EUROPEAN UNION – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP

Mobility Partnership Partners:
• European Commission;
• FRONTEX;
• European Training Foundation;

15 EU Member States:
• Bulgaria;
• Cyprus;
• Czech Republic;
• France;
• Germany;
• Greece;
• Hungary;
• Italy;
• Lithuania;
• Poland;
• Portugal;
• Romania;
• Slovakia;
• Slovenia;
• Sweden.

Sources of the Mobility Partnership Financing:
• European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument;
• Thematic Programme for Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum;
• Bilateral financial assistance from the EU member states;
• National resources.
The Extended Migration Profile (EMP) Report of the Republic of Moldova has recently been finalized. It is the result of more than two years of intense work of a team of independent experts, Moldovan Government officials, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as well as the UN country team partners, notably International Labour Organisation (ILO). The EMP was developed in the framework of the EU-funded Project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The European Union institutions and the Member States were instrumental in making this document see the light through their financial and moral support, and constant interest and steering. The present EMP Report is a country-owned tool, prepared in consultation with a broad range of government and non-government stakeholders, to be used to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking and the mainstreaming of migration into development planning. The entire process of supporting the establishment of the EMP for Moldova implied a set of multifaceted actions and synergies between all the involved stakeholders and partners and will help to improve the data collection and sharing, promote greater coherence and a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to policy development related to migration.

The regular independent production of the Report will be continued by the Government of Moldova, specifically under the coordination of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior, jointly with the Technical Working Group members.

Recognizing the need for capacity building measures that have to be continued both for those institutions that produce data and for those that will be using it, at national level and with the international expertise and assistance, a technical training for representatives of governmental agencies “Enhancing Migration Data Analysis in the Republic of Moldova” was organized by the IOM Mission to Moldova.
Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning

► The Republic of Moldova is currently one of the four pilot countries in the world that is implementing a project to mainstream migration into development.

In the framework of this UNDP/IOM/UN WOMEN Joint Pilot Programme “Mainstreaming of Migration into Development in Moldova (MOMID)”, which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), a series of public lectures on Migration and Development were held in several universities in Chisinau, where young people were invited to discuss the impact of migration and gender issues on the country's development prospects.

Over 150 students from various fields such as political science, economics, law, psychology and social work participated in a series of public lectures on the inter-linkages between migration and development in order to inform the future decision-makers and potential migrants about the impact their decisions can have on their country's development prospects.

During public lectures students were acquainted particularly with the policies addressing the brain drain of highly-skilled young specialists and management of remittances to benefit the development of the country, as planned in the National Development Strategy Moldova 2020. Participants were divided in thematic groups – governance, education, health, economy - and each group was presented with a case study, enabling students to express their opinions on the impact of migration on strategic development policies in these sectors.

Public lessons held in November 2013 were hosted by the University of European Economic and Political Studies "Constantin Stere", Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova, Free International University of Moldova and State University of Moldova. Students appreciated the relevance and content of lessons:

“I didn’t know many things prior to this”, “I liked the case studies because I could express my point of view and have also heard many innovative ideas and solutions, such lectures should be organized more often”.

A course material is under development to support such training initiatives by educational institutions in Moldova.

GOOD TO KNOW:
The concept of “Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning” was first introduced in Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) 2009, followed through by the production of the Global Migration Group handbook on mainstreaming migration in 2010, a series of focused thematic meetings under the Swiss and Mauritian GFMD, and a pilot project in four countries – Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova and Tunisia – in 2011.
Engaging Diasporas in Development

“The role of Diasporas in development strategies, poverty reduction and economic growth is attracting considerable policy interest involving Diasporas, host countries and home countries. The interests of these diverse stakeholders meet around one main question: What can be done today to maximize the development benefits of migration for all?” (Engaging Diasporas as Development Partners for Home and Destination Countries: Challenges for Policymakers, prepared for IOM by Dina Ionescu).

In Moldova the idea of creating a State Agency that would be responsible for the coordination of activities aimed at supporting the development and organization of the Moldovan Diaspora hasn’t been a recent one. It responded to the need of creating connections and strengthening the capacities of the Diaspora associations while answering to the requests expressed by the participants of Diaspora Congresses held regularly in Chisinau. This idea was also endorsed in the Government’s Programme commitments for the 2011-2014. After analyzing the best international practices and the existing institutional framework on 19 October 2012, the Government decided to establish the Diaspora Relations Bureau (DRB), as a General Direction of the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova. The Bureau’s mission is to create a positive synergy among all the public central authorities, partners and actors dealing with migration and development matters. Its main objective is to ensure coordination of state policy in the field of relations with Diaspora, by attracting knowledge, skills and capital for the development of the country. The DRB is the focal point for all the initiatives and programs designed and implemented for and with Diaspora, while having a young team with an international expertise. Listing only few of the successes achieved by the Bureau’s team, the Birthright program should be definitely highlighted.

