

# REPORT

on youth and the Sustainable Development Goals:  
progress, challenges and opportunities



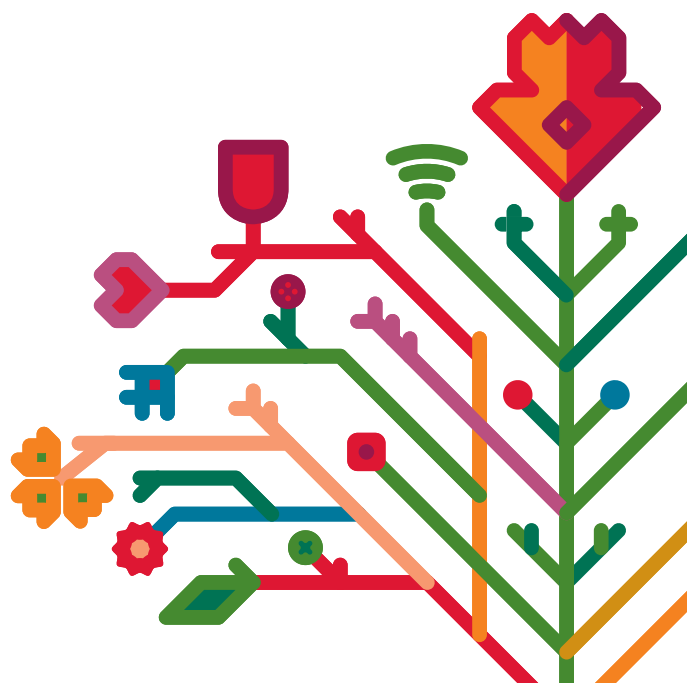


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This Report was made as part of the development of the country report on the level of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and is part of the national campaign «Youth from Moldova for #GlobalGoals, phase II» made by the National Youth Council of Moldova, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the UN Resident Coordinator Office, UNFPA and UNICEF.

The National Youth Council of Moldova and its partners are not responsible for the opinions of young people presented in this Report. Any extracts and views from the content of the given Report must refer to the cited source.



# ABBREVIATIONS

**CNTM** - National Youth Council of Moldova

**SDG** - Sustainable Development Goals

**UN** - United Nations Organization

**HLPF** - UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development

**GDP** - Gross Domestic Product

**UNGA** - UN General Assembly

**UNFPA** - United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund

**VNR** - National Voluntary Assessment

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# I. KEY MESSAGES

Being at the second presentation of country-specific results at the HLPF regarding the implementation of the SDGs, young people actively participate in this intricate assessment process for the second time. The report based on young people's SDG perspective complements the governmental report.

As such, the voice of the youth underpins this report and presents an overall vision of their priorities. Analyzing the consultation results from the youth's perspective, the following priority objectives emerge:



Young participants in public consultations identified challenges related to each SDG they encounter daily (education, equality, work, climate, etc.). They built visions and practical solutions that would aid in appropriately implementing the SDGs to meet their expectations.

For instance, the youth envisage that by 2030, the climate will stabilize in Moldova. Simultaneously, Moldova will have comprehensive and balanced legislation ensuring efficient control over climate change processes in Moldova and reducing pollution and global warming effects. Citizens of Moldova will understand their responsibility towards the adopted law in Moldova and respect it.

Furthermore, young people believe that to achieve the proposed goals by localising the SDGs in Moldova, it is essential to involve the youth and youth structures in this process. The Government should ensure their significant participation in related decision-making processes. Also, the Government should introduce support programmes to enhance young people's and youth structures' participation in the SDG implementation process, including providing grants for creative and innovative projects.

Moreover, young people must develop educational and awareness programmes for SDG targets, such as anti-corruption, non-discrimination, etc., using formal, non-formal, and informal education. In this regard, there is a demand for developing and implementing topic-specific awareness campaigns.



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Concerning the formal education system, young people demand its adjustment to job market requirements, emphasising future skills. Concurrently, there is a call for ensuring safety and social inclusion in schools. A significant concern for the youth is corruption, and they demand proactive and stringent measures to combat corruption across all sectors.

In the context of digitisation, young people see an opportunity to digitise all social spheres and introduce digital innovations in the educational and decision-making processes that would contribute to the country's development, and these must be immediate actions.

Additionally, young people view tourism development as an educational tool and support the correct implementation of the SDGs by tourism agencies, etc.

Although young people managed to identify several challenges in Moldova, it is alarming that young participants in the «IMAGINE 2030» game did not prioritise strategic issues related to SDG 3 Health and Well-being and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, which directly affect them. Hence, more extensive discussions are needed with the population about the specific nature of the SDGs and their importance in Moldova, including ensuring comprehensive discussions about the SDGs in the formal education system.

In conclusion, young people believe that participatory decision-making, quality education, peace, anti-corruption, partnership, and green industrialisation are vital in implementing the SDGs. These ideas and statements reflect a vision of Moldova in 2030 that is democratic with equal opportunities for all, environmentally aware, corruption-free, and progressive, where young people play a crucial role in achieving these goals.

## II. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains ongoing on the decision-maker's agenda. Through sectoral or cross-sectoral public policies, the regulation and institutionalisation of mechanisms are ensured, which will help achieve the targets the Republic of Moldova (RM) assumed. Examples of these policies include the «Youth 2030» Youth Sector Development Strategy and the «European Moldova 2030» National Development Strategy, all of which aim at localising and implementing the SDGs while considering young people and youth structures as essential stakeholders in their realisation.

In the SDG implementation process, Moldova has made progress in achieving several SDGs, thus ranking 25th out of 166, with a national score of 78.6 out of a possible 100<sup>1</sup>. However, Moldova still faces challenges and has outstanding issues in fully achieving the SDG targets set by the Government, which impacts the quality of life for young people in the country.

This report is produced in the context of Moldova presenting its national results regarding SDG implementation to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at the UN for the second time. Being in an extended partnership with the Moldovan Government and the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/static/profiles/pdfs/SDR-2023-moldova.pdf>



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UN agencies in Moldova, the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) aims to ensure that young people's voices are heard in this process. Therefore, a series of public consultations with Moldovan youth were conducted, and based on these consultations, a complementary youth report was produced to supplement the Government's SDG report. This aims to ensure the presence of youth voices in the national evaluation process of SDG achievements.

It is worth noting that the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN will convene at the heads of state and government level under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in September 2023. Such meetings take place every four years. The 2023 meeting, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit<sup>2</sup>, will be the second meeting since adopting the 2030 Agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals Summit will bring together political leaders, government representatives, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, women, youth, and other stakeholders in a series of high-level meetings. They will conduct a comprehensive review of the SDGs' status, address the world's multiple crises, and provide high-level political guidance on immediate transformative actions necessary to achieve the SDG targets by the 2030 deadline. The President of the General Assembly will chair the SDG Summit. The summit's outcome will be a negotiated political declaration, where we hope to see specific youth priorities, promoted by the CNTM.

We mention that for the first time, the Moldovan Government presented its SDG report to the UN HLPF in 2020<sup>3</sup>. On this occasion, CNTM, in partnership with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF, and other partners, conducted an extensive youth engagement campaign in the evaluation and reporting process. For more details about the campaign's results, visit the CNTM website<sup>4</sup>. This campaign resulted in Moldovan youth's voices being heard at the UN level, thanks to active participation during the National Voluntary Review (NVR) process, including presenting a complementary youth report<sup>5</sup>.

Lastly, we emphasise that participation is at the heart of sustainable development, and citizens, especially young people, should have a voice in development processes and shaping policies and development priorities. By ensuring this, they become active agents and protagonists of change, shaping their desired future together with decision-makers.

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2 <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023>

3 <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/apc/monitorizarea-si-evaluarea-implementarii-agendei-de-dezvoltare-durabila-2030>

4 <https://cntm.md/news/fost-lansat-campania-na-c8%9bional-c4%83-tinerii-din-moldova-pentru-obiectiveglobale-tineri-c8%99i/?lang=en> și <https://cntm.md/news/cum-se-desf-c4%83-c8%9boar-c4%83-campania-tinerii-din-moldova-pentru-obiectiveglobale-afi-c4%83-rezultatele/?lang=en>

5 <https://cntm.md/resurse-de-specialitate/report-on-the-situation-of-young-people-in-moldova-and-their-interaction-with-sustainable-development-goals/?lang=en>





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# III. METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATION TOOL «IMAGINE 2030.»

The research is based on a quantitative method, where 105 young people from the country participated in 5 SDG consultation workshops based on the game IMAGINE 2030. Participants in the consultation activities were selected based on the registration form promoted by youth structures and organisations representing national minorities.

The consultation workshops were organised according to the order «rural», «Urban (other than Chişinău)», «Chişinău», the group of young people with disabilities, and a mixed group, including refugees from Ukraine settled in Moldova.

IMAGINE 2030 is a board game by the UN team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, designed to promote and evaluate the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global 2030 Agenda using «strategic foresight» and an innovative and interactive SDG consultation tool with social game dynamics. Here, participants democratically analyse and prioritise the SDG they find most relevant for their group and brainstorm creative solutions around the chosen SDG, or a specific challenge related to that SDG which they identify as a group priority.

Collected information includes negative and positive associations about the past, negative, and positive associations about the present, their visions for the future, their views on the fundamental socio-economic values Moldova should strive for, and information on the actions and critical elements needed to achieve the SDGs. Additionally, young people prioritised the SDGs and targets problematic in the local context.

In this process, young people proposed dozens of ideas for localising the SDGs and identified several accelerators and factors contributing to the country's sustainable development.

Besides the ideas generated by the board game, the application of IMAGINE 2030 ensured that everyone involved in the consultation workshops left with a clear understanding of the complexity of the upcoming task and the understanding that change starts with everyone, and each person has the responsibility to change the present and contribute to the envisioned future.





In the 5 SDG consultation workshops based on the IMAGINE 2030 game, 19 working groups were formed from the 105 participants. They worked on and developed visions for prioritising and accelerating the SDGs in Moldova. It is important to note that methodologically, each youth within the working group could choose up to three targets from the chosen SDG for a comprehensive approach to the examined SDG.

The IMAGINE 2030 game participants come from urban and rural environments, disaggregated by gender and other criteria.

Another tool for identifying the needs and priorities of young people regarding the SDGs was the U-Report Moldova platform developed by UNICEF, which had 203 respondents<sup>6</sup>.

## RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

The research exclusively relies on the results of public consultations organised with those 105 young people based on the game IMAGINE 2030 and its data collection and interpretation methodology. Methodologically, the 19 working groups of 4-6 participants chose only one goal, plus three additional complementary SDGs, without analysing or developing localisation ideas related to them.

At the same time, a limitation would be that the nationally adopted SDG targets of Moldova were considered during data interpretation.

Furthermore, the qualitative component wasn't a research priority as there wasn't enough time to deliver the results for presentation at the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit in the current September.

## CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN REPORT PREPARATION

A primary barrier to presenting a comprehensive report concerning young people's needs and the wide-scale application of consultation activities was the need for more time to allow a comprehensive analysis.

Another problem was the underrepresentation of minority groups in the consultation process. Even though we made maximum efforts to involve young people from these groups through the UN Office in Moldova and NGOs representing them, the results were modest. Also, regarding gender equality, we do not have a balance between participants in online and offline consultations, with about 1/3 being girls from the total number.

