

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-MOLDOVA RELATIONS

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The Association Agreement 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 supports the modernisation of Moldova through reforms for growth and jobs as well as for the respect of human rights and the strengthening of democracy.

## STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ The EU is Moldova's **first trading partner and biggest investor** in the country. In 2016, it accounted for 66% of Moldova's overall exports and 55% of total trade.
- ✓ In 2016, **EU imports from Moldova grew by 7.7%** compared to 2015. This is an increase of 13.5% since 2014, the year when the Association Agreement along with its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) entered into force. The free trade agreement with the EU is compatible with all other free trade agreements that Moldova is part of. 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 actively supports growth and job creation in Moldova. Overall, the EU estimates that its cooperation projects have provided **support for 5,000 enterprises in Moldova** and supported jobs in SMEs. 10 business incubators have been set up with EU support.

## STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ **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. 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 in the Municipalities of Nisporeni, Vărzărești and Grozești. As a result, approximately **15,700 people are provided with safe and sufficient drinking water**. Public transport has been improved in Chișinău and Balti with new trolley buses.
- ✓ The EU will also support financially an **electricity interconnector between Moldova and the EU**. This project will aim at enhancing energy security of Moldova and the competitiveness on the Moldovan energy market.

## STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ The EU has been vocal in calling for strengthening the rule of law and justice in the Moldovan society. A reform agenda agreed between Moldova and the EU in 2017 («Association Agenda») includes commitments to ensuring the independence and integrity of the judiciary as well as **zero tolerance for corruption**. The EU also continues to demand a thorough and impartial investigation of the banking fraud as well as action to uphold the freedom and pluralism of the media.
- ✓ The EU supports **reforms in public finance management, police reform**, and the continued implementation of the criteria for the visa-free regime with the European Union with direct transfers to the Moldovan treasury. Payments under these programmes are released when mutually agreed conditions have been fulfilled and reforms delivered. The EU also funded the modernisation and equipment of the forensic centre of the police with a view to facilitating criminal investigations.
- ✓ 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 million Moldovan citizens have benefitted from the visa-free** regime so far.
- ✓ In the years 2015-17, more than **900 Moldovan students and academic staff have benefitted from Erasmus+** mobility to study and teach in the EU.
- ✓ Between 2015 and 2017, more than **2300 young people and youth workers from Moldova have taken part in Erasmus+** exchanges, youth policy dialogue and volunteering activities.

## IN FIGURES

**13.5%**

This is how much EU imports from Moldova increased between 2014 and 2016.

**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.

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

## 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.

## 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.