



## ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

**Project title:** Strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of the migration management and asylum legislation in line with EU acquis

**Beneficiary administration:** Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Inspectorate for Migration

**Twining Reference:** MD 24 NDICI JH 01 24

**Publication notice reference:** EuropeAid/182493/DD/ACT/MD

**EU funded project**

***TWINNING TOOL***

## Abbreviations

AA	Association Agreement
BC PL	Beneficiary Country Project Leader
CCTHB	The Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
DRB	The Diaspora Relations Bureau
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement
EC	European Commission
EUAA	The European Union Agency for Asylum -
Europol	The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
Frontex	the European Border and Coast Guard Agency
EU MS	European Union Member State
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
GIM	The General Inspectorate for Migration
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ICMPD	International Center for Migration Policy Development
MEDD	Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation
MIP	Multiannual Indicative Programme
MER	The Ministry of Education and Research
MFA	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MS PL	Member State Project Leader
NBS	The National Bureau of Statistics
NEA	The National Employment Agency within Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
NDS	National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STE	Short-Term Experts
TCNs	Third Country Nationals
ToT	Train the Trainers
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## 1. Basic Information

1.1 Programme: NDICI Moldova/ACT-62645/ Support for EU Integration –

*Publication launched with a suspensive clause as the project is subject to the signature of the Financial Agreement by the Moldovan Government.*

1.2 Twinning Sector: Justice and Home Affairs

1.3 EU funded budget: EUR 1,250,000

1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality (in particular target 10.7: "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.")
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (in particular target 16.6) 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration."

## 2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM) in the implementation of the migration management and asylum in line with EU acquis.

2.2 Specific objective:

The specific objective of this Twinning project is to strengthen the capacities of the GIM to align with commitments taken by the Republic of Moldova in the framework of the EU integration process – Chapter 24.

2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans

The proposed project will support the General Inspectorate for Migration and the Government of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') to build their institutional capacities in order to harmonize legislation and then implement it in line with the *acquis communautaire*.

The EU, its member states, and the Republic of Moldova signed an **Association Agreement**, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, in 2014 and fully applied it from 2016 after its ratification. An Association Agenda sets out a list of priorities for joint work on implementing the Association Agreement. The EU-Republic of Moldova **Visa Liberalisation Dialogue** was launched on 15 June 2010 and in 28 April 2014, the visa obligation for citizens of the Republic of Moldova when travelling to the Schengen zone for a short-stay was abolished.

During the European Council on 23 June 2022, Moldova was granted **EU candidate status** and on 25 June 2024 the European Council approved to start the EU accession negotiations with

Moldova<sup>1</sup>. The analytical **examination of the Union acquis** (screening process) started officially in July 2024.

Chapter 24 “Justice, Freedom and Security” outlines the status of areas to be addressed by this Twinning project. The relevant European Commission assessments are included in the analytical report of February 2023 accompanying the European Commission Opinion of June 2022<sup>2</sup> and in the Moldova’s country reports part of the Enlargement Package (2023; to be published 2024).<sup>3</sup>

The **opening of Chapter 24** represents an important milestone in the accession negotiations with Moldova. This Twinning will further facilitate and support Moldova in fulfilling its commitments (to be) taken in the accession negotiations and will be fully aligned to the measures and activities taken by Moldova in the context of alignment with EU acquis - Chapter 24.

Following the screening of all Chapters of the Fundamentals’ Cluster, the European Commission will present a so-called screening report to the Council with recommendations to Moldova (including in the context of Chapter 24).

The proposed twinning is further aligned with the above Agreements/Dialogue/Process as well as with the priorities included in the Multiannual Indicative Programme covering 2021-2027 and the newly adopted Growth Plan.

The twinning is also coherent with the Strategy for the Development of the Internal Affairs (2022-2030), government Decision no.658/2022 – and its dedicated Programme proposal on the Management of Migration Flow, Asylum, and Integration of Foreigners for the Years (2022-2025) adopted by Government Decision no. 608/2022.

The General Inspectorate for Migration is envisaged as the principal direct recipient of the targeted support under the present project.

### 3. Description

#### 3.1 Background and justification:

##### *3.1.1 Context – General Moldova migration profile in short*

Building on its last decade intensive efforts in reforming its migration and asylum policies and taking into account the impact of the war in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova has continuously modernised its migration framework in line with EU acquis and best international standards. Recently, Moldova has made significant changes in the sector. It adopted its first *integrated* Internal Affairs Strategy (2022-2030)<sup>4</sup> along with a dedicated Sectorial Development Strategy on migration, asylum and refugees management (2022-2025)<sup>5</sup>. It further upgraded its Bureau for Asylum and Migration into an Inspectorate with additional allocated resources (financial and human). In addition, and following the mass-displacement of persons from Ukraine into its

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/moldova/>

<sup>2</sup> [SWD\\_2023\\_32\\_Moldova.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [d8ef3ca9-2191-46e7-b9b8-946363f6db91\\_en \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Internal Affairs strategy (2022-2030) – English version: [https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/Activitatea/MIA\\_Home%20Affairs%20Strategy\\_ENG.pdf](https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/Activitatea/MIA_Home%20Affairs%20Strategy_ENG.pdf) [Strategy for the Development of the Internal Affairs \(2022-2030\), government Decision no.658/2022 – and its dedicated Programme proposal on the Management of Migration Flow, Asylum, and Integration of Foreigners for the Years \(2022-2025\) adopted by Government Decision no. 608/2022](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/migra%C8%9Bie.pdf> Strategy for the Development of the Internal Affairs (2022-2030), government Decision no.658/2022 – and its dedicated Programme proposal on the Management of Migration Flow, Asylum, and Integration of Foreigners for the Years (2022-2025) adopted by Government Decision no. 608/2022

territory, Moldova reinforced its legislative corpus, including with the adoption of the Temporary Protection in coherence with EU Decision (2022/382 of 4 March 2022).

As a consequence of the war in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova has not only become a transit country but also a destination country for those people fleeing the war in Ukraine (UA, TCNs and stateless). As of 4 August, there are 136 394 displaced people from Ukrainian in Moldova (122669 Ukrainians and 10 725 third country nationals), with total number of arrivals reaching 1 685 724 displaced since March 2022. 1 419 Ukrainian refugees have been officially employed in Moldova since February 2022, 975 women and 444 men (UNHCR). Further, approximately 11 218 individuals applied for asylum in 2022 (compared to 75 in 2021) and in 2023 Moldova received 4 101 new asylum applications. In 2023, 7 159 decisions were issued regarding asylum applications and a total number of 151 persons received protection. In the first semester of 2024, 1 879 persons applied for asylum, out of which 78 received international protection (Source MD).

As a result, Moldova registers one of **the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita** in Europe. A situation, which has put the already limited capacities of the country under immense pressure and led the government to act at the beginning of the emergency urgently to enable efficient management of refugees' inflows. Fulfilling its humanitarian obligations, the Republic of Moldova, along with the Moldovan society, facilitated refugees from Ukraine access to Moldova's territory as well as provided them with the basic needs/services/accommodations. Since February 2024 and as of August 2024, a significant number of refugees from Ukraine are still being hosted in Moldova, including in Moldovan families. This solidarity demonstrated by Moldova was also enabled thanks to the EU external assistance (institutions and EU MS).

With the current number of **asylum seekers** reported, and beside a good level of processing asylum request, the national authorities experience to a limited extent some level of **backlog**. The government upgraded the Bureau Asylum and Migration into a General Inspectorate for migration. This initiative was accompanied with an increase of personnel, procurement of equipment and renovation of infrastructure, supported by government and the international donors (EU included).

