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70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



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DEAR READERS,

With this new issue of the United Nations in Moldova Magazine, we are celebrating another year of success in working together to improve the well-being of all people in Moldova, particularly the most vulnerable. The issue covers a range of topics and stories that highlight some of our accomplishments, spanning across all four strategic directions of our work, namely 1) governance, human rights and gender equality, 2) sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, 3) environmental sustainability and resilience, and 4) inclusive and equitable social development. We are committed to continue building on these accomplishments to achieve even better outcomes in 2019 and beyond.

Two achievements reached during the previous year will especially define our work over this year and in the years to come. First, both the Government and Parliament approved the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030.

“The document, which was developed with the full support of the United Nations, is the product of a two-year process involving a broad range of partners and extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The result is an ambitious blueprint for the development of the country that is fully aligned with people’s aspirations and the sustainable development goals.”

The approval of this document opens new avenues for the United Nations to use its competitive advantage in supporting the transformation of the country into a modern and prosperous state.

Second, as an organization, we launched a far-reaching reform that is already changing the way in which the United Nations development system works to help countries around the world, including Moldova, in meeting the goals and targets laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda is an ambitious and transformative document that calls for equally ambitious and transformative approaches to support its implementation. The reform was precisely the bold response required to reposition the United Nations development system so that it becomes an even more effective and efficient partner to countries in reaching the sustainable development goals, without leaving anyone behind.

The repositioning of the United Nations development system started with the establishment of an impartial, independent and empowered coordination function at the beginning of this year – a measure that will strengthen the delivery of our collective efforts and ensure system-wide accountability on the ground – and will continue with the implementation of other similarly transformative changes. The reform is exceptionally timely in the context of Moldova as the country embarks on the implementation of its new National Development Strategy Moldova 2030. The changes brought by the reform are expected to enhance our efforts in supporting the country achieve its newly set development priorities and accelerate progress towards making the sustainable development goals a reality.

I believe that our past accomplishments are the best indicator of what we can achieve in the future. I, therefore, invite you to learn more about our work by reading this new issue of the United Nations in Moldova Magazine.

DAFINA GERCHEVA
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
UNDP Resident Representative



UN MOLDOVA BROUGHT TO CHISINAU INSPIRATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES OF BRUSSELS MILLENIUM FILM FESTIVAL

Six documentaries awarded at the Millennium Documentary Film Festival in Brussels were screened at the end of October 2018 in Chisinau. The six films presented in Chisinau were selected among over 1000 films that annually participate in the festival and address environmental issues and social phenomena like migration, refugees, modern slavery. The screening was made possible by the UN in Moldova and CRONOGRAF International Documentary Film Festival and organized by OWH Studio.

"We are delighted to partner with the Millennium and Cronograf Documentary Film Festivals and to host in Chisinau, the beautiful capital of Moldova, a premiere screening of six inspirational documentary films. These films showcase effective and innovative actions and solutions to create positive change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. They build awareness of the Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda and call for mobilizing and scaling up action on the ground. We hope the programme will resonate with the aspirations of the citizens of Moldova for transforming the country into a modern and prosperous state," said Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNDP Resident Representative in Moldova.

Designed to put forward the films that address issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Millennium Film Festival has become one of the most attractive European festivals of documentaries due to the careful selection of films.

All these films convey messages that are very close to the Moldovan people who can find themselves in each of the projected film."

VIRGILIU MARGINEANU,
General Director of the OWH STUDIO Film House and President of the CRONOGRAF International Documentary Film Festival

The first projection was the poetic documentary *Taste of Cement*, directed by Ziad Kalthoum, depicting the portrait of workers in exile in a war-torn world. It was followed by Mila Turajlić's documentary *The Other Side of Everything* - the winner of the Grand Prix of the Millennium Film Festival 2018, revealing a personal view on the recent history of Yugoslavia from the point of view of several generations of the director's family. Tonislav Hristov's



Inauguration of the Millennium Film Festival in Chisinau

documentary *The Good Postman*, which is an ironic and subtle approach to the transition issue, and Pau Ortiz's *The Other Side of the Wall* about migration, which separates families and because of which children become adults too early, were projected on the second day of the festival.

On the third day, the participants watched *Thank You for the Rain*, directed by Julia Dahr - an emotional documentary about global warming, and *A Woman Captured*, directed by Bernadett Tuza-Ritter - a disturbing documentary about modern slavery.

Lubomir Gueorguiev, the President of the Millennium Film Festival, was impressed by the audience in Chisinau. "A lot of young people, more than in Brussels, came to watch the projections. It is critical to establish contact with this young digital generation, which has a different relation with the documentary film," noted Gueorguiev.



The projections were accompanied by an exhibition of photos from the localities of the Republic of Moldova, dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals





LAUNCH OF THE FIRST ONLINE HIV TEST APPLICATION

For the first time in Moldova, the online application "HIV-Test," developed by AO "Positive Initiative," was launched, allowing anyone to "pass the HIV test". The application can be downloaded for free on any mobile device and, based on answers to the predefined questions, the risk of HIV infection is measured, and location of the closest test point(s) is shown.

“ Our main commitment, recognizing the supreme value of life and keeping pace with modern technologies, is to step up our efforts and increase the efficiency of our activities. The on-line application "HIV-Test" responds to these requirements.”

RUSLAN POVERGA,
Executive Director, NGO "Positive Initiative"

The application was launched during the awareness campaign dedicated to the World AIDS Day "It concerns you! It concerns everyone!" with the slogan "Know Your HIV Status!", which included several pieces of news and innovation in the HIV research field.

The results of the "Stigma Index" study conducted among people living with HIV were also presented during the event. According to the research, four out of ten people living with HIV, report experiences of discriminatory treatments in the last 12 months. Forty percent say their status was disclosed to third parties. Most often, this occurs happens in the health system, family or close community (friends or neighbours). Practically each questioned person self-stigmatizes, experiencing feelings of self-indulgence, shame, and underestimation. Also, 6.6% of respondents admitted suffering from suicidal tendencies, and in unitary cases people reported they lost their jobs or considerable income due to their status.

"Stigma and discrimination continue being the biggest obstacle to access HIV services, including testing. Once being tested for HIV, the test provides us with the information we need to make informed, assumed and correct choices about our own health. Information and knowledge are power," says Svetlana Plamadeala, Country Manager, UNAIDS Moldova.

This research also measured the attitudes and experiences of people living with HIV, including those related to the realization of fundamental rights – life, health, education, work, etc. The research was carried out within the framework of the project "Joint Action



Promoting the on-line application "HIV-Test"

to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova," implemented by the UN agencies and 8 non-governmental organizations, with the financial support of the Swedish Embassy.

"Despite the efforts made by the Government, partners, civil society, we still have a society in which discrimination and stigmatization are present. Our common goal is to fight this phenomenon and explain to the whole society that: taking the HIV test, knowing your HIV status and starting treatment if the test is positive means to protect yourself and those around you." emphasized Aliona Serbulenco, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection.

1 December marks the World AIDS Day. Last year, the global community celebrated the 30-year progress in combating HIV. The worldwide UNAIDS message promotes the importance and need for HIV testing.

According to statistical data, by 1 January 2018, there were 11,829 registered cases of HIV infection since the start of the epidemic. The prevalence of HIV infection was 210.8 cases per 100 thousand population.

From January to October 2018, 752 new HIV cases were confirmed. Most people living with HIV infection are of young, reproductive age and sexually active. The heterosexual transmission path predominates.



PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION AND BERTAM GRUP RECEIVED THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS



Dafina Gercheva and Pavel Postica, Programme Director, Promo-Lex

UN in Moldova awarded two human rights awards in 2018. One of them was awarded to Bertam Grup for outstanding achievements in 2018 and the other one, which is a special prize marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was awarded to Promo-LEX Association for an outstanding lifelong advancement of human rights with a major impact on the lives of right holders.

The UN Gala of Human Rights Awards took place on 6 December 2018 and gathered over 200 representatives of national and local public authorities, development partners, civil society and mass-media.

