



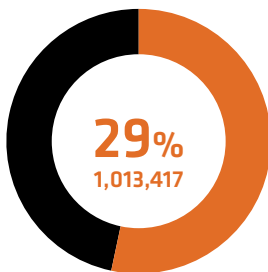
Diaspora engagement mapping

MOLDOVA

Facts & figures

Emigration¹

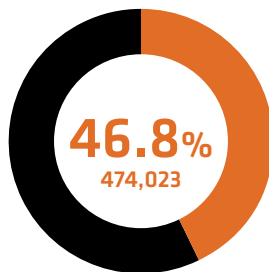
% of emigrants in total population²



♂ 46.8%
♀ 53.2%



% of which in the EU



♂ 43.1%
♀ 56.9%



Top countries of destination

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Russia | 294,245 |
| Italy | 188,923 |
| Romania | 177,482 |
| Ukraine | 151,242 |
| USA | 47,437 |



Political rights



Dual citizenship³



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad⁴



Remittances as a share of GDP: 14.1%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 2,037

Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The Moldovan national legal framework operates with the term diaspora. The National Strategy Diaspora-2025 defines the term Diaspora as “citizens of the Republic of Moldova, temporarily or permanently residing outside the country, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, as well as the communities formed by them.”⁵

1 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByOriginAndDestination_2019.xlsx

2 [https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Files/1_Indicators%20\(Standard\)/EXCEL_FILES/1_Population/WPP2019_POP_F01_1_TOTAL_POPULATION_BOTH_SEXES.xlsx](https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Files/1_Indicators%20(Standard)/EXCEL_FILES/1_Population/WPP2019_POP_F01_1_TOTAL_POPULATION_BOTH_SEXES.xlsx)

3 The Chapter IV of the Law on Citizenship of Moldova operates with a term Multiple citizenship, Law on Citizenship of Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated June 2, 2000. Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=311522&lang=2>

4 Art 29 of the Electoral Code of Republic of Moldova regulates the specifics of formation and functioning of foreign polling stations and foreign polling stations' offices; Art 2(3) states principles of national election, <https://promolex.md/12871-opinia-promo-lex-asupra-proiectului-de-lege-pentru-modificarea-si-completarea-unor-acte-legislative-drepturile-speciale-ale-alegatorilor-din-diaspora-nr-217-din-26-06-2018/?lang=ro>

5 The definition of Diaspora is taken from the Chapter II paragraph 7 “J” of the Government Decision No. 657 of November 6, 2009 “On approval of the Regulation on Organization and Functioning of the State Chancellery, its Structure and Employees. Government Decision No. 657 of November 6, 2009. “On approval of the Regulation on Organization and Functioning of the State Chancellery, its Structure and Employees. Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=332599&lang=2> . The same quote used by National Strategy “Diaspora-2025, page 83

National Diaspora Strategy 2015-2025



After consultations with communities of Moldovans abroad, the National Diaspora Strategy 2015-2025⁶ was adopted⁷ (Government Decision No. 200 of 26.02.2016). Subsequently, an Action Plan⁸ to support its implementation was developed. The Action Plan includes four objectives:

- to draft and develop the strategic and operational framework for the area of diaspora, migration and development. This concept originates from Moldova and has been promoted by country globally;
- to ensure diaspora rights and to build trust;
- to mobilise, harness, and recognise diaspora human capital;
- to engage diaspora directly and indirectly in the sustainable economic development of Moldova.

Policy and legislative framework



- 2023 ● **The National Program “Diaspora” for 2024-2028⁹** aims to enhance the state’s connections with the diaspora and maximise the human capital of diaspora. It envisages the creation of a support group for Moldovan citizens on their return to the country and the stimulation of the diaspora’s participation in various fields and a mechanism for the return and employment of Moldovan graduates and students of foreign universities.



Trends

The National Diaspora Strategy and the Action Plan have contributed to the development of a collaboration between the Government, local public authorities, civil society in Moldova, and the diaspora. They strengthen and expand the transversal approach to policies on diaspora, migration and development, as well as involve and cooperate with the diaspora in the development of Moldova. In practice, many initiatives exist which seek to utilise diaspora social and economic potential in conjunction with programmes promoting national identity, traditions and cultural heritage.

Additionally, reintegration is a high government priority.¹⁰ Moldova has launched a (re) integration guide which aims to develop reintegration programmes and services for returned Moldovan citizens, including information and assistance on how to find a suitable job; how to build knowledge and skills; and how to start and manage a business in Moldova.



Achievements

Moldova’s annual Diaspora Days have been running since 2004.¹¹ The events include activities such as thematic seminars and consultations with the diaspora, business forums, craft exhibitions, cultural and gastronomic events.

