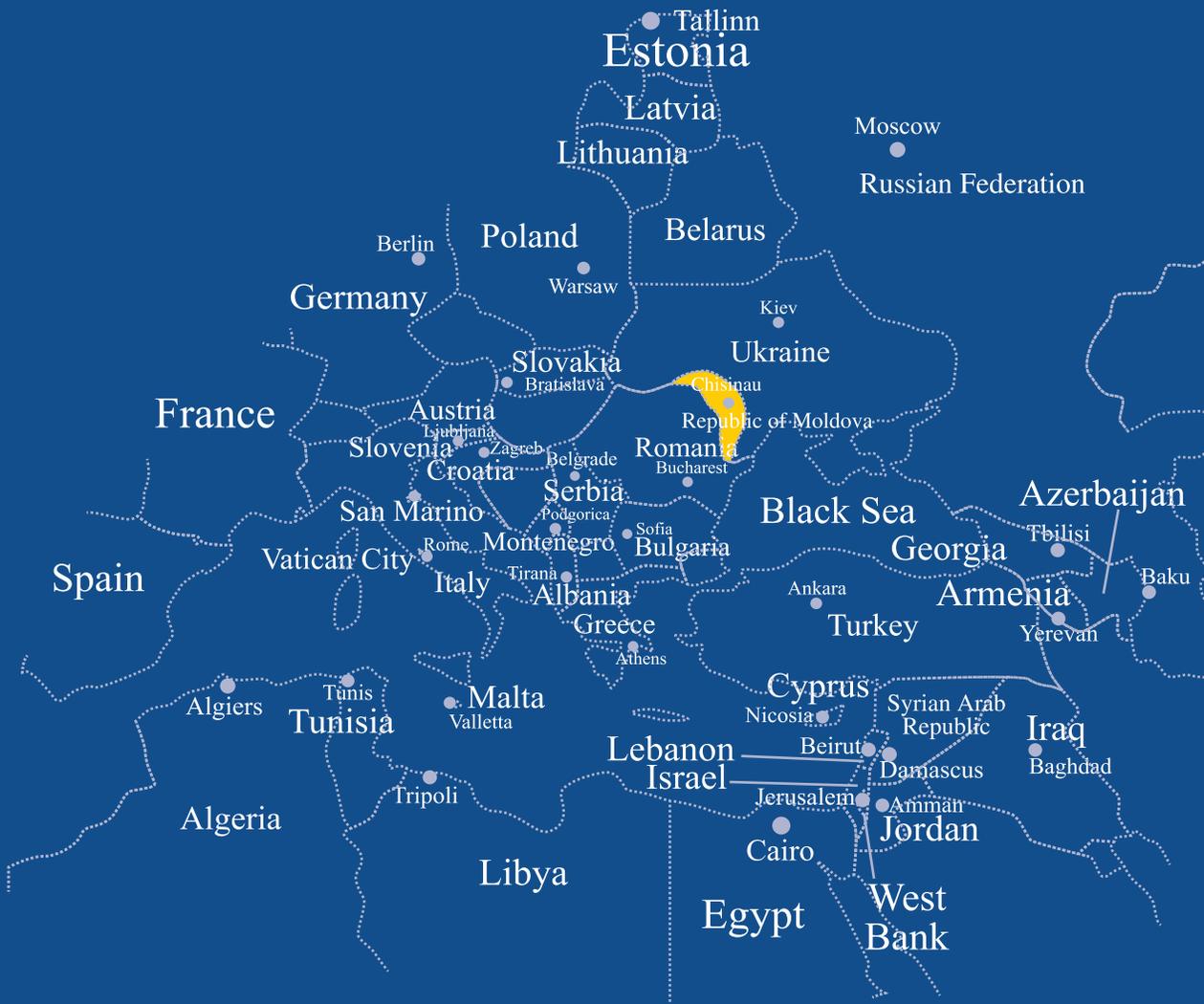


Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova 2009–2014



Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
Bureau for Migration and Asylum



Project funded by the European Union



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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This publication was made possible through the financial support provided by the European Union, in the framework of the Project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership and harnessing its benefits for the residents of the Transnistria Region of the Republic of Moldova” implemented by IOM Moldova.

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ISBN 978-92-9068-732-0
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Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova 2009–2014

ANALYTICAL REPORT

Chisinau, 2016



Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMP	Aid Management Platform
NEA	National Employment Agency
BMA	Bureau for Migration and Asylum
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
BDR	Bureau for Diaspora Relations
HBS	Household Budget Survey
CCD	Coordinating Council of People Originating from the Republic of Moldova and Residing Abroad
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
BPD	Border Police Department
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team
TWG	Technical Working Group
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
UNHCR	(Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
SE SIRC “Registru”	State Enterprise, State Information Resource Centre “Registru”
MFAEI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
LFM	Labour Force Migration
MLSPF	Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family
MITC	Ministry of Information Technology and Communications
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
EMP	Extended Migration Profile
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SIIAMA	Automated Integrated Information System “Migration and Asylum”
NRS	National Referral System

UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	US Agency for International Development
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise

INTRODUCTION

This analytical report is a continuation of a complex exercise initiated in 2010: the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) of the Republic of Moldova. The first edition of the EMP report covered a detailed analysis of migration data in the 2005–2010 period. The entire process of supporting the development of the first edition of the EMP encompassed a set of multilateral actions and synergy among all stakeholders, which assisted in improving the collection and exchange of data, and in promoting wider coherence and a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to the development of migration policies.

This edition of the Republic of Moldova EMP analytical report, which covers the years 2009–2014, was developed by the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, appointed as the institution responsible for subsequent production of the EMP via the Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, approving the List of Indicators and the Template of the Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova. The responsible persons within the BMA were Mrs Olga Poalelungi, BMA Director, and Mrs Jana Mazur, Head of Monitoring, Data Management, and Risk Analysis Section under the Legislation, Data Coordination and Management Division.

This report also represents the outcome of a huge joint effort to collect and analyse data, to which many institutions and persons have contributed in different ways, all equally important. In this context, acknowledgements are expressed to all members and observers of the inter-institutional Technical Working Group (Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; Ministry of Internal Affairs; National Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Education) and observers for their active participation and valuable input.

KEY DATA: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Geography

Total area (sq km) ¹	2014	33.8 thousand sq km
---------------------------------	------	---------------------

Economy and development

GDP per capita (in current prices) ²	2014	USD 1,654 (MDL 31,435)
Human Development Index ³	2014	0.693

Population

Total resident population ⁴	2014	3,555,200 persons
Population forecast ⁵	2050	3,129,800 persons
Foreigner population ⁶	2014	21,685 persons
Population born abroad ⁷	2014	288,578 persons

International migration

Net international migration rate ⁸ per 1,000 population ⁹	2005–2010	-9.4
	2010–2015	-5.9

¹ *Statistical Yearbook of Moldova 2014*, p. 10; available from www.statistica.md

² Key indicators; available from www.statistica.md/category.php?l=ro&idc=191&

³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World* (New York, UNDP, 2013), p. 169. Available from <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr14-report-en-1.pdf>

⁴ Stable Population by Sex and Area of Residence, at the Beginning of the Year, 1970–2014. Available from http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/pxweb/en/20%20Populatia%20si%20procese%20demografice/20%20Populatia%20si%20procese%20demografice__POP010/POP010100.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?rxid=9f06e683-bba9-45f8-88d6-7901d377a785

⁵ G. Paladi, O. Gagauz and O. Penina, "Population Ageing in the Republic of Moldova: Economic and Social Consequences" (Chisinau, Academy of Science of Moldova, 2009). The forecast was calculated based on three scenarios – for the closed-type population, without taking into consideration migration and taking account of lack of some complete data on migration. According to the pessimist scenario, by 2050, the number of inhabitants may decrease to 2,596,200 persons (according to the II-moderately pessimist scenario, the number may decrease to 2,830,800, and according to III-optimist scenario, it may decrease to 3,129,800).

⁶ State Enterprise, State Information Resource Centre (SE SIRC) "Registru", Total Number of Foreigners, Including the Stateless Persons, Staying on the Territory of the Republic of Moldova as of 31 December of the Year of Reference. Data submitted for the EMP Matrix; see Table 22 in Annex.

⁷ SE SIRC "Registru", Number of Persons Born Abroad, Regardless of the Citizenship, as of 31 December. Data submitted for the EMP Matrix; see Table 24 in Annex.

⁸ Hereinafter, "international migration" is referred to as "migration", except when "internal" is used with "migration" or "migrant".

⁹ UN Data, World Population Prospects: 2012 Edition, available from <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=PopDiv&f=variableID%3A85>; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analytical report on the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) of the Republic of Moldova, 2009–2014 edition, is a country-owned tool developed in consultation with a wide number of government and non-government stakeholders, and it is envisaged to be used for enhancing policy coherence, for evidence-based policymaking and for mainstreaming migration into national development planning.

The EMP analytical report covers four basic blocks of information and analysis, namely: migration trends (part A); migration impact (part B); migration management framework (part C); and main findings, policy implications and recommendations (part D).

The migration studies that have been carried out reveal that the economic reasons remain to be the main push factor for Moldovans, especially the lack of local employment opportunities and low salaries offered in the country. The migration phenomenon in Moldovan context continues to be characterized more by international emigration of the country's population and less by immigration of persons from abroad. In general terms, three approaches are used to estimate international emigration from the Republic of Moldova, namely:

- authorized emigration, which involves deregistration from the place of residence and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good from the country, also known in the country as “permanent emigration”;
- labour migration, that is, leaving to work or to look for a job abroad, with the intention to return, also termed “temporary/circular migration”;
- exit from the country, which is registered at the border, including both authorized/permanent emigration and temporary/circular migration.

Although **authorized emigration** from the Republic of Moldova continues to be significant, as shown by data estimates from the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (State Enterprise, State Information Resources Centre “Registru” (SE SIRC “Registru”)), the phenomenon shows a decreasing trend, according to the data on annual flow of authorized emigrations. According to official data, 6,663 Moldovans emigrated in 2009; the number decreased in 2014 by 64 per cent, corresponding to 2,374 persons. It is mainly urban population that emigrates: in 2014 more than triple the number of persons from urban (1,789) as from rural area (585) emigrated. According to the data

estimated based on authorized emigration, the stock of the total number of Moldovan citizens going abroad continues to increase: this number increased by 16,000 persons in 2014 as compared with the number in 2009, accounting for 104,265 persons.

Another important source of information that offers the possibility to estimate the volume of emigration according to the international definition is the **State border crossing registration** provided by the Border Police Department (BPD), specifically the data about the duration of a person's stay outside the country, based on border crossing data. By the end of 2014, a total of 272,000 persons (of whom 127,000 men and 145,000 women) had stayed abroad for more than 12 months.

According to the data presented by the National Employment Agency (NEA), the number of Moldovans working in the host countries with legal work contracts concluded via the NEA is increasing from year to year, but remains to be quite small as compared with the total number of persons working or looking for a job abroad. It is noteworthy to mention that 924 official work contracts were concluded in 2014, as compared with 793 in 2013. As compared with 2009 data, the number of legal work contracts registered by the NEA increased four times.

Overseas student population. The number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad under international education agreements showed an increasing pattern until 2013, but it registered a decrease in 2014 as compared with the previous year. Hence, this number increased by 2.3 times in 2014 as compared with the number in 2009, accounting for 5,469 persons (in 2013 there were 5,891 persons).

Involuntary emigration. This type of emigration registered an increase by the end of 2014 as compared with the number in 2009. The analysis in this context is based on information obtained from international databases. According to the data, the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad totalled 739 in 2009, and 1,449 in 2014.

Taking into account that the information provided by the BPD only contains data about border crossings accumulated from the State border crossing points under the control of the official authorities of the Republic of Moldova, the total volume of Moldovan emigrants cannot be accurately measured, as emigration volume can be overestimated or underestimated due to the fact that persons may cross the border through the Transnistrian segment.

Temporary emigration. The data of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) reveals a stable number of Moldovans – approximately 300,000 – who were working or looking for a job abroad in the period 2009–2014. In 2014, the number of Moldovans working or looking for a job abroad increased, accounting for 341,900 persons, of whom 219,100 were men and 122,800 were women, as compared with 332,500 persons in 2013, of whom 216,900 were men and 115,600 were women.

Repatriation. In 2009–2014, the annual number of repatriated persons has oscillated among increases and decreases. In 2014 the number of repatriated persons increased by 626 persons as compared with 2013, registering an increase rate of 39.5 per cent. A certain number of children were registered among the repatriated persons, accounting for 11.3 per cent of the total number of repatriated persons in 2014.

Readmission. During the period of reference, the number of readmitted persons considerably varied, registering in 2009–2011 an increase from 88 persons up to 126, and starting in 2012 – this number has decreased accounting for 69 persons in 2014, pointing either to the legalization of Moldovan citizens in their host countries or the observance of the stay regimes of the countries they were in.

Combating trafficking in human beings. In 2014, the Multidisciplinary Teams of the National Referral System (NRS) identified 80 victims of trafficking in human beings, decreasing as compared with the figure in 2009. At the same time, in 2014 the NRS assisted in identifying and assisting 854 potential victims of trafficking in human beings, as compared with 308 in 2009, registering an increase of 2.8 times. It is assumed, nevertheless, that this number could be much higher, as it includes an extended group of persons considered to be at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Foreigner population. By the end of 2014, there were a total of 21,685 foreigners (including the stateless persons) staying in the Republic of Moldova, representing 0.5 per cent of the total resident population in the country. The foreigner population growth rate from 2013 to 2014 was 2.8 per cent, and from 2009 to 2014 growth was 16.8 per cent.

Naturalized foreigner population. By the end of 2014, there were 704 naturalized foreigners in total. It should be mentioned that stateless persons represent 67.4 per cent of the total number of naturalized persons, followed by foreigners with undetermined citizenship – accounting for 22.3 per cent – and

other foreigners (those who had another citizenship before) at 10.3 per cent. A total of 24 persons were naturalized in 2014, 9 in 2013 and 17 in 2012.

Non-natives. The number of persons born abroad (all citizenships) staying in the Republic of Moldova increased from 2009 to 2014. By the end of 2014, there were 288,578 non-natives in the Republic of Moldova, accounting for 7.4 per cent of the total population. The growth of non-natives from 2013 to 2014 was 2 per cent.

Immigration into the Republic of Moldova. The annual number of immigrants into the country over the past years has registered an uptrend and accounted in 2014 for 4,204 persons, which is double the number in 2009. The growth rate registered for immigrants in 2014 as compared with 2013 was 25 per cent. It is mainly men (total number of whom is 2.3 times higher than that of women) and persons with professional secondary education/higher education/scientific degrees (57.8%) who immigrate to the Republic of Moldova. By the end of 2014, there were 11,121 foreigners in the Republic of Moldova holding **permanent stay permits**, showing a negative growth rate from 2009 (-24.8). During the period of reference, a significant increase was registered among foreigners coming to the Republic of Moldova **for studies** – this number increased 1.8 times from 2009 to 2014.

Asylum seekers. Statistical data shows that the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Moldova varied continuously from 2009 to 2014. A total of 245 asylum applications (first request) were registered in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 6 times from 2009. It should be mentioned that there were 132 asylum seekers with pending asylum applications by the end of 2014. The number of asylum seekers with pending applications from 2013 to 2014 grew 52 per cent. The increase of asylum applications is explained by the proximity to the conflict areas (e.g. Ukraine), as well as the existence of kinship relations between Moldovan citizens and the citizens of the countries from the conflict areas.

Humanitarian protection. In 2014, 63 foreigners benefited from humanitarian protection; however, 35 persons were refused humanitarian protection. According to national statistical data, 1,524 persons in the Republic of Moldova were documented as **stateless** in 2014; this figure is 174 persons more than in 2009. By the end of 2014, 124 persons were living in the Republic of Moldova as **refugees**, registering 1.6 times growth from 2009.

Demographic decline. Over the last decades, demographic decline was also observed in the country during the period of reference (2009–2014), when the stable population decreased by 8,000 persons. The last two years, however, have registered some stabilization trends, confirmed by a number of indicators in the respective areas. Population growth from 2013 to 2014 was only -0.07 per cent; negative natural growth decreased significantly and registered -0.25 per cent in 2014 as compared with -0.38 per cent in 2009. Meanwhile, this phenomenon continues to negatively influence other sociodemographic indicators. It may be noted that during the period of reference, the number of registered marriages continued to decrease from 26,800 in 2009 to 25,600 in 2014, accounting for 7.2 marriages per 1,000 population.

Demographic composition. It should be mentioned that during the period of reference, the worsening trend for the population structure by age was maintained. The share of persons under 15 years old decreased from 16.71 per cent in 2009 to 15.97 per cent in 2014; conversely, the share of elderly people increased from 19.4 per cent in 2009 to 21.5 per cent in 2014. The demographic dependency ratio (national definition) remained rather high in 2014, accounting for 54.4 per cent. Migration accelerates the country's population ageing, as mainly the young and working-age persons migrate; the ageing coefficient accounted for 16.2 per cent in 2014, coming closer to the critical value of 16 per cent – revealing a rather advanced status of the said phenomenon. In women's case, the ageing coefficient is even higher, reaching 18.8 persons aged 60 years and over per 100 population.

Urban migration versus rural migration. The migration phenomenon, which is more pronounced in rural than in urban areas, has significantly influenced the demographic situation in villages. The demographic indicators confirm the human capital degradation believed to be happening in rural areas. In 2014, the dependency ratio in rural areas exceeded by almost 9 percentage points than in urban areas; the rural share of people aged 65 years and over exceeds by 1.1 percentage points that of the urban share; and the seniority ratio in rural areas exceeds that in urban areas by 4.2 percentage points. At the same time, the urbanization rate shows an uptrend, alongside a decrease in the share of persons under 15 years old. This reflects the ongoing internal migration from villages to cities, which occurs in parallel with international migration.

Macroeconomic context. As the number of persons leaving to work abroad increases, **money transfers from abroad** from these individuals have also increased significantly, registering a huge influence on the main macroeconomic indicators. During the period of reference, a fluctuation may be noted for the

nominal value of the GDP, as the growth rate in 2014 increased by 11.3 per cent as compared with 2009. The nominal value of the GDP per capita has increased continuously, reaching MDL 31,435 in 2014; the growth rate of the given indicator registered increasing trends over the last two years as well.

For Moldovans, remittances represent an important resource for escaping poverty. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) data shows that about 24 per cent of households in the Republic of Moldova in 2014 benefitted from remittances; in 2009 it was 23 per cent. A higher share of households benefiting from remittances was registered in rural areas (26.4%) than in urban areas (20.6%). The LFS/Labour Force Migration (LFM) Study 2012 data reveals that the majority of migrants (81.3%) stated that they sent money to their families. The amounts remitted varied: over one third of migrants (35.8%) stated that they sent under USD 500 on a monthly basis; 12.4 per cent remitted between USD 500 and USD 800; and 7.2 per cent sent more than USD 800. Less than one fifth of migrants (18.7%) stated that they did not send money home. The HBS data shows that from 2009 to 2014, remittances accounted for over half of the disposable income of Moldovan households depending on remittances, registering the maximum value of 57 per cent in 2014.

In 2009, the share of the **population under the absolute poverty line** accounted for 26 per cent of the total country population. However, starting 2010 this indicator has been constantly dropping. In 2014, the share of the population under the absolute poverty line was 11.4 per cent, down 14.9 percentage points from 2009.

From 2009 to 2014, the **economically active population** decreased constantly from 1,265,000 down to 1,232,000, the difference being 33,000 persons (2.6%). Hence, the activity rate decreased by 1.6 percentage points during this period.

Official statistics reveal a slight downtrend in the **working-age population** (working age: 16–56/61 years old) from 66.54 per cent to 65.59 per cent, confirmed by an insignificant increase of the growth rate of this segment from 99.78 per cent in 2011 to 100.74 per cent in 2014. In 2014, **foreigners of working age** (15–64 years old) accounted for 19,206 persons or 88.6 per cent of the total number of foreigners staying in the country.

The indicators for **labour force participation and employment** dropped in 2014 as compared with the indicators in 2013. To be specific, the labour force participation rate, calculated according to the national definition,

decreased by 0.5 percentage points, and the one calculated according to the international definition decreased by 0.4 percentage points. The unemployment rate decreased in 2014 as compared with the rates in 2013, among the general population, the youth and women.

The shortage of teaching staff and medical personnel continues to be one of the negative social effects of migration. According to the data of the study on the impact of migration on teaching staff and researchers in the Republic of Moldova,¹⁰ more than half of the interviewed teachers mentioned about their intention to leave for work abroad – 40.3 per cent of respondents said that they wanted to leave for temporary work abroad, 7.9 per cent wanted to leave for good and 5.4 per cent wanted to leave for studies. The salary is mentioned as a determining factor in this respect, which, even though increased in 2014, continues to account for about 83 per cent of the average salary in economy.

Migration also influences children's integration in education, as well as the visions related to such an opportunity. In 2014, the gross enrolment rate in primary education was 92.4 per cent, a drop of 1.1 percentage points as compared with the 2009 enrolment rate. The enrolment rate in gymnasium education also decreased during the period of reference, registering a drop of 2 percentage points. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education and the analysis of school census data for 2014, the number of children left behind with parents working abroad accounted for 41,000, of whom 10,000 had both parents abroad and around 31,000 had one of the parents abroad.

In 2014 the **health protection system** counted 10,424 doctors and 21,995 health workers with secondary education (in 2009, 10,761 and 23,141, respectively). Staffing rates were 29.3 doctors and 61.9 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population, which were below the average European Union (EU) levels of 32.3 doctors and 77.5 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population. The situation is even worse in rural areas (staffing rate for doctors was 5.7 persons and for health workers with secondary education was 22.5 persons per 10,000 population). According to the study *Health Workers from the Republic of Moldova: Reasons for Abandoning the Profession*,¹¹ the main reasons for giving up the medical profession included as well the wish of the health workers to **emigrate abroad**, and **economic factors**

¹⁰ A study carried out within the "Efficient Management of Labour Migration and Competencies" Project, implemented from March 2011 to December 2013, by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank.

¹¹ World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, *Health Workers from the Republic of Moldova: Reasons for Abandoning the Profession* (Copenhagen, 2014). Available from www.hrhobs.ms.md/uploads/Studies/Studiu%20abandonarea%20profesiei%20ROM.pdf

(e.g. salary, dwelling space, living conditions) were top-of-mind answers among the factors compelling the respondents to give up their medical profession.

Migration management framework. Over the past years, the increasing awareness of migration as a phenomenon that produces positive results for the country's development and induces negative social costs, as well as the parallel commitment to proactively manage migration challenges and opportunities, has induced the Government of the Republic of Moldova to undertake intensive activities in relation to legislation and policy development. A number of concept documents and laws were adopted to determine the migration policy in the key areas of migration management and migration policy administration for the midterm and long term. The majority of them comply with international standards and *acquis communautaire*, taking European integration aspirations into consideration.

The Republic of Moldova has a well-developed institutional framework in the area of migration management, as well as migration policies developed with the participation of a number of institutional stakeholders of different levels: commissions, committees, working groups with different moderators. In this respect, it is important to mention the relaunch in November 2013 of the **commission for the coordination of certain activities related to migration**, whose secretariat and chair are held by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Republic of Moldova continues to benefit from solid foreign assistance. About 200 projects related to migration were implemented with foreign support from 2009 to 2014. A considerable number of projects are implemented under the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership.

PART A: MIGRATION TRENDS

A. I. Background and main determining factors

Migration processes in the Republic of Moldova have been subject to deep analyses all over their evolution. Migration patterns and evolution have been widely described by researchers in the area. They point out four stages of the migration phenomenon in the country: the first stage (1990–1994); the second stage (1995–2000); the third stage (2001–2006); and the fourth stage, which started in May 2006.¹² Each of the four emigration periods is characterized by specific peculiarities; nevertheless, the economic reasons and labour migration are the core elements that serve as a common basis for the development of the migration phenomenon.

The fourth and current stage is characterized by considerable migration management efforts undertaken by the State. The concept-based approach is promoted in relation to the regulation of labour migration, development of institutional reform and closer cooperation with the EU. For the purpose of streamlining the policy framework related to diaspora relations and based on the commitments assumed under the Republic of Moldova’s Government Activity Programme 2011–2014, as well as a response to the requests coming from Moldovan citizens staying abroad (e.g. the need to create a State agency for diaspora affairs, as identified in the resolution adopted during the Fourth Moldovan Diaspora Congress held on 10–12 October 2010), the Government decided to establish the Bureau for Diaspora Relations (BDR) (with the status of a general division) within the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, an entity responsible for diaspora policies and programmes coordination at the government and ministry levels, contributing to maintenance and affirmation of the ethnical, cultural, and linguistic identities of Moldovans abroad, and harnessing the diaspora’s human and material potential.¹³ Additional competencies regarding the analysis of migration flows were delegated to the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA).¹⁴

¹² Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (Institutul pentru Dezoltare și Inițiativă Sociale, IDIS), “Viitorul”, *Migration Trends and Policies in the Black Sea Region: Cases of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine* (Chisinau, IDIS “Viitorul”, 2008). For more information on the different stages of migration, see: IOM, *Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova* (Chisinau, 2012), available from http://iom.md/attachments/110_emp_report.pdf

¹³ Government Decision No. 780 dated 19 October 2012, available from <http://lex.justice.md/md/345122/>

¹⁴ Government Decision No. 1009 dated 26 December 2011, Action Plan for 2011–2015 to Implement the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).

Over the past years, especially during the economic crisis in Europe, the situation of return migration became a timely issue – returning of migrants became a rather emphasized phenomenon when the conditions for the stay and employment of migrants tightened up in the Russian Federation. Moldovan authorities, with the support of international bodies, aimed to provide the necessary assistance to Moldovan citizens who intended to return home or those who had already gone back.

A.1.1. Push and pull factors of migration

The studies carried out in the area of migration reveal that the main push factor for Moldovan migrants remains to be economic reasons, especially the lack of employment opportunities and low salaries offered by the labour market in the country.¹⁵

A.2. Current migration patterns

Available data and sources of information. The exercise for developing the first Extended Migration Profile (EMP) report – which is a multilateral analysis of the migration phenomenon – involved an assessment of existing data in the country, the identification of relevant migration indicators and data sources, the development and approval of a list of EMP indicators (which allowed for a description of the complex situation), and the identification and evaluation of the negative and positive effects of migration on the country’s socioeconomic situation.

The necessary actions were identified, along with the authorities responsible for the continuous production of data and the development of the EMP reports – all of these being stipulated in the Action Plan for 2011–2015 for the Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).¹⁶ Since 2013,¹⁷ the respective central authorities and subordinate institutions have produced and delivered annually to the BMA data series in line with the approved list of indicators. The report also analyses additional data series from research and surveys carried out during the period of reference.

¹⁵ Labour Force Migration (LFM) Study, carried out during the fourth quarter of 2012; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?!=ro&idc=350&id=2570. According to the survey data, 76.5 per cent of migrants indicated “low salaries in Moldova” as their main reason for leaving the country, and 8.8 per cent indicated “lack of jobs according to their skills/qualifications” (WHO Regional Office for Europe, (Copenhagen, 2014), available from www.hrhobs.ms.md/uploads/Studies/Studiu%20abandonarea%20profesiei%20ROM.pdf).

¹⁶ Government Decision No. 1009 dated 26 December 2011.

¹⁷ Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012.

The tables, which list the data used to develop the analysis on migration profile, are included in Annex 2 of this report.

A.2.1. Flow of international migration of Moldovan citizens and stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad

The migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova continues to be characterized by the international emigration of Moldovan citizens and less by the immigration of persons from abroad. At the same time, starting in 2010, a constant increase may be noted for the number of immigrants, asylum seekers and applications for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova. In 2013, for the first time over the last 20 years, the number of immigrants exceeded the number of authorized emigrations, and the Republic of Moldova's proximity to the EU and the liberalization of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU will attract even more immigration flows.

Three approaches are generally used in the Republic of Moldova to estimate international emigration, namely:

1. authorized emigration, which involves deregistration from the place of residence and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good, also known in the Republic of Moldova as "permanent emigration";
2. labour migration, that is, leaving to work or to look for a job abroad, with the intention to return, also termed "temporary/circular migration";
3. exit from the country, which is registered at the border, including, de facto, both authorized/permanent emigration and temporary/circular migration.

There are different data and sources of information for estimating emigration. The most relevant data for monitoring migration and its impact in different areas are presented and analysed in this report. The respective data was collected and estimated based on the legislative–normative framework in force at the time this report was developed.

It should be noted that because an important share of the population has dual citizenship, the emigration analysis in this report is focused on data on the country's population and disregards the citizenships that the persons had at the time or that were declared by those going through the migration processes; as such, the term "Moldovan citizens" in this context refers to the entire population of the country, unless an alternate definition is provided.

Emigration of citizens

The analysis of emigration from the Republic of Moldova in this chapter is focused mainly on the available data regarding the annual flows of those who have left the country from administrative sources. Only in some cases is data related to cumulative stocks on the reporting date presented for comparison.

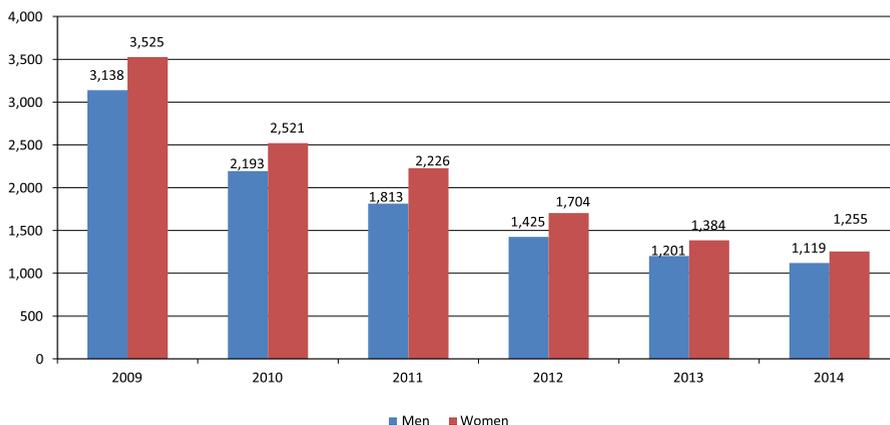
Annual flow of international authorized emigration.¹⁸ Although authorized emigration from the country, which is estimated based on the data provided by the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (MITC) (through the State Enterprise State Information Resources Centre, or “Registru” (hereinafter referred to as the SE SIRC “Registru”)), continues to be a timely issue in the Republic of Moldova, the phenomenon shows a downtrend. According to official data, 6,663 persons emigrated in 2009, with the number decreasing by 64 per cent in 2014 to 2,374 persons (Table 1).

It is mainly the urban population that emigrates. In 2014, more than triple the number of persons from urban areas (1,789 persons) as from rural areas (585 persons) emigrated (Table 1). The relative share of international emigrants from rural versus urban areas registered a constant increase until 2009. Afterwards, the given indicator constantly decreased and was down to 32.4 per cent in 2014 (Table 2).

According to data on annual flow of authorized emigrations, more women than men emigrated over the last six years. Hence, the number of women exceeded by almost 12 per cent the number of men in 2014 (Figure 1). The highest number of outflows (emigration) – 6,663 persons (3,138 men and 3,525 women) – was registered in 2009, but afterwards the number of emigrant men and women continuously decreased, to 2,374 persons (1,119 men and 1,255 women), in 2014. It should be mentioned that in 2014, authorized emigration flow decreased 36 per cent as compared with the rate in 2009 for both men and women.

¹⁸ In the 2005–2010 EMP report, the term “permanent emigration” is used for this group of population, while in this report this term has been replaced by “authorized emigration”, in accordance with Government Decision No. 125 dated 18 February 2013.