“ For 14 years now, UN family is organizing this Gala to celebrate the individual and group success in promoting human rights in the Republic of Moldova. The awards are aimed at acknowledging the importance of human rights advancement in the Republic of Moldova as well as supporting and encouraging human rights defenders to further act on bringing human rights to life.”

DAFINA GERCHEVA,
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
UNDP Resident Representative
in the Republic of Moldova

The Ombudsperson Mihail Cotorobai noted that at national level, Moldova registered regressions in the field of human rights in 2018. According to him, the professionals in the field, as well as development partners of our country talk more and more about selective justice, gaps in freedom of expression, deterioration of the rule of law and of democratic standards.

“ The year 2018 was marked by hate speech in the public space and intimidations against journalists. Under such circumstances, human rights defenders find it increasingly difficult to exercise their duties. However, their role in society is strengthened. Therefore, the awards given by the UN have a special value.”

MIHAIL COTOROBAI,
Ombudsperson





Classical music concert dedicated to the International Human Rights Day



The Gala gathered over 200 representatives of public authorities, development partners, civil society and mass-media



Daria Lupan, winner of creative contest

The award for outstanding human rights achievement in 2018 was given to Bertam Grup for inclusive approach to employment by incorporating in its staff people coming from the most vulnerable groups, including former drug users, people living with HIV, people with hepatitis C infection and former inmates.

“ I had a personal crisis, and I went through various complicated situations. I have used drugs for 10 years, being convicted several times. After the last detention, I decided to change my life. I got a job, although it was difficult to find it since I had no studies. A good man hired me, and I started to work as a fright mover. Later I became a leader in the wholesale trade. And that man told me I had potential and I could start my own company. Hence, in 2007 I opened my own company.”

VLADIMIR GAIT,
Director, Bertam Grup

The UN award offered to Promo-LEX Association recognizes its efforts to promote human rights, especially equality and non-discrimination, combat torture and ill-treatment, protect the right to life and personal security. The award also recognized the efforts of Promo-LEX to promote human rights through strategic litigation before domestic and international courts, monitor and report on human rights issues, advocate at national and international levels for human rights compliant policies, conduct human rights training for various groups of beneficiaries and raise awareness on human rights.



President of Promo-Lex, in a presentation video. Photo: UN Moldova

“ By identifying cases, we try to be useful to many people. We have our priority areas and we offer free legal advice; thus we select the cases where lawyers, human rights defenders need to do their job.”

ION MANOLE,
President of Promo-LEX Association

The UN Human Rights Gala also awarded the winners of a creative contest, designated by public vote. The contest was organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It gathered a total of 55 participants. Organized since 2004, every year on occasion of the International Human Rights Day, the UN Human Rights Gala of Awards aims at highlighting and rewarding the most valuable, innovative, effective and participatory initiatives and actions to defend and promote human rights in Moldova.



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Marina Momat and Sandu Ciobanu have been married for 8 years. When Marina moved from Taradia to Chisinau, she started her process of adapting to another society. The cultural exchange in Marina's family is continuous - Marina cooks the Gagauzian pie "kırma" and in exchange her daughters Alexandra, Constanța and Victoria teach her Romanian language. Photo: OHCHR

In 2018 the international community celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These 70 years were marked by the human rights discourse at various levels. Human rights have become more than just a political and legal category. The Declaration combined into one international document values that are opposed to war, pain and human suffering caused by war.

The Declaration is the most universally accepted document as a source of human rights protection. However, its drafting was not at all an easy endeavour.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 217A at its third session on 10 December 1948. Following this historic act, the UN General Assembly called upon all Member States to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

The Republic of Moldova as a state was built upon the

same values as those of the Universal Declaration – all human beings are equal in dignity and rights.

The Declaration of Sovereignty of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova adopted on 23 June 1990 proclaimed the sovereignty of the people: "Recognizing the truth that all the people are equal and have the inalienable right to life, freedom and wellbeing, while being aware of the historic responsibility for the destiny of Moldova that has a long-standing history, culture and traditions, respecting the right of all peoples to sovereignty in order to establish justice, safeguard legality and social stability, expressing the will of the people..."

A couple of days later, on 28 July 1990, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova acceded to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratified the international human rights treaties.

The Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Moldova "GUARANTEES the social, economic, cultural rights and political freedoms of all the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, including those belonging to national, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, in



Margareta Apostu does it all, Yoga with meditations, functional training, CrossFit, Tabata, Pilates, stretching and dances, and she even has time for her 8-month-old grandson. All the activities of a healthy mind and a healthy body. Photo: OHCHR



This is the first job for Alexandru since he graduated in 2017. Now Alexandru is the Dealer Helpline Operator at Moldcell. Photo: OHCHR

accordance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the documents adopted afterwards and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.”

Two years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, on 26 January 1993 the Republic of Moldova ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and on 1 July 1994 – the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The efforts to align to the values of the Universal Declaration culminated in the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova on 29 July 1994. In the preamble, the Constitution proclaims “[...] the rule of law, civil peace, democracy, human dignity, human rights and freedoms, free development of human personality, justice and political pluralism as supreme values.” The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova puts the human rights standards in the centre of the state’s concerns, recognizing their supremacy over the national legal framework (article 4 paragraph (2)).

During its 70-year history, the Declaration, initially a

formal document that underpinned the development of the human rights protection system (Covenants, Conventions and other declarations), turned into an instrument for the promotion of human rights, including after the launch of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism back in 2006. UPR is a unique state-driven process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, established together with the Universal Periodic Review, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

Just like other 193 states, the Republic of Moldova also went through the Universal Periodic Review, in two review cycles, and received hundreds of recommendations from the human rights monitoring mechanisms of the UN. The recommendations are practical tools for the realization of human rights at national level.

There are several approaches to the source of human rights. They can be seen as a change in the concept of natural rights, as being generated by pure morale, as existing if recognized by the state, but the existence of the Universal Declaration, which is universally accepted and unquestionable, reconfirms one of the key human rights principles – their inalienability.



The actors of the theatre group "Planeta Caritatii" during the rehearsal for the Christmas show. The actors of this theatre are people with intellectual and physical disabilities, and artistic activities help them develop and integrate into society and thus helps them be happier. Photo: OHCHR



Cristian is a third-grade student at Stefan Holban High School in Carpineni. Cristian likes his school, here he is part of a society, even if it is just a small society of his friends in the classroom. Photo: OHCHR



A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES CAN LEARN IN A COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TEACHING HIS SCHOOL MATES FRIENDSHIP AND TOLERANCE

Renat Mocanu, a 16-year-old teenager from Drochia, is a fighter with a history of wins. Daily walking to high school – a routine for most children, is a real achievement for him. Having been diagnosed with a hearing impairment, the adolescent learns to speak, while passionately studying regular school subjects.

Until recently, Renat was attending a specialised residential educational institution, with body language and gestures being his only ways to communicate.

“ It was very hard for us to let him go, but we hoped he would learn to speak there and it would be easier for us to communicate.”

LILIA MOCANU,
boy’s mother

However, parents’ hopes were shattered. Verbal communication in the said institution was completely replaced by gestures and body language. Renat has not only failed to develop his speech, he also has adopted body language and gestures that do not comply with the international sign language. As a

result, he cannot communicate with other people with hearing problems either.

