



**Strategy of the  
Slovak Republic for  
Development Cooperation  
with the Republic of Moldova  
for 2021 - 2023**



# MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Slovak Republic has been pursuing development cooperation with Moldova since 2009 with a view to promote a stable functioning democratic state and improve the living conditions of its inhabitants. Since 2014, Moldova has been a programme country for SlovakAid and is thus one of the territorial priorities for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic.

Moldova is a country on the immediate border of the European Union, which has long faced several challenges such as the presence of a frozen conflict, complex political, economic and social developments, as well as emigration causing social problems, particularly in rural areas. Through development cooperation, the Slovak Republic seeks to contribute to the approximation of Moldova with the European Union, to the implementation of economic and social reforms and to improved living conditions while preserving the country's territorial integrity.

The Development Cooperation Strategy with Moldova, the so-called *Country Strategy Paper (CSP)*, builds on the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023. This is the second document of this type, after the first CSP that was in effect in 2014-2018. It builds on Moldova's existing development strategies as well as on the knowledge and experience of the Slovak Republic to date, from the implementation of development projects and programmes in the country.

The purpose of the CSP is to highlight and expand on **the development cooperation priorities of the Slovak Republic in Moldova and to align them with the country's current needs and the real possibilities of Slovak development actors**. The framework conditions for development cooperation with Moldova are laid down in the Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Moldova, adopted 2013. Posting of a development cooperation diplomat at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau continuously since 2014 makes an important contribution to a more efficient implementation of the Slovak Republic's development



interventions and communication with domestic and foreign partners operating in Moldova.

The Slovak Republic will support development activities in the areas of **good governance and enabling of civil society, sustainable use of natural resources, and infrastructure, as well as the creation of a market environment. Two cross-cutting issues** will be applied in all development interventions: environment and climate change, and equal opportunities.

In the context of the latest global challenge of the spread of COVID-19, **Slovakia will help Moldova mitigate the social and economic consequences of this pandemic** by adapting development cooperation instruments flexibly to the country's current needs. The Slovak Republic will actively seek greater **involvement of businesses** in development

cooperation programmes. The trend in recent years shows a growing interest of private actors in this area. SlovakAid's ambition is to effectively link development cooperation activities with economic diplomacy and to promote partnerships between business and non-governmental sectors.

The Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova follows the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It responds to the development needs of the country as defined in a main strategic development document, the National Development Strategy: **Moldova 2030**<sup>1</sup>, and is in line with its long-term development priorities, namely: 1) sustainable and inclusive economy, 2) strong human resources and social capital, 3) credible and efficient institutions, 4) healthy environment.

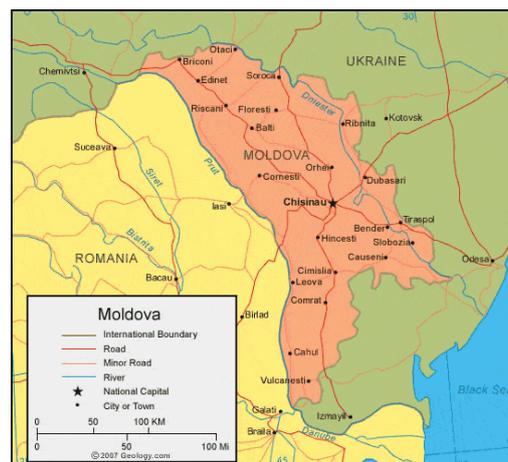
<sup>1</sup>The document was approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova on 10.6.2018. The draft law must be approved by the parliament and then ratified by the President. Depending on the evolution of the political situation in the country, this process is expected to take place in the course of 2021.

## 2. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### socio-economic baseline



Moldova has long been one of Europe's poorest countries. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, accompanied by the collapse of the centrally planned economy and the armed conflict in the Transnistria region, the country has undergone difficult internal political and socio-economic developments. Over the last decade, mainly due to political instability and persistent corruption, implemented reforms and the largely positive economic developments have not benefited the living conditions of the population in a significant way. The country therefore **faces several development challenges**, such as the outflow of the working-age population abroad, long-term problems with the quality of water resources and drinking water supply, an inefficient waste management and the existence of environmental burdens and contaminated sites, and weak dynamics in the development of the business environment. Challenges in enabling civil society, open and participatory governance and good governance remain particularly important. In addition, in 2020, the country was strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which underlined the poor health system.



Source: Geology.com

The Moldovan economy grew at an average rate of 4% per year between 2016 and 2019. A GDP per capita of USD 3470.00 (2019)<sup>2</sup> ranks Moldova the lowest in Europe. The economy is dominated by services with a 53.7% share of GDP. However, there is still a strong agricultural orientation, which accounts for 36.1% of total employment but accounts for only 10.1% of GDP<sup>3</sup>. Due to the poor quality of the business environment, the country is failing to attract more significant foreign investments.

