on inter-institutional cooperation as a means to achieve the policy outcomes. Thus, the Strategy for combating and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023 includes a dedicated objective in this regard: “Development of integrated policies related to domestic and gender-based violence, based on multisector cooperation and data collection”, with the following specific priorities:

- Integrating the concept of prevention and control of gender-based and domestic violence in sectoral policies and allocating sufficient financial resources in this regard.
- Fortifying the national response and a cross-sectoral cooperation in cases of domestic violence.
- Strengthening the multidisciplinary intervention capacities of professionals in cases of violence against women and domestic violence.
- Consolidating the systems for collection, analysis and dissemination of sectoral statistical data and ensuring regular monitoring of the dynamics of gender-based and domestic violence.
- Establishing an efficient mechanism of monitoring the implementation of national policies and legislation on gender-based and domestic violence.

Similarly, the Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020 includes the objective “Improving the mechanisms of cross-sectoral collaboration with the definition and distinct delimitation of the responsibilities of the health sector and of other sectors in the implementation of the essential public health operations.”

Some strategies emphasize on the partnerships with civil society for raising the accountability. For example, National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 includes the priority to ensure the constant development of the partnership with the civil society in order to achieve the demographic development objectives and to monitor the implementation of the respective Program.

Donor programs

Most donors are focused on empowering CSOs to engage with central and local public authorities and ensuring their accountability.

The most important donor in this regard is the **EU Delegation**, which implements a series of projects aimed at empowering CSOs, especially at the local level, and encouraging partnerships among CSOs throughout the country, as well as between CSOs and local public authorities. The most important and relevant projects in this regard are:

- *Grassroots Civil Society Development Facility in the Republic of Moldova* with the main objective to contribute to the development of civic engagement and of grass-roots civil society in Moldova, which actively promotes and monitors the transparency and accountability of public institutions, including in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The project is implemented during 2019 – 2021, with the total budget of 3,749,934 EUR⁹⁹.
- *Inform, Empower, Act! Civil Society for good budgetary governance in Moldova* with the objective to enhance civil society contribution to a higher level of transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of overall budget creation and execution at the local level through participation and oversight, thus, a clear and transparent citizen and civil society involvement in the decision making process. The project is implemented during 2019-2022, with the total budget of 1.2 million EUR¹⁰⁰.
- *Technical Assistance to support CSO development in the Republic of Moldova* with the objective to deliver Technical Assistance to EU Grant Beneficiaries and to future potential beneficiaries of the Civil Society Facility to implement EU funded projects. The project is implemented during 2017-2020 with the total budget of 860,500 EUR¹⁰¹.
- *Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova* with the objective to empower citizens through constructive participation of civil society organizations (CSO) in local, regional and national decision-making processes, and the view that the engagement of citizens during the planning, design, and delivery of public services shall empower them to hold public authorities accountable and curb corruption. The project duration is 2019-2021, with the total budget of 4.9 million EUR¹⁰².

Similarly, the **World Bank**, besides its core priorities, is becoming increasingly focused on the promotion of citizen engagement as a corporate priority and setting a standard for public consultations. Thus, it plans to launch the project *Improving Access to Justice with a Focus on Families Affected by Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence*, with the duration of 2020-2023 and budget of 0.5 million USD¹⁰³.

Also, the **UK Embassy** is providing grants to CSOs for monitoring the government, promoting independent media and building partnerships at the central and local levels.

⁹⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/grassroots-civil-society-development-facility-republic-moldova>

¹⁰⁰ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/inform-empower-act-civil-society-good-budgetary-governance-moldova>

¹⁰¹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/technical-assistance-support-cso-development-republic-moldova>

¹⁰² <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/citizens-empowerment-republic-moldova>

¹⁰³ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P172747>

Sweden is also encouraging the partnerships among CSOs, being the only donor in Moldova that is providing core support to CSOs. Also, it supports public-private partnership (PPP) between the State University of Moldova, journalists and businesses on building infrastructure.

UNDP is another important player supporting the partnerships among CSOs and between CSOs and public authorities. Thus, it promotes the civic engagement through the promotion and creation of citizen assemblies (parallel representative bodies that would influence the policy making). UNDP is also supporting the implementation of NDS by linking NDS with the budgetary process and bridging the gap between policies and public and private financing. In this regard, UNDP is planning to revitalize the Global Compact with the view of getting the private sector together for the implementation of SDGs.

Romania is actively promoting partnerships between LPAs from both countries. Thus, the Romanian Embassy is implementing the program on Local Public Authorities fellowships according to which the LPAs from Romania create projects jointly with LPAs from Moldova, (the projects are implemented without central Government interference).

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Institutional support and technical assistance to the government in the implementation of public-private partnerships.
- Implementation of holistic approaches to ensure gender balance.
- Encouraging business-to-business partnerships in various sectors.
- Providing analytical and technical support to ministries, local and regional public authorities on how to elaborate development strategies, local / regional development policies
- Stimulating cooperation and establishing partnerships between research and development institutions, public authorities, educational institutions and enterprises
- Developing the social dialogue system for a better impact on the labor market
- Inter-institutional cooperation for crises prevention and management.

Social Areas

This section analyzes the following SDGs:

- SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” contains two relevant policy priorities. The first one is related to sustainable growth in incomes and tackling the inequalities. In this regard, the Strategy includes the following nationalized SDG targets:

- Reduce by 50% of absolute and multidimensional poverty (SDG 1.2).

- Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services (SDG 8.3).
- Stimulate the growth of economic productivity at higher rate compared to the real wage growth, through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (SDG 8.2).

Under this priority, the government aims to empower its citizens to realize their professional aspirations either as employers or employees, in order to ensure a sustainable increase in population incomes. In this regard, specific actions are foreseen on two dimensions: (i) enhancing the quality of jobs by increasing the relevance of the educational sector, fighting informal economy and stimulation of youth employment; (ii) improving the business climate, with specific access on SMEs: fighting corruption, encouraging the startups, stimulating entrepreneurship, especially among women, promotion of green entrepreneurship, promotion of fair competition and increasing the capacities of companies to innovate.

The second priority is related to developing a solid and inclusive social protection system. The government aims at two specific objectives: (i) modernization of the social insurance system, through the development of the multi-pillar pension system; and (ii) modernization of the social assistance system, through the consolidation of its preventive function, increasing the transparency and accessibility of social assistance programs and consolidation of the institutional framework in this regard.

At sectorial level, the most relevant is the National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025. Under its pillar related to social protection, family and children, it mentions the following specific priorities:

- Strengthening social services for the protection of families and children in situations of difficulty on the territory of the Republic of Moldova or outside the country.
- Ensuring the combination of professional and family responsibilities for both women and men.
- Prevention of child victimization
- Increasing efficiency of the social benefits system targeting the vulnerable segments of the population
- Developing the integrated system of social services to support people in difficulty
- Improvement of the financial situation of the pensioners based on determining an adequate correlation between contributions and pension, the sustainability of the pension system, as well as increasing the rate of replacement of the salary with the pension
- Strengthening the population's confidence in the efficiency of the reformed pension system and increasing the motivation to contribute to the state social insurance budget
- Ensuring social security for migrant workers according to bilateral agreements with the main countries of destination.