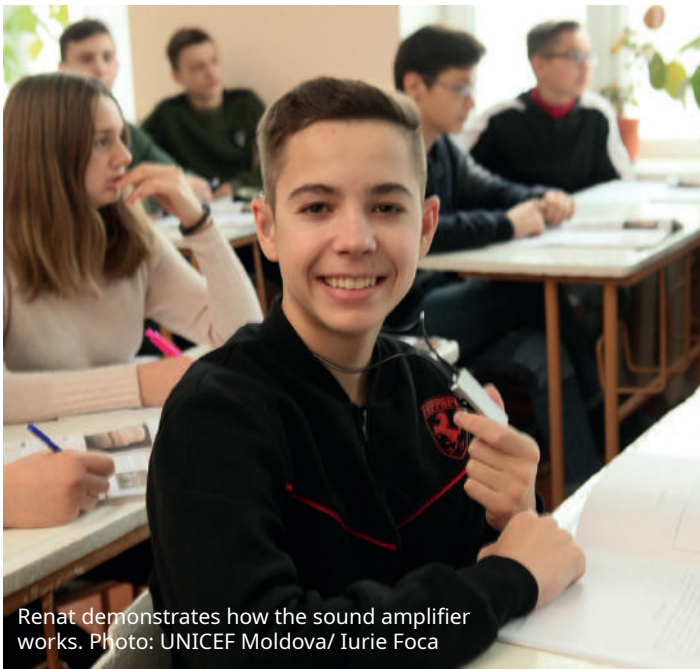
During boy’s stay in the institution his mother visited him very often, taking him home every weekend. After six years of permanently being apart, Renat refused to return to the boarding school. Thus, during the next several months he was enrolled in the school of Mandac village, Drochia district. At the same time Renat started to attend district Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service 2-3 times per week, benefiting from the assistance of a speech therapist. After a while he already was able to pronounce his first words and even sentences.

Encouraged by the child’s progress, Renat’s parents decided to move to the district centre to be closer to the reintegration services their child needed. Thus, starting from 1st September of this year, the teen has become the 8th grade student of one of the largest district educational institutions – ‘Mihai Eminescu’ Theoretical Lyceum. He also continues to see the speech therapist at the district Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service.



Renat and his teacher use the sound amplifier during a lesson.
Photo: UNICEF Moldova/ Iurie Foca





Renat demonstrates how the sound amplifier works. Photo: UNICEF Moldova/ Iurie Foca

SCHOOL CURRICULUM WAS ADJUSTED TO THE CHILD'S NEEDS

Renat studies as per individualized curriculum tailored to his needs at the school. The supporting teacher Lilia Istrati is there for him, encourages and helps the boy do his assignments. The speech therapist Diana Doschinescu from the district Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service talks about Renat's successes as well.

"The change was radical. When he first came the boy could hardly articulate a word. Now he's trying to talk and he's doing pretty well," the specialist says.

TEACHERS WERE TRAINED TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION

According to the head of the institution Sergiu Vrabie, before Renat's enrollment the teaching staff was trained by the Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service specialists so as to efficiently contribute to boy's school inclusion. All teachers now know simple gestures necessary to communicate with the teen, and when these are not enough they write the tasks or questions on a sheet of paper and Renat reads and fulfills them.

// The children and the teachers received him very well. We have had no problems or resistance from parents of Renat's classmates either. He has integrated quickly, has lots of friends, enjoys playing football."

SERGIU VRABIE,
School manager

Renat was recently donated a sound amplifier to communicate with colleagues and teachers more effectively. The device that will help him speak much more clearly consists of a microphone that is held by a



The support teacher, Lilia Istrati, supports Renat at the Romanian language and literature lesson. Photo: UNICEF Moldova/Iurie Foca



Renat and the speech therapist Diana Doschinescu are working on improving his speech. Photo: UNICEF Moldova/ Iurie Foca

teacher and an amplifier the boy holds himself. Unlike hearing aids that duplicate all the sounds making it harder for the owner to differentiate them, this system mutes other sounds allowing the child to hear teacher's voice only.

Teachers say that Renat's presence in the Lyceum is beneficial both for him and for the rest of the students. Thanks to him children have daily lessons of friendship and tolerance.

There are 12 more children with disabilities besides Renat attending the Lyceum, five of whom – with hearing impairments. Other children with hearing impairments are also fully integrated and communicate freely with teachers and students because they learned to wear their hearing aids and to talk from an early age.

Moldova has made great progress in the inclusive education over the past years. Currently, about 971 resource centres for inclusive education and over 989 support teachers are helping children and students with special educational needs in the process of their inclusion in the mainstream educational institutions. As a result, about 10 thousand children with special educational needs are now attending mainstream schools, while the number of children with disabilities in auxiliary and special schools declined considerably.



FOOTBALL MEANS MORE THAN JUST SCORING GOALS



The International Day of Girls is marked by a football match on the field of the Futsal Arena FMF sports centre, Ciorescu commune

About 48 girls, 10 and 11 years old, participated in a football match to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated annually on 11th October. The event was organized by Futsal Arena FMF, in Ciorescu commune, due to a partnership between the Moldovan Football Federation and UNICEF Moldova.

Encouraged by their coaches, the girls first played a football match, and after the match they engaged in an unusual activity called "Our Dream Place" – they had to build a village or a town where they would feel safe and protected.

"Sports bring joy to children – girls and boys alike," said Desiree Jongsma, UNICEF Country Representative in Moldova. "However, football is much more than a game. Besides building friendships, it nurtures in children the team spirit, teaches them how to be fair and tolerant, ultimately contributing to other spheres of life as well, such as volunteering, community life and active citizenship," said Ms Jongsma.

Even if our generation lives in a world of innovation, many girls around the world do not get the knowledge and the skills that would help them

become successful in life. The most affected are the disadvantaged girls, including those from rural areas and the disabled. Girls need to be encouraged and they also need models in order to succeed in life. One billion young people worldwide, including 600 million teenage girls, will enter the labour market in the next ten years.

An inspiration for the participants was Arina Birca. At her 15, she is already a player of the national under-17 football team. Arina started playing football after the coach Elena Subotina saw her playing football with boys in a courtyard.

"We all can play football. There should be more investments in women's football. It is a sport just like men's football. We also have the right to take part in championships. We should, also, have divisions and leagues. Why not?" wonders Arina. "We, the girls, also want to develop and become better. Give us this opportunity!"

Arina has been playing football for FC Narta – SS Drasliceni Club for three years and intends to continue playing it for as long as possible.

"Love football, play football, stay in football for as long as possible and let football become part of your life," encouraged Elena Subotina, the head coach of the national under-17 women's football team, the young players. "We are happy to see so many talented girls, who will play in future in national teams," added Ms. Subotina.

"On the International Day of the Girl Child, we would like to say that just like in sports we, the girls, have equal opportunities in everyday life, either in education, career or leisure activities," added Svetlana Patras, coordinator of football and social responsibility projects at the Moldovan Football Federation.

To respond to girls' and boys' needs and to promote and support the role of young people as agents of change, a global education and training partnership called "Generation Unlimited" has been recently launched as part of the efforts to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into life.

The football event was supported by the social project "Grow healthy through football" a joint initiative with the support of UEFA, UEFA's HatTrick Football and Social Responsibility Programme, FMF and UNICEF, which aims to encourage children's interests for sports and a healthy lifestyle through the practice of football and fun activities.





EMPLOYEES OF MOLDOVAN DEFENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DISCUSSED FOR THE FIRST TIME ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY



Public discussions were held in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence and UN Women. Photo: UN Women Moldova



Representatives of the security forces discussed the problem of violence against women in Moldova

More than 400 men and women working in defence and law enforcement agencies discussed for the first time gender equality, the rights of women and gender stereotypes, sexism and sexist advertising during a series of meetings facilitated by UN Women Moldova.

"I found out what gender equality really means and that, in fact, it means equal opportunities for women and men. I am really glad that I had the opportunity to hear the views of my colleagues about this issue," said one of the participants.

Additionally, between the months of July and December 2018, men and women working in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Department of Carabineer Troops, the National Anticorruption Centre and the Ministry of Defence, as well as representatives of the Association of Women in Police and National Association of Women in the

Internal Affairs System, debated the issue of violence against women and girls in the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, they committed to joint efforts to eradicate this phenomenon – according to statistics, six out of ten women have experienced at least one form of violence throughout their lives.

"I did not even imagine that gender-based violence is so widespread in the Republic of Moldova. The data revealed during the training was really surprising," stressed one of the participants.

These public discussions took place in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Defence and UN Women Moldova on 17 July 2018 in order to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan of the National Programme for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for 2018-2021.