The program which starts this year will promote the identification of the children in the Diaspora with their Homeland through supporting the visits to Moldova. Also, in only 5 months of its existence, the Bureau managed to increase the cultural connection between the Moldovan Diaspora and the Republic of Moldova by opening a Cultural Center in Italy and by co-organizing the winter and spring holidays/events all over the world. Another remarkable success has been achieved in assisting 10,000 students abroad to benefit from free medical insurance, and thousands of Moldovans taking advantage from free social assistance. Among other successes, a Study Visit to Ireland was organized for Moldovan government officials with Diaspora-engaging functions as this ‘land of saints and scholars’ has a close and supportive relationship with its Diaspora worldwide. This visit left the participants with ideas, contacts and inspiration associated with the breadth of possibilities they have observed to build social capital within the Diaspora and to connect it in productive ways with the country of origin. The study visit was organized with the support of the IOM project “Enhancing the Moldovan Government’s Capacities in Diaspora Engagement” and the EU-funded Project “Strengthening the Link between Migration and Development: Testing an Integrated Service Provider to Moldovan Migrants and Their Communities”.

Most programs of the Bureau are pilot projects and their success depends significantly on the involvement and collaboration of many actors.

“We rely heavily on cooperation with our Government colleagues and the Diaspora associations. Also, a tremendous role is played by foreign donors and international organizations. A good way to engage them is through the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership. We are very open to any inputs to our programs”, Victor Lutenco, head of the Bureau, mentioned.
To maximise the development impact of migration and support Moldovan Diaspora, a new project "Strengthening the Link between Migration and Development: Testing an Integrated Service Provider to Moldovan Migrants and Their Communities" was launched on 15 December 2012. 

NEXUS Moldova (as the project is often referred to) is funded by the EU and co-financed by the SDC. A significant consortium of partners – national and local public institutions and specialized international agencies – led by International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI, from Vienna, Austria) is implementing the project over its 36-month period.

NEXUS Moldova is a prototype of an integrated and durable migration services provider. It offers practical solutions to help Moldovan migrants/Diaspora achieve their existing goals through a platform that enables conversation and builds community. What makes the project unique is that it unites the interests, skills and resources of beneficiaries as well as public and private sector service providers – and applies these to migration-related challenges and opportunities that practical experience and history has shown no single actor can manage alone. In an innovative and practical sense it partners with private sector enterprises and public institutions to identify, design, and provide migrants with products and services that support successful circular migration practices. In doing so, NEXUS directly supports the personal, social and economic development opportunities of migration while fully complementing the objectives and activities of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership.

Since project’s inception significant progress has been achieved. The project management has been put in place and the first official Steering Committee and Local Advisory Board meetings held. Headquarters offices have been identified and core professional staff recruited. An important step in creating a strong evidence-based approach a major survey of 2,465 migrants was carried out in December 2012/January 2013 at the following points of entry: Chisinau Airport, Valcinet, Leuseni, Sculeni, Palanca, Tudora and Oancea. The resulting data and joint analysis will directly support the project partners and other stakeholders to deepen their participation in the project’s activities and will be analyzed together with the results of another survey that is currently being prepared.

As a result of two years of intense work of experts, Moldovan Government officials, Diaspora leaders and members, and IOM representatives, 2 new studies, titled “Mapping of the Moldovan Diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom” and "Moldovans in the Russian Federation: socio-economic profile and policy challenges" were recently finalized. The studies that have worked on the analysis of the socio-economic profile of Moldovan citizens temporarily or permanently residing in the Russian Federation and the main destination countries in the EU were presented on 29 April 2013 in Chisinau. The research work has been carried out by collecting and analysing the opinions of different social stakeholders: Moldovan Diaspora, representatives of diplomatic missions abroad, representatives of the local public authorities from...
The Global UN Development Group (UNDG) has developed a proposal which aims to facilitate inclusive consultation processes in at least 100 countries to stimulate the debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Moldova has been elected to participate in such an inclusive consultation process. The objective of the country consultations is to stimulate an inclusive debate on a Post-2015 Development Agenda by providing an analytical base, inputs and ideas.

Being an ideal occasion for the Diaspora voice and its interests to be heard, its rights and concerns to be taken into account and factored into the final Post-2015 Development Agenda, a series of consultations were carried out abroad, namely in two major destination countries where considerable Moldovan communities have been registered: Italy and Portugal. The groundwork for this exercise has been laid and the most prominent and active Diaspora leaders in these regions were involved in the execution of Post-2015 Agenda Consultations themed Focus Groups, held in mid-January 2013. The outcome of these activities and activity reports were included into the Final Country Post-2015 Agenda Consultations Report.

Addressing the Negative Impact of Migration

The difficult situation of children left without parental care as a consequence of migration remains high on the priority agenda of Moldovan authorities and the project "Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind", funded by the EU, co-funded and implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova and IOM Moldova continues to support the country’s efforts in this vein. Thus, to ensure the proper finalization of the project activities that are in the process of implementation and/or expansion of the activities to a larger territory and a bigger number of beneficiaries, the project has received a no-cost extension till September 2013.
In October-November 2012, 20 Moldovan professionals from 7 socio-educational centres working with children left behind (CLB) from different Moldovan regions who had benefited from on-job/capacity-building trainings had a chance to participate in two study visits in Italy organized by the National Association of Italian Municipalities – that allowed them to learn about the existing child protection services provided by the Italian social centres, working with different categories of children, including those vulnerable and left behind. The participants visited a few social educational centres, local municipality offices in order to better understand the Italian child protection system and have an exchange of experience.