Donor programs

The Czech Embassy focuses on inclusive social development: the introduction of an appropriate system of social protection, increase and improvement in social protection for vulnerable groups of the population (Priority 2 from country program). It also provides homecare services: so far, it established 10 homecare centers throughout the country. It also provided technical assistance to the Government in streamlining the legislation, adjusting the tariffs and a series of other soft actions in this regard. Among the most relevant projects, there could be mentioned the following:

- *Support and Assistance to the Social Sector of Moldova*, with the main objective to lead Moldova actors of the social sector to development of quality and sustainable social services accessible

for vulnerable groups of citizens. The project is implemented during 2017-2019 (the project is still active), with the total budget of 18,947,370 CZK (~688,000 EUR)¹⁰⁴.

- *Enhancement of the Social Protection System in Moldova* with the self-explanatory objective, implemented during 2017-2020, with the total budget of 17 million CZK (~617,000 EUR)¹⁰⁵.

The World Bank, under its objective of improving efficiency, quality and inclusive access to public services focuses on the equity and poverty monitoring, as well as the pension reform implementation and benefits administration. However, there are no active projects in these areas at the moment.

The EU Delegation implements the following relevant projects:

- *Better Social Services through a Sustainable Partnership Between the Civil Society and the Government*, with the objective to empower civil society organizations in the development and implementation of innovative solutions, which envisage the promotion of the social inclusion of children from vulnerable groups and people with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities, in partnership with the public authorities. The project is implemented during 2-2018-2021 with the total budget of 2,117,578 EUR, by the Soros Foundation Moldova¹⁰⁶.
- *Social Services for persons with disabilities to increase the confidence between the both banks of the Nistru river* with the objective to support the confidence building measures between both banks of Nistru river and ATU Gagauzia by developing the social protection system and ensuring the respect of rights of persons with disabilities. The project is implemented during 2016 – 2019 (the project is still active), with the total budget of 559,968 EUR by Keystone Moldova¹⁰⁷.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

This policy area is considered by policy makers and most donors as dependent on other policy areas, such as economic growth, employment or fight against corruption. Hence, there are not so many gaps that would be addressed specifically in this policy area.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030”, under its priority on Sustainable growth in incomes and tackling the inequalities, tackles the very specific issue related to the sustainable agriculture. Namely, it includes the nationalized SDG target 2.3 “increase agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers through secure and equal access to productive resources, inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets”. Apart from that, the strategy does not mention issues related to hunger and food security, as they are not perceived as major constraints for the country.

At the sectorial level, the most relevant is the National strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020. The aim of the Strategy is to increase the competitiveness of the agri-food sector through a wide restructuring and modernization and to improve the quality of life and work in the rural environment by achieving synergies between the agri-food activities and those of the natural environment. It follows three objectives:

I. Increasing the agrifood sector competitiveness by sector restructuring and modernization

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.czechaid.cz/en/projekty/support-and-assistance-to-the-social-sector-of-moldova/>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.czechaid.cz/en/projekty/enhancement-of-the-social-protection-system-in-moldova/>

¹⁰⁶ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/better-social-services-through-sustainable-partnership-between-civil-society-and-government>

¹⁰⁷ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/social-services-persons-disabilities-increase-confidence-between-both-banks-nistru-river>

2. Ensuring a sustainable management of resources in the agricultural sector
3. Enhancing the quality life in rural areas.

Donor programs

The Czech Embassy mentions one of the main country program priorities agriculture and rural development, through the increase in the income of selected farmers by securing efficient production resources and inputs, necessary knowledge, market access, and opportunities to create added value. The most relevant projects could be mentioned those supporting organic agriculture through provision of support to farmers and relevant CSOs, support to cooperatives to develop infrastructure (e.g. fridges), as well as promotion of improvements in legislation in this area.

The **EU Delegation** implements a number of important projects to support the agriculture sector, which are most often coupled with the local development priorities:

- Sector Reform Contract: “*European Neighbourhood Programme to Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD)*”, which has two objectives: (i) to assist the Government of the Republic of Moldova in eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, and consolidating and improving democratic and economic governance; and (ii) to foster confidence building in the Republic of Moldova, by targeting regions and territorial administrative units with a special status. The project is implemented during 2016-2019 (the project is still active), with the total budget of 53 million EUR¹⁰⁸.
- *Development of Rural Areas in the Republic of Moldova (DevRAM)* which has two specific objectives: (i) to integrate Moldovan-grown soybeans into domestic and global value chains; and (ii) implementation of infrastructure interventions to improve safe water supply and sanitation and contribute to adaptation to climate change; assistance to local authorities in tariff-setting and capacity building to ensure financial sustainability of the water and sanitation infrastructure operation and maintenance. The project is implemented during 2017 – 2021, with the total budget of 8.2 million EUR, by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)¹⁰⁹.
- Project “*Facilitating active engagement of the civil society actors in the agro-rural policy dialog*”, with the objective to establish sustainable partnerships between national and regional CSOs and due to this, to increase the number and quality of organizations participation in monitoring and the implementation of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development. The project is implemented during 2017-2019, with the total budget of 288,000 EUR by the National Federation of Agricultural Producers from Moldova “AGROinform”¹¹⁰.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

The objective of promoting sustainable agriculture could benefit of more donor presence, with a focus on enhancing the regulatory and institutional framework, including the agriculture subsidies’ fund, support to small farmers to join their efforts (e.g. form unions and cooperatives) and facilitate their access to infrastructure.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” includes a dedicated priority in this regard “Ensuring the fundamental right to the best physical and mental health”. The government focuses on three main objectives: (i)

¹⁰⁸ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/sector-reform-contract-%E2%80%9CEuropean-neighbourhood-programme-agriculture-and-rural-development>

¹⁰⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/development-rural-areas-republic-moldova-devram>

¹¹⁰ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/facilitating-active-engagement-civil-society-actors-agro-rural-policy-dialog>

promotion of a holistic approach towards health policies that would be intertwined with other sectors, primarily with education, assistance for vulnerable groups, employment, production, distribution and consumption of foodstuffs, tobacco and alcoholic beverages, environment and public transport; (ii) Promotion of healthy lifestyle; and (iii) ensuring the universal coverage with health services. The following nationalized SDG targets have been included:

- By 2030, reduce by 30% premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment (SDG 3.4.1).
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and use of alcohol (SDG 3.5).
- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning and to sexual and reproductive information and education (SDG 3.7).
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all (SDG 3.8).

The most relevant sectorial strategy is the Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020, which includes the following objectives:

1. Streamline and strengthen population health surveillance systems to identify health problems and provide relevant, truthful and timely information for public health decisions and actions.
2. Strengthening the national system of prevention, preparation and response in public health emergencies through an integrated approach to hazards
3. Ensuring the protection of health by streamlining control over behavioral and environmental risk factors.
4. Adoption of healthy behaviors by the population through the implementation of effective and coordinated measures to promote health in different sectors at national and local level.
5. Reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases by reducing risk factors and ensuring equitable access of the population to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services.
6. Improving the mechanisms of cross-sectoral collaboration with the definition and distinct delimitation of the responsibilities of the health sector and of other sectors in the implementation of the essential public health operations.
7. Ensuring the field of public health with competent and sufficient human resources by strengthening the training system for performing the essential public health operations.
8. Adjusting the organizational structure and improving the financing of the State Public Health Surveillance Service in order to carry out the essential operations and public health services in collaboration with other sectors
9. Strengthening research in the field of public health in order to ensure the substantiation of policies based on scientific evidence.

