

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA | SECOND PROFILE 2021

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS



The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration
17 route des Morillons
1211 Geneva 19
P.O. Box 17
Switzerland
Tel.: +41.22.717 91 11
Fax: +41.22.798 61 50
Email: hq@iom.int
Internet: www.iom.int

Required citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2021. *Migration Governance Indicators – Republic of Moldova Second Profile 2021*. IOM, Geneva.

© IOM 2021



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode) (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).*

For further specifications please see the [Copyright and Terms of Use](#).

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks.

Permissions: Requests for commercial use or further rights and licensing should be submitted to publications@iom.int.

* <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA | SECOND PROFILE 2021

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OBJECTIVE // 6

INTRODUCTION // 7

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK // 9

KEY FINDINGS // 10

SUMMARY OF UPDATES SINCE 2018 // 12

KEY SOURCES // 28

ANNEXES // 33



OBJECTIVE

The MGI aims to support well-managed migration policy by helping countries assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures and identify priorities on the way forward.

MGI follow-up assessments identify the migration policy developments that have occurred since the countries' first MGI assessments, thus helping governments track their progress on national priorities as well as commitments taken at the regional and international levels.

The MGI can be used to spark a discussion with governments and other relevant stakeholders in the country on existing migration policy structures. It can help assess whether these structures, which have often been in place for several years, still address the main challenges and opportunities of today's reality.

INTRODUCTION

This is an era of unprecedented mobility, and the need to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility is becoming increasingly relevant.¹ The need to face the challenges and to maximize the opportunities that this mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and development. Migration is integrated in a number of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, such as ending modern slavery and addressing the vulnerability of migrant workers. However, the central reference to migration in the SDGs is target 10.7 on facilitating “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.²

The incorporation of target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define “planned and well-managed migration policies”. This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances.³ The Framework was welcomed by IOM Member States in the same year.

In an effort to operationalize the MiGOF, IOM worked with Economist Impact to develop the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a standard set of approximately 90 indicators to assist countries in assessing their migration policies and advance the conversation on what well-governed migration might look like in practice.

The MGI helps countries identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development and can offer insights on the policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance structures. However, the MGI recognizes that all countries have different realities, challenges and opportunities that relate to migration. Therefore, the MGI does not rank countries on the design or implementation of their migration policies. Finally, the MGI does not measure migration policy outcomes or institutional effectiveness. Instead, it takes stock of the migration-related policies in place and operates as a benchmarking framework that provides insights on policy measures that countries might want to consider as they progress towards good migration governance.

MGI follow-up assessments aim at showing the progress that countries have achieved in their migration governance policies since their first MGI assessment. Concretely, this report presents a summary of main changes and achievements that have taken place in the migration governance structures of the Republic of Moldova, since the first assessment in 2018,⁴ as well as the areas with potential for further development, as assessed by the MGI.⁵ The follow-up assessment exercise was coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and implemented with the direct contribution of the IOM Consultant.

¹ IOM Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, Seventeenth Session (S/17/4 of 29 September 2015), Article 2.

² IOM Council, 106th Session, Migration Governance Framework (C/106/40 of 4 November 2015), page 1, footnote 1. Available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The 2018 Migration Governance Snapshot for the Republic of Moldova is available at www.migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi/republic-moldova#0.

⁵ The MGI initiative is a policy-benchmarking programme led by IOM and implemented with the support of Economist Impact. Funding is provided by IOM Member States.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

MiGOF

The IOM MiGOF sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. It seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, orderly, and benefits migrants and society.

PRINCIPLES

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfilment of migrants' rights.
2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and "whole-of-government" approach.
3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

At the basis of

MGI

WHAT IT IS



A set of indicators that offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen their migration governance structures



A tool that identifies good practices and areas that could be further developed



A consultative process that advances dialogues on migration governance by clarifying what "well-governed migration" might look like in the context of SDG Target 10.7

Which supports the measurement of

WHAT IT IS NOT



Not a ranking of countries



Not assessing impacts of policies



Not prescriptive



TARGET 10.7

"Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and **well-managed migration policies**."



KEY

FINDINGS

The MGI is composed of around 90 indicators grouped under the 6 different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:



MIGRANTS'
RIGHTS
PAGE 15

Indicators in this domain look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. It also looks at family reunification, access to work, and access to residency and citizenship. The international conventions signed and ratified are also included.



WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 17

Indicators in this area assess countries' institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This area also looks at the existence of national migration strategies that are in line with development objectives and overseas development efforts, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management.



PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 19

This category focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other States and with relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.



WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 21

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies on the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Aspects of diaspora engagement in the country of origin and migrant remittances are also under this domain.



MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 24

This category looks at the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises. The questions look at the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals both during and after disasters, including if humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.



SAFE, ORDERLY
AND REGULAR
MIGRATION
PAGE 26

This area looks at countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in persons.

SUMMARY OF UPDATES SINCE 2018

Migrants' rights

The Republic of Moldova has made progress regarding migrants' access to basic social services and protection, including adjustments and improvements to the regulations on access to medical services for foreigners.

Three new bilateral agreements in the field of social security were signed with Belarus (2019), Greece (2021) and Italy (2021).

Procedural adjustments made in 2019 facilitate the recognition and equivalence of study periods and qualifications obtained abroad by approving regulations on the recognition and equivalence of studies, as well as on the validation of non-formal and informal competencies acquired abroad.

The Republic of Moldova's labour market for foreigners started liberalizing in 2018 according to the amendments in Law No. 200 (2010). With the approval of new Law No. 105 (2018), occupation priority areas and their selection criteria were determined. The procedure for granting and extending the right to temporary residence for work purposes was simplified.

Whole-of-government approach

The Interministerial Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development, established in 2017, remains functional, meeting every six months and whenever necessary.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection launched the inter-institutional reference mechanism for the (re)integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have returned from abroad, in 2018, and signed a memorandum of understanding on its implementation at the central and local levels that same year. The Ministry also established the Labour Market Observatory Directorate within the National Employment Agency in 2018. The unit generates and analyses statistical data, producing forecasts and identifying trends, including in the field of migration.

In 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics started applying a new methodology for estimating international migration with the implementation of international standards and recalculation of the population using the international definition of "usual residence".

Migration issues are addressed transversally in the development objectives of the draft Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy approved by the Government in 2020. The Strategy is currently pending adoption by the Parliament.

Partnerships

In 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the European Commission signed the Working Administrative Cooperation Arrangement for the Republic of Moldova's participation in the European Migration Network (EMN).⁶

The Republic of Moldova is an active participant in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration since its launch in 2018. In 2020, the Government undertook a voluntary national review on the Compact's implementation, including assessing its progress in managing migration processes.

