

# Swedish Reform Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova

Sweden is a committed long-term development partner to the people of the Republic of Moldova since 1996 through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau manages a reform cooperation budget of 155 million SEK (approx. 15.5 million EUR) in 2022, which is an increase from 120 million SEK (approx. 12 million EUR) in 2021. The *Strategy for Sweden's Reform Cooperation with Eastern Europe for 2021-2027* guides our work for the coming years. A full list of ongoing projects is available on our website [www.swedenabroad.se](http://www.swedenabroad.se).

## AREA 1

### Democracy, human rights, the rule of law and gender equality

Sweden is a strong advocate of democracy and human rights in Moldova. We engage with partners to amplify priorities in the judiciary, anti-corruption, LGBTQI+ people's rights, independent media, gender equality and rule of law. Within these areas, we have a broad variety of ongoing projects. Together with the Women's Law Center, we support victims of gender-based violence, women in penitentiaries and youth. UN Women is a valued long-term partner with which we have initiatives all over Moldova – providing assistance to local women leaders and initiative groups, women from disadvantaged groups and minorities, women in academia and in media. Within the field of justice, we work together with the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate and Swedish Police Authority for improved local law enforcement. UNDP is another important partner with which we strengthen local justice sector actors. In the media sector, we partner with the Independent Journalism Center to create better conditions for students and universities. Furthermore, we collaborate closely with civil society and offer core support to organizations to help them develop and enable them to continue to work independently. These abovementioned projects are only a handful of our many important initiatives within this strategy area.

## AREA 2

### Peaceful and inclusive societies

Peaceful and inclusive societies is the newest area within our development strategy for Moldova, which is becoming increasingly integrated and essential to our work. The Swedish overarching goal is to create better conditions for inclusive reconciliation processes and support initiatives to prevent all forms of conflict and violence. Since Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which has had direct effects on Moldovan society, the conflict perspective has become central for our projects. Sweden has partnered with UN Women to assist with the response and management of the refugee crisis, with a particular focus on women and girl refugees and decision-making institutions. Ecovisio has since June 2022 been another valued partner in the refugee crisis response. Sweden is also engaged in several projects together with the East Europe Foundation within the frame of the initiative Engaging Citizens, Empowering Communities – which, amongst other objectives, works with the creating of connections between both sides of the Nistru river and the strengthening of political representation of vulnerable groups in society. Support is also provided through the Crisis Management Initiative to improve the functioning of the autonomy of the region of Gagauzia through a dialogue platform between the parliament in Chisinau and the Gagauzia People's Assembly in Comrat.

## AREA 3

### Environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources

Sweden partners primarily with civil society organizations and UNDP to increase compliance with EU regulations, international agreements and enhanced environmental responsibility among the general public, business sector, civil society, and sustainable public services. We are present in areas such as water and sewage, waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy. On top of this, we aim to mainstream environment and climate change in all programs. Together with UNDP, we empower women to practice alternative livelihood such as organic agriculture, waste to energy practices, energy efficiency, nature-based solutions, and circular economy to mitigate impact of climate change and poverty. We also collaborate to utilize the findings of a study of the environmental and social impact of the function of the Dniester Hydropower Complex (HPC). In partnership with the Radiation Safety Authority, we have initiated the processes of updated radioactive waste management and additional storage facility. The assistance is complimented by regional support to environment and energy infrastructure investments. Finally, we have recently started to offer core support to both the National Environmental Centre and the Ecological Society Biotica for their environmental projects in rural communities.

## AREA 4

### Inclusive economic development

One of the priorities of the Swedish reform cooperation is to develop the market economy in Moldova and bring full benefits of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between Moldova and the EU. With the ultimate goal of reducing poverty and emigration trends while enhancing the resilience of society, Sweden focuses on improving the competitiveness of Moldovan companies, ensuring greater access to markets through modernization, and increasing trade with the EU. Through the Women in Business project, we are promoting female business entrepreneurs all over the country. We have also joined USAID in funding the Future Technology Activity (FTA), which aims at applying innovation, digitalization, and green practices to enhanced efficiency and competitiveness in key sectors: fashion and apparel, precision engineering, creative industries, digital media production and information and communication technology (ICT). We also work with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to improve the business and investment climate through institutional reforms. This includes efforts to align regulations to the EU framework and make inspection and permission systems leaner and more effective. Furthermore, in the UNDP Building Capacities for Trade Transnistria project, private sector entities on both sides of the river Nistru receive mentoring and assistance to access export opportunities.

### Civil Society Core Support

Civil society is a sphere which is separated from the state, the market and private households – a place where people can organize their pursuit of common interests. As such, civil society actors have a key role in reducing poverty, contribute to democratic development and increased respect for human rights. Sweden devotes a substantial part of the reform cooperation in Moldova to the strengthening civil society organizations through core support. This means that organizations, alongside activities within their respective field, are provided with the opportunity to work on strengthening their institution. The purpose is to strengthen the capacity, sustainability and resilience of the supported organizations. The collaboration with civil society is also accompanied by and linked to Sweden's dialogue on policy level.



### Follow our work

[www.swedenabroad.com/Chisinau](http://www.swedenabroad.com/Chisinau)  
[www.facebook.com/EmbassyOfSwedenInChisinau](https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyOfSwedenInChisinau)  
[www.instagram.com/swedeninmoldova/](https://www.instagram.com/swedeninmoldova/)

### Contact us

Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau  
Address: 12, Toma Ciorba Str. MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova  
Telephone: + 373 22 26 73 20, [ambassaden.chisinau@gov.se](mailto:ambassaden.chisinau@gov.se)