<sup>2</sup>IMF: <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/NGDPDPC@WEO/OEMDC/ADVEC/WEOWORLD/EUQ>

<sup>3</sup>National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/513314/moldova-gdpdistribution-across-economic-sectors/>,

[https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2019/Anuarul\\_statistic\\_2019.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2019/Anuarul_statistic_2019.pdf)



*A significant problem of the country is the underdeveloped infrastructure which has a negative impact on the health of the population.*

The Moldovan economy is not sufficiently competitive and, in the long term, is not creating jobs that would guarantee an adequate standard of living for the population. The average monthly salary in 2019 was around EUR 380.00<sup>4</sup>. However, it is often unachievable for the inhabitants of rural areas to receive pay at this level. This results in a significant outflow of labour abroad. According to data from the International Organisation for Migration, around 750 thousand Moldovans<sup>5</sup> stay abroad for a prolonged period of time. Remittances to Moldova amounted to around 15.95% of GDP in 2019<sup>6</sup>. Migration causes social problems – like emergence of families where one or both parents are abroad for long periods of time and the children are cared for by relatives.

In terms of the Human Development Index indicator, Moldova ranks 107th in the world with a score of 0.71 (the lowest of European countries)<sup>7</sup>. Life expectancy at birth was 71.7 years<sup>8</sup>.

Underdeveloped infrastructure with a negative impact on the health status of the population is also a major problem in the country. In 2019, a share of households connected to the water supply was 60.4% (only 37.1% in rural areas) and 58.3% of households (36.6 % in rural areas) were connected to sewage. Only 46.9% of households (17.3% in rural areas) had central heating connection and 62.6% of households were permanently connected to hot water (in rural areas this was only 14.8%).<sup>9</sup>



Moldova has made a significant commitment to reforms by signing an Association Agreement with the EU in September 2014. However, the country's development has been slowed down by political instability and the economic crisis related to banking fraud after 2014, and further political crisis following the 2019 parliamentary elections. Persistent inefficiencies in public administration affected by corruption resulted in low public trust in the public institutions. In Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, Moldova scored 34 out of 100 in 2020 and ranked 115 out of 180 countries of the world.<sup>10</sup>

Moldova remains highly dependent on foreign development assistance which amounts to 3.3% of its GDP. In addition to ensuring the continuation of reforms in the economic and social fields, a major challenge for Moldova's steady favourable development will lie in the strengthening of the rule of law as well as in eradication of the polarisation of society and of the ethnic tensions.

<sup>4</sup>National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.iom.md/sites/default/files/publications/docs/EMP%20Moldova%202010-2015\\_RO.pdf](https://www.iom.md/sites/default/files/publications/docs/EMP%20Moldova%202010-2015_RO.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>The World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=MD>

<sup>7</sup>The UNDP <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/2019-human-development-index-ranking>

<sup>8</sup>The World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/moldova>

<sup>9</sup>National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova:

[https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2020/6\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2020/6_AS.pdf)

<sup>10</sup><https://www.transparency.org/country/MDA>

### 3. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova 2014-2019



Moldova became one of the three SlovakAid programme countries in 2014 within the framework of the Medium-Term Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Development Cooperation in 2014-2018. The framework conditions for cooperation are governed by the bilateral Agreement on Development Cooperation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Moldova signed in 2013. In 2014, the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2018, was approved. Its main objective was to **support Moldova in building a stable functioning democratic state and improve the living conditions of its inhabitants**. All available SlovakAid tools have been used: grants, financial contributions provided by the embassies of the Slovak Republic (the so-called micro-grants), Sharing Slovak Expertise programme activities (until 2018 called CETIR), projects for the deployment of volunteers and expert volunteers, government scholarships and financial contributions.

**Table: Overview of the funding of the bilateral development cooperation of the SR with the Republic of Moldova 2014-2019**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Grants	290 810	437 901	264 552	426 563	234 120	427 266	2 081 212
Financial contributions	15 000	209 970	-	100 000	-	272 007	596 977
Financial contributions granted by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau (the so-called micro-grants)	77 358	46 357	83 049	73 005	105 194	88 922	473 885
CETIR/SSE	23 305	18 188	10 285	9 077	12 118	10 413	83 386
BPP	-	-	-	45 997	-	-	45 997
Cooperation Instrument of the SR and the UNDP	-	209 000	-	-	-	-	209 000
The SR-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund	276 085	-	-	-	-	-	276 085
Volunteer and expert-volunteer deployment Programme	4 312	5 690	3 387	5 760	14 600	2 541	36 290
Public Finance for Development Programme	76 196	102 340	185 992	98 900	61 103	-	524 531
Transformative Governance and Finance Facility	-	-	-	-	-	59 540	59 540
Government Scholarships programme	27 500	43 654	61 035	77 825	77 675	-	379 039
<b>Total</b>	<b>790 566</b>	<b>1 073 100</b>	<b>608 300</b>	<b>837 127</b>	<b>518 485</b>	<b>938 364</b>	<b>4 765 942</b>