⁶ More information is available at <http://bma.gov.md/ro/content/participarea-biroului-migrație-și-azil-în-rețeaua-europeană-de-migrație-emn>.

The Diaspora Relations Bureau regularly engages the Moldovan diaspora in public consultations regarding policy documents and encourages their participation in government programmes. Local authorities have advanced the application of an innovative partnership model, attracting the potential of migrants through hometown associations in the development of their hometown communities.

The Republic of Moldova has signed eight bilateral agreements on labour migration, two of which (with Bulgaria and Israel) are being implemented. The Republic of Moldova has also signed 16 bilateral agreements related to social security. Negotiations of bilateral agreements related to labour migration, social security, academic mobility, repatriation and readmission, and comparisons of irregular migration, smuggling, and human trafficking have intensified since 2018. Additionally, in 2018–2019, the Republic of Moldova implemented a framework partnership agreement on reintegration support for returning migrants, signed with the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII).

Well-being of migrants

The Republic of Moldova has made legislative changes to simplify the regulations on granting and extending the right to work and temporary residence for work purposes. In 2019, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research approved two documents: (a) Regulation on the recognition and equivalence of study documents and qualifications obtained abroad, and (b) Regulation on the validation of non-formal and informal education. Services for the validation of knowledge and skills acquired during non-formal and informal education are provided through the centres for validation of non-formal and informal education, established within vocational education institutions as entitled structural subdivisions.

The law on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance, adopted in 2018, ensures the safe and regulated labour migration of Moldovan citizens during the entire migration cycle, including the post-emigration process, in part by setting the rules for recruiting Moldovan citizens through private recruitment agencies.

Mobility dimension of crises

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs approved the mechanism for managing the forces and means to liquidate the consequences of emergency and exceptional situations in the country in 2020.

Also in 2020, the Government approved the Flood Risk Management Plans for the Danube–Prut and Black Sea river basin district and the Dniester river basin district; both plans address issues related to migration, and displaced persons are part of the general target population.

Safe, orderly and regular migration

In 2018, the Government approved the substitution of the visa subsystem with the Visa Management Information System for use by diplomatic missions and consular posts. This adjustment aligns national laws with European legislation.

The Government implemented a series of programmes for migrants' integration and reintegration in the last three years. Examples include the following: (a) Programme for Attracting Remittances into Economy (PARE 1 + 1),⁷ (b) Start for Youth programme,⁸ (c) Women in Business programme,⁹ (d) Efficient Business Management programme,¹⁰ and (e) Diaspora Succeeds at Home programme (DAR 1 + 3).¹¹

⁷ More information is available at <https://odimm.md/en/the-programme-for-attracting-remittances-into-economy>.

⁸ More information is available at <https://odimm.md/en/the-programme-start-for-youth-a-sustainable-business-at-home>.

⁹ More information is available at <https://odimm.md/en/pfa-women-in-business>.

¹⁰ More information is available at <https://odimm.md/ro/gea>.

¹¹ More information is available at <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/diaspora-acasa-reuseste-dar-13>.

The National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018–2023, approved in 2018, ensures the continuity of relevant policies to promote the rights of victims and alleged victims of human trafficking under the principles of respect for human rights and equal opportunities for women and men. The Government also implemented a series of institutional measures concerning human trafficking in 2019 and 2020. Charging the anti-trafficking unit of the Office of the Prosecutor General with analysis and monitoring of court trial results in cases of crimes related to trafficking offences and assimilated crimes, and the creation of specialized judges in the field of combating human trafficking and related crimes are among these measures. Moreover, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, in partnership with the National Agency for Social Assistance, developed a specialized service for men who were victims of human trafficking in 2020.¹²

¹² More information is available at www.antitrafic.gov.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=94&id=1357&t=/Presa/Stiri-si-Evenimente/Barbatii-victime-ale-traficului-de-fiinte-umane-vor-primi-asistenta-in-cadrul-unui-serviciu-specializat.



1

ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFILMENT OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Republic of Moldova has signed and ratified a series of international conventions already mentioned in the first MGI report from 2018.

Legislative changes related to migrants' rights since 2018 include adjustments and improvements to regulations on access to medical services for different categories of foreigners.¹³ The Government clarified the regulation concerning compulsory medical insurance for different categories of immigrants (employed under an individual employment contract, asylum seekers and other beneficiaries of humanitarian protection, international students, etc.), including the right and access to prehospital emergency medical care services and basic medicine kits.¹⁴ Foreign citizens and stateless persons holding temporary residence, employed in the country under an individual employment contract in line with the national law, and foreigners granted temporary residence for family reunification, studies, or humanitarian, voluntary or religious activities must pay fixed annual fees as they apply to citizens of the Republic of Moldova for individual health insurance contributions, unless international treaties indicate otherwise. Moreover, foreign nationals benefit from free prehospital emergency medical care, regardless of their health insurance status, in the amount established annually by the Single Compulsory Medical Insurance Programme,¹⁵ including prescribed medicines and medical devices compensated according to the actual regulatory acts.^{16,17}

Since becoming a part of the Bologna Process in 2015, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research has ensured the recognition and equivalence of study time and qualifications for studies in the Republic of Moldova. Furthermore, the Government made procedural adjustments in 2019 with a new regulation on the recognition and equivalence of study documents and qualifications obtained abroad.¹⁸

Citizens returning from abroad and foreigners registered as unemployed in the territorial subdivisions of the National Employment Agency (NEA) have the right to unemployment allowances if they meet the conditions of Article 43.4 of Law No. 105 (2018) on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance. This law also provides guides on vocational training for foreigners and access to unemployment training covered by the State budget for foreigners registered as unemployed with the NEA. The categories of foreigners who can benefit from such trainings are specified in Law No. 274 (2011) on the integration of foreigners. Furthermore, this law stipulates the categories of foreigners who can benefit from the public social insurance system and the national social assistance system: (a) foreigners with the right of temporary residence, (b) foreigners with the right of permanent residence, (c) foreigners whose stateless status has been recognized in the Republic of Moldova, and (d) beneficiaries of international protection or political asylum.¹⁹ Foreigners in these categories can access the public social insurance system and the national social assistance system under the same conditions as the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

According to legislative changes introduced by Law No. 105 (2018), which regulates foreigners' employment as well, foreigners with the right of permanent residence, foreigners whose stateless status has been recognized in the Republic of Moldova, and beneficiaries of international protection or political asylum are entitled to equal access to the labour market and integration services.²⁰ Foreigners in these categories

¹³ See Parliament Law No. 79 (2018).

¹⁴ See Article 84.3 of Government Decision No. 200 (2010), with amendments from 2020 with implementation from 1 January 2021.

¹⁵ See Point 4.2 of Government Decision No. 1387 (2007).

¹⁶ See Parliament Law No. 274 (2011).

