

NEWSLETTER

SUPPORT TO CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES PROGRAMME

No 7 (October-December 2016)



MOBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

“Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership and harnessing its benefits for the residents of the Transnistria Region of the Republic of Moldova”

2015-2017



**Project funded by
the European Union**



**Project implemented by the International
Organization for Migration**



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM and the EU facilitate the return of over 200 Moldovan citizens

For the last couple of years, IOM Moldova has managed to support the return and reintegration of over two hundred migrants and overseas graduates. The programme was launched in June 2015 on both banks of the Nistru River. Since then a team of IOM staff and consultants in partnership with the National Employment Agency (NEA) and civil society representatives in Tiraspol – “Women’s Initiatives” identified potential returned migrants and assisted them with temporary professional placement.

The programme sought to encourage and facilitate the transfer of skills that the returned migrants and graduates acquired abroad. The vast majority of returned migrants hold an academic degree and have a professional experience in many fields, such logistics and

international transportation, consular affairs, food quality management, health and wellness, marketing, civil building construction, agriculture, tourism and hospitality, domestic services.

Potential returnees applied to the programme whilst being abroad. Some of the returnees were siblings and partners and decided to return to the Republic of Moldova together. *“After working as a driver for three years in Galati, Romania, my brother and I decided to return home, to the Republic of Moldova. Regardless of the fact that it was good there; at home it is so much better”* – Ilie Gavrilă (technician, 54 years old). *“After 14 years spent in the Portuguese Republic, my wife and I decided to return to Moldova. The decision to come back was rather personal so we can keep the family together”* – Gheorghe Hincu (gas station attendant, 56 years old).

All migrants mentioned that they returned for their friends, homes and families regardless



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

of the fact that they have managed to get good jobs abroad. Many of them felt patriotic. *“To live, work and make a family at home is a great blessing and this needs to be valued”* – Evgheni Levinski (24 years old, Tiraspol).

The returned migrants wished to be employed in their field of expertise. Alongside the information on employment opportunities and salary supplement, the returned migrants and graduates were invited to participate in trainings on entrepreneurship.

Roemischer family, returned from federal Republic of Germany



Tatiana Roemischer (35 years old, Chisinau), returned to Moldova with her husband, a German national, and started a consultancy business. *“My strength is my experience and knowledge in selling wine – in both exporting and importing. This way I can offer my consultancy to the companies exporting wine”*.

“I wish to open a business in apiculture” – says Victor Moraru (57 years old, Soldanesti rayon), returned from the Russian Federation.

The overseas graduates returned with no less impressive background with degrees in international relations, European integration, economics and international trade, banking and finances, civil engineering, tourism, foreign

languages and regional development. Many of the returned graduates managed to be employed within their field of expertise.

Constantin Vlas (25 years old), returned upon graduating a MA in regional Development was hired as vice-president of the Hincesti rayon: *“I wish to attract as many development projects as possible into the region and to ensure that the obtained skills and know-how will be transferred”*.

Another great example is Dmitri Scortescu (25 years old, Chisinau), who just as Constantin Vlas returned from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi. Dmitri says: *“I was rather impressed that there are modern technologies in treating cancer in Moldova, The only problem is that there are no qualified personnel to manage those”*. Dmitri works as medical physicist in the Oncology Institute.

But sometimes integrating into the job market was not as smooth. Victor Guleac (24 years old, Chisinau) wished to work in a communication company in Chisinau. The company was not hiring at the moment and regardless of that, Victor offered to work for free for a month so he can in the meantime convince the manager to hire him. And he was successful: *“I now am assembling my own team within the company so we can take the company onto the neighboring job markets”* – says Victor.

All beneficiaries noted that the programme has had an impact on their decision to return and stay in the country. Some of the reunited families managed to have children in the meantime. However, other of the returned migrants decided or are thinking of migrating again. Especially the young graduates who upon their return feel even more hopeful and wish to follow their dreams even if it brings them back into the circle of migration. For instance, Nikolay Cuzmin (24 years old, Tiraspol) will migrate to one of the neighboring countries to continue his studies.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

More about their return and reintegration stories and experiences can be found in the programmes brochures.



UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION

Technical Working Group Meeting for the Development of the Country's Extended Migration Profile Meets Again

On 12 October 2016, IOM supported the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) in organizing another meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the development of the country's regular Extended Migration Profile (EMP) of the RM. The event took place in Orhei. Twenty-four representatives of the TWG member institutions – Border Police, Center for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Communications and Informational Technology, National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economy, Bureau for Diaspora Relations Bureau, etc. participated.

