



ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche

Project title: Twinning Agri-statistics

Beneficiary administration: National Bureau of Statistics

Twining Reference: MD 22 NDICI AG 02 24 (MD/44)

Publication notice reference: EuropeAid/184756/DD/ACT/MD

EU funded project

TWINNING TOOL

List of abbreviations

<i>Acronyms Term</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
AA	Association Agreement
AIPA	National Agency for interventions and payments in agriculture
ANSA	National Food Safety Agency
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement
DCPPIE	Public Policy Coordination and European Integration Directorate
DNFR	Digital National Farm Register
EC	The European Commission
EASS	European Agricultural Statistics System
FSDN	Farm Sustainability Data Network
FSS	Farm structure survey - Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings
FID	Food Industry Directorate
GD	Government Decision
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISAMM	Information System for Agricultural Market Management and Monitoring
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MIP	Multiannual Indicative Programme
MPAS	Market Prices Analysis Service
Moldova	The Republic of Moldova
MS	Member State (EU)
NARDS	National Agriculture and Rural development strategy 2023-2030
NDS	National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SND	National Development Strategy ‘Moldova 2030’
SNDAR	National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2023-2030
TNA	Training Needs Analysis

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 NDICI Moldova/ACT-61535/EU4 Resilience and Governance - (JAD.1121752)
- 1.2 Twinning Sector: Agriculture
- 1.3 EU funded budget: **EUR 850,000.00**
- 1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions, 17 Partnership for the goals

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective is to improve agriculture sector performance in line with the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement, the EU Integration process, and international agreements.

2.2 Specific objective

The specific objective of the Twinning project is to strengthen the capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for increased alignment and harmonization of the national agricultural statistics with EU standards and best practises.

- 2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents (such as the National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030”, EU-Moldova Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Association Agreement, Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans).

The proposed project will support the Government of the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter ‘Moldova’) to build its institutional capacities to harmonize its legislation and implement it in line with the *acquis communautaire* and international commitments. 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 revised joint document, covering 2021-2027 guidelines, EU-Moldova bilateral relations under the Multiannual Financial Framework for the programming period 2021-2027. During the European Council on 23 June 2022, Moldova was granted EU candidate status⁴². On 14 December 2023, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Moldova. Accession negotiations officially began on 25 June 2024. The ‘Information requested by the European Commission to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the preparation of the Opinion on the application of the Republic of Moldova for membership of the European Union’⁴³ and Chapters 11 and 18 of the 2023 enlargement report outline the status of areas to be addressed by this Twinning project.

This Twinning is also coherent with the national priorities set in the main strategic planning document of the country, the National Development Strategy (NDS) “European Moldova 2030” (approved by the Parliament in November 2022⁴⁴). The National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" indicates the priority areas and directions for the long-term sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova. It represents the strategic reference document for all national, regional, and

⁴² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/moldova/>

⁴³ Part I: (general part): <https://gov.md/ro/content/informatii-solicitate-de-comisia-europeana-catre-guvernul-republicii-moldova-pentru-0> and Part II (specific part, with single chapters): <https://gov.md/ro/content/informatii-solicitate-de-comisia-europeana-catre-guvernul-republicii-moldova-pentru>

⁴⁴ <https://www.moldpres.md/en/news/2022/11/17/22008740> and for the entire text use https://imf.md/press/SND2030_377.2022.ro_ENG_google.docx

local policy documents.

The realization of the ‘European Moldova 2030’ development vision requires continuous monitoring of progress and assessment of the development impact. The National Statistical System shall provide the data needed for an evidence-based policy process and support the Government’s efforts in implementing, continuously monitoring and evaluating the impact of the National Development Strategy through high-quality, timely, disaggregated, reliable and relevant statistical data by the National Bureau of Statistics and other producers of official statistics.

The national statistical system development programme for the years 2023-2026 contributes to monitoring the implementation of the objectives set out in the SND “European Moldova 2030”, including the direct implementation of General Objective 7, Ensuring effective, inclusive and transparent governance” and Priority Policy and Intervention Direction 5.5 “Effective evidence-based and science-based governance”.