¹⁷ See Article 30 of Parliament Law No. 270 (2008).

¹⁸ See MECC Order No. 1702 (2019).

¹⁹ See Parliament Law No. 274 (2011).

²⁰ See Article 2 of Parliament Law No. 274 (2011).

can also register as unemployed or as jobseekers. Foreigners registered as unemployed by the NEA can access employment support services, including intermediation for employment.²¹ Intermediation consists of mediation between the eventual employees and employers, by territorial subdivisions, to satisfy the demands of both parties and establish some labour relations. Such labour relations may include (a) providing information on job vacancies and the conditions for filling them by publishing, posting and organizing job fairs; (b) preselection of candidates according to the job requirements and relevance to the jobseeker's qualifications, skills, experience and interests; (c) granting further support to the unemployed in assisted employment; and (d) electronic intermediation to automatically match job applications and offers through information technologies.

Foreigners may perform work or independent activities, including making investments, under Law No. 200 (2010) on foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. The legislative changes made in 2019 define the criteria for the size of investments and job creation. Foreigners who make investments or create jobs are granted the right to residence, ranging from two to eight years, depending on the investment value or the number of job positions started.

To ensure the protection of migrants based on the commitments assumed by ratifying Article 12 of the revised European Social Charter, the Republic of Moldova signed bilateral agreements in the field of social security with 16 countries,²² including three new ones since the 2018 MGI assessment: Belarus (2019), Greece (2021) and Italy (2021).

1.2. Areas with potential for further development

The Republic of Moldova has not signed General Assembly Resolution No. 45/158 on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, dated 18 December 1990.

Signing agreements with destination countries of Moldovan labour migrants to address access to essential social services and protection is an area with potential for further development. Specific areas for further improvement include securing the portability of social rights of Moldovan labour migrants and guaranteeing their access to disability pensions and allowances in cases of labour accidents or occupational diseases.

The Republic of Moldova has signed bilateral agreements to guarantee the rights of citizens concerning pensions, with Azerbaijan (1997), the Russian Federation (1995), Ukraine (1995) and Uzbekistan (1995). These agreements are based on the *principle of territoriality*, under which pensions are established and paid by the State where the person resides, regardless of whether they have contributed to the public social security system of their home State. Reviewing and renewing agreements signed under territoriality principles with the transition to the *principle of proportionality*²³ for the payment of contributions is a potential area of development.

Moldovan citizens residing abroad enjoy full electoral rights to participate in presidential and parliamentary elections, as well as referendums. However, participation in elections abroad is difficult. Less than a quarter of Moldovan migrants abroad participated in the two recent elections (presidential in 2020²⁴ and parliamentary in 2021²⁵) due to the limited coverage of consular networks, implying long travel times to the polling stations. Implementing an electronic voting system is an area for further development, in order to enhance the democratic engagement of the diaspora in Moldovan political processes.

²¹ See Parliament Law No. 105 (2018).

²² These are Austria (2011), Belgium (2012), Belarus (2019), Bulgaria (2008), Czechia (2011), Estonia (2011), Germany (2017), Greece (2021), Hungary (2013), Italy (2021), Lithuania (2014), Luxembourg (2010), Poland (2013), Portugal (2009), Romania (2010) and Turkey (2017).

²³ The proportionality principle envisages that both the Republic of Moldova and the host country shall calculate and pay the pension only for the insurance periods completed by the beneficiary on their territory, and the pension shall be established according to the legislation of each State and shall be transferred to the person on the territory where he/she resides.

²⁴ The results of the 2020 presidential elections are available at <https://a.cec.md/ro/01-noiembrie-2020-7078.html>.

²⁵ A map of the results of the Republic of Moldova's 2021 parliamentary elections abroad is available at <https://a.cec.md/ro/harta-rezultatelor-pestre-hotarele-republicii-moldova-4297.html>.



2

FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Migration topics are addressed by several government institutions in the Republic of Moldova. They are as follows: emigration by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MLHSP); immigration by the Ministry of Internal Affairs/Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA); and reintegration of Moldovan nationals by the Diaspora Relations Bureau (*Biroului Relații cu Diaspora*, BRD). The MLHSP regulates the emigration of Moldovan citizens abroad by developing emigration policies and return migration actions for reintegration into the labour market. The National Employment Agency (NEA) is the institution responsible for supporting returning migrants' reintegration into the labour market.

A memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the inter-institutional reference mechanism for the (re)integration of Moldovan citizens who have returned from abroad was signed in 2018 at the local level between the MLHSP; the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research; the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure; the National Social Insurance House; the National Health Insurance Company; the NEA; and the Public Services Agency (PSA).

The BRD coordinates cooperation efforts with the diaspora following the Diaspora 2025 National Strategy and the Action Plan for its implementation, both approved in 2016. Coordination is performed under Government Decision No. 725 (2017) on the mechanism for coordinating the State policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development. The Interministerial Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development was also established under this decision. The Committee is chaired by the Secretary-General of the Government and has representatives from the main ministries and central administrative authorities.²⁶ The Committee is active and meets once every six months and whenever necessary. Since its inception, it has met seven times; the last meeting was held in April 2021, where a new project on a national programme for the reintegration of Moldovan returnees was presented.²⁷

Migration issues are addressed in the Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy approved in 2020.²⁸ Objective 1 priorities include (a) providing efficient social protection to returning migrants, such as transferability of benefits and recognition of knowledge and skills acquired through non-formal and informal education; and (b) effective reintegration of persons who have returned from abroad and use of the diaspora's potential in terms of skills and qualifications, among other migration-related priorities. Objective 2 of the Strategy seeks to improve working conditions and reduce informal employment. It also addresses migration issues, including (a) facilitating the absorption of professional skills, and (b) promoting the transfer of knowledge and skills of the diaspora and migrants through partnerships between local public authorities. To ensure the efficient implementation of Moldova 2030, and the realization of monitoring and evaluation processes, the Strategy indicates that all future policy documents should contain a migration impact analysis and subsequently mainstream migration dimensions in sectorial planning.

Law No. 200 on the foreigners in the Republic of Moldova (2010) is the primary law related to immigration. In 2018, Law No. 180 (2008) on labour migration was repealed by integrating all provisions related to labour immigration into Law No. 200, while those related to emigration for work were incorporated into Law No. 105 (2018).

²⁶ IOM has an observer role.

²⁷ More information is available at <https://brd.gov.md/ro/search/node/interministerial>.

²⁸ See Government Decision No. 377 (2020).

Following the Central Public Administration Reform of 2017, the Border Police Department was restructured in 2018 to create the General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP), and its personnel number increased.

Diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova (embassies and consulates) guarantee the rights of Moldovan citizens abroad. Additionally, migrants receive support from diaspora associations founded by diaspora members. The BRD keeps and updates the database on diaspora associations, with the last mapping done in 2020.²⁹

During the most recent Diaspora Congress in August 2021, the BRD launched the Diaspora–Migration–Development online communication platform.³⁰ This is to strengthen multilateral partnerships in areas of common interest (economy, society, culture, finance, volunteering and philanthropy) between qualified people and associations and diaspora communities, the Government, central and local public authorities, academia, the private sector, the business environment, hometown associations, local communities and civil society.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) publishes annual migration data on emigrants and immigrants disaggregated by sex and age groups. Since 2019, NBS has been collecting administrative data from GIBP related to the State border crossing points and the PSA. NBS uses this data to estimate international migration and the resident population using the international definition of “usual residence” for 2014–2018. These estimations have improved the National Statistical System’s data quality and accuracy in measuring international migration.

The BMA produces the Extended Migration Profile reports in cooperation with IOM. By 2020, three editions of the Statistical Compendium and two editions of the Statistical Yearbook on the immigration of foreigners, asylum seekers and stateless persons have been developed. The data presented in these publications are disaggregated by sex, age and areas of residence, among others.

The NEA collects and publishes data on labour migration, operating two databases with records of Moldovan citizens who have legally emigrated, returning Moldovan migrants, and foreigners who access NEA services. The managed databases and the published information include data classified by sex, and they are updated annually.

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

In 2021, the territorial directorates and subdivisions of the BMA, along with members of the Consultative Working Group, planned to develop the draft National Migration and Asylum Strategy for 2021–2030.³¹ Working group members include representatives of ministries and central public authorities, academia, civil society and international development partners. However, early parliamentary elections and government changes necessitated amendments to the development calendar.

Strengthening cooperation on data exchange between institutions managing migration databases is an area with potential for further development. Enhancing the collaboration of NBS with GIBP and the PSA – and increasing the use of administrative data sources (for example, data on border crossing and the resident population) for estimating the number of international migrants and the size of the usually resident population (IOM, 2021) – has potential for further development as well.

²⁹ The questionnaire for diaspora members in the context of development of the Mapping of Diaspora Associations study is available at <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/ chestionar-pentru-membrii-diasporei-contextul-elaborarii-studiului-cartografierea>.

³⁰ The platform’s name stands for “It’s Your Moldova” and is available at www.emoldovata.gov.md.

³¹ See BMA Order No. 11 (2021).

3

ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS
MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

The Republic of Moldova participates in several multilateral regional and international partnerships. It is a member of different international organizations and actively participates in different platforms and forums that implicitly address migration issues. Additionally, the country develops political, security, commercial and economic relations within Central and South-Eastern Europe, the Danube area, and the wider Black Sea region.

The Republic of Moldova has been implementing a mobility partnership with the European Union for over 10 years. In 2018, the meeting of the Local Platform for Cooperation of the Republic of Moldova–EU Mobility Partnership was held in Chişinău in an extended format. The experience of implementing this partnership has been shared at different international events related to migration and mobility, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2020.³² The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the European Commission signed the Working Administrative Cooperation Agreement for the Republic of Moldova's participation in the European Migration Network in 2020. The Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for its establishment and development. Furthermore, the Bureau is responsible for generalizing and providing migration and asylum information to support the European Union's policymaking.

Since its launch in 2018, the Republic of Moldova has been an active participant in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and in 2020, the Government conducted a voluntary national review to assess its progress in implementing migration processes.

From the previous MGI review, the Republic of Moldova has signed two new bilateral agreements on labour migration with Bulgaria (2018) and Germany (2021). Furthermore, the Republic of Moldova implemented a framework partnership agreement on reintegration support for returning migrants with the French Office for Immigration and Integration in 2018 and 2019. The Government initiated negotiations for cooperation agreements on labour migration with Belarus and Kazakhstan in 2018.

The Government recently signed agreements on education and academic mobility with Belarus, China, the Republic of Korea, Qatar and Turkey (all in 2018), Italy (2019), and Ukraine (2020).³³ It also signed an administrative agreement with Germany in 2018 on simplifying the readmission of Moldovans. Furthermore, the Republic of Moldova initiated a series of negotiations in this area with Lebanon and the Russian Federation in 2018, as well as Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2019. Negotiations with Kazakhstan in 2018 focused on regulating cooperation in the field of migration.

The Diaspora Relations Bureau regularly involves the Moldovan diaspora in public consultations concerning policy documents. It engages them through the following programmes: Diaspora Congress; Diaspora Days; Diaspora Engagement Hub; Diaspora Educational Centres; Diaspora, Origins, Returns (DOR) Programme; Diaspora Business Forum; Government Is Closer to You Programme; and DAR 1 + 3. The diaspora population was consulted and involved in the first working meeting on the new national programme for the reintegration of Moldovan citizens returning from abroad, held in November 2020.

³² The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova is available at <https://mfa.gov.md/en/node/1371>.

³³ A list of international treaties that the Republic of Moldova is a party to is available at <https://mfa.gov.md/en/content/international-treaties>.

Additionally, in February 2021 an online consultation on the development of the web communication platform named “It’s Your Moldova”³⁴ in the field of diaspora, migration and development took place.³⁵

At the local level, the Republic of Moldova developed an innovative partnership model to engage migrants in the development of their native localities, implemented with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project Migration and Local Development.³⁶ By 2018, 38 hometown associations have been created and consolidated as an institutional mechanism for involving Moldovan migrants or the diaspora in local development.³⁷ The model was extended to over 100 hometown associations with the indirect support of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) (UNDP, 2018).

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

Strengthening the management framework of the Republic of Moldova’s relationship with the diaspora and enhancing their involvement in the country’s development by harnessing their material resources and human capital is an area for further development (ibid.).

Expanding existing cooperation with diaspora members to capitalize on their expertise and valuable human capital is another area with potential for development.

Advancing negotiations for cooperation on human mobility issues (e.g. in relation to work or study) with the destination countries of Moldovan citizens can also be further explored.

³⁴ The platform is available at <https://emoldovata.gov.md/>.

³⁵ See: BRD, 2021a.

³⁶ For more details on this innovative model, see: United Nations Moldova, 2020.

³⁷ See: Government of the Republic of Moldova, Swiss Cooperation Office in the Republic of Moldova and UNDP, 2018a.



4

ADVANCES THE SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Amendments to Law No. 200 (2010) made in 2018 simplified the procedure for granting and extending the right to work and temporary residence for work purposes. Specifically, highly qualified foreigners and people involved in national investment projects may apply for a temporary work permit. Additionally, the procedure for granting temporary residence permits for work purposes for senior management positions and the classification of foreign investors were revised to include the investments made or the number of jobs created.