More than 400 men and women from defence and law enforcement agencies discussed about gender equality and women's rights. Photo: UN Women Moldova



Participants agreed to work together to eradicate violence against women. Photo: UN Women Moldova



STORIES OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FROM ATU GAGAUZIA, PUT ON STAGE

Stories of several women-survivors of domestic violence from the ATU Gagauzia were staged by the Coliseum Arts Centre, thanks to a multi-ethnic local initiative. The theatre play is named "I won't let hope die" and is being staged in Russian language, with fragments in Romanian, Gagauz and Bulgarian. Actresses of the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu" from Chisinau, Municipal Theatre "Smeshen Petek" from Taraclia, and National Drama Theatre in Gagauz language "D. Tanasoglo" from Ceadir-Lunga bring on stage real-life dramas of women exposed to physical, psychological and economic violence in their families. The cast included: Mihaela Strambeanu, Olga Gutu-Cucu, Natalia Ivanciuc, Elena Danaji and Diana Karapenkova.

The theatre play was first staged in Chirsova village (ATU Gagauzia) on 28 November, and then it was staged in Taraclia on 2 December. After each show, a psychologist moderates a debate, to decipher the multiple forms of violence and convey messages about prevention and combatting of gender-based violence.

I think it is very important to discuss about domestic violence and engage in combating this phenomenon. A dialogue enabled by theatrical art is an efficient tool, because it sends clear messages, and not only at the theoretical or informational, but also at emotional level."

LUMINITA TACU,
Director of play

The Project Director Mihai Fusu also believes that art can substantially contribute to the promotion of a non-violent behaviour.

The message we seek to convey through this show, first of all, is that woman's dignity and every child's right to a healthy family, education and their parents' care must be protected. At the same time, we have a message for men as well: manhood does not mean violence, it means protection and care."

MIHAI FUSU,
Project Director

The youngest actress involved in the performance is Diana Karapenkova. She is 17 and works at the



Municipal Theatre in Taraclia. The girl has played in several shows and is a pupil at the local high school. Diana plays a young girl with speech disorders, who is abused by her violent father.

This performance is an extraordinary experience for me - sharing the same stage with professional actors and helping spread an anti-violence message. I invited all my high school peers and their parents to this show."

DIANA KARAPENCOVA,
Actress involved in the performance

This theatre play was staged with the support of the project "Addressing violence against women in Moldova: exploring and learning from local solutions," implemented by the UNDP and supported by the Republic of Korea.

The project will help establish support services for survivors of gender-based violence in the ATU Gagauzia. Women from five communities in the region, including Comrat, will benefit from psychological, social and legal counselling. They will also be assisted to find a job or start a business.

The pilot programme will be implemented in Chirsova, a village in ATU Gagauzia with 6,298 population, including 3,235 women. Supported by the UNDP, the community members will develop an action plan to prevent and combat gender-based violence. This document will allow the local authorities to establish the much-needed services to stop and prevent violence, as well as to allocate and mobilize resources.





FROM WHERE I STAND: "WE MUST FIGHT THE PERCEPTION THAT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FAMILY REMAINS IN THE FAMILY"

For Ina Gradinaru, a psychologist at the Centre for Assistance and Counselling for Victims of Violence "Ariadna" in Drochia, working with women who survived violence is more than just a job. It is a social responsibility and a personal mission. In the campaign "16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls", Ina Gradinaru spoke about her work, the challenges she faces day by day and the myths that must be broken to end domestic violence.

"After 12 years of work in the field of women's protection, I still feel that I always have something to learn from women who go through violence. They motivate me to go further.

I am the first person who women talk to when they come to our Centre. I learned that the attitude expressed when meeting a survivor of violence is decisive. First of all, a woman who survived domestic violence must be believed. If, at first, you give them the feeling that you do not believe what they say, the woman will no longer trust you and will not communicate openly about her experiences.

My mission as a psychologist is not to solve women's problems, but to guide them in identifying solutions. They have solutions already, but they need support.

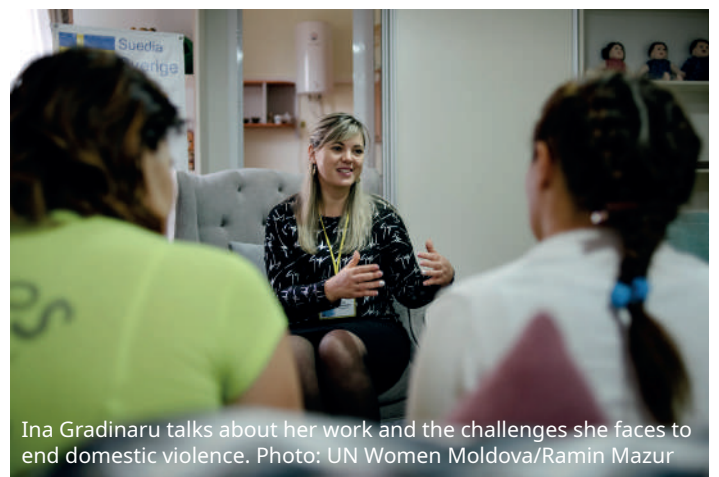
Unfortunately, many abused women still believe that violence is a private matter. The well-known saying that you should not wash your dirty linen in public is totally wrong. This perception supports violence and it is a frequent reason why violence is accepted and tolerated.

Another issue that I cannot stop addressing is the fact that violence is not only expressed physically. Many women are not aware that there is psychological, economic, sexual, or even spiritual violence and, unfortunately, women perceive this as a normality.



Ina Gradinaru, a psychologist at the Centre for Assistance and Counselling for Victims of Violence "Ariadna" in the city of Drochia. Photo: UN Women Moldova/Ramin Mazur

Women and men must understand that violence is not a norm, but a crime that is punishable by law, and any family conflict can be resolved through effective communication."



Ina Gradinaru talks about her work and the challenges she faces to end domestic violence. Photo: UN Women Moldova/Ramin Mazur

Ina Gradinaru is a psychologist and Deputy Director of the Ariadna Centre, a centre for assistance and counselling for women survivors of violence in the city of Drochia, 167 kilometres north of the capital of Moldova. UN Women, with funding from the Government of Sweden, supports the centre as part of a programme to improve essential services for women survivors of violence. Ms. Gradinaru has faced threats of violence herself, because of her work, but that hasn't stopped her from continuing her work with survivors. Her story is related to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, which targets ending violence against women and girls.



YOUTH CENTRES – SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Moldovan young people can harness their potential, engage in making decisions and make informed choices about their lifestyle due to the Youth Centres. The volunteers and employees of these centres are promoters of the young generation, and the stories of some of them have become success stories.



Aurelia Obreja (second from the left to right) together with youth volunteers at the Youth Centre in Orhei

SHE STARTED AS A YOUTH CENTRE VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED EMPLOYEE

Aurelia Obreja is only 19. She became a full-fledged employee of the Orhei Youth Centre only a couple of weeks after she graduated from school. Although her work record includes no more than a couple of months, the teenager has extensive experience in the field of youth, because before getting the job, she had worked as a volunteer of the centre for four years.

She was an 8th grade student when she found out about the youth centre in her locality and she immediately decided to become a volunteer. "For this I wrote my first CV to which I attached the best picture of me. To be even more convincing, I added a collection of my poems to the application package. I really wanted to be accepted," says the young girl, smiling.

Aurelia was accepted immediately by the youth centre and in the years that followed she came almost every day to the centre. She is proud of her many projects and initiatives that helped her and her peers develop. "Girls' Power", for instance, is an initiative I really like. We involved around 30 girls who needed support. We helped them to know each other better and provided guidance in their personal and professional development."

Aurelia's efforts did not go unnoticed and she was officially hired by the Orhei Youth Centre on 1 August

2018. The girl is responsible for informing the young people; she speaks to them in a friendly language about various initiatives or issues related to them. Together with her colleagues, she goes to villages, where she informs the young people about the opportunities that the centre provides and invites them to come to the centre.

"The work of a youth worker is very colourful because every day is full of emotions. Teenagers come with new ideas, energy and it is important to have someone to support their endeavours," notes Aurelia.

THE YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES WILL REACH EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN MOLDOVA

The Orhei Youth Centre, where Aurelia works, was established in 2012 and is one of the 20 youth centres that exist in the Republic of Moldova. Among the services provided by such centres and which have to be developed in the following years is the access to information, outreach, participation in making decisions, non-formal education, recreation and personal development.