6 <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/3514/>



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## IV. PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The discussion groups on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Moldova brought together diverse participants, representing a cross-sectional component of society's demographics. One hundred-five people participated in the discussion, of which 76 were women and 29 were men. Notably, the inclusive nature of the sessions was partly ensured through the involvement of minority groups. For example, 14 participants had disabilities, and there were individuals from the Gagauz community, ethnic Ukrainians, a representative of the Moldovan diaspora in France, as well as Ukrainian refugees settled in Moldova. This highlights the commitment to ensuring a representative and inclusive dialogue.

More precisely, ethnic, and linguistic diversity was emphasised by the participation of 12 participants from minority linguistic backgrounds. Additionally, 13 individuals were refugees from Ukraine, illustrating a commitment to involve the voices of those affected by regional dynamics. The presence of participants from various ethnic groups in the consultation process further enriched the dialogue and promoted a discourse with multiple perspectives, although their number was smaller than desired.

The geographical distribution of the participants was balanced between rural and urban areas. In total, 45 people came from rural environments, demonstrating the commitment to involve traditionally underserved communities with limited local development opportunities. At the same time, about 60 participants came from urban areas, of which approximately 25 represented the capital, Chisinau. Furthermore, methodologically, two consultations were organised for urban areas, one for the youth from cities other than Chisinau and another for participants from the capital, where traditionally, they have access to a broader range of opportunities. This might have caused errors in interpreting statistical data and the priorities of groups from less developed cities. This distribution ensured the consideration of both urban and rural viewpoints, contributing to a holistic understanding of the SDGs across different regions of Moldova.

In conclusion, the discussion groups presented a diverse and inclusive participant profile encompassing various genders, abilities, ethnic origins, linguistic affiliations, and geographical locations. This representativeness and diversity in the consultation process underlined the commitment to a balanced and fair discussion on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in Moldova.



**Table No.1**

Consultation	No. of participants	Girls	Boys	With Disabilities	Ethnic Ukrainians	Gagauz Ethnicity	Russian Speakers	RM Diaspora	Ukrainian Refugees
Urban youth group (other than Chisinau)	20	16	4	-	-	-	6	-	4
Youth Group with Disabilities	14	8	6	14	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Youth Group	18	16	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Youth from Chisinau	17	10	7	-	2	1	-	-	3
Mixt Group	36	26	10	-	-	-	3	-	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>

Regarding the profile of the respondents to the U-Report Moldova questionnaire, here we have the following characteristics of participants based on gender and age criteria.

**PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**TOTAL RESPONDERS**

## Problems of youth from the Republic of Moldova

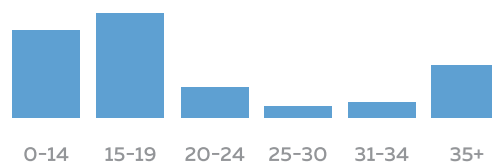
August 4, 2023

**203**  
RESPONDERS

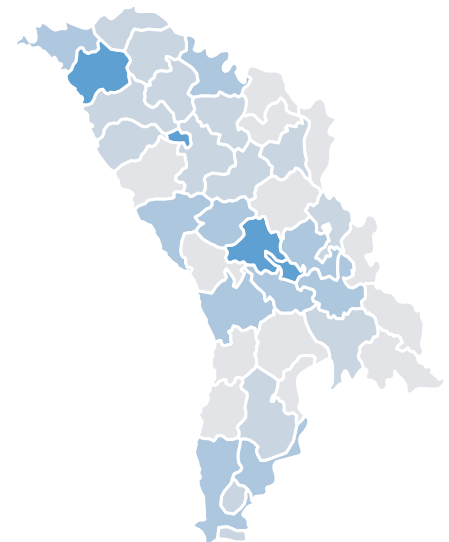
**77%**  
RESPONDENTS RATE

**73%**  
13

**73%**  
35



YOUTH



TOP REGION: STRĂȘENI  
49 RESPONDERS//76 INTERVIEWEES

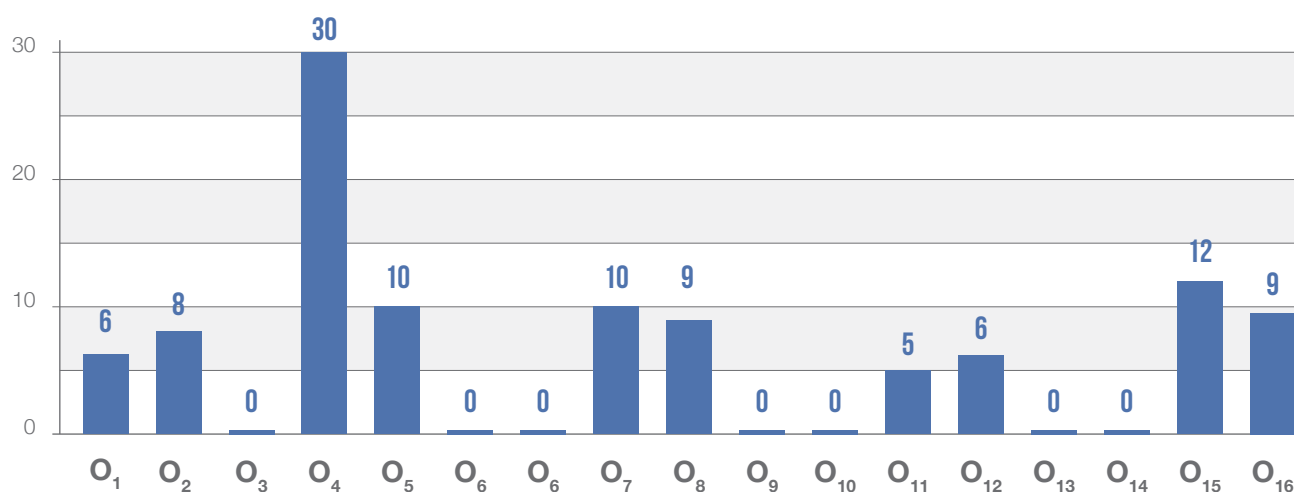
# V. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MOLDOVA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTH PRIORITISATION:

## PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

In what follows, we aim to analyse the data collected during public consultations organised using the «Imagine 2030» board game attended by 105 young men and women. By examining the consultation results, we notice that from the youth's perspective, the following priority objectives emerge:



**Figure No.1** Overview of youth priorities in relation to the SDGs. Number of people.





Upon analysing the presented data, we deduce that the most pressing objectives for Moldovan youth are Quality Education, followed by Peace, Justice, Decent Work, Equal Opportunities, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Partnerships for the Goals, etc. SDGs: No Poverty, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action were the least discussed.

Nevertheless, sustainable goals remain without specific strategic priorities for the youth, such as SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages; SDG 6: Ensure access to and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as it is in Moldova; SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries; and SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

In the following section, we will present detailed results concerning the youth's vision concerning the selected SDGs and the targets mentioned as priorities in Moldova's SDGs' implementation process. We reiterate that, methodologically, each youth in the working group was allowed to choose up to three targets from the prioritised SDG for examination, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the examined SDG.



## Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Figure No.2. Youth prioritization of SDG 1 targets (person x3 priorities each).



Following the cumulative analysis of the data collected from the consultative working group on SDG 1, targets 1.4 and 1.5 are highlighted as priorities, followed by 1.1., the lowest score being recorded by target 1.5, which contributes to creating the resilience of people experiencing poverty and in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, including drought and floods.







## Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Figure No.3. Youth prioritization of SDG 2 targets (person x3 priorities each).



In the case of ODD 2, the priority on eradicating hunger and ensuring access for all, especially the poor and in vulnerable situations (target 2.1.) is highlighted, followed by target 2.2. increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of small agricultural producers and targeting the implementation of agricultural practices that increase productivity, contribute to the maintenance of ecosystems, and strengthen the capacities to adapt to climate change. Furthermore, the lowest priority target is 2.5 on the maintenance of genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farm and domestic animals, and their related wild species, including through seed and plant banks.

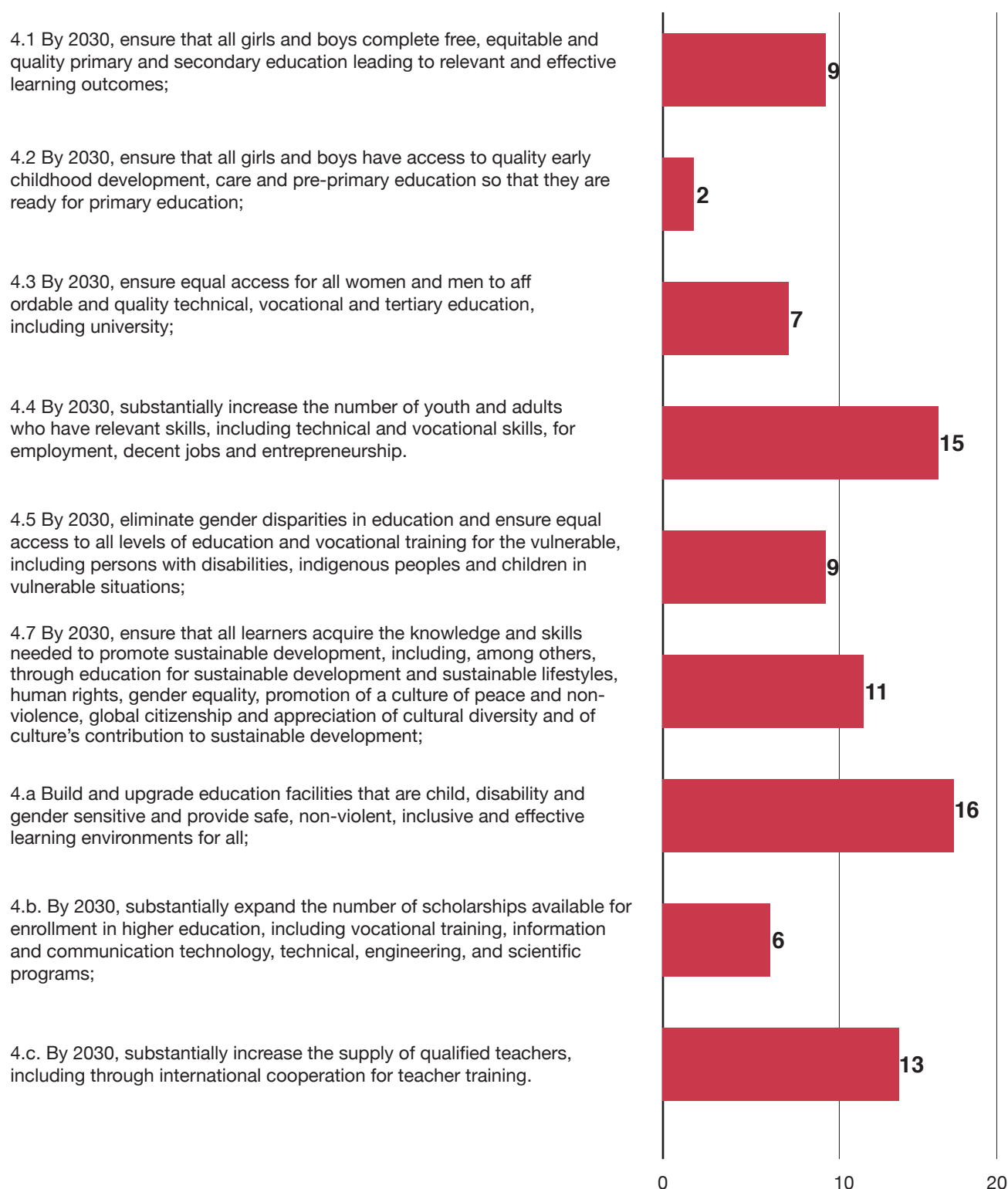






## Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Figure No.4. Youth prioritization of SDG 4 targets (person x3 priorities each).