In January 2018, the Government approved the list of priority jobs developed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection.³⁸ This list serves as a mechanism for identifying jobs that are not currently taken by Moldovan citizens or those for which there is a local labour shortage. The Government also established the Labour Market Observatory with directorate status within the National Employment Agency in 2018, to generate and analyse statistical data, produce forecasts, and identify labour trends, including in the field of migration.^{39,40}

Migrant workers are employed after their qualifications are recognized, which is requested by economic operators or individuals and follows the criteria provided in the reference framework. These criteria were outlined in the National Qualifications Framework (NCF), with subsequent amendments made in 2018.⁴¹

In 2019, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (*Ministerul Educației, Culturii și Cercetării*, MECC) approved two documents: (a) Regulation on the recognition and equivalence of study documents and qualifications obtained abroad, and (b) Regulation on the validation of non-formal and informal education. The regulation on the recognition and equivalence of study documents and qualifications obtained abroad was approved by MECC Order No. 1702 (2019). In the case of foreign citizens and stateless persons, the recognition and equivalence procedure is performed under the provisions of the national regulatory acts related to the entry and stay of these citizens on the country's territory. The regulation on the validation of non-formal and informal education was approved by MECC Order No. 65 (2019), and it aligns with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the NCF. Moldovan citizens and the categories of foreigners specified in Article 2.1 of Law No. 274 (2011), on the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, may benefit from the skills validation process. MECC monitors the implementation of the system for validation of non-formal and informal education.

The centres for validation validate the knowledge and skills acquired during non-formal and informal education. These centres are established within vocational education institutions and were created by MECC Order No. 309 (2021) on the establishment of validation centres for non-formal and informal education. The validation centres are subject to evaluation and accreditation by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research.⁴² The identification, documentation, evaluation, and recognition of the knowledge and skills acquired during non-formal and informal education are performed according to the occupational standard, the EQF and the NCF.

³⁸ See Government Decision No. 115 (2018).

³⁹ See Government Decision No. 990 (2018).

⁴⁰ See: NEA, 2020a.

⁴¹ See Government Decision No. 1167 (2018).

⁴² See Government Decision No. 201 (2018).

The Republic of Moldova allows foreigners access to higher education under the same terms as Moldovan citizens. According to Educational Code No. 152 (2014),⁴³ foreigners studying in the country (except for those who benefit from scholarships granted by the State) pay tuition fees. In 2018, Government Decision No. 504 (2017) made relevant adjustments to the regulation on training of foreigners in educational institutions.⁴⁴ The National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research monitors the quality standards of higher education institutions and vocational schools that offer educational programmes for foreigners. The regulation also introduced a new provision for the right of foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in the Republic of Moldova to benefit from tuition-free technical and higher vocational education opportunities. However, the number of admitted foreign candidates, under the above conditions, depends on the approved national admission plan, the budgetary funding, and the institutional capacity of educational institutions to host foreign students. The training of foreigners is performed in Romanian or, upon the request of the candidates, in an international language, depending on the possibilities offered by the educational institutions and within the budgetary means provided for this purpose.⁴⁵

Important provisions regarding the right to work of international students and graduates were considered in 2019 based on Law No. 200 (2010) after the repealing of Law No. 180 (2008),⁴⁶ as since then international students have been allowed to work in the country after graduation if they comply with the general conditions for granting the right of temporary residence.⁴⁷ Additionally, foreigners with the right to temporary residence while studying in the country have been, since 2019, granted the right to work.

Law No. 105 (2018), on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance, promotes the ethical recruitment of migrant workers,⁴⁸ advocating the safe, orderly and regular labour migration of Moldovan citizens. It also establishes new rules for private recruitment agencies and provides terms under which these agencies can operate. The law further includes measures to protect citizens during the entire migration cycle by mandating the State Labour Inspectorate to monitor the recruitment practices of private recruiting agencies and apply penalties for non-compliance with ethical recruitment regulations.

This law also has provisions for the temporary employment of Moldovan citizens abroad. For example, it allows monitoring of individual employment contracts to ensure their alignment with national labour laws and international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party. To ensure proper protection of Moldovan citizens abroad, including the payment of social security contributions, individual employment contracts must be registered with the National Employment Agency. In addition, Law No. 105 guides the governance of private employment agency activities, including licensing and control of their recruitment and employment placement processes in the country and/or abroad.

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

Continuous monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the strategy to ensure equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova and its Action Plan, as well as the National Employment Strategy and its Action Plan, is an area with potential for further development.

Addressing the impact of migration on human capital in the Republic of Moldova through incentives to attract returning skilled migrants or graduates of foreign universities and retain young professionals in Moldovan communities are other areas with potential for continued development. There is also the reskilling of returning migrants, as well as negotiating and implementing skills partnerships between the Republic of Moldova and the countries of destination of Moldovan migrants, to support skills development

⁴³ See Article 150, on admission to study of foreigners and the rights and obligations of foreign pupils and students, of Education Code No. 152 (2014).

⁴⁴ See Government Decision No. 504 (2017).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ See Parliament Law No. 200 (2010).

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ See Parliament Law No. 105 (2018).

in the country. Encouraging the return and participation of qualified expatriated Moldovans with desired expertise in the public and private sector can be further improved too.

The inclusion of foreigners, including asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, in the development of the Republic of Moldova is another area with potential for further development. There is a need for services and integration programmes based on foreigners' socioeconomic and professional profile analyses, including programmes for recognizing informal skills, psychosocial and emotional counselling, and children integration services.

The development of saving schemes for transfers from abroad should be refined further as well. So far, remittances are primarily invested in long-term assets, such as housing.



5

EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSES THE
MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

According to administrative records, the National Bureau of Statistics produces data on emigration and immigration, with all movements recorded at entry points. The Directorate of Consular Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration is responsible for managing relations with Moldovan citizens living abroad, record-keeping, and providing consular assistance, including in extreme cases and emergencies. Moldovan citizens can register at the Moldovan embassies in destination countries by filling out a form.

Due to its large diaspora population, the Moldovan Government assists nationals living abroad in times of crisis – and in regular times, through the Diaspora Relations Bureau and consular assistance. The objective of the Diaspora 2025 National Strategy,⁴⁹ approved in 2016, is to protect and support diaspora members in crisis situations, ensure respect for workers' rights and access to social security in destination countries, and inform and support them throughout the migration cycle.

The country has a contingency plan to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis. In 2017, the Government approved a national mechanism for unitary and coherent management in the event of an increased influx of foreigners, as well as a contingency plan as its implementing tool.⁵⁰ The mechanism also established an inter-agency working group to monitor and manage possible large-scale population movements in times of crisis.