Figure 1: Authorized emigrations from the Republic of Moldova by sex, 2009–2014 (persons)

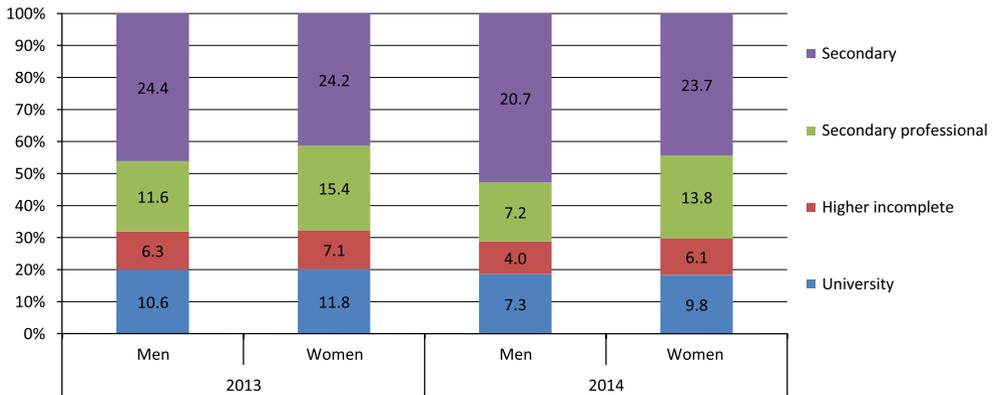


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Data on the annual flow of authorized emigrations reveals that it is mainly young persons who are emigrating. The largest share of the total number of authorized outflows in 2014 (2,374 persons) is registered for the 25–34 years old group (21%) and the 15–24 years old bracket (15%), followed by the 35–44 and 45–54 years old groups (13% each). At the same time, it should be mentioned that the youth represents one fourth of the total number of persons who emigrated with authorization in 2014. In the group of persons closer to the retirement age (65–69 years old), the number of persons leaving the country to settle down permanently abroad is reduced by half in 2009–2014 (Table 1).

About one third of emigrants have attained secondary and secondary professional education levels, and 13.7 per cent have reached incomplete higher education or university education levels. Larger shares of emigrant women have achieved higher education as compared with men (Figure 2 and Table 3).

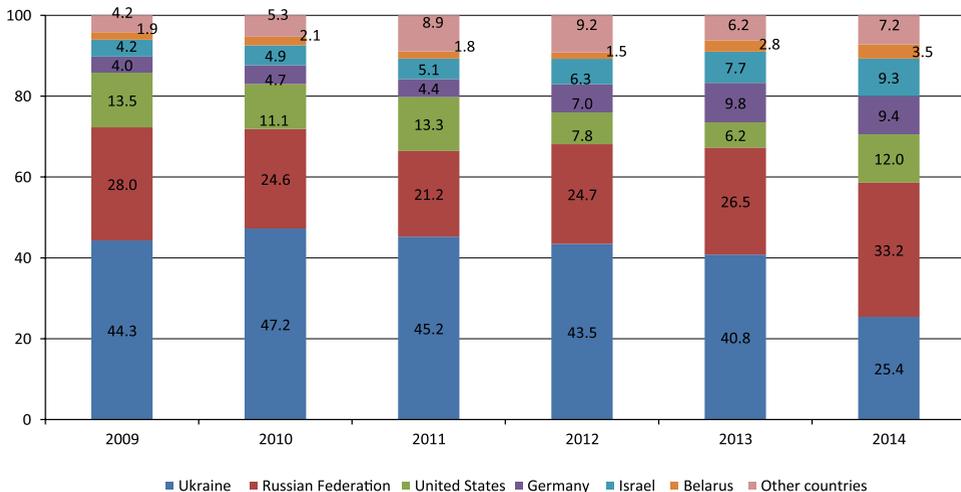
Figure 2: Distribution of emigrants by education level and sex, 2013–2014 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Analysis of the data regarding the authorized emigrants' countries of destination reveals that in 2014 the Russian Federation and Ukraine continued to receive the largest shares (almost 60%) of authorized emigrants, nevertheless registering a decrease from 70 per cent in 2009. The Russian Federation was on the top in 2014 with 33.2 per cent, followed by Ukraine with 25.4 per cent and the United States with 12.0 per cent. It may be noted that there were uptrends for emigration to Germany (9.4% in 2014 as compared with 4.0% in 2009) and Israel (9.3% in 2014 as compared with 4.2% in 2009) (Figure 3).

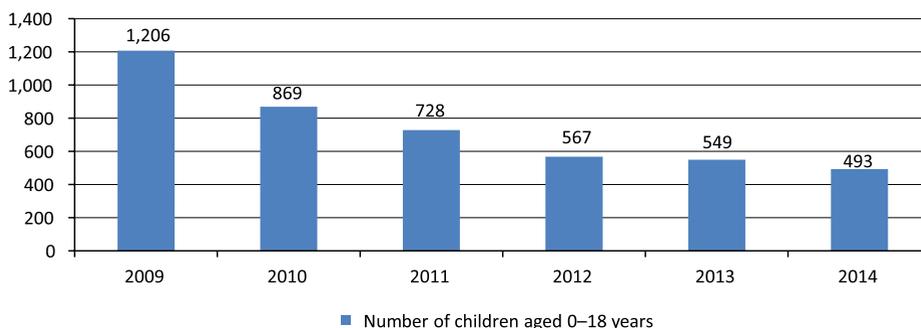
Figure 3: Distribution of emigrants by country of destination, 2009–2014 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Authorized emigration of children. Since 2009, the annual flow of children’s emigration has been registering a stable drop, decreasing by 10.2 per cent from 2013 to 2014 (Figure 4), when children who went abroad with their parents decreased to 493 as compared with 1,206 children in 2009. It should be mentioned that this data reflects the annual flow of children aged 0–18 years, who emigrated with their parents to settle down abroad permanently during the year of reference.

Figure 4: Number of children taken abroad by their parents, 2009–2014 (persons)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad

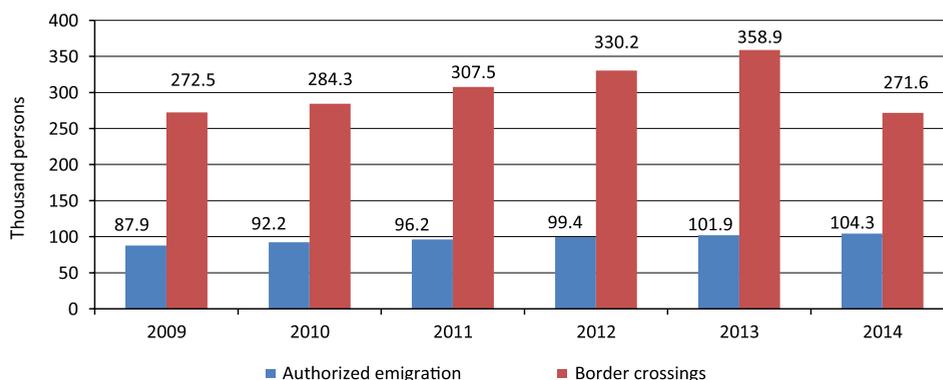
There are several data sources that can be used as bases for estimating the stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad, namely:

- the stock of the total number of Moldovan citizens who have done authorized emigration;
- the number of persons who have exited the country by crossing the border and are registered as being absent for one year and longer; and
- the number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, which is submitted by the host countries, being obtained from the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova.

Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad. According to estimates of authorized emigration, the number of Moldovan citizens living abroad continued to increase by almost 16,332 persons from 2009 to 2014 (Table 5 and Figure 5), when the number stood at 104,265. Other estimates of the stock of Moldovan citizens who may be considered emigrants, in line with the international definition,¹⁹ reveal an underestimation of the total number of emigrants.

Important data sources that allow for the estimation of the volume of emigration according to the international definition are those provided by the Border Police Department (BPD), namely, data about the length of time that a person has stayed abroad, based on registered State border crossings. According to the BPD data, 271,611 persons had been staying outside the county for more than 12 months by the end of 2014 (Table 5 and Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, 2009–2014 (thousand persons)



Source: SE SIRC “Registru”, BPD.

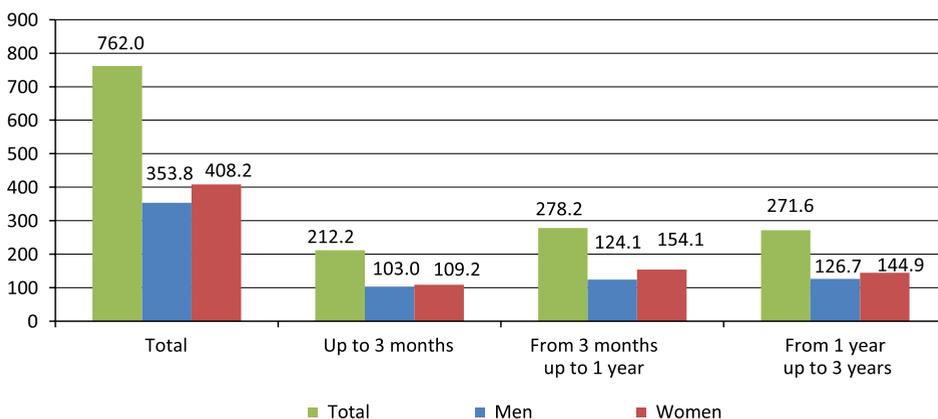
It should be mentioned that data from both authorized emigration and border crossing records (Figure 5) shows a similar uptrend over time for the number of persons living abroad, but the actual value of the increase differs between the two. Data on authorized emigration shows that emigration trends during the reference period, as noted above, registered a rather reduced pace as compared with previous years, as indicated by the annual flow of this type of emigration (Table 1). Stays abroad of more than 12 months registered at the border contributed to the uptrend, resulting in an annual numeric increase until 2013, and a decrease of the respective number by the end of 2014. It should be mentioned that this decrease is explained by the way the respective indicator is calculated, and namely the fact that the BPD data reflects the stock for the last

¹⁹ An emigrant is considered to be the person absent from the country for at least 12 months.

five years, but only for those persons who crossed the border with passports attesting the Moldovan citizenship.

According to border crossing data, 761,970 Moldovan citizens had left the country (with various durations of stay abroad) by the end of 2014, of whom 46 per cent were men and 54 per cent were women; of the total number of Moldovans abroad, 490,359 stayed in their host countries for a period up to one year and 271,611 persons stayed for more than one year. The distribution of emigrants by duration of their stay abroad and sex is provided in Figure 6 and Table 6.

Figure 6: Number of Moldovan citizens registered at the border as gone abroad by duration of stay and sex, at the end of 2014 (thousand persons)

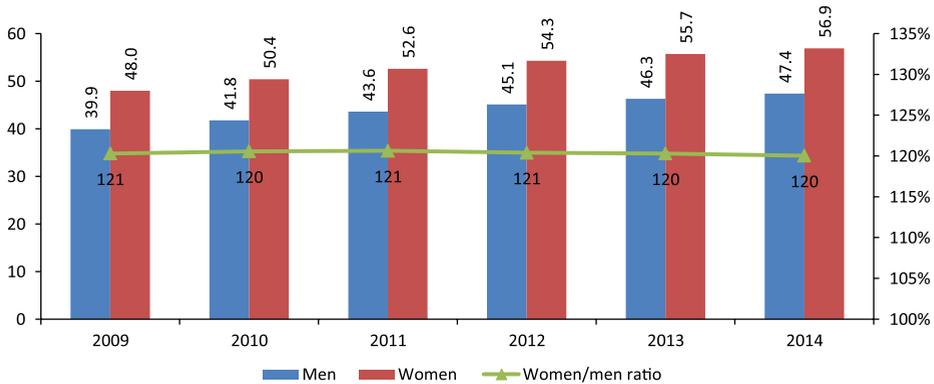


Source: BPD.

Note: The information is presented according to the data accumulated from the State border crossing points under the control of the authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Analysis of the data from both sources reveals that women account for a larger percentage of all Moldovan citizens living abroad (Table 5). In the case of authorized emigration, the women-to-men ratio constantly evolved from 2009 to 2014 (Figure 7), with women exceeding the number of men living abroad by almost 20 per cent.

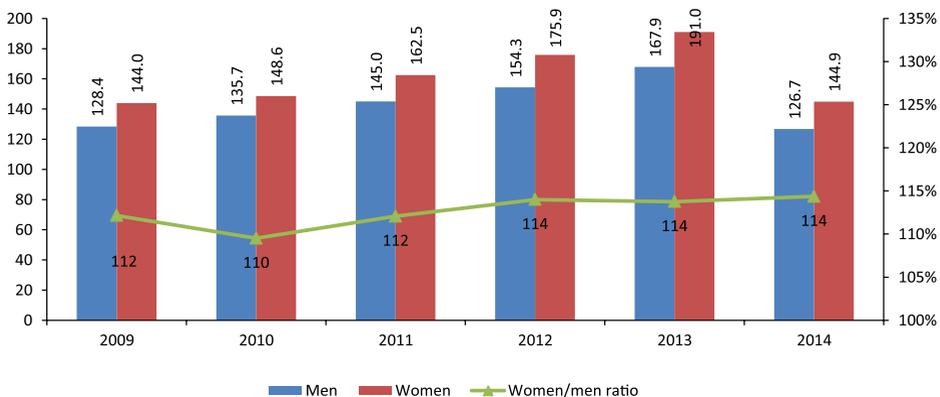
Figure 7: Stock of Moldovan authorized emigrants residing abroad by sex, 2009–2014 (thousand persons)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Departures from the Republic of Moldova for a period longer than 12 months, registered at the border, followed the same uptrends, but the women-to-men ratio was smaller. During the 2009–2014 period, the ratio varied between 12 per cent and 14 per cent, with uptrend starting in 2011 (Figure 8 and Table 5).

Figure 8: Number of Moldovan citizens registered at the border as being abroad for 12 months and more by sex, 2009–2014 (thousand persons)

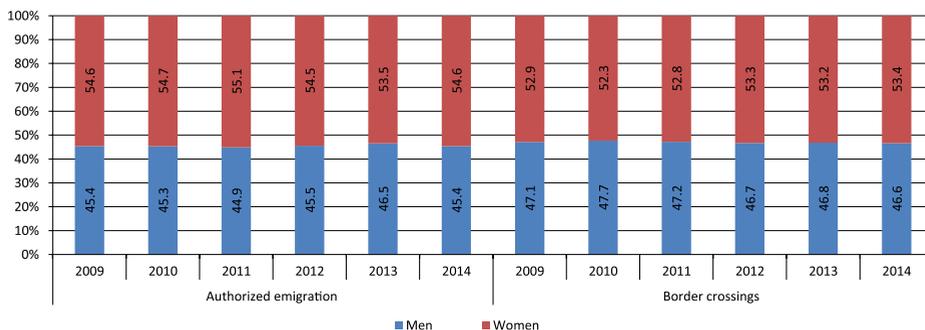


Source: BPD.

According to the data from the SE SIRC “Registru”, women accounted for 54.6 per cent of authorized emigrants from 2009 to 2014. In the case of border crossing data, women accounted for almost 53.4 per cent of the total number of Moldovan citizens living abroad for one year and more. It should be noted

that the distribution of emigrants by sex remained generally constant during the period of reference (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Distribution of Moldovan citizens living abroad by sex, 2009–2014 (%)

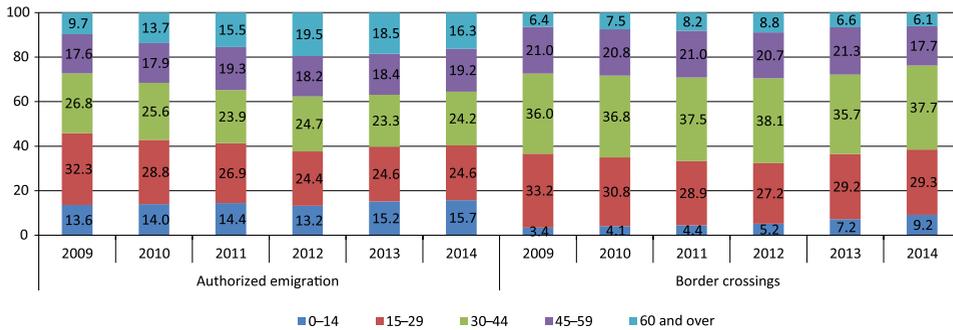


Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”; BPD.

Two age groups constituted the largest share of the total number of authorized emigrants during the period of reference (Figure 10). In 2014, persons aged 15–29 years accounted for 24.6 per cent of the total number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, followed by the 30–44 years old group, who accounted for 24.2 per cent. These age groups cumulated about 48.8 per cent of all authorized outflows in 2014.

The age distribution of persons who had been away from the country for 12 months and more, as registered at the border by the end of 2014 (Table 7), reveals that almost the same age groups registered the highest shares, with a more pronounced quantum for the age group of 30–44 years old. It is noted that for the entire reference period, according to border crossing data, the share of persons included in the 15–29 and 30–44 years old groups annually cumulated about 67 per cent of the total number of persons who had been abroad for 12 months and more. It is also important to point out the evolution of the 45–59 years old group, which was rather representative and annually accounted for about 17.7 per cent of all emigrants. The data confirms the assumption that persons of working age are the ones leaving the country. A slight uptrend is also noted for children living abroad: according to border crossing data, an increase in their share of the total number of emigrants was registered – from 3.4 per cent in 2009 up to 9.2 per cent in 2014 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Distribution of Moldovan citizens living abroad by age group, 2009–2014 (%)

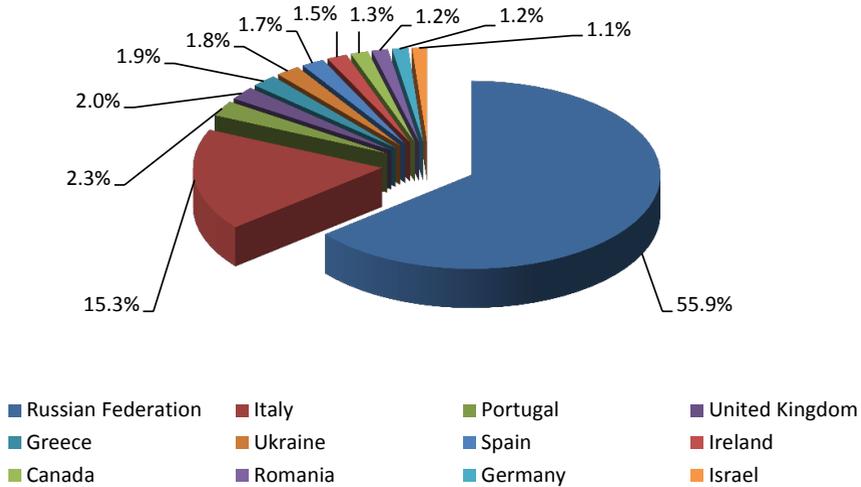


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru"; BPD.

Taking into account that the information provided by the BPD covers only the data on border crossings gathered from the State border crossing points controlled by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, the full population of emigrants from the country also cannot be estimated; hence, underestimation or overestimation of the emigration volume can exist in this case as well, due to the fact that the persons may cross the border through the Transnistrian segment.

Another source of data that can be used to estimate the volume of emigration is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), which obtains such data from Moldovan diplomatic missions and consular offices. According to the data from the MFAEI, there were about 984,000 Moldovan citizens living abroad in 2014, regardless of the duration of stay in the host country (Table 9). Analysis of host country distribution reveals that about 71.2 per cent of all Moldovan citizens living abroad are cumulated by the Russian Federation and Italy (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Distribution of the estimated number of Moldovan citizens living abroad by host country, at the end of 2014 (%)

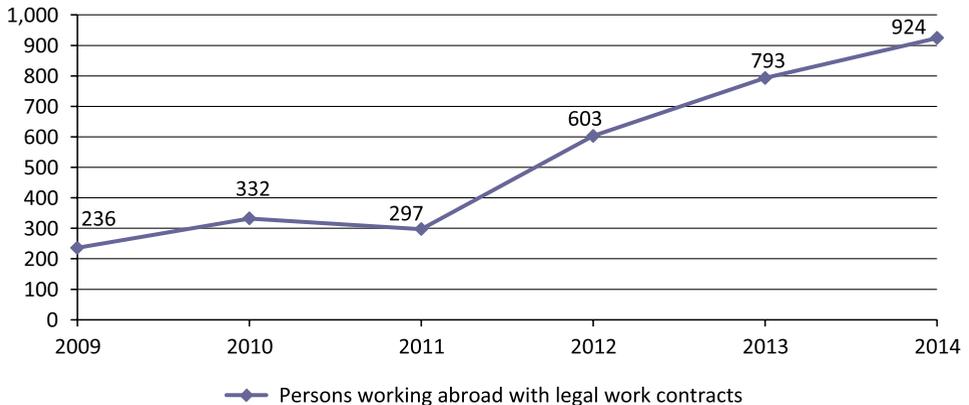


Source: MFAEI.

Note: Data of the Republic of Moldova’s diplomatic and consular missions in the host countries.

According to the data presented by the National Employment Agency (NEA), a rather small number of persons work in host countries with work contracts concluded via the NEA. It should be mentioned that in 2014 this figure grew by 5,688 cases as compared with 2009, and by 131 cases as compared with 2013 (Figure 12 and Table 10).

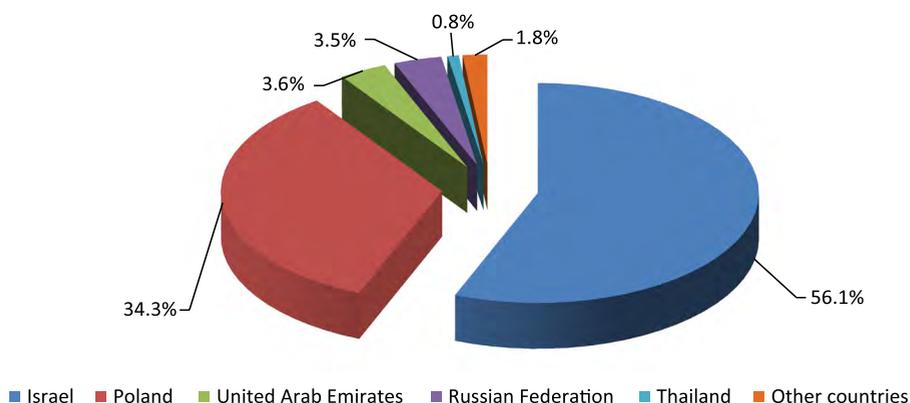
Figure 12: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, 2009–2014 (persons)



Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF); NEA.

The distribution of Moldovan emigrants by country of employment under a legal work contract shows that the largest share of emigrants (56.1%) were hosted by Israel in 2014, followed by Poland (34.3%), the United Arab Emirates (3.6%) and the Russian Federation (3.5%) (Figure 13 and Table 11).

Figure 13: Distribution of Moldovan citizens working abroad under legal work contracts by host country, 2014 (%)



Source: MLSPF; NEA.

Emigration for studies

There was an increase in the number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad during the reference period, under international collaboration protocols signed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova. In 2014, there were 5,469 Moldovan students overseas, which is 2.3 times the number in 2009 (Table 12). In 2014, about 91 per cent of Moldovan citizens studying abroad were in Romania, 6.0 per cent were in the Russian Federation and 2.1 per cent were in Bulgaria.

Involuntary emigration

Involuntary emigration registered an increase in 2014 as compared with 2009, based on data from international databases. According to the data, 739 Moldovans sought asylum abroad in 2009; while in 2014 there were 1,449 Moldovan asylum seekers (Table 13).

At the same time, it may be noted that during the period of reference, the total number of asylum seekers from the Republic of Moldova, who had obtained the refugee status abroad, decreased by 2.6 times; and by the end of 2014, a total of 2,242 persons from the Republic of Moldova were registered and recognized as refugees, as compared with 5,929 persons in 2009.

It should be mentioned that the growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad and the growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad increased during the period of reference as compared with the previous year (Table 13).

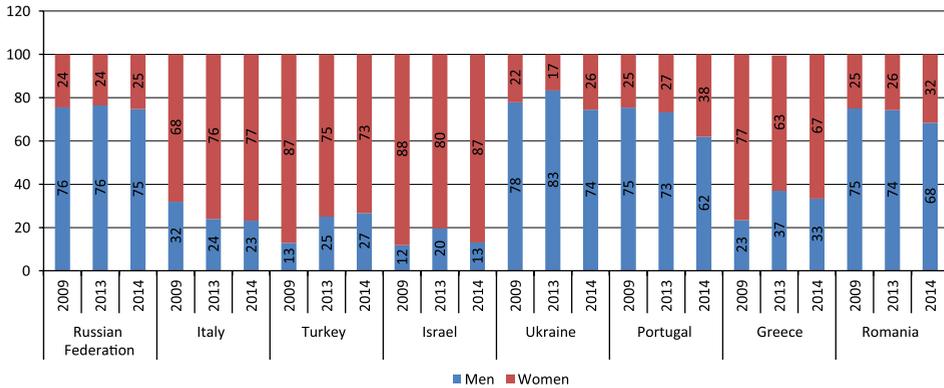
Temporary migration

Labour migration has persisted in the Republic of Moldova for two decades. Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS),²⁰ which is carried out on a quarterly basis by the NBS, shows that an approximately stable number of persons, about 300,000, were working outside the country or looking for a job for a certain period between 2009 and 2014. Based on the LFS data, the NBS estimated the volume of labour migration as the number of persons aged 15 years and over who had gone abroad to work or look for a job at the time the survey was carried out. According to the LFS estimates, the top receiving countries of Moldovan migrant workers were the Russian Federation, Italy, Israel, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Portugal and Greece (Table 14).

In 2014, the number of people staying abroad increased to 341,900, of whom 219,100 were men and 122,800 were women, as compared with 332,500 in 2013, of whom 216,900 were men and 115,600 were women. Distribution by sex shows significant disparities regarding the countries of destination, with men mainly leaving for the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Portugal and Romania, and women going to Italy, Turkey, Israel and Greece (Figure 14).

²⁰ The Labour Force Survey (LFS), which started in 1998, is an annual household survey carried out by the NBS. Beginning in 2006, the LFS was carried out based on a new sample of households and according to a methodology adjusted to the most recent recommendations of the ILO, European standards and the Labour Code of the Republic of Moldova. The target population of the survey would be the persons from selected households, and the variables regarding the labour market are collected only for the persons aged 15 years and over. For more information, see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=263&id=2204

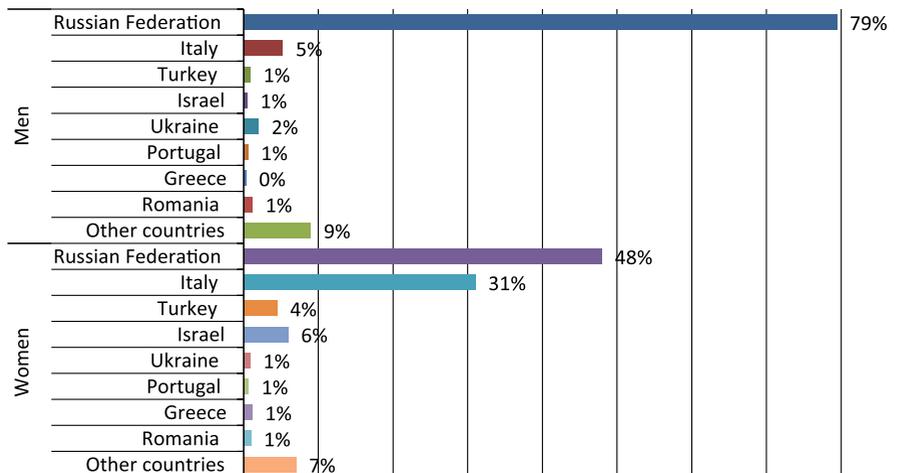
Figure 14: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by country of destination and sex, 2009, 2013 and 2014 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

The share of men who left to work or to look for a job in the Russian Federation in 2014 accounted for 79 per cent of the total; those who went to Italy held 5 per cent; and those who left for Ukraine accounted for 2 per cent. In the same year, of the total number of women migrating to work abroad, 48 per cent left for the Russian Federation, 31 per cent went to Italy, 6 per cent went to Israel and 4 per cent went to Turkey. Other countries hosted about 1 per cent and less of labour migrants of both sexes (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by sex and country destination, 2014 (%)

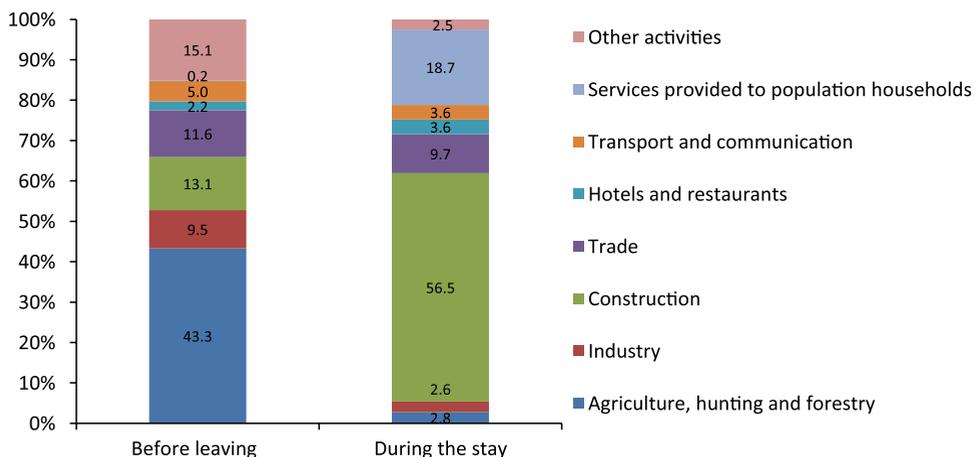


Source: NBS (LFS).

It should be mentioned that the distribution by sex of Moldovans working abroad reflects the continuous trend of more men migrants in the labour force: in 2014 the distribution was 64 per cent men versus 36 per cent women, as compared with 63 per cent men versus 37 per cent women in 2009 (Table 14).

About 72 per cent of Moldovan citizens who were abroad in 2014 came from the rural areas, hence registering an increase as compared with the previous years. As in 2009, this share accounted for 69.7 per cent (Table 15). Surveys in the area of labour migration²¹ confirm that mainly persons who had worked in agriculture (which is mostly in rural areas) prior to migration were leaving the country. The distribution of migrants by economic activity prior to leaving the country reveals that 43.3 per cent were working in agriculture, hunting and forestry; 13.1 per cent in construction; and 11.6 per cent in trade. It should be mentioned that more than half of all the migrants (56.5%) had worked or were currently working abroad in construction. As well, among the most widespread economic activities abroad were domestic services to private households (18.7%) and trade (9.7%) (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Distribution of Moldovan migrants by the economic activity at the job they had before leaving the country and during their stay abroad (%)

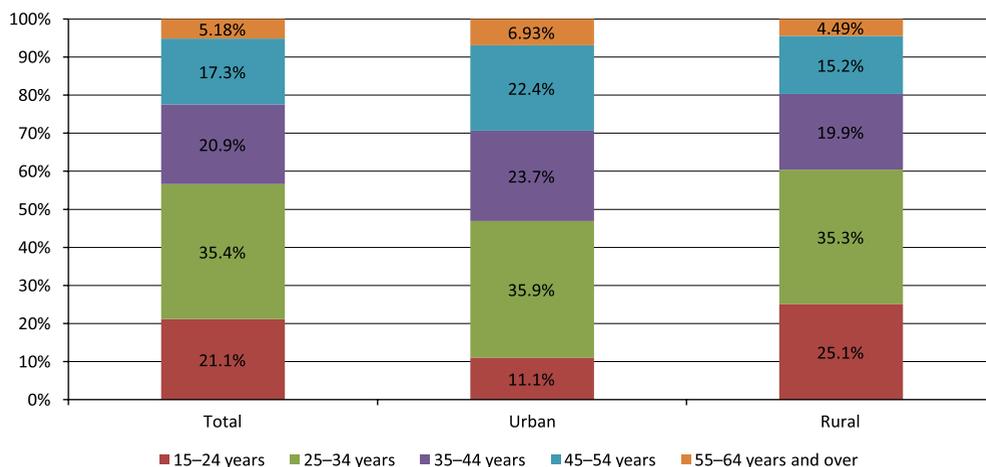


Source: NBS/LFS and LFM, 2012.

²¹ LFM Study, carried out in the fourth quarter of 2012 by the NBS; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=350&id=2570

The distribution of migrants by wide age group in 2014 is as follows: 77 per cent were persons aged 15–44 years, of whom 35 per cent were 25–34 years old; this was followed by those aged 35–44 years and 15–24 years, each group accounting for 21 per cent. Migrants aged 45–54 years held a share of 17 per cent, and those aged 55 years and over accounted for 5 per cent. It may be noted that mainly young people from rural areas leave the country: the 15–34 years old group accounted for 60 per cent of all emigrants from rural areas, as compared with 47 per cent for the same age group in urban areas (Figure 17 and Table 15).