Being one of the most requested SDGs by young people, SDG 4 presents a significant spectrum of concern for young people; thus, they consider it a precondition for the development and future inclusion of young people in the community, the work field, political life, etc.

Among the major concerns of young people are target 4.a. on building and modernising infrastructure in educational institutions to meet the needs of children, girls, boys, and persons with disabilities and providing a safe, non-violent, and inclusive learning environment for all. Followed as a priority and by the target regarding the substantial increase in young people and adults with relevant skills for the labour market.

At the same time, young people prioritise the substantial increase in the number of young people and adults with relevant skills for the labour market (target 4.4.), also correlating with target 4.c. regarding the substantial increase in the supply of qualified teachers.

With a weight of increased interest, we also find target no. 4.7. regarding the promotion of sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and the appreciation of cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development, and the justification for intervention in their case can be found in several reports and specialist analyses.

In the view of young people, target 4.2 remains a lower priority. On ensuring that girls and boys have access to quality early development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education. Furthermore, this low interest could be generated because the focus group participants are not parents, and they have no such concerns at the time.



## Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Figure No.5. Youth prioritization of SDG 5 targets (person x3 priorities each).



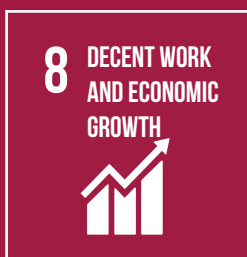


Referring to SDG 5, a primary concern is related to 5.2. The prevention and elimination of violence against girls and women, including their trafficking, also far surpasses the priorities of other targets within SDG 5, which reconfirms that violence remains a considerable problem in Moldova.

Another priority among the participants was related to target 5.5. on ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities in leadership positions at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. Here, it is essential to specify the fact that for Moldova, it is applicable that girls up to the age of about 20 remain the most present in the activities of participation in the training and democratic processes, including in the case of the current consultations on the ODD where we have  $\frac{2}{3}$  of participants girls. However, after girls change their marital status and with the advent of family and household chores, they come to the fore, preventing them from remaining as involved as they were in adolescence. For these reasons, girls and women no longer hold the leadership for participatory and democratic processes. Against the background of these inequalities in the field of participation based on marital status, there is a need to create equitable measures and conditions to support decision-making participation for girls and women who no longer prioritise participation as a necessity compared to household and family obligations.

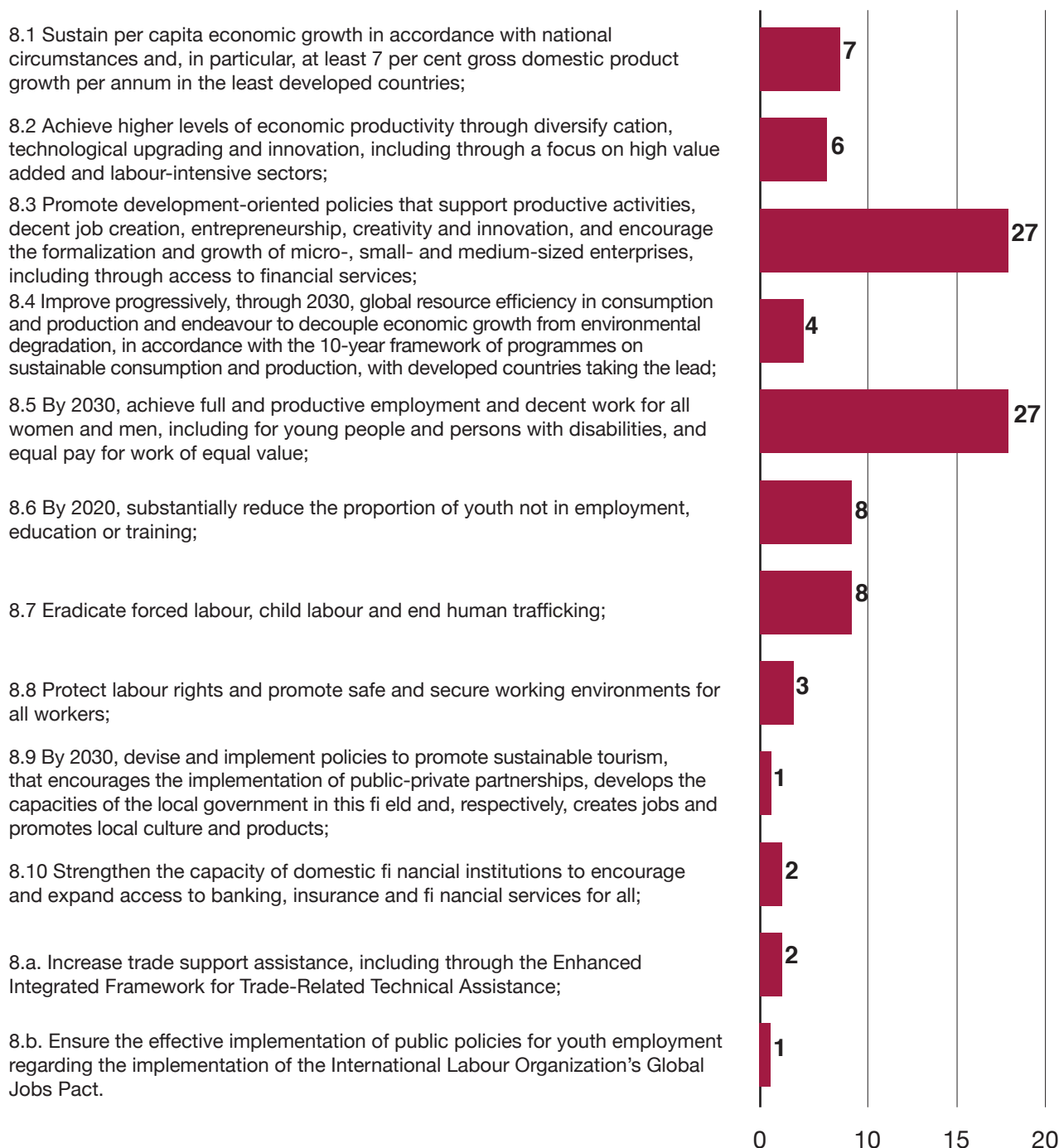
The elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (target 5.1.).

At the same time, the consulted young people have 0 priorities compared to target 5.b. on increasing the use of available technologies, especially information and communication technology, to promote women's empowerment.



## Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

Figure No.6. Youth prioritization of SDG 8 targets (person x3 priorities each).





In the context of developing sustainable and resilient economies where young people actively participate, as well as ensuring the economic independence of young people, one of their priorities concerning SDG 8 is related to target 8.3. on the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and that encourage the formalisation and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. Target 8.5 is treated with the same degree of interest by young people. Which aims to achieve by 2030 an employment level similar to the average of Central and Eastern European countries and the stimulation of productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, as well as remuneration equal for work of equal value.

At the same time, with a lower interest, targets 8.9 and 8b are found, which refer to the development and implementation of policies to promote sustainable tourism, which facilitate the creation of public-private partnerships and develop the institutional capacities in the local public authorities.

In conclusion, creating jobs and placement in the labour field ensures the effective implementation of public policies for the employment of young people regarding the implementation of the Global Pact for Jobs of the International Labour Organization.



## Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Figure No.7. Youth prioritization of SDG 9 targets (person x3 priorities each).

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all;

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization in order to increase, by 2030, the employment and industry's share in GDP close to the average level in Central and Eastern Europe;

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets;

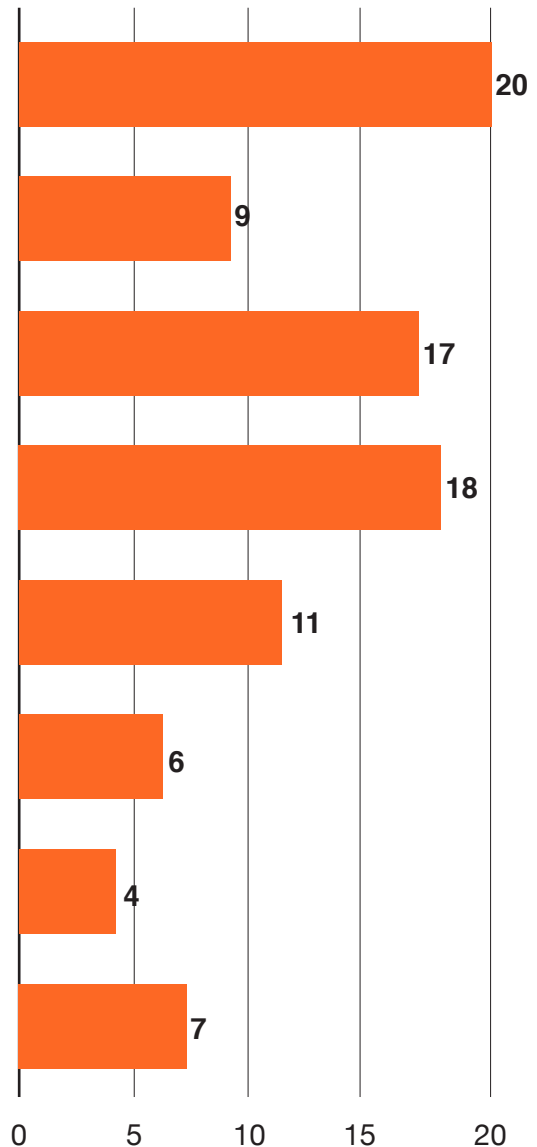
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, taking action in accordance with the respective capabilities;

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors, as well as encouraging innovation in order to boost economic competitiveness and the wellbeing of the population;

9.a. Develop resilient and sustainable infrastructure by leveraging financial support provided by development partners;

9.b. Support, at the national level, the development of technology, research, and innovation, including by ensuring favorable policy conditions, especially for industry diversification and value enhancement of products;