National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 also includes a priority related to healthcare, with the following specific priorities:

- Ensuring a larger access of the population to the qualitative health services, in accordance with the needs of the population and the demographic structure.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle for all categories of population
- Ensuring the broad access of the population to the services for the prevention of communicable diseases
- Prevention and reduction of the negative effects of smoking and harmful alcohol consumption on the health, social and economic status of the population
- Strengthening the capabilities of medical statistics for adjusting to international requirements

Strategy for combating and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023, under its objective of strengthening the protection mechanism and assistance for victims of violence against women and domestic violence, focuses on strengthening the response of the health system in cases of domestic violence.

Donor programs

Public Health is a priority area of intervention for the **Soros Foundation**. The main components of this interventions are: (a) promoting the rights of groups with high vulnerability to the HIV infection and consolidating efforts to enhance public financial allocations for the risk reduction programs; b) extending the access to palliative care; c) consolidating efforts to enhance the population access to medicine; d) promoting the rights of disabled persons to live in the community).

Health is a strategic priority for **SDC** as well. The strategic goal is that men/boys and women/girls effectively enjoy essential healthcare services and act responsibly regarding their own health. Among the most important recent specific interventions could be mentioned:

- *Youth Friendly Health Services in Moldova*. The project objective is: young men and women in Moldova (particularly those vulnerable and most-at-risk) adopt safer behaviors and seek assistance from health services when needed. It is implemented during November 2018 – October 2020, with the total budget of 1,1 million CHF¹¹¹.
- *Support to the reform of mental health services in Moldova*. The project objective is: people with mental health issues in Moldova receive care appropriate for their needs and reach their recovery goals. It is implemented during August 2018 – July 2022, with the total budget of 3,2 million CHF¹¹².
- *Progressing towards Universal Health Coverage in Moldova*. The project objective is: Moldovan population enjoys quality healthcare with adequate financial protection. It is implemented during November 2017 – April 2023 with the total budget of 4,6 million CHF¹¹³.
- *Contribution to the Project on Cervical Cancer Prevention in Moldova* implemented with additional support from WHO/GAVI, International Association for Cervical cancer prevention and Ministry of Health. The project objective is: July 2017 – June 2020, with the total budget of 600,000 CHF¹¹⁴.

Another important player in this area is **Romania**, which is implementing a number of strategically important projects in the health sector:

- *SMURD* with the objective to support Moldova's reaction to emergency health situations. The project is implemented during 2016-2020, with the total budget of 10 million EUR¹¹⁵.
- *Support for the establishing of the Single National Service for emergency calls 112 from the Republic of Moldova* was implemented by the RoAid Agency, with the financial support of the Swedish Government, in partnership with the Romanian Telecommunications Service (STS) in 2018¹¹⁶.

¹¹¹ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2011/7F07563/phase3?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

¹¹² https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2013/7F08711/phase2?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

¹¹³ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2017/7F09461/phase1?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

¹¹⁴ https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page2.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2017/7F09814/phase1?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

¹¹⁵ <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/10-milioane-de-euro-pentru-dezvoltarea-proiectului-smurd-in-moldova.html>

¹¹⁶ <http://roid.ro/en/launching-of-the-project-support-for-the-establishment-of-the-single-emergency-system-112-in-the-republic-of-moldova/>

During 2019 and until now, RoAid is periodically implementing projects on raising awareness about the 112 service¹¹⁷.

- *The Patient Electronical Medical Record (EMR), at the Mother and Child Institute in Moldova, developed during 2018-2019*¹¹⁸.

The **EU Delegation** is implementing the following relevant project in this area:

- Twinning Project "*Strengthening of the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of the Republic of Moldova as regulatory agency in the field of medicines, medical devices and pharmaceutical activity*", with the objective to ensure the full and correct implementation of the EU acquis in the area of medicinal products and medical devices and preparing the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of the Republic of Moldova in joining the EU regulatory agencies network as an equal partner. The project is implemented during 2017-2019 (the project is still active) with the total budget of 1,1 million EUR¹¹⁹.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Promotion of healthy lifestyle among the population
- Crisis management systems in the health industry
- Modernization of equipment and training in the health sector
- Ensuring the broad access of the population to the services for the prevention of communicable diseases
- Strengthening research in the field of public health
- Improving the quality and consistency of the statistics in the health sector
- Strengthening the response of the health system in cases of domestic violence

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Government programs

The NDS "Moldova 2030" has a dedicated priority to the educational sector "Guaranteeing quality education for all and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities". For children and young people, it focuses on developing the skills, abilities and competences necessary for the most organic integration in the community life and in the labor market, taking into account the imperatives of sustainable development. Also, for adults, the strategy focuses on the development of the system of lifelong learning, in accordance with the individual needs and socio-economic conditions. Also, it includes several nationalized SDG targets:

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes (SDG 4.1).
- By 2030, increase enrolment in affordable and quality vocational and higher education (SDG 4.3).
- By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for the labor market (SDG 4.4).
- By 2030, ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations (SDG 4.5).

¹¹⁷ <http://roaid.ro/en/information-material-about-the-unique-service-112-from-the-republic-of-moldova-were-distributed-to-pupils-in-different-educational-establishments/>

¹¹⁸ <http://roaid.ro/en/the-patient-electronical-medical-record-emr-at-the-mother-and-child-institute-in-moldova/>

¹¹⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/strengthening-medicines-and-medical-devices-agency-republic-moldova-regulatory-agency-field>

- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, environmental protection, gender equality, culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development (SDG 4.7).

The most important sectorial strategy is the Education Development Strategy "Education 2020", follows five key objectives:

1. Increasing the access and participation to education and lifelong professional training
2. Ensuring the relevance of skills for life, active citizenship and career success.
3. Efficient integration of ICT in education.
4. Development, support and motivation of the teaching staff in order to ensure quality education
5. Establishing an efficient system for monitoring and evaluation and quality assurance in education.

Also, education is a cross-sectoral priority in other policy planning documents, which reveals its strategic importance for the development of the country. Most of these documents emphasize on the need to enhance the human capital, which is considered to be the most important factor for ensuring sustainable growth and competitiveness.

Thus, the National Strategy "Innovations for Competitiveness" for 2013-2020 follows two relevant objectives:

1. Empowering the population with capacities to innovate, with the specific priorities of adaptation of formal training programs to the needs of innovation and development and supporting the entry of young talents into the innovation sphere; and supporting and popularizing innovative activities.
2. Applying knowledge to solve global and societal problems, with the specific priority of strengthening innovation connections between companies, education and research.

The National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020 includes the objective "Developing the human capital by promoting entrepreneurial culture and competences", with the following specific priorities:

- Development and promotion of entrepreneurial education and culture.
- Development of the educational support infrastructure for entrepreneurship
- Development of the informational and consultative system for SMEs.

National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021 includes the objective "Developing the human capital with increased chances for employment", with the following specific priorities:

- Strengthening the link between the labor market and the vocational training system in the Republic of Moldova.
- Improving the image of vocational-technical education and promoting it.
- Improvement of the practical skills of the graduates using the forms of training through internships, apprenticeship at the workplace to facilitate the school transition - the labor market.
- Ensuring the access of vulnerable groups to education and training.
- Improving the legal framework for lifelong learning.
- Enhancing awareness of the importance and promoting the benefits of lifelong learning and career management for all participants: employees, employers, educational institutions, universities, etc.
- Stimulating cooperation and establishing partnerships between research and development institutions, public authorities, educational institutions and enterprises.

