

Moldova

In the framework of MMWD – Making Migration Work for Development, the WP7 activities foresee the launch of a Transnational Platform for Policy Dialogue and Cooperation as an effort to support governments to address the consequence of Demographic trends on SEE territories. In particular, this platform will involve policy makers and decision makers at the national and sub-national level to promote the adoption of more effective services and regulations of the migration flows across the SEE area. In order to support and stimulate the dialogue within the Platform ad hoc migration profiles (MPs) will be developed for each partner country and will integrate the information and knowledge already provided by Demographic projections and Policy scenarios.

The current MP focuses on the case of Moldova and it is centred around five topics: resident foreign population by gender, age cohorts and citizenship; population flows (internal migration, emigration, immigration); immigrants presence in the national labour market; foreign population by level of educational attainment; remittances/transfers of money to country of origin. These topics have been selected among the MMWD panel of indicators relevant to describe demographic and migration trends as well as to map their socio-economic implications.



1. Resident foreign population by gender, age cohorts and citizenship

Based on Statistics from the State Register of Population about physical persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Moldova based on citizenship (see Table), 16.502 people with foreign nationality residing in Moldova in late 2013. However, these statistics do not portray the situation of the population of the Republic of Moldova based on the criteria of dual or multiple citizenships (in the Census of 2004 they amounted to 12,075 people). There are no official data on how many Moldovan citizens, resident or not on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, hold the citizenship of another state. Mass media and political analysts estimate that around 300,000 Moldovans acquired the citizenship of Romania by 2001, while another 800,000 applications of Moldovans for Romanian citizenship were pending in 2007. Additionally, around 120,000 Moldovans hold also Russian citizenship. Since the data of Census 2014, which took place in May, are still in the pipeline is only possible to refer to the 2004 Census data for age and gender segmentation and also notice the relevant differences in Immigration stocks' estimates in Moldova when considering different criteria (birth, nationality).

Background Information on Montenegro

Capital: Chisinau

Official language: Romanian

Area: 33.800 Km²

Population (2013): 3.559,500

Population density (2013): 117,2 inhabitants/ Km²

Natural change in population (2013): -0,1%

Foreign citizens on total population (2012): 26.200*

Employment rate (2013): 94,9%

Unemployment rate (2013): 5,1

Religions: Eastern Orthodox (98%); Jewish Religion 1.5%, Baptist and other 0.5%

Distribution by age cohorts and citizenship							
	Total						
	0-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Foreign Citizens	21,7%	21,1%	20,3%	15,3%	8,9%	12,6%	6486
<i>CIS and Baltics</i>	19,6%	21,6%	20,8%	16,0%	8,9%	13,0%	5554
Double Citizenship	14,8%	26,7%	19,9%	18,9%	11,3%	8,3%	12705
No Citizenship	39,5%	14,0%	13,7%	13,7%	8,2%	10,8%	5374

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova - Census 2004

Distribution by age cohorts and citizenship							
	Women						
	0-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Foreign Citizens	20,1%	24,1%	20,6%	12,7%	7,3%	15,1%	3405
<i>CIS and Baltics</i>	17,3%	25,1%	21,8%	13,2%	7,0%	15,5%	3014
Double Citizenship	15,0%	27,3%	18,9%	18,3%	10,8%	9,5%	6254
No Citizenship	38,8%	14,8%	13,9%	11,7%	6,5%	14,1%	2601

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova - Census 2004

This discrepancies are due to the fact that the majority of individuals born abroad are people born in the USSR with Moldovan descent who, USSR dissolution, returned to their parents' home country. Rather than international migrants, they are perceived as ethnic Moldovans. The majority of the born abroad population originates indeed in CIS countries (95.6%) and especially in Ukraine (48.8%) and Russia (44.7%).