Source: Reports on Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic 2014-2019; Slovak ODA Statistical System of the Slovak Republic – RIS DEV; The UNDP reports



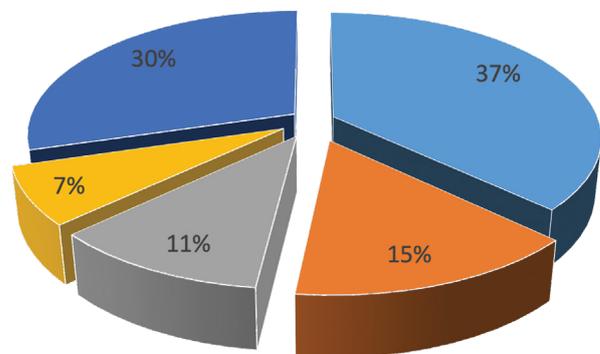
*In the years 2014 - 2019, a total of 28 activities of the Sharing Slovak Expertise programme were implemented.*

Projects were also implemented in cooperation with other donors and development actors, in particular UNDP, USAID and the Czech Republic. **The total amount of bilateral development assistance to Moldova** by the Slovak Republic **in 2014-2019 amounted almost to EUR 4.8 million.**

The table shows that in financial terms, of all the instruments of development cooperation, **grants are the most used.** Grants account for almost 44% of total financial expenditure for the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova in 2014-2019. Cooperation was carried out under **two sectoral priorities:** 1. Good governance and 2. Water and sanitation<sup>11</sup>. **Most projects** (37%) were aimed **at enabling of the civil society**, followed by infrastructure projects in the field of water supply and sanitation.

### Share of grants by sector 2014-2019

- enabling civil society
- support for municipalities
- waste management
- increasing the effectiveness of systems in the field of water and sanitation
- supply of drinking water and sanitation - infrastructure

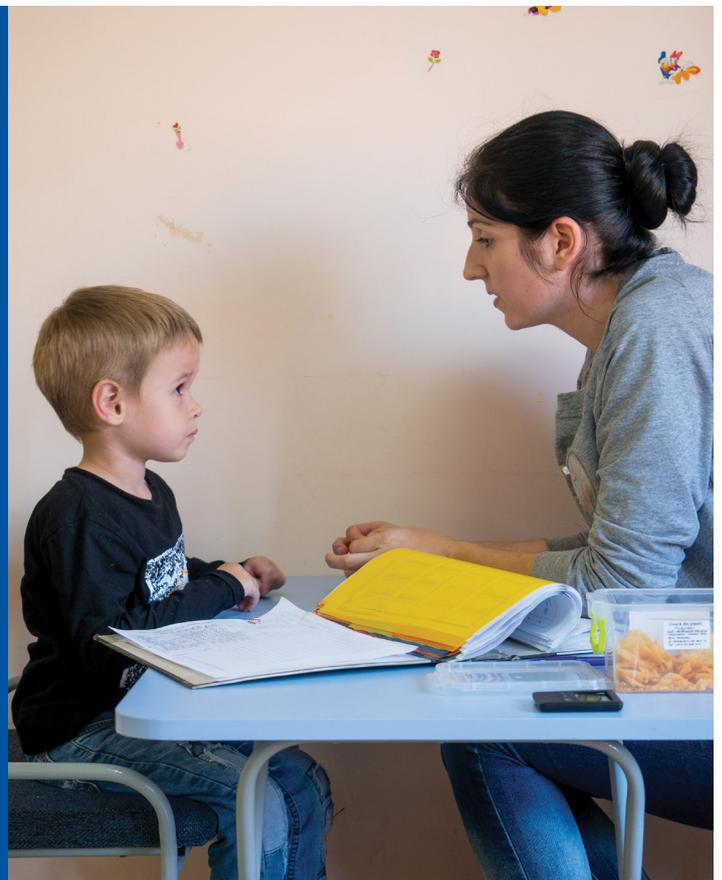


Source: SAIDC

Under the **good governance** priority, a wide range of activities have been carried out to support reforms in the state administration, capacity building of municipalities and enabling of civil society. Cooperation with the Moldovan state sector mainly concerned **the promotion of reforms and the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU** by drawing on the experience of Slovak partners. The Sharing Slovak Expertise tool was widely used – a total of 28 activities of this programme were implemented in 2014 to 2019. Examples of long-term cooperation are projects of the Slovak Environment Agency with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova on the establishment of an electro-waste management system and the introduction of extended producer responsibility.