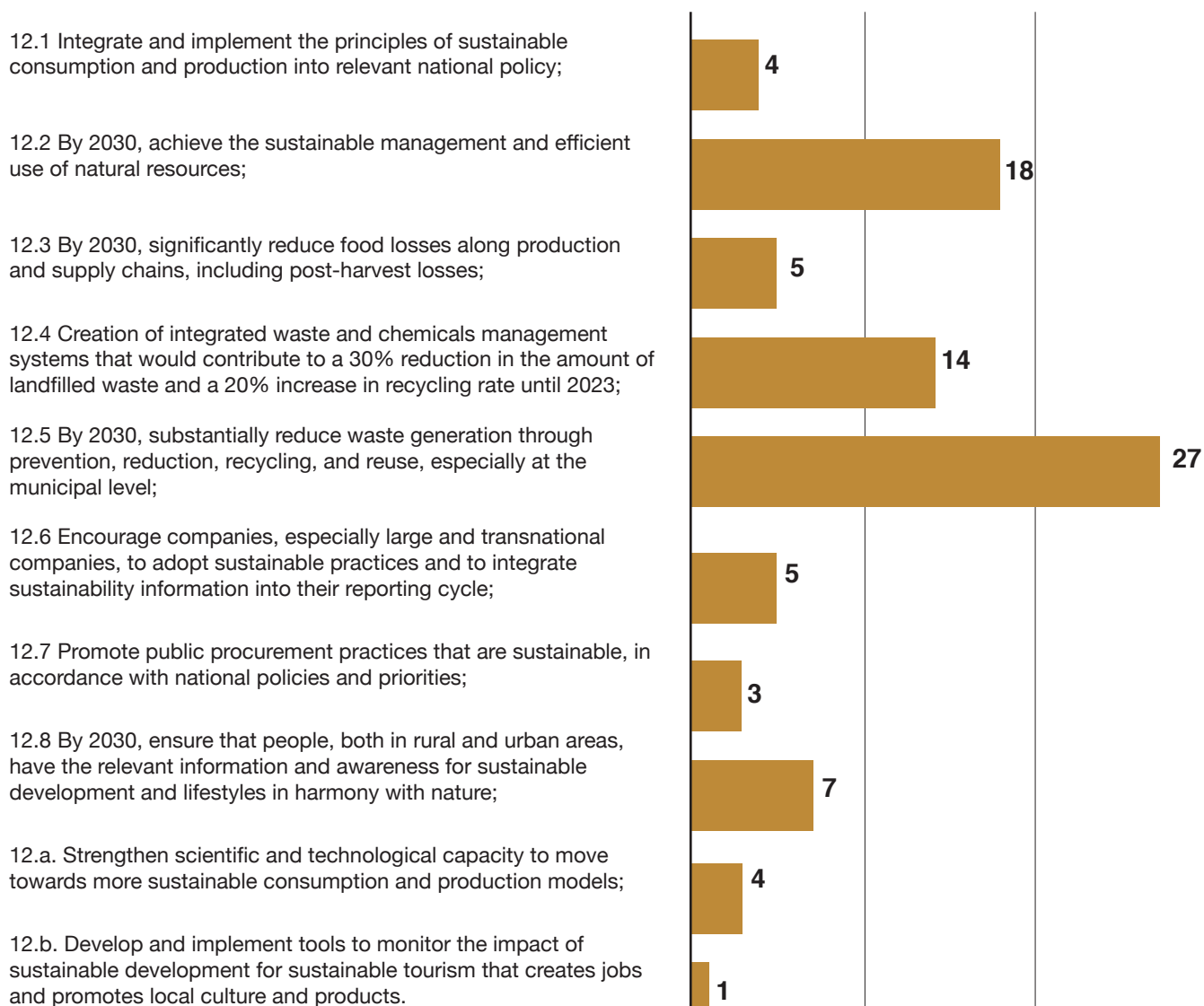
9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet by 2020.



Regarding «industry, innovation and infrastructure», during the consultations, target no. 9.1. on developing quality, reliable, sustainable, and robust infrastructure in the country's regions to support economic development and increase the population's well-being, emphasising broad and equitable access for all.

Another priority of young people is focused on target 9.4, which aims to ensure by 2030 the modernisation of infrastructure and the rehabilitation of industries to become sustainable, with increased efficiency in the use of resources and the increased adoption of clean and ecological industrial technologies and processes, measures being taken following the respective capacities. A modest degree of interest is observed in target 9.b. on supporting at the national level the development of technology, research, and innovation, including by ensuring favourable political conditions, particularly for the diversification of industry and the increase of the value of products.

Figure No.8. Youth prioritization of SDG 12 targets (person x3 priorities each).



When it comes to the SDGs, young people place a higher priority on target 12.5, which aims to significantly reduce waste generation by 2030 through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse, especially at the municipal level, followed by target 12.2, which aims to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Less interesting for young people was the target 12.b. regarding the development and implementation of tools to monitor the impact of sustainable development for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, and this is probably caused by the fact that the tourism branch in Moldova is less developed and young people do not see perspective in it.

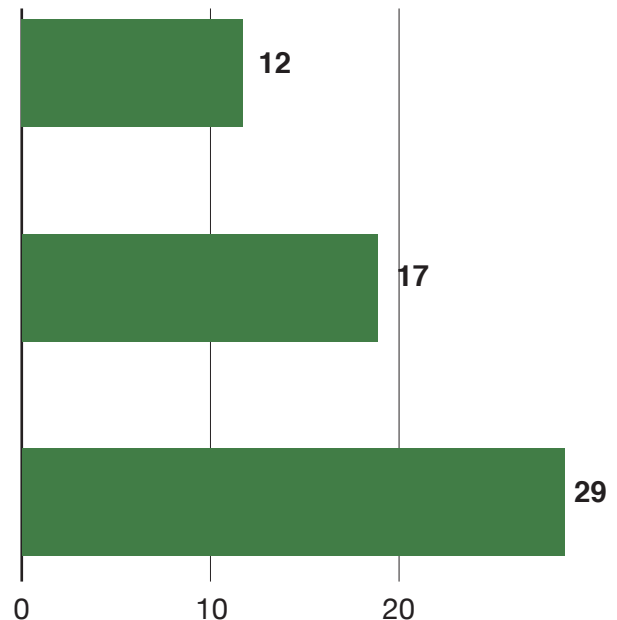


Figure No.9. Youth prioritization of SDG 13 targets (person x3 priorities each).

13.1. By 2020, ensure the climate-resilience by reducing by 50 percent climate-related risks and by facilitating the adaptation in 6 priority sectors – agriculture, water, health, forestry, energy and transport;

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning;

13.3 Consolidating the institutional framework related to climate change and raise awareness on climate change risks and adaptation measures of all relevant stakeholders, including population.

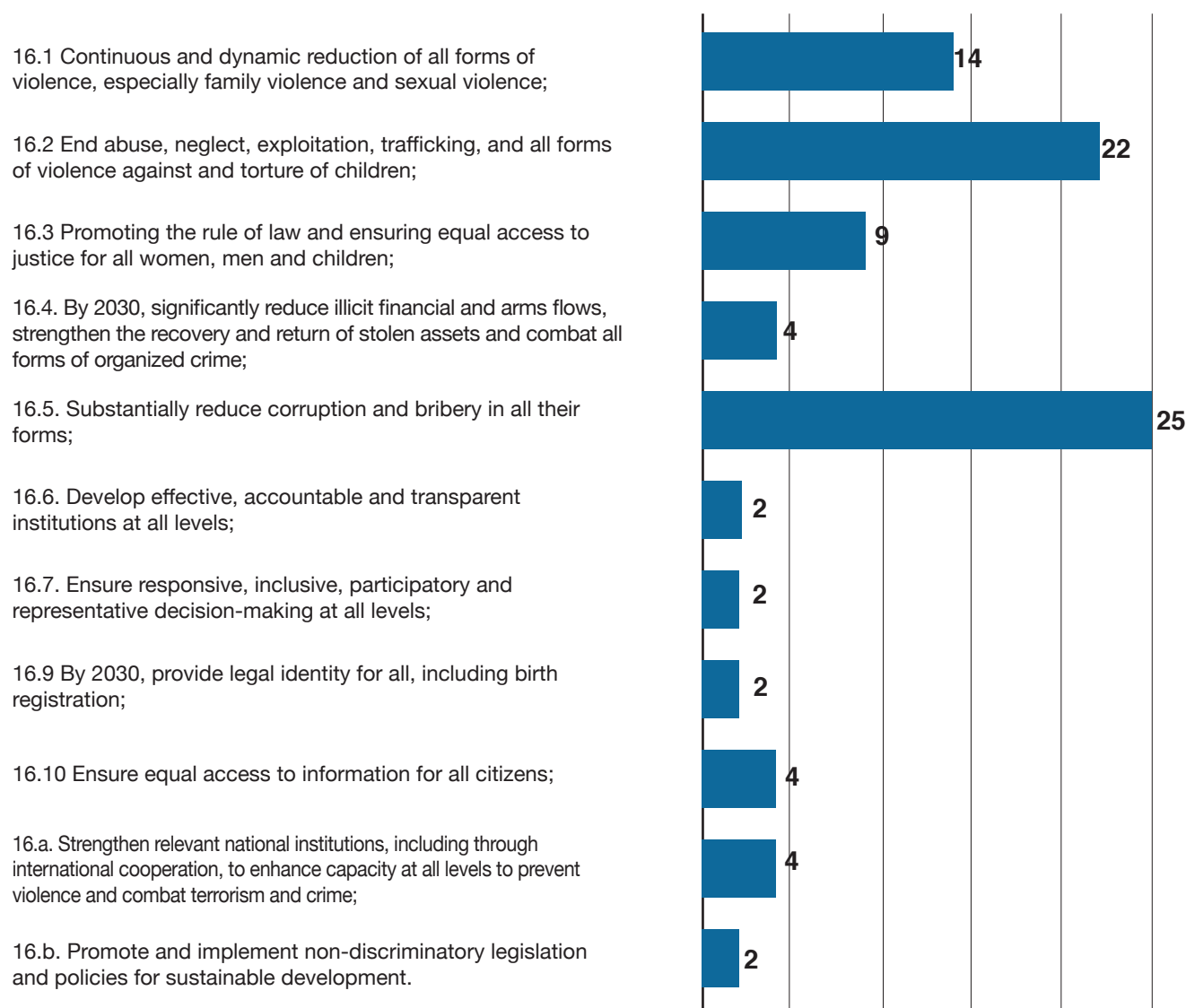


When it comes to climate change, young people strongly favour target 13.3. regarding strengthening the institutional framework in the field of adaptation to climate change, ensuring awareness by all actors involved, including the population, of the risks of climate change and adaptation measures, as well as target 13.2. on integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and plans.

With a slight decrease compared to the 13.3 target, the 13.1 target is still attractive, which aims to ensure climate resilience by 2030 by reducing the risks related to climate change by 50 per cent and by facilitating adaptation in 6 priority sectors – agriculture, water resources, health, forestry, energy, and transport.

**Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Figure No.10. Youth prioritization of SDG 16 targets (person x3 priorities each).



Regarding SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions, the young people on the red line connected the corruption issue concerning the education system, employability, etc., a fact that determined the 16.5 target as the foremost priority for the consulted young people. A concern among young people remains target no. 16.2 on stopping the abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children closely related to the target 16.1. which aims at the continuous and dynamic reduction of all forms of violence, predominantly domestic and sexual violence.