In 2023, there were a total of 7 705 asylum applications under examination (4 101 asylum applications were submitted in 2023 and 3 604 asylum applications were transferred from 2022). During the first semester 2024 there were a total of 4 928 asylum applications (4 422 asylum applications and 506 asylum applications that were transferred from 2023). As of 30 June 2024, there were 1 879 asylum applications under examination.

While progress is noted, access to and provision of information regarding the asylum procedure could to be improved, as well as access to legal counselling for asylum seekers at BCPs including at Chisinau International Airport, in order to prevent any potential cases of refoulement and/or unfounded decisions.

In this respect, the Republic of Moldova should continue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to adjudicate the number of current as well as of possible increased number of asylum seekers, refugees while insuring access and provision of information, and promoting human rights and gender equality at the highest standards. Concomitantly, Moldova should further advance in situation's analysis and adequately provide the resources required for the implementation of its contingency plan, to manage any further mass influx of foreigners.

While Moldova shows continuous progress in the fight against irregular migration, further efforts are needed to meet EU requirements, including under the visa-liberalisation benchmarks. The number of Moldovan nationals found to be irregularly staying in EU MS rose from 40 945

in 2021 to 44 530 in 2022 (an increase of 9%). In 2022, the number of Moldovan nationals being refused entry in Member States was 7 305, which is 19.5% less than in 2021 (9 075). In 2022, the number of returns increased by 18.5% (2 845 in 2022 compared to 2 400 in 2021).

One of the identified shortcomings that Moldova is currently working on and to be supported in the context of this Twinning is related to the capacity to provide foreigners (migrants, stateless, asylum seekers, refugees) access in a timely manner to qualitative national services as well as assistance to assisted voluntary/forced returns and reintegration programmes in compliance with fundamental rights. The requirement to upgrade national capacity (administrative, financial, human resources, digital) is becoming even more acute in a context of decreased humanitarian aid assistance that Moldova has been benefiting from, since February 2022.

The country is also facing significant challenges in **fighting trafficking in human beings** (both labour and sex) in its territory, **increased migrant smugglings** and in **migrants returning** (as well as their reintegration). These being exacerbated with the conflict-induced mass displacement from Ukraine and the **increased number of migrants** choosing to establish in Moldova for labour purpose.

In parallel, specific attention to provide **socio-economic opportunities** to refugees as well as to Moldovan population are as paramount as mitigating Moldova's emigration flows in retaining the national "**working force labour**" and reverting the long lasting and existing brain drain trend. Moldova experiences one of the highest level of labour and youth emigration, for both short term and for long-term stay and its diaspora represents up to 28 % of its overall population. This situation has impacted the "workforce's availability" in the country, on its capacity to attract and retain human resources (both in private and public sector) and its overall economic development's perspective as future EU member state. It has also severe societal consequences on families and children, affected by those migration labour movements. In response to this challenge, the Moldovan authorities are also modernising its law on regular migration related to foreigner's stay in its territory.

Beside the challenging context, Moldova is demonstrating overall increasing efforts in addressing the multi-faceted migration challenges it is being faced with, while concomitantly modernising its national policies and legislative corpus (legal migration, irregular migration and asylum). Moldova is to continue addressing the migration related challenges faced by Moldova with a cross sectorial approach associating relevant public policies/sectors with a whole-government approach (employment, social protection, trade, education, health, engagement with diaspora to name a few).

All efforts are geared toward the requirement from Moldova to meet the EU standards in its path toward EU membership as well as in the context of the association agenda and the visa-liberalisation reporting process.

### *3.1.2 Identified needs to be addressed under this Twinning*

Moldova will continue the process of alignment with the Union acquis and its effective implementation and enforcement, and will continue to develop before accession, policies and instruments as close as possible to those of the EU. This Twinning will further facilitate and support Moldova in reaching its commitments (to be) taken in the accession negotiations and more precisely in view to align with EU acquis in the context of Chapter 24.

Specific attention should therefore be:

- Further alignment of legal framework with Union acquis and improving the process governing fast-evolving Union acquis on asylum and (legal and irregular) migration which are ongoing.
- Capacity to develop road maps in order to set up priorities and activities.
- Capacity (institutional, human resources, financial, digital, communication) development of relevant institutions in order to be part of the institutional development activities will have to be identified, designed and implemented.
- Procedures in place adjusted to EU requirements and institutional set up at territorial level.
- Best practices in developing a holistic approach to migration management and ensure control into / out of the country.
- Enhance the capacity of the national authorities in addressing current and any additional influx of mass-displaced movement of refugees and increased migrants in its territory as well as providing continuous support for the integration of the “new population” composed of refugees/asylums, migrants residing in Moldova should be addressed.
- Inter-sectorial and inter-institutional cooperation, including use of digital solutions.
- Implementation of the project will further support improvement of the migration and asylum system within the Republic of Moldova by increasing the accessibility, quality and number of comprehensive services available to beneficiaries as to achievement of the migrant and asylum seekers rights.

### *3.1.3 The institutional setting in the Republic of Moldova*

In this context, the Republic of Moldova has developed over the last decade a comprehensive coordination mechanism in the field of migration that applies a whole-of-government approach to migration. This mechanism includes a Commission for coordination of activities in the field of migration managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs/GIM which was established aiming at: monitoring and coordinating activities in the field of migration, asylum, statelessness and integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova; as well as uniform and coherent application of governmental policies relevant in this area.

The General Inspectorate for Migration within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (GIM) which is responsible for developing and implementing the public policy in the field of migration and asylum, integration, monitoring of the stay and the implementation of readmission agreements is the leading agency and working closely with other relevant state bodies presented succinctly hereafter:<sup>6</sup>

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) takes measures to develop and promote the policy framework in the field of labour migration, employment and social protection, concludes bilateral agreements for the management of labour migration and social security, takes measures on the protection of migrant workers and access to social services.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has the mission to provide consular assistance and protection of citizens abroad through diplomatic missions and consular offices.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitization. The MEDD is involved in the development of business environment through streamlining regulatory framework for

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<sup>6</sup> Source: [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Moldova%20-%20GCM\\_Raport\\_EN\\_2022.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Moldova%20-%20GCM_Raport_EN_2022.pdf)

entrepreneurship activity, the sector of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), tourism and domestic trade.

The Ministry of Education and Research (MER) is empowered with competences in regulating aspects related to negotiating and signing bilateral agreements with respect to academic mobility, recognition of educational documents issued abroad, performing the procedures of authentication of educational documents issued in the Republic of Moldova, validation and certification of knowledge and skills acquired in the context of non-formal education.

The Diaspora Relations Bureau (DRB) is responsible for coordination of policies and programs for diaspora at the level of the Government and ministries aiming at developing a continuous dialogue with diaspora of the Republic of Moldova.

The Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (CCTHB) is a specialized subdivision subordinated to the national investigation inspectorate of the General Police Inspectorate. It has the mission of investigation, criminal prosecution and prevention of crimes of trafficking in human beings and those related with a cross-border character of a major complexity and increased risks.

General Inspectorate of Border Police within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (GIBP), has the mission to implement the state policy in the field of integrated border management of the Republic of Moldova. In order to achieve effective control of borders, approaches challenges related to risks and potential threats to national security, thus contributing to the fight against cross-border crime, with full respect for fundamental rights, while guaranteeing the free movement of persons.