Since 2017 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in partnership with UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, has been implementing the five-year Youth Centres Development Programme, which aims at developing the National Network of Youth Centres.



„Enhancing youth policies and services in Moldova to leave no one behind”, November 2018

At the recent conference "Enhancing youth policies and services in Moldova to leave no one behind," Rita Columbia, UNFPA Representative in Moldova, said that the youth centres must be safe and youth-friendly, giving young people opportunities to develop, participate and engage in civic activities.

"I urge all partners to join national efforts so that youth centres become active in all regions of the country and every young person can benefit from their services," mentioned Rita Columbia.





WHO STUDY SHOWS MOLDOVANS CONSUME DOUBLE THE RECOMMENDED SALT INTAKE



The launch event of the Salt Intake Survey

A new study reveals that Moldovans consume double the recommended 5 g of salt per day. The WHO study is the first research on salt intake to be conducted in the Republic of Moldova.

The study also shows the following:

- In rural areas, salt intake is 11.3 g per day, while in urban areas, it is 10.0 g per day. This could be explained by the fact that the people from rural areas add more salt while cooking and consume foods with a higher salt content – such as pickled vegetables, salty cheeses and breads – more frequently.
- Bread is the biggest contributor of salt in the diet: every 100 g of bread contain an average of 1.85 g of salt. More than half of the population surveyed (55.4%) consumed bread 2 to 3 times per day, with a higher proportion among people living in rural areas (61.6%) than those in urban areas (45.4%).
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is generally low: more than half of the population surveyed (56.4%) reported eating fewer than 5 servings of fruit and vegetables per day. This leaves them at a higher risk of developing noncommunicable diseases.

MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO REDUCE SALT INTAKE

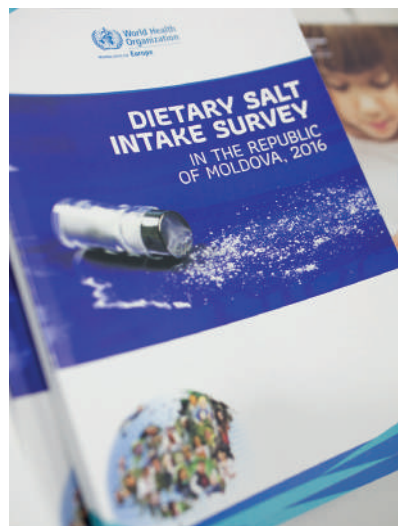
Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in the Republic of Moldova, accounting for more than half of all deaths (approximately 57%). One of the major causal factors for cardiovascular diseases is high blood pressure. Evidence from recent

decades suggests that high dietary salt consumption is an important determinant of rising blood pressure incidence and the associated risks.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is committed to reducing salt intake nationwide to less than 8 g per day by 2020 (a 30% reduction). This target is envisaged under the National Programme on Food and Nutrition for 2014–2020, and in the National Action Plan for 2016–2020 on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.

“ Now, the Republic of Moldova has a good opportunity to show leadership in how a small country can reduce salt intake. Salt reformulation is very important and we need to work with other sectors in changing legislation as well. WHO can provide further technical support to the Republic of Moldova.”

JOAO BREDÁ,
Head of the WHO European Office
for the Prevention and Control of
Noncommunicable Diseases



The Dietary Salt Intake Survey in the Republic of Moldova was carried out in 2016 and aimed to establish a baseline for the current average consumption of salt (sodium), potassium and iodine through 24-hour urinary excretion testing among a random sample of the adult population (aged 18–69 years). It also aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviours related to dietary salt to enable more

efficient planning and the implementation of an effective salt-reduction strategy in the Republic of Moldova.

The study was conducted with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation as part of the project implemented by WHO “Support to Strengthening Governance and Policy Dialogue in Health Sector – 2nd phase”.



SHE MANAGED TO PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER AND NOW CALLS UPON OTHER WOMEN TO SEE THE DOCTOR ON TIME



Irina Starciac, 46, did not know she had a cervical cancer risk. Fortunately, she arrived on time to the family doctor. Photo: UNFPA Moldova/ Dan Guțu

Irina is married, has three sons and is a sales manager in Chisinau. In spite of her quite busy work schedule and many trips outside the town, the woman always finds time to see a doctor at least once a year. After one of the visits to the clinic, at the beginning of last September, she found out something that she had not expected. The results of the Pap test revealed precancerous cervical lesions.

"I WAS SURE I WAS HEALTHY"

// There was no symptom to make me worry. I was so sure that the test results will be negative that I even forgot to give the doctor my phone number. When the results came and they turned out to be positive, the doctor had to search for me in the social networks."

IRINA

She said that doctors had to act very quickly to prevent the spread of malignant cells. She went through a surgery, spent a couple of days in the hospital and shortly after the discharge from hospital she got back to her normal life. Because she managed to act on time, Irina was spared from numerous complications and painful procedures that would have been needed and now she is in a good health condition.

ALL IRINA'S FRIENDS FOLLOWED SUIT AND GOT THE PAP TEST

This experience made Irina pay more attention to her health condition and help the women she knows to understand the importance of the Pap test. "I call on all women to visit the general practitioner or the gynaecologist as often as possible. When the mother is healthy, the whole family is happy. We must not be afraid. The later you find out your diagnosis, the fewer are the chances of full treatment," says Irina.

She believes that the free cervical screening of women and the awareness-raising campaigns are the best solutions to prevent cervical cancer: "Going to villages and towns to offer screening to women is a very good initiative. I think that it would also be a good idea to offer screening on Saturdays as well, when women have days off."

NATIONAL SURVEY: FEW WOMEN IN MOLDOVA KNOW HOW TO PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER

Just like Irina, hundreds of women can prevent cervical cancer if they take the cervical screening test. Regretfully, the Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Cervical Cancer Prevention in the Republic of Moldova (KAP Survey) conducted in the autumn of 2018 shows that more than half of the





Launching the results of the KAP Survey.
Photo: UNFPA Moldova/ Dan Guțu

women aged between 25 and 61 in Moldova, who should take the cervical screening test once in 3 years, have never done it.

The survey was conducted by Magenta Consulting on a sample of 1226 women and it also has a quality component based on focus groups and in-depth interviews with professionals.

According to the survey, only one-fourth of the women of eligible age in Moldova know about the availability of the cervical screening, and less than half of them know that it can be done for free. This is especially the case of women with a low income.

Even fewer women know that the test should be done once in three years. Some of them take the cervical



screening test either more often (once a year) or less often (once in 4-5 years) than recommended by professionals.

When asked about the barriers that prevent them from taking the cervical screening test, most of the women mentioned lack of time, fear, or even the fact that they do not know where to do it.

CERVICAL CANCER WILL BE PREVENTED

The findings of the KAP Survey will guide the drafting of a communication strategy aimed to change the behaviour of the women in the target group, and to make evidence-based decisions in this area.

Things will change in the coming years, due to a broad 2017 – 2020 Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention implemented by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Romanian Agency for International Development (RoAid) in partnership with the International Cervical Cancer Prevention Association and other partners.

This programme is expected to reduce the number of cases of cervical cancer by 20% by 2025, and the associated death rate by 5% in the following seven years.





ROADS HAVE THEIR STORIES – THE WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS IN MOLDOVA



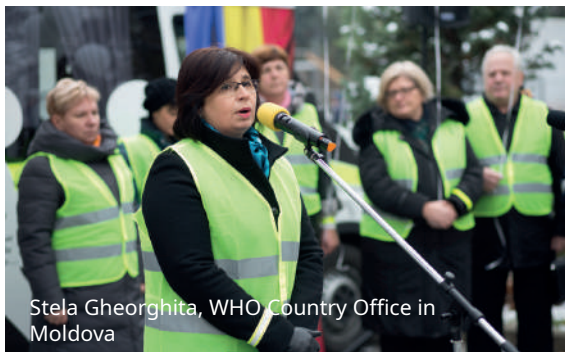
Young people from Chisinau lyceums participated in a flash-mob dedicated to road safety



The family of Ilie, who died on the Chisinau-Rascani road



One of the youngest participants in the flash mob – Calin Cobzac



Stela Gheorghita, WHO Country Office in Moldova



220 people lost their lives in 2018 on the country's roads

On 7 June, Svetlana with her husband Ilie and their kids, 10-year-old Sofia and 2-year-old Semion, were travelling back home from Chisinau to Rascani. Suddenly, the truck which was driving in front sharply turned left and another car appeared just in front of them. The frontal impact was unavoidable. In seconds, Svetlana's life was destroyed. Her husband died at the scene, her children were unconscious and driving-by cars stopped to provide first aid. The driver in the second car fell asleep at the wheel after a long trip and lost control producing a terrible accident...