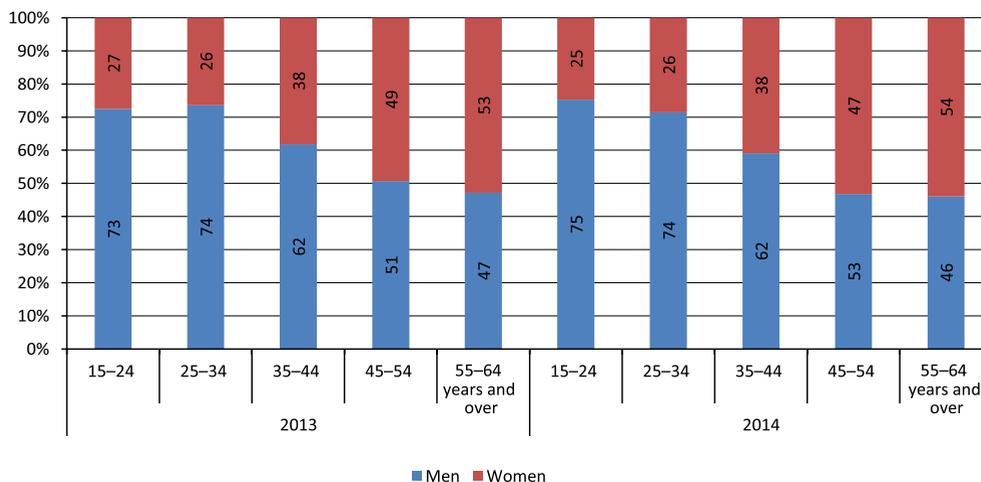
Figure 17: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by area of residence in the Republic of Moldova and age group, 2014 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

Significant disparities between the sexes are maintained within migrants' age groups. The younger the group is, the larger the share of men, with the gap getting smaller with older age groups. In 2014, men accounted for 75 per cent of the 15–24 years old group and held 53 per cent share of the 45–54 years old group – a difference of 22 percentage points (Figure 18 and Table 16).

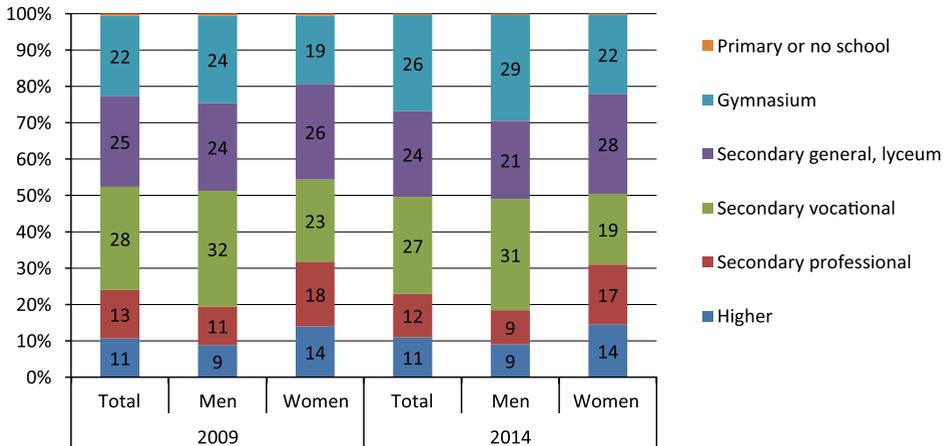
Figure 18: Gender gap in the distribution of temporary/circular migrants by age group, 2013 and 2014 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

Statistical data shows that level of education, which influences the capacity to get integrated into the labour market abroad, plays a significant role in setting the migration flow. In 2014, about 50 per cent of the total number of migrants were found to have attained secondary education (lyceum, gymnasium), and 39 per cent were found to have achieved vocational and professional secondary education. Persons with higher education accounted for 11 per cent of the total number of migrants. It is important to mention that the shares of persons with higher education are maintained at the level registered in 2009 for both women and men (Figure 19 and Table 17).

Figure 19: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by education level and sex, 2009 and 2014 (%)

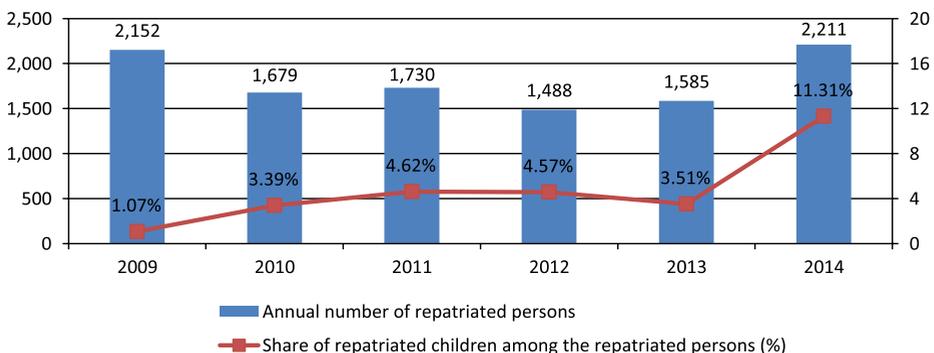


Source: NBS/LFS.

Repatriation²²

The annual number of repatriated persons oscillated during the period 2009–2014, registering drops and ups. In 2014, the number of repatriated persons increased by 626 – totalling 2,211 – as compared with 2013. A certain number of children were registered among the repatriated persons in 2014, representing 11.3 per cent as compared with 1.07 per cent in 2009 (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Number of persons repatriated to the Republic of Moldova, 2009–2014



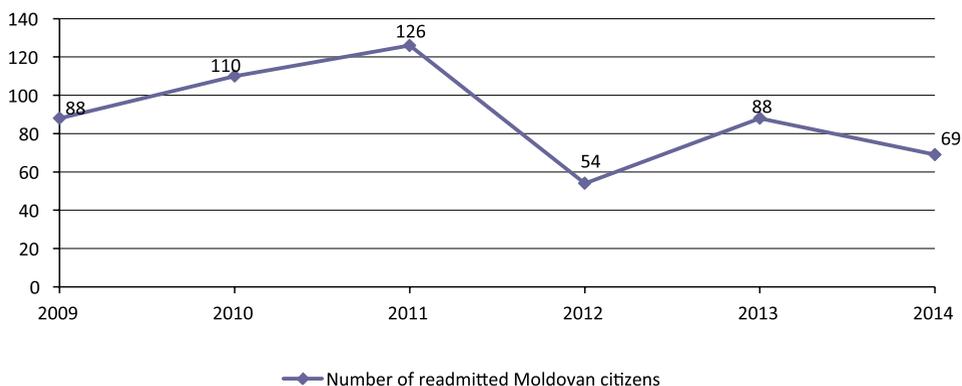
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)/BMA; MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

²² According to Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners’ Stay in the Republic of Moldova, “repatriation” is defined as the “voluntary return into the home country of the persons born in the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, according to the law”.

Readmission

An important element of migration management is an efficient system for readmission. The readmission of Moldovan citizens returning from the EU countries is carried out in line with the provisions set in the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorization, as well as in the readmission agreements signed with the countries of destination of Moldovan migrants, which have helped made the activities in migration management more efficient.²³ During the period of reference, the number of readmitted persons varied considerably, registering an increase from 88 persons to 126 during the 2009–2011 period, and starting in 2012 this number decreased continuously ending up in 2014 with 69 persons, which was due to either the legalization of Moldovans or the observance of the stay regime in the countries where they lived (Table 18 and Figure 21).

Figure 21: Annual number of Moldovan citizens readmitted, 2009–2014 (persons)

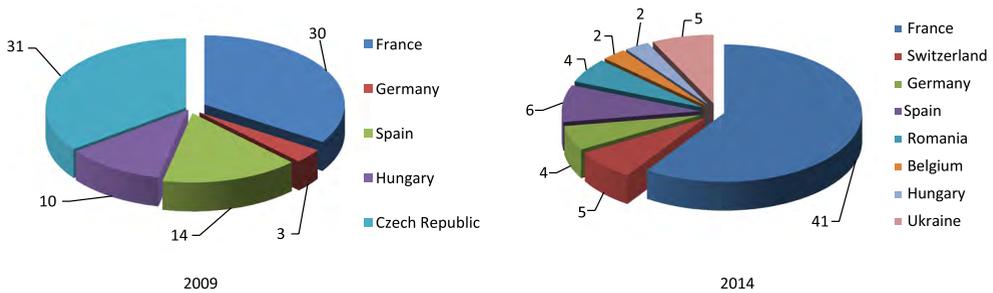


Source: MIA/BMA.

Distribution of readmitted Moldovan citizens by country indicates that in 2014 the majority (41 persons) returned from France, followed by Spain (6 persons), Switzerland and Ukraine (5 persons each), and other EU countries (Figure 22).

²³ In 2008, the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorization and the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of visa issuance entered into force. In 2010, the provisions of the Readmission Agreement signed with the European Community regarding the readmission of third-country nationals entered into force.

Figure 22: Distribution of readmitted persons by country, 2009 and 2014 (persons)



Source: MIA/BMA.

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings was set as a national priority; hence, a number of international acts were ratified and a set of legislative–normative and strategic acts were adopted to straighten out the situation in this area.²⁴

Besides the measures for constraining the given phenomenon, the need to support victims based on a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach was identified.

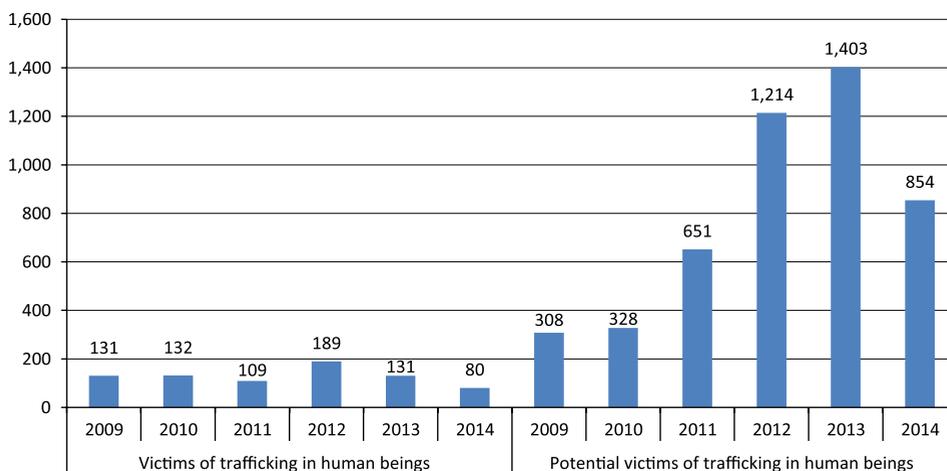
In 2006, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), external donors and civil society, the National Referral System (NRS) was launched in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of ensuring a complex framework of protection and assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings and high-risk groups. Currently, it constitutes the main framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts undertaken by the stakeholders active in the area of combating trafficking in human beings. The activities set in the NRS are carried out through the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs), which cover the whole country.

Statistical data shows that 80 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified in 2014 through the MDTs of the NRS. This is 51 cases lower than the number registered in 2009 (Table 19), a fact that may be explained by the wish of the Moldovan citizens to get informed. Of the identified victims, 90 per cent were adults (71.3% women and 28.7% men) and 7.5 per cent children (100% girls).

²⁴ Parliament Decision No. 257 dated 5 December 2008, approving the Strategy for the National Referral System (NRS) for protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings and the corresponding action plan for its implementation, 2009–2011.

A total of 854 potential victims of trafficking in human beings were identified and assisted through the NRS in 2014, as compared with 308 in 2009, which is a 2.8 times increase (Figure 23), but nevertheless a drop as compared with 2012 and 2013, when 1,214 and 1,403 potential victims were registered, respectively. It is assumed that the real number could be much higher, as there exists another group of other persons considered to be at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Figure 23: Number of Moldovan citizens – victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings – assisted within the National Referral System, 2009–2014 (persons)



Source: MLSPF.

Analysis of data on trafficking in human beings shows that despite the measures in place, the Republic of Moldova continues to be a country of origin and less a country of transit for victims of trafficking from the ex-Soviet Union countries to the European States.

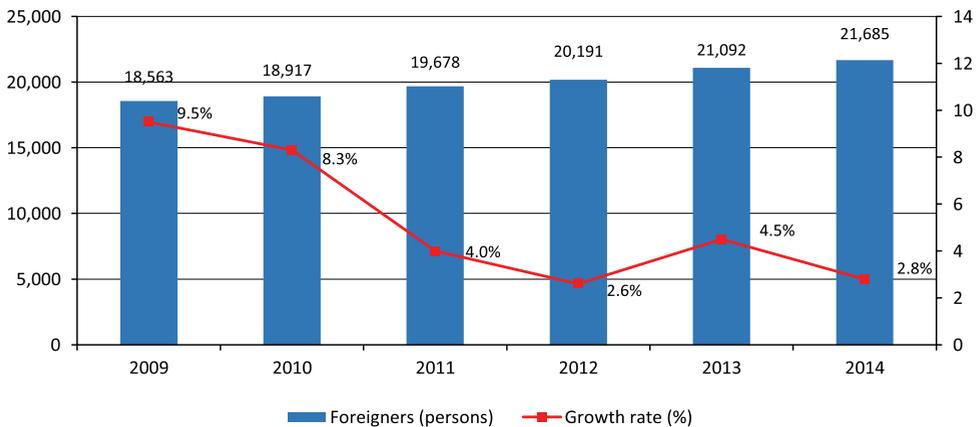
A.2.2. Resident population with foreign background

This subchapter analyses the migration trend among persons with foreign background residing in the Republic of Moldova, based on data submitted by the MITC (SE SIRC “Registru”) and the MIA/BMA, which are the main sources of information on this subject. The following are used as additional data sources: administrative data of the MLSPF and the MFAEI; results of the analytical reports related to the subject; the normative and government strategic framework; and statistical data from international organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM.

Stock of population with foreign background

By the end of 2014, there were 21,685 foreigners (including stateless persons) staying in the territory of the Republic of Moldova in total, representing 0.5 per cent of the total population. This shows 2.8 per cent growth in terms of the size of the foreigner population as against 2013, and 16.8 per cent growth as against 2009 (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Number of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova and year-to-year growth rates for the foreign population, 2009–2014

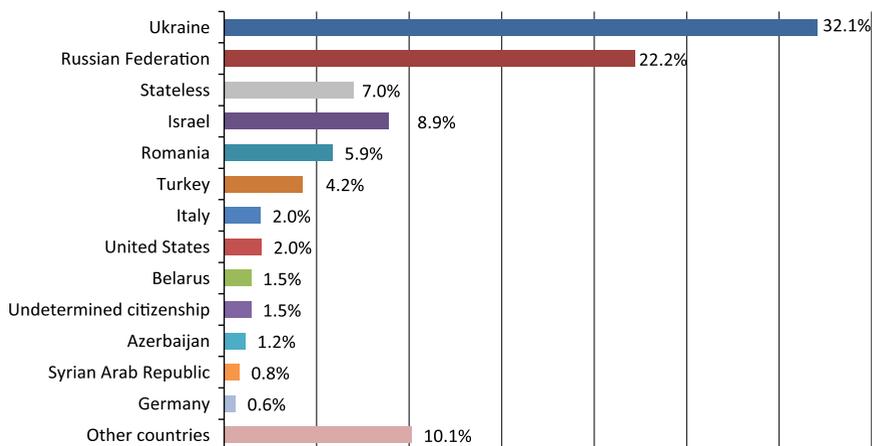


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

A similar trend was observed for the concentration of foreigners in urban areas, with the share of those settling down in cities accounting for over three fourths of all foreigners in the Republic of Moldova during the entire period of reference (Table 20).

The 2014 distribution of the foreigner population by country of previous citizenship shows that the most significant share, 54.3 per cent cumulatively, was registered by those originating from Ukraine and the Russian Federation (32.1% and 22.2%, respectively), followed by Israel (8.9%), Romania (5.9%) and Turkey (4.2%). Other nations held shares of 2 per cent or less each. A rather important share (8.5%) of the foreigner population was held by stateless people and persons with undetermined citizenships (Figure 25 and Table 22).

Figure 25: Distribution of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova by country of citizenship, 2014 (%)

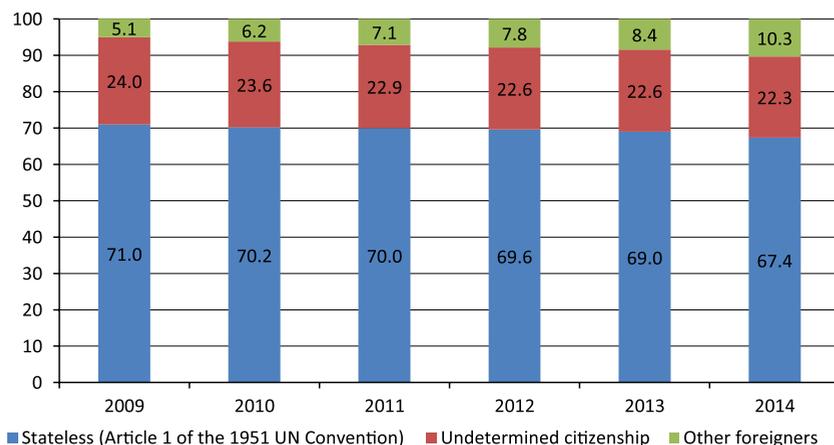


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Naturalized citizens. In the Republic of Moldova, naturalization is carried out in line with the Law on Citizenship,²⁵ which sets the eligibility conditions for applying for naturalization. According to the data on annual flows, in 2014, a total of 24 persons were naturalized (Table 20), the majority (70%) having previously the statuses of refugee, stateless persons, beneficiary of humanitarian protection and with undetermined citizenship. By the end of 2014, the stock of a total of 704 foreigners had been naturalized (Table 23). It should be mentioned that stateless persons accounted for 67.4 per cent of the total number of naturalized persons, followed by foreigners with undetermined citizenship at 22.3 per cent, and other foreigners (those who previously had another citizenship) at 10.3 per cent (Figure 26).

²⁵ Article 17 of Law No. 1024, dated 3 June 2000, on Citizenship in the Republic of Moldova.

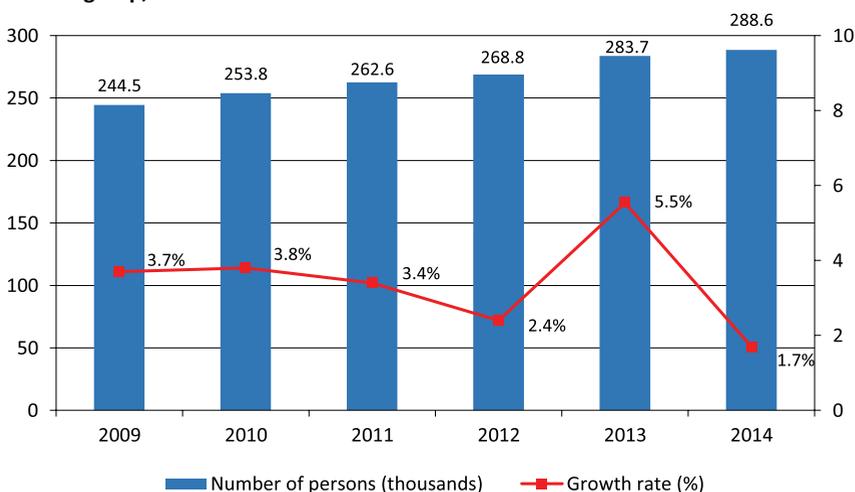
Figure 26: Share of naturalized foreigners by category, 2009–2014 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Non-natives. The number of foreign-born persons (regardless of citizenship) staying in the Republic of Moldova increased during the 2009–2014 period. By the end of 2014, there were 288,578 non-natives in the country, representing 7.4 per cent of the country's total population (Table 24). The population of non-natives grew 1.7 per cent from 2013 (Figure 27). The distribution of the non-natives according to the country of birth shows that 72.8 per cent of them were born either in Ukraine (36.2%) or the Russian Federation (36.6%). The shares of non-natives born in other countries vary from 6.2 per cent to 0.6 per cent (6.2% – Italy; 4.5% – Kazakhstan; 1.7% – Belarus; 1.9% – Romania; and 1.2% – Turkey).

Figure 27: Number of persons from the Republic of Moldova born abroad and growth rates for this group, 2009–2014



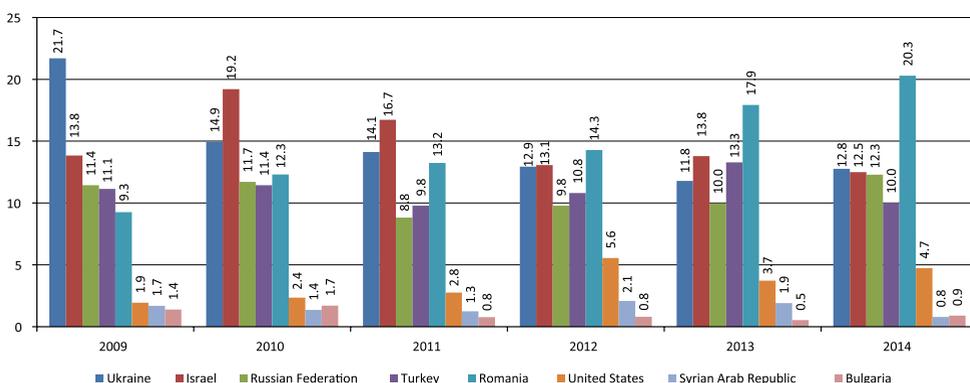
Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Immigration of foreigners

Annual immigration to the Republic of Moldova registered an uptrend over the period of reference, registering 4,204 persons in 2014, which is double the figure in 2009. Immigrant population grew 25 per cent in 2014 as compared with 2013, and grew 35 per cent as compared with 2012. It was mainly men (with women accounting for 43.0% of immigrants) and persons with professional secondary education/higher education/scientific degrees (57.8%) who immigrated to the country (Table 25). There was also an increase in the number of those with higher education, from 707 persons in 2009 to 1,600 persons in 2014 (Table 26).

The 2014 distribution of immigrants by country of citizenship reveals that over the past years, most of them arrived from Romania (20.3%), Ukraine (12.8%), Israel (12.5%), the Russian Federation (12.3%) and Turkey (10.0 %) (Figure 28 and Table 27).

Figure 28: Distribution of immigrant population by country of citizenship, 2009–2014 (%)



Source: MIA/BMA.

In 2014, 32.3 per cent of the total number of immigrants came to the country for work, 29.9 per cent for family reintegration, 22.1 per cent came for studies and 15.7 per cent came for other purposes (of whom about 5% for religious, humanitarian and volunteering activities) (Table 28).

Foreigners' stay in the Republic of Moldova

The number of foreigners seeking permission to stay in the Republic of Moldova is continuously growing. Currently, depending on the purpose of entry

and stay in the country, a foreigner may obtain either a temporary stay permit (for work, studies, family reunification, humanitarian and religious activities, health treatment and other reasons under the national legislation) or a permanent stay permit.

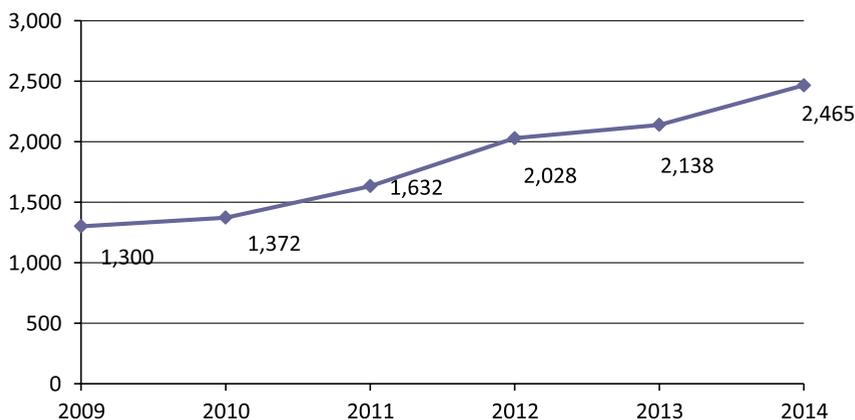
Statistical data shows that 2,000–3,000 foreigners annually obtain temporary stay permits for the first time. By the end of 2014, the total number of holders of such valid permits exceeded 8,600 as compared with around 3,800 in 2009. About 38 per cent of the total number of foreigners holding temporary stay permits were persons who reunified with their families; 23 per cent came for work or business; and 18 per cent for studies or training. In 2014, 32 foreigners obtained local border traffic permits, as compared with 16 persons in 2013 (Table 29).

The share of foreigners living in the country for at least five years accounted for 18.9 per cent in 2014, which is an increase of 2.6 percentage points as compared with 2013 (Table 29).

By the end of 2014, the number of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova holding permanent stay permits accounted for 11,121 persons. Over the last years, the share of the working-age foreigners (15–64 years old) holding permanent stay permits decreased; in 2014 the share of this group decreased by 26.7 percentage points as compared with 2009 (Table 29).

Foreign students in the Republic of Moldova. A significant growth in the number of foreigners coming to study in the Republic of Moldova was registered during the period of reference, being 1.9 times higher in 2014 than in 2009 (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Moldova (persons)



Source: NBS.

According to the data presented in Figure 29, there were 2,465 persons studying in the Republic of Moldova in 2014. The distribution by country of origin reveals that the majority of those who came to the Republic of Moldova to study were from Israel (1,726 persons), followed by those from Ukraine (160 persons), Romania (158 persons), Turkey (129 persons) and the Russian Federation (71 persons). It should be noted that the number of those who came to study from Israel increased 3.3 times during the period of reference (Table 30).

International protection

International protection of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova is carried out within the limits of the provisions set by international norms.²⁶ Statistical data shows that the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Moldova varied continuously from 2009 to 2014. A total of 245 first applications were registered in 2014, which is 6 times higher than in 2009. It should be mentioned that there were 132 asylum seekers with pending applications by the end of 2014, registering 152 per cent growth as compared with the previous year, which is 1.5 times (Table 31).

The 2014 distribution of asylum seekers by country of origin was dominated for the first time by citizens from Ukraine, followed by those from the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan. This is different from the trend in 2013, as there

²⁶ Law No. 677, of 23 November 2001, on Republic of Moldova's Accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

were no asylum seekers from Ukraine in that year and Syrian citizens accounted for the highest number, followed by those from Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. This increase reflects clearly the consequence of the conflict from Ukraine. Hence, the distribution of asylum seekers by country of citizenship in 2014 shows that Ukrainians accounted for 54.7 per cent of the total, being followed by those from the Syrian Arab Republic (24.9%), Afghanistan (4.1%), Iraq and Kyrgyzstan (2.0% each) (Table 32).

Significant gender-based disparities were observed among the asylum seekers during the period of reference. The majority of applications were from men, while applications from women accounted for only 40.4 per cent in 2014 (28.2% in 2013).

In 2014, 63 foreigners benefited from humanitarian protection, while 35 persons were refused protection.

By the end of 2014, 124 persons with refugee status were living in the Republic of Moldova, recording 159 per cent growth from 2013 (Table 31).

Stateless persons. According to statistical data, 1,524 stateless persons were documented in the Republic of Moldova by the end of 2014, which is 174 persons more than in 2008 (Table 22). At the same time, some insignificant decreasing trends were observed about the share of stateless persons among foreigners: in 2014 this group accounted for 7.0 per cent as compared with 7.3 per cent in 2009 (Table 22).

It should be mentioned that analysis of the national legal framework of the Republic of Moldova reveals a high level of compliance with international standards, as well as the presence of an adequate information system to identify, prevent and reduce cases of statelessness.²⁷

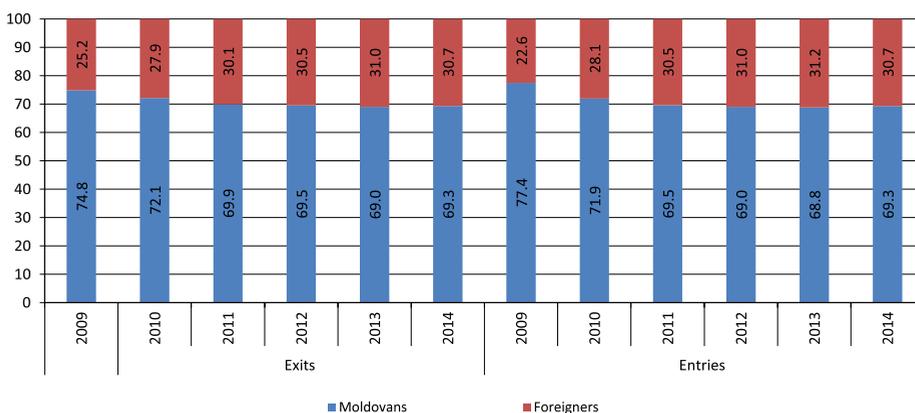
General cross-border mobility

Cross-border mobility continuously increased during the reference period (except for 2010 and 2014). About 7,324,000 entries were registered at the Moldovan border (roughly 5,076,000 Moldovans and around 2,248,000 foreigners); the difference as compared with the number of exits being 1.3 per cent (Table 33).

²⁷ In December 2011, the Republic of Moldova ratified two UN Conventions – the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness – and passed Law No. 275 dated 27 December 2011 (available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=342052>) and Law No. 252 dated 8 December 2011 (available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=vie&view=doc&lang=1&id=341953>).

In terms of cross-border mobility, Moldovans represented 69.3 per cent of all movements, with exits prevailing over entries. The share of Moldovans' exits decreased in 2014 by 5.5 percentage points as compared with 2009 (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Cross-border mobility, 2009–2014 (%)



Source: BPD.

As for visa-based entries of foreigners, statistical data from the MFAEI shows that in 2014 the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova abroad issued 6,649 visas, recording 2.3 per cent decrease as compared with 2013 (Table 34). The low number of visas issued in 2014 as compared with 2013 figure was conditioned by the abolition of visa requirement for some States in 2014,²⁸ and increasing the number of countries whose citizens may enter the Republic of Moldova without visas.²⁹

Legislation enforcement in the area of migration and return

Enforcement of the legislation on combating irregular migration. As a result of the democratization processes and the agreement on liberalization of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, the foreign relations framework has been expanded, hence generating as well an increase in the inflow of foreigners to the country. A proportion of those who have entered the territory of the country without registration and those staying illegally may

²⁸ The visa system is applied for citizens of 131 States (mainly from countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, Latin America and South America). The citizens of the EU, the United States, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Israel and the Commonwealth of Independent States, except for Turkmenistan, may enter the territory of the Republic of Moldova without visas and stay in the country up to 90 days, calculated from the date of the first entry. See www.mfa.gov.md/entry-visas-moldova/

²⁹ Law No. 257 dated 1 November 2013.

be potential asylum seekers. The factors that favour this process on the territory of the country are:

- conflicts, including the military ones, in different regions of the world, which were triggered by political, religious, interethnic and other reasons;
- geographical location of the Republic of Moldova, the territory of which is used as a bridge head by irregular migrants to transit towards the Western European countries;³⁰
- impossibility to ensure control of the Transnistrian segment of the eastern border of the territory of the country by the Moldovan authorities.

All these factors attract irregular migrants from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), especially from the Caucasus region, and also from China, India, Bangladesh, and countries from the Near and Middle East, among others.³¹

In 2014, 5,615 immigrants were identified as illegally staying in the Republic of Moldova – double as compared with the number in 2013, and 2.9 times higher than in 2009. Also, in 2014, 510 cases for revoking the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova were registered, and the return measure from the territory of the country was applied in cases of 474 foreigners; 104 foreigners were taken under public custody; and 67 foreigners were declared undesirable on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (in 2013, there were 8) (Table 35). The majority of foreigners who were declared undesirable represented a danger for the public order and national security, according to the endeavours undertaken by the line authorities (National Investigation Inspectorate) of the General Police Inspectorate and the Security and Intelligence Service).

In 2014, the BMA applied interdiction of illegal entry of foreigners to the territory of the Republic of Moldova for a period from 1 to 5 years in 232 cases.

³⁰ Frontex, Eastern European Borders Annual Risk Analysis 2014.

³¹ Frontex, Eastern European Borders Annual Risk Analysis 2014.

PART B: IMPACT OF MIGRATION

The magnitude of the labour migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova during the past several years has had a dual impact on the population of the country: on one hand are the positive socioeconomic effects determined by remittances; on the other hand are the sociodemographic effects that lead to the deterioration of human capital.