The National Employment Agency within Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (NEA) has powers and responsibilities in the field of employment and migration, promotion of employment and unemployment insurance. It is responsible for implementation and coordination of activities in the framework of bilateral agreements between the Republic of Moldova and other countries, enforcement and compliance with provisions of legislation in the area of labour migration as well as monitoring activities of private employment agencies.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the central authority in the field of statistics and the main producer of official statistics of the country. It is responsible for coordinating the development and production of official statistics in the national and international statistics system, including statistics on population and migration, with the right to access and use sources of administrative data, including sources containing individual data.

Ombudsman: is to protect the people against violation of rights, abuse of powers, unfair decisions and maladministration. It plays an increasingly important role in improving public administration while making the government's actions more open and its administration more accountable to the public. It considers individual complaints and correct injustices caused by any eventual maladministration and in the context of the emergency situation produced regular monitoring reports on the Moldovan response.

### **3.2 Ongoing reforms:**

The results of long-standing cooperation between the European Union to Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Internal Affairs/General Inspectorate for Migration have led to the development of essential policy and legislative reforms in the field of migration in line with EU standards and acquis communautaire.

This was concomitantly developed under the Association Agenda, the Visa Liberation process, and more recently in the context of the enlargement, since Moldova was granted the status of



Candidate country and the analytical process (screening) started following the European Council to open negotiations with Moldova.

Overall, the Moldovan legislation governing asylum is partly in line with EU acquis.

Moldovan authorities revised their policy framework with the adoption and current implementation of the Sectorial Development Strategy on migration management, asylum and integration of foreigners - 2022-2025. The implementation of this program aims to enhance the safety of migration, establish clear guidelines for the admission and documentation procedures of foreigners, and elevate the quality of services provided. This programme is to reinforce the national asylum system, ensuring reception conditions in line with European standards and bolstering response capacities in the event of a significant influx of people. Simultaneously, the program's execution is to promote the development of inter-institutional mechanisms, enhancing public safety and combating illegal migration.

Moreover, the program entails alignment with contemporary international instruments such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and the Global Compact on Refugees. Moldova is in this context committed to comply with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) to: 1) promote international cooperation by defining guiding principles and providing a multilateral policy framework; 2) the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Moldova further upgraded its Bureau for Asylum and Migration into an Inspectorate with additional allocated resources (financial and human), which is coordinating the overall reform process as encapsulated under Chapter 24.

As a consequence, the country continues to align further its legislation in the sector, giving special attention to the below reforms (further detailed under 34):

- The Temporary Protection which provides to eligible candidates for protection until March 2025.

- The law 200/2010 on the regime of foreigners<sup>7</sup> in the Republic of Moldova was amended on 23.01.2024.<sup>8</sup> It aims at providing a comprehensive normative framework to regulate the admission, stay and supervision of foreigners in the Republic Moldova. It shall contain established conditions regarding admission, stay and documentation, rights and obligations of foreigners, as well as supervision their residence regime, reflecting a new management approach of migration processes, in line with European Union standards.

- Moldovan authorities intends also to align as soon as 2024 the asylum regulatory framework. The continuous presence of displaced persons from Ukraine on its territory calls for improving existing mechanisms and measures to ensure better and faster social inclusion, avoidance of xenophobia and hinder discrimination in Moldovan society. The main target for integration of foreigners is to assist them to faster becoming an active self-reliant participant within the local community and a comfortable member of the Moldovan society.

- Further, Moldovan authorities are also inclined to conduct a need assessment and start preparing (identification of steps as well as an appropriate calendar) with the transposition of *the new Pact on Migration and Asylum*, adopted in April 2024, to align Moldovan legislation with the newly adopted EU acquis.

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<sup>7</sup> Law No. 200 of 16-07-2010 on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. Electronic source: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=137669&lang=ru](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=137669&lang=ru) (19.08.2024)

<sup>8</sup> Law No. 200 of 16-07-2010 on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. Electronic source: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=17205&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=17205&lang=ro) (07.08.2024)

### 3.3 Linked activities:

Since last decade, a number of projects funded by the EU with implementing partners be it EU MS and/or other international organisations (mainly IOM, UNHCR, ICMPD) have contributed to strengthen migration governance/management in Moldova.

Indicative list of upcoming, ongoing and recently completed EU-funded projects in the field of migration management and governance:

- The EU funded “***Supporting Protection, Transit, Voluntary and informed Return and Reintegration of Eastern Partnership Citizens and Third Country Nationals affected by the conflict in Ukraine***” project, implemented by IOM (implementation period February 2022 – February 2025) aims at: 1. improving the conditions for free and safe movement of persons, goods and vehicles across the common border; 2. enhancing crime prevention and preparedness to respond to border incidents, based on enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation and exchange of information; 3. improving knowledge and skills on operational use of equipment, in conjunction with use of risk analysis products, in a bilaterally coordinated and coherent manner.
- The EU funded “***Strengthening Moldova’s national capacities to ensure quality protection, education, health services and socio-economic opportunities for Ukrainian refugees***” project, implemented by UNICEF/IOM (implementation period February 2022- June 2024) aims in the context of response to the refugee crisis created by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine at strengthening Moldova’s national capacities and services to ensure Ukrainian refugees and Third Country Nationals have access to quality protection, education, and health services, and greater opportunities for socio-economic inclusion.
- “***European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine***” – EUBAM, phase 13, implemented by IOM (implementing period since November 2005, EU funded). The scope of the Mission is to enable the Mission in its advisory role in improving border management along the MD-UA state border as well as to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.
- the EU funded project “***EU 4 Border Security***”, implemented by IOM, (implementing period December 2019 – June 2024) aims to further enhance the integrated border management (IBM) between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine by encouraging inter-agency cooperation through joint control and information exchange on persons/vehicles/goods crossing the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, as well as through joint border surveillance along common border.
- The project “***Improving access to healthcare for refugees and people displaced from Ukraine benefitting of temporary protection in Member States***”, implemented by IOM (implementation period 2023-2025) regional programme aims notably in the republic of Moldova to increase the capacities of health systems to cope with a displaced population.
- the EU funded project “***Empowering Reintegration: Strengthening Capacities for Return and Reintegration Counselling through CSOs***” implemented by Caritas (implementing period March 2024 – June 2025) is to 1. enhance the capacity of EU and non-EU civil society organisations (CSOs) to provide accurate and sustainable return and reintegration counselling services to migrants residing in EU countries; 2. to establish and pilot a systematic referral mechanism, facilitating connections between CSOs and relevant government authorities responsible for overseeing the return and reintegration process. 3. to foster knowledge exchange in the area of return and reintegration counselling across various EU Member States and target partner countries (including Moldova).
- “***Strengthening of the Migration Management System in the Republic of Moldova***”, implemented by Poland (implementation period 2021-2023) aimed at strengthening the

Moldovan border and migration services in line with the current requirements and implementation of migration management solutions used in EU countries.

- the EU funded “**Enhancing capacities of Border Police forces to detect forged identity and travel documents for preventing and combating irregular migration and trafficking in human beings**” project, implemented by Lithuania, Poland (implementation period 2021-2023) aims at strengthening the capacity of the Moldovan border authorities to prevent irregular migration and trafficking in human beings and to combat cross-border crimes related to the fraudulent use of travel documents.