Moreover, due to the project support, over 300 CLB have received crisis assistance through the Centre for Assistance and Protection from Chisinau by mid-March 2013 while enhancing the knowledge-base of the representatives of national institutions through the organisation of the second *Workshop on Regional and International Child Protection Standards*, which took place on 5-7 February 2013. The participants discussed the notion of child vulnerability from the rights-based perspective, scrutinized the main European and international treaties regulating child protection and discussed the best law and policy practices existing in Georgia, Switzerland, Sweden, and other countries.

Results, achievements and a plan of actions for the next 9 months of the project were discussed on 8 February 2013 during the 3rd *Meeting of the Inter-institutional Technical Committee*. All the participants highlighted the high profile of the initiative and the importance of extending project activities in order to increase the impact on both Moldovan migrant workers in Italy and their children, and families left behind in Moldova.

**Labour Market Development, Skills and Employment for Returning Migrants**

*“Skills are important for personal development and also for effective matching of supply and demand in the labour market”, Siria Taurelli*, Senior Specialist in Governance and LLL – Country Manager ETF operations.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is a reliable partner that helps Moldova to harness the potential of its human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policy. ETF project in Moldova works on how the skills and qualifications of migrants can be better valued. All ETF activities are implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour Social Protection and Family, the Ministry of Economy, the social partners of the agro-food sector, construction sector, transport sector, and ICT. These ETF activities are part of the *Labour Market Development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership*. They namely contribute to a more transparent and functioning labour market, which is one purpose of the EU project “Consolidation of migration management capacities in the Republic of Moldova”. Following the first phase 2009-2011, during which a scheme for skills' recognition was developed (format for occupational standards and methodology for recognition), the second phase of 2012-2013 continues to promote skills’ transparency through: a) building a national framework for vocational education and training qualifications, b) building Sector Skills’ Committees to enhance the role of stakeholders, and c) sharing the experience with Armenia and Georgia.
In 2013 the ETF held 2 workshops and several working meetings on how to develop outcome-based vocational (VET) qualifications, with the working group that will elaborate the Concept on National Qualifications’ Framework (NQF), facilitated 2 workshops and other operational meetings with the Transport Sector Committee and ICT Sector Committee, about their role and tasks in the field of skills’ development while providing information on Sector Skills’ Committees to different economic sectors, through a dedicated information session. Moreover, it implements an assessment of the skills’ needs among the enterprises of the agro-food sector, together with the Sector Committee. This needs analysis aims at identifying the requests for continuing training within the enterprises.

**WHAT'S NEXT:**

As from June 2013 there will be work done on how to develop new qualifications, building on occupational standards. By starting with occupational standards, it should be easier to describe what competencies students will achieve, when they learn and prepare for a given qualification. In the second semester of 2013 the cooperation with the existing four Sector Committees will be strengthened, and possibly new Sector Committees will start.

**EVENTS TO ATTEND:**

A knowledge sharing event will take place in Tbilisi during the last quarter of 2013, to exchange experiences and lessons learnt by each of the three countries implementing a Mobility Partnership with the EU.

---

**Economic Empowerment of Migrants and their Families in Contribution to Development**

- The project “Addressing the negative effects of migration on minors and families left behind”, mentioned in our newsletter earlier, also envisages a component on business start-up that has been successfully implemented in partnership with National Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises (OSMED). Over 200 vulnerable young people from all over the country received the business start-up training and they are now able to develop a business plan and apply for an in-kind grant that will allow them to start a business. Twelve trainings took place throughout July-November 2012. The pre-financing monitoring took place in February-March 2013, all 87 applicants for the grants were evaluated and there will be grants disbursed to most successful and feasible proposals.

- In the same vein, the OSMED continues to coordinate one of the most successful pilot programs for remittances’ investment in the country’s economy, **PARE 1+1**, which has been extended up to 2015 year by Moldovan Government.

In April 2013 the PARE 1+1 Steering Committee accepted another 66 new investment projects. The accepted projects will allow for investing average 46 mio MDL, and the value of the grant is 12 mio MDL. Thus, 1 MDL invested within Pare 1+1 will bring another 4 MDL to Moldovan economy.