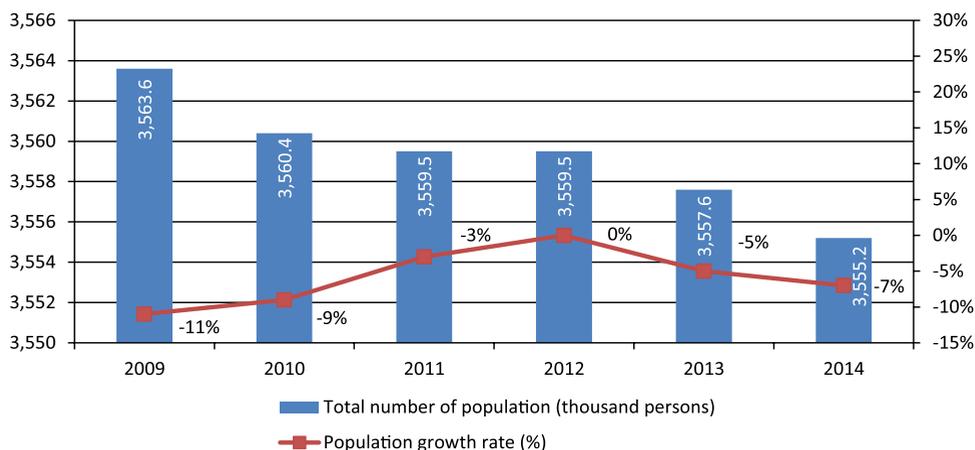
B.1. Migration and demographic development

International migration continues to be an important factor for the country's demographic development, having both direct-and-immediate and indirect impacts over time. To be specific, the prevalence of emigration over immigration has an immediate impact on the size of the population and contributes to its continuous decrease, and the labour migration of women of childbearing age leads to the deterioration of the main demographic indicators due to birth rate decrease. In 2009–2014, the birth rate in the country decreased, accounting in 2014 for 10.9 live births per 1,000 inhabitants (as compared with 11.4 live births per 1,000 inhabitants in 2009).

Population trends. The demographic decline registered in the country over the past decades was also observed during the analysed period. From 2009 to 2014, the stable population decreased by almost 8,400 persons.

In addition, the past two years witnessed some stabilization trends, confirmed by a number of indicators in the area (Table 36). Thus, negative population growth in 2014 as compared with 2013 was rather small at -0.07 per cent, and the negative natural growth registered minimum values of -0.25 in 2014 and -0.06 per 1,000 population in 2013 as compared with -0.38 in 2009 (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Demographic trends in the Republic of Moldova, 2009–2014



Source: NBS.

Emigration versus immigration. Statistical data confirms as well that emigration continued to prevail over immigration in the Republic of Moldova. Nevertheless, the recent years has exhibited a trend towards stabilization.

At the same time, labour migration or migration to seek a job abroad continued to influence negatively other sociodemographic indicators. For example, the number of registered marriages continued to drop from 26,800 in 2009 to 25,600 in 2014, accounting for 7.2 marriages per 1,000 population. The emigration of one of the spouses leads to a definite break-up; as a result, many marriages fall apart. In 2014, the number of divorces accounted for 11,100, which is 355 cases more than in 2013; hence, the divorce rate was 3.1 divorces per 1,000 population (Table 36).

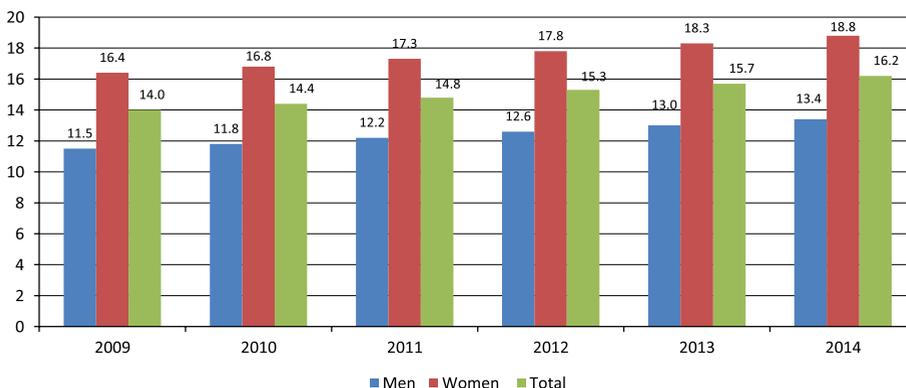
Demographic composition. In parallel, it may be noted that population structure by age has also worsened. The population share of persons aged under 15 years dropped from 16.71 per cent in 2009 to 15.97 per cent in 2014, while the share of elderly people increased from 19.4 per cent in 2009 to 21.0 per cent in 2014, and the demographic dependency ratio (national definition) remained to be rather high in 2014, accounting for over 54.4 per cent³² (Table 37).

Migration accelerates population ageing, because it is mainly the young and working-age population who emigrate. It should be noted that the ageing

³² The demographic dependency ratio (international definition) accounted for 35.7 per cent in 2014, decreasing by 0.9 percentage points as compared with 2009 (Table 37).

coefficient in 2014 reached the value of 16.2 per cent, reaching the critical value of 16 per cent, which indicates an advanced stage of the phenomenon. The ageing coefficient for women is even higher, computed at 18.8 per cent (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Population ageing coefficient, 2009–2014 (%)*



Source: NBS.

Note: *Number of persons aged 60 and over per 100 population.

Urban migration versus rural migration. Migration is more common in rural areas than in urban areas, significantly influencing the demographic situation in villages. Demographic indicators, disaggregated by area of residence, confirm the deterioration of human capital in rural areas. For example, it may be noted that in 2014, the dependency ratio in rural areas exceeded the ratio in urban areas by almost 9 percentage points; the population share of persons aged 65 years and over in villages exceeded the share in cities by 1.1 percentage points, and the seniority ratio in rural areas was higher by 4.2 percentage points. At the same time, there was an increasing urbanization rate alongside a decreasing share of persons aged under 15 years, leading to the assumption that internal migration from villages to cities was in parallel with international migration (Table 39). According to the survey carried out by Nexus in 2013³³ (the presented data referred to the 12 months prior to the data collection period of May–August 2013), 411,566 persons in total were abroad for a long period of time, of whom about 30 per cent were from urban areas and 70 per cent were from rural areas. According to the report on the survey results, the distribution of persons who went abroad by reason is as follows: among the 368,157 persons who left for work, 31.6 per cent were from urban areas and 68.4 per cent were from

³³ For more details about the “Households Survey, Country Migration Profile (2013)”, please contact: info@nexusnet.md, info@iasci.info

rural areas; of the 18,377 persons who left for studies, 33.9 per cent were from urban areas and 66.1 per cent were from rural areas; and among 18,717 persons who left for family reunification, only 28.1 per cent were from urban areas and 72 per cent were from rural areas.

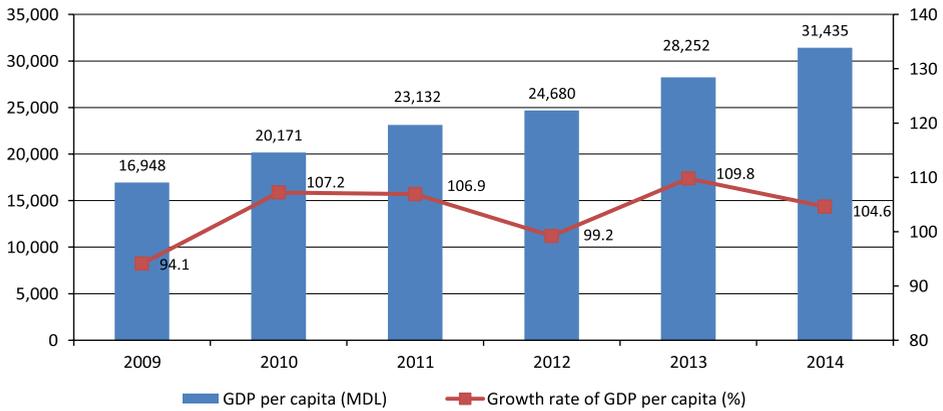
Foreigner population. An uptrend over the last five years was noted for the foreigner population in the Republic of Moldova. The population of persons of foreign origin by the end of 2014 reached 21,685. This represents just a little over 0.5 per cent of the total stable population of the country and, thus, does not affect the population age distribution.

An uptrend was registered for the number of elderly foreigners. Foreigners' share of the population of the elderly (aged 65 years and over) increased from 0.33 per cent in 2009 to 0.61 per cent in 2014. There were more men than women among foreigners, with the foreigner men-to-women ratio reaching 117.3 per cent in 2014 (Table 40).

B.2. Migration and economic development

Macroeconomic context. Labour force migration out of the country has an important and significant role, not only in terms of demographic indicators but also from an economic perspective. As the number of Moldovans leaving the country to work abroad increased, a significant growth was noted for the amount of transfers made by these individuals from abroad, widely influencing the main macroeconomic indicators. The growth of the Republic of Moldova's GDP over the previous years is mainly attributed to the revenues sent by Moldovan migrants working abroad. The nominal value of the GDP per capita increased continuously, accounting in 2014 for MDL 31,435 as compared with MDL 16,948 in 2009 (Figure 33 and Table 41).

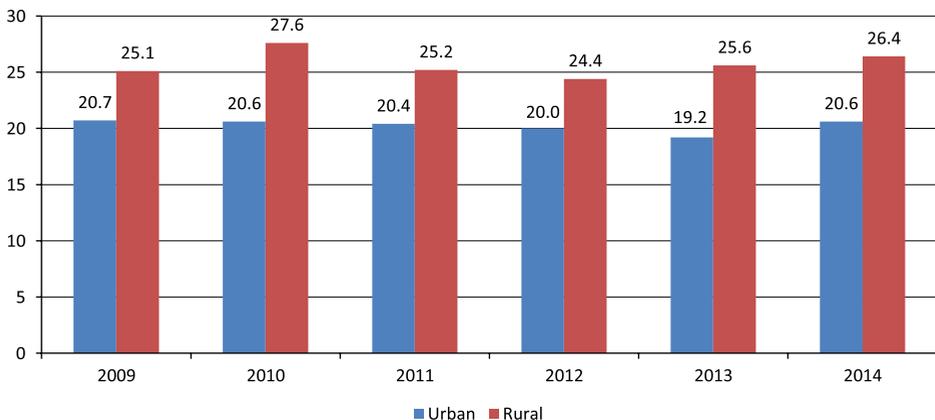
Figure 33: GDP per capita and growth rate, 2009–2014



Source: NBS.

Households and remittances. Remittances are an important means for the population of the Republic of Moldova to escape poverty. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) data reveals a considerable share of Moldovan households receiving remittances during the reference period (Table 42). Over 23.8 per cent of the total number of households benefited from remittances in 2014, as compared with 23.1 per cent in 2009. A higher share of households benefiting from remittances was registered in rural areas than in urban areas, 26.4 per cent and 20.6 per cent, respectively. This gap is noted all over the period of reference (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Share of households receiving remittances by area of residence, 2009–2014 (%)



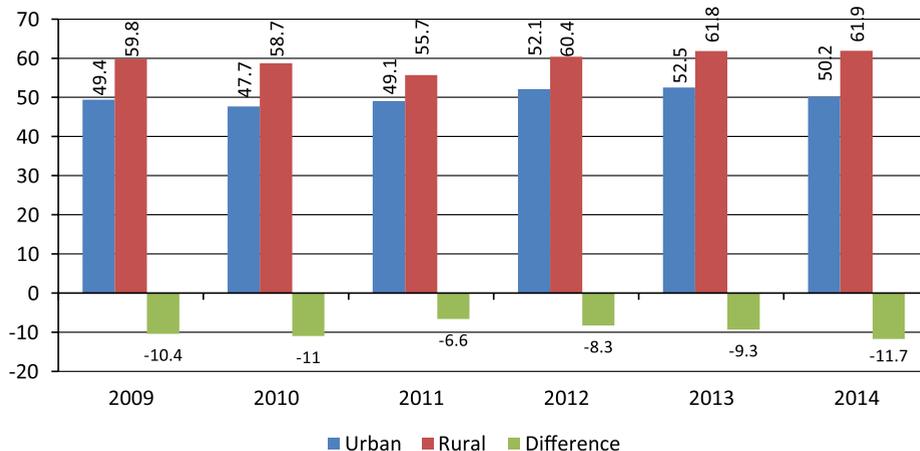
Source: NBS.

The 2012 LFS/LFM data³⁴ reveals that the majority of migrants (81.3%) sent money to their families. The transferred amounts varied: over one third of migrants (35.8%) sent less than USD 500 on a monthly basis; 12.4 per cent remitted between USD 500 and USD 800; and 7.2 per cent sent over USD 800. Less than one fifth of the migrants (18.7%) stated that they did not transfer money back home. The distribution of migrants transferring money back home by age group indicates that the increase relates to the age groups 25–34 years old and 35–44 years old, cumulating about 60 per cent (Table 43).

Household disposable income is significantly influenced by remittances. The HBS data shows that during the 2009–2014 period, remittances accounted for half of the disposable incomes of recipient households (the share depending on the amounts received), accounting in 2014 for 57.1 per cent (Table 42).

Significant differences in the volume of remittances received are observed between urban and rural households. In rural areas, the share of remittances of the total household disposable income is very significant, exceeding 61 per cent in 2014, with a difference of 11.7 percentage points than the share in urban areas. Among urban households receiving remittances, the share is nevertheless important, accounting for almost half of the disposable income over the last three years (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Share of remittances of the total household disposable income among households depending on remittances, 2009–2014 (%)

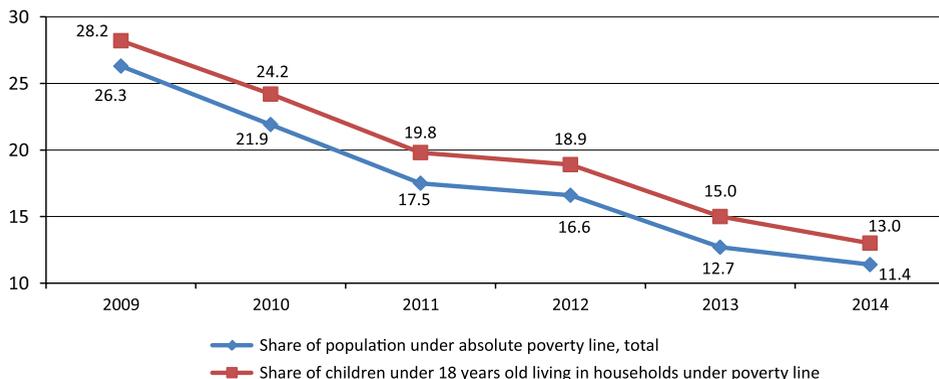


Source: NBS.

³⁴ LFM Study, carried out in the fourth quarter of 2012; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=2570&idc=350 (According to the survey data, 76.5 per cent of migrants indicated “low salaries in Moldova” as their main reason for leaving the country, and 8.8 per cent indicated “no jobs according to their skills/qualifications”).

Remittances help improve a household's well-being. The proportion of the population under the absolute poverty line decreased continuously in 2009–2013, accounting for 11.4 per cent of the total population of the country in 2014, as compared with 26.3 per cent in 2009 (Table 44). It should be mentioned that poverty incidence among children under 18 years old is higher and accounts for 13.0 per cent, keeping the continuous decreasing trend (Figure 36).

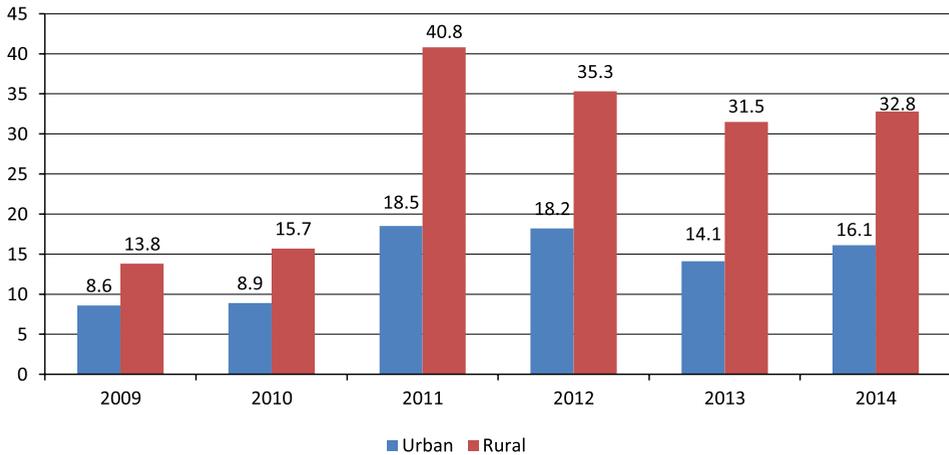
Figure 36: Share of population under the absolute poverty line, 2009–2014 (%)



Source: NBS.

The flow of financial resources from persons working abroad may help diminish absolute poverty, and also leads to an increase in inequality between households that receive remittances and those that do not. The NBS data indicates that the proportion of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances increased from 11.6 per cent in 2009 to 25.3 per cent in 2014, with the highest increase registered in rural areas from 13.8 per cent to 32.8 per cent in the mentioned year. This indicator registered during the period of reference much higher values, accounting for 40.8 per cent in the rural area in 2011 (Table 42 and Figure 37).

Figure 37: Share of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances, 2009–2014 (%)



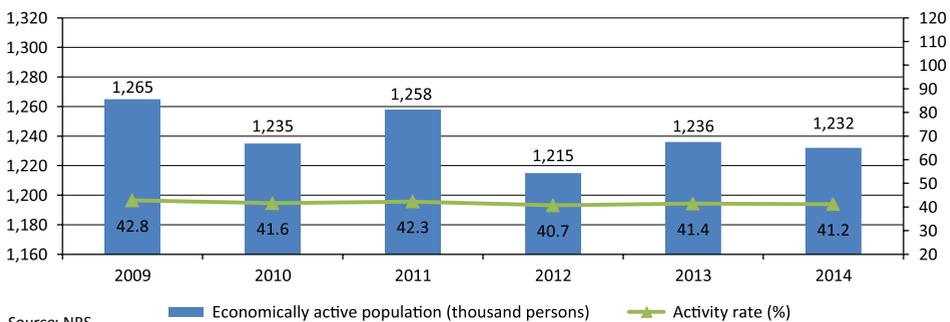
Source: NBS.

B.3. Migration, employment and the labour market

B.3.1. Labour market features

The labour market in the Republic of Moldova continues to face difficulties, with a dramatically negative impact on the employment rate. During the 2009–2014 reference period, the size of the economically active population³⁵ decreased constantly from 1,265,000 to 1,232,000, the registered drop being 33,000 persons (2.6%). Hence, the activity rate decreased by 1.6 percentage points during the period of reference (Figure 38 and Table 45).

Figure 38: Indicators regarding the economically active population, 2009–2014

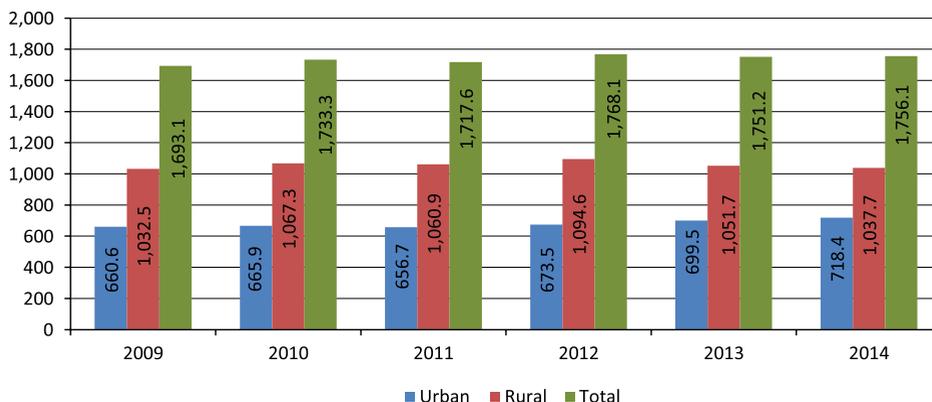


Source: NBS.

³⁵ The economically active population includes those persons supplying labour for production of goods and services, including the employed and the unemployed.

A large economically inactive population³⁶ was registered during the period of reference, which increased from about 1,693,000 persons in 2009 to around 1,756,000 persons in 2014 (Figure 39). A significant share of the working-age population that is economically inactive has become one of the most challenging demographic features of the labour force market in the Republic of Moldova.

Figure 39: Dynamics of economically inactive population by area of residence, 2009–2014 (thousand persons)



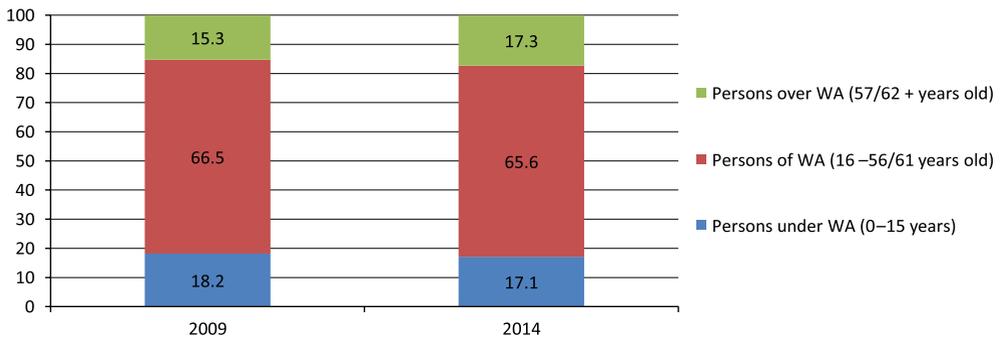
Source: NBS.

Working-age population. Official statistical data indicates a slight decrease in the size of the working-age population (working age: 16–56/61 years old³⁷) from 66.5 per cent in 2009 to 65.6 per cent in 2014. Although these differences seem insignificant, the data reveals some changes in the population structure. In 2014, the share of population of persons under the working age decreased to 17.1 per cent as compared with 18.2 per cent in 2009, while the share of the population of persons over the working age increased from 15.3 per cent to 17.3 per cent. If the migration of the younger segments of the population persists, the working-age population will continue to shrink, inducing negative effects associated with this phenomenon (Figure 40).

³⁶ Economically inactive covers all persons, regardless of age, who did not work at least one hour and who were not unemployed during the period of reference. The economically inactive population includes the following categories of population: (i) pupils or students; (ii) pensioners (of all categories); (iii) housewives (who perform only domestic work in the household); (iv) persons maintained by other persons or by the State, or those who maintain themselves from other revenues (rents, interest rates, leases, etc.); and (v) persons declared as working or looking for a job abroad (this category of population conventionally belongs to the economically inactive population) (NBS definition).

³⁷ According to the national definition.

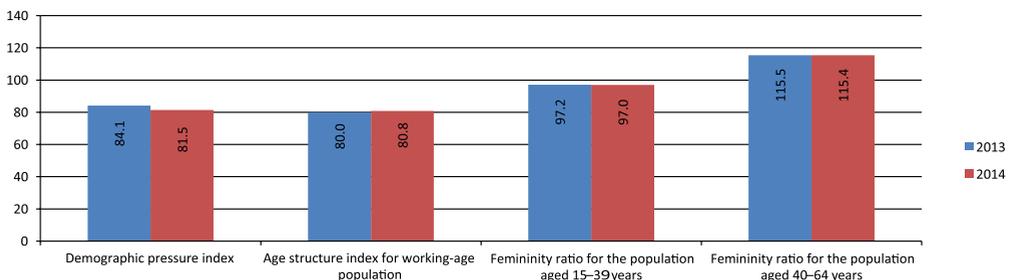
Figure 40: Structure of population by age, 2009 and 2014 (%)



Source: NBS.

A number of specific demographic indicators confirm the deterioration of the labour force, even though insignificant positive trends were registered. From 2013 to 2014, a downtrend was registered – for the labour demographic pressure index from 84.1 per cent to 81.5 per cent, and for the femininity ratio for the population of persons who are 15–39 years old from 97.2 per cent to 97.0 per cent. On the other hand, the age structure index for the working-age population increased from 80.0 per cent to 80.8 per cent, while the femininity ratio for the population of persons aged 40–64 years decreased from 115.5 per cent to 115.4 per cent (Figure 41).

Figure 41: Dynamics of the specific demographic indicators characteristic for labour force, Moldovan citizens, 2013 and 2014 (%)



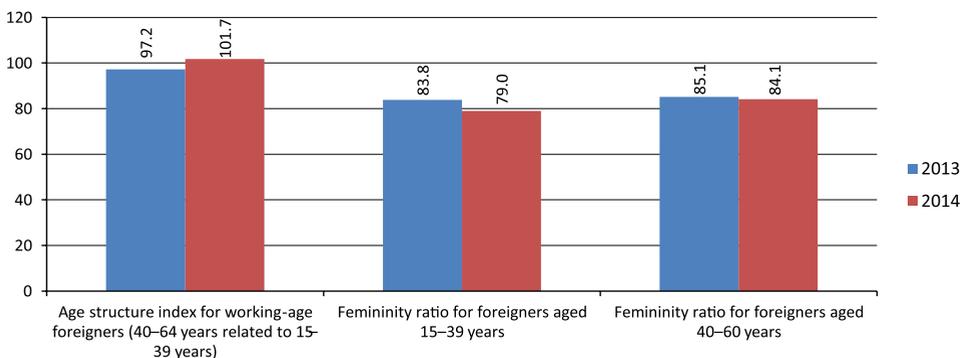
Source: NBS.

Foreign working-age population (15–64 years old³⁸). In 2014, there were 19,206 working-age foreigners, accounting for 88 per cent of the total number of foreigners staying in the Republic of Moldova. The number of working-age foreigners in 2014 was higher by 403 persons than in 2013, and the growth

³⁸ According to international definition.

rate of the group increased from 100.8 per cent to 102.1% (Table 47). The age structure index for working-age foreigners increased from 97.2 per cent to 101.7 per cent, while the femininity ratio decreased (Figure 42).

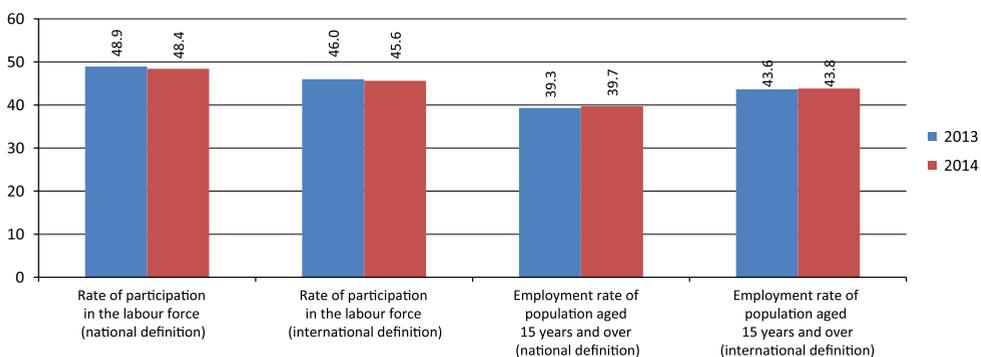
Figure 42: Dynamics of the specific demographic indicators characteristic for labour force, foreigners, 2013 and 2014 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Participation in the labour force and employment. The indicators characterizing employment and participation in the labour force decreased in 2014 as compared with 2013. To be specific, the labour force participation rate, calculated according to the national definition, decreased by 0.5 percentage points; using the international definition, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points. The employment rate, estimated according to either definition, increased by 0.4 and 0.2 percentage points, respectively (Figure 43).

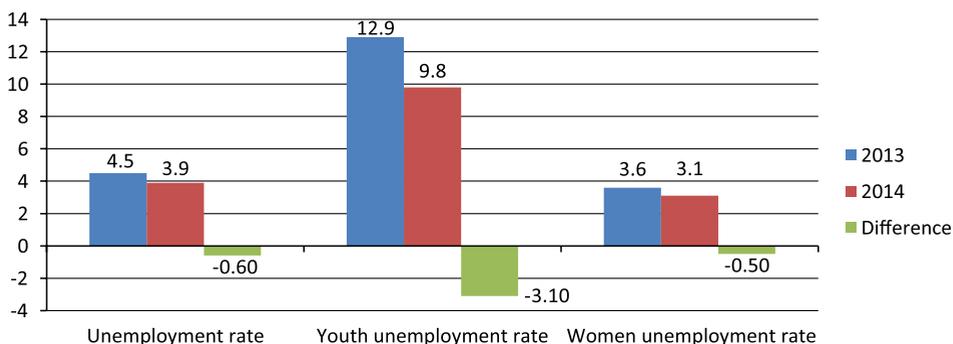
Figure 43: Dynamics of indicators related to employment and participation in the labour force, 2013 and 2014 (%)



Source: NBS.

Unemployment. Unemployment indicators also registered a downtrend. For instance, the unemployment rate decreased in 2014 as compared with 2013, both overall as well as among youth and women (Figure 44 and Table 48). It would seem that the situation is getting better, but taking into consideration the continuously growing migration flow and the increasing number of Moldovans working abroad, unemployment indicators should be interpreted carefully, as the observed effect may be due mainly to continuous migration processes.

Figure 44: Dynamics of unemployment-related indicators, 2013 and 2014 (%)

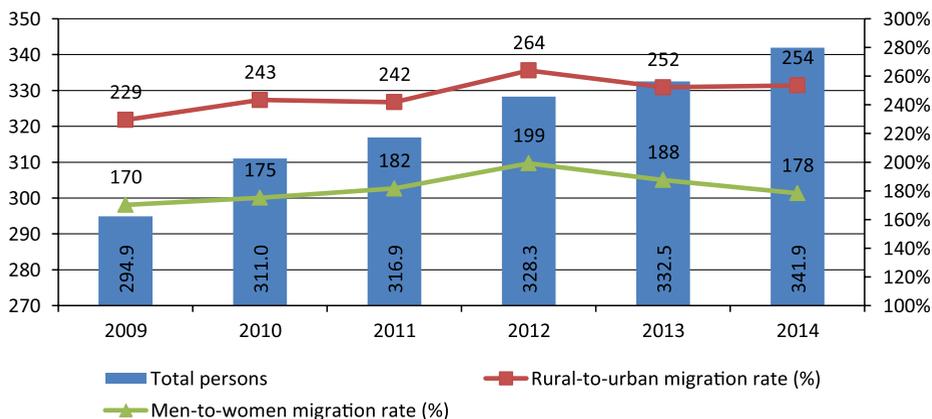


Source: NBS.

B.3.2. Labour migration

Labour migration in the Republic of Moldova is assessed based on the LFS data. As mentioned in part A of this report, about 300,000 persons aged 15 years and over are registered annually as working abroad or looking for a job abroad. The migration profile throughout the reference period is characterized by a large share of inhabitants from rural areas, and the urban-to-rural migrant ratio ranges between 229 per cent and 254 per cent. There were more male migrants than female migrants, with the men-to-women ratio ranging between 170 per cent and 178 per cent during the 2009–2014 reference period (Figure 45). Moldovans who were younger than 44 years were mainly those who migrated abroad for work, accounting for 77.5 per cent of the total number of labour migrants in 2014 (Table 16); of those migrants, about 11 per cent had higher education (Table 17).

Figure 45: Dynamics of labour migration, 2009–2014



Source: NBS/LFS.

B.4. Migration and social development

To develop effective and efficient migration policies, it is very important to carry out an in-depth analysis of the migration phenomenon, which would allow the national authorities to adopt data-based actions.

The shortage of teaching staff continues to be one of the negative effects of the migration phenomenon. Education remains to be an area heavily affected by migration, and teaching staff drain continues to be triggered by economic factors. The data revealed by the survey on the impact of migration among teaching staff and researchers in the Republic of Moldova³⁹ shows that low wages in the country are among the main push factors for emigration of teachers and researchers. Even though teaching staff benefited in 2009–2014 from the largest annual wage increase,⁴⁰ their salaries are 20 per cent lower than the country’s mean salary according to the NBS data.⁴¹ This problem of small salaries is rather acute among young teachers and researchers. Another important economic push factor is the impossibility to improve living conditions of families.

³⁹ A survey implemented within the Project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and Its Skills Dimension”, implemented in March 2011–December 2013, by the ILO, in partnership with IOM and the World Bank.

⁴⁰ Law No. 276, dated 18 December 2008, for Amending and Completing Law No. 355-XVI, dated 23 December 2005, on the Wage System in the Budgetary Sector.

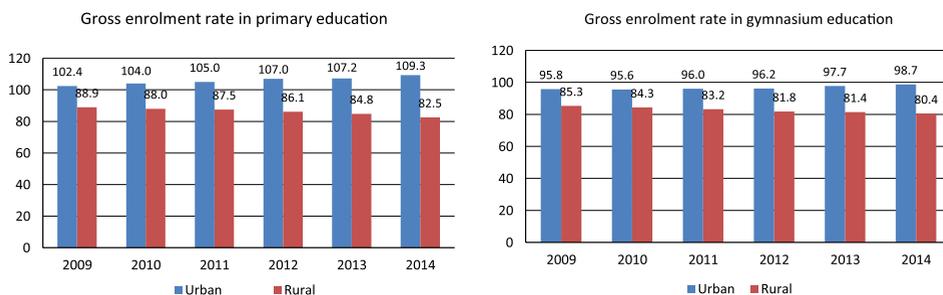
⁴¹ NBS, “Ratio of average nominal monthly earning per employee, by type of economic activities, to the average monthly salary for total economy, 2013–2014” (2015). Available from www.statistica.md/category.php?l=en&idc=452

According to the data from the aforementioned survey, over half of all interviewed teachers reported having intentions to go abroad; 40.3 per cent of respondents mentioned that they would like to leave the country for temporary work; 7.9 per cent would like to leave for good; and 5.4 per cent would like to study overseas. The profile of those who intend to leave temporarily to work abroad is as follows: young teachers, aged 25–39 years, with children, living in rural areas, with small incomes and usually with dual citizenship. Those who wish to leave the country permanently are – in most cases – married, with work experience up to 10 years, living in urban areas (except for those who live in the municipalities of Chisinau and Balti) and have average incomes. Migration intentions are more pronounced among men than women. Intention to leave the country is more common among young teaching staff and researchers, with the largest share held by the 25–29 years old group (67%).