- the EU funded miEUx+ (MIgration EU eXpertise) “**Initiative Support for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Integrated Border Management (IBM) in the Republic of Moldova**” (Moldova Action VI), implemented by ICMPD (implementation period 2021- 2024). The overall objective is to ensure quality management of integrated border management (IBM) principles in Moldova in developing an inter-institutional monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of their IBM.

- The EU funded project “**D.O.M.D.E. 2 - Development of Moldovan Diaspora Entrepreneurship 2**” implemented by Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of the Italian Republic (implementation period 2023-2025) aims to promote circular migration and the productive return of Moldovan migrants with a view to their reintegration into the local labour market - especially in the social entrepreneurship sector.

- The EU funded **Diaspora Professionals for Development (DP4D) Moldova II**, implemented by ICMPD (implementing period July 2022-July 2023), aims to 1. Support Bureau for Relations with Diaspora (BRD) to map out the sectoral needs and opportunities in terms of expertise of the Moldovan ‘academic diaspora’; 2. Provide practical guidelines to BRD and Moldovan stakeholders in setting up a diaspora skills transfer scheme in the targeted sector; and (3) build and pilot co-working hubs of diaspora professionals to uphold country reforms in education and research.

- the Italian funded project, “**Strengthening capacities for protection of Ukrainian refugees, third country nationals and host communities in Moldova**”, implemented by IOM, 2022-2025, EUR 5 000 000, Moldova. The project aimed at 1) addressing the immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs in Moldova; 2) enhancing the Border authorities’ capacities to manage borders in crisis situations in a manner that is orderly, dignified and protects national security while adhering to protection principles and international human rights standards.

- The Polish funded project “**Capacity for a Rights-Based Reception System for Moldova**” (CareFor), implemented by ICMPD (implementing period December 2021- September 2023) aims to contribute to a functioning migration management system in Moldova and compliant to the human rights as enshrined in relevant international, regional, and national legislation.

- The Czech funded project “**SCOP – Component 3.1: Support to the Complex Improvement of Migration and Border Management in Moldova**” (September 2023-August 2024), implemented by ICMPD, aims at contributing to the resilience and capacities of the Moldovan Border Police. This includes effective management of the state border and timely and adequate response to crisis situations, achieved through acquiring selected equipment and carrying out capacity building activities.

- The German funded project “**SCOP – Component 1: Support to the Complex Improvement of Migration and Border Management in Moldova**” (implementing period October 2022 to June 2023), implemented by ICMPD, aimed to consolidate Moldovan migration and border management system in line with the EU Acquis.

- the Council of Europe funded project Project “***Strengthening the human rights protection of refugees and migrants in the Republic of Moldova***”, (implementation period October 2022-June 2024) aimed to provide targeted support to the Republic of Moldova in the field of asylum and migration, in light also of the refugee situation from Ukraine.

- World Bank's Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) will also touched upon the response of the migration crisis and reinforce the national capacity in refugees's refugees.

- The Canada funded project “***Strengthening National Policing Capacity in the Republic of Moldova***”, implemented by IOM (implementing period 2023-2025) aims at increasing capacities of police authorities and local communities hosting significant numbers of conflict-affected persons, to communicate and coordinate on safety and security concerns in the Republic of Moldova in a gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive manner.

**This is in addition to the EUR 66 million EU humanitarian aid** that Moldova benefited since February 2022. The EU is funding humanitarian projects in Moldova to support vulnerable Ukrainian refugees and the Moldovan families hosting them. Humanitarian aid provided cash assistance, food, shelter, and healthcare, transportation, medical care, and psychosocial support. Thanks to funding from the EU and other donors, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has provided cash assistance to more than 120,000 refugees staying or transiting Moldova. With the EU humanitarian support, the Moldovan authorities have established Refugee Accommodation Centres across the country, 38 of which are currently functional and hosting 2,000 extremely vulnerable individuals. Here, the World Food Programme (WFP) has delivered around 1.5 million hot meals to refugees from Ukraine thanks to funding from the EU and other donors.

Further information on ongoing and recently completed activities by the EU and other donors in this area is available on the website: <https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/Activitatea/Development%20Matrix%202029.04.2024.pdf>

**Coordination with other EU activities, including with EU agencies** – the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), CEPOL, Europol, Frontex - in particular with ongoing/planned EU-funded projects, should be ensured mainly for activities related to awareness raising, development and delivery of workshops and training sessions related to the themes of the project components. Other donor activities should also be considered, in close coordination with the EU Delegation.

Further, the Ministry of the Internal Affairs manages the work of the Negotiation Subgroup for Chapter 24 which will include and thoroughly develop all the activities which should be implemented for the full harmonisation with the EU norms and provision of the capacities for the implementation of the harmonised regulations.

### **3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms:**

This project is linked to following list of Union standards/norms/Union Acquis (which is an indicative list that could be revised prior the signature of the contract):

- Article 78 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that Union shall develop a common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection with a view to offering appropriate status to any third-country national requiring international protection and ensuring compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for

subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted, amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and repealing Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1349 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a return border procedure, and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1148;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1350 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework, and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1147;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1358 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on the establishment of ‘Eurodac’ for the comparison of biometric data in order to effectively apply Regulations (EU) 2024/1351 and (EU) 2024/1350 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 2001/55/EC and to identify illegally staying third-country nationals and stateless persons and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States’ law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1359 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1147;

- Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection;

- COM(2020) 6467 final Commission Recommendation of 23.9.2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU: promoting resettlement, humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways;

- Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1366 of 23 September 2020 on an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration;

- Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1365 of 23 September 2020 on cooperation among Member States concerning operations carried out by vessels owned or operated by private entities for the purpose of search and rescue activities;

- Communication from the Commission Guidance on the implementation of EU rules on definition and prevention of the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence;

- Council Decision of 29 April 2004 on the organisation of joint flights for removals from the territory of two or more Member States, of third-country nationals who are subjects of individual removal orders (2004/573/EC).

- Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC

- Directive (EU) 2024/1233 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State (recast)<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024L1233>

- Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast).
- Directive 2011/51/EU to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection Amended by Directive 2011/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2011 amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection
- Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection
- Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection
- Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof
- Regulation No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010
- Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities
- Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1366 of 23 September 2020 on an EU mechanism for preparedness and management of crises related to migration.
- Decision 2019/276 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2018 on the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument to reinforce key programmes for the competitiveness of the EU and to finance immediate budgetary measures to address the ongoing challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats
- Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification
- Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents
- Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.
- Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.
- Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.
- Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers (Text with EEA relevance).
- Council Directive 2004/114/EC of 13 December 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service
- Council Directive 2005/71/EC of 12 October 2005 on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research
- Council Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence.

- Council framework Decision 2002/946/JHA of 28 November 2002 on the strengthening of the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence.
- Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State.
- Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals.
- Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment
- Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the establishment of 'EURODAC' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person and on requests for the comparison with EURODAC data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 establishing a European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice.

<i>Domestic Legal Framework relevant to the Twinning project (extract, not exhaustive)</i>
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- On September 23, 2022, the [Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs](#) for the years 2022-2030 (SDHA) was approved (Gov. Decision No. 658/2022), with the main objectives focused on public order, crime prevention, border management, **migration and asylum**, civil protection, training, integrity, and digitization.
- On November 23, 2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Moldova approved the [Management of Migration Flows, Asylum and Integration of Foreigners Program for the Years 2022-2025](#) (Gov. Decision No. 808/2022), which aims to establish well-defined rules and procedures for the admission.