On the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, marked every third Sunday of November, the Moldovan community joined the global movement in celebrating the memory of relatives and friends who died or were seriously injured on the world's roads. Svetlana shared her story during a flash mob organized in the square of the Opera and Ballet Theatre in Chisinau on 18 November 2018. The students from lyceums "Stefan cel Mare", "Kiril and Metodie", "Universul", together with the team from the Automobile Club of Moldova, WHO Country Office in the Republic of Moldova, General Inspectorate of Police, National Road Patrol Inspectorate and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, and several NGOs participated in a flash mob to stimulate interest and discussion about road safety. All participants held a minute of silence in memory of the 220 people who lost their lives on the country's roads.

“ Let the stories of roads and stories of victims provide the powerful incentive that is clearly needed to make a difference in road casualty reduction in future years.”

STELA GHEORGHITA,
Coordinator of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Country Office in Moldova

The World Day of Remembrance was introduced in response to road victims' deep need for public recognition and acknowledgement of their loss and suffering and to offer them an opportunity to share their emotions with fellow bereaved and injured the world over. This day also exists to create a global culture of proper road safety. Celebrating the memory of relatives and friends establishes the right to demand responsibility from all road users and to demand from governments, besides prevention programmes and initiatives, a serious post-crash response, namely medical care investigation and justice to proper standards.

In order to discuss all these issues, WHO Country Office in the Republic of Moldova in partnership with Automobile Club from Moldova organized on 19 November 2018 a satellite event to the International Road Safety Conference in Malta, which aimed to identify and discuss the most important problems of national streets and crossroads.





THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA SUPPORTED BY IOM AND UNDP TO PRIORITIZE AND PLAN ITS INPUT FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION



Workshop hosted by MFAEI to prioritize and plan the implementation of GCM

On 10 and 11 December 2018, the International Migration Conference to formally adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) took place in Marrakesh. This document is the first intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to enhance cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions.

The participation of the Republic of Moldova to this event, among 160 governments, reconfirmed its strong interest and highlighted the fact that Moldova is advanced, either by already assuming a number of relevant commitments or by making progress.

Given that almost a quarter of the country's population lives abroad, Moldova has set as one of its priorities the development of policies and initiatives aimed at managing the movement and mobility of Moldovan citizens, improving legal and regulatory framework on employment in the private sector, guaranteeing migrants' fundamental human rights, access to social security benefits, support for reintegration of returnees, as well as capitalizing on their potential for the sustainable socio-economic development of the country.

To prepare its participation to this intergovernmental conference, the Moldovan Government with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a workshop to prioritize and plan the implementation of GCM on 29 and 30 November at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration with all the relevant Moldovan stakeholders.

With the input and guidance of two IOM experts from Geneva and Berlin, the event in Chisinau enhanced the Moldovan stakeholders' awareness of the global process related to the adoption of the

GCM and supported the Moldovan stakeholders in identifying and articulating priorities using Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) to inform their participation in the GCM Summit in Marrakesh. Following the consultation event, a session for the UNCT agencies in Moldova was organized, to share advanced knowledge on the GCM and the MGI merits and discuss the role of UNCT in supporting Moldova in the implementation of the GCM, including through the perspective of GCM contribution to migration-related SDGs.

The preparation event in Chisinau was opened by Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. The Minister highlighted Moldova's support for the initiative to develop and implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as a tool to contribute to global governance of migration and to enhance coordination on international migration by presenting a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility. The Minister considers that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration should focus on policy coherence and whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-United Nations system approaches in all dimensions of migration throughout the migration cycle, from pre-departure to return, and should be centred around the rights of all migrants.

IOM and UNDP highlighted that an international commitment to examining and addressing the relationship and synergies between international migration and sustainable development requires opportunities for safe, orderly, and regular migration. The two agencies consider that the preparatory meeting in Chisinau provided an important forum for national dialogue on international migration and ways to enhance its benefits, while addressing its potential pitfalls and negative impacts for all stakeholders.

NEW TOUR ITINERARIES AND LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE JOINT ACHIEVEMENTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS



"La Bunica", the guesthouse of the Gasca family in Chiscareni village, Sangerei district



The workshop of the potter Zaharia Triboi in Cioresti, Nisporeni district



"Albinuta", the guesthouse of the Turtureanu family in Chiscareni village, Sangerei district

Two tour itineraries and a model of a local craft business are the results of the cooperation between local communities, migrants and local governments in five Moldovan localities.

The three tourist attractions in Cioresti, Dolna, Micleuseni, Chiscareni and Pelinia generate additional income for locals, create jobs and develop the rural infrastructure, while being an incentive for people to stay in the country or to return home.

All these activities were implemented under the UNDP Moldova's Migration and Local Development project, with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland, which offered grants in amount of 100,000 USD.

THE TOUR ITINERARY "DOR DE CODRU" WAS CREATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE LOCALS

Three communities from the central part of the country – Cioresti, Dolna and Micleuseni – launched the rural tour itinerary "Dor de Codru". Beautiful places, secular forests, craftsmen and rural tourism guest houses are among the 20 sightseeing places of the itinerary.

"The project reflects the priorities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Moldova. The three communities demonstrated that no efficient local governance can take place without the participation of the community and the development of economic dimension," noted Caroline Tissot,

Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova. The tour's itinerary will boost the attractiveness of this region. The expected increased flow of tourists will encourage people living in these communities to develop additional services and products, generating additional income. Hence, more families will be able to secure decent revenues at home, without having to emigrate to earn a living.

“ I truly believe that today we are launching a functional engine to bring new economic and income generating opportunities for the benefit of over 6,000 people living in the covered rural area. This particular project is a truly special and unique endeavour illustrating a real bottom-up approach.”

DAFINA GERCHEVA,
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
UNDP Resident Representative
in the Republic of Moldova

Along the route, in Cioresti, the tourists will have the opportunity to try the pottery technique at Zaharia Triboi's place, the only potter in the country who works with black ceramic.

In Micleuseni, the guests can visit the Honey House, which is famous for its healing properties, and visit historic monuments, such as the Cemetery of Romanian Heroes.



The launch of the tour itinerary in Cioresti, Dolna and Miclăușeni

The attractions of the village of Dolna are the Mansion-Museum, where the Russian poet Aleksandr Puskin once lived, the cellar of boyar Zamfirache Arbore-Ralli, and Zamfira's spring and meadow.

To be able to provide a full set of services to tourists, some locals renovated and opened rural tourism guest houses, where tourists can rest and try traditional food.

'AT HOME, IN CHISCARENI' - A NEW TOUR ITINERARY LAUNCHED IN MOLDOVA WITH THE SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS

Chiscareni village, Sangerei district, became a new tourist attraction in Moldova. The new tour itinerary "AT HOME, in Chiscareni" invites its guests to discover historical monuments from the time of boyar Nicolae Casso (1839-1904), tourist stops in the forest, a crafts centre and four rural guest houses offering a full range of services.

“ It is a very important project for the people of Chiscareni village, because it creates an enabling environment for local economic development. Besides the rural tourism guest houses, its beneficiaries are six local companies included in the itinerary as a must-see, which stimulates and supports local producers.”

SILVIA TURCANU,
Chiscareni Mayor

LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND RESIDENTS IN PELINIA HAVE LAUNCHED A BUSINESS MODEL INVOLVING 40 CRAFTSPERSONS

A Crafts Centre was inaugurated during the "Zestrea Nordului" Festival in Pelinia village, Drochia district. The 40 local craftspersons will have a place where they can



Folk costumes sewn by the craftsmen from Pelinia; Drochia district

produce area-specific handcrafted items – folk costumes, traditional carpets and embroidered towels on order.

“ The Crafts Centre "Zestrea" is a local business model that responds to the challenges facing the Moldovan communities. On one hand, it creates synergies between opportunities and needs and, on the other hand, it harnesses the local cultural potential, enables income-generating activities, reduces unemployment and migration, and fosters experience exchange between generations.”

OXANA MACIUCA,
Manager, UNDP Project
“Migration and Local Development”

These projects were implemented thanks to the grants provided by the Government of Switzerland, complemented by the contribution of the local local public authorities and natives, which amounted to 25% from the Government of Switzerland.



MOLDOVAN SNAILS – WESTERN DELICACIES



Nicely packed snails, grown in Peresecina

The story of the snail farm in Peresecina begins on the day when the farm owner, Vilen Cebotari, received a present from France – a plate of frozen snails. He tried them and it struck him – if this business is blooming in France, why would it not work in Moldova – both as raw material and the end product?

“Any idea, no matter how crazy it might seem, has the right to exist. Even if your neighbours, relatives, wife are all sceptical about it, if you believe in it, or better to say, you are passionate about it, you can do it,” reveals Vilen Cebotari his secret about how he began his business project.

Due to the innovative concept and enthusiasm of the team, his company received UNDP Moldova’s support under the Moldova Innovation Challenge Scheme (MICS).

The snail meat is healthy. It contains only 0.5% fat, 16%

proteins and 9 of the 10 amino acids that are essential for humans. However, the Moldovan people are not yet used to the new snacks and prefer eating meat or fish. The owner also noticed that women enjoy more the taste of snails than men.

It should be noted that MICS also helped other innovative businesses and unusual solutions as part of business operations, such as a swine breeding farm, souvenirs made from biodegradable material, wooden educational toys for children and other initiatives.

“With the help of the grant we started growing and exporting snails as raw material to European countries. We were exporters of live snails. It is a pity, however, to produce raw material and to sell it to someone else to process it. Therefore, with UNDP Moldova’s support we established a small production facility, where we produced the end-product, including for the local market. The end-product was ready to be consumed – once heated up, it teleports you from home directly in the atmosphere of a French restaurant.”

VILEN CEBOTARI
Farm owner



The owner of the company, Vilen Cebotari, manually packaging the ready-to-consume snails

The grants were provided under the UNDP’s “Innovative Businesses Development for Local Sustainable Economic Growth” project, financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other donors as an immediate response to the National Innovation Strategy adopted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova in November 2014.





U-REPORT MOLDOVA CELEBRATES ITS ONE-YEAR BIRTHDAY, AS PART OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF 50 U-REPORT COUNTRIES



Young people are informed about the possibility of their involvement as U-Reporters in the first year of existence of the platform in Moldova



Young people in Moldova learn about the existing tools of participation, which can help them be heard

It has been one year since U-Report Moldova, the first online survey platform dedicated to the young people in the Republic of Moldova, has been engaging young people from all across the country in civic activities. So far, over 2500 young people have registered on this platform and participated in weekly surveys. In 2018, U-Reporters took part in 30 online surveys addressing the most pressing issues of the young people: education, health and migration. Those included not only national, but also several international polls, like the Global Health Care Survey, the results of which were presented at Astana's Global Conference with the same name, in November 2018. The results of the surveys can be viewed in real time.

U-Reporters contributed to the 2030 Development Strategy, the young people pointing out the most pressing issues the authorities need to focus on by 2030. With their help, we identified the main 3 needs of the youth: education, health and decent jobs."

VALERIU DRAGALIN,
President of the National Youth Council in Moldova

Participation is particularly important for teenagers and young people. On 24 September, the UN launched its strategy 'Youth 2030' and the Generation Unlimited partnership. Generation Unlimited aims to ensure that every young person is engaged in education, learning, training or employment by 2030, thus contributing to the delivery of Youth 2030.

"Like adults, children and young people have the right to contribute to the society," said Desiree Jongsma, UNICEF Country Representative in Moldova. "They have valuable and innovative ideas and they are not just our future. They live here and now, and we must

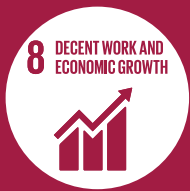
not keep them out of the social life and the decision-making process. We, at UNICEF, are happy, to support them with tools, not rules," added Desiree Jongsma.

Anyone can become a U-Reporter. To register on this platform and participate in the U-Report surveys, young people need to follow the platform's Facebook or Twitter accounts and send a message to the platform from their own Facebook or Twitter accounts.

"One day people in the street started recognizing me as "the girl from U-Report". That's why I consider U-Report a real opportunity for Moldova youth to engage and stay connected to one of the most efficient participatory platform in the country. Being myself a young and developing personality, I can certainly say that U-Report influences my development," says Vladlena Belostecinic, U-Reporter.

"You feel proud when you know that you have a say. To have a bigger impact U-Report platform needs more young people willing to participate! So, let's be active, be the generation of change! says Maria Victoria Chilari, U-Reporter.

Young people and teenagers in Moldova have the opportunity to become U-Reporters in the age when digital technology has changed the world we live in. As more and more children around the world become connected to the online environment, the digital access can be a new chance for children and youth. It should be reminded that according to the UNICEF's Global Report "The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World", young people are the most active Internet users: 71% of young people worldwide are connected to the Internet, compared to 48% of the entire population.



BUILDING EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN: A NEW CAREER GUIDANCE MOBILE APPLICATION LAUNCHED IN MOLDOVA



Representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the National Employment Agency and the International Labour Organization present the new mobile application for career guidance

High youth unemployment is a critical issue in many countries. In Moldova, young women and men are nearly three times more likely to be unemployed. They are the ones to bear the brunt of a jobless growth, economic, social and political maelstroms. The rate of inactive young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), at nearly 30 per cent, is all-time high. Few productive jobs, low wages and the skills mismatch diminish chances of success in the labour market. The many barriers to quality employment are further magnified by the lack of experience in searching for jobs and work experience that could help employers gauge youth abilities.

For many people in Moldova job search is a process full of uncertainties and frustration. Reportedly, young women and men willingly rely on their parents and communities in their educational and occupational decisions rather than on qualified employment services which they find outdated, unattractive or little known about. Various intimidating questions keep on rebounding in youngsters' brain such as where to find a suitable job, how to get a lead, how to develop an impressive resume and cover letter, whom to contact, what and how to prepare for the interview, which skills employers want, etc.

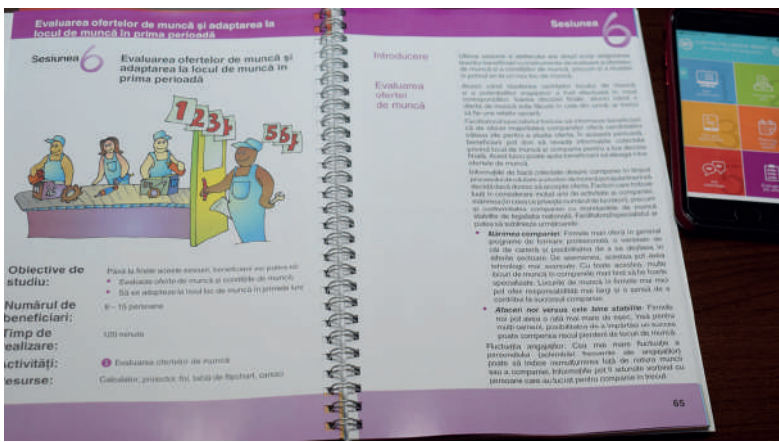
However, it does not need to be like this. Instead, it can be a fulfilling and life-changing experience if young jobseekers receive adequate resources and know-how. More than 90 percent of the population use mobile phones, with youth using it as a tool to

also enrich their knowledge. Against this background, the International Labour Organization (ILO) together with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP) have recently introduced a new web and phone facility in Moldova, with the aim to provide effective career guidance to prime-age jobseekers as well as to those yet to make career and educational choices. The app is based on the ILO Guide "Surfing the labour market: job search skills for young people". It highlights a number of skills needed to look for a job. It guides on how to identify the skills jobseekers already possess and in what occupations they could use them well. Additionally, the app explains how to prepare an effective curriculum vitae, get ready for a job interview and manage their first period in the workplace.

