

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-MOLDOVA RELATIONS

#easternpartnership



The Association Agreement including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area provides for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) and has created constantly growing trade between the partners. The EU's assistance has been providing tangible and visible benefits to Moldovan citizens.

STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ The EU is Moldova's **first trading partner and biggest investor** in the country. In 2018, it accounted for 70% of total exports and 56% of its total trade.
- ✓ **The Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area** with the EU is compatible with all of Moldova's other free trade agreements. Domestic reforms, for instance, the alignment of health and safety standards to those of the EU, will open further opportunities for trade with the EU. The EU also facilitates access to finance for Moldovan SMEs.
- ✓ The EU facilitated the **stabilisation of the financial sector** in Moldova, strengthening the supervision of the banking sector and improving the governance of private banks, including in particular the largest ones. This improved the business climate in the context of the DCFTA implementation.
- ✓ The EU actively supports growth and job creation in Moldova. Overall, EU cooperation projects have provided **support for some 5,000 enterprises** in Moldova and supported jobs in SMEs. 10 business incubators have been set up with EU support in different regions across the country.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ A road bypass around Ungheni fully funded by the EU was opened on 3 August 2018. Around **700 kilometres of roads** are, or will be, rehabilitated in the Republic of Moldova thanks to EU support.
- ✓ Public transport has been improved in Chişinău and Bălţi with **modern trolley buses**.
- ✓ Biomass heating systems have been installed in **more than 225 schools, kindergartens, community centres and village halls**, making heating cheaper and diversifying the country's energy sources. This also has an impact on the comfort of children and pupils at schools and classrooms. 47 of these sites were also equipped with solar hot water systems. 35 new biomass businesses were set up and over **400 new jobs** have been created.
- ✓ New drinking water supply infrastructures were built with EU support. As a result, approximately **15,700 people are provided with sufficient and safe drinking water**.
- ✓ The EU has also supported the gas interconnector between Moldova (Ungheni) and the EU (Iaşi in Romania). This project **enhances the energy security of Moldova** and the competitiveness on the Moldovan energy market. The EU is also helping to finance a permanent interconnection between the electrical networks of Moldova and Romania.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ Through its EU-funded co-operation programme with the Council of Europe, the EU supported implementation of **domestic reforms in the field of good governance** in line with European standards.
- ✓ The EU has been vocal in calling for **strengthening democratic standards, the rule of law and justice and tackling high-level corruption** in Moldova. Comprehensive [EU Council Conclusions on Moldova](#) were adopted on 26 February 2018.
- ✓ Following the deterioration of the rule of law and democratic standards in 2018 (in particular the non-transparent invalidation of the Chişinău mayoral elections in June 2018), and in line with the principle of strict conditionality, the EU has taken the decision to substantially **recalibrate its financial assistance** and redirect support to projects that have a direct, positive impact on Moldovan citizens.
- ✓ The EU expects Moldova, and in particular the incoming Moldovan Government, to remain committed to the robust implementation of the Association Agreement related reforms and restore trust with Moldovan citizens by ensuring **respect for democratic principles and the rule of law**.
- ✓ Key areas to be tackled remain: **the independence of the judicial system, the fight against corruption** – including a thorough and effective prosecution of the banking fraud. Improving the electoral framework also remains essential. To this end, the EU expects that Moldova follows all recommendations related to elections and the electoral framework made by relevant international stakeholders.
- ✓ The EU actively supports **civil society in Moldova**, including by creating links between civil society organisations on both banks of the Nistru River through its confidence building measures.

STRONGER SOCIETY

- ✓ Since 28 April 2014, Moldovan citizens with a biometric passport can travel to the Schengen area without a visa. More than **1.5 million Moldovan citizens** have benefitted from the visa-free regime so far.
- ✓ In the last 10 years, **nearly 1,900 students and academic staff exchanges** have taken place between Moldova and the EU with the support of Erasmus+.
- ✓ Over **3,600 young people and youth workers** from Moldova have been involved in EU-funded joint exchanges, training and volunteering projects.

IN FIGURES

EU imports from Moldova increased by nearly

16%

in 2018 compared to 2017.

15,700

people in the municipalities of Nisporeni, Vărzărești and Grozești have access to safe and sufficient drinking water thanks to new water supply infrastructures funded by the EU.

350

Moldovans from the diaspora received EU assistance in order to set up their own companies when returning to their home country.

TRANSNISTRIA

The EU participates as an observer in the 5+2 negotiation process on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. It continues to support a comprehensive, peaceful settlement based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria. Together with the OSCE Chairmanship in Office, the EU supports an output-oriented approach to the 5+2 with a view to achieving a tangible impact in the lives of the citizens from both banks of the Nistru River.

The EU also supports measures designed to facilitate the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict by increasing confidence between Chișinău and Tiraspol through joint initiatives involving stakeholders from both banks. Confidence-building measures have allowed 70 people from both sides of the Nistru River to set up businesses and create 350 jobs. The EU also supports confidence-building measures designed to foster regional development in Gagauzia.

SECURING MOLDOVA'S BORDERS

The European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) to Moldova and Ukraine was launched in 2005. The aim of EUBAM is to support Moldova's and Ukraine's efforts to effectively manage their common border and actively support concrete measures contributing to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

In December 2018, the Palanca border crossing point operated jointly by customs and border guards from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine was put into operation following EU investment.

COOPERATION IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Moldova is one of the non-EU states that participate in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. Moldovan experts have contributed to the EU Training Mission in Mali and to the EU Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic. The EU continues to provide security sector reform-related advisory support to Moldova.