Multi-annual cooperation with its Moldovan partner was implemented by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (MF SR) in the area of public finance reform. Cooperation under the **“Public Finance for Development”** programme concerned the introduction of programme budgeting in both national and municipal administrations and, in recent years, the review of public expenditure in the education and agriculture sectors. The regional facility **“Transformative Government and Finance”** of the MF SR supported, e.g. the process of developing an urban mobility plan in Chisinau by collecting and analysing mobility-related data in cooperation with the European Space Agency and telecommunications operators. Both programmes are implemented by the MF SR in partnership with the UNDP.

<sup>11</sup>including waste management as per the OECD/DAC statistical reporting rules.



In **cooperation with municipalities**, the focus was mainly on capacity building and improving services to citizens, support for decentralisation as well as infrastructure renewal. With the assistance of SlovakAid, the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova has developed intensive and long-term cooperation with the Association of Slovak Towns and Municipalities. The introduction of systematic monitoring of the transparency and economic performance of municipalities was also supported. The implementation of these activities was also supported through the US Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of State) programme *Emerging Donors Challenge Programme*. On the part of the municipalities, there was a strong interest in financial contributions granted by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau, the so-called micro-grants, through which small infrastructure projects were carried out. They focused mainly on the renovation of educational buildings, the revitalisation of sports grounds and public spaces, the restoration and completion of

technical infrastructures in municipalities, etc.

SlovakAid also participated, through co-funding, in a large-scale USAID project '*My Community*' aimed at raising the level of services to citizens and encouraging their active involvement in the functioning of municipalities.

A specific topic in **support of civil society** was youth and its activation towards the participation in local development. SlovakAid co-financed the EuropeAid GAMCON project on the development of civil society in the Autonomous Region of Gagauzia. This was the first ever EuropeAid project implemented by a Slovak entity as lead partner. Further support was aimed at supporting civil society with a focus on young people, while at the same time raising the level of services of municipalities through the establishment of client centres. Activities to enable civil society have also been implemented through micro-grants.



## The projects focused on the provision of drinking water and sanitation in schools and kindergartens.

Cooperation with Moldova in the area of **water and sanitation** covered the development of infrastructure as well as the streamlining of management and planning. The projects focused on the provision of drinking water and sanitation in schools and kindergartens in rural settlements. Poor conditions in terms of sanitation and water supply in educational establishments are a persistent problem in Moldova, and a joint SlovakAid and CzechAid project has been implemented in this area. Smaller infrastructure projects in the field of water and sanitation have also been implemented through micro-grants, e.g. for building municipal water supply. All infrastructure projects also included components aimed at promoting protection of water resources, sustainable use of water and raising environmental awareness. In the area of improving the efficiency of waste management, the following projects were carried out: *Strengthening of the Effective Implementation of the Basel Convention with Regards to the Fulfilment of Reporting Obligation of Moldova; and Support for the Introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility Mechanisms in Moldova.*

In the field of **water management** as well as institutional and expert capacity building of Moldovan partners, technical assistance for the development of environmental standards has been provided in cooperation with Moldovan organisations within the Ministry of Environment. The capacity building project for national surface water monitoring, funded by SlovakAid and implemented by the UNDP, was also supported.

Moldova is one of the countries in which the Slovak Republic implements a **programme of government scholarships**. A total of 32 scholarships were awarded to Moldovan students between 2014 and 2020. Government scholarships cover any studies

in public higher education institutions in Slovakia, including annual language training for Slovak language proficiency.

Moldova was the first country to have been supported by carrying out joint development activities between SlovakAid and **USAID**, following a mutual Memorandum of Cooperation concluded in November 2018. Through its financial contribution, SlovakAid participated in the aforementioned "My Community" programme to improve the services of Moldovan municipalities. Support from the Slovak Republic was used for a construction of local public services client centres, modelled after the Slovak example; as well as in the area of sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the city of Straseni.

Concrete outputs of the cooperation with the **UNDP** in Moldova in 2017 and 2018 were two SlovakAid-funded projects in the area of strengthening civil society's capacity to use open data, as well as capacity building of the national surface water monitoring system in line with the WFD 2000/60/EC Water Framework Directive of the EU. An ex-ante study in the field of personal data protection, which preceded a large-scale EU-funded twinning project in this field, was also administered under the SlovakAid-UNDP partnership.

The **Czech Republic** is a natural partner in development cooperation with Moldova in terms of sectoral overlap. This delivered complementarity in the implementation of smallscale projects for local communities, e.g., in the social field or in enabling civil society. A major joint initiative was a project on improving access to drinking water and sanitation in educational establishments in the southern districts of Moldova, implemented in 2016 and 2017.