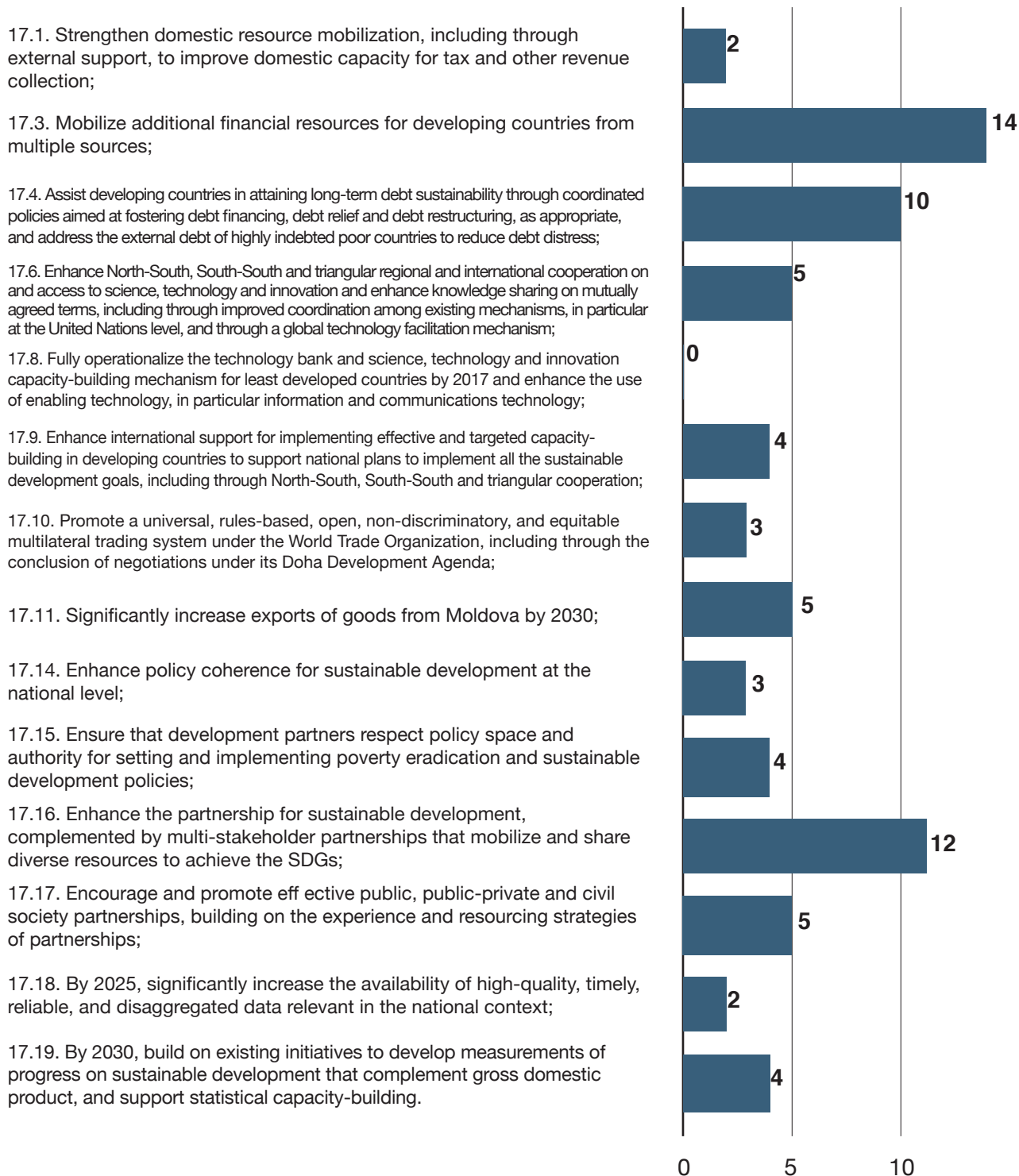
We can see a particular feature regarding the non-prioritisation by young people of the 16.7 target. The target is to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels. This raises confusion since Moldova still has the problem of participation, tokenism, and decoration in decision-making processes. Even though in the consultation workshops, representatives of the youth structures were also involved in the decision-making processes.

It is surprising to see a low prioritisation of target 16.b. regarding promoting and implementing legislation and non-discriminatory policies for sustainable development, as young people did not select SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES as a priority either. Here, we can only conclude the limited knowledge of young people regarding the phenomenon of discrimination in the Republic of Moldova and how young people are affected by it.



## Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Figure No.11. Youth prioritization of SDG 17 targets (person x3 priorities each).



In the view of young people, the mobilisation of additional financial resources for development (target 17.3.) is a priority, as the availability of financial resources in case of correct management can determine an unprecedented socio-economic development. The number two priority for young people consulted is related to the 17.16 target. Enhancing partnerships for sustainable development is complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and distribute diverse resources to achieve the SDGs.

In opposition to the priorities of young people is the 17.8 target. This aims to operationalise the technology bank fully, the capacity-building mechanism in science, technology, and innovation, including increasing the use of generic technology, especially information and communication technology, which has 0 preferences among young people.

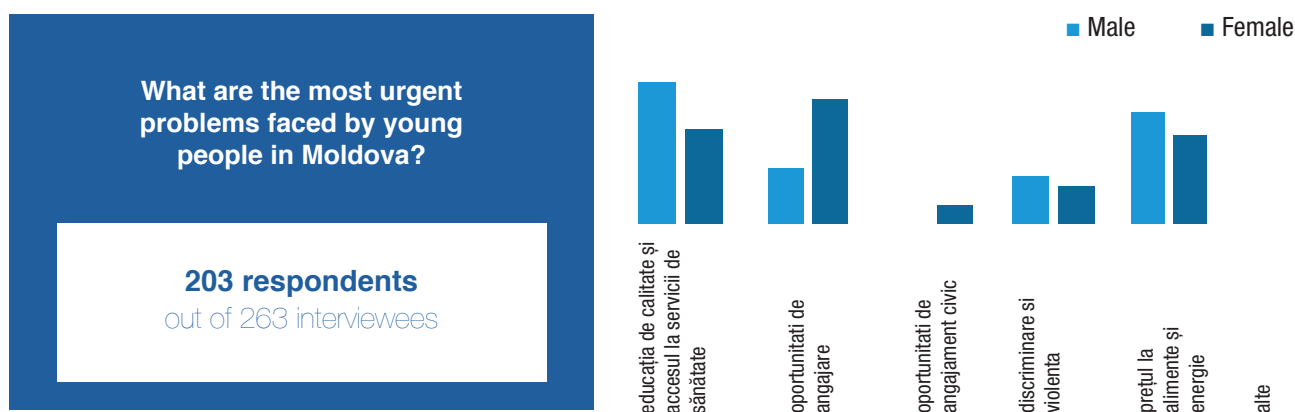
Next, we will analyse and overlap the priorities of the young people who participated in the U-Report Moldova survey. Following a series of specific questions, young people were invited to choose the most pressing ones they saw in Moldova:

Figure no. 12



Analysing the above data, we can deduce that even in the case of U-reporters, the problem in the educational system remains a priority one concerning the others. Also, among the major concerns of young people are the increased prices of food and energy and the problem of employing young people in the labour field.

If we refer to the priorities and visions of young people by gender, we can see them in [Figure No. 13](#), what follows:



From these, the significant priorities of girls in employment opportunities compared to boys stand out. According to the survey, the big difference is made by the answers of girls aged 25-30. It presents another problem, mostly related to newly married girls, pregnant or with small children, who, because of the facilities they have before the law in pregnancy or child support, as a safety measure for the employers' activity, instead refuse to hire such candidates. For these reasons, the system of prevention and combating discrimination in the field of work must be strengthened<sup>7</sup>.

Being also asked about the phenomenon of discrimination correlated with OOD 10, the young people of U-Report believe that the most discriminated categories of people are as follows:

Figure no. 14



Based on what was presented, the most discriminated groups in the view of young people are people with disabilities and people experiencing poverty.

However, if we refer to SDG 16 and the target regarding the participation of young people, U-Reporters were asked to what extent the local public authority in their community involves them in the planning and decision-making processes, to which we have the following answers:

Figure no. 15

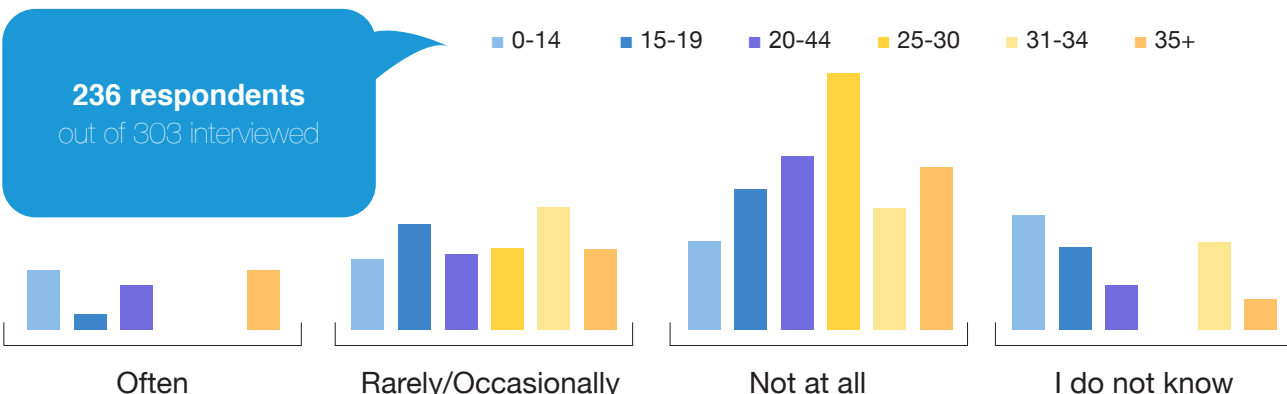


Interpreting these data, we can see that only 11% of respondents are often involved in decision-making processes, and another 25% are rarely or occasionally involved. Another 43% of respondents were not involved in local decision-making processes, where the most uninvolved age groups are those from 25-30 years old, according to figure no. 16.

7 <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/3514/>

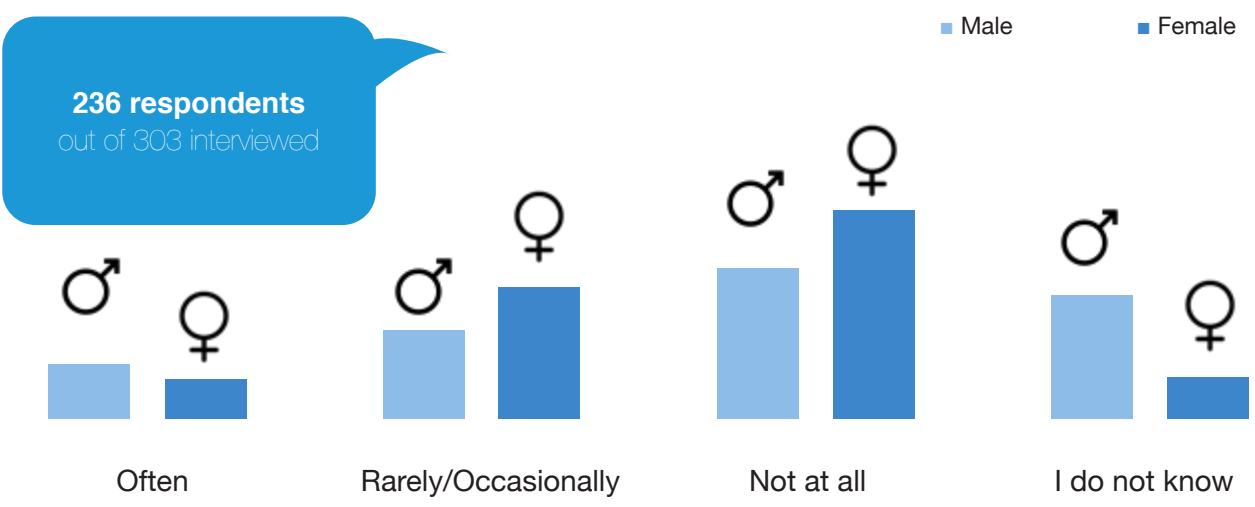
Figure no. 16

## DID THE LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVE YOU IN THE PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS?