Migration of the population to look for better-paying jobs abroad reduces poverty on one hand but leaves a strong social impact on children on the other hand. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education from the analysis of the data collected during the school census, there were nearly 41,000 left-behind children in 2014, of whom around 10,000 had both parents working abroad and almost 31,000 had one of their parents abroad (Table 49).

Migration also influences integration in education, as well as the perception on school enrolment opportunity. Statistical data shows that the enrolment rates within compulsory general education are decreasing, with significant urban–rural gaps. The overall gross enrolment rate in primary education in 2014 was 92.4 per cent, which is 1.1 percentage points lower than in 2009 (Table 51). The gross enrolment rate in primary education in rural areas in 2014 was 82.5 per cent and was 26.8 percentage points lower than in urban areas. The overall gross enrolment rate in gymnasium education in 2014 was 86.8 per cent as compared with 88.8 per cent in 2009 – a decrease of 2.0 percentage points. The gross enrolment rate in gymnasium education in rural areas was 80.4 per cent, 18.3 percentage points lower than in urban areas (Figure 46).

Figure 46: Gross enrolment rates in primary and gymnasium education by area of residence, 2009–2014



Source: NBS.

Assuring social minimum guarantees and migrants' access to the social protection system. The assurance of social minimum guarantees for migrant workers and their families is a priority among the social policies of the Republic of Moldova. In the period 2009–2014, 11 bilateral social security agreements were signed with Bulgaria (December 2008), Portugal (February 2009), Romania (April 2010), Luxembourg (June 2010), Austria (September 2011), Estonia (October 2011), the Czech Republic (November 2011), Belgium (September 2012), Poland (2013), Hungary (2013) and Lithuania (2014).⁴²

As well, negotiations were continued in 2014 regarding the draft social security agreements between the Republic of Moldova and Latvia and between the Republic of Moldova and Turkey, and the dialogue was initiated regarding the agreement with the State of Israel. At the same time, preliminary technical meetings were organized at the experts level with Greece and Italy to discuss the need to conclude bilateral agreements so that citizens of both countries can be assured of their right to social insurance.

An important factor is the availability of the States to regulate the relations in this area with the Republic of Moldova. Being hosts to a high number of Moldovan workers, Italy, Greece, Spain, France and the Russian Federation remain to be among the priority States, which currently did not yet express their final will to conclude an agreement in this area with the Republic of Moldova.

It should be mentioned that the social insurance system of the Republic of Moldova does not impose any conditions that are advantageous to migrants and their families. Access to the system is offered only when

⁴² Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, "Efficient Labour Force Migration and Qualifications Management" Project, Component 3, "Activities regarding the negotiation and implementation of the social security bilateral agreements". Available from www.mmprsf.gov.md/

some general conditions are met, specifically social insurance contributions. As such, the majority of migrants who work abroad do not participate in the social insurance system, and this fact generates increased pressure that undermines the financial sustainability of the system. Current migrants are potential applicants for State social allocations (social assistance benefits similar to social pensions). Although the State social insurance system has been offering the option of individual insurance since 2006⁴³ through a contract with the National Social Insurance Company to obtain a minimum pension under general conditions, very few migrants avail of this opportunity. In 2014, based on the social security agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova with other States, the following types of benefits were established: (i) retirement, disability and loss-of-breadwinner benefits; (ii) allowances for disability caused by work accidents or occupational diseases; (iii) allowances for temporary work incapacity and maternity leave (depending on agreement); (iv) allowances for child birth and for taking care of the child up to the age of 3 years (depending on agreement); and (v) death and unemployment benefits (depending on agreement).⁴⁴

As for migrants' and their families' access to monetary social assistance, surveys show that the situation of families with seasonal migrants is confusing, when dealing with their inclusion in the poverty-based benefit programme called "Social Help". Currently, the national social assistance system does not have a mechanism for the complete monitoring of household incomes, and the situation is worse in case of households with migrants.

B.5. Migration and health

The health sector continues to cope with problems related to health professional staffing. With the relaunch of the economy and the introduction of mandatory health insurance schemes in the 2000s, the intensity of brain drain in the health sector has decreased. The indicators have been registering a rather constant evolution, but the shortage of personnel in the health sector remains to be a problem.

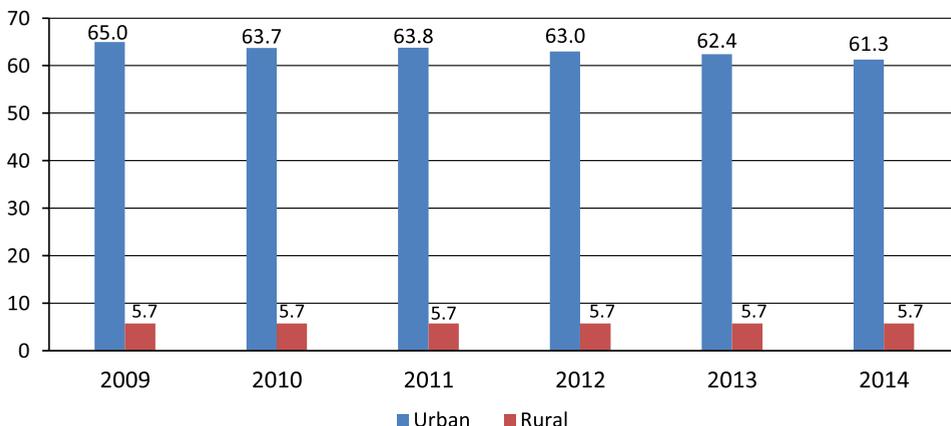
In 2014, a total of 10,424 doctors and 21,995 health workers with secondary education were working in the health sector (in 2009, 10,761 and 23,141, respectively) (Table 52). Among the health professionals, there were 29.3 doctors and 61.9 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population, which were below the average levels registered in the EU of 32.3 and 77.5, respectively, per 10,000 population.

⁴³ Article 2 amended through LP 399-XVI dated 14 December 2006; Article 169, Government Decision No. 39-42 dated 23 March 2007.

⁴⁴ Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF), *Annual Social Report 2014* (Chisinau, 2015), p. 69.

Another problem is the uneven distribution of health professionals between rural and urban areas, with staffing levels 11 times higher in urban areas (61.3 doctors per 10,000 population) than in rural areas (5.7 doctors per 10,000 population) (Figure 47).

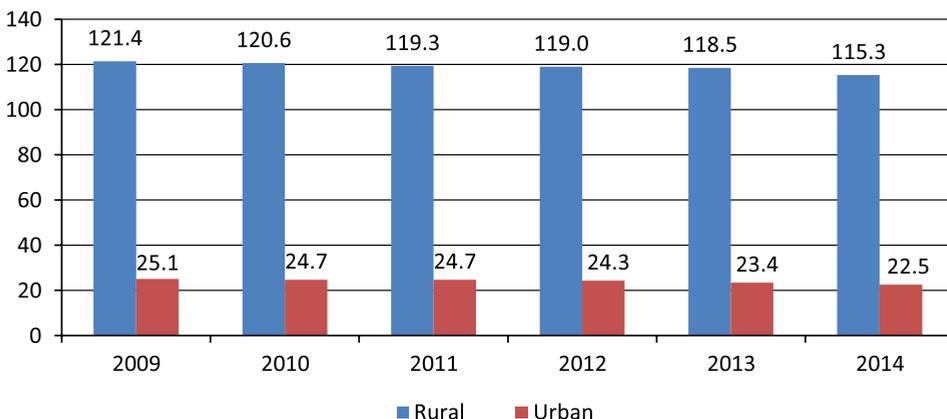
Figure 47: Number of doctors in urban and rural areas per 10,000 population, 2009–2014



Source: Ministry of Health.

Staffing of health professionals in rural localities registered a downtrend. In 2014, the staffing level accounted for 22.5 specialists per 10,000 population, as compared with 23.4 in 2013, and which is fewer by 2.6 specialists than in 2009 (Figure 48).

Figure 48: Number of health professionals with secondary education by area of residence, per 10,000 population, 2009–2014



Source: Ministry of Health.

The shortage of health professionals in rural areas is explained by the higher levels of development and concentration of hospital infrastructure in cities, which provides additional social and economic opportunities, and by the high emigration rate of health professionals.

PART C: MIGRATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Section C.1 reveals the most recent amendments and completions of the national legislative and regulatory frameworks in the area of migration. Section C.2 presents a description of the changes that occurred within the institutional framework for migration management, including the creation of the BDR. Section C.3 presents and analyses policy documents pertaining to migration developed and/or adopted over the past several years. Section C.4 provides an overview and assessment of programmatic actions that have been implemented in the country over the last six years.

C.1. Laws and regulations (national, regional and international levels)

During the past few years, an array of conceptual documents and laws determining policy in key areas of migration management (namely: regular migration, including emigration, immigration, and social integration; asylum; and the prevention of irregular migration and smuggling of migrants)⁴⁵ and practices were adopted for the long term.

Although further improvements are necessary, the instruments and policies adopted are largely in line with the international standards.⁴⁶

Organizing and facilitating legal migration. In line with the opinions expressed by experts from the European Commission (EC), the legislative and policy framework on preventing and counteracting trafficking in human beings is consolidated and aligned with international standards.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ While discussing and analysing migration management in the Republic of Moldova, the macro-level pillars exposed in the country's National Strategy for Migration and Asylum (2012–2020) are used for categorization. The choice of this Strategy is predetermined by the fact that it seeks to link the realm of migration and asylum to the general development policy framework of the country and is closely intertwined with the Government's activity programme, as well as feeds into the new development strategy of the Republic of Moldova (Moldova 2020: National Development Strategy: Seven Solutions for Republic of Moldova) that has been in force since January 2012. (A. Oprunenco, *National Strategy for Migration and Asylum: An Attempt of Holistic and Integrated Approach towards Migration Issues in Moldova*, Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East) Explanatory Note 12/10, Socio-Political Module (Florence, CARIM East, 2012, available from www.carim-east.eu/media/sociopol_module/Explanatory%20Notes%20Template%20Moldova%20-%202010.pdf)

⁴⁶ High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, "Second progress report on the implementation by the Republic of Moldova of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation", joint staff working document (Brussels, 2012).

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Bilateral agreements represent important governing tools meant to provide a high level of flexibility to countries, and which allow these countries to focus on a specific group of migrants, adjust themselves to the fluctuations on the labour market, and share the monitoring and management responsibilities between the countries of destination and origin. The social security agreements aim to determine the rights of the citizens to circulate between States and benefit from social security, hence avoiding the restrictions to the entitlement for such benefits.

By 2014, the Republic of Moldova had signed a total of 16 bilateral agreements in social security area, of which 11 were treaties signed with the EU States and 6 agreements were signed in the nineties of the last century with some States from the post-Soviet era. In 2014, Moldova signed a bilateral social security agreement with Lithuania. At the same time, negotiations continued to sign bilateral social security agreements with Turkey and Latvia. The dialogue was initiated to such a bilateral agreement with the State of Israel, and preliminary technical meetings at the experts level were organized with Greece and Italy.⁴⁸

In 2013 and 2014, the negotiations continued to review the bilateral agreement on labour migration with the Russian Federation (concluded in 1993 and the provisions of which are now obsolete); and negotiations were started with the State of Qatar regarding the temporary employment of Moldovan citizens on the territory of the respective State.⁴⁹ As well, the Government of the Republic of Moldova initiated negotiating an agreement with the Government of Turkey on cooperation in the labour area. This proposal was reviewed and subsequently an alternative draft on temporary labour migration was sent to the Government of Turkey for consideration. The agreement will regulate: assurance of the legal and temporary nature of labour migration; assurance of migrant workers' work and social rights, guaranteeing the salary payment and other payments agreed upon in the individual work contract; and equal treatment for workers from the countries of destination in the respective areas of activity.

The agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Israel regarding the temporary employment of Moldovans in Israel in certain sectors, and the implementation protocol (for the construction sector), contains the priority objectives focused on ensuring legal, fair, and transparent employment of Moldovans to be temporarily employed

⁴⁸ MLSPF, Annual Social Report 2014 (2015). Available from www.mmpsf.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/rsa2014en.pdf

⁴⁹ Government Decision No. 561 dated 16 July 2014, for initiating negotiation of the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the State of Qatar on temporary employment of Moldovans in the State of Qatar.

in the State of Israel. The agreement and the implementation protocol provide for the temporary employment of 1,000 qualified workers in the construction sector, with professional skills, experience and high qualifications. The implementation of the agreement will contribute to ensuring protection of the rights of Moldovan workers according to the Israeli laws and rules, including on labour and living conditions. Workers employed under this agreement will also be protected, according to the legislation in the social security area, in case of work accidents, temporary loss of workability and enterprise insolvency. The temporary employment of the workers will be within the remit of the two States' relevant public institutions. In the case of the Republic of Moldova, the NEA will be in charge of that. In 2014, there were 775 persons employed based on the above-mentioned contract (in 2013, there were 214 persons).

On 25 August 2014, based on the agreement on collaboration in the area of health and medical science (concluded in 2009), a declaration of intention to collaborate in the area of medical workers' migration between the Republic of Moldova and Germany was signed. This declaration served as the basis for finalizing a pilot project for the Moldovan health workers' mobility in Germany.⁵⁰

In the readmission area, in 2009–2014, the Republic of Moldova signed additional implementation protocols under the EU–Republic of Moldova Readmission Agreement with 17 Member States, as well as readmission agreements with 6 non-EU states. In the same context, additional protocols for implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Readmission Agreement are negotiated with 9 EU Member States and some countries of origin of the irregular migrants identified in the last years (e.g. Cyprus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Armenia).

Communication and collaboration with the diaspora. The BDR within the State Chancellery is the institution responsible for the development and coordination of public policies – with the participation of the diaspora – for the diaspora. One of the BDR's strategic objectives is to develop a continuous dialogue with the communities created in 35 countries upon the initiative of the Moldovan citizens, including with those over 250 diaspora organizations (non-governmental associations, groups of initiative, cultural centres, research institutes, sport clubs, groups of professional interest, etc.) from 35 countries. The actions and programmes of the State policy in the area of diaspora relations are promoted as distinct services provided to diaspora members as legitimate

⁵⁰ Ministry of Health, "Progress report on fulfilment of the action plan for implementing the health system development strategy for 2008–2017, for the year 2014" (2015). Available from www.ms.gov.md/sites/default/files/sdss_2014.pdf

and active beneficiaries. The promotion of initiatives and programmes focuses on: exchange of information and productive dialogue among the stakeholders, based on efficient use of mass communication tools (www.din.md, www.dor.md, www.stagii.gov.md, www.galastudentilor.md), including through the online medial resources (e.g. the official Facebook page of the BDR); collaboration with public and private organizations; participation of diaspora members in the process of public consultations of policy documents and decision-making.

Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies.

According to the governing objectives and priorities laid down in the Government's Activity Programme "European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Well-being", and as mandated in Government Decree No. 58 dated 7 June 2013,⁵¹ focal points were appointed in ministries and other central administration authorities to be responsible for promoting and implementing the State policy on the diaspora, as well as for coordinating, applying and implementing topics related to the diaspora at the technical level. Government Decree No. 58 is one of the initiatives of the Government of Moldova to mainstream migration into national development. The objectives of the Decree are to: enhance institutional capacities to implement the State policy in the area of diaspora relations; ensure the efficient interaction among the government institutions and their cooperation with the diaspora; ensure better mainstreaming of responsibilities in policymaking for the diaspora; and implement the-whole-of-government approach in developing policies for the diaspora, according to which every institution would be responsible, within the limits of its own mandate, for diaspora-related issues (covering all Moldovan citizens and persons originating from the Republic of Moldova, whether in the country or outside its borders). The appointed persons shall perform their duties in the area of cooperation with diaspora in coordination with the BDR. At the same time, in line with Decree No. 58, and for assessing the impact of developing public policy on the diaspora and on migration, necessary amendments are to be developed and promoted to include ex-ante and ex-post analyses of public policy impact in the draft Methodological Guide.

For the purpose of formulating the strategic vision and objectives of the Government for the long term in relation to diaspora–migration–development, a working group was established to develop the draft Strategy and Action Plan, in accordance with Government Decree No. 64 dated 4 July 2014.⁵² Taking into account the political background, which posed challenges to complex

⁵¹ Government Decree No. 58 dated 7 June 2013. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=348273>

⁵² Government Decree No. 64 dated 4 July 2014. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=353762>

consultation with the diaspora communities during the pre-electoral period in 2014 and post-electoral in 2015, it was not possible to finalize the draft Strategy and Action Plan «Diaspora – 2025» within the set deadlines. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, an international consultant provided assistance to the BDR to develop the draft Strategy, which was presented to the participants of the Fourth Diaspora Congress (1–3 September 2014).

A series of achievements was attained in relation to mainstreaming actions for supporting the Moldovan diaspora and their initiatives in sector-specific strategical frameworks. Thus, starting in 2014, the Medium-term Budgetary Framework included a subprogramme on supporting the Moldovan diaspora,⁵³ and two sector-specific strategies have integrated objectives and actions meant for the Moldovan diaspora.⁵⁴

C.2. Institutional framework

The Republic of Moldova has a solid institutional framework in the area of migration policymaking, as well as migration management, with the participation of a huge number of institutional stakeholders (see Annex 3).

The **Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA)** (www.bma.gov.md), established in July 2006, is further on responsible for developing and implementing the State policy in the area of migration and asylum. Additionally, based on Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, the BMA was appointed to be the institution responsible for the development of subsequent EMP analytical reports.⁵⁵ In this respect, a new unit was created within the BMA, to be responsible for coordinating the collection and analysis of data for the EMP, as well as for initiating and coordinating the meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the EMP.

The **Bureau for Diaspora Relations (BDR)** (www.brd.gov.md), established in October 2012, is under the direct subordination of the Prime Minister. The mission of the BDR is to ensure a coherent and comprehensive policy framework

⁵³ See www.mf.gov.md/en/middlecost

⁵⁴ Government Decision No. 271 dated 9 April 2014, approving the Strategy for Culture Development (Culture 2020) and Action Plan for its implementation, available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=352588>; Government Decision No. 338 dated 19 May 2014, approving the Strategy for Tourism Development (Tourism 2020) and Action Plan for its implementation in 2014–2016, available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=353037>

⁵⁵ Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, approving the List of Indicators and EMP Template. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=344691&lang=1>

to mobilize the Moldovan diaspora, which includes citizens of the Republic of Moldova staying temporarily or permanently abroad, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, and their communities, for the active participation of all the country citizens in the cultural, social and economic development of the country of origin. With diaspora participation, the BDR also deals with developing and coordinating public policies for the diaspora. The strategic objectives of the BDR may be categorized into two directions: on one hand, the BDR ensures the coordination of policies and programmes for the diaspora at the government and ministry levels; on the other hand, it maintains a continuous dialogue with the Moldovan diaspora.

The **Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF)** (www.mpsfc.gov.md/en/start/), undertook measures to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements to regulate the flow of migrant workers and to protect them, and to prevent family violence and trafficking in human beings (more information on this is presented in section C.1). In this context, in 2012, a unit was created within the **NEA** (www.anofm.md), that is, the **Section for Overseas Employment**. This unit is responsible for: a) implementing and coordinating activities provided for in the bilateral agreements concluded by the Republic of Moldova with other countries; b) enforcing and observing the provisions of legislation in the area of labour migration; and c) monitoring the activities of the private employment agencies. Other duties of the unit also include: the provision of information assistance to Moldovan citizens about policies on the legal emigration of the labour force; monitoring of activities related to the implementation of bilateral agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova with other States; and evaluation and monitoring of private employment agencies' activities.

The **Ministry of Economy** (www.mec.gov.md/) is responsible for creating a favourable investment climate in the Republic of Moldova to attract internal and foreign investments, including remittances. In this respect, the Government decided to extend the pilot Programme for Attracting Remittances into the Economy (i.e. PARE 1+1) (<https://odimm.md/en/component/content/article/70-programul-pare.html>) until 2015, allocating MDL 32 million for 2013, which is double the amount allocated for 2012. The programme continues to be implemented and coordinated by the **Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development** (www.odimm.md), and works "to facilitate migrants' access to finance, helping at the same time to channel remittances through official ways, to introduce the best practices from the migrants' host countries, to create some levers to introduce know-how, creating new jobs and solving other social problems".⁵⁶

⁵⁶ See www.odimm.md/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36&Itemid=184&lang=en

The **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** (www.statistica.md) is the central administrative authority managing and coordinating statistics-related activities, including those in the area of migration. The main sources providing data about population migration are the Population and Housing Census, LFS and HBS. The Census is currently the only source of data in Moldova regarding the composition of the resident population by general demographic characteristics, as well as specific characteristics relevant to international migration, such as citizenship or country of birth. In 2012, the NBS started undertaking different measures to plan the 2014 Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova. In this respect, Law No. 90 on the 2014 Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova was adopted, as well as Government Decision No. 967 dated 21 December 2012, regarding actions for enforcing the aforementioned Law. The Census was carried out on 12–15 May 2014, whereby data and information about the population and dwellings were registered in the census questionnaires, as approved by the NBS. The following data was collected during the Census: number of population, including the number of persons who have left the country by period of time and purpose; territorial distribution of the population; demographic and economic characteristics; the educational attainment of the population; the funds used for building the dwellings and houses of the citizens; and the living conditions in the country. The Republic of Moldova was the first former Soviet republic to organize a census not only of its population but also of the dwellings of the population, in line with existing practices in the EU. It should be mentioned that according to the **preliminary** data of the Population and Housing Census dated 12–25 May 2014, the number of Moldovan citizens who have left abroad accounted for 329,100 persons.⁵⁷

Since its reorganization from the Border Guards Service in 2012, which implied the incorporation under the MIA subordination, the **Border Police (BP)** (www.border.gov.md) was demilitarized and professionalized to assume new duties in the area of combating illegal migration and transborder crime. The process of institution reform was carried out in line with the European standards for border management, including the recommendations and good practices provided in the EU Schengen Catalogue, under the guidance and in collaboration with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Bodies of the EU Member States (Frontex), the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), and other international organizations. The duties appointed to the BP via Law No. 283, dated 28 December 2011, on Border Police include: development and implementation of policies on integrated border management, investigation and criminal prosecution of transborder crimes (illegal migration organization, trafficking in human beings,

⁵⁷ See www.statistica.md/public/files/Recensamint/Recensamint_pop_2014/Nota_informativa_Preliminare_Recensamint_2014.pdf

falsification of travel documents, etc.); identification of offences related to persons' illegal stay in the border zone, such as illegal crossing of the State border; and issuance of visas at the border in emergency cases, among others.⁵⁸ For the purpose of fulfilling these duties, subdivisions for special investigation, criminal proceedings and expertise on identifying falsified documents were created in the institution.

Regional partnerships in the migration area. The Republic of Moldova is part of some regional partnerships in the migration area, meant to enhance cooperation in relation to policies with neighbouring countries, migrants' countries of destination and countries of origin.⁵⁹

C.3. Policy framework

Development of the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. The Government has developed the Strategy for the SME Sector Development for 2012–2020 and the action plan for its implementation for 2012–2014, “in the context of shifting from the consumption-based economy development model to a new paradigm focused on export, investments, and innovations”.⁶⁰

Mobility. From the mobility perspective, in June 2014, the Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of Moldova was signed, which also provides for establishing the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, which is the successor of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement from 1994. The main objective of the EU–Republic of Moldova collaboration framework, as set forth in the Association Agreement, is to promote the political association and economic integration between the parties, based on common values and close relations, including by increasing the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the EU policies, programmes and agencies. One of the commitments assumed by the parties refers to deepening the dialogue and cooperation in the areas of mobility, migration, asylum and border management, in line with the EU migration policies related to collaboration in the area of legal migration and the assurance of efficient implementation of the readmissions agreement. Hence, migration is reflected as an important topic in the Association Agreement, specifically in:

- Article 14, which tackles “cooperation in the area of migration, asylum and border management” with a focus on “joint management of migration

⁵⁸ Law No. 283, dated 28 December 2011, on Border Police.

⁵⁹ For more information regarding all the regional partnerships in the area of migration in which the Republic of Moldova participates, see section C of the EMP report for 2005–2010.

⁶⁰ Strategy for SME Sector Development, 2012–2020. Available from <http://particip.gov.md/proiectview.php?l=ro&idd=278>

flows”; “the main causes and consequences of migration”; and facilitation of “circular migration favouring development”;

- Article 32, which discusses “collaboration based on exchange of information and the best practices” in the area of “labour migration efficient management, related to enhancing the positive impact of migration on development”.

In this respect, the National Action Plan for implementing the Association Agreement for 2014–2016 provides for the implementation of a number of actions related to common cooperation in the area of migration flow management between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, management of joint borders, as well as in other areas related to international protection, foreigners’ integration, preventing and combating illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and migrants, facilitation of circular migration in the benefit of the development of the Republic of Moldova and ensuring legal circulation of persons, among others.

Reintegration and return. The return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants is one of the elements included in the national legislation. A number of activities continued to be successfully implemented after 2012 as well, such as the pilot project PARE 1+1 and the Programme for Youth Economic Empowerment (PNAET), which provide training to develop entrepreneurial skills as well as financial assistance for start-ups.

The return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants remains a major objective clearly stipulated in the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020) and in the action plan for implementing the Strategy for 2011–2015.

On 20 May 2014, Government Decision No. 339 approved the 2014–2016 action plan for supporting the reintegration of citizens who returned from abroad. This plan refers mainly to the development of efficient legislative, institutional and information framework to facilitate the integration of returned migrants; facilitation of their integration into the labour market; development of migrants’ entrepreneurial skills to attract their incomes into the national economy; and support for the reintegration of Moldovans who returned from abroad into the compulsory health insurance and social protection schemes, among others.

Through the implementation of this plan, Moldovan citizens who returned from abroad may benefit from information about the employment possibilities and support for reintegration. As well, their training and requalification needs will be identified to obtain a profession requested on the internal labour market. The MLSPF is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the process for carrying out the respective plan.

In 2014, there were 1,126 Moldovan citizens who returned to the country, of whom 287 persons were integrated into the labour market according to the MLSPF data. The majority of those who returned in 2014 were from the Russian Federation (885 persons).

Socioeconomic reintegration of migrants. The State pilot programmes for remittance investment and permanent/temporary reattraction and socioeconomic reintegration of migrants continued to be successfully implemented. Currently, the focus is on providing Moldovans abroad with wide protection, preserving cultural identity and fostering migrants' return home. In this context, the action plan for cultural and social support for the Moldovan diaspora was adopted for 2012–2014. The action plan aims to promote and create conditions for preserving the development and manifestation of cultural and linguistic identity in the country of residence, guaranteeing multidimensional cooperation with Moldovans residing abroad.

Programme for the diaspora children. In August 2014, the second edition of the summer camp under the **Diaspora, Origins, Roots (DOR) Programme**, meant for diaspora children, was organized. The DOR Programme is a government initiative carried out under the Office of the Prime Minister and implemented by the BDR starting in 2013, in partnership with IOM Moldova. The DOR Programme is meant to consolidate the emotional, cultural and identity links of Moldovan children – the second generation of emigrants – with their country of origin. The DOR Programme was formulated as a result of the clearly expressed need of the Moldovan diaspora to preserve the link with traditional Moldovan values and increase the level of emotional connection with the country. Intended to become a large programme to meet the needs of different beneficiaries, the pilot project was tested in the country on 20–28 August 2013, with the participation of 20 diaspora members from different countries and 5 young people from the Republic of Moldova. In 2014, 101 children from 13 countries (including from the Republic of Moldova) participated in the DOR Programme.

The main tool for operationalizing the strategic policies and documents related to **combating irregular migration and trafficking in human beings** continues to be the NRS (under the MLSPF) for victims and potential victims of trafficking. The NRS is an integrated system providing comprehensive assistance to victims and vulnerable persons, including left-behind children and the elderly, by referring them to local authorities and service providers for civil society.

Coordination and coherence of policies at the national level.

Currently, the coordination of migration-related policies and strategies occurs within an impressive institutional set-up, channelled through the following interinstitutional bodies.⁶¹

The Commission for Coordination of Certain Activities Related to Migration Process is a permanent government advisory body established in February 2010 and chaired by the MIA. It was created to coordinate the activities of public authorities as regards the management and monitoring of the migration processes; supervise the activities in the field of migration; and ensure cooperation between State institutions, non-governmental organizations and international agencies/organizations with competencies in the field of migration management. The Commission convenes as necessary or at least once per quarter. Prior to 2013, the Commission was not efficient due to the sporadic character of its activity and recommendatory character of its decisions. Thus, the Government of Moldova and the UN Republic of Moldova Country Team held a Prioritization Retreat in May 2013, which aimed to set up priorities in the area of migration and development, being organized within the pilot programme “Mainstreaming of Migration into Development in Moldova” (MOMID). During the retreat, the need to relaunch the activity of the Commission was discussed and proposed among many other topics. In this context, the second meeting of the Commission was held on 11 November 2013, convening the members appointed according to Government Decision No. 133 dated 23 February 2010, to establish this consultative body. In this meeting, the participants discussed the need to amend the Regulation of the Commission so as to complete the Commission membership with representatives from civil society – the main partners in developing and adjusting policies in line with international and European standards, as well as in implementing migration policies. Hence, representatives from the BDR, IOM Moldova and UNHCR Moldova were invited to attend the meeting. All the suggested amendments were made to streamline the activity of the Commission, ensure transparency for its activity and enable better dissemination of information. It was agreed that the entire EMP coordination process would be supervised in the future by the Commission, taking over this function from the National Commission for Population and Development, which had coordinated the process of EMP development and approval until 2012.

⁶¹ More information about the consultative interministerial bodies in the migration area may be analysed in section C of the 2005–2010 EMP report.

The mechanism for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the **EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership** encompasses a number of tools, including the High-level Meeting, the Local Cooperation Platform and the Extended Local Cooperation Platform.

It was decided that the two cooperation platforms should be organized at the same time to convene the representatives of Moldovan authorities, the EU Member States, the EC, the European External Action Service, international organizations, civil society and the academia. The objectives of such meetings were to: assess the implementation level of the objectives stipulated in the Joint Declaration on the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership; present the current and planned implemented activities within the Mobility Partnership; assess the existing mechanisms for implementation, cooperation, and monitoring within the Mobility Partnership for their consolidation and improvement; set the perspective and opportunities for future cooperation among partners; identify the priorities for cooperation within other bilateral and multilateral platforms on migration and mobility area at the regional and global levels; and present the preliminary results of the Mobility Partnership evaluation process. In this context, starting in 2012, extended meetings of the Local Cooperation Platform of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership were organized. The following topics were discussed within these meetings: the implementation progress of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership, mobility, legal migration and integration; the increased impact of migration and mobility on development, border management, readmission, identity and travel documents; combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings; and aspects related to monitoring and evaluating the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership. As well, in November 2012, the fifth High-level Meeting of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership was organized in Brussels, during which the results of the activities carried out during the year were discussed and the possibilities to launch new initiatives were explored. Promotion of legal migration, support of academic mobility, mainstreaming migration into development and combating illegal migration were just some of the areas of priority identified by partners. Subsequently, in December 2013, the sixth High-level Meeting of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership was organized in Brussels, where the parties took note of the results and activities performed during the year in different areas, such as legal migration, academic mobility, mainstreaming migration into development, consolidation of relations with the diaspora, and combating irregular migration; in addition, future initiatives were presented. In the last meeting, the results of the post-pilot exercise for evaluating the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership as a tool of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility were tackled, and the online database Mobility Partnership Scoreboard was approved.

The **TWG** created in 2010 within the IOM Project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership”, which coordinates the activities related to the development of the Republic of Moldova EMP, continues to be operational. The members of this group are actively involved in developing and implementing the current fourth edition of the Republic of Moldova EMP. The activity of the TWG is coordinated by the BMA under the MIA.