The analysis of applications shows that Moldovan migrant workers who want to invest remittances in their businesses have worked mainly in Italy.
The second component on grant awards of the Program on economic empowerment of rural youth and women within the EU-funded project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership” (SIMP) launched in winter 2011 has been finalised, the number of beneficiaries totalling 101 persons. The Program was comprised of free trainings in business launch and development (540 persons trained) and was followed by grants award which had the aim to reduce the pressure of pursuing (illegal) migration through supporting income generating activities in home communities. The identified and selected beneficiaries were chosen on a competitive basis and received in-kind grants of up to 2000 Euro in the form of equipment. The majority of business ideas were related to the agricultural sector (growing vegetables, animals breeding, cereal growing), fewer dealt with the service sector (photocopying and photoservices, accounting, cleaning, painting, hairdressing). Moreover, the young people were monitored, consulted on various issues in business running and were referred to other existing programs for developing their businesses at a higher level. One of the most important principles in awarding the grant was the condition for the beneficiary to act as a legal person on the basis of any legal organizational form of enterprise (patenta, individual enterprise, farmer household, Ltd). Due to this, young people were encouraged and taught to be responsible towards the fiscal and social systems, the latter having a return beneficial effect in form of pensions. The Program was also implemented by the OSMED in partnership with the IOM Mission to Moldova.

II. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Strengthening the Migration Management Framework in Moldova

The main objective of the EU-funded project “Consolidation of migration management capacities in the Republic of Moldova” is to promote legal migration between Moldova and the EU. An important aspect of the migration process is returning and re-integration of Moldovans on the national labour market. Within this scope, the project focuses on informing Moldovan citizens abroad on labour market possibilities in Moldova. Development of an electronic platform which will allow organization of on-line job fairs for Moldovan citizens from abroad represents one of the main activities of the project at the moment. This activity is a continuation of the four job fairs organized in Italy and Germany within the previous project. The concept of the e-job fair is to bring on the same platform at the same time employers from Moldova and Moldovan citizens from abroad in this way facilitating the matching between the offer and demand. Eventually, the platform will be given for administration to the National Employment Agency.
(NEA) that will have the possibility to organize job fairs at local and international level for Moldovan citizens. The first e-job fair is foreseen to take place in the first quarter of 2014.

Certainly informing citizens on the possibilities of the labour market from Moldova is a key element for a successful organization of job fairs. In this respect, the project collaborates closely with the Moldovan Diaspora associations from EU countries. This collaboration envisages as well activities that aim at strengthening the capacities of associations to offer necessary information to as many Moldovans as possible including development of new channels of information and communication. Such a channel is the Centre for Information and Services from Italy that was recently opened with the support of the project (referred to in this publication under the Engaging Diasporas in Development section). The main objective of the centre is to offer information on the possibilities of returning back to Moldova as well as on immediate steps to be followed to get integrated in the destination country, Italy. The information is provided through different channels, such as: phone, email and face to face (office).

Piloting Circular Migration Schemes

The pilot project "Implementation of the Bilateral Agreement on Labour Mobility Between Italy and Moldova" continues to promote the liaison between Italian and Moldovan labour and training institutions and services and strengthen the management of qualified labour migration flows between Italy and Moldova.

Thus, during the years 2012 and 2013 several linguistic and vocational trainings for potential migrants were financed based on an annual tender organized by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. The courses are offered for free, being completed by a certification examination. This certification offers the beneficiaries the priority to go to Italy for work, based on a request made by an Italian employer. The project works closely with the National Employment Agency, the latter preparing lists of beneficiaries for the trainings based on the professional requests presented by the implementing Italian companies, supported by the Local Coordination Office, created within the project and the Italian Embassy in Chisinau.

Average 240 persons benefitted of the courses organised by now and another 300 will be invited to attend the trainings in 2013. One of the main objectives of the project remains testing of the pilot circular migration schemes between Moldova and Italy and considerable efforts are undertaken for creating the necessary conditions for the beneficiaries of the trainings to be able to work legally in Italy for a predetermined period of time.

The project also envisages the activities for strengthening the institutional capacities of the national institutions in Moldova, which offered technical support for the regional offices of the National Employment Agency (namely, 20 computers). Moreover, the seminar "Moldova and Italy: Managing labour migration flows" was organised on 5-8 February 2013 for the 40 National Employment Agency operators involved in the selection of the candidates for the trainings.
On-Line Consular Registration Module

► At the end of March 2013 IOM Mission in Moldova finalized and presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) the on-line consular registration module for Moldovan nationals staying abroad, placed on the websites of the MFAEI and its diplomatic missions abroad.

This module was developed in the framework of EU-funded Project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”, implemented by the IOM Mission in Moldova and is meant to facilitate the access of Moldovans residing abroad to consular services provided by Moldovan consular missions. The on-line registration module was designed for eventual integration on all the existing web sites of Moldovan diplomatic missions abroad, allowing for both: consular registration of Moldovan nationals abroad and on-line programming for provision of consular services. To ensure that personal data is well protected, a friendly user/login option for Moldovan nationals abroad intending to register was also developed, offering the possibility to make changes or to delete the data, in case of leaving/changing a certain destination country. This new module once placed on the MFAEI and its diplomatic missions' websites will contribute to enriching the statistical database of Moldova on its nationals residing abroad, establishing their profile, allowing strengthening of the links and finally making more efficient the communication between Moldova and its citizens residing abroad.

The Skills' Dimensions of Migration

► In 2012 the Moldovan national institutions were supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in implementing and improving the Methodology for Development and Review of Occupational Standards for Blue-Collar Jobs, approved by a Government Decision No. 952 of 16 December 2011. This process facilitates the integration of migrant workers into the labour market by establishing appropriate regulatory basis and training of less-skilled workers, in compliance with the local labour market requirements. With the support provided by ILO, the Professional Capacity Building Institute and in collaboration with the Sector Committees in Construction and Agriculture and Food Industry has developed four Occupational Standards.

This activity is part of the project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skills Dimensions” financed by the EU and implemented by ILO in partnership with the IOM, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the social partners. It is worth mentioning that, such activities contribute to the implementation of the objective pertaining to human capital and lifelong learning development, envisaged by the National Strategy regarding Policies on Labour Force Employment for 2007-2015. This goal requires development of Occupational Standards, adjusted to employers’ needs and expectations. Due to the project, the representatives of the National Employment Agency (NEA) and their territorial offices across the country, participated in 2 two-day long training courses on migration, held in December 2012. The event was based on a training guide on migration for the employment specialists to

N.B. In order to improve its communication channels the MFAEI created accounts on the main social media tools (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube) through which informs about the main achievements of the Moldovan diplomacy and its efforts for the protection of Moldovan citizens abroad.
improve their services rendered to people looking for a job, including potential and returned migrants.

“The guide is very welcome, as NEA’s mandate is to inform both the citizens intending to leave, and those returned about the different stages of the migration process, the risks and benefits and services available for people looking for a job”, said Ms. Valentina Lungu, Deputy Head of Labour Policy Implementation Unit, NEA.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME ...

In order to ensure the implementation of rights-based programmes for migrant workers, delegations from Moldova and Ukraine visited Rome, the capital of Italy in December 2012. Italy was chosen for the study visit, as one of the main host countries for Moldovan migrants. The agenda of Moldovan’s delegation visit to Rome included discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and Ministry of Interior, Institute for Workers’ Training Development and other social partners. The study visit to Rome facilitated the dialogue between the three countries, in order to ensure implementation of rights-based programmes for migrant workers. As a result, the Trade Unions from Moldova and Italy launched the negotiations process on signing a cooperation Protocol for the Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights in the two countries. This document will complement the bilateral Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Italy on Labour Migration, signed in July 2011.

The Mobility of the Health Professionals

The project „Better Managing the Mobility of the Health Professionals in Republic of Moldova“ implemented by World Health Organization (WHO) and financed by the EU continues to strengthen Moldova’s capacity in migration management of the health professionals as shortages and imbalances of the health workforce are seriously impacting Moldovan health system.

To increase the knowledge base on migration of health professionals from Moldova, the project initiated three studies to determine the factors that led to migration as well as to find more about the professional integration of those who left and their plans for return to Moldova. One study covers the research on the medical staff that left for the EU Member States, another specifically on those working in Romania and the third one will analyze the causes that made the doctors and medical staff that still stay in Moldova to leave the healthcare system. Also, the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu" benefited of the project’s expertise through the training programs for new Medical Simulation Centre run by Professor Karl F. Klotz, the University of Luebeck, Germany. Moreover, the project has finished the improvement of the database of the Ministry of Health related to health professionals that contains and manages the information referring to employment, useful not only for assessing the presence and distribution of the employers in this field, but also in forecasting and planning the workforce demand, anticipating the future needs.

Also an econometric analysis of the medical training costs has been initiated in order to estimate the impact of the “brain waste” on the healthcare system. In the period of 18 - 22 February 2013 the project organized and funded a study visit of a group of decision makers from the Ministry of Health and the National Insurance Company to medical institutions in Barcelona, Spain to study the system of
III. COUNTERING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Approximation of the Migration Management in the Republic of Moldova to the European Model

The Strategy on Migration and Asylum in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2020 and Implementation Action Plan that entered into force in December 2011 serve as a unique tool for the integration of the existing country’s strategic directions in the migration sphere, through a systemic approach to the connection of Government migration management policies to Moldova’s European integration aspirations. Ms. Olga Poalelungi, the director of Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA, MoI), that was one of the main responsible persons for the Strategy’s concept and content considers that:

“A comprehensive and consistent approach to the issues related to management of migration and asylum requires consideration of several interrelated areas, including certain sub-areas concerning development of the migration related policies – immigration and emigration; asylum, statelessness, integration, counteracting illegal migration, migrants smuggling and trafficking in persons; migration control tools and information assistance etc. The Strategy and subsequent activities have to ensure consistency and compatibility with other national policies and sustainability for their possible adjustments in view of possible changes of the migration circumstances”.

According to these needs, the EU-funded and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) co-funded project “Support to Implementation of EC Readmission Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine: Facilitation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” (SIREADA) that was implemented by IOM Mission to Moldova in partnership with Government and NGO “Institute for Penal Reforms” until February 2013 offered a complex technical and capacity building support to the main beneficiary – Bureau for Migration and Asylum.