“ This makes us think that the new web and mobile facility is accessible, attractive and affordable to almost everyone. It is amazing how young boys and girls, guided by this innovative job-search tool, can effortlessly and interactively build self-trust, discover themselves, explore possible career paths, recognize their skills and learn how to communicate them to potential employers. We trust these types of innovative technologies are going to positively impact the employment outcomes of young women and men in Moldova.”

ANASTASIA OCERETNII,
State Secretary, Ministry of Health,
Labour and Social Protection





Participants at the presentation of the career guidance application



Young people test the new career guidance mobile application

“ The tips offered by the web and phone application are extremely relevant. I found this mobile tool user-friendly, interactive and well-programmed. I was excited to do a know-yourself test and was pleasantly surprised to find out that the application provided answers to my questions even offline. I am pretty sure our youth will like it and use it, they adore state-of-the-art technologies. Nowadays, mobiles are no longer simply used for making phone calls and surfing the Internet, but also for improving learning and employability, and for creating social change. And this is what this web and mobile facility offers.”

IGOR CIUREA,
Chairperson of the National Youth Committee

The app “Surfing the labour market: job search skills for young people” offers career advice for students and young adults who are looking for work or want to explore potential career paths. It can be downloaded free of charge from GooglePlay and App Store for iOS and Android systems.

“ Supporting young people to match their aspirations and professional skills with the opportunities existing on the labour market is an important component of the ILO activity in the area of youth employment. With this mobile application we really wish to help the young people identify the skills they have and the area in which they can develop a successful career. ILO will carry out a national campaign to promote this mobile application.”

VIOLETA VRABIE,
ILO Project Coordinator

This application is another solution allowing the integration of young unemployed on the labour market. Its purpose perfectly fits one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals – promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8). ILO contributes to these goals through different actions focused on promoting employment and building-up smooth transition from school to the first job.

The mobile application for career guidance was adjusted with the financial support of the Government of the Czech Republic Office.



MOLDOVAN FARMERS ARE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR DROUGHT



Training in modern on-farm irrigation technologies and best practices. Photo: FAO

Moldovan authorities and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have successfully implemented a four-year project aimed at improving drought resilience among small-scale farmers by helping them adopt modern irrigation technologies and best farming practices.

Ten demonstration sites with water management technologies were established in the central and southern regions of the Republic of Moldova, which are most at risk of recurrent drought.

The small-scale farmers owning the sites received modern irrigation equipment and training on how to operate and maintain it properly.

Among the beneficiaries are two farmers from Criuleni district – Valentina Duda from Slobozia Dusca village and Mihail Sclifos from Criuleni.

Valentina Duda runs a flower business. Together with her family, she grows flowers in greenhouses stretching across an area of 500 square meters. One of the basic requirements for growing flowers is irrigation.

Valentina received a modern flood irrigation system for one of her three greenhouses and she no longer has to water her flowers manually using a hose. The system is automated and easy to use.

Before using this system, Valentina wasted huge amounts of water. About 80% of the water was

wasted. The new system allows her to re-use the water. The water that gets in the trays on which the flower pots stand goes back into the tank and stays there until the next irrigation session.

Flowers are stronger when they are not watered from above. Water consumption is minimal. Since the greenhouse where the new irrigation equipment was



Valentina Duda, project beneficiary. Photo: FAO



installed is also the place where Valentina sells her flowers, she can irrigate and serve her clients at the same time.

The future seems to be much more promising for Valentina. She is better prepared for the climate challenges. She runs a thriving business, not a surviving one.

Mihail Sclifos from Criuleni owns a walnut orchard planted in 2006 and stretching across four hectares. In 2014 the central irrigation system in Criuleni was renovated with the support of the U.S. Government's Compact program, which provided access to irrigation water to landowners, one of which was Mihail Sclifos, and with the support of the FAO, his farm received a modern sprinkler irrigation system.

The major challenges facing the farmers in this area are the early spring frosts and drought,



Flowers greenhouse, equipped with a modern irrigation system within the project. Photo: FAO



Mihail Sclifos, project beneficiary. Photo: FAO

mainly in July, August and September. Without irrigation, Mihail Sclifos would have never had so rich and stable harvest. After he used the new system, Mihail's nuts became bigger and better and the harvest became richer than in the previous years.

The new system also allows Mihail to irrigate the plum orchard planted in the neighbourhood. This irrigation system enabled Mihail to get a good harvest from both orchards and more income.

The implementation of the project was made possible due to the financial support from the Hungarian Government as a response to increased and worsening droughts, which pose a serious risk to the agriculture sector and water availability, directly impacting food security and the rural economy.

The demonstration plots played host to field demonstration activities, such as farmer field schools and field days, where more than 350 other farmers learned about the positive impacts of irrigating their own fields in the best possible way, and the best practices for doing so.

The project also supported 380 local extension specialists and representatives of water users associations through trainings, capacity building in modern on-farm irrigation technologies and best practices. After the project ends, they are expected to continue the mission of promoting the benefits of modern irrigation systems among farmers and helping them to adapt to climate change.

The project activities promoted national ownership and local empowerment in the agricultural sector in accordance with the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy (2014–2020) and the new Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (2014–2020).



CARS PARTICIPATING AT MOLDOVA HYBRID ELECTRO MARATHON REDUCED THE CO₂ EMISSIONS BY 1.2 TONS

750 km is the distance travelled by the 9 electric, plug-in and hybrid cars participating at Moldova Hybrid Electro Marathon. The expedition's members have lived a unique premiere experience of driving environmentally friendly cars on large distances. Various car makes and models roamed Moldova for five days, crossing the cities of Chisinau, Orhei, Soroca, Drochia, Balti and Ungheni.

On the last day of the marathon, the participating cars returned to Chisinau and lined up in Piata Marii Adunari Nationale for all those willing to see the electric cars and to find out about cars' consumption and performance from the first source.

“ The marathon demonstrated the performance of the participating cars. All the cars behaved the right way. Currently, in the absence of the electric vehicle charging stations on national roads, we charged our cars at the gas stations, restaurants, and hotels. Stronger power networks, grounding and generous people helped us face the challenges and reach the final destination.”

ILIE TOMA,
organizer and expedition's participant

Currently, in the Republic of Moldova 99 fully electric cars and only 11 charging stations are registered, almost all of them in Chisinau. “The demand for electric cars is getting higher every year and there is a need to develop the charging infrastructure for zero-emissions vehicles. We are very pleased to say that thanks to the partnership between the United Nations Development Programme and the Energy Efficiency Fund, we will be installing 14 electric vehicle charging stations on the main roads across the country in the coming months. This incipient network will allow increased electric mobility in major cities, and it will create an electric corridor between Romania and Ukraine. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of a journey that will see the number of electric vehicles in the country increase dramatically and contributing to promoting a clean, green and sustainable development path for Moldova,” says Stefan Liller, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova.

14% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Republic of Moldova are generated by the transport sector. The cars participating in the marathon had a



positive impact on the environment by reducing CO₂ emissions by 1.2 tons. For comparison, this amount of CO₂ can be assimilated by 400 trees in 1 year.

Anatol Untura is one of the marathon's crew members. During the five-day expedition, he tested the driving of each participating car. “The electric vehicles are closer than we think to the traditional ones – in driving sensations and the way you can exploit them – the difference lies only in the need of a more special planning of long journeys. At a shorter distance, however, disadvantages will be much fewer than the benefits you get in return. And in the case of relatively short distances of Moldova, the electric cars are even more attractive. We are confident that a network of properly specialized outlets will greatly simplify their use and foster a significant increase in their number,” says Anatol.

The Sustainable Green Cities Project, with a five-year duration: 2018-2022, has a total budget of \$ 2.6 million provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and co-funded by UNDP with \$ 80,000.

The marathon was organized by Moldova Sustainable Green Cities Project in partnership with piatauto.md, Orange Moldova, Mastercard and EWA Motors.





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