But if we have a perspective gender in the participation processes, the respondents can be categorised as follows in figure no. 17.

Figure no. 17



As in the case of the young participants in the IMAGINE 2030 consultations and in the case of U-Reporters, girls up to the age of about 20 are the most present in the participation processes, while the category of those who no longer participate is dominated by girls aged from about 20 to 30 years old.

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# VI. YOUTH'S VISION FOR MOLDOVA 2030 & BRILLIANT IDEAS: SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE YOUTH

This chapter aims to display specific visions of the youth concerning Moldova in 2030. These visions were gathered from the individual profiles of the young participants in the IMAGINE 2030 game. It is important to note that the youth's ideas were often similar; thus, we tried to overlap them to avoid redundancy and repetition.

Considering the priorities and visions of the youth related to the chosen SDGs, this chapter is divided into blocks as follows.

## VISION FOR MOLDOVA 2030:

### GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE ON SDGS:

One female participant, 18 years old, envisions Moldova in 2030 as a «united and intelligent country,» which 2030 will achieve at least half of the assumed SDGs and targets (male 16 years old).

At the same time, they envision that by 2030, young people will be more engaged and interested in the country's development processes, opting for a prosperous future at home where the quality of education is high and qualified specialists who will be paid decent and competitive salaries (female, 19 years old).

A young woman expresses her wish to live in an educated, peaceful, and inclusive society by 2030, aware that everyone has equal rights and that each of us has the freedom of thought, conscience, and association without facing blame, harassment, etc. (female, 21 years old).

### GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION:

By 2030, young people see themselves in a European and democratic Moldova, with responsible, transparent, and ingenious governance, free from corruption, and with many socio-economic development opportunities, where the population no longer «flees» the country seeking better opportunities and the fight against corruption is efficient and result driven. For this, emphasis should be placed on the implementation of SDGs 16.5 and 16.3, which can lay the foundation for building a strong and reliable nation.

Based on discussions, the youth concluded that corruption might remain due to Moldova's created protectionist system and the lack of a functional accountability mechanism. Given the



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severity of the issues caused by corruption, many consultation participants envision a Moldova with reduced corruption or completely countered by eliminating all forms of bribery and corrupt behaviours in education, politics, etc., and those guilty of giving or receiving bribes are harshly punished by law. They associate this intervention with an anticipated impact on other areas, such as:

- Quality education based on equal opportunities and meritocracy.
- Decent work for young people and sustainable economic growth where youth have space for self-assertion and economic independence, and in specific cases with a reasonable justification, young people have access to protective measures and financial support.
- Innovative and modern inclusive/accessible infrastructure realised through the introduction of innovative and inclusive methods in the process of adjustment, improvement, and making the infrastructure accessible to groups with special needs (disabled persons, mothers with young children, elderly, etc.).

Young people envision Moldova in 2030 aligned with the European regulatory framework, having governance made up of vital and integral state institutions, including young leaders.

In addition, by 2030, they foresee more investments in the economy, education, infrastructure, and innovation, with a transparent system for assessing the impact of investments on the final beneficiaries.

Another young person hopes that 2030, we will have a well-developed legal education system and justice aligned with EU standards, where access to quality justice is guaranteed and equal for all.

Moreover, young people imagine a community in Moldova with values based on human rights, honesty, ethics, and professional dedication where there is no room for legal deviations and laws favouring offenders (female, 18 years old).

## CLIMATE ACTION DOMAIN:

Considering the global crisis unfolding negatively due to industrialisation and human interventions on the environment, the emphasis young people place on SDG 13 shows their concern for the environment and their desire for Moldova to play an active role in addressing these issues.

Thus, the youth envision that by 2030, Moldova's climate will stabilise, and the Government will take a proactive approach to addressing climate change issues. At the same time, young people aspire for the Government to develop frameworks in which the youth are active participants in climate change solutions, provided with the necessary financial resources to fulfil this mission.

By 2030, due to various formal, non-formal, and informal environmental education programs, every citizen will understand their responsibility towards environmental protection processes. Consequently, the irresponsible use of plastic and other hard-to-recycle products would be limited, supported by a proper sorting and waste collection system that the responsible public uses.





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As a result of all the interventions mentioned above, Moldova in 2030 will be a much cleaner and livelier place, not as polluted as it is now, with the planet's health and well-being equating to its inhabitants' health and well-being.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND INNOVATION:

Participants emphasised resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialisation, and innovation, tying their vision closely to SDG 9.1, aiming for a technologically advanced Moldova by 2030.

By 2030, the infrastructure in Moldova will be sustainable, inclusive of high quality, ecological, and harmless, facilitating development and community inclusion processes in various sectors, such as education and work.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HEALTH:

Young participants underscored the importance of inclusive and productive employment, highlighting the relevance of SDG 8.5.

In this context, the youth's vision is that by 2030, salaries in Moldova will be decent, balanced, and aligned with the European average, thus providing an opportunity to attract the Moldovan diaspora back home, including economically activating socially vulnerable groups, turning them into active contributors to the country's development.

Furthermore, they see themselves in a country without poverty, which will be reduced thanks to human relationships, as well as lasting partnerships between Moldova and its development partners, or at least poverty will be reduced by 50% due to collective bargaining, collaboration, efficient communication, tolerance, and inclusion.

A young participant imagines Moldova in 2030 as a country without poverty, having the diaspora return home with decent and stable jobs. This individual also believes that Moldova will be a state that invests in and promotes a healthy lifestyle, paying increased attention to developing a high-performing and well-equipped medical infrastructure that responds to people's needs without arrogance from medical professionals and ensures quality healthcare.

## GENDER EQUALITY:

Reflecting global trends, young people in Moldova prioritise gender equality, hoping for a future where everyone's rights are treated equally without discrimination, including on gender grounds.

In the youth's vision, gender equality in politics and decision-making processes, especially at the local level, will be encouraged and ensured through quotas for parties with more women in local and regional councils, including mayors (similarly to quotas for parliamentary elections). This will address inequalities girls and women face who no longer prioritise participation as necessary compared to their domestic and family duties.



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## QUALITY EDUCATION:

Given that most participants discussed SDG 4, quality education is a pressing priority for the country's further development. With their focus on SDG goals such as 4.4, 4.C, 4.1, 4.A, and 4.7, young people display a multifaceted approach they hope to adopt – from primary education to quality vocational training. Furthermore, they view quality education as a precondition for realising other rights and development opportunities.

The youth's vision is that through quality education, Moldova 2030 will have modernised educational institutions with advanced methodologies and curricula, especially in villages, where digital educational systems will significantly support the educational system. Schools and universities will be inclusive for students with disabilities and will not have outdoor toilets; they will be safe places where students are protected from bullying. They also envision well-developed and equipped educational institutions providing students with all the conditions for growth and safety concerning harmless school infrastructure (without risks like being killed by a falling goalpost, as happened in 2 or 3 schools that year). Lastly, they see a significant role of education in developing soft skills, life skills, and those that facilitate integration into the job market.

By 2030, they hope to see Moldova with an education system aligned with European standards, corruption-free, and a considerably reduced school illiteracy rate. With quality education, Moldova will become a modernised country socioeconomically, culturally, politically, etc., and the youth will fight to achieve this goal.

One point hotly debated in the education group consultations was the lack of sexual education in schools and discussions about sexual orientation, which causes many problems among young people as outlined in SDG targets 3. For this reason, by 2030, young people aspire to have an educational system where sexual education is not taboo but a necessity.

Some also envision the educational system 2030 as one where each school has a student council acting as a watchdog, genuinely operating without being manipulated by school management, not just as decoration and tokenism in decision-making processes, and ensuring significant student participation in school decision-making.

In conclusion, they believe that thanks to a quality education system, there will be more tolerance, acceptance of diversity will increase, and human responsibility will drive social-human development in Moldova.

## FOOD SECURITY:

The emphasis on SDG 2 suggests concerns related to food security and the importance of sustainable agriculture for Moldova's future. By 2030, young people envision a Moldova where the community/population is focused on challenges and solutions related to responsible consumption and production and has access to funding programs for creative projects that contribute to educating and disciplining the population regarding responsible consumption and production.



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH SECTOR:

By 2030, the youth sector will be well developed. With the help of investments aimed at developing the youth sector addressed to youth structures, we will ensure the growth of a generation of educated young people, competent in competition and contributing to community development through various projects and social initiatives.

Also, by 2030, young people see that the youth sector in Moldova is highly developed, where young people are actively involved in decision-making processes to promote the rights of young people and youth structures and have functional platforms for participation, such as co-management ones.

## PESSIMISTIC VISIONS:

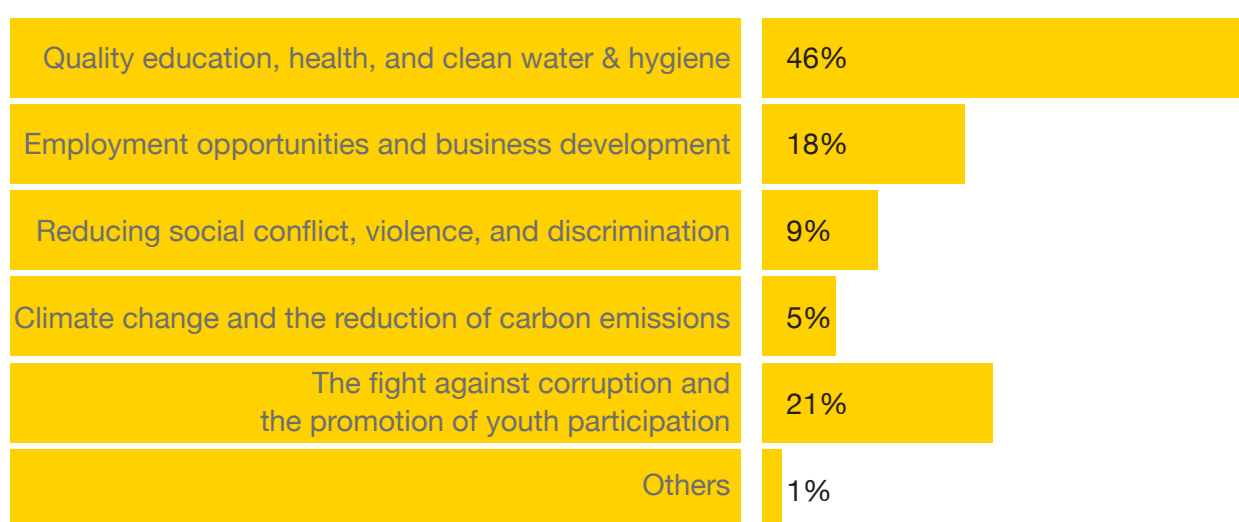
However, 3% of the young participants in the public consultations were less confident that by 2030, Moldova will be able to undergo drastic changes in problem-solving.

Thus, these young people believe that «by 2030, not much will change if people keep their current mindset, but if some changes are imposed, Moldova will be dominated by more responsible and careful individuals concerning their responsible actions.

At the same time, young people «do not believe there will be major changes and we will not have flying cars», but still, they hope that things will evolve positively, and they will have a prosperous future in their homeland.

Finally, we present the priorities of the U-Reporter youth concerning the SDGs that should be a priority for the Government for the next five years.