The national asylum legislation transposes to some extent the provisions of the EU Asylum Directives and the MIA/GIM is currently working on the following laws:

- The Law 270/2008 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova, **temporary protection** has been implemented (GD no 21/2023) and transposes minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons.
- In order to strengthen the national asylum system, MIA is working on a **draft law amending Law no. 270/2008 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova**, which proposes to align the Law to the provisions of the EU Acquis (namely by partially transposing Directive 32/2013, Directive 33/2013 and Directive 95/2011).
- The MIA is in the process of developing a normative regulatory framework adjusted to the EU standards related to **the admission, stay and supervision of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova**, which represents a new concept of approach in the field of migration and establishes clear principles of migration management. The new legislation aims to:

- align the Moldovan legal framework with the requirements and norms of the EU in the field of migration, the unification of terminology and processes in order to bring the national regulatory framework in line with European standards.

- establish a coherent and expressly clear legal framework for the regulation of the regime of foreigners in the Moldova, in order to ensure public order and state security by performing effective control over the admission, stay and supervision of foreigners on the territory of the state, as well as to protect national interests and rights and fundamental human freedoms.

- In February 2024, was made the decision to extend the **temporary protection** until March 2025, according to the EU Decision no. 2409/19 October 2023 on the extension of temporary protection, which provides for the extension of temporary protection for another year, namely, for the period 4 March 2024 – 3 March 2025, in accordance with Council Directive 2001.

***Further relevant laws (under recently adopted and/or to be implemented):***

- On 28 March 2024, the Parliament adopted the amendments to the Law No. 273/1994 regarding **identity documents from the national passport system**. Implementing the electronic identity card (2025) and the electronic residence card (2026) in line with relevant provisions of EU Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 and Council Regulation (EC) 1030/2002.

- Law No. 379/2023 relates to the **use of passenger name record** (PNR) data by establishing the Advance Passenger Information Unit at the International Airport Chisinau.

The Law 28/2024 of the **state border of the Republic of Moldova** was adopted by the Parliament in February 2024. The law transposes: partially Regulation (EU) 2016/399; article 14 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725; Article 3 (1) and (2), art. 4 (1), art. 6 (1) of Council Directive 2004/82/EC. The new law transposes the latest amendments made to the Schengen Code by the Regulation (EU) 2021/1134.

The Law 379/2023 on the use of the **passenger's name record data** was adopted by the Parliament in December 2023. The law transposes: Directive (EU) 2016/681; Partially Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/759.

The Government Decision 1067/2023 on repealing the annexes 1 and 2 of the Government decision 834/2008 on the **Integrated Information System of the Border Police** is transposing the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/759.

### **3.5 Components and results per component**

The project is consisting of 3 components.

#### **Result 1/ Component 1: Strengthened institutional and administrative capacity of the Inspectorate in aligning and in implementing EU acquis and best practices.**

The following intermediary results as a minimum will be implemented: monitoring and evaluation mechanism are strengthened, data collection and exchange between relevant services (including through digital process) for the conduct of operations, decision-making and strategic communication as well as for communication with the broader public are being reinforced. Support for design and implementation of evidence-based policy development is delivered. Provision of human rights and data protection at the EU best standards are being mainstreaming at all level and across the inspectorate. Further, curricula are reviewed amongst peers, and recommendations are provided to enable any agreed revisions (for the approximation



and implementation of EU acquis) within relevant national authorities' curriculum - Train the Trainers (ToT) programme and access to both on-line and in-person training. This will include assessment of resource (human, equipment and financial) for the approximation and implementation of the legislation, including recommendations and requirements for the absorption of EU Funds dedicated to refugees and migration.

Proposed list of sub-results (indicative and optional)

Sub-result 1.1: Enhanced strategic management

- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are strengthened.
- Data collection and exchange between relevant services (including through digital process) for the conduct of operations, decision-making and strategic communication as well as for communication with the broader public are strengthened
- Capacities in implementing evidence-based policy development, and in drafting future roadmap for GIM are strengthened
- Cooperation and data exchange between central apparatus (Headquarters) and regional directorate of the GIM and ensure efficient management of migration processes is strengthened.

Sub-result 1.2 Enhanced personnel's skills with EU acquis

- Data protection in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) best practices is implemented
- Curriculum is assessed (including mapping of existing and required EU trainings), and revised and as well as Train the Trainers (ToT) ToT and training expanded.

**Result 2/ Component 2: National authorities supported to align their legislative framework on asylum, refugees, statelessness and foreigners system to EU and International Standards.**

The following sub-results as a minimum will be implemented at legislative and operational levels.

A need assessment on legislative gaps in the field of migration and asylum, is delivered identifying gaps and proposing recommendations for the smooth implementation in the Republic of Moldova with appropriate steps, an indicative calendar and a monitoring and reporting mechanism (which could include capacity-building for roadmap). A monitoring and reporting system on the approximation with EU acquis is set up. Current legislation in the field of legal migration with a focus on the law on foreigners is analysed in comparison with EU legislative framework and accompanied with recommendations for further harmonisations as well as implementations process (monitoring, reporting and calendar included). Efficiency and standardisation of procedures is increased, based on comparative analysis of different practices within EU on institutional set up, development of manual and training organisation (ex: procedure in transit, restriction in of movement of asylum seekers, non refoulement, regulation on residence of refugees, asylum seekers, foreigners, as well as their families and naturalisation procedures).

At operational level and for the implementation of EU acquis, access to asylum procedures, including the identification of persons with special needs will be strengthened. It will pay particular attention to the identification of persons who wish to apply for international protection in line with EU acquis. It will aims in enhancing provision on International protection and rights and duties of the asylum seekers, refugees, stateless. It will further based on an assessment enhanced the quality of decision-making to improve knowledge and technical skills

of case officers to assess asylum claim as well as members of GIM, GIBP. It will further enhanced the capacity of national authorities to efficiently and timely to legalise the stay of foreign citizens.

Proposed list of sub-results (indicative and optional)

Sub-result 2.1: increase the pace of legal approximation with EU acquis

- A monitoring and reporting system on the approximation with EU acquis is set up.
- A need assessment on legislative gaps in the field of asylum, temporary protection and migration is delivered identifying gaps and proposing recommendations for the smooth implementation in the Republic of Moldova with appropriate steps, an indicative calendar and a monitoring and reporting mechanism.
- Current legislation in the field of legal migration with a focus on foreigners is analysed in comparison with EU legislative framework and accompanied with recommendations for further harmonisations as well as implementations process (monitoring, reporting and calendar included).
- Efficiency and standardisation of procedures is increased, based on comparative analysis of different practices within EU on institutional set up, development of manual and training organisation (procedure in transit, restriction in of movement of asylum seekers, non refoulement, regulation on residence of refugees, asylum seekers, foreigners, as well as their families and naturalisation procedures).

Sub-result 2.2: Operationalisation of the legal framework:

- Strengthened access to asylum procedures, including the identification of persons with special needs
  - \* Enhanced identification of persons who may wish and apply for international protection in line with EU acquis.
  - \* Enhanced information provision on International Protection and rights and duties of the asylum seekers/refugees
- Enhanced quality of the decision making
  - \* Improved knowledge and technical skills of the case officers to assess asylum claim
  - \* Improved knowledge and technical skills of the members of GIM

**Result 3/ Component 3: The capacity of the state to respond to any increased influx of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees including their successful integration, is reinforced**

The following intermediary results as a minimum will be delivered:

An evaluating mechanism assessing the inspectorate's capacity to respond to any increased influx of refugees/asylum, stateless including the set-up of an early warning system crisis and preparedness system will be achieved. It will provide recommendations with proposed of adjustments and implementation with a realistic calendar in view to enhance preparedness for a scenario of high influx in the field of reception for asylum seekers with an inter-institutional approach at national level, and when relevant with EU relevant actors (EU agencies).