N.B. For example, one of the recent reports of the Ministry of Health indicates that workforce migration and other factors have led to a current shortage of about 1000 nurses in Moldova.
The project supported the production of a comprehensive expert review of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) legislative framework for institutionalization of the AVRR in the national legal system and creation of prerequisites for its smooth implementation has been carried out by a European expert. The review resulted in two sets of proposals for relevant legislative and normative amendments which have been promoted by the BMA in front of the Government. In addition to this, the project provided a comprehensive AVRR training for national authorities and NGOs, along with actual assistance for 72 third Country Nationals for voluntary return from Moldova and reintegration assistance to 50 Moldovan returnees from EU countries.

Also, high quality legal and socio-humanitarian assistance has been provided to more than 200 irregular migrants taken under public custody in the Centre for Temporary Placement of Migrants (CTPM) of the BMA. At the completion of the project the institution has fully taken over the responsibility for ensuring the migrants in public custody with necessary services according to the EU standards and best practices and thus ensuring the sustainability of the Action. Human rights compliance of the CTPM according to the best international standards has been monitored through the Observatory Mechanism instrument. During the project 5 Monitoring visits to the CTPM have been organized by the project and 24 monthly reports have been distributed to interested project partners. The Observatory Mechanism instrument has been fully taken over by the BMA after completion of the project, including acceptance of unheralded visits of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Anti-Torture Committee and other human rights organizations. Moreover, the policy dialogue and capacity building on readmission, return and reintegration has been enhanced through joint networking visits to three EU MS (UK, Netherlands and Belgium) and a regional conference on AVRR. In addition, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum was assisted by a long term advisor that was commissioned there for the period October 2012 – February 2013. The Advisor helped the BMA in implementation of the readmission related provisions of the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum, including development and implementation of SIREADA project activities, especially capacity building exercises and migrants’ information packages. In addition, the project supported number of capacity building trainings for BMA staff and other stakeholders.

**Enhancing Migration Management and Fostering Cooperation on Readmission**

► Similar to the recently concluded SIREADA project, that allowed the beneficiary countries to learn from each other through constructive exchange and strengthening of partnerships, the new regional EU-funded project “Strengthening Migration Management and Cooperation on Readmission in Eastern Europe (MIGRECO)” aims to improve migration management and foster cooperation on readmission in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus in line with EU standards. During the project period, 2013-2015, Ukraine and Moldova continue to improve their migration / border management policies, legislation and institutions within the wider ambition of EU association and integration; whilst the EU's relations with Belarus are governed by different principles, there is interest to begin negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission to support mobility of the population. Further, enhanced cooperation on transit of third country nationals remains a perennial priority. Thus, all three States share certain common strategic objectives with the EU, justifying a balanced sub-regional approach for a migration-focused capacity building intervention. Inter alia, the MIGRECO project will help Moldovan authorities to implement relevant provisions of the EU-Moldova Visa Liberalisation Action Plan through the improvement of country’s readmission framework with the main countries of origin and destination of irregular migrants as well as by addressing other important issues related to the development of institutional migration and border management capacities with due attention to the human rights of migrants.
The Department of Border Police of the Ministry of Interior continued its effective cooperation with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex).

Thus, based on the Agreement and the work plan set by the parties, the officers of the Department were involved in various activities under the aegis of Frontex including exchanges of information, risk analysis, instruction and professional training. In addition, the Border Police officers took part in the planning meetings as well as joint operations in 2013 that were coordinated and organised by Frontex. Also, the representatives of the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova attended the Annual Heads of Airports Conference held in Warsaw in March 2013 and the National Training Coordinators Conference held in the same month. Moreover, the Frontex Executive Director, Ilkka Laitinen, paid a visit to Moldova in March 2013 and met the new leadership of the Department. During the visit the aspects and priorities of the future cooperation were discussed and a meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova was organised.

The workshop on the finalization of the Migration Curriculum and piloting of the Migration Course within the Project “Building Training and Analytical Capacities on Migration in Moldova and Georgia (GOVAC)”, financed by the EU and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), took place on 29-31 October 2012 and was organized with the support of Bureau for Migration and Asylum (MoI) which contributed to the high professional level of the event and also to the sustainability of the final results of the project. It was attended by representatives of state institutions involved in migration management and higher education institutions (Moldova State University, Public Administration Academy and Stefan cel Mare Academy), project experts from Finland, Portugal and Slovakia, and ICMPD representatives. The first day of the workshop was devoted to the Training of Trainers session in which the future migration course trainers were introduced to the main principles of adult training, methods and tools. During the second day of the workshop, the Moldovan and international experts worked together on planning a one-day piloting according to the training manual developed in the framework of the GOVAC project. During the last day a group of state servants received one-day training according to Module 1 of the migration curriculum “Migration Management”.

Migration curriculum trainers: All Moldovan experts who participated in the workshop and who delivered the piloting were certified as Migration curriculum trainers.