Figure no. 15



**WHAT FIELD SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF MOLDOVA PRIORITIZE TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?**

**108 respondents**  
out of 223 interviewed



As with the participants in the offline public consultations, the U-Reporters also emphasise issues in education, work, and corruption, correlating with other related fields and their resolution.

In the end, we propose an analysis from a gender and age perspective on the prioritisation of SDGs by young respondents, where we have the following priority areas for the RM Government for the next five years presented in figures no. 16 and 17.

Figure no. 16

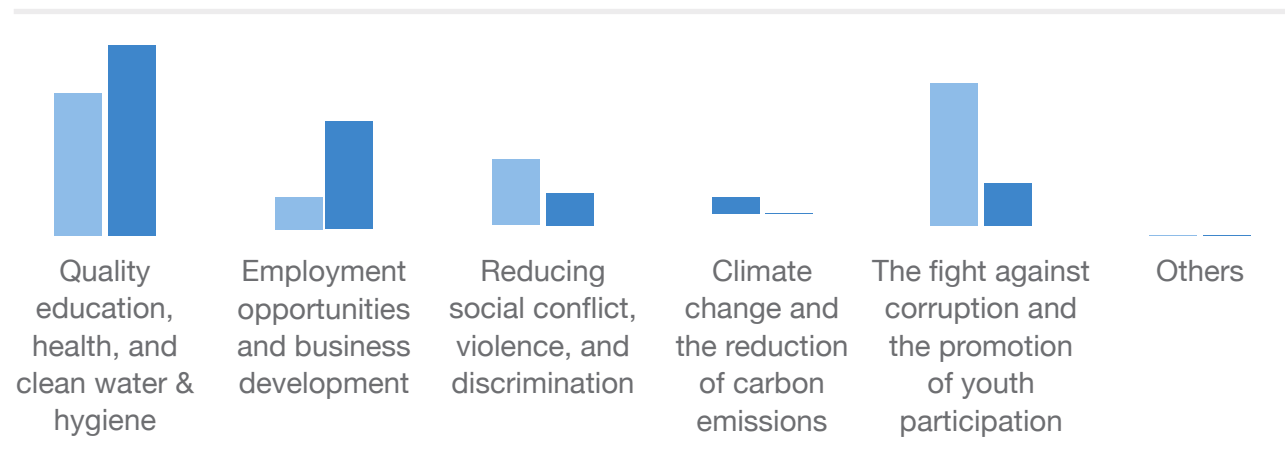
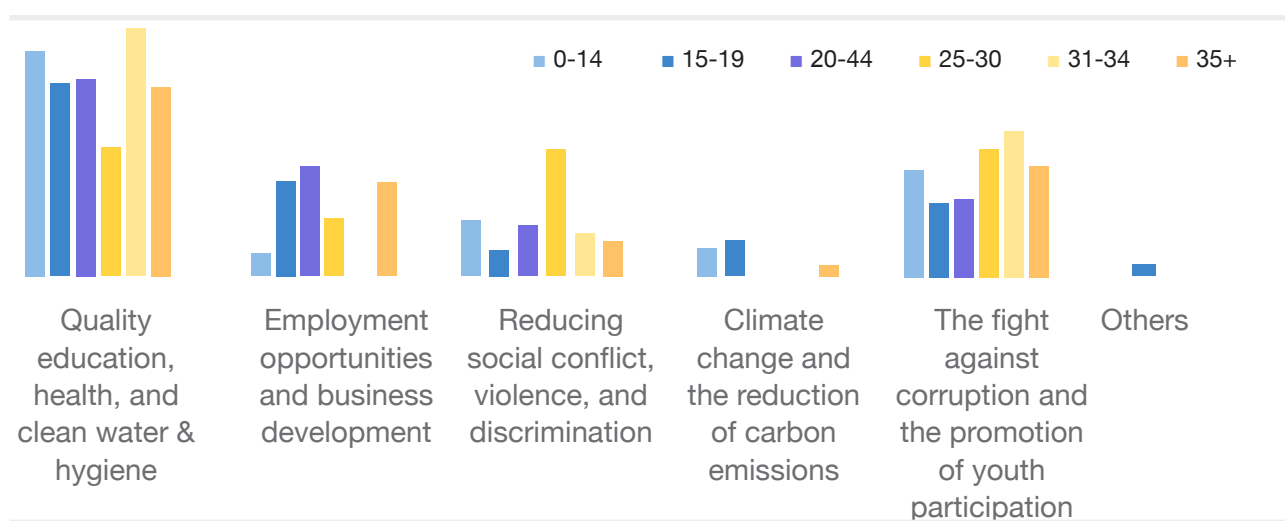


Figure no. 17



From these data, we deduce that girls are more interested in solving problems related to education and employability, while boys are most interested in fighting corruption and promoting youth participation. A paradox appears in the chapter on youth participation prioritised by boys, who have all the perspectives and opportunities to participate. However, in essence, their participation is relatively modest compared to the girls' participation in the case of the consultations for this report, with a participation of 2/3 girls and 1/3 boys. This also applies to other participation activities, except when girls enter marital relations, have children, etc.

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# BRILLIANT IDEAS AND SDG IMPLEMENTATION

## SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

The highlight of the SDG assessment process using the IMAGINE 2030 game is generating ideas and solutions concerning their discussed problems and concerns within working groups. Therefore, we present the solutions through which young people believe that Moldova will achieve the visions they presented for 2030:

### 1. CREATING A FAIR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The main plan is to create a fair and safe environment, allowing young people and adults access to inclusive and quality education. The educational system needs to be rethought to ensure that young people have access to financial and entrepreneurial education programs, civic activism, participation in decision-making, personal development education, resilience, etc. Quality education will have collateral effects on developing skills and the needs of future professions focused on:

- a. Facilitating workforce employment;
- b. Creating attractive, decent, and inclusive jobs;
- c. Encouraging entrepreneurial spirit among young people by continuously and progressively ensuring financing programs and support for start-up development.

Young people also ask for teachers' motivation through competitive salaries, experience exchanges, and international ones. They also demand that teachers have a correct attitude towards their students, create a harmonious classroom learning environment, and use effective and harmless teaching methods.

Implementing this will increase responsible, qualified, and motivated individuals, ultimately boosting the country's GDP and economic development.

### 2. INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Introducing new educational concepts and methods into the education system, which is expected to contribute to the country's development significantly. Implementing widespread dual education and digital education would be a solution. Also, consider extending the dual education concept to the university level, ensuring university students can access quality mentoring and internship programs.

This will reduce youth discrimination in the labour market due to lack of work experience and increase employment opportunities for graduates, ensuring competitive wages.



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Creating an environment that combines formal, non-formal, and informal education, especially involving young people from rural areas. A better connection between formal, non-formal, and informal educational systems demands that they relate and be governed by working principles such as effective communication, collaboration, innovation, digitalisation, inclusion, and hard work focused on direct beneficiaries and their individual needs. This approach will create a favourable, inclusive education and development environment based on future competencies.

*Resource reallocation: Among the solutions proposed by public consultation participants is the proposal to redirect government-budgeted financial resources from less critical areas (e.g., reducing and optimising administrative expenses) in favour of the education system. Along with this, young people propose digitising government systems and services (e.g., electronic voting, digitised social assistance where applicable, employment services, etc.), ensuring that financial resources are not wasted, thereby releasing more funds in favour of the education system. Ensure that the education sector has at least 5% of Moldova's GDP.*

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES RELATED TO CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

According to the vision of the youth, funding should be provided to youth organisations to develop creative and innovative projects that the state will later adopt for widespread implementation. At the same time, support and encouragement should be ensured for youth organisations that develop and implement information and awareness campaigns to influence negative behaviours among the population.

Another proposal is to develop tourism in all its diversity, which should be a priority for Governments, promoting the implementation of innovative ideas and contributing to developing a tourism system that educates the population to be responsible consumers and producers.

There is also a demand for modernising and technologizing the agriculture industry to ensure a safe production process for the environment. Parallel to this, it should be ensured that by 2030, Moldova will have at least 25% of its territory covered with forests.

Economic reduction of non-recyclable materials and the development of advanced recycling systems with donor support are essential. Alongside ensuring the population has environmental education and sorts of waste, penalties are introduced if necessary for violating environmental and waste sorting standards. Establishing a commission to monitor progress in this field is encouraged.

### **4. COMBATING CORRUPTION:**

By 2030, we envision that the main identified issue, «corruption», is addressed by reducing and eradicating corruption and bribery in all its forms, including through the value chain. This is related to the following aspects:



- 
- quality education that has solved the problem through accurate and public information.
  - decent work and economic growth through funding and protection
  - innovation and infrastructure

We envision a conscious, honest, rational world where corruption is punished according to the law.

There is also a proposal to introduce curricular modules in the educational system to educate the population about corruption and its dangers, teach about values, integrity, and honesty, and highlight the accountability for corrupt actions.

Simultaneously, the implementation process needs monitoring, coordination, and control over education, public services, justice, health, etc., ensuring that state anti-corruption policies are appropriately implemented.

## 5. ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORKFORCE

Our primary plan is to create a fair and safe environment for young people and adults to access education and vocational training and develop professional skills that facilitate employability, decent job creation, and entrepreneurship. This will lead to the development of responsible, qualified, and employable individuals, thus increasing the gross domestic product and the economy of the state.

**Improving jobs, bringing, and increasing wages.**

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As Moldova charts its future with the aim of European integration and achieving the country's sustainable development goals, exploring the concerns and aspirations of young people, and valuing them as active participants in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is paramount. Given the country's demographic situation, with a continuous decrease in population and ageing, investing in youth and harnessing their potential emerges as a priority.

Young people in Moldova aspire and reflect global concerns that directly affect their lives, a fact confirmed during the assessment process of the SDGs currently carried out by the CNTM team in partnership with the Government of Moldova and UN agencies. Youth priorities concerning education, governance, and gender equality mirror global trends while highlighting unique national challenges like corruption.

Concerns about corruption, outdated educational systems, and challenges related to climate change and employability suggest existing barriers to achieving these SDGs. These represent a direct obstacle for young people aspiring to an inclusive and safe environment socially, economically, politically, etc.

Despite these barriers observed during this analysis, it is worth noting that several positive actions have been undertaken to support the nationalisation and implementation of the SDGs in Moldova, including the «Paid Internships for Young People» program, «inclusive education programs», «strengthening mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes», and others.





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From consulting with young people, we find that their priorities and challenges often relate to their immediate environments, such as school, work, and related issues like corruption, security, gender equality, etc<sup>8</sup>.

Furthermore, there remains an alarming lack of interest in participating young people in IMAGINE 2030 concerning **SDG 3: Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages**. Youth health in Moldova remains a priority for authorities as young people face health issues like HIV, malignant tumours, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, premature pregnancies, declining mental health (especially post-Covid), bullying, violence, etc .

Another discrepancy relates to **SDG 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In Moldova**, young people show little concern. However, SDG 6 targets remain a significant challenge for the country's population, especially in ensuring equitable and universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas. And not least, improving water quality by reducing pollution remains a challenge for Moldova.

Rural households, where most of the population lives and which often comprise the poorest households, have a rate of access to water and sanitation that's half of that in urban areas. The most significant disparity is in access to adequate sanitation, where only 2.9% of the rural population and 10% of the low-income population are connected to the public sewerage system<sup>9</sup>.