Strategy for Domestic Trade Development 2014-2020 follows the objective "Enhancing the human capital that is working in the domestic trade", with the following specific priorities:

- Evaluation of competences of the employees working in domestic trade.

- Certification of the competences of the employees working in domestic trade that do not hold official diplomas of education.
- Developing public-private partnerships and partnerships between schools and private sector in order to enhance the skills of employees working in domestic trade.
- Lifelong learning of employees in the domestic trade.

Strategy for IT and Digital Innovative Ecosystem Development 2018-2023 includes a specific objective related to ensuring a competitive human capital in the field of ICT.

Some strategies emphasize on adjusting the educational and training programs to sustainable development objectives.

Thus, the National Strategy on Investment Attraction and Export Promotion for 2016-2020 has one of its key objectives “Improvement of the labor force development system for the export-oriented priority sectors” with the following specific priorities:

- Accelerate the implementation of the essential provisions of the Strategy for the development of the technical vocational education for 2013-2020 and of other actions oriented to the development of the labor force in the priority sectors identified in the present Strategy.
- Modernization of labor law and labor immigration legislation.
- Introducing a system of incentives to train employees.

The National Strategy for Industry Development for 2019-2030 has one of the key objectives to intensify the activities aimed at training the employees in the industrial sector, with the purpose to increase employment in these sectors.

National Environment Strategy 2014-2023, under its objective “Increasing the level of knowledge regarding environmental protection among pupils, students and employees by at least 50% by 2023 and ensuring access to environmental information” includes the following specific priorities:

- Development and incorporation of environmental education in the formal education system (in all relevant disciplines), as well as in non-formal and informal education.
- Ensuring the continuous training of the teachers for acquiring the necessary competences when including the environmental education in the teaching program.
- Ensuring access to the appropriate tools and materials for ecological education and sustainable development education.
- Promote research in the field of education for sustainable development.
- Informing and raising public awareness about environmental issues falls within the competence of public environmental authorities.

The Strategy for combating and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023 under its objective “Prevention of gender-based and domestic violence by promoting zero tolerance against this phenomenon in order to reduce it in the Republic of Moldova”, focuses on strengthening the educational system with the purpose to ensure the education of youth based on the values of equality between women and men and the culture of non-violent interpersonal communication.

The Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020 follows the objective “Ensuring the field of public health with competent and sufficient human resources by strengthening the training system for performing the essential public health operations.”

The National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 provides a comprehensive view towards the educational system development, being mentioned the following specific priorities:

- Ensuring the fair and efficient conditions of education and personality development of all students.
- Ensuring broad access to quality education and training for all children

- Formation of healthy lifestyle, communication skills, responsible behavior, and a reproductive health culture for all students in the education system
- Formation of the necessary attitude and abilities to respect road traffic rules.

Donor programs

Probably, the most important development partner in terms of disbursements in this area is the **World Bank**, which implements two comprehensive projects:

- *Higher Education Project* with the objective of enhancing quality and relevance of education and training institutions to enable acquisition of job-related skills. The project is implemented during 2020-2025 with the total budget of 39.4 million USD¹²⁰.
- *Moldova Education Reform Project* with the objective to strengthen the quality of education while supporting the efficiency reforms being implemented in the education sector. Project duration is 2013-2022, with the total budget of 40 million USD¹²¹. Additionally, in 2018 there was approved a 10 million USD top-up to the project budget for costs associated with the scale-up of selected activities initiated under the original credit, as well as the addition of a few new complementary activities¹²².

The EU Delegation implements three most relevant projects, including one covering culture sector, which is less addressed by donors:

- *Educating Moldovan Consumers of Information to Reduce the Effect of the False Information and Manipulation through Media*, with the objective to diminish the impact of manipulation and misinformation by the media through educating media consumers to identify manipulation and false or biased information. These activities will continue and will extend the campaign against false and biased information, "STOP FALS!" conducted by the Association of Independent Press (API) and its partners in Moldova. The project duration is 2017-2019 (the project is still active) with the total budget of 214,765 EUR.¹²³
- *Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of VET system in Republic of Moldova*, with the objective to support the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and related VET bodies/institutions and actors in further implementation of VET Strategy 2013-2020 by improving capacity of key institutions in charge to assure quality with the special focus on teachers' competences and collaboration with private sector. The project is implemented during 2019-2021 with the total budget of 1.3 million EUR¹²⁴.
- The twinning project *Support to promote cultural heritage in the Republic of Moldova, through its preservation and protection* implemented by the Ministry of Education Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MECR) in partnership with its EU counterpart - the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (MiBACT). The project is implemented during 2017-2019 (the project is still active), with the total budget of 1 million EUR¹²⁵.

At a lower scale, but a very important and consistent development partner in this sector is the **Liechtenstein Development Service (LED)**. LED is open to support advocacy work in education with a focus on strengthening the dialogue between the key stakeholders. Monitoring, access to information / evidence and accountability in the education system is part of advocacy. Here, the targets comprise interventions to strengthen inclusive representation of stakeholder groups, evidence based advocacy and effective communication mechanisms within and among CSOs and duty bearers. Specific interventions/actions:

¹²⁰ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P167790>

¹²¹ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P127388>

¹²² <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P156657>

¹²³ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/educating-moldovan-consumers-information-reduce-effect-false-information-and-manipulation>

¹²⁴ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/enhancing-quality-and-effectiveness-vet-system-republic-moldova>

¹²⁵ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/support-promote-cultural-heritage-republic-moldova-through-its-preservation-and-protection>

- *Strengthening Vocational Education and Training in Moldova* that aims to improve the quality of delivery of partner VET schools. The project envisages the creation of a training center for VET staff, management courses and support to quality assurance in the VET schools, stimulation of youth participation, developing assessment tools for VET schools, teacher training and infrastructure development. It is implemented during 2019 – 2021, with the total budget of 1,8 million EUR¹²⁶.
- *Strengthening SBSM Capacity for Promoting Child-Centered Education* with the objective to strengthen the capacity of SBSM so they can further play an important role in promoting democratic changes in education, particularly in Early Childhood Education, through new ways of teacher training, focusing on a reflection-based implementation of the child/learner-centered approach. The project is implemented during June 2019 – February 2021 with the total budget of 188,948 EUR¹²⁷.

Additionally, there are plans to put increasing focus on advocacy, namely by encouraging representation (e.g. formation of teachers' associations) in order to influence the educational policies.

SDC is also an active player in this sector, which implements most of its projects in partnership with other implementing agencies (GIZ, UNFPA etc.). Under priority 2 (Economic development and employment) of its country program, the SDC aims to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for the labor market, and to ensure that the Vocational Education and Training (VET), lifelong learning and job mediation systems match relevant skills with jobs in demand on the labor market. Specific interventions include:

- *Promotion of the dual VET system* (project implemented by GIZ), with the objective to strengthen the system of demand-oriented dual VET for the promotion of ecological, economic and social development in Moldova.
- *FACE project*: Civic education and civic participation of youth (implemented in partnership with UNFPA and Council of Europe).