## 4. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES for the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova for 2021-2023



The development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with Moldova during the period 2021-2023 maintains continuity and is a sectoral follow-up to the previous Strategy for the Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic with the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2018. The main objective is **to contribute to Moldova's sustainable development, its transition and reform processes**. The strategy builds on Moldova's current needs, the foreign policy priorities of the Slovak Republic vis-à-vis the country, the activities carried out under the SlovakAid brand and the resulting knowledge and experience.

The Slovak Republic will continue to support **the improvement of public administration and the promotion of reforms** based on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, but also respecting the priorities of the government for public administration reform. Cooperation will also focus on the **civil society** with the view to pursue long-term and systemic interventions. Given similar historical experience, the good practice from the Slovak state, municipal and non-governmental organisations will be used in this regard.

Activities in the field of **drinking water and sanitation** will continue in order to improve the living conditions of the population. Activities in the field of **improving waste management**, aiming at sustainable access to the environment and sustainable use of natural resources, will also be supported.

The focus of development cooperation will be broadened to support the **creation of a market environment**. This priority depends on the need to create an economic environment capable of generating sustainable and attractive jobs so that Moldovans are not heavily forced to seek work abroad.

The focus will be on interventions **in the least developed regions**, to improve the living conditions of the population there as a prerequisite for reducing the pressure on migration and its negative social impacts.

***The Strategy of the Slovak Republic for development cooperation with the Republic of Moldova for 2021-2023 defines three sectoral priorities:***

1

By sharing the transformative experience of the Slovak Republic, support the development of a stable and democratic Moldova with effective public administration, municipalities, and strong civil society

2

Improve the quality of life and health of Moldovan population through efficient and sustainable management of water and other natural resources, waste management and protection of the environment

3

Improve the performance of the business sector by supporting the uptake of innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting sustainable employment



**1 By sharing the transformative experience of the Slovak Republic, support the development of a stable and democratic Moldova with effective public administration, municipalities, and strong civil society**

For the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, in the sector of **good governance and civil society** (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), priorities are to support the implementation of reforms by increasing the transparency, accountability and efficiency of state institutions, increasing the effectiveness of local and regional authorities, and strengthening their role in local and regional development, raising awareness and promoting effective dialogue by strengthening civic participation in governance, confidence building and inter-community dialogue.

The activities in the area of **public sector effectiveness** are based on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement implemented in 2014. The implementation of reforms stipulated by the Association

Agreement is a long-term process, often hampered by political instability. Despite the progress made and several reforms having been implemented, these efforts need to be continued towards actual benefits for the Moldovan population. Slovakia can offer its expertise to Moldova based on its own experience in implementing reforms in several areas such as public finance management, the design and functioning of social and health insurance systems, regional development, digitalisation of public administration, public sector transparency etc.





## Support for the development of Moldovan civil society will focus on getting citizens active in local development.

In the field of **municipalities**, cooperation will be aimed at streamlining the exercise of municipal functions, in particular towards improving the level of services for citizens. The municipalities in Moldova require further strengthening of competences toward greater efficiency, accompanied by an increase in systematic funding and capacity building of human resources. Activities aimed at increasing the transparency and participation of citizens in civic processes at municipal level will be supported, as well as activities leading to regular dialogue between public institutions and civic groups.

The development of municipalities will also be supported through smaller-scale infrastructural projects aimed at improving civic amenities, in order to improve the quality of life within local communities. Actual examples of good practice from

Slovakia through partnerships between Slovak and Moldovan municipalities will also be used in the implementation of the projects.

Support for Moldovan **civil society** will be directed primarily towards activating citizens for local development. The focus will be on supporting smaller civic initiatives outside of the capital and getting young people more active. Good experiences in activating civil society will be shared within Moldova to support confidence building in inter-community dialogue. Attention will also be paid to the role of democratic scrutiny by the civil society vis-à-vis public administration (the so-called watchdog activities), including in the electoral processes. The experience of Slovak NGOs will be used in this respect. Support will also focus on the development of independent local media.





Cooperation will be implemented at ground level to streamline the system and manage individual areas.

## 2 Improve the quality of life and health of Moldovan population through efficient and sustainable management of water and other natural resources, waste management and protection of the environment

For development cooperation of the Slovak Republic, in the sector of **infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources** (SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and

Production, SDG 13. Climate Action, SDG 15. Life on Land), the priorities are: developing infrastructure to increase the level of connectivity to public water supply and sewerage with adequate wastewater treatment, strengthening efficiency of the water, waste management and environmental protection systems by supporting institutional capacity building and by increasing public awareness and participation in the sustainable use of natural resources and environmentally sound waste management.