6 The National Diaspora Strategy 2025 (CNDS 2025) of the Republic of Moldova, https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/sn_diaspora_2025_web.pdf

7 Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova No. 200 of 26.02.2016

8 Government of Moldova (2019): Action Plan, https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/the_activity_program_of_the_government_led_by_ion_chicu_en.pdf

9 <https://gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-aprobat-programul-national-diaspora-pentru-anii-2024-2028>

10 BRD (2018): <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/rukovodstvo-po-reintegracii-grazhdan-respubliki-moldova-kotorye-vernulis-iz-za-rubezha-0>

11 <https://www.facebook.com/events/chisinau-moldova/moldovan-diaspora-days-20188th-diaspora-congress/2141974252793351/>

Political engagement of the Moldovan diaspora has grown over years and in 2019, the government created and elected individual representatives for 14 electoral constituencies for the diaspora for the national parliamentary election.

Obstacles



- **Digitalisation:** There is a lack of electronic products to facilitate diaspora access to qualitative online services created by national authorities. In addition, there are still some Moldovans that are out of reach for e-services provided by Moldova's government and/or have no interests in such communication channels or e-services.
- **Political representation:** In 2017, Moldova adopted fundamental changes to the Electoral Code¹². Due to the high number of Moldovan citizens residing abroad, the criteria for the establishment of single-member constituencies is a significant issue and has a strong political impact on voters residing in different countries willing to support different political parties. Previously to the 2019 elections, the OSCE and PACE expressed concern at the lack of transparency of the criteria to determine the number of polling stations abroad and pointed out that the new electoral system was contrary to prior recommendations¹³.

SPOTLIGHT: effective and innovative practices



Diaspora engagement Hub¹⁴

The Hub is a governmental programme created in 2016 for Moldovan citizens who have been resident abroad for at least two years and are highly qualified experts who wish to cooperate with representatives of governmental institutions on five priority areas: social, economic, environment/ecology/rural development, justice, civil society. The Diaspora Engagement Hub included subprogrammes:

- **Diaspora Professional Return:** grants offered to diaspora professional and highly skilled migrants, encouraging the transfer of human capital and professional experience oriented towards the academic, social and economic development of Moldova, via short-term professional returns.
- **Diaspora Innovative Projects:** grants offered to diaspora representatives for the implementation of their innovative projects and activities in Moldova, based on the transfer of knowledge, experience and international best practices.
- **Thematic Regional Partnerships:** grants offered to diaspora associations for their collaboration and implementation of actions on local socio-economic development, education and health care.
- **Diaspora Women Empowerment:** grants offered to diaspora members for implementation of projects aimed at improving the social and economic conditions of women migrants via the transfer of knowledge and skills.

SKILLS TRANSFER
+ FUNDING

12 Electoral Code of Moldova with changes and amendments of 2019. Available at <https://a.cec.md/storage/ckfinder/files/cec-electoral-code-2019.pdf>

13 PACE (2019): Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova: statement by pre-electoral delegation. Available at <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=7361&lang=2&cat=>

14 BRD (2020): The Diaspora Engagement Hub. Available at <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/diaspora-engagement-hub-1>



Diaspora. Origin. Return (DOR)¹⁵

IDENTITY
+ YOUTH

DOR aims to strengthen the emotional and cultural identity and connection of second generation diaspora with Moldova. The first edition took place in 2013. Diaspora children camps¹⁶ and youth camps (E-way to home) are a part of the annual DOR programme.

DAR 1+3 Programme¹⁷ 2019-2025

REMITTANCES +
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The DAR programme aims to utilise the human and financial potential of the diaspora in the socio-economic development of Moldova. The DAR programme is based on the 1 + 3 principle of the partnership: diaspora + government and/or local authorities + development partners and donors. The project focuses on infrastructure; protection of the environment; economy; optimisation of energy; culture; and social protection.

Pare 1+1 - National Program on Attracting Remittances into the Economy¹⁸

REMITTANCES

PARE was launched in 2010 and it is designed to attract remittances into the economy through the mobilisation of migrants' savings, stimulating SME development, and supporting job creation especially at the local level. Every Leu invested from remittances was matched with a Leu from PARE. It supported and co-financed about 1623 business initiatives.

Based on the successful evaluation of the programme, in 2022, the Government approved an expanded version, the 1+2 formula, providing a tailored financial support for the growth of businesses created by migrants.¹⁹

'Diaspora Connect' 2020²⁰

PROFILING +
SKILLS TRANSFER

The Diaspora Connect, is a platform launched in 2020 to serve as source of liaising with diaspora professionals (as a 'LinkedIn for Moldovan Diaspora'). It is created with the support of BRD and civil society. Diaspora Connect aims to create a close community between Moldovans who left abroad, as well as between the diaspora and Moldovans from home.

Migration and Local Development Initiative²¹

LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT

During 2015-2022, the program "Migration and local development (MiDL)" was designed to support local governments in Moldova to develop and implement policies, methodologies and procedures related to emigration, and to link them to local development processes, based on a five-pillar approach. More than 116 localities Moldova have benefited from improved livelihoods and local public services. An operational guide for engaging diaspora in local development was developed based on the experience of Moldova. The program was carried out by UNDP and funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

15 <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/programul-pentru-copiii-din-diaspora-dor>

16 <https://gov.md/en/content/over-100-children-youth-diaspora-and-moldova-participated-dor-program>

17 Government Decision No. 448-460 of December 7, 2018. Available at https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/hg_dar_13.pdf

18 <https://www.odimm.md/en/press/press-releases/4548-one-billion-lei-in-the-country-s-economy-through-pare-1-1>

19 <https://gov.md/en/content/moldovan-government-approves-program-attract-remittances-economy-pare-12>

20 <https://diasporaconnect.md/>

21 <https://www.idiaspora.org/en/learn/resources/public-information-materials/engaging-diasporas-local-development-operational-guide>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

State Chancellery of Moldova <https://cancelaria.gov.md/en/structura>

This body consists of 27 internal subdivisions and 8 subordinated institutions²². It is a central authority responsible for the state policy in the field of relations with the diaspora.