Referring to **SDG 8**, we can highlight this as a significant priority for young participants in offline and online consultations. Discrimination in employment due to marital status, pregnancy, or having young children is a concern for many women aged 25-30. Therefore, an awareness campaign on this topic is necessary, as is strengthening the system to prevent and combat discrimination in the workplace.

Furthermore, the young participants in IMAGINAȚI-VĂ 2030 did not prioritise SDG 10: Reducing inequalities within and among countries. Despite this, this objective is critical and directly affects young people, ensuring their social inclusion through equal opportunities and reducing inequalities in access to goods and services. Although some respondents to the U-Report Moldova survey prioritised the issue of discrimination, this should be a priority in ensuring an equal and equitable state for its citizens.

Also, among young people, there needs to be more vision and priorities concerning SDG 15: Life on Land. This is concerning because the national forest fund only makes up 12.7% of the country's territory<sup>10</sup>.

Regarding **SDG 16** and the participation of young people in decision-making processes, young people point out several inequalities in the field of participation based on marital status. Up until about the age of 20, they are very active in participation, but most often, after marriage, they no longer prioritise participation compared to their household and family obligations. Therefore, the Government should introduce affirmative measures to support the participation of girls and women regardless of their age. Combating corruption across all socio-economic fields should be a top priority for the Government because we will make significant progress in the country's development by effectively fighting corruption at all levels.

Analysing this data, we can conclude that the young people who participated in the consultations

8 [https://statistica.gov.md/ro/tinerii-in-republica-moldova-in-anul-2022-9578\\_60648.html](https://statistica.gov.md/ro/tinerii-in-republica-moldova-in-anul-2022-9578_60648.html)

9 [https://progen.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CPD\\_SDG6\\_water-and-sanitation\\_ro-eng.pdf](https://progen.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CPD_SDG6_water-and-sanitation_ro-eng.pdf)

10 <https://www.moldsilva.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=180&t=Fondul-forestier-national/Resursele-forestiere/Resursele-forestiere/#:~:text=Actualmente%2C%20fondul%20forestier%20na%C5%A3ional%20constituie,6%25%20%2D%20de%20proprietari%20priva%C5%A3i>



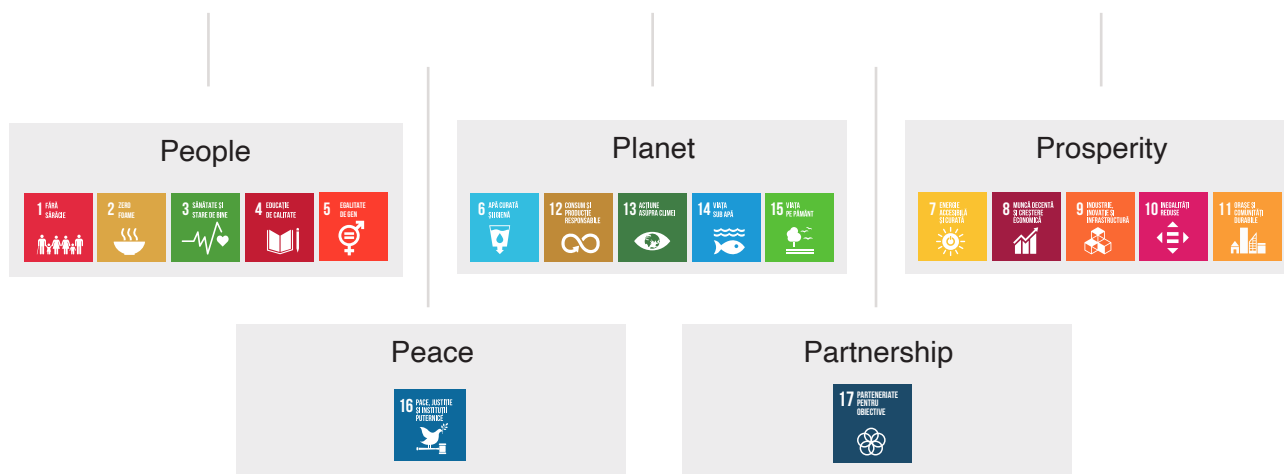


are informed and initiated in analysing the issues that directly affect them. On the other hand, identifying other issues, which are, in fact, very common in Moldova, such as those related to clean energy, the development of cities, and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, remains a challenge for the youth. One explanation might be that they are not involved in achieving these specific SDGs, or another might need more knowledge about these processes. This lack of knowledge can largely be explained by the fact that the general and university education system from which the participants came does not have a comprehensive curriculum on SDGs or approach sustainability topics inadequately from the perspective of set targets, their importance, and how these goals can be achieved in real life.

The complexity of the SDGs proved to be a barrier to understanding by the group of young people with disabilities involved in the consultation process. This exercise highlighted that we currently do not have SDGs and their targets translated into easy-to-understand language or Braille in the country, ensuring their accessibility to SDG information. Therefore, there is a recommendation to develop accessible resources for young people with disabilities in Moldova.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS

Here are several recommendations for the proper implementation of the SDGs in Moldova. The recommendations are grouped according to the five «Ps» that characterise the SDGs.



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# POPULATION

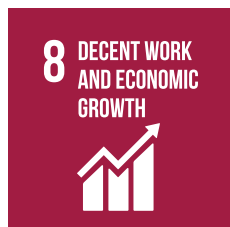


- a. Implement comprehensive subjects related to sustainable development in the educational curriculum to ensure a comprehensive understanding of global sustainability and resilience challenges and solutions.
- b. Implement school subjects dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and rights, increase access for youth to modern contraceptives and health education in a holistic approach, ensuring education of young people to achieve SDG 3 and enhance health and well-being as a value.
- c. Ensure a harmonious and safe environment for students in educational institutions to prevent and combat discrimination and harassment, ensuring that no one is excluded or left behind.
- d. Ensure that educational institutions are accessible to children and young people with disabilities and provide schools with buses adapted to the needs of children with disabilities.
- e. Create adequate conditions for student comfort, especially abolishing practices of using toilets located in the schoolyard, building proper sanitation blocks, and ensuring access to menstrual hygiene products and medical and psychological services.
- f. Modernise classroom infrastructure (gymnasiums, etc.) to improve learning outcomes and prevent safety accidents in school.
- g. Include «Ecological Education» in the school curriculum to instil in young students' proper skills for managing environmental resources (water, soil, flora, fauna).
- h. Align the educational curriculum with job market demands and widely implement dual education, thus accumulating relevant skills for workforce employment.
- i. Develop programs on mental health among young people.
- j. Develop community centres and services in rural areas for leisure, entertainment, non-formal and informal education.
- k. Promote a healthy lifestyle among young people and develop programs for young people to promote a healthy lifestyle (free or discounted gym subscriptions, opening sports sections, and sports complexes where they do not exist).
- l. Create and implement policies that encourage the participation of girls and women throughout their lives and combat their discrimination in all fields.
- a. Develop national programs to encourage using renewable energy for household purposes.



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# PROSPERITY



- b.** Use renewable energy in the national industry.
- c.** Reduce poverty levels by creating equitable and non-discriminatory employment opportunities for young people in both rural and urban areas.
- d.** Expand the national applicability of the paid internship program within public institutions.
- e.** Reduce youth unemployment and combat the phenomenon of informal labour.
- f.** Increase salary levels to maintain youth satisfaction and avoid staff turnover.
- g.** Encourage the development of social enterprises and increase opportunities for socially vulnerable groups.
- h.** Reduce inequalities in the labour market and ensure an inclusive workplace, ensuring no one is subjected to discriminatory treatment.
- i.** Strengthen the prevention and combatting of discrimination in the labour market, ensuring that young people are no longer discriminated against when hiring due to a lack of work experience, pregnancy, etc.
- j.** Invest in digitising youth activities and services and beyond.
- k.** Develop and ensure the sustainability of outreach services and ensure viable tools for working with young people from hard-to-reach areas, vulnerable groups, or with special needs.
- l.** Review the «First Home.» Program and ensure that young people can buy a home with the state's support, which they will be able to repay in a short period.
- a.** Develop a national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% in the



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# PLANET



next five years.

- b.** Strengthen environmental legislation to be enforced more strictly.
- c.** Create a legal framework to encourage the use of renewable energy in the transport and industrial sectors.
- d.** Promote the use of organic products.
- e.** Develop a national plan to prevent and reduce land degradation.
- f.** Encourage reforestation and afforestation actions.
- g.** Combat and prevent the phenomenon of land desertification.
- h.** Establish measures to reduce air, soil, and water pollution.
- i.** Strengthen control over waste management and recycling, including medical, chemical, and radioactive waste.
- j.** Increase the share of green areas in urban areas.
- k.** Ensure a clear understanding of the concept of sustainability for young people, introducing practical subjects and exercises on the three pillars of sustainability in the curriculum: economic, social, and environmental.
- l.** Ensure the participation of young people in the process of developing and implementing national and local policies related to environmental protection.
- m.** Develop youth-led sustainable projects and promote environmental values among youth.
- n.** Prioritise investments in urban infrastructure to reduce pollution and increase the share of green areas.
- o.** Monitor and combat illegal logging.



# PEACE



- a.** Strengthen the capacities of young people for peace, reconciliation, conflict prevention, and resolution.
- b.** Promote educational programs for interethnic understanding and acceptance.
- c.** Create an enabling environment for young people to participate in decision-making processes at both the local and national levels.
- d.** Ensure that all young people have equal opportunities regardless of their ethnic or religious background.
- e.** Promote tolerance, respect, and understanding between ethnic and religious communities.
- f.** Strengthen the national capacity to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism among young people.
- g.** Encourage young people to participate in social, cultural, and economic initiatives that promote peace and development.
- h.** Support and promote initiatives to strengthen social cohesion and mutual respect between young people from different backgrounds and regions of the country.

# PARTNERSHIPS

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



- a.** Foster the creation of platforms for dialogue and cooperation between government institutions and youth organisations.
- b.** Develop partnerships between government institutions, the private sector, and civil society organisations to enhance the implementation of SDGs.
- c.** Create platforms for collaboration and information exchange between young people and government institutions.
- d.** Encourage young people's active participation in developing and implementing national policies related to the SDGs.
- e.** Foster and strengthen international partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs, with a focus on South-South and triangular cooperation.
- f.** Collaborate with other countries, international organisations, and NGOs in developing and implementing initiatives related to the SDGs.
- g.** Encourage youth participation in regional and international forums and platforms dedicated to the SDGs.

**Establishing a review mechanism for the SDGs focused on youth and their participation:**

a.

Designing and implementing a consolidated process for periodic consultation of the SDGs from a youth perspective, like a Youth SDGs Index.

b.

Regular monitoring of the integration and implementation of young people's recommendations to ensure their voices are represented in SDG implementation strategies.

c.

Government approval of the national program «Youth Delegate to the UN» developed by CNTM and the youth department of the Ministry of Education and Research as early as 2020.

**Inclusive communication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

a.

Adopting a user-friendly presentation format for the SDGs and their targets, ensuring accessibility, primarily addressing uninvolved youth with a specific emphasis on those belonging to vulnerable categories (e.g., people with disabilities).

b.

Conducting information campaigns on discrimination in school, work, etc., and combating this phenomenon, including awareness campaigns on the importance of equality between girls/women and boys/men and countering gender-based hate speech.