The **Integrated State Border Management Council (ISBMC)** is a consultative body created in 2010, with the mandate to ensure the interinstitutional coordination of policy implementation in the area of integrated State border management so as to facilitate legal mobility of persons and goods over the State border, at the same time ensuring well-controlled borders; to prevent and combat irregular migration; and to ensure efficient exchange of data on State border crossing. The ISBMC also has the duty to coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of the National Integrated State Border Management Strategy, as well as to develop and endorse the normative and policy framework related to the respective area.⁶² Until 2014, the ISBMC was an inefficient structure due to the sporadic and formal nature of its meetings, as well as due to appointing the Border Police Department, a subdivision of a central public authority, to be the coordinator of the Council. After a period of inactivity, the ISBMC met in 2014 to discuss the draft National Integrated State Border Management Strategy for 2015–2017, as well as the proposal for reforming the interinstitutional structure by providing the MIA the role to chair the ISBMC and by involving civil society in consultation regarding the reform process.

The Coordinating Council of People Originating from the Republic of Moldova and Residing Abroad (CCD), established in February 2005, works as an advisory body to the Government of Moldova. Its purpose is the promotion, preservation, development and expression of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of Moldovans residing abroad. The CCD comprises Moldovan government officials and representatives of Moldovan diaspora associations. For the last time, the CCD convened in October 2012, within the Fifth Diaspora Congress. The meeting was attended by 36 representatives of the Moldovan diaspora from 16 foreign countries, of whom 34 were members of the CCD (according to Government Decision No. 834 dated 10 November 2011) and 5 persons were from other institutions. The agenda of the meeting included such issues as: approval of the nominal compositions of the CCD and the role of the CCD members, according to Government Decision No. 834 dated 10 November

⁶² Government Decision No. 855 dated 21 September 2010, regarding the National Council for Integrated State Border Management.

2011; the modality of activity and communication of the Coordinating Council; discussions over proposals regarding the action plan of the CCD for 2013–2014; and discussions regarding the proposal for establishing working groups within the Coordinating Council. As a result of this session, five thematic working groups were created in the following areas: social protection; culture, youth, education and science; justice and human rights; return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants; and economy and entrepreneurial environment. Members of the groups from the diaspora were actively consulted and involved in developing draft normative acts and policy documents related to the diaspora.

In October 2013, the CCD associations organized, the first annual conference outside the Republic of Moldova borders. The event was held in Florence, Italy, and was attended by the representatives of over 50 Moldovan diaspora associations from 16 countries, as well as by the representatives of the Government from Chisinau. A resolution was adopted and signed unanimously during the conference, through which the diaspora associations request a new mechanism for improving the CCD and the communication and collaboration system between the diaspora and the leadership of the Republic of Moldova. It was also suggested that the CCD include highly qualified diaspora representatives for positions of political dignity as well as public officials, to develop and implement some projects for promoting the positive image of the Republic of Moldova around the world, and to improve the legal framework regarding the electoral system so as to ensure the Moldovans abroad with the right to vote.⁶³

Nevertheless, in spite of the already existing solid institutional arrangement, the Republic of Moldova needs to improve its inter-institutional coordination mechanism (which could be eventually developed through a well-organized and adjusted assistance) further to develop a more efficient institutional framework and policies for migration management.

C.4. Programme framework

In line with Government Decision No. 12 dated 19 January 2010, the State Chancellery functions as the authority for assistance coordination, responsible for coordinating the process of programming, monitoring and evaluating foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova by its development partners. In particular, the General Division for Policies and Foreign Assistance Coordination and Reform of Central Public Administration (the national coordination unit)

⁶³ See <http://ipn.md/ro/societate/57731>

ensures, inter alia, the provision to the public administration authorities of the necessary support to make the mechanism of sectoral foreign assistance coordination more efficient, monitoring and evaluation of foreign assistance so as to maximize its impact on the economic development of the country, and transparency of foreign assistance and implementation of the communication policy together with the donor community and civil society.⁶⁴

To carry out these tasks, the State Chancellery makes use of:⁶⁵

- the Information System of Assistance Management to register and process the information regarding the assistance initiatives and the flows of assistance provided to the country; and
- sectoral coordination councils for managing and monitoring the efficiency of foreign assistance.

The National Authority for Foreign Assistance Coordination uses the information provided by the Sectoral Coordination Councils to define the priorities for foreign assistance, which should be approved by the Interministerial Committee for Strategic Planning. The State Chancellery has an Aid Management Platform (AMP), which provides complete and up-to-date data about the technical assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova, and includes lists of technical assistance projects in different areas implemented in the country. The binding description elements for the projects included in the AMP are the following: name of the project (in Romanian and English); the de facto start and closing days of the project; project status; levels of implementation; financing information; roles of institutions; and classification criteria. Optionally, the AMP may also have data about the objective and results of the project, the signed memorandum, the project budget and special cases. The new projects should be included in the AMP by the responsible institutions, immediately after signing and approving the project. Donors should update the AMP with new information on a quarterly basis. The State Chancellery is the authority responsible for validating any changes made in the AMP.

The implementation of the migration and development component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership continued over the past years with ample information about the different migration modalities of the population, as well as increasing the competency of the MFAEI consular officers in the area of diaspora. At the same time, the BMA provided support in launching and

⁶⁴ Annual Report 2012 on foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova (draft). Available from www.ncu.moldova.md/public/files/2201423_md_ae_raport_2012.pdf

⁶⁵ Ibid.

developing the visa information system. The visa management information system was launched on 5 May 2014; and starting in 1 August 2014, the MFAEI system for issuing electronic visas started to function.

In 2013, the Republic of Moldova made progress in implementing the Mobility Partnership signed with the EU, contributing to the achievement of a number of priorities set by the partners, through projects and initiatives from the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). In November 2013, the EC came up with the proposal to liberalize the visa regime for Moldovan citizens, which implied the amendment to Regulation 539/2001, abolishing the obligation to possess a visa for short-term trips into the Schengen area for Moldovan citizens. Hence, on 20 December 2013, the EU Member States accepted the proposal of the EC.

Starting on 28 April 2014, the citizens of the Republic of Moldova could freely travel within the EU as a result of the liberalized visa regime. Since then, over 300,000 citizens holding biometric passports have benefited from the new visa regime. The Republic of Moldova ensures the continuity of the reforms started through the implementation of the Policy Matrix for the budgetary support for the liberalization of the visa regime for 2014–2016 (EUR 21 million). The representatives of the relevant national institutions ensure their participation and active involvement in the activities under the four platforms of the **Eastern Partnership (EP)**: democracy, good governance and stability; economic integrity and convergence with the EU policies; energy security; and human contacts. The BMA participates in the works of the Panel on Migration and Asylum, which aims to ensure cooperation and exchange of good practice in the area of migration and asylum policies between the EP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine) and the EU, to facilitate the adjustment of migration and asylum management systems to the international standards. At the same time, the Moldovan border authorities participate in the works carried out by the Panel on Integrated Border Management, which ensures dialogue and cooperation between the border authorities of the EP, the EU and other international stakeholders in areas related to border management, so as to facilitate the mobility of persons and goods over the border by ensuring efficient border control, preventing and combating transborder crime, including trafficking in persons, and preventing irregular migration. Both panels are active under the EP Platform “Democracy, Good Governance and Stability”.

At the same time, the MFAEI ensures constant promotion of the Republic of Moldova’s priorities in the EP context within the dialogue with the European partners. The Republic of Moldova has participated in all the meetings of the

cooperation platforms and pilot initiatives carried out within the EP, taking over the experience of its European partners, which would be relevant for the respective areas from the Association Agreement, as well as sharing the accumulated good practices with the EP, for instance, in the visa area or migration management area. The good results obtained by the Republic of Moldova in the context of bilateral dimensions of the EP make the country a frontrunner within the EP – which is recognized by the EU and its Member States.

The area of labour migration focused on improving the legislative framework and adjusting other legislative acts according to legal norms. Hence, changes were made to the Law on Labour Migration and the Law on Foreigners' Regime in the Republic of Moldova. These amendments – which also include removing the quota for labour immigration – will contribute to creating a more efficient normative framework to regulate the relations between the stakeholders involved in the labour migration process and set an empowering climate for foreign investors. At the same time, the **Pilot Project on Labour Force Mobility** carried out services in the area of labour force training and employment, and improvement of the management of qualified labour force migration flows between Italy and the Republic of Moldova. The basic activities focused on the organization and implementation of linguistic-vocational courses.⁶⁶

The “Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Minors and Young Adults” Project, which focuses on preventing trafficking and is implemented by the Government of Austria and the European Return Fund, has contributed to assisting a number of beneficiaries and creating an inter-institutional committee for monitoring the implementation of project activities.⁶⁷

The Government of Norway, the Government of Denmark and the Government of Switzerland have contributed to combating trafficking in human beings, preventing risks, and identifying victims and potential victims by developing individual plans for rehabilitation, reintegration and complex assistance for trafficking victims through the NRS.⁶⁸

During the period of reference, a total of around 200 actions relevant to migration have been implemented or are currently under implementation. Project objectives vary – from efficient governance of labour migration and labour skills to protection and empowerment of domestic violence and trafficking victims. A considerable part of actions relevant to migration were and are implemented

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

under the Mobility Partnership; 90 initiatives relevant to migration were and are implemented in different areas, from the Republic of Moldova's migration profile to schemes/projects promoting circular migration.

The following are among the key donors: EC; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); UN Human Security Trust Fund; US Agency for International Development (USAID); Soros Foundation; Czech Agency for Development; Austrian Agency for Development; Swedish Agency for International Development; Government of Japan; Government of Romania; Government of Finland; Government of Italy; Government of Cyprus; Government of Germany; Government of Greece; Government of Denmark; Government of Norway; Government of Switzerland; Soroptimist International (Norway); and Lakarmissionen (Sweden).

The most important partners for implementing the projects and programmes relevant to migration are: IOM Moldova; International Labour Organization; UNHCR; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund Moldova; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Moldova; European Investment Fund; and International Centre for Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD).

The following initiatives are among the migration-related projects implemented during the period of reference:

- *Strengthening the Link between Migration and Development: Testing an Integrated Service Provider to Moldovan Migrants and Their Communities*, financed by the EU and implemented by the International Agency for Source Country Information;
- *Enhancing the Moldovan Government's Capacities in Diaspora Engagement*, financed through the IOM Development Fund and implemented by IOM Moldova;
- *Strengthening the Capacities of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Republic of Moldova*, financed by the Government of the United States and implemented by IOM Moldova;
- *Joint UNDP/IOM/ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Pilot Programme "Mainstreaming Migration into Development in Moldova"*, financed by the SDC;
- *Supporting the Republic of Moldova in Implementing the EU–Moldova Visa Liberalization Action Plan*, financed by the EU and implemented by the ICMPD;

- *Strengthening Migration Management Capacities in the Republic of Moldova*, financed by the EU and implemented by the Swedish Public Employment Service;
- *Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies*, financed by the SDC, implemented by IOM Moldova;
- *Enhancing Migration Management and Cooperation in the Area of Readmission in the Eastern Europe*, financed by the EU, co-financed by the US Department of State, co-financed and implemented by IOM in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Donor coordination mechanisms. During the reference period, some donor coordination mechanisms were established to improve coordination among development partners and between development partners and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. At the national level, the key development partner coordination mechanism is the monthly regular donors meetings, organized to improve coordination and harmonization between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and its partners.

The Partnership Principles Implementation Plan, signed in March 2010 by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the World Bank and other relevant donors (EU, UN and other bilateral donors), sets out a more formal process for establishing Sectoral Foreign Assistance Coordination Councils (also called Sectoral Coordination Boards) and an advisory body – the Joint Partnership Council – that reflects the partnership between government, civil society (including private sector) and development partners. The Joint Partnership Council is co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova and a representative of the external aid partners. In the context of the migration phenomenon, it is worth mentioning that the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Labour and Social Protection was established, chaired by the MLSPF and co-chaired by a representative of the donor organization active in the area, such as the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the SDC, IOM, the World Bank, USAID, the OSCE, the Austrian Development Cooperation/Austrian Development Agency, UN Office in Moldova and UN agencies, among others.⁶⁹

To improve the coordination of the joint activities of the MLSPF and donor organizations, the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Gender Equality started its activity in 2012. The MLSPF, in collaboration with UN Women and the Centre for Partnership Development, organized training sessions about gender policy issues, developed a set of legislative amendments related to ensuring

⁶⁹ MLSPF Order No. 060 dated 17 February 2010, on establishing the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Labour and Social Protection (with the respective annexes).

equal opportunities for women and men, and initiated the process for approving these changes. With the support of the EU specialists from the Assistance and Protection Centre, and those from the MLSPF, the Multidisciplinary Teams visited to monitor some specific cases, as well as to assess the extension of the NRS for protection and assistance for victims and potential victims of trafficking at the community level.⁷⁰

In 2012–2014, thematic working groups were formed in the Republic of Moldova, consisting of representatives from government institutions, civil society and the private sector. Together, these groups were tasked to provide support and expertise in the key areas identified by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. As one of the five priorities stipulated in the application of the Republic of Moldova to the Democracy Partnership Challenge (DPC) refers to migration and border management, a working group was created comprising donors in the area of migration, co-chaired by the Embassy of Romania and the Embassy of Slovak Republic in the Republic of Moldova, being hosted by the Embassy of the United States in the Republic of Moldova. From 2012 to 2013, five sessions were held for this working group, which identified and discussed priorities in the areas of migration, border management and combating trafficking in human beings; these areas would be the focus of the efforts of the country's development partners within the DPC. Although the activity of this working group sometimes duplicates the activity of the Sectoral Foreign Assistance Coordination Council chaired by the MIA, these meetings allow for a deeper discussion on the different areas of foreign support and provide some countries not represented in the Council the possibility to participate as the meetings are held via videoconference. The final goal of this working group of donors within the DPC is to discuss in detail the current assistance initiatives in the Republic of Moldova, to avoid duplication of foreign aid and to identify some new areas of intervention, as the case may be.

In 2014, the Government⁷¹ continued the joint actions for planning foreign assistance, implementing and assessing the performance indicators set forth by the Global Partnership, and improving the process of information exchange via the new platform of AMP data management. To continue the improvement of efforts for streamlining the assistance for development, the State Chancellery envisages a number of commitments in the future, such as:

- aligning foreign assistance with national development priorities and harmonizing the foreign aid programming cycle with the budgetary and policy planning cycle;

⁷⁰ Annual Report 2012 on foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova (draft). Available from www.ncu.moldova.md/public/files/2201423_md_ae_raport_2012.pdf

⁷¹ Ibid.

- ensuring transparency and publishing relevant information for foreign aid management, as well as revising and adjusting the information platform on foreign assistance;
- rethinking of interministerial coordination, ensuring united and efficient dialogue platforms; and further supporting and fostering the institutional capacities of the ministries depending on the performance levels achieved.

PART D: KEY FINDINGS, POLICIES' IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section D.1 summarizes the main findings of parts A, B and C revealed by the available data on the current migration and development situation.

Section D.2 presents some key recommendations for policymakers to improve the current migration management situation based on an assessment of the current situation.

Section D.3 continues from the previous section and presents an array of recommendations towards mainstreaming migration into the development policies of the country.

Section D.4 identifies existing data gaps and offers recommendations and possible strategies to improve migration statistics and the overall migration database.

D.1. Main findings on migration and development nexus

This section summarizes the main findings revealed by the available data regarding the current situation in the area of migration and asylum.

Background. The migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova continues to be characterized more by the emigration of the country's population and less by the immigration of people from abroad. The current efforts of the State are focused on managing the phenomenon, including by implementing institutional reforms in this respect and via a close cooperation with the EU.

As the economic crisis engulfed Europe and the migrants' stay conditions became tougher in the Russian Federation (one of the main countries of destination for Moldovans), addressing the problems of migrants returning home became absolutely necessary. Former migrants may contribute to the development of their countries of origin through active involvement in the labour market or by launching their own businesses, establishing business links between the country of origin and the country of destination; transferring skills, knowledge and technologies gained abroad, not to mention ideas, beliefs and living standards, among others.

According to the different migration studies done, the main push factors for Moldovan migrants are economic in nature: lack of jobs and/or unattractive salaries offered in the labour market in their home country.

Current migration patterns. The migration situation was analysed based on statistical and administrative data submitted by different data providers.

A series of administrative data from the SE SIRC “Registru” enables the analysis of the situation of authorized emigration, including the deregistration from the place of residence before leaving the country. Based on this data, it was estimated that 104,300 persons were living abroad in 2014. *Annual authorized emigration* registered a stable downtrend, with the decrease rate reaching 8 per cent in 2014 as compared with 2003, and 64 per cent as compared with 2009. The phenomenon is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, with more women emigrating in an authorized manner than men. Mainly trained young people with professional secondary education, higher education or incomplete higher education leave the country. The main countries of destination are Ukraine and the Russian Federation, where almost 60 per cent of the total number of emigrants are found. The United States, Germany, Israel and Belarus are other countries with significant shares of emigrants from the Republic of Moldova.

An important source providing the possibility to estimate the volume of international emigration is State border crossing information from the BPD, specifically the duration of a person’s stay abroad. According to this source, by the end 2014, some 271,600 persons had been outside the country for more than 12 months, of whom 67 per cent were between 15 and 44 years old, with women exceeding the number of men by 14.3 per cent.

Data from the MFAEI, obtained from the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova, reveals that by the end of 2014, around 984,000 Moldovans were staying abroad, regardless of the duration of their stay in the countries of destination. According to this data, 55.9 per cent were in the Russian Federation, 15.3 per cent were in Italy, 2.3 per cent were in Portugal, 2.0 per cent were in Great Britain, 1.9 per cent were in Greece, and between 1.8 per cent and less in other countries.

Temporary/circular migration for labour purposes with the intention to return home is estimated based on the LFS data. Survey data reveals that about 300,000 persons were working abroad at any time within the 2009–2014 period. The profile of temporary migration is different from that of authorized emigration. It was mainly the rural population who migrated for labour purposes

during this period (about 72%). In addition, in this type of migration, the number of men exceeded the number of women. The main countries of destination overall continued to be the Russian Federation and Italy, but the distribution by sex is different: for almost 79 per cent of men the country of destination was the Russian Federation, followed by Italy with 5 per cent; in the case of women, the distribution was more uniform, with 48 per cent going to the Russian Federation and 31 per cent to Italy.

As for the age distribution of temporary migrants, a significant prevalence may be noted for those who are 15–44 years old, who accounted for about 77 per cent of the total number of temporary migrants. Half of migrants had secondary education (lyceum, gymnasium), and about 39 per cent had professional or vocational secondary education.

The NEA has observed an uptrend in the number of persons working abroad with legal work contracts; nevertheless, this number remains rather small. The main countries of destination of Moldovans working under legal contracts are Israel and the United Arab Emirates; 2014 was an exception in this respect, as Poland positioned in second place.

As for migration for study purposes, data reveals that the number of Moldovans studying abroad increased by 2.3 times within the 2009–2014 period; and about 91 per cent of them were studying in Romania, 6 per cent in the Russian Federation and 2.1 per cent in Bulgaria. Because of the limited slots for studies abroad provided to the Republic of Moldova under the international agreements, the number of Moldovans studying abroad, according to data from the Ministry of Education, is relatively small. The number of Moldovans who study abroad not by virtue of any international agreements and the number of those who do not notify the Ministry of Education are not known, but figures are probably higher.

Involuntary emigration. This type of migration registered an increase by the end of 2014 as compared with 2009. There were 739 Moldovan asylum seekers abroad in 2009, increasing to 1,449 persons in 2014 (in 2013, there were 878 asylum seekers). During the same period, there was a decrease in the number of persons who obtained refugee status abroad, from 5,929 in 2009 to 2,242 in 2014. Nevertheless, over the past two years, uptrends were attested, as compared with the previous years, for the growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad, and the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad.

Repatriation. During the 2009–2013 reference period, trends in the annual number of repatriated persons evolved differently. The number increased significantly in 2014 as compared with 2009, registering 3 per cent growth. As well, the number of repatriated children increased during the reference period, accounting for 11.3 per cent in 2014 as compared with 1.1 per cent registered in 2009.

It should be noted that since 2011, two institutions – the BMA of the MIA and the SE SIRC “Registru” of the MITC – have been collating data on repatriated persons.

Readmission. Positive dynamics was noted for readmissions to the Republic of Moldova. After an increase of about 1.4 times registered during the 2009–2011 period, the number decreased in 2014 down to 69 persons as compared with 126 persons in 2012, denoting either the legalization of Moldovans or the observance of the stay regime in their countries of residence.

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. The NRS⁷² is the main framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts undertaken by the active stakeholders in the area of combating trafficking. The activities within the NRS are carried out through the MDTs, which have national coverage. The efficiency of this system is also confirmed by the increased number of persons identified via the NRS. Statistical data shows that in 2014, there were 80 trafficking victims identified – which is 51 cases fewer than the number identified in 2009; NGOs reported that there were 854 potential victims of trafficking in 2014, as compared with only 308 persons reported in 2009. Women represented about 71 per cent, and children accounted for over 8 per cent of the total number of persons identified as victims of trafficking.

Resident foreign population. By the end of 2014, there were a total of 21,685 foreigners (including stateless persons) staying in the Republic of Moldova (representing 0.5% of the total population). The majority of foreigners originated from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Israel, Romania, Turkey and other countries, each group accounting for less than 2 per cent. The annual number of foreigners immigrating to the Republic of Moldova increased from 2,009 persons in 2009 to 4,204 persons in 2014. It should be mentioned that the foreigner immigration growth rate was 25.2 per cent in 2014 as compared with 2013.

⁷² The NRS was launched in the Republic of Moldova in 2006 with the support of IOM, external donors and civil society.

Demographic impact of migration. The prevalence of emigration over immigration influences the demographic development of the country, characterized by continuous contraction of the population and acceleration of population ageing. It should be mentioned that over the past two years some stability has been noted in relation to population size, as estimated by the NBS. As well, some stability has been observed for other demographic indicators, such as the natural growth and net migration rates. The migration phenomenon is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban areas; at the same time, stable uptrends are noted for the urban population alongside the reduction or stabilization of the total population of the country, hence pointing to internal migration from villages to cities, especially among the economically active population.

Economic impact of migration. Labour migration from the country has an important and significant role from an economic point of view. The increase in the number of persons who left for work abroad has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of transfers from them, thus influencing the main macroeconomic indicators. The constant growth of the GDP is mainly attributed to the revenues sent back to the country by Moldovan migrants working abroad.

Remittances represent an important source of income for population to escape from poverty. About 24 per cent of the country's households benefited from remittance-based financial resources in 2014, with rural households holding a share of 26.0 per cent. According to the 2012 LFS/LFM data, over 80 per cent of migrants sent money to their families on a monthly basis, with half of them sending amounts over USD 500 monthly.

The incomes of Moldovan households are considerably influenced by remittances; thus, the respective share accounts for 57 per cent in case of the households benefiting from remittances, and over 62 per cent for the rural households benefiting from remittances (with 50 per cent for urban areas). If receiving remittances, the share of households that would have been under the poverty level in 2014 would be 25.3 per cent, or 32.8 per cent in rural areas.

The indicators characterizing the labour force market get continuously worse. During the 2009–2014 period, the number of the economically active population decreased constantly from 1,265,000 to 1,232,000, dropping by 33,000 persons or 3 per cent. The activity rate dropped by 1.6 percentage points. The share of population under working age decreased from 18.2 per cent to 17.1 per cent, and the share of persons over working age increased from 15.3 per cent to 17.3 per cent. If the migration of the young population continues, a continuous contraction of the working-age population, with all the negative effects associated with this phenomenon, may be expected.

The studies conducted in this area reveal some trends that motivate migrants to return home to work. At the same time, return migrants encounter a lot of reintegration problems, caused by lack of jobs and low salaries. Launching a start-up is rather difficult due to different reasons, including insufficiency of financial resources and lack of information on how to put up a business. In such conditions, a considerable percentage of migrants choose to reemigrate.

Social impact of migration. The social negative impact generated by migration is confirmed by a number of studies done. One such impact is the shortage of personnel in areas such as health and education, due to emigration of qualified staff in these sectors. Although migration reduces poverty, it also has negative social effects on children and the elderly left behind. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education based on the School Census data, there were 41,000 children left behind by their parents in 2014, of whom 10,000 had both parents abroad and 31,000 had one of the parents abroad.

Labour migration and the national social insurance system. Labour migration affects the sustainability of the national social insurance system. Being outside the country, a significant percentage of the economically active population does not participate in the system, thus leading to an increased burden on the economically active population in the national economy. This phenomenon has already induced a deficit in the State social insurance budget, which had to be compensated over the past years from the State budget. As well, the lack of the cumulative pillar of the social insurance system and the narrow package of benefits provided by the current individual insurance system make the participation in the system unattractive for migrants. Thus, the nonparticipation of current migrants in the system will be reflected upon their mid- and long-term return in the impossibility to obtain some benefits within the system, and this will directly contribute to increased burden on the social insurance system. Ensuring the minimum social guarantees for Moldovan labour migrants abroad and finding some adequate solutions for when they return home is a timely concern for the State. In this context, a number of social security agreements have been signed or negotiated over the past years with different countries of destination, with contribution-based principles included.

Institutional framework. A number of State institutions are involved directly or indirectly in migration management, in line with their areas of activity and competence. The BDR was created to streamline the activities in communication and collaboration with Moldovan migrants abroad and to coordinate the policies in the area. Focal points (at the level of deputy ministers or deputy directors) were appointed in ministries and other central administrative

authorities to be responsible for promoting and implementing State policies related to the diaspora.

The BMA was given new duties when it was appointed as the institution responsible for the subsequent development of the EMP report.

Legal and regulatory framework. The national legal and regulatory framework has made significant progress in establishing a comprehensive base for an efficient system of migration management. According to the experts from the EC, the legislative and policy framework on preventing and counteracting trafficking in human beings is consolidated and aligned with international standards.

Activities continue in view of signing bilateral agreements in the area of labour migration to ensure social and labour security for Moldovan migrants abroad.

Policy framework. Policy framework is continuously developing. Some State policies and strategies in different areas related to migration were developed and enforced, such as mobility at the border, reintegration and return of migrants, investment of remittances for development, SME development, and combating irregular migration and trafficking in human beings. Coordination and assurance of migration policy and strategy coherence is carried out via an impressive institutional arrangement. Nevertheless, it is necessary to further improve the mechanism for inter-institutional coordination for a more efficient management of migration.

D.2. Recommendations on migration management

During the period of 2009–2014, being recognized as a political phenomenon with all its positive and negative effects, migration became a key element in developing national, sectoral and intersectoral policies.

The mechanisms related to foreigners' immigration became the most visible.⁷³ They have ensured, to a large extent, the transposition of a number of EU directives in this area. This fact has contributed to making more efficient the bilateral dialogue with the EU Member States on migration-related areas (occupational, social, educational, etc.).

⁷³ Law on Foreigners' Regime No. 200 dated 16 July 2010.

At the same time, the following still needs attention:

- Building the capacities of the competent authorities from the country to promote and correlate the principles and procedures for admission into the country and documentation of foreigners in the country (economic and non-economic migrants) with the economic realities of the country;
- Continuously improving the normative framework on selective admission of foreigners immigrating for work purposes so as to cope with the shortage of highly qualified personnel: (1) in the areas that lack qualified labour force; (2) in the economic sectors, which are the priority areas for the sustainable development of the country⁷⁴ and which do not have the necessary local qualified resources; and (3) in facilitation of admission and stay of foreign investors in the Republic of Moldova, as well as of the persons who manage foreign investments in the economic areas with multiplicative effect.⁷⁵ It should be noted that the proactive attraction of foreign investments through migration policies follows a number of international examples. The practices of European and Northern American States include mechanisms for facilitating the admission and documentation of foreigners investing in business in some pre-established economic areas (rural areas, and/or development of multiplicative economy in correlation with general conditions) or creating new jobs;
- Development of mechanisms for the recognition of foreigners' professional qualifications in the areas needing qualified personnel;
- Promotion of higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova for the purposes of attracting foreigners to study in the country and for improving the image of higher education institutions in the country;
- Improvement of the legal and institutional tools, ensuring the non-discrimination principle for foreigners staying in the country, avoiding any unjustified discriminatory restrictions based on any reasons, such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics or health condition, religion or beliefs, among others;
- Promotion of a legality climate for foreigners' admission and stay in the Republic of Moldova by increasing the information level of potential migrants who would like to come to the Republic of Moldova for a short period of time (for study, work, etc.).

⁷⁴ Moldova 2020: National Development Strategy, approved via Law No. 166 dated 11 July 2012.

⁷⁵ For instance, road construction, economic infrastructure and irrigation systems in agricultural areas.

A special role in migration management refers to foreigners' integration policies promoted in the State. Although the regulatory framework adopted in this area in the Republic of Moldova⁷⁶ is recognized as being innovative in the CIS zone, as well as for a number of Western European countries, its implementation is just at the initial stage and needs more attention to ensure correlation with the needs pointed out.

The rapid increase of foreigners' immigration into the country did not allow their pre-selection from the third countries, similar countries, or countries closed by their cultural, civilization or religious identities – a fact that would exclude integration deficiencies. EMP data shows that by the end of 2014, over 22,000 foreigners from 110 different countries stay permanently or temporarily in the Republic of Moldova.

Hence, it is important to develop, within migration management policies, some long-term policies for mutual accommodation for all the foreigners (beneficiaries of a form of protection, immigrants, persons born outside the country and other categories of persons) and the inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova.

The necessary mechanisms were developed in 2014 for cooperation between the State entities responsible for foreigners' accommodation and integration, guaranteeing their access to sociocultural and linguistic accommodation programmes by ensuring the necessary allocations in the State budget.⁷⁷

At the same time, taking into account the importance of foreigners' integration for the social and civic cohesion in the country, it is necessary to actively support foreigners and stateless persons staying legally in the Republic of Moldova, ensuring their participation in the economic, social and cultural sectors of the country. This objective will be supported by increasing the awareness of public officials, civil society and foreigners about the importance of the integration process.

Although public authorities have recognized the importance of integration policies by allocating public funds for the implementation of such policies, they are not enough to cover the entire range of possible needs and all categories of foreigners. Thus, it is necessary to determine the categories of foreigners who may benefit from a facilitated treatment in this area, for instance,

⁷⁶ Law on Foreigners' Integration in the Republic of Moldova No. 274 dated 27 December 2011.

⁷⁷ Law on the State Budget for 2014 No. 339 dated 23 December 2013.

vulnerable categories of persons, beneficiaries of certain forms of protection, unaccompanied minors and women, among others.

The implementation of integration policies needs objective monitoring by establishing some sets of indicators in all relevant areas, as well as collecting, processing and analysing the obtained data.

The emigration area, which has been given utmost attention within the surveys and comprehensive approaches when developing State policies, continues to prioritize the aspects related to the situation of the family members left behind,⁷⁸ especially the elderly and children.

The increase in the number of minors left behind by their parents to look for a job abroad is really alarming.⁷⁹ The data obtained in different surveys reveals the reduced level of socialization, increased school dropout rate, reduced level of training and increased level of juvenile delinquency for this category of children.

The aforementioned problems need the proactive involvement of the State and the entire society, the establishment of stable mechanisms of community or social partnerships to prevent the phenomenon, strengthening of the preventive mechanisms in the country, and the development of resocialization mechanisms for the affected group within the population. Unfortunately, there is no coherence between the efforts undertaken by the different authorities responsible for the different aspects of the given problem (e.g. Local Public Administration, MLSPF, Ministry of Education, MIA). In this respect, it is necessary to develop sustainable, efficient and diligent partnerships among all the stakeholders, to fill in the existing gaps in the necessary services at the community level, which would be in line with the needs of children and the youth from migrants' families. It is important to reshape the attitude of public authorities in relation to the given problem.

It is also important to continue the existing joint initiatives with countries of destination, such as the Russian Federation, Italy, Israel, and Turkey, which are meant to ensure circular migration and migrant workers' return and reintegration into the Moldovan labour market.

⁷⁸ National Action Plan for the Protection of Left-behind Children for 2010–2011 (dated 2 June 2010); “Addressing the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind” Project, implemented by the Government of Italy in collaboration with IOM, and co-funded by the EC (duration: 2011–2012).

⁷⁹ UNICEF Survey on Juvenile Delinquency in the Republic of Moldova: Legal Book, 2011.

Fostering the temporary return of highly qualified co-nationals and facilitating brain circulation will ensure the transfer of qualifications and innovations in certain sectors.⁸⁰

Moldovan authorities paid special attention to setting the links between diaspora associations in different countries and their home country, including by establishing a specialized authorities in this area, such as the BDR under the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.⁸¹ Nevertheless, it is important to further support the BDR in organizing different activities with Moldovan communities and diaspora organizations abroad.