Inter-Ministerial Committee²³

The CIDMD was launched by Decision No. 725 of 08.09.2017²⁴. It aims to coordinate the diaspora policy; formulate its strategic vision; and ensure the implementation of actions, programmes, and initiatives in the field of diaspora and migration. The committee consists of representatives from Ministries and central administrative authorities and is led by the Secretary General of the Moldovan government.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

<https://www.mfa.gov.md/en/content/mission-statement>

The ministry plays a key role in maintaining relations with Moldovans abroad, especially through its diplomatic missions.

Diaspora Relations Bureau²⁵ <http://brd.gov.md/ro>

The BRD was created in 2012. It is a subdivision of the State Chancellery, under the direct coordination of the Prime Minister. The RBD deals with developing and coordinating national policies for and with diaspora participation.

22 Government Decision no.657, November 6, 2009

23 Government Decree № 725 of September 14, 2017 "On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=371433&lang=2>

24 Government Decree № 725 of September 14, 2017 "On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=371433&lang=2>

25 Government Decision No 725 On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/725_diaspora_migration_and_development_decision_government_en.pdf

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association AMOL France 2016 <https://www.facebook.com/amol.fr/>

Based in Lyon, the aims of the AMOL Association are: to bring together the whole Moldovan diaspora (without any ethnic and religious restrictions) of the Lyon and Rhône-Alpes-Auvergne regions, in order to undertake and promote cultural, economic and social exchanges; to promote and defend the interests of the Moldovan diaspora before the various administrative, economic, legal, social, cultural institutions; to participate in the promotion of the diaspora by contributing to its integration and development in the social life of the regions; to create opportunities for trade and investment while encouraging partnerships and mutual aid; and to help and accompany new Moldovan arrivals by informing them about administrative procedures, advising them, accompanying them in their integration, and welcoming them when they arrive in France.

Association Assomoldave Italy 2004

https://www.facebook.com/pg/AssoMoldave/about/?ref=page_internal

Founded in Rome, the aim of the organisation is to protect the civil and universal rights of Moldovan women, to preserve traditions and cultural values and to maintain links with the Homeland.

Deutsch-Moldauischer Freundeskreis eV, Germany 2004 <http://www.ges-moldau.de/ueber-uns/>

☑ Development activities

The main tasks of the association are to promote the coexistence between Moldavians and Germans, cultural exchange between the two countries and preservation of traditional customs in the statutes. Since 2007 the organisation is also involved in social projects for sick and disabled children in the Republic of Moldova.

Diaspora Connect <https://diasporaconnect.md/>

☑ Development activities

Diaspora Connect is an online platform carried out by the non-governmental association FORTIUS with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Diaspora Connect aims to celebrate Moldovans in the diaspora, create a network of professionals who interact with each other and give public institutions, media or organisations in Moldova the opportunity to contact and collaborate with the diaspora.

INCREDERE Association Italy 2011 <https://incredere.weebly.com/>

INCREDERE's aim is to help immigrants on their integration path in Italy.

Moldova Institute Leipzig e. V. Germany 2005 <https://www.moldova-institut.org/>

☑ Development activities

The aim of the association is to promote relations and cooperation between Moldova and the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Germany and the countries of Western and Central Europe, especially in the areas of science, education, media, development cooperation, health and social affairs, culture, Human rights and international understanding. In addition, the association promotes knowledge transfer, good practice (e.g. through further training of students and scientists, exchange of experience and educational cooperation) and does network and public relations work.

Moldavian-Romanian Community in Estonia (CASA MARE) Estonia http://www.casamare.ee/?page_id=2

 **Development activities**

CASA MARE is a non-profit voluntary association of public interest whose main areas of intervention are:

Participation in Estonian integration policy and contribution the integration of Moldovan community linguistic and cultural development in Estonia ; contribution to development cooperation and supporting partnerships and collaboration between Estonia and Moldova; and exchanging information and activity practices in the fields of development cooperation, cultural diversity and integration processes.

E-mail: casamare.ee@gmail.com; vassiliporkul@gmail.com

Noroc Olanda - Hello Netherlands 2012 <https://www.facebook.com/NorocOlanda/>

 **Development activities**

This organisation brings together Moldovans residing in the Netherlands and supports projects through which they promote a positive image of Moldova in a creative manner. It has organised networking for Moldovan diaspora in multiple European countries and supported entrepreneurship activities in Moldova.

Written by: Dr Olga R Gulina
Edited by: EUDiF
March 2020
Updated December 2023



Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu