

Swedish Reform Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova

Sweden is a committed long-term development partner to the people of the Republic of Moldova. The overall policy goal of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is to create better conditions for people living in poverty and oppression. Through the Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) manages an annual budget of around 100 million SEK (approximately 10 million EUR). Our work is governed by the [“Results Strategy for Reform Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey 2014-2020”](#), and promotes European integration through three key areas:

1. Enhanced economic integration with the EU and development of market economy

To develop the market economy in Moldova is a central priority of Swedish reform cooperation, and essential to bring full benefit of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) between EU and Moldova. With the ultimate goal of reducing poverty and emigration trends while enhancing society’s resilience, Sweden assign focus to: improving the competitiveness of Moldovan companies, ensuring greater access to markets through modernization and increasing trade with the EU.

Through the Moldova Competitiveness Project (MCP), Sweden in partnership with USAID, supports enhanced efficiency and competitiveness in four key industries: fashion and apparel, tourism, specialized agricultural industry and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Support is provided to the ICT Excellence Center “Tekwill” which contributes to skills development, ideas, innovation and networks. Special attention is also given to promote female business entrepreneurs through the Women in Business Programme implemented by EBRD.

Together with IFC intends to improve the business and investment climate through institutional reforms. This includes efforts to align regulations to the EU framework, and to make the inspection and permission systems leaner and more effective. Furthermore, Sweden provides support to reform the tax system in cooperation with the Swedish Tax Authority with focus on voluntary compliance and efficient tax recovery.

2. Strengthened democracy, greater respect for human rights and a more fully developed state under the rule of law

Sweden is a strong advocate of democracy and human rights in Moldova. We collaborate closely with civil society and offer core support to organizations which are active in areas such as non-discrimination, gender equality, HBT+, environment and economic development. Sweden partners with the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) to supports a free and independent media in Moldova, as well as professional journalistic practices through training and monitoring.

In the Transnistrian region, Sweden works in partnership with UNDP and civils society organizations to improve the regulatory and institutional framework in areas of rights of disabled people and prison inmates, gender based violence and HIV/TB prevention.

In partnership with UNDP, Sweden provides support to the Parliament Secretariat. Support is provided through Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) 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.

The Swedish Police collaborates with the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate through technical assistance for the reform of the Police. The programme focuses on improving basic tactics, fighting economic crime, and working with community policing.

3. A better environment, reduced climate change and enhanced resilience to environmental impact and climate change

Sweden aims to mainstream environment and climate change in all programs. Sweden supports civil society organisations such as Eco Visio in realising the potential of Moldova as a model of sustainable development by fostering ecological and social innovation, and Eco Contact in enhancing the access to environmental information and supporting the European integration processed within environmental sector.

The assistance is complimented by regional support to environment and energy infrastructure investments managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank. This includes support to feasibility studies, technical assistance and the grant financing facility E5P (Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environmental Partnership).

Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming

Sweden, in line with the Feminist Foreign Policy, aims to integrate gender equality perspective in all reform cooperation programmes. Besides that, Sweden has a number of targeted cooperation programs in Moldova focused on achieving results mainly in three areas: women's enhanced political participation, women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and a life free of violence for women and girls. Sweden supports the Strategic Note of UN Women in Moldova and has important partnerships in this field with civil society organizations such as Women's Law Center and Resonance as well as the UNDP, EBRD and the EU Delegation.

Civil Society Core Support

Civil society is a sphere which is separated from the state, the market and private households – where people can organize 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.

Promoting Tourism in Moldova

Moldova is one of the least visited countries in Europe, but with great potential for a thriving tourism industry. Sweden supports local tourism and job creation to drive economic growth. Focus lies on diversifying and improving the quality of products and services including through:

- branding and marketing (e.g. the development of the logo below)
- launch of the first tourist information center to guide visitors
- elaboration and promotion of tourist activities, maps and hiking routes, Moldovan culture, and gastronomic experiences.
- refurbishment of local B&B, that can contribute to the local economy and offer an authentic tourism experience.



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