Romania is also actively investing in the education sector, especially early childhood education, mainly through hard investments, by renovating kindergartens, providing school buses, provision of scholarships for students and organizing summer camps. Romania also has important contributions the area of culture, by renovating important the Organ Hall, B.P. Hasdeu Theatre in Cahul, National Arts Museum, and by providing financial support for the organization of various cultural events.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Establishing an efficient system for monitoring and evaluation and quality assurance in education
- Fostering the quality of statistics in the educational system
- Promotion of distance learning
- Promotion of innovations through the educational sector and strengthening innovation connections between firms, education and research activities.
- Promotion of entrepreneurial education and culture
- Promotion of financial and juridical literacy
- Promotion of environmental education
- Strengthening the training system for performing the essential public health operation.

¹²⁶ <https://www.led.md/consept4>

¹²⁷ <https://www.led.md/sbsm-consolidation>

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” emphasizes on the inclusiveness of vulnerable groups into the economic, social and cultural processes, which is in line with the "no-one left behind" principle of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. So, addressing the inequalities generated by the exclusion of vulnerable groups is a cross-cutting issue of the Strategy. There are three priorities which tackle the issue of inequalities.

- The first one is related to the sustainable growth in incomes and tackling the inequalities, under which the nationalized SDG target 1.2 is integrated (By 2030, reduce by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in absolute and multidimensional poverty according to national definitions and international measure of people living on less than 4.3 \$ a day). The specific objective refers to ensuring economic inclusion through equitable distribution of incomes and diminishing the inequalities.
- The second one is related to increasing the access of the population to physical infrastructure, public utilities and living conditions, which addresses non-monetary dimension of inequalities. It includes the following specific objectives:
 - Increasing the accessibility of infrastructure, goods and information for persons with disabilities through financial, legislative, institutional measures.
 - Development of the network of social services for inclusion, rehabilitation, retraining and elimination of discrimination for all vulnerable groups.
 - Improving the access to social support for disadvantaged groups by offering relevant services, with homogeneous geographical distribution.
- The third one is related to ensuring an efficient and inclusive government and rule of law and addresses the inequality in access to justice. It includes the nationalized SDG target 16.3 (Promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all women, men and children) and focuses on:
 - Integration of the principle of equality and non-discrimination in the policy-making process.
 - Developing a justice system that is equitable and accessible for all, especially for the vulnerable groups.
 - Ensuring quality public services that are accessible for all, especially for vulnerable groups.
 - Promotion of the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities.

It is worth noting that, at the sectorial level, the principle of no-one left behind is not so sufficiently integrated. In most cases, the problem of inequalities is meant implicitly as part of the policy priorities.

Among the few Strategies that address in a bolder and more focused way the problem of inequalities can be mentioned the National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021. It includes the objective “Developing the human capital with increased chances for employment” with the focus on ensuring the access of vulnerable groups to education and training, and the objective “A better governance of the labor market”, with the focus on diversification of services and extension of personalized employment packages for vulnerable groups, as well as on improving the measures to empower the beneficiaries of social assistance with skills relevant for the jobs market.

Another relevant document is the Strategy for combating and prevention of gender-based and domestic violence for 2018-2023. It includes the objective “Strengthening the protection mechanism and assistance for victims of violence against women and domestic violence”, focused on promoting women's economic empowerment and socio-economic independence.

The issue of integration of vulnerable groups is also addressed by the Inclusive education development Program (2011-2020), which has 4 major objectives:

1. Promoting inclusive education as an educational priority in order to avoid exclusion and / or marginalization of children, young people and adults;
2. Development of the normative and methodological framework for promotion and insurance of inclusive education;
3. Formation of a friendly and accessible educational environment capable of meeting expectations and special requirements of the beneficiaries;
4. Formation of an inclusive culture and society.

Donor programs

Similarly, with policy makers, the issue of inequalities is not seen as a stand-alone topic of intervention, being rather treated as a cross-cutting element of other projects. This approach was enforced especially by the Agenda 2030, which integrated the “no one left behind” principle, which became a horizontal priority for all donors, including for such organizations as IMF, EBRD or World Bank. Hence, we will not mention in this section specific projects in order not to duplicate with the projects described under different sections.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

Despite the cross-cutting integration of the inequalities issue in donor projects, there were not identified any dedicated projects to the issue of income inequalities. Other specific gaps are related to:

- Addressing income inequalities, by economic empowerment of the poor.
- Stimulation of employment and economic empowerment of the vulnerable groups of the population.
- Economic empowerment of the victims of domestic violence.
- Promotion of inclusive education.

Environment

This policy area will cover the following SDGs:

- SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Government priorities

The NDS “Moldova 2030” is first strategic policy planning document that integrates a specific priority on environment: “Ensuring the fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment”. It integrates a number of nationalized SDG targets:

- By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, including droughts and floods (SDG 1.5).
- By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound

technologies and industrial processes, taking action in accordance with the respective capabilities (SDG 9.4).

- Creation of integrated waste and chemicals management systems that would contribute to a 30% reduction in the amount of landfill waste and a 20% increase in recycling rate until 2023 (SDG 12.4).
- By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, especially at municipal level (SDG 12.5).
- By 2020, ensure the climate-resilience by reducing by 50 percent climate-related risks and by facilitating the adaptation in 6 priority sectors – agriculture, water, health, forestry, energy and transport (SDG 13.1).
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (SDG 13.2).
- Consolidating the institutional framework related to climate change and raise awareness on climate change risks and adaptation measures of all relevant stakeholders, including population (SDG 13.3).
- By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce surface water pollution, in particular from land-based activities (SDG 14.1).
- By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation (SDG 15.2).
- By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world (SDG 15.3).
- Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species (SDG 15.5).
- By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts and territory improvement plans (SDG 15.9).

The most important sectorial policy planning document is the National Environment Strategy 2014-2023. This is a very comprehensive document, which contains the following objectives:

- Ensuring good governance and efficiency of the institutional and managerial potential in the field of environmental protection in order to achieve the environmental objectives.
- Integration of the principles of environmental protection, sustainable development and green economic development and adaptation to climate change in all sectors of the national economy.
- Increasing the level of knowledge regarding environmental protection among pupils, students and employees by at least 50% by 2023 and ensuring access to environmental information.
- Reducing the negative impact of economic activity on the environment and improving measures to prevent environmental pollution.
- Creation of an integrated monitoring and quality control system.
- Improving the quality of at least 50% of surface waters by implementing the river basin management system.
- Improving the quality of soils and the ecological reconstruction of degraded lands, affected by landslides and 100% protection strips of agricultural land, as well as sustainable management and protection of useful mineral resources.
- Ensuring access, until 2023, to about 80% of the population to safe water supply systems and services and about 65% to sewage systems and services.
- Creation of an integrated air quality management system, 30% reduction of pollutant emissions into the atmosphere by 2023 and at least 20% of greenhouse gases by 2020, compared to the baseline scenario.

- Creation of integrated waste and chemical management systems, which would contribute to a 30% reduction in the amount of waste deposited and a 20% increase in the recycling rate by 2023.