The assessment will pay particular attention to improve reception conditions and services, giving a special attention to vulnerable individuals, and unaccompanied minor and age assessment process.

It will provide the mechanism, tools and capacity needed to enhance capacity of national authorities to efficiently and timely address high influx of refugees/asylum seekers, stateless. It

will also enhance capacity of national authorities to manage reception conditions with specific attention to vulnerable groups.

It could further be envisaged to include an assessment of national authorities to efficiently and timely process foreigners' admission /resident permit.

It will pursue the objective to foster equality and social cohesion to ensure access to basic national services and integration of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless within Moldovan society. It will pay particular attention to development and implementation of fight against racism and anti-discriminatory and pave the way for promoting successful integration of foreigners in the country.

#### Proposed list of sub-results (indicative and optional)

##### Sub result 3.1: enhanced preparedness and management in the case of mass influx of asylum seekers :

- Crisis and Early warning system is assessed and reinforced.
- Enhanced preparedness for a scenario of high influx in the field of reception for asylum seekers with an inter-institutional approach.
- Enhanced capacity of national authorities to efficiently and timely address high influx of refugees/asylum seekers, stateless.
- Reception conditions and services are enhanced

##### Sub-result 3.2: strengthen de capacities on addressing special needs cases

- Improved detection and reception condition for vulnerable individuals and unaccompanied minors.
- Strengthen capacity to deliver assistance giving attention to special needs cases in migration and asylum domain with other relevant stakeholders.
- Adjustment of legal framework and drafting of Standard Operational Procedures

##### Sub-result 3.3: enhanced migration management (preparedness and integration):

- Enhanced capacity of national authorities to efficiently and timely legalise the stay of foreign citizens (process foreigners' admission /resident permit).
- Enhance capacity on promoting successful integration of foreigner's.

#### 3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)\*:

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning Grant Contract between the final beneficiary country and an EU MS, in coordination with the EU Delegation, programme manager in charge of migration/security related issues in the country.

The implementation of the project requires one Project Leader (PL) with responsibility for the overall coordination of project activities and one Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) to manage the implementation of project activities, three Component Leaders (CL) and a pool of short-term experts (STEs) within the limits of the budget. It is important that the team has a sufficiently broad expertise to cover all the areas mentioned in the project description.

Proposals submitted by EU MS must be concise and focus on the strategy and methodology and a corresponding indicative timetable, the proposed management model and the quality of the expertise to be mobilised, and clearly indicate the management structure and capacity of the EU MS agencies.

Proposals shall be detailed enough to respond adequately to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully elaborated project.

They must describe in sufficient detail the strategy and methodology, indicate the sequence and mention the key activities during project implementation to ensure the achievement of the general and specific objectives and the prescribed results/outputs. The set of proposed activities will be further developed when drafting the initial work plan and successive rolling work plans, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning beneficiaries. The components are closely inter-linked and need to be sequenced accordingly.

The Twinning project will be implemented by close cooperation between the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in a sustainable manner. Interaction between beneficiary institution's staff and the Twining experts shall be based on 'expert-to-expert' cooperation through joint working sessions for review and elaboration of documents and mentoring and backstopping focussing on 'on-the-job' knowledge transfer rather than single short-term expert missions and participation in training.

Several study visits shall be organized, that cover a variety of Twinning areas of intervention, with a clear focus on practical application, for the exchange of good practices and experience for the representatives of the institutions involved in the project from the beneficiary country. Traineeships or internships can be proposed.

It is important to note that this Twinning project extends not only on transposition (of legal texts) but is focused on implementation (i.e., real-life practice).

*Interested MS shall include in their proposals the Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of the designated Project Leader (PL) and the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA), as well as the CVs of the potentially designated Component Leaders (CLs).*

### 3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:

#### Project Leader Profile:

- University degree in a relevant field to this twinning project (law, public administration, political, social science etc.) or Police Academy or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree;
- At least 3 (three) years of professional experience as official in the management of migration/refugees sector of an EU member state administration;
- Previous experience in project management;
- Professional work experience in EU accession countries, the Western Balkans or Neighbourhood East is considered an asset.
- Good communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);
- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 4.1.3;
- Computer literacy.

The Member State Project Leader (MS PL) should be a high-ranking public servant within the Member State administration. The Project Leader's seniority will ensure his/her ability to call on short term experts in support of the efficient implementation. The Project Leader should attend the Steering Committee meetings in the Beneficiary Country.

The Project Leader is responsible to coordinate the activities, disseminate project information among all stakeholders, take part in discussions with high-level officials, present and defend project inputs and expected outputs, manage the project team, prepare project management

reports, help overcome project related problems, and assist the RTA for continuous development of project initiatives. In addition, s/he will coordinate, from the MS' side, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will meet in Moldova every three months. S/he will involve other relevant entities, taking into account on-going horizontal public administration reform efforts and sectorial activities that could have an impact on the project, and bear – together with the Beneficiary Country Project Leader – the final responsibility for an efficient and effective implementation of the Twinning project.

#### Project Leader Tasks:

- Overall coordination, guidance and monitoring of the project in cooperation with BC Project Leader and EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova;
- Timely achievement of the project results;
- Monitoring and evaluating the needs and priorities in the respective sector, project risks, progress against the project budget, benchmarks and outputs, and taking any necessary remedial actions if needed;
- Co-chairing of project Steering Committees;
- Project reporting;
- Coordinate the work of the RTA;
- Ensure effective use of project resources and inputs to achieve the expected results;
- Liaise with the Beneficiary Country's Project Leader, particularly with respect to making any changes to the project work plan that are necessary during the life of the project;
- Together with the Beneficiary Country's Project Leader (and relevant EU Delegations), co-chair the regular meetings of the Project Steering Committee;
- Take responsibility for interim and final reports together with the PL of the Beneficiary country;
- Provision of legal and technical advice and analysis whenever needed.

#### 3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:

The Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) will be based in the Republic of Moldova to provide full-time inputs and advices to the project for the entire duration of the project. This expert will be the main liaison partner for the Beneficiary, will bear the responsibility to coordinate in the field and on a day-to-day basis all the activities planned in the Twinning. The RTA will be responsible for the selection and supervision of the RTA Assistant and the management of the short-term experts' input. S/he will brief, guide and support the STEs seconded to the project and participants of study visits. S/he will provide continued guidance and support in the organisation of workshops and roundtable discussions. The RTA can come from a Member State administration or mandated bodies (full or ad hoc).

#### RTA Profile:

- University degree in a relevant field for this twinning project (law, public administration, political, social science etc.) or Police Academy or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree in the relevant sector;
- At least 3 years of general professional experience in related sector;
- Experience in project management; in the environmental sector will be an asset;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level).
- Excellent analytical and communication skills (verbally and written/report writing skills).
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and

- interest groups.
- Computer literacy.
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian language is considered as an asset;
- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 4.1.6.