In addition, the GOVAC project supported an Academia workshop which took place on 19-21 November 2012 and finalised the academic migration curriculum focusing on reflecting the priorities of the Moldova State University. A draft template of a migration curriculum was prepared by the project’s international experts and presented to the local partners. The workshop was attended by lecturers of the Departments of Political/Social Sciences and Public Administration, Economy and Law. During the workshop the GOVAC team presented migration related research questions, facilitated talks and discussions and outlined potential BA and MA migration courses which were accepted for further implementation. Furthermore, a well attended open lecture was given by the GOVAC international
Supporting the Republic of Moldova to implement the EU-Moldova Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation – Fighting Illegal Migration in Moldova

The conference launching the project "Supporting the Republic of Moldova to implement the EU-Moldova Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation – Fighting Illegal Migration in Moldova (FIRMM)" took place on 20 March 2013 in Chisinau. The project is financed by the EU with a total budget of 1.2 million EUR and is being implemented by ICMPD during the next 2 years. The event was opened by the Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova, H.E. Ambassador Dirk Schuebel, who underlined the importance of the project for the implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan. Mr. Martijn Pluim, ICMPD Director for the Eastern Dimension, stated that the present project should support Moldovan efforts to fight against irregular migration by addressing the analytical (e.g. risk assessment) and operational (e.g. identification, detection, investigation, return) capacities of the relevant authorities while protecting migrants’ human rights. Representatives of Moldovan institutions involved in migration management, namely the Bureau for Migration and Asylum, the Border Police and the National Institute of Justice, expressed their willingness to cooperate within the project and highlighted the relevance of the project for the reform process and commitments undertaken by Moldova.
Celebrating our Common Values

This year the Europe Day will be celebrated on 18 May in Chisinau and on 26 May in Tiraspol. It is a unique opportunity to bring cultures closer through educational and entertainment activities, celebrating our common identity as Europeans and enjoying the diversity.

As in previous years, the "European Village" will be the focal point of the celebrations. It will host public debates with Ambassadors and Moldovan officials, information on the ongoing EU-funded projects, language schools, gourmet hampers etc. The most active young participants will receive gifts from the EU Delegation in Moldova. To capture the most valuable events of that day, a professional caricaturist will draw the most exciting moments of the celebration. An evening concert featuring famous music bands and singers will be an outstanding completion of the Europe Day in Chisinau and Tiraspol. In addition, an important element of the whole celebration will be the European Film Festival, which will take place during 19–25 May.

European Union-Republic of Moldova Visa Liberalisation Dialogue

During the period of 18 February – 15 March 2013 the Republic of Moldova hosted EU Evaluation Missions on the implementation of the II phase of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan. Overall there were 10 different evaluation groups according to the thematic blocks of the EU-Republic of Moldova Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, such as the document security, asylum, border management and migration management, personal data protection, judicial cooperation, preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, external relations and fundamental rights.

Based on the outcomes of the evaluation missions, in June 2013 the European Commission will present its first Progress Report on the implementation of the II phase benchmarks of the EU-Republic of Moldova Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation.

The experts highly appreciated the organisation, openness and professional level of national institutions, as well as gave a preliminary positive assessment of the progress in the majority of domains encouraging relevant stakeholders to continue with the implementation of the launched reforms and ensure the availability of the necessary human and financial resources.
The representatives of Moldovan Government took part in the 4th Meeting of the EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum which took place in Tbilisi on 20-21 March 2013. The Panel meeting focused on the issues of readmission, return and reintegration. Discussions during the meeting centred on circular migration, return and readmission of foreigners, the EU return directive, ensuring effective readmission and civil society’s involvement in reintegration. The panel meeting provided experts from all countries with a great opportunity to present the situation of the current state policy and assess its relevance to the standards of the EU in the sphere of migration and readmission. The six working sessions of the meeting offered the opportunity for the participants to exchange expertise and improve the knowledge base on the efficiency and sustainability of return, readmission and reintegration in the EaP countries. The event was also attended by the two representatives of the EaP Civil Society Forum (CSF), whose participation was seen as positive, increasing transparency in the dialogue between the EU, national governments and experts from the civil society.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-MOLDOVA MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP

On 22 November 2012 the 5th High Level Meeting of the European Union-Republic of Moldova Mobility Partnership took place in Brussels and it was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Natalia Gherman, and the European Commission DG Home Affairs Director General, Stefano Manservisi.

The representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States, EU Agencies signatories of the Mobility Partnership (MP) and line ministries from the Republic of Moldova (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and Ministry of Information Technology and Communication) took part in the meeting.

During the Meeting the MP parties took note of the results of the activities that have been implemented within the MP framework during the last year and examined the possibilities of launching new initiatives. Promotion of legal migration, support of academic mobility, mainstreaming of migration into development and combating illegal migration were some of the identified areas of priority interest for the partners.

In addition, the results of MP Pilot Evaluation Exercise and the concept of transforming its monitoring tool (the scoreboard) into an online database were presented during the Meeting.

Representatives of the European Commission and EU Member States appreciated the joint efforts in implementing the provisions of the MP and willingness to use its opportunities to complement and streamline efforts in advancing the dialogue on visa liberalization between Moldova and the EU. Moldovan authorities have expressed appreciation for the EU assistance in strengthening the national capacities and management of migration flows.
INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF COOPERATION

Four representatives of the Republic of Moldova took part in the Kick-off workshop of the Specific Objective 2 – Knowledge Base of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative (PP TI) that was organised by ICMPD being the Prague Process Secretariat together with the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration for the East (CARIM East) project (implemented by the Migration Policy Centre) and the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute (EUI) from Florence, Italy.