Other strategies also include environmental objectives as cross-cutting elements. Thus, the National Strategy for Business Regulatory Framework for 2013-2020 integrates the principle of responsible production and consumption. The National Strategy for Developing the Sector of Small and Medium Enterprises for 2012-2020 includes the objective of developing the green economy among SMEs. The National strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020 includes the objective of ensuring a sustainable management of resources in the agricultural sector with the focus on supporting environmentally friendly technologies, ecological products and biodiversity. The National Strategic Program on Demographic Security 2011-2025 focuses on increasing the efficiency at all levels and development of modern environmental management capabilities in order to guarantee a healthy and sustainable environment for the population.

Donor programs

One of the most active donors in this area is **Sweden**. Sweden aims to mainstream environment and climate change in all programs. It supports a number of civil society organizations in realizing the potential of Moldova as a model of sustainable development by fostering ecological and social innovation and enhancing the access to environmental information and supporting the European integration processed within environmental sector. It also provides support to relevant public institutions (e.g. Environment Agency, National Agency for Regulating Nuclear and Radiologic Activities etc.). Among the most relevant projects, there could be mentioned:

- *Study on Environment and Social Impact of the functioning of the Dniester HPC* implemented at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment with the purpose to develop an environmental and social impact study of the current functioning of the Dniester Hydropower Complex as well as estimate the impacts in case of the further development of the complex in the context of the ongoing negotiations with Ukraine of the Agreement on the functioning of the Dniester Hydropower Complex. The project is implemented during 2018-2020 with the total budget of 691,093 USD¹²⁸.
- *Core support to environmental NGOs*, with the purpose to strengthen their capacities to promote pro-environmental policies and increase population environmental awareness.

Czech Embassy includes the sustainable management of natural resources as one of its core priorities of the country program, with a focus on improvements in the protection, use and development of water resources, water quality, restoration of water resources, elimination of pollution, increase in the availability of quality drinking water, wastewater management. Among the specific interventions could be mentioned:

- Reconstruction of several waste water treatments (Briceni – 1.2 million EUR, implemented during 2016-2019; Hancesti – 1.5 million EUR, implemented during 2017-2019), and Providing expertise in the field of urban waste water treatment and collection (project implemented in 2016-2018 with the total budget of 0.2 million EUR).
- De-contamination (liquidation of pesticides, remediation of hazardous waste, remediation of oil contamination of military forces in Marculesti).
- Support the harmonization of legislation in waste water, solid waste management.
- Access to water: mapping of underground sources of water in the south regions.

EU Delegation treats environment rather as a cross-cutting policy area across many of its projects. Still, it implements several projects focused on environment. One of such examples is the project *Clean Water for Cahul*, aiming to improve the living conditions of the population in Cahul through the reduction of health risks as well as to protection of the environment and adopting a smarter use of

¹²⁸ <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12109A0101-MDA-41010>

natural resources. The project is implemented during 2014-2019, with the total budget of 10.8 million EUR¹²⁹.

UNDP Moldova is also implementing a number of important interventions related to environment:

- *Moldova Sustainable Green Cities* with the objective to catalyze investments in low carbon green urban development by an integrated urban planning approach and by encouraging innovation, participatory planning and partnerships among and between a variety of public and private sector entities. The project is implemented during September 2017 – September 2022 with the total budget of 42,6 million USD¹³⁰.
- *CC and DRR in Water Sector* with the objective of promotion of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction solution in the water and civil protection sectors for enhanced rural resilience. The project is implemented during September 2018 – December 2021 with the total budget of 1.1 million USD¹³¹.

The World Bank implements projects focused on SDG 15 – life on land:

- *Moldova Community Forestry Project*, implemented during 2009 (date of approval) – 2020, with the total budget of 10 million USD¹³².
- *Soil Conservation Follow Up Project*, implemented during 2006 (date of approval) – 2020, with the total budget of 5.3 million USD¹³³.

Identified gaps between government priorities and donor support

- Implementation of green economy principles by creating proper incentives for firms and population.
- Creation of an integrated monitoring and quality control system in environment.
- Climate risks and crises prevention and management.
- Creation of integrated waste and chemical management systems.
- Institutional reforms in the environmental sector.
- Creation of an integrated air quality management system.
- Facilitation of the integration of environmentally friendly technologies.
- Implementation of the system of “green procurements”.
- Strengthening the analytical capacities in the environmental sector.
- Increasing the transparency and effectiveness in managing natural resources.
- Promotion of environmental awareness across companies and population.

¹²⁹ <https://eu4moldova.md/en/content/clean-water-cahul>

¹³⁰ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00097704>

¹³¹ <https://open.undp.org/projects/00111725>

¹³² <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P109459>

¹³³ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P100597>

USAID AND OTHER DONOR PROGRAMS: POTENTIAL OVERLAPPING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNCHRONIZATION

This chapter analyzes the potential overlapping on the one hand, and opportunities for joint projects and synchronization, on the other hand, between USAID and other donors and implementing agencies working in Moldova. The analysis includes both USAID priorities for Moldova: (i) economic growth; and (ii) governing justly and democratically. It is based on specific areas of specialization and competitive advantages identified for the most important donors in Moldova, estimated during the donor mapping.

DONOR MAPPING				
DONOR/IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION	COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	CURRENT OR POTENTIAL OVERLAP	OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES
Czech Embassy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of natural resources • Inclusive social development • Good democratic governance • Agriculture and rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition know-how (sharing similar past) • Specific Czech expertise, at relatively lower costs • Small and focused interventions on very concrete projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current overlap • Potential overlap between Czech interventions related to agriculture and rural development (projects on high value-added agriculture) with the High Value Agriculture Activity USAID project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-founding joint projects • Support to organic agriculture • Need to establish connections with the My Community Project
EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring of the banking sector • Enhancing energy security • Supporting private firms • Promoting commercialization of public utilities and better infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on programs that are demand driven • Sustainability: most projects have a commercial component (e.g. self-sufficient e-tendering system) and the support is based on loans that come with grants, along with expertise and capacity building. • Policy dialogue with the government (good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EBRD projects on providing funding for SMEs through commercial banks (EU4 Business and Women in Business) have similar objectives with the Development Credit Authority (DCA) USAID project. • Potential overlap between EBRD interventions related to increasing the transparency of the banking sector and Financial Sector Transparency Activity USAID project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME development. • Preferential lending schemes for projects aimed at enhancing energy efficiency and security, at the central and local levels.