Although the Republic of Moldova has already created a solid institutional framework in the area of migration management, it is still necessary to continue developing migration management capacities. Hence, the development of subsequent policies should be based on comprehensive and well-structured data, and should take into account the specific interests and objectives of the country, referring to the different aspects of the general public policy, such as occupational, demographic and circular migration promotion, and migrants' return and reintegration, among others.

To achieve this goal, it would be necessary to support and build the capacities of public institutions in ensuring the development and implementation of the policies related to migration issues (e.g. through increased material resources, training workshops, elimination of bureaucratic impediments, increased consideration of local practice and expertise, avoidance of excessive reliance on foreign experts' interventions).

In this context, there is an increased role for the public institutions to ensure coordination,⁸² as they should have sufficient trained human resources, including in modern areas of activity and communication.

⁸⁰ The initiative "Addressing Brain Drain through Temporary Return of Scientists – Moldovan Expatriates and Young Researchers from Abroad – to Strengthen Moldova as a Research and Development Centre and to Promote Temporary and Permanent Returns and Transfer of Skills" financed by the EU and implemented by IOM in 2010–2011 within the framework of the Project "Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership" may be mentioned in this context.

⁸¹ See www.brd.gov.md/

⁸² Government Decision No. 133 dated 23 February 2010, on creating a commission for coordinating certain activities related to migration process.

D.3. Recommendations on mainstreaming migration into development policies

Mainstreaming migration into development is envisaged in some long-term policies of the country. The main objectives in implementing the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020)⁸³ are set in the Strategy itself, as well as in the National Action Plan for 2011–2015. These documents establish a link between migration and asylum and the general framework of the country's development policies.

The new national development strategy of the Republic of Moldova – Moldova 2020: Seven Solutions for the Republic of Moldova⁸⁴ – also contributes towards correlating the sectoral strategies implemented by different line ministries.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Government of Moldova has an existing foreign policy and is committed to migration management and development, as reflected in documents such as: the *Joint Declaration regarding the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership*⁸⁵ and the *National Program for Implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan in the Area of Visa Regime Liberalization*.⁸⁶ The *National Program*, due to the comprehensive approach used by migration management module in line with the EU directives, guided the cardinal legislative and institutional reform in migration management.

At the same time, the dynamics and magnitude of the migration processes during the reported period need to correct and include some specific elements in the development policies.

Taking into account the continuous decrease of population and increase of the population ageing coefficient up to 16.2 persons aged 60 years old and over per 100 inhabitants in 2014, exceeding the critical value (16), hence representing an acceleration of population ageing, it is necessary to:

- ensure better management of temporary migration processes;

⁸³ Government Decision No. 655 dated 8 September 2011, approving the National Strategy of the Republic of Moldova on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).

⁸⁴ National development strategy Moldova 2020: Seven Solutions for the Republic of Moldova, approved via Law No. 166 dated 11 July 2012.

⁸⁵ Joint Declaration regarding the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership, signed on 5 June 2008, in Luxembourg within the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the EU.

⁸⁶ Government Decision No. 122 dated 4 March 2011, approving the National Program for Implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan in the Area of Visa Regime Liberalization.

- ensure monitoring of return migrants, especially of persons encountering problems, and to study the problems that emerge during their social, psychological, occupational and educational reintegration; hence, it would be necessary to further develop data collection on persons who have temporarily went abroad (the dynamics statistics about emigration to work or study – by age, sex and level of education), to ensure the correlation of information and the analysis of pre- and post-emigration data, and to develop adequate policies;
- develop the aspects related to the country’s demographic security, which implies including in the country’s long-term policies those aspects related to social protection of families and children left behind, and developing demographic security policies based on the monitoring of selected indicators, including the ones established in this analytical report; and
- improve the quality of statistical and administrative data related to authorized emigration, taking into account indicators pertaining to age, level of education, sex and area of residence of persons who have left.

To ensure the mechanisms needed for implementing the policies for child and family protection during parents’ migration period, it would be necessary to ensure the periodical collection of dynamics statistics about the number of children left behind, the number of marriages and cases of divorce in migrants’ families, and the number of children born in migrants’ families abroad.

As the Republic of Moldova has opted for integration processes and the liberalization of the visa regime with the EU, special focus is given to the existence and development of migration control tools to improve migration management. In this context, priority is given to the development of tools to collect statistical and nominal information on migration, to correlate the notions and definitions used in the national legislation with those used in the EU legislation, especially Regulation 862 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on community statistics on migration and international protection.⁸⁷

D.4. Recommendations on improving migration statistics and developing evidence-based policies

The efficient management of migration may be carried out only if policies and strategies are based on up-to-date information regarding migration flows. Hence, collection of reliable data (including for forecasting purposes) should be part of a comprehensive national policy on migration. As well, there is too little

⁸⁷ See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/BG/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R0862&from=RO>

available information regarding such important topics as remittances and the awareness level of current and potential migrants about legal migration and return possibilities.

Some underestimations/gaps still exist in relation to migration database in different areas. For instance, the Ministry of Education holds official data on the number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad based on international treaties, but there is no database about those who apply and get the opportunity to study abroad by themselves. Another problem lies in the record-keeping of left-behind children – a task divided among several ministries that report different data, which are not correlated.

The following can be mentioned among the actions/strategies recommended for improving and generating data on international migration of population.⁸⁸

The EMP, rather perceived as a process and not as an output, represents a high potential for synergy with mainstreaming migration, so as to understand and use the data for informed policymaking and progress evaluation. The Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the List of Indicators and the Extended Migration Profile Template for the Republic of Moldova on 24 August 2012.⁸⁹ According to the government decision, the BMA – in cooperation with other relevant ministries and central public authorities – shall ensure the update of the EMP indicators, as well as the development of the annual analytical report based on the List of the Indicators and the Extended Migration Profile Template for the Republic of Moldova.

The following is suggested to fulfil these objectives:

- Compilation and update of the EMP should be carried out in a sustainable way, channelling the EMP findings in policymaking. Hence, it is recommended to develop an action plan or a strategy for regular updating of the EMP and further development of the EMP exercise.
- To solve the problem of inadequate data, it is necessary to build the capacities of State institutions (NBS, SE SIRC “Registru”, MIA, MLSPF, Ministry of Education, MFAEI, etc.) that are involved in collecting data at the national level.

⁸⁸ This section is based on the main findings of M. Poulain et al., Data Assessment Report for the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau, IOM, 2011). Available from www.iom.md/attachments/110_data_assess_rep_eng.pdf

⁸⁹ See <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=344691&lang=1>

- There is a strong need for more constructive and active collaboration among the main producers of statistical data, namely, the SE SIRC “Registru”, the NBS and the MIA. It is important to mention as well the need for a more active cooperation with the BPD in the area of statistics in relation to migrants’ registration at the border crossing.
- The problem of an absent unified methodology for assessing and quantifying the migration process could be mitigated by adopting certain government acts that would create and introduce a unified application of rules and class definitions, segregated and disaggregated, alongside all the existing criteria, in line with the methodological approaches convened at the international level as well as with the comparative statistical indicators, which cover a range of problems related to migration.
- The data exchange with the countries of destination of Moldovan migrants is a concrete possibility for verifying the reliability of emigration data from the Republic of Moldova. Frequently, this data is not included in the annual statistics on migration; hence, it would be necessary to regularly request data from the countries concerned.
- There is a need for well-targeted training for and technical cooperation between the institutions and the national experts responsible for updating the EMP, including through twinning projects.

In this context, it is necessary to continue developing information assistance for national and local public authorities as support for ensuring efficient management of migration and asylum.

Activities should continue in relation to building institutional capacities for collecting, aggregating and systematizing the data from the beneficiary for developing and implementing policies in the area of migration and asylum, as well as foreigners’ integration.

For the given purpose, it is important to continue ensuring inter-institutional information activity, both on the horizontal and vertical axes, as well as at all the levels (national, regional, local) of all the competent authorities, so as to provide management of migration, coordinate joint activities and reduce risks.

There should be developed cooperation mechanisms for risk analysis and for collecting and processing data, and establishment, if needed, of some joint groups for investigation in new areas of activity; assurance of access to existing and newly created databases; and the establishment of joint databases or rapid data exchange systems for public authorities.

It is important to develop mechanisms for joint planning (based on the cooperation protocols) of the inter-institutional cooperation based on joint understanding of risks and threats, especially the ones related to information exchange between authorities, and mediation of competence conflicts, among others.

ANNEX

Annex I: Glossary of terms

1. *Absolute poverty line* – calculated based on the food expenditures of the second, third, and fourth deciles, adjusted to 2,282 kcal/person/day and adding to it the non-food expenditures (the weight for all the households from the Household Budget Survey).
2. *Alien* – a person who is not a national or does not hold the citizenship of a given State (EU definition).
3. *Asylum seeker* – a third-country national or stateless person who has made an application for asylum in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken (Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status).
4. *Cancellation* – decision taken by the competent authority for foreigners against the alien, if he or she does not meet the conditions set forth by the law or if it is established that some of the documents which served as basis for granting him or her the right to stay in the country are false (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
5. *Child* – any human being below the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).
6. *Citizenship* – legal bond between an individual and a State; it is acquired through birth or through naturalization, regardless if it is through declaration, option, marriage or any other means, in line with the national legislation.
7. *Confirmation of repatriation* – an official document issued by the competent authority for aliens, confirming the right to repatriation (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
8. *Country of birth* – country of residence (within current borders, if information is available) of the mother at the date of birth; if not possible, the country (within current borders, if information is available) where the birth occurred.

9. *Declaring the foreigner an undesirable person* – a safety measure undertaken by the authority against a foreigner who has developed, is developing or in whose respect there are well-reasoned indices that he or she intends to develop activities that would endanger the national security or public order of the country (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
10. *Emigrant* – a person undertaking an emigration (involved in emigration process) (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
11. *Emigration* – the action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a State, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
12. *Equivalent income* – the total income of the household relative to its “equivalent size”, that is, taking into consideration the size and composition of the households, and being attributed to each member of the household (the total income of the households is relative to its equivalent size, using the so-called “equivalence scale” modified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
13. *Expulsion* – an act by an authority of the State with the intention and with the effect of securing the removal of a person or persons (aliens or stateless persons) against their will from the territory of that State (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).
14. *Foreign-born* – a person who was born outside the country of the current usual residence, regardless of the person's citizenship (Guidelines for Collecting Data on International Migration According to the Article in Regulation 862/2007 and for Collecting Additional Data on Voluntary Basis: Immigration, Emigration, Usually Resident Population, and Obtaining and Losing Citizenship).
15. *Humanitarian protection* – a form of protection, recognized by the Republic of Moldova, provided to the foreigner or the stateless persons due to other reasons than the ones laid down in the Geneva Convention dated 28 July 1951 (Law No. 270, dated 18 December 2008, on Asylum in the Republic of Moldova).

16. *Irregular migrant* – someone who, owing to illegal entry or expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country; the term applies to migrants who infringe a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).
17. *Illegal stay* – presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova of a foreigner who does not meet or does meet anymore the conditions related to entry, stay or residence in the Republic of Moldova (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
18. *Immigrant* – a person undertaking an immigration (involved in immigration process) (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
19. *Immigration* – the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of another State for a period that is, or expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another State (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
20. *Local border traffic* – regular crossing of an external land border by border residents in order to stay in a border area, for example social, cultural or substantiated economic reasons, or for family reasons, for a period not exceeding three months of uninterrupted stay since the day of the border crossing (Regulation EC No. 1931/2006).
21. *Migrants' remittances* – represent transfers from abroad of monetary means and goods, with an impact on households' incomes. They arise from the temporary or permanent movement of people to work in foreign economies, settling down for good in other States, as well as from inter-human relations: gifts, donations and inheritances. Remittances include cash and non-cash items that flow through formal channels (such as via electronic wire) or through informal channels (such as money or goods carried across borders) (International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, 6th edition, Appendix 5, Remittances).
22. *Naturalization* – the granting of citizenship upon request to persons lawfully and habitually resident in the territory of the Republic of Moldova, under the conditions set forth in the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated 2 June 2000.
23. *Net migration* – difference between entries or arrivals of immigrants and exits or departures of emigrants during the same period of time. It is also called "migration balance" (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).

24. *Public custody* – a measure for restricting the freedom of movement (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
25. *Readmission* – the action of a State to accept the reentry of an individual (national, third-country national or stateless person).
26. *Readmission agreement* – international agreements laying down the mutual procedures for returning the illegally staying non-nationals to their country or origin or the country they have transited through.
27. *Refugee* – any third-country national who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his or her former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it (based on Article 1 of the UN 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as Directive 2004/83/EC).
28. *Repatriation* – the personal right of a refugee, prisoner of war, or a civil detainee to return to his or her country of nationality under specific conditions laid down in various international instruments (Geneva 1949 Convention and 1977 Protocols, the Regulations Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention 1907, human rights instruments and customary international law).
29. *Return* – the process of going back of a foreigner, through voluntary execution of the return decision or through forced execution of such a decision, to the country of origin, a transit country, in line with the readmission agreements, or to a third country to which the foreigner decided to return voluntarily and in which he or she will be accepted.
30. *Return decision* – an administrative act of the competent authority for foreigners, establishing the stay of the foreigner as being illegal and obliging the foreigner to leave the territory of the Republic of Moldova within the set deadlines (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
31. *Revocation* – decision taken by the competent authority for foreigners if it is established that the foreigner does not anymore meet the conditions for the right to stay in the country or if he or she does not respect the reason for which the respective right is provided, or if he or she infringes the customs regulations or the regulations related to the State border (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).

32. *Share of population under the absolute poverty line* – number of persons living in households with expenditures per adult equivalent (scale 1:0.7:0.5) under the poverty line, as related to the total size of the population.
33. *Statelessness* – this may result from different causes, including conflict of law, transfer of territory, laws regulating marriage, administrative practice, discrimination, missing registration of birth, de-nationalization (when a State cancels the nationality of an individual) and renunciation (when an individual renounces State protection).
34. *Stateless person* – person who is neither a citizen of the Republic of Moldova nor a citizen of another State (Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated 2 June 2000).
35. *Status of refugee* – a form of protection, recognized by the Republic of Moldova, for the foreigner or the stateless person who meets the conditions set forth in the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, signed in Geneva on 28 July 1951, as well as in the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees signed on 31 January 1967 (Law No. 270-XVI dated 18 December 2008).
36. *Stay permit/ID for the stateless person* – an identification document attesting the right to legally stay in the territory of the Republic of Moldova (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
37. *Taking under public custody* – a measure for restricting the freedom of movement undertaken by a court against a foreigner who could not be returned within the deadline set forth in the present law, as well as against a foreigner who has been declared undesirable or whose expulsion has been decided by the court (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
38. *Usual residence* – the place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, by default, the place of legal or registered residence (Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).

Annex 2: Statistical tables

I. Emigration of population

A.) Authorized emigration⁹⁰

Table 1: Annual number of authorized emigrations by area of residence prior to departure, sex, age and country of destination, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total emigrated	6,663	4,714	4,039	3,129	2,585	2,374
<i>Including from:</i>						
Urban areas	3,955	3,139	2,722	2,152	1,923	1,789
Rural areas	2,708	1,575	1,317	977	662	585
<i>Of the total emigrated</i>						
Men	3,138	2,193	1,813	1,425	1,201	1,119
Women	3,525	2,521	2,226	1,704	1,384	1,255
<i>Age</i>						
0–4	281	199	219	138	131	117
5–9	319	232	200	146	126	130
10–14	303	229	161	130	135	126
15–19	413	276	236	212	196	158
20–24	775	481	374	252	179	189
25–29	966	600	475	300	260	238
30–34	818	517	389	303	230	255
35–39	570	386	342	265	214	162
40–44	398	306	233	204	159	157
45–49	402	270	203	164	121	141
50–54	404	277	275	182	183	146
55–59	365	296	300	223	173	170
60–64	244	230	223	232	153	149
65–69	138	121	109	116	96	87
70–74	126	126	127	107	107	56
75–79	82	78	91	85	76	62
80–84	39	61	52	38	28	23
85 and older	20	29	30	32	18	8
<i>Country of destination</i>						
Ukraine	2,952	2,227	1,827	1,360	1,054	602

⁹⁰This includes the withdrawal of the residence registration and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good, known in the country also as permanent emigration.

Russian Federation	1,866	1,162	858	772	684	788
United States	899	523	538	245	160	285
Germany	264	220	179	218	253	223
Israel	278	232	204	198	199	220
Belarus	125	100	74	48	72	82
Czech Republic	77	57	43	56	48	6
Italy	23	27	0	0	4	10
Kazakhstan	31	33	27	29	17	28
Bulgaria	26	19	9	8	8	6
Other countries	122	114	280	195	86	124

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 2: Relative indicators of authorized emigration of Moldovan citizens, 2009–2014 (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.1.4. Growth rate of authorized emigrations of Moldovan citizens	95.4	70.7	85.7	77.5	82.6	90.1
2.1.5. Authorized emigration gender gap for Moldovan citizens (women/men)	111.4	115.0	122.8	119.6	115.2	112.2
2.1.6. Relative proportion of authorized emigrants from rural areas to urban	68.5	50.2	48.4	45.4	34.4	32.4

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 3: Annual number of authorized emigrations by education level and sex, 2012–2014 (persons)

	2012			2013			2014		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total emigrants	3,129	1,425	1,704	2,585	1,201	1,384	2,374	1,119	1,255
<i>Of whom with the level of:</i>									
University education	355	135	220	290	127	163	205	82	123
Incomplete higher education	190	79	111	174	76	98	121	45	76
Secondary professional education	409	173	236	352	139	213	253	80	173
Secondary education	983	443	540	628	293	335	529	232	297

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 4: Annual number of children taken abroad by their parents (authorized emigration), 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of children aged 0–18 years old taken abroad by their parents	1,206	869	728	567	549	493
Growth rate of the number of children aged 0–18 years old taken abroad by their parents (%)	76.6	72.1	83.8	77.9	96.8	89.8

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 5: Number of Moldovan citizens who live abroad by sex, 2009–2014

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.3.1. Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad (authorized emigration – stock)	Total	87,933	92,184	96,223	99,352	101,937	104,311
	Men	39,888	41,829	43,642	45,067	46,268	47,378
	Women	48,045	50,355	52,581	54,285	55,669	56,924
Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad according to border crossing data (persons who have left the country for one year and more) ^b	Total	272,479	284,304	307,479	330,167	358,882	271,611
	Men	128,443	135,690	145,021	154,282	167,902	126,728
	Women	144,036	148,614	162,458	175,885	190,980	144,883

Source: ^aMITC/SE SIRC "Registru"; ^bBPD from MIA.

Table 6: Number of Moldovan citizens abroad by duration of stay, sex and wide age groups (stock by the end of the year 2014)*

Duration		Total	Age group				
			0–14	15–29	30–44	45–59	60 and over
Total	Both sexes	761,970	68,118	230,879	266,172	154,690	42,111
	Men	353,806	34,741	116,452	127,556	61,350	13,707
	Women	408,164	33,377	114,427	138,616	93,340	28,404
<i>Of whom:</i>							
Until 3 months	Both sexes	212,182	13,901	66,484	66,554	50,406	14,837
	Men	103,027	7,072	34,958	35,111	21,298	4,588
	Women	109,155	6,829	31,526	31,443	29,108	10,249
From 3 months to 1 year	Both sexes	278,177	29,166	84,713	97,347	56,135	10,816
	Men	124,051	14,904	42,764	43,925	19,495	2,963
	Women	154,126	14,262	41,949	53,422	36,640	7,853
From 1 year to 3 years	Both sexes	198,712	20,091	59,769	73,595	34,736	10,521
	Men	92,886	10,222	29,244	35,161	14,412	3,847
	Women	105,826	9,869	30,525	38,434	20,324	6,674
From 3 years and more	Both sexes	72,899	4,960	19,913	28,676	13,413	5,937
	Men	33,842	2,543	9,486	13,359	6,145	2,309
	Women	39,057	2,417	10,427	15,317	7,268	3,628

Source: BPD from MIA.

Note: *The information is presented according to the data accumulated from the State border crossing points controlled by the official authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

B.) Temporary/circular emigration⁹¹

Table 7: Emigration of Moldovan citizens according to the international definition (persons staying abroad for a period of 12 months and more), by sex and age, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	272,479	284,304	307,479	330,167	358,882	271,611
Men	128,443	135,690	145,021	154,282	167,902	126,728
Women	144,036	148,614	162,458	175,885	190,980	144,883
Age – total	272,479	284,304	307,479	330,167	358,882	271,611
0–4	976	1,399	1,664	2,728	4,027	5,989
5–9	3,030	4,091	4,908	6,084	7,799	9,518
10–14	5,252	6,209	7,106	8,245	9,565	9,544
15–19	11,331	11,656	12,671	13,383	14,421	13,145
20–24	32,543	29,288	27,834	27,083	27,229	25,323
25–29	46,696	46,643	48,254	49,294	49,494	41,214
30–34	42,268	44,135	48,162	51,620	55,902	43,318
35–39	31,252	34,805	39,103	43,087	48,009	34,285
40–44	24,497	25,563	28,108	31,028	34,833	24,668
45–49	23,463	23,159	24,578	25,446	27,073	17,987
50–54	20,024	21,480	23,773	25,177	26,845	17,132
55–59	13,621	14,587	16,110	17,915	20,218	13,030
60–64	6,414	8,588	10,576	12,326	14,000	7,674
65–69	4,009	4,090	4,381	4,881	6,044	3,656
70–74	3,536	4,089	4,675	4,943	5,146	1,988
75–79	1,851	2,258	2,717	3,411	4,146	1,723
80–84	1,156	1,496	1,763	2,046	2,239	835
85 and older	560	768	1,096	1,470	1,892	582

Source: BPD from MIA.

⁹¹ This includes those who have left to work or to look for a job abroad, but with the intention to return back, known in the country as temporary emigration.

Table 8: Distribution of Moldovan citizens who left abroad to get settled permanently, by sex and county of destination (stock by the end of the year), 2009–2014 (persons)

Country of destination	Total					Men					Women							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	87,933	92,184	96,223	99,352	101,937	104,311	39,888	41,829	43,642	45,067	46,268	47,387	48,045	50,355	52,581	54,285	55,669	56,924
Russian Federation	30,236	31,038	31,896	32,668	33,352	34,140	13,810	14,119	14,498	14,833	15,157	15,539	16,426	16,919	17,398	17,835	18,195	18,601
Ukraine	22,730	24,601	26,428	27,788	28,842	29,444	9,857	10,753	11,573	12,191	12,691	12,992	12,873	13,848	14,855	15,597	16,151	16,452
United States	13,391	14,034	14,572	14,817	14,977	15,262	6,551	6,869	7,147	7,272	7,351	7,496	6,840	7,165	7,425	7,545	7,626	7,766
Germany	10,711	11,036	11,215	11,433	11,689	11,912	4,762	4,891	4,953	5,045	5,147	5,236	5,949	6,145	6,262	6,388	6,542	6,676
Israel	6,411	6,677	6,881	7,079	7,248	7,468	3,002	3,120	3,211	3,306	3,394	3,494	3,409	3,557	3,670	3,773	3,854	3,964
Belarus	2,008	2,101	2,175	2,223	2,295	2,377	944	986	1,021	1,045	1,074	1,107	1,064	1,115	1,154	1,178	1,221	1,270
Canada	576	582	588	594	598	603	253	257	260	263	265	267	323	325	328	331	333	336
Czech Republic	234	290	333	389	437	443	118	144	162	191	213	215	116	146	171	198	224	228
Italy	205	236	255	255	259	269	108	132	143	143	145	150	97	104	104	112	114	119
Other countries	1,431	1,589	1,880	2,106	2,240	2,393	504	560	674	778	831	891	927	1,029	1,214	1,328	1,409	1,512

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 9: Estimated number of Moldovan citizens staying abroad, according to the data from Moldovan diplomatic and consular missions in host countries, 2011–2014 (persons)*

Host country	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	505,139	755,983	819,542**	983,708
<i>Of whom staying in:</i>				
Russian Federation	211,000	459,700	560,000	550,000
Italy	130,948	147,519	149,087**	150,021
Spain	16,014	17,515	16,758	16,433
Israel	15,000	15,000	559**	11,000
Canada	13,490	13,861	15,092	12,830
Romania	11,058	13,254	11,699	11,699
Germany	11,872	11,872	11,665	11,665
Greece	11,502	11,717	8,825	18,825
Portugal	13,586	11,503	9,971	23,000
Czech Republic	7,605	6,764	6,061	5,415
Bulgaria	4,023	3,925	3,372	3,372
Austria	304	805	1,682	1,682
Switzerland	710	783	650	650
Estonia	–	502	502	128
Slovenia	–	305	105	299
Belgium	913	1480	1,299	1,299
Poland	–	–	876	876
Hungary	–	238	122	238
Ukraine	1,547	1,610	18,587	17,706
Belarus	–	2371	–	3,465
United Kingdom	16,000	20,000	–	20,000
Ireland	–	1,515	1,611**	15,000
Sweden	208	245	273	273
Norway	198	215	243	256
Other countries	39,161	13,000	503	107,576

Source: *MFAEI (data are estimates based on information provided by diplomatic and consular missions).

**EUROSTAT Database.

Table 10: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of persons working abroad with legal contracts	236	332	297	603	793	924
Growth rate of the number of persons working abroad with legal contracts (%)	84.0	140.7	89.5	203.0	131.5	116.5

Source: MLSPF/NEA.

Table 11: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts by country of employment and sex, 2012–2014

	2012	2013	2014
Total	603	793	924
<i>Of whom in:</i>			
Israel	348	559	518
United Arab Emirates	150	147	33
Thailand	32	22	7
Russian Federation	55	48	32
Poland	14	17	317
Other countries	4	0	17
<i>Of the total number:</i>			
Men	483	513	308
Women	120	280	616

Source: MLSPF/NEA.

Table 12: Number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad by country, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total studying abroad*	2,408	4,009	4,270	5,356	5,891	5,469
<i>Of whom in:</i>						
Romania	2,000	3,600	3,800	5,000	5,500	5,000
Ukraine	105	105	105	105	105	–
Russian Federation	160	110	110	97	105	328
Bulgaria	95	110	194	131	140	114
Turkey	30	40	40	–	–	–
China	3	10	6	6	9	10
Czech Republic	13	15	13	13	10	10
Sweden	–	9	–	–	–	–
Greece	2	10	–	–	–	–
Slovakia	–	–	2	4	8	7
Estonia	–	–	–	–	4	–
Latvia	–	–	–	–	10	–

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: *This excludes the Moldovan citizens who went abroad for studies on their own (i.e. they chose their fields of study and the universities, and they completed the requirements and the admission processes independent of the intervention of the Government of the Republic of Moldova).

Table 13: Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers and recognized as refugees abroad, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Persons						
2.3.7. Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad	739	633	460	441	878	1,449
2.3.8. Number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad	5,929	6,200	6,264	6,148	2,207	2,242
Growth rate compared with the previous year						
Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad (%)	-16.8	-14.3	-27.3	-4.1	99.1	65.0
Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad (%)	6.7	4.6	1.0	-1.9	-64.1	1.6

Source: UNHCR.

Note: *Estimated data: indicator 2.3.7 – 17 countries have 1–4 persons; indicator 2.3.8 – 18 countries have 1–4 persons.

Table 14: Temporary/circular labour migration by sex and country of destination, 2009–2014 (thousand persons)*

Country of destination	Total					Men					Women							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total left	294.9	311.0	316.9	328.3	332.5	341.9	185.8	198.0	204.4	218.6	216.9	219.0	109.1	113.0	112.5	109.7	115.6	122.8
<i>Of whom to:</i>																		
Russian Federation	177.2	191.9	204.8	223.4	223.6	232.8	133.8	147.2	158.0	175.0	170.7	173.9	43.4	44.7	46.8	48.4	52.8	58.9
Italy	54.8	58.6	58.4	54.9	50.7	49.6	17.5	18.5	17.2	15.6	12.2	11.5	37.4	40.1	41.2	39.3	38.6	38.1
Turkey	8.4	9	7.4	5.8	7.5	7.5	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.0	7.4	7.5	5.5	4.0	5.7	5.5
Israel	8.4	8.2	6.4	7.9	7.1	8.4	1	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.1	7.4	7.4	5.9	6.9	5.7	7.3
Ukraine	8.6	6.5	5.1	3.9	5.4	4.4	6.7	5.3	4.3	3.4	4.5	3.2	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.1
Portugal	6.4	5.1	4.4	3.2	4.1	2.0	4.8	3.8	3.5	2.4	3.0	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8
Greece	3	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.6	2.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.0	1.4
Romania	2.4	2.3	2.4	3.0	3.5	3.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.2
Other countries	25.6	26.9	25.6	24.1	28.8	31.4	18.4	18.4	16.6	16.4	20.0	22.8	7.2	8.5	9.0	7.7	8.9	8.6

Source: NBS (LFS).

Note: *Population aged 15 years or over, either already working or looking for a job abroad.

Table 15: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants by area of residence prior to departure and by age, 2009, 2013 and 2014 (thousand persons)

Age	2009			2013			2014		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Total	294.9	89.5	205.4	332.5	94.4	238.1	341.9	96.7	245.2
15–24	69.9	12.2	57.7	69.1	11.0	58.2	72.3	10.7	61.6
25–34	84.1	27.1	57.0	111.7	31.9	79.8	121.2	34.7	86.5
35–44	69.4	22.6	46.9	74.6	23.1	51.6	71.6	22.9	48.7
45–54	60.6	22.6	38.0	61.4	22.0	39.4	59.0	21.7	37.3
55–64	10.7	4.8	5.9	15.5	6.5	9.0	17.2	6.5	10.7
65 and over	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3

Source: NBS (LFS).

Table 16: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants by sex and age, 2009, 2013 and 2014 (thousand persons)

Age	2009			2013			2014		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	249.9	185.8	109.1	332.5	216.9	115.6	341.9	219.1	122.8
15–24	69.9	51.1	18.8	69.1	50.1	19.0	72.3	54.4	17.9
25–34	84.1	55.9	28.2	111.7	82.2	29.5	121.2	86.6	34.6
35–44	69.4	39.3	30.2	74.6	46.1	28.5	71.6	42.3	29.3
45–54	60.6	33.3	27.2	61.4	31.1	30.3	59.0	27.6	31.4
55–64	10.7	6.1	4.6	15.5	7.3	8.2	17.2	8.0	9.2
65 and over	0.2	0.2	–	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5

Source: NBS (LFS).

Table 17: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants by education level and sex, 2009, 2013 and 2014 (thousand persons)

Education level	2009			2013			2014		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	294.9	185.8	109.1	332.5	216.9	115.6	341.9	219.1	122.8
University	31.5	16.4	15.2	36.1	19.7	16.4	37.7	19.9	17.8
Secondary professional	39.3	19.8	19.5	39.1	19.9	19.2	40.8	20.5	20.3
Secondary vocational	83.6	59.0	24.7	88.9	66.1	22.7	90.9	67.0	23.9
Lyceum, secondary general	73.7	45.0	28.7	82.8	48.5	34.4	80.8	47.1	33.8
Gymnasium	65.0	44.5	20.5	83.6	61.1	22.5	90.3	63.6	26.7
Primary, no school	1.8	1.2	0.6	2.0	1.7	0.3	1.4	1.0	0.4

Source: NBS (LFS).

II. Immigration of population

Table 18: Repatriation and readmission, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.4.1. Annual number of repatriated persons	2,152	1,679	1,730	1,488	1,585	2,211
2.4.2. Growth rate of the number of repatriated persons (%)	6.4	-22.0	3.0	-14.0	6.5	39.5
2.4.3. Proportion of children among repatriated persons (%)	1.1	3.4	4.6	4.6	3.5	11.3
2.4.4. Number of Moldovan citizens readmitted based on the Readmission Agreements (persons)	88	110	126	54	88	69

Source: MIA/BMA, MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 19: Victims of trafficking in human beings, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2.5.1. Number of Moldovan citizens victims of trafficking in human beings, identified and assisted through the National Referral System (NRS)	131	132	109	189	131	80
2.5.3. Femininity ratio for victims of trafficking in human beings (%)	–	–	251.6	243.6	274.3	247.8
2.5.4. Number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings assisted through the NRS	308	328	651	1,214	1,403	854

Source: MLSPF.