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducts evacuations, provides shelters, and undertakes other measures to protect the population and material goods, with its own forces or in cooperation with other agencies. In 2020, the General Inspectorate approved Order No. 177 to manage the consequences of emergencies and exceptional situations. This order includes (a) the national plan for the training of forces and means to liquidate the consequences of emergency and exceptional situations, (b) a map of travel routes of the intervention subdivisions when the consequences of emergency and exceptional situations are well managed, (c) the procedure for organizing and conducting interventions to emergencies, and (d) the chain of command in the organization and management of interventions to liquidate the consequences of emergencies and exceptional situations.

The Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy (published in 2018, adopted in 2020) includes Objective 10 – “ensuring the fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment” – and also targets specific vulnerable groups of the population, including migrants.⁵¹ The Environmental Strategy for 2014–2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation, both approved in 2014, provide measures to address environmental and ecological problems and natural disasters.⁵² The Republic of Moldova has approved flood risk management plans for the Danube–Prut and Black Sea river basin district and the Dniester river basin district, as these are the main areas at risk of flooding. Issues related to migrants and displaced persons are not specified separately in these plans, but these groups are part of the general target population.⁵³

⁴⁹ See Government Decision No. 200 (2016).

⁵⁰ See Government Decision No. 1146 (2017).

⁵¹ See Government Decision No. 377 (2020).

⁵² See Government Decision No. 301 (2014).

⁵³ See Government Decision No. 562 (2020).

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is a need to improve government actors' understanding of the nexus between migration, the environment and climate change in the country and to assess the impact of climate change in the Republic of Moldova.

Integrating mobility dimensions caused by environmental and climate issues in the draft National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy is another area with potential for further development.

The Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service is responsible for informing the population of predicted or realized exceptional situations⁵⁴ and their consequences, as well as providing protection against fire, chemicals and radiation, medical-biological threats, natural disasters or other high-risk situations, as per Law No. 93 (2007).⁵⁵ Its automated centralized notification system, in place since 1980, is outdated according to the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IPN, 2019).

⁵⁴ More information on the classification of exceptional situations is available at www.dse.md/ro/node/25.

⁵⁵ See Parliament Law No. 93 (2007).



6

ENSURES THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Law No. 200 (2010) on foreigners stipulates that paper-based visas are issued to foreigners by diplomatic missions and consular posts, while the General Directorate of Consular Affairs issues electronic visas. In 2018, the Government approved the substitution of the visa subsystem with the Visa Management Information System used by diplomatic missions and consular posts. The Visa Regulation was amended to align the national legislation with European Union standards. The terms of stay of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova were amended to grant valid entry visas for 90 days in any period of 180 days. If a visa applicant can prove and is known to be a person of integrity, he/she can obtain a visa without submitting an invitation letter issued by the competent Moldovan authority for foreigners. Additionally, applicants for transit visas are no longer required to provide evidence of accommodation, as most of them are long-distance truckers who sleep in the car they drive. Access and authentication in the Visa Management Information System are performed through the MPass government service.⁵⁶

In 2019 and 2020, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs updated its information exchange agreements with the General Inspectorate of Border Police, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and the Security and Intelligence Service. These updates ensured additional mechanisms for the monitoring and verification of eligibility of foreigners legally residing in the Republic of Moldova, or those who have not complied with the requirements of migration laws – or possible falsifications in the information about the status of foreigners entering or leaving the country. To implement measures for detecting, identifying and combating the irregular stay of foreigners, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum has been using facial recognition technology, along with data from the State Population Register, which has been functional since 2017.

Several projects to develop integrated tools for information management are still ongoing, including the Integrated Information System of the Border Police, the Automated Information System Workforce Migration Records and the Labour Market Information System under the National Employment Agency, the Education Management Information System, the Integrated Automated Information System “Migration and Asylum” (SIAMA), and the Integrated Information System on Population and Migration. SIAMA is not technically functional as of September 2021. The concept of “register of foreigners” is expected to be the core function of SIAMA, and it will allow government agencies to access data on migration and asylum from a single source at the national level (IOM, 2021).

Diversifying programmes to support innovation and business initiatives of the diaspora and returning migrants is a priority goal of the Diaspora 2025 National Strategy, approved in 2016.⁵⁷ The following programmes have been implemented: the Programme for Attracting Remittances into Economy (PARE 1 + 1) (2010–2021), the Start for Youth Programme – A Sustainable Business at Home (2018–2021), the Women in Business programme for women’s empowerment (2016–2022), and the continuous Efficient Business Management training programme (since 2011).⁵⁸ A programme for the reintegration of Moldovan citizens returning from France was implemented in 2018–2019, and the Diaspora Succeeds at Home (DAR 1 + 3) government programme (2019–2025) is still ongoing.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ See Government Decision No. 137 (2018).

⁵⁷ See Government Decision No. 200 (2016).

⁵⁸ See: BRD, 2020b.

⁵⁹ See Government Decision No. 801 (2018).

The National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2018–2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation for 2018–2020, approved in 2018, ensure the continuity of relevant State policies to promote the rights of victims and alleged victims of human trafficking under the principles of respect for human rights and equal opportunities for women and men. At the national level, the Directorate for Coordination on Human Rights and Social Dialogue within the State Chancellery of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which also provides the secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, is the coordinating structure for preventing and combating human trafficking.

The list of crimes related to human trafficking was supplemented following the 2017 Central Public Administration Reform, including adjustments made to the composition and functioning regulation of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Moreover, several relevant institutional changes have occurred. Specifically, (a) in 2019, the anti-trafficking unit of the Office of the Prosecutor General was authorized with analysis tasks, as well as monitoring court trial results of criminal cases related to trafficking offences and assimilated crimes;⁶⁰ (b) 12 specialized judges were assigned within the Chişinău court, designated to try cases involving human trafficking and related crimes;⁶¹ (c) specialized judges were appointed for combating human trafficking and related crimes, with a five-year mandate in all law courts;⁶² and (d) at least two panels of judges were posted within the courts of appeal, specialized in combating human trafficking and related crimes. In 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and the National Agency for Social Assistance, in partnership with IOM Republic of Moldova, developed a specialized service for men who are victims of human trafficking.⁶³

The Republic of Moldova has signed cooperation agreements related to combating organized crime, smuggling, illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism, and other serious offences, as well as international and regional conventions and protocols in these areas. The most recent are the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (ratified in 2017, in force from 2018) and the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (published in 2010, signed in 2018).⁶⁴

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

Studying the experiences of other countries in border management is an area for further development, including the application of advanced practices adaptable to the Republic of Moldova, standard operating procedures and specific interoperability protocols for the institutions involved.

Another area that needs to be further explored is government actors' participation in a joint risk analysis exercise, together with law enforcement authorities with transversal responsibilities in combating cross-border crime, irregular migration, human trafficking and other related offences.

Facilitating dialogue within government institutions and between governments of countries affected by human trafficking, between national and local authorities, between government and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, has potential for continued development as well (MIA, 2020).