Cooperation will take place at the **level of system and management efficiency**, as well as infrastructural projects. Specific areas of cooperation will include the supply of drinking water, wastewater collection and treatment, waste management, and environmental protection.

The focus will be on ensuring the achievement of standards stemming from EU directives (particularly the Water Framework Directive, the Urban Water Treatment Directive, and the Waste Framework Directive). Capacity building will build on existing partnerships between Slovak and Moldovan institutions, which are responsible for ensuring water quality and protection, regulating waste management, and protecting the environment.

**Infrastructure projects** will target regions with underdeveloped water supply, wastewater treatment and waste management. Emphasis will be placed on water supply and wastewater treatment for educational institutions at the local level. Raising environmental awareness will be an important part of all projects. Such activities will be aimed primarily at children and young people with a view of stimulating them to protect the environment.

### 3 Improve the performance of the business sector by supporting the uptake of innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting sustainable employment

In the sector of [creation of a market environment](#) (SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 13. Climate Action) priorities for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic are: promoting creation of innovations and sustainable jobs in higher value-added sectors, linking the education sector to the needs of the market environment, and supporting the emergence of new entrepreneurial initiatives with innovative potential in environmentally friendly sectors with an emphasis on disadvantaged regions.

Moldova's continuing problem is the outflow of the working-age population to work abroad. Cooperation to create a market environment shall aim to reduce the pressure on emigration through the creation of sustainable jobs. Support will focus on [linking the education and research sector to economic practice](#), with a view to create new businesses in higher value-added sectors, particularly in relation to information and communication technologies.

Cooperation will also focus on [innovation and added value in traditional sectors](#) such as agriculture and food in Moldova. The promotion of innovation should aim at improving the quality of production and increasing its competitiveness on foreign markets. At the same time, emphasis will be placed on sustainable solutions and reducing the environmental burden. Such targeted support will primarily concern regions outside of the capital city. Under this priority, there is also a potential for involving Slovak businesses with a view to mobilise private resources for development.





Priority will be given to economic activities, which will make a tangible contribution to the protection of the environment.

## Cross-cutting topics

### Equal opportunities



Ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens is an important prerequisite for the balanced development of society as a whole. In Moldova, there are inequalities in several spheres, including inequality between men and women with regards to access to employment and pay conditions, or significant regional disparities translating into social and economic inequalities.

The integration of the equal opportunities topic will be considered in projects and activities under all three sectoral priorities for development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with Moldova. In terms of the different priorities, the focus will be on ensuring equal access to government and municipal services for all; equality of access to water and sanitation; promoting economic equality between men and women as well as reducing regional disparities.

The consideration of equal opportunities in the implementation of the development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with Moldova will be based on the *Guidelines for Integrating Gender Equality as a Cross-Cutting Issue in Development Cooperation Instruments of the Slovak Republic*, drawn up in the framework of the MFEA SR – UNDP partnership project.

### Environment and climate change



Environment and climate change are mainly reflected in Priority 2. Infrastructure and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, and will be a major consideration for projects under this priority. However, when designing interventions under the other two priorities, the contribution to this cross-cutting issue will have to be taken into account as much as possible.

Under Priority 1. Good Governance and Enabling the Civil Society, activities aimed at increasing the efficiency of public administration and municipalities will be planned so as to reduce pressure on the environment and climate change. This concerns all reform measures, strategy papers, binding regulations etc., as well as the increasing scrutiny by citizens in relation to environmental protection. With regard to civil society, the focus on environment and climate change should be one of the main topics of specific civic initiatives.

For Priority 3. Promoting the Creation of a Market Environment, support will only be dedicated to sustainable activities that do not create negative pressure on the environment and climate change. Preference will be given to economic activities that make an actual contribution to environmental protection (e.g., reducing emissions, reducing water consumption, using environmentally friendly technologies and processes, reducing energy intensity and using alternative energy sources, organic farming, etc.).

The starting point for the preparation of projects and activities considering the issue of the environment and climate change is the *Guidelines for Integrating Environment and Climate Change as a Cross-Cutting Issue in Development Cooperation Instruments of the Slovak Republic* drawn up in the framework of the MFEA SR – UNDP partnership project.

## Applicable instruments and coordination with other donors

**Grants** implemented by Slovak entities, based on calls launched by the SAIDC will remain the main modality of the bilateral development cooperation of the Slovak Republic in the Republic of Moldova. **Financial contributions** provided by the embassy (called microgrants), which are an important flexible tool for SlovakAid, will also be used. These are carried out with the involvement of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau and are provided directly to Moldovan beneficiaries.