		<p>reputation of being a reliable partner to the Government)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility: 6-12 months to start a project. 		
EU Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCFTA • Agriculture • Economy and Business Development • Energy • Transport and Infrastructure • Environment and Sustainable Development • Justice and Police • Public Administration • Culture, Science and Social Inclusion • Civil Society and Human Rights • Cross Border Cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest donor • Capacity to conduct donor coordination • Implementation of the integrated approach for donor projects at the local level • Strong political leverage • Capacity to work in the Transnistrian region • Increased presence at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU project <i>Support to SMEs in Rural Areas (PARE I+I and WiB)</i> and USAID project <i>Development Credit Authority (DCA)</i> have similar objectives to support SMEs. • The EU project <i>Support to the implementation of the European Union High Level Advisers' Mission</i> and the USAID project <i>Financial Sector Transparency Activity (FSTA)</i> have similar interventions in the financial and banking sector. • Both EU Delegation and USAID implement projects on anticorruption and justice sector reform through CSOs. • Both EU Delegation and USAID implement projects for strengthening the independent media. • The EU project <i>AGREED - Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development</i> with the USAID project <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> regarding the promotion of transparency and good governance at the local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint projects on the economic development, justice and media • Private sector development, with accent on exporters in the framework of DCFTA • Regional approach: synergies with <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> project (e.g. USAID could ensure visibility and accountability for the investment/hard projects implemented by EU) • Access to finance: empowering clusters of SMEs • EU can provide opportunities for joint projects in the Transnistrian region (e.g. SMEs' development)
Soros Foundation Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance • Justice and human rights • Public health • Media • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well acquainted and connected with/to the domestic context • Strong reliance on the domestic expertise; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations provide support to CSOs for promoting independent media, justice sector and anticorruption reforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Soros Foundation could support projects aimed at monitoring the public policies/public acquisitions that would be complementary to the TA and infrastructure projects of USAID, which could ensure a higher accountability of USAID beneficiaries. • The Soros Foundation could be an implementing agency for USAID projects in areas related to

				integrity, justice reform, SMEs' development, Association Agreement or media, due to its well-established position in the country and knowledge of the domestic context.
IMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial sector • Fiscal policies • Monetary policy • Anti-money laundering policies • Economic and macroeconomic assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing coupled with extensive TA • High credibility • Close interaction with the Government (assistance and support is purely demand-driven). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations implement TA projects in the financial sector, which often creates overlaps that need more coordination. This is primarily the case of USAID project <i>Financial Sector Transparency Activity (FSTA)</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Governance could be an important topic of cooperation on the new IMF program • Need for more coordination and more focused meetings (USAID-IMF) on asset recovery, financial sector, treasury and justice projects • Joint projects where IMF provides TA and USAID co-funding for such beneficiaries as the Central Securities Depository, National Bank of Moldova, Ministry of Finance. The projects could also focus on building and implementing IT solutions for these beneficiaries.
LED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational Education • Organic Agriculture • Renewable Energy • Entrepreneurship • Teacher Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are working at grassroots level (school level), which ensures less risks in terms of political buy in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations have projects promoting entrepreneurial education: LED is implementing the project <i>Moldova Employment and Entrepreneurship Education and Training Activity (MEEETA), Phase IV¹³⁴</i> and USAID is funding the project <i>Supporting Entrepreneurial Education in Eastern Europe (Georgia, Serbia, Moldova and Macedonia)</i>. • Potential overlaps on organic agriculture and renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining efforts on promoting entrepreneurial education and culture among youth • Joint projects in education where LED can provide capacity building and USAID provide co-financing.
Embassy of Netherlands/Matra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights: LGBT, media freedom, ethnic minorities and human trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility: a project can be initiated in 2-3 months • Openness to a diversity of priorities, depending on the circumstances and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations are supporting CSOs for advancing the justice sector reform. • Both organizations are supporting CSOs for strengthening the media independence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint projects on justice, independent media and monitoring elections.

¹³⁴ The project is implemented during 2017-2020, with the budget of 757,743 EUR: <https://www.led.md/meeeta>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy and good governance • Justice and rule of law 	opportunities for achieving impact		
Embassy of Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting SMEs in rural areas • Supporting rural development • Urban revitalization • Good governance at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the local context • Knowledge of Russian and Romanian languages). • Grants facility coupled with advice for SMEs • Professional implementing agencies (Solidarity Fund and East Foundation from Poland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current overlaps. • There are potential overlaps related to supporting SMEs in rural areas and rural development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-funding projects for supporting local entrepreneurs. • Follow up to the LEADER project (project funded by USAID and implemented by the Polish Solidarity Fund, with the goal to provide Moldovan communities with comprehensive assistance for local development, following the EU LEADER / Community-led Local Development approach, by involving all community actors (representatives of the public, private and civic sectors) and addressing local development challenges.
SDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Local governance • Economic Development and Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects have an important component on legal and policy framework and dialogue • Close relations with implementing partners and beneficiaries • Integration of human rights approach as cross cutting across projects • Available resources for co-funding other resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations have projects on empowering local communities and local governance. This is the case of USAID <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> project and SDC <i>Engaging Citizens and Empowering Communities project</i>¹³⁵. Also, SDC is planning to launch the project “Engaged People - Strong municipalities” that will support Moldova through a two-pronged approach supporting citizens (in enhancing participation and social accountability) and institutions (in improving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining efforts with the <i>My Community</i> project on community empowerment and mobilization • Replication of the ApaSan project on water supply and sanitation, with the infrastructure and tools of the <i>My Community</i> project • Ensuring complementarity between infrastructure projects at the local level funded by USAID and community mobilization projects funded by SDC in order to ensure

¹³⁵ The project is implemented during December 2015 – June 2021, with the total budget of 3.2 million CHF:
https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html?searchTerm=&filtersdctopic%253A=Selection&filtersdcsubtopic%253A=Selection&checkPlanned=Planned&checkActive=Active&fromDate=&toDate=

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects funded fully by SDC are not restricted to implementing agencies from Switzerland (anyone can apply) • Geopolitical neutrality of Switzerland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDC is planning to launch the project “Creating Jobs Opportunities Through Improved Market Systems” with the objective of creation of attractive job opportunities, especially for young people, by enhancing the competitiveness of local private enterprises (project to be implemented until 2030 with the total budget of 4.8 million CHF). It implies similarities with USAID interventions on supporting the private sector (<i>Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP)</i> project, <i>High Value Agriculture Activity</i> project and <i>Moldova Structural Reform Program</i> project). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the synergy with the <i>Creating Jobs Opportunities Through Improved Market Systems</i> project. 	
Swedish Embassy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy • Strengthened democracy, greater respect for human rights and a more fully developed state under the rule of law • A better environment, reduced climate change and enhanced resilience to environmental impact and climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only donor in Moldova that provides institutional core funding to CSOs • The only donor in Moldova working closely with the civil society, right holders and public authorities from the Transnistrian region • Driving normative dialogue on gender, human rights and environment sustainability • Biggest contributor to the Eastern Europe Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some overlaps under Sida’s priority of enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy. Thus, it is funding the <i>Moldova Investment Climate Reform</i> project with the objective to enhance Moldova’s exports and investments by improving the business enabling environment, thus boosting the private sector’s market competitiveness to take full advantage of the AA/DCFTA with the EU¹³⁷. Another relevant project is the <i>Inception Moldova Business Investment Climate</i> implemented by IFC with the to increase Moldova's private sector market competitiveness and agriculture exports by improving the business enabling environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing with USAID on joint projects, including under priority of enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy • Cooperation on a potential project on forensic system, planned by Sida. • Mainstreaming gender and environment throughout the USAID programs, with the technical assistance from Sida.