Conclusions and recommendations of the updated Data Assessment Report that was presented and consulted with the institutions during the previous meetings of the TWG were validated. The report assessed Moldova's migration data collection and analysis system and providers, including the quality, feasibility, availability, accuracy and relevance of the



current EMP indicators. It also proposed recommendations for refining indicators' definitions, clarifying the data collection sources, removing the irrelevant indicators or proposing new ones.

The member institutions also provided feedback and validated the revised list of standard indicators and template of the EMP analytical report, developed by IOM consultants, Ms. Maria Vremis and Ms. Viorica Craievshi, based on the findings of the updated Data Assessment Report.

Additionally, BMA presented a draft of the Basic Migration Profile (BMP) of the RM developed in the framework of the Prague Process regional initiative, to provide a snapshot of Moldova's migration situation, flows, policy priorities and problems. The BMP is an informative, but also policy-making tool intended to provide information and data comparable with those of the other states from the region.

Following the meeting, BMA will advance amendments to the Government Decision no. 634 (of 28.08.2012 on approving the List of indicators for the EMP and the EMP template) to refine the indicators and the template that will be further used for the development of the following migration profiles and compendiums of migration statistics.





YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Young researchers on the positive impact of migration – Open Contest for the Best Research Paper

On 2 December 2016 in Tiraspol was held the awards ceremony of the second edition of the Open Contest for the Best Research Paper on Migration.

The earlier launched contest built on the previous edition of the contest and gathered over 20 undergraduate and graduate students and researchers from the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistria Region either studying in the country or abroad.

This year, the subject of the contest sought to pick the students' brains on the positive impact of migration on the job market, environment, institute of family and the development of the

migrants' country of origin.

The papers were reviewed by a distinguished group of national and international policy experts and academia representatives: Dr. Valeriu Mosneaga (Chisinau), Ms. Elena Bobkova (Tiraspol), Ms. Maria Vremis (Chisinau), Ms. Olga Choudinovskikh (Moscow), etc.

The winners of the contest (below) presented their findings on Tuesday at the faculty of Social Sciences, T. G. Shevchenko University in Tiraspol. Later in 2017, their research papers will be published in the second edition of the Collection of papers from the second International Scientific Conference.

Undergraduates:

1st place: "The impact of migration on the



(left to right) Dr. Valeriu Mosneaga, Mr. Denis Kochurkov and Ms. Elena Bobkova



YOUNG RESEARCHERS

development of marriage and family” by Denis Kochurkov (Tiraspol)

2nd Place: “The positive impact of student migration. New opportunities and prospects of future employment. Case study” by Anna Fortuna (Chisinau)

3rd Place: “The positive impact of student migration in the left bank of the Nistru River. New opportunities and prospects of future employment” by Vladislav Sokolov (Tiraspol)

Graduates:

1st Place: “Student Migration among Moldovan youth. The challenges and opportunities for future employment” by Victoria Goreainov (Chisinau)

2nd Place: “The indirect impact of migration on the environment. The example of usage of new technologies in agriculture” by Vasile Iatco (Chisinau)

3rd Place: “The social and psychological phenomenon of family in the context of labour migration of the population of the left bank of the Nistru River” by Irina Gan (Tiraspol)

PhD students and holders:

1st Place: “The participation of elderly migrants – citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the development of the country of origin. Challenges and opportunities” by Mihail Cebotari (Chisinau)

2nd Place: “The impact of remittances on the development of income of the population of the Republic of Moldova” by Vadim Cujba (Chisinau)

3rd Place: “Unpacking the future: is there more to material culture exchange in transnational families” by Sanda Caracentev (London)





YOUNG FILMMAKERS

Youth on Migration – PLURAL+ Moldova 2016 Photo and Video Contest

On 15 December 2016 was held the awards Gala of the 8th annual photo and video contest PLURAL+ Moldova. The contest aimed at offering Moldovan children and youth in and outside the country the opportunity to express their own opinion and vision on the benefits and issues of migration and ethnical, cultural, religious and gender diversity and so on.

IOM Moldova received 12 videos and 25 pictures from 19 children and youth residing on both banks of the Nistru River. The youngest participant and recipient of a special mention for

his photograph "Look, here come the parents!" – Iulian Railianu (Bardar village, Ialoveni rayon) is only 9 years old.