Resident Foreigners by Citizenship, December 2013

Republic of Moldova	3.885.682
Russian Federation	7.209
Ukraine	5.921
Romania	405
Turkey	315
Belarus	229
Arabic Republic of Syria	168
Israel	163
Azerbaijan	156
Kazakhstan	156
Armenia	147
Jordan	94
Italy	84
United States of America	74
Germany	65
Uzbekistan	65
Bulgaria	51
Georgia	51
Liban	51
Other (86 countries)	648
Stateless persons	7.570

Source: State Register of Population (2014)

Distribution by age cohorts and citizenship							
	Men						
	0-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Foreign Citizens	23,4%	17,8%	20,0%	18,2%	10,6%	9,9%	3081
<i>CIS and Baltics</i>	22,3%	17,5%	19,7%	19,3%	11,3%	10,0%	2540
Double Citizenship	14,6%	26,1%	20,7%	19,5%	11,8%	7,1%	6451
No Citizenship	40,2%	13,3%	13,5%	15,6%	9,7%	7,7%	2773

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova - Census 2004

2. Population flows

2.1. Internal migration

Moldovan official statistics have not collected internal migration data in detail since 1995; records available before that time however and later population censuses indicate a predominantly rural-urban flow, in particular towards the largest cities of the country (Chisinau, Balti) contributing to a constant decline of the total and in particular the active population in rural areas. The 2004 census suggests that 903,700 people, or 26.7 per cent of the population were internal migrants, in that they had changed their residence at least once since they were born. A total of 44,400 people moved to Chisinau between 2002 and 2004, whilst just 5,600 moved to elsewhere in the country. Other major cities (Balti and Cahul) also experienced considerable inflows.

2.2. Emigration

According to destination countries' statistics (mirror statistics), a number between 390 thousand and 615 thousand Moldovan migrants resided abroad in years around 2012. World Bank estimate the Moldovan emigrant stock to 770,5 thousand in 2010. The difference between the estimates depends mainly on whether migrants living in Russia (and other destination countries) are counted according respectively to the country of birth (278 thousand) or citizenship (51 thousand) criterion. In Republic of Moldova the number of labour migrants was estimated on a quarterly basis starting in year 2000, through the Labour Force Survey). The National Bureau of Statistics estimated there were 138 thousand migrants in 2000. During the period of 2000-2005, the number of departures continued to increase on average by 50,000 persons per year, reaching a total of 395 thousand persons in 2005. As of 2006, the number of labour migrants has stabilized at around 310 thousand. In 2011, the estimated number of labour migrants reached the level of 317 thousand persons, amounting to 10.7% of the total population aged 15+, or about 25% of the economically active population.

Emigrants who leaves abroad on a permanent or temporary base

	Total	Males	Females
2004	7.166	3.193	3.973
2005	6.828	3.093	3.735
2006	6.685	3.011	3.674
2007	7.172	3.276	3.896
2008	6.988	3.237	3.751
2009	6.663	3.138	3.525
2010	4.714	2.193	2.521
2011	3.920	1.761	2.159
2012	3.062	1.392	1.670
2013	2.585	1.201	1.384

Source : Statbank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

About two-thirds of emigrants are male, but the choice of destination country shows a strong gender split. Men are more likely to go to CIS countries, particularly Russia, for work in the construction sector (74% of male migrants work in this sector). Conversely, women are more likely to opt for EU's destinations countries - surveys show that EU-bound migrants are more likely to be female, as well as better-educated and older than the average migrant. More than half of women migrants work in services provided to private households such as housekeeping or elderly care. A proportionally large share of emigrants abroad originates from rural areas as well as from the Southern region of Moldova, which is the most affected by emigration and the poorest region of the country. If we look at the national official statistics of the last decade 2004-2013, it is noted that since 2008, after the peak in 2007, there is a continued reduction of the flows that have contracted in aggregate of 64% in the last 6 years.