There is also a need for more active cooperation with civil society from the country and abroad in the field of migration and the development of reintegration services for returning migrants. According to the Action Plan for 2021 of the Diaspora Relations Bureau, the programme for the reintegration of citizens who have returned from abroad is still in development, and it is to be approved in 2022.

⁶⁰ This refers to Order of the General Prosecutor No. 13/15 (2019).

⁶¹ The National Report on the implementation of the 2019 policy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is available at www.antitrafic.gov.md/public/files/National_Report_2019.pdf.

⁶² See the Decision of the Plenum of the Superior Council of Magistrates (SCM) No. 34/3 (2020), based on the demarche of the General Prosecutor.

⁶³ The National Report on the implementation of the 2020 policy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is available at www.antitrafic.gov.md/public/files/Raport_TFU_2020_ENG.pdf.

⁶⁴ See: MFAEI, n.d.



KEY SOURCES

Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA)

- 2019 Anuar statistic: Imigrarea străinilor, azilul și apatridia în Republica Moldova în anul 2019. Available at http://bma.gov.md/sites/default/files/media/anuar_stat_isaa_in_rm_in_anul_2019.pdf.
- 2020a Analytical reports. Available at <http://bma.gov.md/ro/documente/raport-analitic>.
- 2020b Anuar statistic: Imigrarea străinilor, azilul și apatridia în Republica Moldova în anul 2020. Available at <http://bma.gov.md/ro/content/bma-anuar-statistic-imigrarea-str%C4%83inilor-azilul-%C8%99i-apatridia-%C3%AEn-rm-%C3%AEn-anul-2020>.
- 2021 Order No. 11 on the approval of the Annual activity plan of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum. Available at http://bma.gov.md/sites/default/files/media/plan_anual_de_actiuni_al_bma_2021_6_final.pdf.

Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD)

- 2020a Activity report. Available at https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raportare_final_pa_brd_2020.pdf.
- 2020b National Report on the implementation of the M&E framework in the field of Diaspora Migration and Development policies and the integrated approach in this context. Available at https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport_m_e_dmd_29.07.2020_def.pdf.
- 2021a Consultations with diaspora. 1 March. Available at <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/consultari-cu-diaspora>.
- 2021b The Action Plan of the Diaspora Relations Bureau for 2021. Available at https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/plan_de_actiuni_brd_2021.pdf.

Government of the Republic of Moldova

- 2007 Decision No. 1387 on the approval of the Single Compulsory Medical Insurance Programme. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122818&lang=ro.
- 2011a Decision No. 1009 on the Action Plan for 2011–2015 on implementing the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020). Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=20548&lang=ro.
- 2011b Decision No. 493 regarding the approval of the Regulation of the Temporary Placement Centre for Foreigners. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=120569&lang=ro.
- 2011c Decision No. 655 on the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020). Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=56020&lang=ro.
- 2014 Decision No. 301 regarding the approval of the Environmental Strategy for the years 2014–2023 and of the Action Plan for its implementation. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=48131&lang=ro.
- 2016a Decision No. 1473 on the approval of the National Employment Strategy for 2017–2021. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98639&lang=ro.
- 2016b Decision No. 200 on the approval of the National Strategy “Diaspora 2025” and the Action Plan for 2016–2018 on its implementation. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=91207&lang=ro.
- 2017a Decision No. 1016 on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Moldova. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111863&lang=ro#.
- 2017b Decision No. 1146 on the approval of the National Mechanism for unitary and coherent management of the situation in the event of an increased influx of foreigners. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102495&lang=ro.
- 2017c Decision No. 504 on the approval of the Regulation on the study of foreigners in educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova and the abrogation of some decisions of the Government. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=99963&lang=ro.
- 2017d Decision No. 725 on the Mechanism for coordinating the State policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101866&lang=ro.
- 2018a Decision No. 115 on the approval of the List of Priority Occupations. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102110&lang=ro.
- 2018b Decision No. 461 on the approval of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2018–2023 and the Action Plan for the years 2018–2020 regarding its implementation. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101736&lang=ro.
- 2018c Decision No. 801 regarding the approval and implementation of the Diaspora Home Programme Succeeds “DAR 1 + 3”. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110057&lang=ro.
- 2018d Decision No. 990 on the organization and functioning of the National Agency for Employment. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109401&lang=ro.

- 2018e Decision No. 1101 on the approval of the National Strategy for Integrated State Border Management for the period 2018–2023 and of the Action Plan for the years 2018–2020 regarding its implementation. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109892&lang=ro.
- 2018f Decision No. 1167 on the approval of amendments to Annex No. 3 to the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Moldova, approved by Government Decision No. 1016/2017. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109968&lang=ro.
- 2018g Decision No. 1087 for the amendment of Government Decision No. 972/2010 on the programme for attracting remittances in the economy “PARE 1 + 1” for the years 2010–2018. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109292&lang=ro.
- 2018h Decision No. 201 on the organization and functioning of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102159&lang=ro.
- 2018i Decision No. 137 for amending and supplementing the Regulation on issuing visas. Available at lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?id=374189&lang=1.
- 2019 Decision No. 478 for the amendment of the Government Decision No. 1064/2016 on the approval of the pilot programme “Women in Business”. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118385&lang=ro.
- 2020a Decision No. 377 on the approval of the draft law for the approval of the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121920&lang=ro.
- 2020b *National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”*. Available at https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/strategia_moldova_2030_redactata_parl.pdf.
- 2020c Decision No. 562 on the approval of Flood Risk Management Plans. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122775&lang=ro.
- 2020d Report on the implementation of the Government Action Plan for the years 2020–2023 as of 31 December 2020. Not available online.
- 2021 Decision No. 84 amending Annex 1 to Government Decision No. 973/2018 regarding the approval of the programme “Start for Youth: a sustainable business at home”. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126413&lang=ro.
- Government of the Republic of Moldova, Swiss Cooperation Office in the Republic of Moldova and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 2018a UNDP Migration and Local Development Project: August 2014–December 2018. Final report. Available at www.md.undp.org/content/dam/moldova/docs/Final%20Report_MiDL_Board.FINAL.pdf.
- 2018b Analytical note: Labour migration and impact on the labour market in the Republic of Moldova. Available at https://anofm.md/files/elfinder/Nota%20analitica_final_2%20%281%29.pdf.
- Government of the Republic of Moldova, Swiss Cooperation Office in the Republic of Moldova, UNDP and International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- 2020 *Migration for Work: The Profile and Current Challenges of Moldovan Migrant Workers in the Main Destination Countries*. Available at www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/library/inclusive_growth/tendin_e-actuale-ale-migraiei-forei-de-munc--evidene-empirice-i-.html.
- IOM
- 2021 Migration Data Survey Report for Moldova. Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC). Available at https://moldova.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl266/files/documents/MOLDOVA%20GMDAC%20Report%202021.04.22_rev-IOM_cleaned.pdf.
- IPN agenția de presă
- 2019 The population alert system is outdated and needs serious modernization. 28 February. Available at www.ipn.md/ro/sistemul-de-alerta-a-populatiei-este-depasit-si-necesita-modernizare-serioasa-7967_1047341.html.
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECC)
- 2019a Order No. 1702 on approving the Regulation on the recognition and equivalence of study documents and qualifications obtained abroad. Available at https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/ordin_1702_de_aprobare_a_regulamentului_de_recunoastere.pdf.