The tool for **knowledge and experience transfer – Sharing Slovak Expertise** – plays an important role in the development cooperation with Moldova. This tool supports the exchange of experience, good practice, and knowledge between Slovak and Moldovan public sector institutions.

In order to mobilise private resources for development needs, the **Business Partnership Programme** will also be available in Moldova, under which Slovak businesses can apply to promote development-related projects. The involvement of the private sector in development cooperation in Moldova will also be possible through a **concessional lending facility** provided by the bank EXIMBANKA SR.

In the field of education, **Government scholarships of the SR** are available for Moldovan students, covering the entire period of study at Slovak public higher education institutions. Mobility of students as well as of scientists and researchers between Slovakia and Moldova is also supported by the National Scholarship Programme and scholarships are also supported under the Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

**The Volunteer and Expert-Volunteer Deployment Programme**, is also available for Slovak organisations active in the field of development cooperation. In addition to supporting the partner country, its purpose is to build up Slovak staffing capacity through the acquisition of specific practical and professional experience.

The Slovak Republic will continue to participate in the **EU Joint Programming** and to cooperate actively in its further shaping and implementation. In the context of cooperation with the EU, the pilot participation of SAIDC as a **lead partner** in the **EU delegated cooperation** project in the field of **local media support** will be an important milestone. The development cooperation of the Slovak Republic with Moldova will continue to consider the priorities of the Eastern Partnership and actively seek synergies with individual projects implemented under its instruments.



The Slovak Republic is also actively engaged in cooperation with other major development donors and organisations in Moldova. [Cooperation with USAID](#) on the My Community projects will be ongoing at least until the end of 2021 (see Chapter 3). Under the same project, and also with the involvement of the [Czech Republic](#), the Slovak Republic will support the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in the city of Strasen.

The Slovak Republic will seek to develop cooperation within the [Visegrad Group \(V4\)](#), the [Slavkov format \(S3\)](#) as well as with other established donor countries.

[Cooperation with the UNDP](#) in the framework of the strategic Partnership for Effective Solutions of Development Cooperation focusing on SDGs 2018-2021 between the MFEA SR and the UNDP will also continue. The so-called [Slovak Challenge Fund](#) was created in 2020 also for Moldova, supporting the development-related partnerships of Slovak and Moldovan businesses. At the same time, support under the strategic project

of the [MF SR and the UNDP](#) in the field of the management of public finances: *Public Finance for Development*, will continue. It aims to strengthen the institutional and staffing capacity in public finance management in five partner countries, including Moldova. In 2020-2023, the project will support the Moldovan government in improving the budgetary framework and rationalising government financial expenditure in line with Moldova's national development priorities and sectoral policies. Support for [innovation in the public sector](#) will continue to take place in Moldova through the current phase of the [MF SR and the UNDP Transformative Governance and Finance Facility \(2018-2021\)](#), with a view of continuing.

The [active approach of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau and a continued presence of a development diplomat](#) in the country will continue to ensure an efficient combination of available instruments as well as a functional coordination with existing EU programmes and instruments, and with [economic diplomacy](#).

## 5. MEASUREMENT, EVALUATION, APPLICABILITY OF THE CSP

The CSP, together with the Medium-Term Strategy, serve as framework documents for the annual planning of development interventions. The above-mentioned development cooperation instruments, available to Moldova, will be able to be adapted to support such development activities that will make it possible to respond flexibly to the latest developments in the country by targeting them by current needs.

The system of regular monitoring at project level and evaluation at project and programme level provides important means of collecting valuable feedback from the implementation of the development cooperation initiatives of the Slovak Republic in the field. The information obtained from independent evaluations will serve to comprehensively evaluate the development cooperation with Moldova, notably to further guide and plan the said cooperation at strategic, programme and project level.

Regular monitoring of the implementation of development activities will be carried out by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Chisinau and SAIDC/MFEA SR staff, by assessing the fulfilment of the qualitative and quantitative indicators defined in the project documentation. The monitoring reports will serve as a basis for possible corrections in the implementation of the activities and for their subsequent evaluation.

Evaluations of development activities carried out at regular intervals by independent external bodies will evaluate the long-term contribution and impact of the development interventions of the Slovak Republic in Moldova, including the efficiency of spending.

Evaluations will follow the *Strategy of Monitoring and Evaluation of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic* and the annual evaluation plan. They will also rely on the *Evaluation Guidelines of the Slovak Official Development Assistance*, which were drawn up as part of the MFEA SR-UNDP partnership project.

Prior to the subsequent preparation of a third CSP for Moldova, this CSP will be subject to an evaluation in the year of its expiry, i.e., in 2023 by means of an assessment of the achievement of the matrix of specific objectives, outputs and indicators (see chapter 7).