Main Destination Countries (2011-2013)	
Ukraine	44,3%
Russia	24,2%
Usa	8,2%
Germany	6,8%
Israel	6,0%
Belarus	2,0%
Slovakia	1,7%
Czech republic	1,5%
Kazakhstan	0,8%
Austria	0,7%
Turkey	0,6%
Other Countries	3,20%

Source : Elaboration on data of Statbank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

The geographical distribution of the recent flows is rather concentrated, as the first two countries, Russia and Ukraine, have attracted more than two thirds (67.5%) of migrants in the last three years. This explain the marked seasonal nature of the Moldovan labour migration. large number of labour migrants working in Russia return to Moldova during the winter due to low demand for labour in the construction industry, in which the majority of Moldovans are employed. Emigration to Russia is facilitated by the lack of visa requirement, the knowledge of language, and the low costs of travel and employment. A significant part of the occupational outflows are due to surpluses in highly educated fields as well as skilled crafts. These flows are attributed to a lack of synchronisation between education policy and the labour market. If flow data are proxied by granted first residence permits, the picture, even of the recent flow dynamic, change sizably. First of all, the absolute numbers are completely different, since this is an estimated flow of about 32 thousand people. The outflows of Moldovan nationals to selected countries of destination in 2011 saw Italy as the main destination country, followed by Poland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. Italy's influence is predominant, in fact the sum of the permits issued by other mentioned countries of destination was equal to three-quarters of the permits issued by Italy.

2.3. Immigration

Immigration flows to Moldova are small. Population State Register immigration data show that in the decade 2004-2013 24.217 people migrated to Moldova. However in the 2000s decade there was an inflow of only 19,279 migrants to Moldova, In fact, data show that after the 2008 crisis, there has been a continued recovery and 2013 showed a peak in the stream..

Total Immigrants by Year

2004	1.706
2005	2.056
2006	1.968
2007	2.070
2008	2.749
2009	2.010
2010	2.512
2011	2.704
2012	3.093
2013	3.349

Source : State Register of Population

If we look at the purpose of arrival, in the decade 2004-2013 35,7% for family reunification, 35,2% of migrants moved for work-related reasons and 24,0% to study.

Immigrants by year and purpose of arrival

Year	For work	For studies	Family immigration
2004	31,7%	36,0%	32,3%
2005	35,6%	32,7%	31,8%
2006	42,1%	22,6%	35,3%
2007	48,4%	10,7%	40,9%
2008	41,3%	18,7%	40,0%
2009	29,4%	25,6%	45,1%
2010	32,4%	31,6%	36,0%
2011	32,0%	26,6%	31,6%
2012	30,9%	19,9%	34,1%
2013	31,7%	21,1%	32,0%
04-13	35,2%	24,0%	35,7%

Source : Elaboration on State Register of Population' data

As for the main countries of origin of the flows, we observe that in the decade 2004-2013 Ukraine, Turkey and Romania account for 39% of inflows. If we consider also Israel and the Russian Federation we can see that the inflows geographical distribution is quite concentrated, as the first five countries of origin accounted for 57% of immigrants and only fourteen countries show a immigrant share greater of one per centage point.

Immigrants by country of Origin (2004-2013)

Total	24.217	100,0%
Ukraine	3.601	14,9%
Turkey	3.268	13,5%
Romania	2.550	10,5%
Israel	2.234	9,2%
Russian Federation	2.127	8,8%
USA	804	3,3%
Italia	752	3,1%
Syria	547	2,3%
Azerbaijan	479	2,0%
Bulgaria	459	1,9%
Germany	372	1,5%
Armenia	287	1,2%
France	281	1,2%
Belarus	246	1,0%
Other countries	6.210	25,6%

Source : Elaboration on State Register of Population' data

In the last three-year period the ranking changed slightly in the first ranking positions, except for the presence of flows by territories not controlled by the central government.

Immigrants by country of Origin (2011-2013)

	2011-2013	%
Total	9146	100,0%
Rominia	1140	12,5%
Israel	979	10,7%
Ukraine	787	8,6%
Republic of Moldova	610	6,7%
Turkey	603	6,6%
Russian Federation	545	6,0%
Ireland	473	5,2%
Tunisia	448	4,9%
Turkmenistan	402	4,4%
Italia	258	2,8%
SUA	252	2,8%
Germany	164	1,8%
Sri Lanka	129	1,4%
France	121	1,3%
Syria	115	1,3%
Azerbaijan	106	1,2%
Georgia	88	1,0%