The vast majority of the submitted photos and videos centered on the impact of migration on little children. However, the young adults chose to reflect on the positive aspects of migration and diversity. 17-year old Liviu Rotaru (Chisinau), the recipient of the 1st place for his video "Where does the Sun go?" was earlier awarded with the National Prize for Youth for his active civic engagement.

The winners (see below) of the contest were announced at a solemn ceremony. Representatives of the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Labour,





YOUNG FILMMAKERS

Social Protection and family, international community – Delegation of the European Union to Moldova, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, NEXUS/IASCI, and notable experts in photo and video production – OWH Studio, who earlier evaluated the submitted artwork, handed the trophies and valuable prizes.

The contest was organized thanks to the generous support of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Winners in the video category:

1st Place: "Where does the sun go?" by Liviu Rotaru (17 years old, Chisinau)

2nd Place: "500 words" by Ioana Vatamanu-

Margineanu (16 years old, Chisinau)

3rd Place: "My country" by Marcel Lazarev (21 years old, Straseni)

Special mention: "Allow by birthplace" by Nichita Taran (22 years old, Tiraspol)

Winners in the photo category:

1st Place: "Good night, mother" by Anastasia Ceban (24 years old, Rezina)

2nd Place: "Grandparents' dedication" by Aliona Surdu (19 years old, Chisinau)

3rd Place: "Thinking of mother" by Victor Moisei (22 years old, Cimisia)

Special mention: "Look, here come the parents!" by Iulian Raileanu (9 years old, Ialoveni)

Special mention: "Mother's hands" by Mihai Janu (20 years old, Chisinau)





YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS



Janu Mihai - Mother hands



Aliona Surdu - Grandparents' dedication



Victor Moisei - Thinking of mother

CHILDREN ON MIGRATION

Children on Migration – “Migration as seen by children” national contest organized for the first time

On 27 December 2016 was held the awards ceremony of the first national contest for children “Migration as seen by children” organized by the Ministry for Labour, Social Protection and Family in partnership with EU delegation to Moldova, IOM and UN Women.

As stated in the contest’s announcement, only in 2016 were registered over 30 000 Moldovan children left behind without parental care. The contest was organized in order to identify the needs of children left behind and the solutions for intervention through policy-making. Launched in November, the contest received much attention. Over 500 participants from 7 to 19 years old sent their pictures.

The winners (see below) of the contest were announced at a solemn ceremony at the premises of Ministry for Labour, Social Protection and Family. The children were awarded with books, painting sets and diplomas. The jury sought to focus not only on the beauty and the techniques used in the drawings but also on the message of the drawings.

The contest was organized thanks to the generous support of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

Winners in category of 7-10 years:

1st Place: Nicoleta Mancos, 7 years old, Talmaza village, Stefan Voda rayon

2nd Place: Gheorghe Stratulat, 7 years old, Chisinau

3rd Place: Tatiana Coleinic, 8 years old, Chisinau

Special mention: Mariana Gruia, 8 years

old, Chisinau

Special mention: Daniel Undelemn, 8 years old, Dorotcaia, left bank of the Nistru River

Winners in the category of 11-14 years:

1st Place: Valeria Glibiciuc, 14 years old, Cantemir rayon

2nd Place: Laura Harea, 11 years old, Calarasi

3rd Place: Madalina Pirojoc, 12 years old, Edinet rayon

Special mention: Ana-Maria Moraru, 12 years old, Calarasi

Winners in the category of 15-19 years:

1st Place: Olga Ionita, 15 years old, Calarasi

2nd Place: Ana Coda, 17 years old, Puhoi, Anenii Noi rayon

3rd Place: Antonela Taban, 15 years old, Soldanesti rayon

Special mention: Catalina Botnarenco, 15 years old, Cantemir rayon



(Valeria Glibiciuc 1st Place Winner)



STUDY VISIT

Moldovan delegation, including IOM representatives visits Sweden and the Åland Islands

During the first week of November 2016, 11 delegates from Moldova, including from the Transnistria Region, embarked on a study visit to Sweden and the Åland Islands. The delegation consisted of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, as well as Business service providers, NGOs, Think Tanks and Academia, from both banks of the River Nistru.

The main objective of the visit was to acquire knowledge in providing small and medium sized enterprise (SME) support services, as well as enhance the ability to consult returning migrant workers, with a particular focus on women empowerment and social entrepreneurship.

The Åland islands, situated between Sweden and Finland, belong to Finland, and are widely known for their particular political status,

namely political autonomy as well as demilitarization and neutralization policies. The visit therefore gave an opportunity to study the "Åland example", which could be inspirational for the confidence building measures between right-bank Moldova and the left-bank territory of Transnistria.