The document constitutes the basic strategic framework for further aligning national statistics with the *acquis communautaire* in the field of statistics, contributing to the objective of timely provision of reliable and consistent statistical information, internationally comparable in compliance with the fundamental principles of official statistics (Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on 15 April 1992 and the United Nations Statistical Commission on 14 April 1994) and the European Statistics Code of Practice (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-catalogues/-/ks-02-18-142>).

The status of candidate country for membership of the European Union dictates speeding up the harmonisation of national statistics with European Union standards in order to ensure internal and external users with quality statistics comparable at European level. These are based on professional independence, impartiality, reliability, relevance and transparency, while respecting the rules of the European Community on methodologies for producing statistical information.

In the area of agriculture, the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2023-2030 (SNDAR 2030), adopted by the Moldovan Government in early 2023, contributes to the implementation of pillars 1 and 4 of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" related to the agricultural sector and rural development and ensures the performance of the provisions of Title IV from the Association Agreement, Chapter 12 – Agriculture and Rural Development, by aligning with the general objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy. Improved agricultural statistics will contribute to increase the availability of qualitative, timely and reliable data for sector monitoring, evidence based policy formulation, and efficient targeting and allocation of national funds to the agri-food sector as well as providing the required analytic base in preparation for the use of pre-accession or EU funds in agriculture and rural development.

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3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

The agricultural sector of the Republic of Moldova remains of particular importance for the economy of the country: it contributes to 8.1% (in 2022) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁴⁵, but employs

⁴⁵ Production volume by economic activities, CAEM Rev.2, 2014-2021

<https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/40%20Statistica%20economica/40%20Statistica%20economica> 13%

21.5% of the total labour force (25.4% for men and 17.1% for women) in 2021⁴⁶ and accounts for nearly half of the total exports of goods. Agricultural land covers some 2226,9 thousand hectares (as on 1st of January 2024, excluding territory of left branch of r. Nistru), of them, în agricultural purposes, 42% are used by agricultural enterprises, 25% - by farms, 16 – by households and 17% - for other purposes. According to GAC 2011 small farm holdings (12% of agricultural land) owning less than 1 hectare and over 85% producing predominantly for own consumption. Employment opportunities with adequate salaries are scarce and jobs outside of agriculture are rare in rural areas – non-agricultural activity accounts for only 5% of income in rural areas, while social benefits account for a quarter. Moldova depends on the agricultural sector for employment, and food security and economic development.

EU-Moldova relations are strengthened through the Association Agreement (AA)⁴⁷, signed on 27 June 2014 and fully applied after ratification in 2016), as well as the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA)⁴⁸. During the European Council on 23 June 2022, Moldova was granted EU candidate status⁴⁹. Ahead of this decision, the country submitted the ‘Information requested by the European Commission to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the preparation of the Opinion on the application of the Republic of Moldova for membership of the European Union’⁵⁰. Chapter 11 and partly chapter 12 and 18 outline the status in areas to be addressed by this Twinning project.⁵¹ Overall, the European Commission concluded ‘Moldova is at an early stage of preparation on agriculture and rural development. It will need to fully align with the EU acquis and establish the structures, systems, and the administrative capacity to be able to implement and enforce it effectively’ (chapter 11) and ‘some level of preparation’ for chapter 18 statistics. An annual assessment of progress under Chapters 11, 12 and 18 will be part of the annual Enlargement Packages.

The Twinning is aligned with the National Development Strategy “European Moldova 2030⁵²” and the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for the Republic of Moldova⁵³, agreed in 2022. The MIP 2021-27 supports resilience, recovery, and reform in the Republic of Moldova in line with the Association Agenda 2021-2027. Its Priority Area Agriculture Action Plan focuses on four specific objectives. For the 3rd Specific Objective, Output 3.1. ‘Improved enabling environment that promotes a transition towards sustainable food systems’ identifies the following indicative activities targeted by the twinning project, namely ‘Provide expertise to improve agriculture sector, performance monitoring and evaluation, e-governance and data management, facilitate training events, exchange visits and other experience sharing and learning events and provide capacity building for institutional development towards an accredited EU Paying agency for agriculture and rural development’. Two Twinning projects are envisaged to support Government, building

20CNT CNT210 Resurse/CNT210050.px/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774

⁴⁶ Employed population by economic activities, level of education, age groups, sex and area, 2014-2022
http://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/30%20Statistica%20sociala/30%20Statistica%20sociala_03%20FM_03%20MUN_MUN020/MUN120200.px/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774

⁴⁷ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/hr/ALL/?uri=uriserv%3A0J.L_2014.260.01.0004.01.ENG,
https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/moldova/pdf/eu-md_aa-dcfta_en.pdf,
https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/7048451_en_acord_asociere.pdf, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/association-agreement-with-moldova.html>

⁴⁸ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/moldova/pdf/eu-md_aa-dcfta_en.pdf

⁴⁹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/moldova/>

⁵⁰ Part I: (general part): <https://gov.md/ro/content/informatii-solicitate-de-comisia-europeana-catre-guvernul-republicii-moldova-pentru-0> and Part II (specific part, with single chapters): <https://gov.md/ro/content/informatii-solicitate-de-comisia-europeana-catre-guvernul-republicii-moldova-pentru>

⁵¹ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/SWD_2023_32_%20Moldova.pdf

⁵² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134582&lang=ro

⁵³ C(2022) 4323 final of 29.6.2022 - ANNEX of the Commission Implementing Decision on the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2022 Action Document for EU4 Resilience and Governance, C(2022) 4323 final of 29.6.2022 on adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of Moldova for the period 2021 - 2027

institutional and staff capacities. The central beneficiary for the ‘Agri-food’-Twinning project is the Ministry of agriculture and food industry (MAFI), especially the Public Policy Coordination and European Integration Directorate (DCPPIE), with the National Agency for interventions and payments in agriculture (AIPA) and the National Bureau of statistics for this Twinning.

The National Bureau of statistics (NBS)⁵⁴ is the Central Agency that manages and coordinates the activity in the field of statistics from the country. It elaborates independently, or in collaboration with other central bodies, and approves the methodologies of statistical and calculation surveys of statistical indicators per EU and international standards. Its activities are guided by the Development strategy of the National Statistical System 2023-2030⁵⁵ and National Statistical System development program for the period 2023-2026⁵⁶.

NBS units, relevant to agricultural statistics, are the Agriculture and Environment Division, Agriculture Statistics Section, Statistical Sample Surveys in Agriculture Section, and Environment Statistics Service. NBS has local branches in each rayon and others in four regions that collect data and send it to the Headquarters.

The first and only General Census of Agriculture was conducted in 2011 and registered over 900,000 holdings with some agricultural activity. In 2024, the Population and Housing Census (PHC 2024) was conducted, in line with Regulation (EC) 763/2008 on population and housing censuses. It included a section on the agricultural activity (agriculture holdings, livestock)⁵⁷ and shall be used to establish the sampling framework for the Farm structure survey (FSS), planned to be conducted by the NBS in 2026. The agriculture census is envisaged for 2030. Related methodological and organisational aspects concerning the FSS and the General Agricultural Census shall be prepared with support from this Twinning project.

Additionally, and in line with Moldova’s Digital Transformation Strategy (STDM) 2023-2030⁵⁸, close cooperation between both Twinning projects, the ‘Agri-food’-Twinning and this ‘Agri-statistics’-Twinning, will be required to create synergies and avoid duplications and data inconsistencies. For agriculture statistics, this is especially valid for cooperation and data exchange with the Ministry of agriculture and food industry, namely the *Public Policy Coordination and European Integration Directorate (DCPPIE)*, the *Food Industry Directorate* and the *Market Prices Analysis Service*. Furthermore, the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) is currently being developed as well as a digital Farm registry and system for identifying agricultural parcels was subject of a pilot in 2024.

The National Food safety agency established the ‘e-ANSA’- Integrated Information System Concept⁵⁹ in 2022. e-ANSA is an integrated information system intended for the digitization of the Agency's activity in order to computerize the traceability processes of food products of animal and non-animal origin, the record of operators in the food chain and their holdings, the management of sanitary-veterinary measures, the record of investigations laboratory, recording and disseminating alerts, recording the performance of animals and plant crops, managing documents issued by the Agency and providing electronic services for citizens and the business environment. Information sources are the automated information system State Register of Animals, the automated information system ‘Management of sanitary-veterinary measures’, the State Register of Veterinary Medicines, the automated information system ‘Laboratory Management Information System’ and the automated information system ‘State Phytosanitary Register’. ‘e-ANSA’ is integrated with other information systems state through the interoperability platform (MConnect).

⁵⁴ As per GD.935/2018 regarding the organization and operation of the National Bureau of Statistics

⁵⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135611&lang=ro

⁵⁶ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138684&lang=ro

⁵⁷ https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Recensamint/Recensamint_2024/Chestionare/Chestionare_12_martie_2024/1CL_ro.pdf

⁵⁸ <https://egov.md/ro/node/39487>

⁵⁹ DECISION No. HG791/2022 of 16.11.2022

Furthermore, besides integrating existing registries/data banks into one integrated system, better data collection, cleaning, and maintenance strategies are required to obtain updated and real-time information for decision-making. These efforts contribute to achieving Moldova's Digital Transformation Strategy (STDM) 2023-2030.⁶⁰

3.2 Ongoing reforms:

Additionally to the National development strategy, for the agriculture sector, the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (NARDS) 2023-2030 and the National Food Security Strategy 2023-2030 promote a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

The National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2023-2030 has 4 main objectives, of which objective 4 will be especially relevant to the Twinning support:

1. Enhancing the potential of the primary agricultural sector and promoting smart, sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices.
2. Development of the food industry and diversification of markets.
3. Supporting sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas.
4. Ensuring the transposition of the EU acquis and its progressive implementation in the field of agriculture, rural development and food security.

The monitoring and evaluation processes are ensured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, through its Public Policy Coordination and European Integration Directorate (DCPPIE) in a participatory framework.

3.3 Linked activities:

In 2024, the Population and Housing Census (PHC 2024) was conducted. It is regulated by Law nr. 231/2022 on population and housing census, Governmental Decision 951/2022 regarding the organization and conduct of PHC 2024 and Governmental Decision 69/2024 regarding the reference date and the period of data collection of the PHC 2024. Concepts and definitions are fully in line with Regulation (EC) 763/2008 on population and housing censuses.

NBS received technical assistance within the project "Support for the National Bureau of Statistics in conducting of the Population and Housing Census 2024" in order to organize and conduct PHC 2024 from European Union and UNFPA, also UN agencies offered assistance for different census activities: PES, communication and promotion, census variables consultations etc.

Agri-food sector development and its digitalization is supported by a large number of diverse partners, EU member state organizations, UN agencies, Civil Society and (sub)sector organizations. The below listed projects are an extract of the most relevant interventions for institutional capacity building of the Twinning project. Synergies shall be enhanced with other development partner's interventions, whenever possible and as appropriate.

The project "Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova", was started in November 2019 and finalized in July 2022. The specific objectives concerned to strengthen Bureau of Statistics' coordination role of the National Statistical System and its capacity to access and use administrative registers and other data sources of Moldovan institutions for statistical purposes aimed at enhancing public trust, high quality, and accurateness of data provided and processed; and promoting harmonization of statistics in line with the EU and international standards by enabling efficient and effective production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics, following best practices as implemented in the European Statistical System by adopting new technologies and methods for data collection and processing. The agricultural statistics were not specifically addressed.

⁶⁰ <https://egov.md/ro/node/39487>

The Twinning project “Further Support to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Safety in the Republic of Moldova” started in September 2020 and was finalized in December 2022. Its specific objective was to strengthen the institutional capacities of national public institutions Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), the Agriculture Intervention and Payment Agency (AIPA), and the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA) in the design and implementation of agriculture, rural development, and food safety policy and food safety and quality standards, in line with AA/DCF.

This twinning project was a strong driving force for the improvement and development of the administrations concerned. However, its Final Report states that the initiated institutional processes, including the setting up of a robust monitoring and reporting system for the National strategy of agriculture and rural development, should be continued and further developed through a new Twinning project to continue with the process of EU integration.

The **Twinning project ‘Agrifood’** is started in February 2025 for a duration of 24 months. Its specific objective is to strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) for enhanced sector monitoring, data management and efficient administration of agriculture and rural development funds in line with EU requirements and international best practices. A close cooperation between the two Twining is expected.

The Twinning project “Improving spatial data services in the Republic of Moldova following EU standards” (MD 16 ENI OT 01 09 (MD/35)) started in September 2020 and was finalized in October 2023. The beneficiary institution was The National Agency for Land relations and Cadastre. Among the main results of the twining project was drafting the Technical Specifications for the National Metadata Geoportal of the national spatial data infrastructure, which served as the basis for creating the new Geoportal with digital information.

The **German-Moldovan Agricultural Policy Dialogue** (2023- 2025) encompasses three results:

1. Decision makers, managers and technical experts in the agricultural sector from Moldova and Germany (and other European countries) use the Agricultural Policy Dialogue as a platform to exchange on priority agricultural policy topics.
2. The screening of the alignment and the compiling of a road map for further alignment with chapter 11 and 12 (and potentially also chapter 13) of the EU acquis is prepared in an effective manner by MAFI.
3. MAFI’s capacities are improved in the field of programming and monitoring of the agricultural policy.

UNDP and FAO have been supporting the digitalization and e-governance of the Ministry of agriculture and food industry in past years. Currently, the establishment of the Farm registry is being supported within the project ‘Accelerating Digital Transformation in Public Sector Republic of Moldova’ as part of the Digital Transformation Strategy of Moldova (STDM) 2023-2030⁶¹ in the agriculture sector. Within this pilot project the legal framework shall be established and the IT system developed with inclusion of up to 10,000 farmers in the registry. Interoperability and interconnectivity shall be ensured with the two main national registries, the State Population Registry (*Registrul de Stat al Populatiei*) and Registry of Legal Units (*Registrul Unitatilor de Drept*), as well as the sectorial registries, including State Animal Registry, Vine and Wine Registry, Agricultural Equipment Registry, Soil Registry, Cadastre Information System, and others. **USAID** support on digitalization has been focussed predominantly on agri-food enterprises innovation with some support to the Food safety agency (e-ANSA), especially in development of a training platform.

⁶¹ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110039&lang=ro

FAO has also been an active partner supporting the Ministry of agriculture and food industry on policy and strategy development. WFP has established its Country office to Moldova in 2023 fostering the Humanitarian-Development Nexus with assessment on food systems and supply chains. Other interventions are currently in formulation, as for example the Agriculture Growth and Rural Innovation – Moldova (AGRI-M) with support (grant and loan funding) by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

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

- Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, repealing Regulation (EU) 1306/2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for CAP Strategic Plans, performance monitoring and evaluation framework (PMEF), for the CAP from 2023 until 2027.
- Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, establishing rules on support for national CAP strategic plans, and repealing Regulations (EU) 1305/2013 and 1307/2013;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/2117, amending Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 on the common organisation of the agricultural markets; Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products; Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 on geographical indications for aromatised wine products; and Regulation (EU) No 228/2013 laying down measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the EU.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 of 30 November 2009 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Community Commission;
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/220 of 3 February 2015 laying down rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Union;
- Regulation (EC) No 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/2269 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 as regards the Union contribution for integrated farm statistics under Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027;
- Commission Implementing regulation (EU) 2020/405 of 16 March 2020 specifying the arrangements for, and contents of, the quality reports to be transmitted under Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics;
- Commission Implementing regulation (EU) 2018/1874 of 29 November 2018 on the data to be provided for 2020 under Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1166/2008 and (EU) No 1337/2011, as regards the list of variables and their description;
- Commission Implementing regulation (EU) 2021/2286 of 16 December 2021 on the data to be provided for the reference year 2023 pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics as regards the list of variables and their description and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20 September 2021);
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2021/2236 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 450, 16 December

- 2021);
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018);
 - Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487).