#### RTA Tasks:

- Coordination of all Twinning project activities and experts' inputs in the country;
- Ensuring smooth correlation between the activities, deadlines and the envisaged results in the Work Plan;
- Provision of technical advices and assistance to the administration or other public sector bodies in the BC in the context of a predetermined work-plan to ensure timely completion of project outputs;
- Guiding and coordinating assistants to the RTA;
- Coordination, facilitation and monitoring of the STEs work during their missions (organize briefings and debriefings, sharing of mission report and recommendations);
- Document and knowledge management allowing an appropriate record of the delivered outputs;
- Liaison with MS, BC Project Leaders, EU Delegation Sector/Programme manager; daily contact with the RTA counterpart;
- Monitor and follow-up on implementation of expert mission findings;
- Drafting of project progress reports with the Project Leader;
- Ensure visibility of EU support provided through the Twinning and establish the communication strategy.

The RTA shall be supported by a full-time project assistant and by a full-time language assistant, therefore in sum by two full-time assistants. Both RTA assistants will cooperate on organisational matter under the direction of the RTA and will be recruited and funded by the project. The RTA assistants will provide logistical and administrative support, technical translation and interpretation services for the RTA to facilitate the implementation of the Twinning project activities and assist in the preparation of working documents, organisation of seminars, training and study tours. The profile of the RTA assistants will be specified by the RTA who will proceed to their recruitment following the provisions of the Twinning Manual.

#### 3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:

For each of the mandatory results, the Member State(s) will identify and assign a Component Leader with appropriate skills and knowledge. Considering that the project will benefit multiple institutions and cover different areas of activities, it will be crucial to have skilled and autonomous Component Leaders. These Component Leaders will ensure continuity and consistency within each of the fields concerned as well as monitoring progress and the implementation of recommendations. While Component Leaders will not be resident in Chişinău, they are expected to visit Chişinău and work locally with the beneficiary institutions at least 3 times per working year. CV's and proposed activities of each Component Leader shall be an integral part of the MS proposal. The detailed expert's inputs shall be established when drawing up the Twinning Work Plan. The Component Leaders of each Mandatory Results will work in close collaboration with the RTA. They will report to the RTA and Project Leader and cooperate with their counterparts and other beneficiaries at the PSC meetings. The main task of the Component Leaders is to coordinate the activities under the area of responsibility in liaison with the partner institutions.

The Components Leaders shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

- University degree in a field relevant to this assignment or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree;
- At least 3 years of experience specifically in the field covered by the project component for which the Component leader will be responsible;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level).
- Excellent analytical and communication skills (verbally and written/report writing skills).
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and interest groups.
- Computer literacy.
- Moldova Country experience is an asset;
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian language is an asset;

#### 3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

The project will require a number of short-term experts (STE) in order to cover the full range of specialised expertise required, providing the necessary skills and experience according to the expected results mentioned above.

STE profiles (general experience):

- University degree in a field relevant to this assignment or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree;
- At least 3 years of specific experience in the specific field of expertise;
- Experience in knowledge transfer and/or training of employees of supervisory and/or regulatory bodies in EU Member State;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level).
- Excellent analytical and communication skills (verbally and written/report writing skills).
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and interest groups.
- Computer literacy.
- Moldova Country experience is an asset;
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian language is an asset;

STE Tasks:

- To provide technical inputs in specific areas of project implementation in order to achieve mandatory results listed in the Twinning fiche, including organisation of workshops, training, coaching, drafting of methodological and relevant handout materials, as per the terms of reference provided by the RTA prior to each mission;
- To cooperate closely with all beneficiaries' experts in undertaking all activities;
- Advance preparation and familiarisation with relevant documentation;
- To report to the project team.

## **4. Budget**

The project will be implemented through a Twinning Contract estimated at a maximum of EUR 1,250,000.

## **5. Implementation Arrangements**

### **5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting**

The European Union Delegation to Moldova (EUD) will be responsible for operational management, payments and financial reporting, and will work in close cooperation with the Beneficiary.

Contact person:

**Mrs Natalia Burciu**

Contact person for Twinning

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### **5.2 Institutional framework**

The General Inspectorate for Migration is the leading beneficiary institution.

### **5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration:**

The Project leader (PLs) and Resident Twinning advisor (RTA) counterparts will be staff of the Beneficiary administration(s) and will be actively involved in the management and coordination of the project.

#### **5.3.1 Contact person:**

Mrs Emilia CEBOTARI, Head of External Assistance and European Funds Coordination Department, State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.

#### **5.3.2 PL counterpart**

Mrs Ina BOGATÎL-VIDMIDI, Director of the Coordination of External Assistance and Project Management Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

#### **5.3.3 RTA counterpart**

Mrs Tatiana CIUMAȘ, Interim Deputy Head of the General Inspectorate for Migration, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

## **6. Duration of the project**

The overall execution period of the Twinning project is 21 months, with 18 months of implementation.

## **7. Management and reporting<sup>10</sup>**

### **7.1 Language**

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument **English**. All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

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<sup>10</sup> Sections 7.1-7.3 are to be kept without changes in all Twinning fiches.



## **7.2 Project Steering Committee**

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project and provide guidance when needed and relevant. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

## **7.3 Reporting**

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

## **8. Sustainability**

The achievements of a Twinning project (from results per component to impacts) should be maintained as a permanent asset to the Beneficiary administration even after the end of the Twinning project implementation. This presupposes *inter alia* that effective mechanisms are put in place by the Beneficiary administration to disseminate and consolidate the results of the project.

The delivery of the long-term benefits from acquiring additional expert knowledge and skills, strengthening administrative capacities, improving regulatory framework, and harmonizing legislation with the EU shall be ensured – alongside ongoing reforms.

Expert recommendations must be reviewed according to their feasibility in the context of Moldova, its legal and regulatory framework, political will, and institutional and other stakeholder capacities. Joint monitoring of project progress and achievement of results will be conducted, fostering commitment and leadership by the beneficiary administration.

The project approach will focus on supporting beneficiaries by providing them with tools and approaches to analysis and by facilitating the development of policy options instead of offering solutions and delivering final outputs. The acquired expertise and skills of the staff and increased capability will continue to be used for further alignment with EU standards and best international practice after the project ends.

The development and practical use of these skills during the project will also ensure sustainability in the future operations of the beneficiaries. Where relevant, the Twinning will explore to which extent training foreseen under it might be included or expanded upon in relevant training curricula of national training institutions.

The project will serve as a significant opportunity to further develop existing partnerships with EU institutions aiming at harmonization of the legislation with the EU Acquis

Since results should be sustained the Beneficiary should describe how they in their budget planning (Medium-Term Business Planning (MTBP) or alike) have planned necessary resources ensuring the sustainability.

The sustainability of mandatory results/outputs is best ensured by ensuring that policy and legislative proposals are backed up by at least basic impact assessments (regulatory, fiscal) and

they are consulted with both internal and external stakeholders (inter-ministerial and public consultations), as required by Beneficiary country legislation. Sufficient time should be allocated to this preparatory work during the project, and fast-track adoption procedures of legislation should be avoided, because they risk implementation and enforcement of future legislation.

## **9. Crosscutting issues**

Each Twinning partner is required to comply with the equal-opportunities requirements of the European Union. The principle of equal opportunity will be integrated into all stages of the project implementation. The activities envisaged under the present Project should not negatively affect the environment. During the implementation of the Project, the production of printed material will be kept to the strictest minimum, single use plastics avoided and digital means used as much as possible.

## **10. Conditionality and sequencing**

There is no general precondition set for this twinning project.

The project will ensure a well-coordinated legal approximation process involving all responsible parties in compliance with the recognized standards and good practices.