Against this background, the trip covered meetings with a range of interesting institutions. In Stockholm, the delegation started off with a meeting at the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Research Institute (ESBRI), where they were given a brief overview of the key trends in recent research concerning SMEs.

Other meetings in Stockholm were conducted with business service providers such as "Connect Sverige" and "Nyföretagar Centrum", which gave the participants the opportunity to see the practical aspects of such endeavors.



Moldovan delegation meets with Åland Islands Peace Institute representatives



STUDY VISIT



Furthermore, one of the highlights was the meeting with "Vinnova", the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems. "Vinnova" offered an interesting presentation, which included information about a programme for entrepreneurs that supports needs-driven gender and equality initiatives. The delegates also especially appreciated a meeting with the



Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF), which offered an insight into how to be successful in the production of renewable energy as well as green rural businesses, all of which could be profitable niches for Moldovan farmers.

After three days of meetings in Stockholm, the delegation took the ferry to the Åland Islands, which was a journey of about six hours across the Baltic Sea.



STUDY VISIT

In Mariehamn, the capital of the Åland Islands, the participants were well-received by the Åland Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Åland Government, Department of Trade and Industry. One of the highlights of the Mariehamn visit was to meet with the Åland Islands Peace Institute. Some great discussions evolved around potential ways of solving a minority conflict and the opportunities and challenges concerning the self-government of Åland.

At the Cultural History Museum the participants were also offered an overview of the history of wars which led up to Åland being granted broad autonomy, guaranteed demilitarization and Swedish as the official language. Interesting comparisons were made as participants reflected on the situation of the Transnistria Region.



The Cultural History Museum in Åland Islands

The delegates were truly satisfied with the trip, which they found both exciting and thought-provoking. All participants have committed to spread the attained knowledge throughout their respective networks in Moldova.

WHAT IS ÅLAND AN EXAMPLE OF?

- Suggestions from scholars:

- **Sovereignty** is not a zero-sum game – but a commodity that can be shared
- A legally, institutionally, constitutionally and internationally entrenched **compromise**
- Combination of international and national **guarantees**
- Power sharing- neither Mariehamn nor Helsinki can act unilaterally
- Balance between **separation and contact**
- Balance between **continuity and change**
- Combination of **legal and political** arrangements
- **Institutions** and their development, mechanisms for communication and dialogue as well as for **dispute solution**





UPCOMING EVENTS

I ▶ Enhancing the capacity of the national and local Small and Medium Enterprises support structures to comprehensively cater the needs of returning migrant workers entrepreneurs

1. Launch of the businessportal.md website to include also the relevant service providers based in the Transnistria Region and serve the needs of the entrepreneurs from that area and of returning migrant workers, youth and women entrepreneurs.
2. Organization of a three-day training on self-starting entrepreneurship for up to 40 participants from both banks of the Nistru River.

II ▶ Supporting the return and reintegration of Moldovan citizens

1. Finalization and organization of the wrap-up session of the support programmes for returned migrants and overseas graduates that originated from the left bank of Nistru River.

III ▶ Promoting the expansion of the PARE 1+1 Program to the Transnistria Region

1. Meeting and coordinating with Ministry of Economy and Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises the plans and the methodology of this activity.
2. Establishing the partnership and

cooperation with Ministry of Economy and Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises, and their counterparts from the Transnistria Region

3. Planning the conference for promoting the PARE program in the Transnistria Region.

IV ▶ Enhancing Moldova's Channels of Communication with the diaspora

1. Presentation of the results and solutions of the analysis of several websites on the reconstruction of information related to migration for the benefit of Moldovans residing abroad and those who wish to return or go abroad, including those originating from the Transnistria Region.

V ▶ Migration Data Collection

1. Organization of the second International Scientific Conference in Tiraspol.
2. Comprehensive diaspora mapping in Federal Republic of Germany.
3. Pilot session of the Technical Working Group on Migration Management in Transnistria Region.



**Project funded by
the European Union**

International Organization for Migration, Mission to Moldova

36/1, Ciuflea str., Chisinau
tel. +373 22 232940/41
www.iom.md
email: iomchisinau@iom.int

Ghenadie Cretu,
Migration and Development
Project Coordinator
gcretu@iom.int

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova

12, Kogalniceanu str., Chisinau
Tel. +373 22 505210
www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova

Jarek M. Domański,
Project Manager
Confidence Building Measures
jarek.domanski@eeas.europa.eu

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of International Organisation for Migration and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.