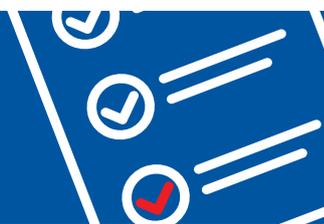


## 6. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BPP	Business Partnership Programme
CETIR	Centre for Experience Transfer from Integration and Reforms
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
GAMCON	Gagauzian Modernization Convention (EuropeAid project implemented in Moldova, co-financed by SlovakAid and other donors)
GNI	Gross national income
HDI	Human Development Index
MF SR	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MFEA SR	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
SAIDC	Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSE	Sharing Slovak Expertise (Knowledge and Experience Transfer)
THE UN	United Nations
THE UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



# 7. MATRIX of specific objectives, results and indicators



Priority Sectors	Specific objectives and results	Indicators 
<p>Good governance and civil society</p> <p>SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> <p>SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p>	<p>1. By sharing the reform experience of the Slovak Republic, support the development of a stable and democratic Moldova with effective public administration, municipalities, and a strong civil society</p> <p>1.1 Increased effectiveness of local and regional authorities by promoting decentralisation, expertise, transparency and strengthening their role in local and regional development</p> <p>1.2 Enhanced transparency, accountability and efficiency of state institutions by supporting the implementation of reforms</p> <p>1.3 Strengthened civic participation in governance, confidence building and inter-community dialogue by raising awareness and promoting effective dialogue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of municipalities that have introduced efficiency and transparency measures</li> <li>• satisfaction rate of the population (men and women) with the level of services provided by the municipality</li> <li>• participation rate of citizens (men and women) in the formulation, implementation and oversight of public policies</li> <li>• number of legislative measures, binding regulations, strategic government materials, methodological guidelines developed</li> <li>• level of citizens' trust in state institutions</li> <li>• number of anti-corruption measures in place and oversight of public policies</li> <li>• number of youth initiatives supported</li> <li>• number of new civic "grass roots" organisations, and initiatives</li> <li>• number of confidence and security-building activities supported, including support for inter-community dialogue and cooperation</li> <li>• number of supported local media</li> </ul>
<p>Infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>2. Improve the quality of life and health of the Moldovan population through efficient and sustainable management of water and other natural resources, waste management and environmental protection</p> <p>2.1 By building infrastructure, increase the level of connection to public water supply and sewerage with adequate wastewater treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• level of accessibility of population (men and women) to drinking water, sanitation and waste management infrastructure</li> <li>• population (men and women) with guaranteed access to drinking water, sanitation, and waste management infrastructure</li> <li>• number of schools, kindergartens and other institutions that have been granted access to drinking water, sanitation, and waste management infrastructure</li> <li>• number of methodologies/guidelines/directives/ legislative acts adopted in the field of water, sanitation, and waste management by public administration</li> </ul>

<p>SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and communities</p> <p>SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>SDG 13. Climate Action</p> <p>SDG 15. Life on Land</p>	<p>2.2 Strengthening the efficient functioning of the water, waste, and environmental protection system by means of institutional capacity development</p> <p>2.3 Increasing public awareness and participation in sustainable use of natural resources and environmentally sound waste management</p> <p>2.4 Increasing the effectiveness of prevention and adaptation measures to eliminate environmental risks related to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of inhabitants (men and women) involved in specific activities contributing to the improvement of the environment</li> <li>• population (men and women) involved in environmental awareness activities</li> <li>• number of models developed for the behaviour of environmental indicators affected by climate change (precipitation, drought, deforestation, groundwater level, floods, etc.)</li> <li>• number of monitoring reports and analyses on climate change risks and impacts</li> <li>• number of risk assessment, early warning and preparedness systems for dealing with emergencies affected by climate change</li> </ul>
<p>Promoting the creation of a market environment</p> <p>SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p>SDG 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure</p> <p>SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>SDG 13. Climate Action</p>	<p>3. Improve the performance of the business sector by supporting the uptake of innovation in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and by promoting sustainable employment</p> <p>3.1 Support the emergence of new entrepreneurial initiatives with innovative potential in environmentally friendly sectors, with an emphasis on disadvantaged regions</p> <p>3.2 Support the creation of innovation and sustainable jobs in higher value-added sectors by linking the education sector to the market environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of new jobs</li> <li>• number of newly established firms</li> <li>• number of newly established firms in regions excluding the capital city</li> <li>• number of innovations introduced (product, process, production, etc.)</li> <li>• number of new partnerships between educational institutions and economic operators</li> <li>• number of courses undertaken to acquire specific skills related to entrepreneurship development and to employability on the labour market</li> <li>• number of graduates (men and women) of courses providing acquisition of specific skills related to entrepreneurship development and to employability on the labour market</li> </ul>



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