Source : Elaboration on State Register of Population' data

Immigrants by year and work purpose

	Total	Work	%
1993	1769	84	4,7%
1994	1543	109	7,1%
1995	1477	98	6,6%
1996	1786	121	6,8%
1997	1624	126	7,8%
1998	1558	188	12,1%
1999	1517	327	21,6%
2000	1321	291	22,0%
2001	1293	291	22,5%
2002	1297	364	28,1%
2003	1620	505	31,2%
2004	1706	540	31,7%
2005	2056	731	35,6%
2006	1968	828	42,1%
2007	2070	1002	48,4%
2008	2749	1136	41,3%
2009	2010	590	29,4%
2010	2512	813	32,4%
2011	2704	865	32,0%
2012	3093	955	30,9%
2013	3349	1062	31,7%

Source: Statbank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova,

3. Immigrants presence in the labour market

According to data released by the National Statistical Office, concerning the distribution of immigrants by country of emigration and purpose of arrival, In 2013 out of 3,349 immigrants, 708 arrived for work, of which 442 (62.4%) from Israel, 79 (11.2%) from Turkey and 37 (5.2%) from Ukraine.

It may be noted that after the 90s, when after the dissolution of the USSR people from other countries started to move into neighbouring territories, starting in the 2000s and especially in the second half of the first decade of this century, there has been a significant increase in percentage and in absolute numbers of inputs for work. It is difficult at this stage to estimate what proportion is made up of return migration, given the prevalence and importance of emigration for work. Labor migration represents a current challenge for Moldova and, in the quite complex global context Moldova government is trying to promote activities which will transform Moldova into a destination country and also to create conditions for the return of citizens. The geographic origin of immigrants for business reasons in the period 2010-2013 was quite different: Romania (17.1%); Turkey (10.6%); Tunisia (9.3%); Ukraine (5.9%); Italy (5.7%), Russia (3.2%); Israel (2.9%). Another 12 countries have shares of between 2% and 1%, and 86 countries have market shares below one percentage point.

4. Foreign population by level of educational attainment

There are no data available for the educational attainment of foreign population resident in Moldova. On the contrary, as regards the Moldovan citizens abroad, are available surveys and analyses, in particular in relation to the work force. According to the Survey on Labour Force the distribution by level of education of immigrant

ts see the main share held by people with secondary vocational education, 3 of 10 (31.3%), followed by those with primary and secondary schools, 1 in 4 (27.5%). Among men of persons with secondary vocational education (36.5%), followed by the secondary compulsory (28.1%; ISCED 2) and high school / secondary (20.1%; ISCED 3). In women of persons with high school / secondary (24.6%), secondary compulsory (23.5%), (20.5%) and specialized secondary (19.1%).

Year 2013, Population aged 15 years and over, working or looking for work abroad by Level of education (.000)	
All countries	
Level of education - total	332,5
Higher	36,1
Secondary specialized	39,1
Secondary professional	88,9
Secondary school	82,8
Gymnasium	83,6
Primary or no education	2
Russia	
Level of education - total	223,60
Higher	18,20
Secondary specialized	21,00
Secondary professional	66,00
Secondary school	54,90
Gymnasium	61,90
Primary or no education	1,60
Italy	
Level of education - total	50,7
Higher	5,7
Secondary specialized	9,9
Secondary professional	13,1
Secondary school	13,5
Gymnasium	8,6
Primary or no education	„
Israel	
Level of education - total	7,1
Higher	0,6
Secondary specialized	1,4
Secondary professional	1,3
Secondary school	2
Gymnasium	1,8
Primary or no education	..

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, Labour Force Survey.

The share of people with higher education for women exceeds 2 times the indicator recorded in men (11.7% in women versus 6.0% for men), and those with specialized studies - 2.4 times (19.1% in women versus 7.9% for men). Migrants' characteristics tend also to vary according to their destination point shedding light on two main migration strategies. Migration directed towards the West (mainly EU countries) is more likely to be characterised by a preponderance of females (60.1%), well-educated persons (53.2% have a tertiary education). On the contrary, migrants going to the Eastern Countries (mainly to Russia) are more likely to be male (56.2%), with a medium level of education (58.4%).

5. Remittances/transfers of money to country of origin

According to the recent World Bank estimates, remittances in 2013 amounted to 1.981 million USD. Remittances as a share of GDP have considerable weight, equal to one-fifth (24,6%) of the gross domestic product; the Republic of Moldova ranks the

third country in the region of Europe and Central Asia as regard remittances' weight in GDP and their per capita value. The National Bank of Moldova estimate that in 2013 inflows of personal transfers and employees' compensation amounted to 1.975,8 million UDS. In addition, the NBM estimates that money transfers from abroad made in favour of natural persons (residents and non-residents) via banks of the republic of Moldova for the period January-December 2013, amounted to 1.609 million USD. As the main destination of Moldovan emigrants are the CIS countries, accounting for a share ranging from 47,6% to 60.3% of emigrants stock in 2010-2012 (Migration Policy Centre; World Bank), it is not surprisingly that 67,5% of remittances come from this region in 2013. From them 91.5% are transfers originating from Russia Federation and 6,0% from Ukraine. Even in conditions of the crisis that hit the world in 2008, remittances from Russia proved to be more resilient, decreasing in 2009 by 24.0% compared to 36.5% of the whole flow of remittances. Between 2008 and 2013 the share of Russia on the total inward remittance has increased from 41.4% to 61.8; this structural change in favour of Russia and the relative steady inflows from this direction can be explained by their seasonal character, as well as by the economic evolutions that prove to be more stable in the east countries compared in particular to EU. Remittances are an important source of income of emigrant's families along with wages and social payments and a factor of national economy development. Remittances impact on human capital development, particularly in rural area and have helped to reduce absolute poverty in Moldova as perceived by the households themselves. At the same time it remains difficult to draw conclusions on the impact of migration and remittances on income distribution, as these flows have also contributed to the emergence of social inequality between recipient households and those without relatives abroad.

Total Remittances as share of Disposable income			
	2011	2012	2013
Whole country	15,3	16	17,3
Urban	11,3	11,7	12,3
Rural	19,7	20,8	22,9

Source: Statbank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

Moldova's Remittance Inflows (USD millions)

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013e
1.888	1.199	1.351	1.600	1.786	1.981

Source: World Bank (2014)

Manifest changes can be seen in remittances' structure according to the Balance Of Payments chapters as well. The remittances composition is dominated by employees' compensation, represented mostly by cross border and seasonal workers compensation that accounted 1.115 million USD or 56.4% of total remittances in 2013 (52,6% for 2008-2013). Most of

remittances recorded under this account came in 2013 from CIS countries, most exactly from Russia Federation with a share of 75.6%. At the same time, a significant increase occurred in personal transfers from CSI made by migrants resided abroad more than a year that could reflect the migrants' propensity to legalize their stay in the CSI host countries, and consequently, the growth of transfers made by legal channels.

Inflows of Personal Transfers and Compensation of Employees, million USD

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Germany	P.T. (1)	2,4%	2,6%	2,0%	1,9%	1,8%	1,9%
	E.C. (2)	1,1%	1,2%	0,8%	0,7%	0,6%	0,7%
CSI	P.T. (1)	33,4%	42,6%	43,3%	42,4%	48,5%	49,6%
	E.C. (2)	68,5%	73,9%	78,3%	80,4%	82,6%	81,4%
Ukraine	P.T. (1)	3,3%	3,4%	2,5%	2,4%	2,7%	2,7%
	E.C. (2)	6,9%	6,1%	4,6%	4,6%	4,7%	5,2%
Russia	P.T. (1)	27,6%	36,1%	35,9%	37,1%	42,9%	44,0%
	E.C. (2)	58,6%	64,7%	69,8%	73,9%	75,9%	75,5%
Total	P.T. (1)	1046,0	635,2	608,5	701,4	773,8	861,0
	E.C. (2)	842,0	563,4	743,0	899,0	1012,5	1114,8

Source: Statbank of the National Bureau of the Republic of Moldova

6. Relevant links

- <http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Database/EN/databasetree.asp>
- www.mmprf.gov.md
- www.edu.gov.md
- <http://www.iom.int/cms/home>

REGIONALIZATION AND REGIONS

Until 2009 Moldova was divided into 10 towns and 40 districts. The administrative system reforms divided the country in 11 judets (counties), the Chisinau municipality and two autonomous regions – Transdnestr and Gagauz Yeri. In late December 2011 a controversial law on administrative and territorial reforms was promulgated. The law reintroduced the administrative structures in place during the Soviet period on fiscal

The Republic of Moldova is divided into villages, cities, raions (districts) and the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia. There are 32 raions, 3 municipalities, the autonomous territorial unit of Gagauzia and territorial unit Stinga Nistrului (Transdnestr). Gagauzia is a region with the predominantly Christian-Orthodox population. It is governed by Moldavian laws as well as normative acts issued by the Gagauzian Parliament. Gagauzia has the right to independently determine issues relating to this political, economic and cultural development. Transdnestr is a predominantly Russian, industrialized and heavily militarized region, with Tiraspol as capital, that proclaimed its independence from Moldova in 1991 and is de facto independent from Moldova. Although Transdnestr is internationally considered to be a part of Moldova, the Moldavian authorities do not exercise any control over this breakaway region.

Moreover there are four statistical region formed by rayon agglomeration: Chisinau Municipality; North Statistical Region (rayons Briceni, Edinet, Ocnita, Donduseni, Soroca, Drochia, Rascani, Glodeni, Falesti, Sangerei, Floresti, Soldanesti and Balti municipality); Center Statistical Region (rayons Ungheni, Telenesti, Rezina, Orhei, Calarasi, Nisporeni, Straseni, Criuleni, Dubasari, Anenii Noi, Ialoveni and Hancesti); South Statistical Region (rayons Leova, Cimislia, Basarabeasca, Causeni, Stefan Voda, Cantemir, Taraclia and Cahul, UTA Gagauzia).

Each raion (district) elects a council which coordinates the activities of the local councils in order to provide public services on a district or municipal level. The councils are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot for a term of four years. The Law on Local Public Administration defines own and delegated powers of the districts. Responsibilities of the districts include: (i) social, economic, territorial and urban development; (ii) construction of raion roads, construction of public facilities in the raion (district); (iii) lyceum-type educational institutions except those rendering to the first level; (iv) provision of social assistance; (v) sports and other activities; (vi) protection of environment; (vii) management of property; (viii) fire protection services, etc.

There is a wide range of responsibilities delegated to the districts by the state, including social protection,

health care, public safety, natural reservations etc. In these areas, in accordance with the law, the local authorities are subject to administrative supervision with the regard to expediency.

In accordance with the legislation, the activity of the first and second level local public authorities is subject to an administrative control. The Law on Local Public Administration provides a list of items, which are subject to the obligatory supervision of the Government and Apparatus. The administration control includes the control of the legislation and the adequacy of the political public administration authorities

According to the Law on Local Public Administration the raion (district) councils may decide within the law, to cooperate with other authorities of the local public administration, including cross-border cooperation, for the implementation of activities and rendering necessary public services, as well as the cooperation with national and foreign economic entities and non-governmental organizations in view of realization of activities or works of common interests.



Republic of Moldova - Administrative Divisions Map

A recent Report of the Assembly of European Region (AER) underlines that in Moldova there is an evident lack of financial and administrative autonomy for regional authorities, which are denied decision-making powers regarding their own administrative structure and bound some very heavy delegated responsibilities and are thus more dependent than ever before on the central authorities. Distribution of responsibilities between two different levels of public power is, in fact, a system of diffusion of power, rather than proper decentralization.

Notwithstanding the decentralisation of power and

local self-government were one of the strategic priorities of the 2011-2014 Work Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and on January 2012 the Government approved the National Decentralisation Strategy, a political crisis put a break on the measures for the development of local public administration set out in the Work Programme for 2011-2014.

Moreover the Ministry of Local Authorities has been abolished and the major imbalance subsist between local authorities' powers and responsibilities and the resources allocated to them. The local authorities' very limited financial and fiscal autonomy is reflected in the excessive oversight exercised by the national authorities over tier II and by tier II over tier I, in particular with regard to the management of financial resources. The insufficiency of local taxes compounds with lack of clarity in the way in which central government redistributes financial resources to local authorities and in the distribution of powers and responsibilities between the two tiers of local authorities and between local and central government.

Finally, there are specific difficulties in some areas and / or spatial territories. The functioning of the capital is inefficient, as Chisinau is governed by an inappropriate law that does not correspond to the special situation of Chişinău, which has a dual status, given that it is both a tier I territorial unit (oraş) and a tier II unit (municipiu). The difficulties that local elected representatives in the region to the right and left of the Nistru/Dniestr have in fulfilling their duties, owing to the pressure exerted on them by the security forces in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

international/regional instruments and initiates the negotiations of bilateral agreements which could have a major impact on the evolution of the labor migration domain in the Republic of Moldova. As a member of the Government it coordinates the drafting of different acts with other state bodies (especially with the Ministry of Internal Affairs), following the national strategies approved by the Government. Another relevant body is the National Agency of Employment, a subdivision of the MLSPF. The main competences of the Agency concern: the implementation of state policy in the labor migration domain; the implementation of international mechanisms and standards of national legislation in the labor migration domain and social protection of migrant workers; the implementation of intergovernmental agreements regarding labor activity and the social protection of migrant workers. Within the MLSPF there are also the Labor Inspectorate, the Social Inspectorate, and the State enterprise "Training Centre in the domain of work relations" with competences in this domain. The Ministry of Education is the public central authority responsible for the recognition of qualifications; the Ministry adopts decisions regarding the recognition of qualifications in secondary vocational education, specialized secondary and high education. Also the Ministry establishes the criteria for the recognition of study periods, qualifications and documents, based on national and international standards.

According to Law no. 180 foreign citizens and stateless persons can immigrate to the Republic of Moldova for work within the work quotas established annually by the Government; these quotas are decided on the basis of the needs of the national economy. The quota does not include seasonal and border workers, immigrant workers in sport or investors. All basic provisions regarding the employment of immigrants are basically incorporated into Law no. 180 which is implemented by the MLSPF. The Ministry of Internal Affairs through its competent authority, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum is entitled, based on the decision of the MLSPF, to grant or to reject applications for resident permits for the purpose of work. A foreigner, holding the right to stay for family reunification, can be employed or carry out business activity or be self-employed under the conditions established by this at Law.

The Action Plan of the National Strategy in the Migration and Asylum Domain (2011-2020), in order to assure the compatibility of the skills and qualifications of migrants, provides that the authorities will perform activities for the recognition and equivalence of study documents, qualifications and certificates of competences obtained abroad through the implementation of recognition procedures applied in EU Member States. The Action Plan also foresees the evaluation and certification of competences and skills acquired by Moldovan migrants abroad and the approval of

POLICY GOVERNANCE

Labour Governance

According to Government Decision no. 691, 17/11/09 the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) is the central specialized body of the public administration, MLSPF drafts, promotes and ensures implementation of the state policy in: work relations; wages; health and security in work; development of human resources and employment including professional orientation and training of the population; labor migration; demography; social partnership; social insurance; social assistance; social protection; equal treatment; family protection and children's rights protection; not to mention the prevention of trafficking in human beings. Regarding migrant workers MLSPF main competences are: . the elaboration and implementation of policies and the regulation of processes from the labor migration domain; the issuance of work permits to foreign citizens; the granting of migrant worker status; the organization of employment abroad and the protection of migrant workers etc. MLSPF submits proposals regarding the signing/ratification of the

ongoing training programs conducted by NGOs, economic agents, institutions of secondary vocational education, etc..