Table 20: Resident population with foreign background, by the end of the year, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.2.1. Total number of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova (persons)	18,563	20,099	19,678	20,191	21,092	21,685
3.2.2. Growth rate of the number of foreigners (%)	109.5	108.3	104.0	102.6	104.5	102.8
3.2.3. Foreigners' share of the total population (%)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
3.2.5. Proportion of foreigners who are stateless (%)	11.5	10.3	10.1	9.2	9.2	8.92
3.2.6. Proportion of foreigners living in urban areas (%)	78.2	78.5	78.5	77.9	76.7	76.0
3.2.7. Annual number of naturalizations (persons)	14	14	18	17	9	24
3.2.10. Number of foreign-born persons (non-natives), stock	244,530	253,847	262,572	268,836	283,674	288,578
3.2.11. Growth rate of the number of foreign-born persons (non-natives) (%)	103.7	103.8	103.3	102.4	105.5	101.7
3.2.12. Foreign-born persons' share of the population (%)	6.3	6.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	7.4
3.2.13. Proportion of foreign-born persons living in urban areas (%)	73.8	72.9	74.5	72.6	69.2	68.3

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 21: Number of population with foreign background by age and sex (stock by the end of the year), 2012–2014 (persons)

Age	2012			2013			2014		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	20,191	10,593	9,598	21,092	11,236	9,856	21,685	9,981	11,704
0–4	24	15	9	33	21	12	34	19	15
5–9	29	21	8	34	20	14	34	22	12
10–14	44	25	19	35	17	18	36	17	19
15–19	1,300	785	515	576	372	204	642	422	220
20–24	2,436	1,407	1,029	2,318	1,522	796	2,346	1,571	775
25–29	2,440	1,132	1,308	1,933	988	945	1,860	948	912
30–34	2,384	1,188	1,196	2,237	1,081	1,156	2,220	1,123	1,097
35–39	2,257	1,189	1,068	2,470	1,223	1,247	2,453	1,255	1,198
40–44	1,902	1,050	852	2,530	1,335	1,195	2,550	1,318	1,232
45–49	1,930	1,088	842	1,803	1,042	761	1,894	1,103	791
50–54	1,718	911	807	1,917	1,072	845	1,953	1,114	839
55–59	1,331	650	681	1,667	890	777	1,859	1,010	849
60–64	963	525	438	1,352	668	684	1,429	716	713
65–69	563	280	283	772	399	373	921	483	438
70–74	384	181	203	546	266	280	520	250	270
75–79	270	90	180	435	187	248	473	193	280
80–84	146	42	104	220	77	143	224	79	145
85 and over	70	14	56	214	56	158	237	61	176

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 22: Resident population with foreign background by country of citizenship, 2009–2014 (persons)

Country of citizenship	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	18,563	20,099	19,678	20,191	21,092	21,685
<i>Including:</i>						
Ukraine	6,552	7,114	7,392	7,171	7,005	6,953
Russian Federation	4,430	5,001	5,032	4,736	4,815	4,812
Israel	637	957	1,096	1,527	1,694	1,925
Stateless (Art. 1, 1954 UN Convention)	1,350	1,360	1,312	1,262	1,526	1,524
Romania	557	691	714	865	1,072	1,275
Turkey	779	792	711	810	929	920
United States	143	164	175	326	387	442
Italy	233	250	273	328	339	429
Belarus	270	296	299	300	322	318

Persons with non-determined citizenship	403	357	352	331	327	317
Azerbaijan	196	201	216	223	239	252
Armenia	–	–	177	179	322	196
Kazakhstan	–	–	178	176	178	184
Syrian Arab Republic	214	177	167	199	208	181
Uzbekistan	–	–	74	93	121	141
Germany	106	121	107	123	137	136
Other countries	1,698	1,814	1,403	1,542	1,471	2,201

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 23: Number of naturalized persons by country of previous citizenship (stock by the end of the year), 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	630	644	662	671	680	704
Afghanistan	3	3	3	3	3	3
Stateless (Art. 1, 1954 UN Convention)	447	453	464	468	470	475
Armenia	1	2	3	4	6	6
Azerbaijan	3	3	3	3	3	3
Beneficiary of humanitarian protection	–	1	1	1	1	3
China	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ethiopia	2	2	2	2	2	2
Russian Federation	4	4	4	4	4	5
Kazakhstan	2	2	2	2	2	2
Palestinian Territories	–	1	1	1	1	1
Persons with non-determined citizenship	151	152	152	152	154	157
Refugees (Art. 1, 1951 Refugee Convention)	3	4	5	5	8	15
Syrian Arab Republic	–	2	5	5	5	6
Sudan	1	2	3	3	3	4
Turkmenistan	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ukraine	7	7	7	7	7	9
Viet Nam	1	1	2	2	2	2
Yemen	2	2	2	2	2	2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–	–	1	1	1
Iraq	–	–	–	1	1	1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	–	–	–	1	1	1
Georgia	–	–	–	1	1	1
Jordan	–	–	–	–	–	1
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	1

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 24: Number of persons born abroad, regardless of citizenship (stock at the end of the year), 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	244,530	253,847	262,572	268,836	283,674	288,578
Ukraine	104,342	105,949	107,159	105,601	105,825	104,601
Russian Federation	95,774	98,280	100,669	101,104	105,147	105,714
Kazakhstan	12,924	13,088	13,180	13,139	13,116	13,046
Belarus	4,896	4,969	5,017	4,926	4,931	4,833
Italy	2,554	4,427	6,549	10,590	15,110	17,938
Romania	2,876	3,338	3,652	4,050	5,175	5,527
Germany	2,114	2,205	2,289	2,357	2,572	2,645
Azerbaijan	1,936	1,992	2,004	1,998	2,018	2,000
Uzbekistan	1,939	1,971	1,994	1,991	1,973	1,962
Georgia	1,832	1,850	1,871	1,866	1,852	1,841
Turkey	–	–	1,793	2,294	3,111	3,528
Spain	–	–	1,196	1,628	2,152	2,469
Portugal	–	–	1,556	1,946	2,607	2,776
Greece	–	–	1,575	1,778	2,145	2,280
France	–	–	767	1,211	1,775	2,205
Other countries	13,343	15,778	11,301	12,357	1,4165	152,123

Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Table 25: Immigration of foreigners, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.1.1. Annual number of immigrations of foreigners (persons)	2,009	2,510	2,719	3,116	3,357	4,204
3.1.2. Growth rate of immigrations of foreigners (%)	73.2	124.9	108.3	114.6	107.7	125.2
3.1.3. Gender gap for immigrations of foreigners (%)	52.5	44.4	38.9	41.7	43.4	43.0
3.1.5. Annual number of immigrations of foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/scientific degrees	1,186	1,291	1,750	2,008	2,259	2,430
3.1.6. Growth rate of immigrated foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/science degrees (%)	66.8	108.9	135.6	114.8	112.5	107.6
3.1.7. Proportion of immigrant foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/science degrees (%)	59.0	51.4	64.4	64.7	67.3	57.8

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 26: Distribution of immigrants by level of education, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total arrived	2,009	2,510	2,719	3,116	3,357	4,204
<i>Of whom to study:</i>						
University	707	812	1,022	1,257	1,231	1,600
Secondary professional education	479	479	728	751	765	630
Secondary general education	740	956	697	874	858	1,476
Secondary incomplete	53	136	154	74	199	111
Primary, no school	30	48	17	22	13	14

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 27: Distribution of immigrants by country of citizenship, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total arrived	2,009	2,510	2,719	3,116	3,357	4,204
<i>Of whom citizens of:</i>						
Turkey	224	287	266	337	446	421
Ukraine	436	375	384	403	396	537
Russian Federation	230	294	240	305	335	517
Romania	186	309	360	445	602	853
United States	39	59	75	173	125	199
Israel	278	482	455	407	463	525
Bulgaria	28	43	21	25	18	37
Syrian Arab Republic	34	34	34	65	64	34
China	8	23	21	23	38	17
Jordan	7	3	8	6	8	26
Other countries	539	601	855	927	862	1,038

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 28: Distribution of immigrants by purpose of stay, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total arrived	2,009	2,510	2,719	3,116	3,357	4,204
<i>Including:</i>						
Work	591	777	865	971	1,067	1,360
Studies	516	753	720	617	708	929
Family reintegration	902	905	865	1,061	1,075	1,255
Other purpose	0	75	269	467	507	660

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 29: Temporary migration of the population with foreign background, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.4.1. Number of foreigners holding a permanent residence permit	14,781	15,546	13,342	12,240	11,775	11,121
3.4.2. Growth rate of the number of permanent residence permit holders (%)	112.3	105.2	85.8	91.7	96.2	94.5
3.4.3. Proportion of working-age foreigners with permanent residence permits (%)	77.0	79.2	62.1	55.5	55.0	50.3
3.4.4. Proportion of foreigners living in the country for at least five years (%)	–	–	17.9	19.8	16.3	18.9
3.4.5. Number of foreigners who are first-time temporary residence permit holders	2,008	2,232	1,971	2,490	2,530	3,065
3.4.6. Number of foreigners holding valid temporary residence permits	3,782	4,553	4,757	6,148	7,385	8,636
3.4.7. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for family reintegration purpose (%)	44.9	36.1	37.8	38.1	38.9	37.8
3.4.8. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for work or business purpose (%)	29.4	30.6	28.3	27.5	33.0	22.7
3.4.9. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for study or training purpose (%)	25.7	33.3	29.3	19.6	16.3	18.4
3.4.10. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for humanitarian and religious activities (%)	3.0	0.0	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.1
3.4.11. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for medical treatment purpose (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.4.12. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for other purposes (%)	0	0	0.3	5.4	7.5	17.0
3.4.13. Number of foreigners with local border traffic permits	0	0	10	10	16	32

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 30: Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Moldova by country of origin, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	1,300	1,372	1,632	2,028	2,138	2,465
<i>Of whom arriving from:</i>						
Belarus	13	15	11	10	5	3
Bulgaria	44	47	24	16	4	3
China	7	2	3	1	9	–
Jordan	5	6	7	8	7	9
Israel	525	764	1,068	1,384	1,551	1,726
Romania	48	36	80	155	108	158
Russian Federation	141	118	113	102	82	71
Syrian Arab Republic	62	23	10	14	16	24
Sudan	14	7	1	3	4	6
Turkey	146	76	57	60	71	129
Ukraine	235	202	157	165	164	160
Other countries	73	91	112	110	117	176

Source: NBS.

Table 31: Involuntary migration of the population with foreign background, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.7.1. Annual number of asylum applications (first request) (persons)	42	90	72	177	163	245
3.7.3. Femininity ratio among the asylum seekers (%)	68.0	32.4	28.6	29.2	28.2	40.4
3.7.4. Annual number of humanitarian protection beneficiaries, including the stateless people (persons)	12	25	20	45	83	63
3.7.5. Number of persons who were refused humanitarian protection	34	35	74	55	36	35
3.7.6. Number of asylum seekers with pending applications (units)	52	81	49	79	87	132
3.7.7. Number of persons granted stateless status	0	0	0	6	95	89
3.7.8. Number of stateless persons granted the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova (persons)	0	0	4	15	65	59
3.7.9. Growth rate of the number of asylum seekers with pending applications (%)	157.6	155.8	60.5	161.2	110.1	151.7
3.7.10. Number of refugees in the Republic of Moldova (persons)	80	70	56	72	78	124
3.7.11. Growth rate of the number of refugees (%)	95.2	87.5	80.0	128.6	108.3	159.0

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 32: Number of asylum seekers by country of origin, 2009–2014 (persons)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	42	90	72	177	163	245
<i>Of whom arrived from:</i>						
Afghanistan	10	9	1	17	14	10
Armenia	3	23	7	12	–	2
Cuba	–	–	–	–	3	–
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–	1	5	1	2
Iraq	6	4	3	1	5	5
Kyrgyzstan	7	2	1	–	10	5
Nigeria	–	–	1	3	3	–
Pakistan	4	–	1	4	4	1
Russian Federation	4	8	8	8	4	4
Syrian Arab Republic	1	2	13	73	85	61
Tajikistan	1	1	6	1	3	–
Uzbekistan	–	3	1	3	8	–
Ukraine	–	–	–	1	–	134
Other countries	6	38	29	50	23	21

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 33: State border crossing mobility, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.1.12. Number of departures of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (units)	4,965,142	4,916,233	5,124,750	5,176,251	5,343,475	5,153,516
1.1.14. Growth rate of the number of departures of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (%)	95.6	99.0	104.2	101.0	103.2	96.5
1.1.9. Number of arrivals of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (units)	5,062,475	4,825,359	5,011,442	5,056,087	5,215,177	5,076,005
Growth rate of the number of arrivals of Moldovan citizens at the State border (%)	99.5	95.3	103.9	100.9	103.2	97.3
1.1.10. Number of arrivals of foreigners registered at the State border (units)	1,478,383	1,885,841	2,194,315	2,273,840	2,363,090	2,247,837
1.1.11. Growth rate of the number of arrivals of foreigners registered at the State border (%)	86.1	127.6	116.4	103.6	103.9	95.1
1.1.13. Number of departures of foreigners registered at the State border (units)	1,675,474	1,898,272	2,207,326	2,275,847	2,371,292	2,266,451
Growth rate of the number of departures of foreigners registered at the State border (%)	96.9	113.3	116.3	103.1	104.2	95.6

Source: BPD.

Table 34: Annual number of visas granted to foreigners, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.1.8. Annual number of visas granted by the Republic of Moldova diplomatic and consular offices (units)	23,000	16,772	14,954	15,541	15,272	6,649
3.1.9. Growth rate of the number of visas granted (%)	99.7	72.9	89.2	103.9	98.3	43.5

Source: MFAEI.

Table 35: Illegal stay of foreigners in the territory of the country – main indicators, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.8.1. Number of irregular migrants (illegal migrants)	1,961	2,298	1,711	1,452*	2,917*	3,991*
3.8.2. Number of expelled foreigners	83	58	70	101	32	–
3.8.4. Number of foreigners with revoked right to stay in the Republic of Moldova	0	0	0	201	237	510
3.8.5. Number of foreigners with refused right to stay in the Republic of Moldova	–	–	49	66	39	88
3.8.6. Number of foreigners on whom was disposed the measure of return on the territory of the Republic of Moldova	0	0	54	380	238	474
3.8.7. Number of foreigners declared “undesirable” on the territory of the Republic of Moldova	0	0	6	2	8	67
3.8.8. Number of foreigners taken into public custody	71	80	103	88	81	104

Source: MIA/BMA.

Note: *Including the data of the BPD.

III. Impact of migration

Table 36: General demographic indicators, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.1.1. Total population (thousand persons)	3,563.6	3,560.4	3,559.5	3,559.5	3,557.6	3,555.2
1.1.2. Population growth rate (%)	-0.11	-0.09	-0.03	0.00	-0.05	-0.07
1.1.3. Birth rate (‰)	11.44	11.36	11.00	11.08	10.64	10.86
1.1.4. Death rate (‰)	11.82	12.25	11.02	11.11	10.70	11.11
1.1.5. Natural growth (‰)	-0.38	-0.89	-0.02	-0.03	-0.06	-0.25
1.1.6. Gross immigration rate (‰)	1.19	1.18	0.76	0.87	1.03	1.18
1.1.7. Gross emigration rate (‰)	1.87	1.32	1.11	0.88	0.72	0.67
1.1.8. Net migration rate (percentage points)	-0.68	-0.15	-0.35	-0.01	0.31	0.51

Marriage rate (‰)	7.5	7.4	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.2
Divorce rate (‰)	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
Ageing coefficient of population – total	14.0	14.4	14.8	15.3	15.7	16.2
<i>Of which, for:</i>						
Men	11.5	11.8	12.2	12.6	13.0	13.4
Women	16.4	16.8	17.3	17.8	18.3	18.8
Life expectancy at birth (years) – total	69.3	69.1	70.9	71.1	71.9	71.5
<i>Of which, for:</i>						
Men	65.3	65.0	66.8	67.2	68.1	67.5
Women	73.4	73.4	74.9	75.0	75.6	75.4

Source: NBS.

Table 37: Demographic composition of the population, 2009–2014 (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.2.1. Proportion of population aged less than 15 years	16.2	16.5	16.2	16.1	16.0	16.0
1.2.2. Proportion population aged 65 years and over	10.1	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.3
1.2.3. Demographic dependency ratio						
1.2.3.1. Demographic dependency ratio (national definition)	50.3	49.9	50.2	50.1	51.4	54.4
1.2.3.2. Demographic dependency ratio (international definition)	36.7	35.9	35.4	35.2	35.2	35.7
1.2.4. Seniority ratio	19.4	20.3	20.8	21.7	21.5	21.0
1.2.5. Proportion of males aged 65 years and over	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8	8.1
1.2.6. Proportion of females aged 65 years and over	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.1	12.4
1.2.7. Femininity ratio for those aged 65 years and over	166.7	167.1	166.9	166.5	166.5	165.5

Source: NBS.

Table 38: Number of stable population by sex and age (end-of-year counts), 2009 and 2014 (persons)

Age	2009			2014		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	3,563,695	1,713,487	1,850,208	3,555,159	1,710,244	1,844,915
0–4	190,597	98,075	95,522	192,374	98,928	93,446
5–9	185,434	95,510	89,924	190,197	98,168	92,029
10–14	219,465	112,127	107,338	185,300	95,476	89,824
15–19	296,521	150,928	145,593	219,234	112,110	107,124
20–24	358,005	181,847	176,158	296,226	150,859	145,367
25–29	315,855	160,613	155,242	355,502	18,017	174,685
30–34	270,624	135,754	134,870	311,568	158,799	152,769
35–39	238,750	117,562	121,188	266,180	132,992	133,188
40–44	226,562	109,695	116,867	234,130	114,345	119,785

45–49	267,820	127,113	140,707	220,952	105,598	115,354
50–54	264,730	123,198	141,532	257,600	119,886	137,714
55–59	228,954	103,845	125,109	249,249	112,719	136,530
60–64	139,577	61,953	77,624	208,967	91,063	117,904
65–69	114,976	47,481	67,495	121,535	51,148	70,387
70–74	102,431	39,018	63,413	93,949	36,427	57,522
75–79	73,385	26,606	46,779	74,986	26,095	48,891
80–84	45,415	14,685	30,729	45,096	14,909	30,187
85 and over	24,595	7,477	17,118	32,114	9,905	22,209
<i>Of the total population:</i>						
Persons below working age (0–15 years)	649,062	333,024	316,038	607,034	312,668	294,366
Persons of working age (16–56/61 years)	2,371,256	1,213,972	1,157,284	2,331,973	1,206,701	1,125,272
Persons over working age (57/62+ years)	538,729	166,491	376,886	616,152	190,875	425,277

Source: NBS.

Table 39: Comparison of urban and rural population, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.3.1. Size of urban population (thousand persons)	1,476.7	1,481.7	1,485.8	1,492.2	1,503.0	1,507.3
1.3.2. Urbanization rate (%)	41.4	41.6	41.7	41.9	42.2	42.4
1.3.3. Growth rate of urban population (%)	100.0	100.3	100.3	100.4	100.7	100.3
1.3.4. Proportion of persons aged under 15, in urban areas (%)	14.2	14.0	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.7
1.3.5. Proportion of persons aged 65 and over, in urban areas (%)	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.7
1.3.6. Proportion of persons aged under 15, in rural areas (%)	18.5	18.2	17.9	17.8	17.6	17.6
1.3.7. Proportion of persons aged 65 and over, in rural areas (%)	11.2	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.8
1.3.8. Dependency ratio in urban areas (international definition) (%)	29.4	29.3	29.3	29.5	30.0	30.7
1.3.9. Seniority ratio in urban areas (%)	18.0	18.6	18.8	19.3	19.1	18.5
1.3.10. Femininity ratio for population aged 65 and over, in urban areas (%)	166.8	165.7	164.0	162.5	161.3	160.0
1.3.11. Dependency ratio in rural areas (international definition) (%)	42.3	41.1	40.2	39.6	39.3	39.7
1.3.12. Seniority ratio in rural areas (%)	20.2	21.3	21.9	23.1	23.1	22.7
1.3.13. Femininity ratio for population aged 65 and over, in rural areas (%)	166.7	167.8	168.7	169.0	169.9	169.3

Source: NBS.

Table 40: Demographic composition of the population of foreign background, 2009–2014 (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.3.1. Proportion of foreigners in the total population aged under 15 years	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
3.3.2. Proportion of foreigners in the total population aged 65 years and over	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.40	0.58	0.61
3.3.3. Sex ratio for foreigners	100.1	101.8	102.5	110.4	114.0	117.3

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 41: Global economic indicators, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.6.1. GDP (thousand MDL)	60,429.8	71,849.2	82,349.0	87,847.0	100,510.5	111,757.4
1.6.2. Growth rate of GDP (%)	94.0	107.1	106.8	99.2	109.4	104.6
1.6.3. GDP per capita (MDL)	16,948	20,171	23,132	24,680	28,252	31,435
1.6.4. Growth rate of GDP per capita (%)	94.1	107.2	106.9	99.2	108.9	104.9
1.6.7. Human Development Index	0.638	0.644	0.649	0.660	0.633	0.693

Source: NBS.

Table 42: Impact of remittances on the welfare of households, 2009–2014 (%)

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.7.5. Proportion of households receiving remittances	Total	23.1	24.5	23.1	22.4	22.7	23.8
	Urban	20.7	20.6	20.4	20.0	19.2	20.6
	Rural	25.1	27.6	25.2	24.4	25.6	26.4
1.7.6. Proportion of remittances in the disposable income of the households depending on remittances	Total	55.2	54.3	52.9	56.9	58.0	57.1
	Urban	49.4	47.7	49.1	52.1	52.5	50.2
	Rural	59.8	58.7	55.7	60.4	61.8	61.9
1.7.7. Proportion of households that would have been under the poverty line if not receiving remittances	Total	11.6	12.9	30.9	27.6	23.6	25.3
	Urban	8.6	8.9	18.5	18.2	14.1	16.1
	Rural	13.8	15.7	40.8	35.3	31.5	32.8

Source: NBS.

Table 43: Distribution of migrants by average monthly amount sent back to the family, by age and sex (according to the LFM Study 2012) (%)

Sex/Average monthly amount sent to the family	Total	Age				
		15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64
Total	410.4	79.0	132.3	100.3	79.3	19.6
USD 0	99.0	31.3	34.8	18.6	11.7	2.6
Up to USD 500	146.8	23.3	49.4	37.3	31.5	5.2
USD 501–800	50.8	7.5	15.4	13.6	10.5	3.9
USD 801–1,000	20.7	3.9	5.9	6.2	3.6	1.1
USD 1,001 and over	11.0	1.3	2.1	2.9	4.0	0.7
Undeclared	82.1	11.8	24.6	21.7	17.9	6.0
Men	277.9	52.5	82.2	52.0	33.6	6.0
USD 0	70.8	22.2	29.3	12.6	5.9	0.8
Up to USD 500	94.9	19.0	35.0	23.3	15.8	1.8
USD 501–800	36.5	7.0	12.2	8.6	6.5	2.2
USD 801–1,000	15.9	3.3	4.7	5.1	2.3	0.4
USD 1,001 and over	8.2	1.0	1.0	2.4	3.1	0.7
Undeclared	51.6	8.9	15.4	13.8	10.1	3.4
Women	132.6	17.7	34.6	34.5	35.7	10.2
USD 0	28.2	9.2	5.5	6.0	5.8	1.8
Up to USD 500	51.9	4.3	14.4	14.0	15.7	3.4
USD 501–800	14.3	0.5	3.2	5.0	4.1	1.7
USD 801–1,000	4.9	0.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.7
USD 1,001 and over	2.8	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.0	–
Undeclared	30.5	2.9	9.2	7.9	7.9	2.6

Source: NBS.

Table 44: Dynamics of poverty indicators, 2009–2014 (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.6.5.1. Share of population under the absolute poverty line, total	26.3	21.9	17.5	16.6	12.7	11.4
1.6.6. Proportion of children under 18 years old living in households under the poverty line	28.2	24.2	19.8	18.9	15.0	13.0
1.6.5.2. Share of population under the relative poverty line	32.9	30.4	20.2	18.2	18.8	18.2

Source: NBS.

Table 45: Economically active population, 2009–2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Economically active population (thousand persons)	1,265	1,235	1,258	1,215	1,236	1,232
Growth rate of the economically active population (%)	97.1	97.6	101.7	96.6	101.7	99.7
Activity rate (%)	42.8	41.6	42.3	40.7	41.4	41.2

Source: NBS.

Table 46: Working-age population main indicators, 2011–2014 (%)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.4.1.1. Proportion of working-age population (national definition)	66.6	66.4	66.0	65.6
1.4.1.2. Proportion of working-age population (international definition)	73.9	74.0	74.0	73.7
1.4.2.1. Growth rate of working-age population (national definition)	99.8	99.7	99.5	100.7
1.4.2.2. Growth rate of working-age population (international definition)	100.4	100.2	100.0	100.5
1.4.3. Demographic labour pressure index	94.3	88.4	84.1	81.5
1.4.4. Age structure index for the working-age population	77.7	78.7	80.0	80.8
1.4.5. Femininity ratio for the population aged 15–39 years	97.7	97.4	97.2	97.0
1.4.6. Femininity ratio for the population aged 40–64 years	115.2	115.5	115.5	115.4

Source: NBS.

Table 47: Foreign population of working age, 2011–2014

	2011	2012	2013	2014
3.5.1. Number of working-age foreigners (15–64 years old)	18,174	18,661	18,803	19,206
3.5.2. Growth rate of working-age foreigners (15–64 years old) (%)	103.9	102.7	100.8	102.1
3.5.3. Proportion of working-age foreigners (%)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
3.5.4. Age structure index for working-age foreigners (ratio between 40–64 years old category and 15–39 years old category) (%)	71.4	72.5	97.2	101.7
3.5.5. Femininity ratio for foreigners aged 15–39 years (%)	97.9	89.7	83.8	79.0
3.5.6. Femininity ratio for foreigners aged 40–64 years (%)	91.5	85.7	85.1	84.1

Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Table 48: Labour force indicators, 2011–2014 (%)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.5.1.1. Labour force participation rate (national definition)	49.7	47.0	48.9	48.4
1.5.1.2. Labour force participation rate (international definition)	47.0	40.7	46.0	45.6
1.5.2.1. Employment rate of population aged 15 years and over (national definition)	39.4	38.4	39.3	39.7
1.5.2.2. Employment rate of population aged 15–64 years (international definition)	43.8	42.7	43.6	43.8
1.5.3. Unemployment rate	6.7	5.6	4.5	3.9
1.5.4. Youth unemployment rate	14.9	13.1	12.9	9.8
1.5.5. Female unemployment rate	5.6	4.3	3.6	3.1
1.5.6. Unemployment gender gap	-2.1	-2.5	-1.8	-1.5

Source: NBS.

Table 49: Number of children left behind in the Republic of Moldova by parents who went abroad to look for a job, 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2014*

	2009	2012	2013	2014
Total children	54,592	42,886	41,976	40,960
<i>Including with:</i>				
One parent abroad	34,145	32,258	31,482	30,720
Both parents abroad	20,447	10,628	10,494	10,240

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: *Data is from the school census in 2014.

Table 50: Number of children left behind in the Republic of Moldova, including by parents who went abroad to look for a job, 2009–2014*

	2009	2010	2011	2012**	2013**	2014**
Total left-behind children, including with one or both parents abroad	16,441	16,441	15,157	7,235	5,803	5,926

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family.

Notes: *Data provided by the territorial social assistance units.

**Only children left by parents who went abroad.

Table 51: Gross enrolment rate for compulsory general education, 2009–2014 (%)

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Primary education	Total	93.5	93.6	93.8	93.8	93.1	92.4
	Urban	102.4	104.0	105.0	107.4	107.2	109.3
	Rural	88.9	88.0	87.5	86.1	84.8	82.5
Gymnasium	Total	88.8	88.1	87.5	86.7	87.0	86.8
	Urban	95.8	95.6	96.0	96.2	97.7	98.7
	Rural	85.3	84.3	83.2	81.8	81.4	80.4

Source: NBS.

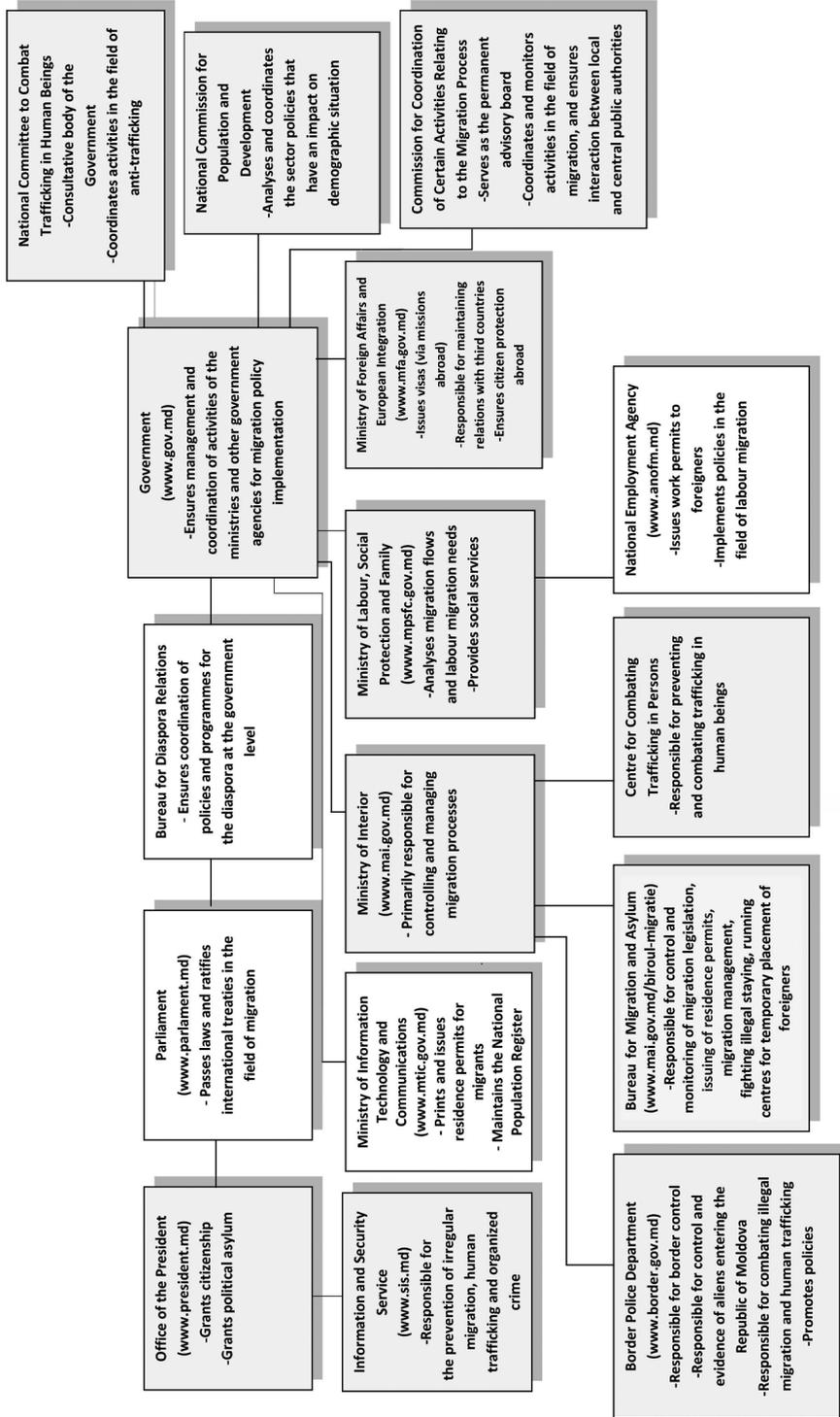
Table 52: Medical staff in the health-care system, 2009–2014*

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Doctors, total	10,761	10,619	10,657	10,570	10,560	10,424
Medical personnel with secondary education, total	23,141	23,003	22,885	22,788	22,608	21,995
Staffing rate – with doctors per 10,000 population (%)	30.3	29.8	29.9	29.7	29.7	29.3
Urban	65	63.7	63.8	63.0	62.4	61.3
Rural	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
Staffing rate – with medical personnel with secondary education per 10,000 population (%)	65.0	64.6	64.2	64.0	63.5	61.9
Urban	121.3	125.6	119.3	119.0	118.5	115.3
Rural	25.1	24.7	24.7	24.3	23.4	22.5

Source: Ministry of Health.

Note: *Data is from the Ministry of Health only. Data from other ministries is not included.

Annex 3: Institutional framework for policies on migration and asylum





MOBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

«Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership and harnessing its benefits for the residents of the Transnistria Region of the Republic of Moldova»

This publication has been produced within the project “**Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership and harnessing its benefits for the residents of the Transnistria Region of the Republic of Moldova**” funded by the European Union, and implemented by the International Organization for Migration, Mission to Moldova, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.



Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
Bureau for Migration and Asylum



Project funded by the European Union



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

The **European Union** is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Over a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

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