The selected twinning implementing member state(s) as well as the twinning beneficiary commit to provide the contributions stated in the Fiche. They include such as:

- Strong commitment and active participation, support throughout the implementation of the agreed activities and in line with the envisaged timeline;
- Assigning dedicated and available resources (human and financial if any) in a timely manner according to the project components and calendar, and compatible with both the normal workload of relevant human resources and available budget.
- Ensuring coordination between departments and institutions associated with the Action;
- Ensuring access to necessary information and documents, especially concerning the national regulatory framework.
- Ensure willingness throughout the implementation of the project to maintain an open two-way communication at technical level, compatible with the normal workload of relevant human resources
- Committing to change/adapt practices to take advantage of the experience and knowledge gained through the implementation of activities.

The project-specific activities will be defined and prioritized in close coordination between the Twinning partners, Member states and Beneficiary partner country, as well as the EU Delegation based on the Logical Framework.

## **11. Indicators for performance measurement**

The specific objective of the Twinning project is to strengthen the capacities of the GIM to align with commitments taken by the Republic of Moldova in the framework of the EU integration process – Chapter 24. Therefore, a key performance indicator will be the progress reported in the Enlargement progress report chapter 24 and taking into consideration the screening process as per the improved level of preparedness.

Overall, the twinning performance measurement will be based on the quality and timeliness of experts' inputs (reports, mappings, training manuals, presentations etc.) provided as well as beneficiary satisfaction with the collaboration in response to the expressed needs for human resource and institutional capacity development.

The workplan will be developed in collaboration with the beneficiary and the indicators will be further specified.

Key performance indicators by mandatory results are outlined below:

**Result 1:** Strengthened institutional and administrative capacity of the Inspectorate in aligning and in implementing EU acquis and best practices

**Indicators:**

- *Monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place;*
- *Improved inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms and information exchange;*
- *SOPs developed;*
- *Personnel's skills enhanced.*

**Result 2:** Support national authorities to align their legislative framework with the asylum, refugees, statelessness and foreigners system to the EU acquis and best International Standards.

**Indicators:**

- *MIA/GIM level of EU approximation has improved;*
- *Methodology developed;*
- *Personnel's skills enhanced.*

**Result 3:** Reinforce the capacity of the state to respond to any increased influx of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

**Indicators:**

- *Enhanced personnel's skills;*
- *Quality of Services are improved and delivered in a timely manner;*
- *Crisis and Early warning system is strengthened;*
- *Improved detection and assistance delivery for vulnerable individuals as for unaccompanied minors.*
- *Pave the way for foreigners' successful integration*

Annex 1 Logical framework includes a more detailed overview of project specific targets and indicators for performance measurement, complementing the mandatory results and sub-results enumerated in Chapter 3.5.

## **12. Facilities available**

Office space for the RTA and 2 assistants as well as for (on average 2) short-term experts will be at GIM/MIA.

These offices will be equipped with all necessary equipment (computer, printer, internet access). Training and presentations will take place in conference rooms provided by the beneficiary, equipped with a projector and computer for presentations, flipcharts, and stationary items. STEs may also work with involved beneficiary experts in their offices and will be provided with the necessary equipment (computer, internet access, specific software).

Security-related issues will be assured according to the standards and practices applicable to all Moldovan public institutions.

**ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE**

Annex 1: The Simplified Logical Framework Matrix

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1.

SIMPLIFIED LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Twinning - Strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration for the implementation of the migration management and asylum legislation in line with EU acquis</b>					
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data)</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Assumptions (external to project)</b>
<b>Overall Objective</b>	The overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of the General Inspectorate for Migration in the implementation of the migration management and asylum in line with EU acquis.	Progress on Enlargement Chapter 24 /improved level of preparedness	Project documents Enlargement reports	Unclear responsibilities, conflicting staff assignments, high staff turnover, vacancies, overall workload;  lack of sufficient information cause delays in effective preparation of activities/ STEs inputs	Continuation of Moldova's path of cooperation with the EU.  The beneficiary institution is properly staffed and provided with necessary absorption capacity to receive and benefit from the proposed actions.  Development of the migration sector

					<p>continues to be a Government priority and vested interests do not hamper reform processes.</p> <p>Human resources are reinforced to actively engage in Twinning activities and assimilate provided expertise.</p>
<b>Specific (Project) Objective(s)</b>	Strengthen the capacities of the GIM to align with commitments taken by the Republic of Moldova in the framework of the EU integration process – Chapter 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of internal regulations and administrative procedures formulated / revised in compliance with EU acquis</li> <li>- Personnel’s skills enhanced</li> </ul>	<p>Project documents,</p> <p>Training, event, study tour reports, participants satisfaction and progress evaluations</p> <p>Publications, event agendas and participant lists</p>		
<b>Mandatory results/outputs by component 1</b>	Strengthened institutional and administrative capacity of the Inspectorate in aligning and in implementing EU acquis and best practice	Increased the national authorities’ capacities to implement the international standards and EU best practises	<p>Project documents,</p> <p>Training, event, study tour reports, participants satisfaction and progress evaluations</p>		

			Publications, event agendas and participant lists		
<b>Sub-results per component (optional and indicative)</b>		<p><b>Sub-results 1.1: Enhanced Strategic Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place.</li> <li>- Number of SOPs with EU support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-result 1.2: Enhanced personnel's skills with EU acquis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessing training needs and adapt training curriculum.</li> </ul>			
<b>Mandatory results/outputs by component 2</b>	Support national authorities to align their legislative framework with the asylum, refugees, statelessness and foreigners system to EU and International Standards.	Increased the number of laws aligned with EU acquis.	<p>Project documents,</p> <p>Training, event, study tour reports, participants satisfaction and progress evaluations</p> <p>Publications, event agendas and participant lists</p>	-	

<p><b>Sub-results per component (optional and indicative)</b></p>		<p><b>Sub-result 2.1:</b> increase the pace of legal approximation with EU acquis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A monitoring and reporting system on the approximation with EU acquis is set up.</li> <li>- A need assessment on legislative gaps with recommendations.</li> <li>- number of laws aligned with EU acquis, with EU support.</li> <li>- number of SOPS adopted, with EU support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-result 2.2:</b> Operationalisation of the legal framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to asylum procedures updated.</li> <li>- delivery of timely information provision on international protection.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Mandatory results/outputs by component 3</b></p>	<p>Reinforce the capacity of the state to respond to any increased influx of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, paving the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhanced personnel's skills.</li> </ul>	<p>Project documents, Training, event, study tour reports, participants</p>		



	way for Foreigners' integration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased number of beneficiaries that are satisfied with the quality of assistance.</li> <li>- Number of procedures adjusted.</li> <li>- Improved quality of business continuity and decreased response time for delivery of assistance.</li> <li>- number of SOPs developed to foster inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms and information exchange.</li> <li>- Reduced time in processing Asylum seeker requests.</li> </ul>	<p>satisfaction and progress evaluations</p> <p>Publications, event agendas and participant lists</p>		
<b>Sub-results per component (optional and indicative)</b>		<p><b>Sub-result 3.1:</b> enhanced preparedness and management in the case of mass influx of asylum seekers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crisis and Early Warning system assessed and strengthened.</li> <li>- Increased number of beneficiaries that are satisfied with the quality of assistance</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-result 3.2:</b> strengthen de capacities on addressing special needs cases</p>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Laws and SOPs adjusted</li><li>- Time to deliver of assistance shortened</li></ul> <p><b>Sub-result 3.3:</b> enhanced migration management (preparedness and integration):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Methodology adjusted.</li></ul>			
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