Welfare Governance

The Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) has the mission of ensuring the implementation of Government constitutional priorities regarding the development, promotion and implementation of national policies, strategies and programs concerning social assistance and social protection of family and child aiming the provision of social security and support the population standards of living. Other central public authorities involved in social service provision (especially residential care) include the Ministry of Education and Youth and the Ministry of Health. MLSPF competences include: directing and managing the delivery mechanisms of at all levels; methodological coordination of the Social Assistance and Family Protection Directorate, Departments, social assistants/workers and social service providers; the supervision of the collection and distribution of the Republican Fund for Social Support of the Population. The MSPFC is mandated to lead the sector working group for the development and delivery of the medium-term expenditure framework in social protection, coordinating activities across ministries, between different levels of national and local government, and with international development partners. It also leads the Social Protection Coordination Group which is one of the main forums for discussion with international development partners. Local public authorities of second level (raions) are represented by the municipality of Chisinau and by the Social Assistance and Family Protection Departments that implement social policies and create and develop social assistance services at raion level. Raion Councils and the Funds for Social Support of Population are institutional bodies that can have a role on the creation and development of social assistance services. First level local public authorities (primarias) are represented by Local Councils, Municipal Social Assistance and Family Protection Directorates/Departments (Balti) and the Directorate for the Protection of Children's Rights in Chisinau, and have the tasks to identify social problems, administer and manage local funds for social assistance, develop and support financially community-based social assistance services, and form partnerships with NGOs to develop social assistance services.

The primarias administrations fund some community services, and the central government currently provides most of the services for people in very high need, but the rest of the publicly funded services (the remaining community services, nearly all the specialist services and some of the very high need care services) are all provided by the raion administrations.

Education Governance

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the administration of the education system at national level. The Ministry develops strategies, promotes educational policies and supervises the educational process at all levels. In particular it develops and approves the Framework Plans for general education in coordination with the National Curriculum Council and the Ministry of Health. In the regions and municipalities, the Directorate of Education is the local administrative body. Directorates of Education are in charge of school inspection. Methodological and medical-psychopedagogical centers, subordinated to the Directorate of Education, are present in every region and municipality. Due to the small size of the country, there is no delegation responsible for regional and local authorities in respect to higher education. Since 1997 the National Council for Curriculum and Evaluation, implements and evaluates curriculum policies and processes. It coordinates the educational reform in view of horizontal and vertical actions and improving curriculum reform, teacher training, evaluation methods, and financial mechanisms. The Institute of Educational Sciences is an autonomous research and postgraduate education institution under the Ministry of Education. The Institute coordinates in-service training and professional development of teachers at the national level and collaborates with other in-service teacher training centers across the country. In addition to the Ministry of Education, other five ministries supervise several specialized higher education institutions: a) Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is in charge of the organization of training and retraining programs for unemployed adults.

Also The VET governance is concentrated within the Ministry of Education, but intermediary bodies not sufficiently effective exist. There is ample room for reviewing the attribution of functions in an effective manner among existing institutions. The Directors of the 66 VET schools are directly appointed by the Ministry of Education for an unlimited period and are granted unconditional budget allocations. The attractiveness of the VET secondary schools has decreased over the years, whereas in secondary specialized education the number of graduates has, on the contrary, increased. Because of the inadequacy of the curricula and training facilities, most graduates remain unemployed (53.25% in 2010). There are two strategies relevant for VET: the Consolidated Strategy for Education Development 2011-2015 (CSED); and the VET sector strategy 2012-2020. The overall objective of this Reform is to reconceptualise the education program within VET sector and to streamline the VET institutions network aiming to increase efficiency of professional education and to provide a competitive workforce for national and regional economy that would meet the labor market needs in terms of quality and quantity requirements. The Ministry of Education and the

Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family have elaborated a Concept on Validation for non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL).

Regarding teacher training the national system of in-service training encompasses all the bodies, organizations, institutions and legal entities organizing professional development activities. The government defines strategies and national programs, and delivers in-service training courses. Central authorities are also responsible for developing legal, methodological, and organizational frameworks as well as programs, curricula, certification and evaluation procedures. Coordination schemes involve the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, as well as other ministries within their sphere of competence

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Notes and comments

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