The joint event was structured in two main sessions. The first part (21-23 of January) – the Executive Training “Migration in the EU and its Neighbourhood” – was organised by the EUI as a venue to analyse and discuss the interactions of the regions of origin and the regions of destinations; migration policies and the regulation of migration; as well as processes of integration. The second part of the joint event (23-24 January 2013) was organised in the shape of a Workshop on data gathering and analysis which focused on the Knowledge Base of PP TI, its history, future as well as cooperation with the partner states towards the establishment of mutual understanding of migration categories as well as the purpose of the Migration Profiles to be developed (or updated) in the PP TI.

The event hosted participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and representatives of ICMPD (as the support team of PP TI) and academics from EUI (as lecturers during the training).

The Republic of Moldova presented its experience in producing the Extended Migration Profile at the multi-country Workshop on establishing a migration profile: from data collection to policy making, that took place in Belgrade, Serbia on 18-19 April 2013. The aim of the workshop was to provide the best information and in-depth knowledge related to Migration Profiles and their drafting and to share successful experiences and good practices in order to improve the quality of the data collection, to plug the unavoidable gaps and to promote concrete and productive paths from the analysis to the policymaking. The information presented throughout the workshop provided an understanding of data and research for evidence-based policymaking and presented Migration Profile as a capacity-building tool for strategic policy development. Over the course of five sessions the representatives
Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) 2012 Summit was hosted by the Government of Mauritius on 19-22 November 2012, in Pailles, Mauritius. The Mauritius GFMD 2012 Summit marked another major achievement in the international debate on migration and development. It had as its overarching theme “Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States”, with the central objective of achieving concrete outcomes that can make a difference to people’s lives.

The production of the Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova has been acknowledged as one of the successful experiences, while emphasizing its important role in the country’s advancement in the migration mainstreaming progress. Estimating and enhancing the impact of migratory processes in the development of the country. In this respect, Moldova proved to be a “best practice” example, providing very useful expertise for the countries that are currently looking into mainstreaming migration in their development planning.

On 26 February 2013, a High-level Panel Expert Policy Dialogue on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda was hosted by Swedish Ministry for International Development Cooperation. The meeting was called to review how migration and other related drivers of development could be integrated in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The meeting, which took place in Stockholm, brought together panel members and/or members of their advisory teams (Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico and Sweden), other government representatives from Bangladesh, Canada, France, Germany, Moldova, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States, senior officials and experts from UN agencies, IOM and other international organizations as well as academics, think tanks and other civil society members.

Ms. Natalia Gherman, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova was the moderator of one of the working group break-out sessions, where the Moldovan official shared the experience of the country in implementing the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership, mainstreaming migration in the country’s development and diminishing the negative effects of migration through the implementation of efficient policies.

The participants of the meeting concluded that the possibilities to include migration and mobility in the Post-2015 Development Agenda have to take into account the contribution of migration to the development goals, as an enabler, and the formulation of partnerships to this effect.
MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BRIEF

Going Wider

► Over almost 5 years of its implementation the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership went far beyond the classical approaches to addressing the migration related issues and helped Moldova to advance a lot in its migration mainstreaming progresses. In support to the mainstreaming migration into the country’s development agenda, the initiatives implemented within the Mobility Partnership are merely devoted to multiplication of migration’s benefits. This was one of the reasons why the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development were invited to join the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership National Monitoring Committee. Having these two institutions on board, the national coordination mechanism will reshape its Mobility Partnership worklist involving more and more institutional actors into Moldova’s migration and development portfolio.

IT Smart Solutions and Web-based Approaches for a Better Monitoring

► An improved version of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership monitoring tool (Scoreboard database) is currently available online at: http://scoreboard.mfa.gov.md. Now the partners can review, update and manage the information about the projects and initiatives implemented in the framework of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership. The production of the database was supported by the EU-funded and IOM-implemented project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”.

GOOD TO KNOW:

The EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership National Monitoring Committee is the body in charge for the monitoring of the MP on the country level and brings together national authorities charged with migration matters. The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family. It meets at least quarterly and is in charge of the monitoring of the Mobility Partnership on the country level and consists of the contact persons from all the national implementing institutions.

FIND OUT MORE:

The users’ guide is available on the Scoreboard’s web page and it offers more information about the database and its opportunities.
This publication is produced within the project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”. The Project is funded by European Union and implemented by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Contact persons:

Oxana Păduraru,
National focal point on Mobility Partnership with the EU
Attaché, General Directorate of European Integration
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
Phone: + (37322) 57 82 74
Fax: + (37322) 23 70 35
E-mail: oxana.paduraru@mfa.md

Aliona Grossu,
Migration Technical Facility Consultant
Phone: + (373 22) 57 83 30
Fax: + (37322) 23 70 35
E-Mail: aliona.grossu@mfa.md