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Press release: The European Union will support Moldovan law students' participation at a European moot court competition

Chisinau, 14 May 2015: Strengthening institutions that fight corruption, ensuring the independence of the prosecution and getting the act of justice closer to the citizens are the Moldovan Government's priorities in reforming the justice sector in the immediate future. The European Union, the main assistance provider in the justice and anti-corruption reforms, will continue to support efforts in this field and expects rapid quality changes that improve the lives of people in Moldova.

These were the messages were voiced today before the students by Justice Minister Vladimir Grosu and European Union Ambassador to Chisinau, Pirkka Tapiola. The two officials held an open lecture entitled: "Justice Reform in Moldova - achievements and challenges. EU support for the justice sector reform" in front of 100 students from the Departments of Law, International Relations, Political and Administrative Sciences, and Journalism and Communication Sciences of the State University of Moldova. The speakers referred to the progress of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016, the current actions to advance the prosecution reform, fighting corruption in the public sector and ensuring transparency of the judiciary, and the challenges faced by the institutions involved in the reform.

In his message, Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola urged law students to better prepare for their future careers as judges, prosecutors or in other legal professions, and to practice their work with integrity and professionalism. To help the students in this effort, the European Union will support the training and participation of a team of law students from the State University of Moldova to a European Human Rights moot court competition.

Ambassador Tapiola also spoke about the developments in EU-Moldova relations with regard to the agenda of reforms, the EU budgetary support program for the 2011-2016 Justice Sector Reform Strategy, and the EU-sponsored technical assistance projects providing qualified expertise for achieving the proposed changes to the institutions involved - the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General Office, the Superior Council of Magistrates, the Penitentiary Department and others. *"The success of reform depends on the satisfaction of people with justice, and their confidence in this sector. We expect fast quality transformations in the justice sector, that would allow Moldovans to feel that their lives are changing for the better,"* added Ambassador Tapiola.

In his address, Justice Minister Vladimir Grosu, emphasized the importance of quality education in the success of judicial reform and urged students to choose a career in public institutions. *"Any public system reflects, to some extent, the society to which it is part, and reforming a complex system such as that of justice requires concerted efforts from the whole of society. We need well-*



educated and well-intended young people to work as volunteers and subsequently employees in the justice system so that, together, we can accomplish the positive changes envisaged by the Justice Sector Reform Strategy,” added Minister Grosu.

The speeches were followed by a session of questions and answers, where the students talked to the guests about the capacities of public institutions to combat corruption, public trust in the judiciary, the challenges of legal professions, and ways to improve the quality of legal education in Moldova.

The public lecture at the State University of Moldova was organized with the support of the EU Project: Support for the Coordination of the Justice Sector Reform.