¹³⁶ The project will be implemented until 2030, with the total budgetary commitment of 11 million CHF: https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/international-cooperation/projects.filterResults.par_projectfilter_2b80_page1.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2017/7F09815/phase99?oldPagePath=/content/countries/moldova/en/home/internationale-zusammenarbeit/projekte.html

¹³⁷ The project is implemented during 2015-2020, with the total budget of 3.9 million USD: <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5512000401-MDA-25010>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming • Civil Society Core Support 	Efficiency and Environment Partnership (provides opportunities for top-up for loans for infrastructure projects)	and taking full advantage of DCFTA ¹³⁸ . Hence, there are potential overlaps with the USAID <i>Moldova Competitiveness Project</i> and <i>Moldova Structural Reform Program</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both organizations have projects in the area of justice sector reform. Thus, Sida is funding <i>Inception phase Strengthening Efficiency of Justice in Moldova 2019-2020</i> project¹³⁹ which has a similar objective with USAID projects on justice. 	
UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance, human rights and gender equality • Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth • Environmental sustainability and resilience • Inclusive and equitable social development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political neutrality • Constructive engagement with the Government • Flexibility and openness to work at the policy level • Active presence at the local level • Active promoter of Agenda 2030 and the strategic planning framework 	Both organizations implement projects in the justice sector. Thus, UNDP implements the <i>Access to Justice</i> project with the objective to contribute to the increase in trust to justice institutions in Moldova through strengthening access to justice and qualitative justice services ¹⁴⁰ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up to the <i>Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections</i> project • Territorial reform: join efforts with <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> project, advocacy around territorial reform • Aligning methodological approaches while working at the local levels – better coordination • Promotion of ICT innovation tools (e.g. ICT in education, women empowerment through ICT tools etc.)
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic governance: enhanced quality and implementation of investment climate regulation; strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities to provide robust analytical services • Evidence-based diagnostic analysis 	The World Bank implements a number of projects on raising the competitiveness and enhancing the business climate (<i>Second Competitiveness Enhancement Project</i> ¹⁴¹ and <i>Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project</i> ¹⁴²),	Joining efforts on improving the business climate and strengthening the private sector.

¹³⁸ The project is implanted during 2019-2020, with the total budget of 423,016 USD: <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-12688A0101-MDA-32130>

¹³⁹ The project is implemented by UNDP during 2019-2021, with the total budget of 663,290 USD: <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-13697A0101-MDA-15131>

¹⁴⁰ The project is implemented during September 2019 – December 2022, with the total budget of 645,000 USD (funded by Sida).

¹⁴¹ Objective to increase the export competitiveness of Moldovan enterprises and decrease the regulatory burden faced (approved on July 11, 2014, with the closing date of July 30, 2021 and total budget of 45 million USD) .

¹⁴² Objective to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system, facilitating market access for farmers, and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices (approved on July 7, 2016, closing date is N/A, with the total budget of 10 million USD).

	<p>management of public sector assets; and enhanced financial sector governance and stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service governance: increased efficiency and quality of selected public services and increased inclusive access to selected public services • Skills development: enhanced efficiency and quality of primary and secondary education • Climate as a cross-cutting theme: greater adaptation, resilience and response to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as implementing agency for SDC, Sida, Japan, DFID and others. • Ability to deliver hard investments: infrastructure projects. • High political leverage: provision of budget support in exchange for policy actions 	<p>which have similar objectives with the USAID <i>Moldova Competitiveness Project</i>, <i>High Value Agriculture Activity</i> project and <i>Moldova Structural Reform Program</i>.</p>	
Embassy of Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Healthcare • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common language, culture, traditions: making the Romanian support characterized by agility and fast response • Business climate – Romania and Moldova are considered mutual reinforcing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overlaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects on promoting tourism, including cross-border tourism.
Embassy of Germany/GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social development: enhancing the quality and efficiency of healthcare services in Moldova 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility • Reliable implementing agency (GIZ) • Well targeted assistance with clear priorities 	<p>GIZ implements the project Modernization of Local Public Services¹⁴³ with the objective of improving conditions for a citizen-oriented implementation of regional development policy in priority sectors of local public service provision. This is a close</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-funding for local infrastructure projects • USAID can implement the tools developed under the <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> project for raising the accountability of LPAs and

¹⁴³ It is implemented during January 2016 – December 2021, with the total budgetary commitment of 86,5 million EUR.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and democracy: modernizing local public services, management of water resources from Nistru river, developing capacities in climate policies, administrative reform. • Economic development and jobs creation: VET reform, providing economic advice to the Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close and constructive cooperation with the Government 	<p>area of intervention with <i>Comunitatea Mea</i> project funded by USAID.</p>	<p>community engagement for infrastructure projects funded by GIZ.</p>
Embassy of UK/DFID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance • Independent media • Human rights and democracy • Civil society development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility • Geopolitical neutrality • Experience in working in Transnistria and Gagauzia. • Expertise on security issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Good Governance Fund</i> project¹⁴⁴ funded by DFID contains interventions that overlap with USAID projects: technical assistance in the financial sector, business climate and trade policies. • Both organizations are supporting media CSOs: DFID is funding the project <i>Support to Independent Media in Moldova</i>¹⁴⁵. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership on fostering SME sector at the local level, including in the Transnistrian region.

¹⁴⁴ The project started in 2017, and now it is in its last stage of implementation (February 2020 – March 2021), with the budget of 3.6 million GBP

¹⁴⁵ The project is implemented during December 2018 – March 2021, with the total budget of 640,000 GBP

ANNEX I. LIST OF INTERVIEWS

Aside from the desk research carried out for data collection and analysis the project team met and discussed in detail with the following donors and public authorities (based on a set of questions - separately for donors and the public authorities, sent to the interviewees in advance to the meeting).

Donors/implementing agencies

1. The UK Embassy in the Republic of Moldova – Chris Perkins, Head of Programmes
2. The World Bank - Boris Ciobanu, communications officer; Carolina Odobescu, Main Program Coordinator (WB Moldova Office)
3. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Angela Sax, Head of EBRD in Moldova
4. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - Volodymyr Tulin, IMF Resident Representative in Moldova
5. The Swiss Development Cooperation(SDC) - Viorica Cretu, Deputy Director of Cooperation
6. The Czech Republic Embassy - Kateřina Šilhánková, Counsellor / Development and Economic Affairs
7. The Japan Embassy - Hagino Atsutoshi, I secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Moldova
8. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Chisinau - Maciej Kowalczyk, II Secretary, Political and Economical Section
9. The Swedish Embassy - Madelene Eichhorn, Programme Manager/Analyst; Oxana Paierele, Programme Officer; Daniela Vidaicu, Programme Officer; Virginia Bilici, Programme Officer.
10. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - Andrea Cuzyova, Deputy Resident Representative; Valeria Ieseanu, Planning and Partnership Development Specialist.; Alla Skvortova, Programme Specialist/Cluster Lead/Effective Governance.
11. LED (Liechtenstein Development Service) - Pius Frick, LED Representative in Moldova
12. Embassy Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – Ecaterina Valcu, Senior Political Affairs Officer
13. The EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova - Marco Gemmer, Head of Operations/Cooperation
14. The Soros Foundation Moldova - Varvara Colibaba, Deputy Director of the SFM
15. The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany- Achim Mortier, Head of Cooperation; Larisa Coroban, Economic Cooperation Unit.
16. The Embassy of Romania – Daniel Ionita, Ambassador of Romania
17. The Polish Solidarity Fund (via Skype) - Tomasz Horbowski, Country Director

Central Public Authorities

1. Ministry of Finance – Tatiana Ivanicichina, State Secretary; Iulia Ciumac, Head, Foreign Assistance Division, Directorate for Public Investment and Foreign Assistance
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration – Cristina Avornic, Head of Unit for Economic and Sectoral Cooperation with EU
3. The State Chancellery – Adrian Ermurachi, Deputy General Secretary of the Government