- 2019b Order No. 65 regarding the approval of the Regulation on the validation of non-formal and informal education. Available at https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/regulament_privind_educatia_nonformala.pdf.
- 2021 Order No. 309 on the establishment of validation centres for non-formal and informal education. Available at https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/cu_privirea_la_instituirea_centrelor_de_validare_0.pdf.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI)
- n.d. List of bilateral treaties concluded by the Republic of Moldova. Available at https://mfa.gov.md/sites/default/files/lista_tratatelor_bilaterale_incheiate_de_republica_moldova_1.pdf.
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)
- 2020a Voluntary National Review Report on the status of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration implementation by the Republic of Moldova. Available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/republic_of_moldova.pdf.
- 2020b GIES Order No. 177 regarding the adoption of the Mechanism for the management of forces and means to liquidate the consequences of emergency and exceptional situations. General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. Available at <http://dse.md/sites/default/files/pdf/acte-normative/Ordin%20IGSU%20nr.177%20din%2026.11.2020.pdf>.
- National Employment Agency (NEA)
- 2020a Labour market forecast for 2020 from the employers' perspective. Labour Market Observatory. Available at <https://anofm.md/ro/node/82>.
- 2020b Annual activity report. Available at www.anofm.md/view_document?nid=19608.
- 2021a Statistical report regarding employment measures and social protection of unemployed persons seeking for a job. Available at www.anofm.md/view_document?nid=19618.
- 2021b Labour market forecast for 2021 from the employers' perspective. Labour Market Observatory. Available at https://anofm.md/view_document?nid=19597.
- Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM)
- 2020 Annual Report of the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development for 2020. Available at https://odimm.md/images/2020/Raport_de_activitate_ODIMM_2020.pdf.
- 2021 ODIMM financially supports migrants to set up their own businesses in the Republic of Moldova. 24 June. Available at <https://odimm.md/en/press/press-releases/5070-odimm-financially-supports-migrants-to-set-up-their-own-businesses-in-the-republic-of-moldova>.
- Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- 1997 Electoral Code COD No. 1381. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125214&lang=ro#.
- 1998a Law No. 1585 on compulsory medical insurance. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121296&lang=ro#.
- 1998b Law No. 156 on the public pension system. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125810&lang=ro.
- 1999 Law No. 489 on the public system of social insurance. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121297&lang=ro.
- 2000 Law No. 1024 on Moldovan citizenship. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122079&lang=ro.
- 2004a Law No. 81 on investments in entrepreneurial activity. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122080&lang=ro.
- 2004b Law No. 212 on the regime of the state of emergency, siege and war. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124336&lang=ro.
- 2005 Law No. 241 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=107319&lang=ro.
- 2007 Law No. 93 on the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=120660&lang=ro.
- 2008a Law No. 270 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123117&lang=ro.
- 2008b Law No. 158 on the public function and status of the civil servant. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=120077&lang=ro.

- 2008c Law No. 180 on labour migration (repealed). Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112697&lang=ro.
- 2010 Law No. 200 regarding foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123027&lang=ro#.
- 2011 Law No. 274 on the integration of foreigners. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124776&lang=ro#.
- 2014 Education Code No. 152. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123537&lang=ro.
- 2016 Law No. 179 on small and medium-sized enterprises. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105839&lang=ro.
- 2018a Law No. 105 on the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124787&lang=ro.
- 2018b Law No. 79 on the amendment and completion of some legislative acts. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105456&lang=ro.
- 2020 Law No. 255 on the State social insurance budget. Available at www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125811&lang=ro.
- UNDP
- 2018 Migration and Local Development (Stage 2). Available at www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/projects/MIDL_Project_2.html.
- United Nations Moldova
- 2020 28 communities create hometown associations which will involve the diaspora in local development. 3 July. Available at <https://moldova.un.org/en/51854-28-communities-create-hometown-associations-which-will-involve-diaspora-local-development>.



ANNEXES

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework⁶⁵

In an attempt to define the concept of “well-managed migration policies”, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. For the purposes of the Migration Governance Framework, IOM defines governance as “the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas”.

The Framework sets out the essential elements of “good migration governance” – 3 principles and 3 objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies.⁶⁶ IOM’s view is that a migration system promotes migration and human mobility that is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society:

When it:

- (i) Adheres to international standards and fulfils migrants’ rights;
- (ii) Formulates policy using evidence and a “whole-of-government” approach;
- (iii) Engages with partners to address migration and related issues.

As it seeks to:

- (i) Advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society;
- (ii) Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises;
- (iii) Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The MiGOF does NOT create new standards or norms. In drafting the Framework, IOM relied on its expertise and analytical work, as well as on existing commitments, non-binding declarations and statements. It does NOT address global migration governance that is the international architecture for dealing with issues related to migration and human mobility. Instead, the focus is on the governance and management of migration from the point of view of the State as the primary actor. It does NOT propose one model for all States. The Framework presents a “high road” or ideal version of migration governance, to which States can aspire.

The MiGOF is based on the understanding that, as the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory and under what conditions, within the framework of international law. Other actors – citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia – contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.

⁶⁵ IOM Council, Migration Governance Framework, 106th Session, C/106/40 (4 November 2015). Available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>.

⁶⁶ Migration Governance Framework infosheet (2016). Available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-framework>.

The MGI process



1

Launch of the MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain what the MGI entails to key government officials, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in.



2

Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data, based on about 90 indicators grounded in the 6 dimensions of the MiGOF. A migration governance profile based on the analysis of the findings is then drafted and shared with the government counterparts.



3

Interministerial consultation

The third step of the process is to convene an interministerial consultation where all relevant ministries and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main areas that could be developed further as identified in the draft migration governance profile, as well as priorities on the way forward. It is also an opportunity for them to comment and provide suggestions on the draft profile.



4

Publication of the report on the Global Migration Data Portal

After the migration governance profiles are finalized and vetted by government counterparts, they are published on the Global Migration Data Portal⁶⁷ and uploaded on the IOM Publications Platform.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ You can find the profiles at <https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0>.

⁶⁸ Please see <https://publications.iom.int/>.



www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

 @IOM

 @UNmigration

 @UNmigration

 MGI@iom.int