<p><i>Domestic Legal Framework relevant to the Twinning project (extract, not exhaustive)</i></p>

- Law no. 136/2017 ‘About the Government’ and Government Decision no. 386 of 17.06.2020 regarding the planning, development, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policy documents
- Law no. 179/2016 from 21.07.2016 regarding Small and Medium Enterprises
- Law no. 1353/2000, with latest amendments enforced as of 01.01.2023 regarding Peasant Farms (GT)
- National Plan of Actions for Accession to EU 2024-2027, actions No. 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63

Digitalization:

- Law no. 982/2000 from 11.05.2000 regarding access to information
- Law no. 71/2007 from 22.03.2007 regarding registries
- Law no. 142/2018 from 19.07.2018 regarding data exchange and interoperability
- Government Decision (GD) no 963/2020 approving the State Registry formed by Informational System ‘Record of applicants and beneficiaries of subsidies’

3.5 Components and results per component

Mandatory result/Component 1. Agricultural statistics aligned to EU Integrated Farm statistics standards and data requirements

Twinning activities under this component shall focus on the process of modernization of the statistical system and its harmonization with the European Statistical system and Eurostat data needs: from data collection methodologies, survey design and questionnaire development, to data cleaning, validation and data management practices to ensure accuracy and reliability of statistical data. Modernization of statistical production processes shall include the adoption of new technologies, methodologies and tools, as appropriate, considering medium term development goals and existing capacities and resources.

Sub Result 1.1: Development, production and dissemination of Agricultural Statistics improved

- Action plan to align agricultural statistics to EU standards concerning methodology and procedures, institutional arrangements, capacity building, and allocated resources prepared.
- New operational tools and statistical surveys to ensure compliance of agricultural statistics with EU Standards and CAP requirements (result, impact, output indicators) and to take full advantage of available data sources developed.
- Strategy, survey and annual working plans updated.

- Analysis of the ‘Register of Agricultural Producers’ held by the NBS and of administrative registers relevant for agricultural statistics, especially for the preparation of the Agricultural Census conducted, and recommendations for their improvement and need to develop new registers formulated.
- Training measures (incl. study tours and internships) conducted.

Sub Result 1.2: Agricultural Census in the Republic of Moldova prepared

- Action plan and budget for FSS and census implementation formulated;
- Variables, core data sets and modules defined;
- Definition of types of collection methods (enumeration methodology) and evaluation of possible use of alternative administrative sources;
- Developed operational tools for data collection and validation, submission mechanisms, data sharing, and protection;
- Concept for outsourcing/subcontracting of services (with Technical specifications), establishing the teams of supervisors and enumerators and contracting arrangements;
- Training of staff and/or enumerators;
- Plan for a pilot survey completed;
- Strategy for (public) communication and publication of results;
- NBS staff trained on the requirements for planning and implementing of the Farm structural survey (FSS) planned for 2026 and an Agricultural Census (i.e., planning and implementing the Census, data collection and validation, submission mechanisms, data sharing, and protection) / Study Visit/internship for selected NBS staff to learn EU best practices on planning and implementing an FSS and an Agricultural Census to collect agricultural statistics in line with EU Standards and the European Agricultural Statistics System (EASS).
- Recommendations for conducting the Farm structural surveys (FSS), as sampling based on the census etc., provided

Mandatory result/Component 2: Improved data exchange and coordination for enhanced agriculture sector monitoring, evaluation and policy making (e-governance)

This component shall include technical exchange and coordination activities with other agriculture and rural development sector institutions. Existing administrative data sources, duplications and inconsistencies between data from different sources shall be identified, investigated and proposals made for improved sector data management and data quality (including its completeness).

Twinning activities shall be based on a situation analysis (defined latest with the initial Twinning workplan) considering the progress achieved towards data integration and digitalization in agriculture by other state institutions, considering for example the establishment of the National Farm registry, the Farm Sustainability data network, LPIS or e-ANSA.

The NBS annual work programme⁶² is reviewed in close cooperation with the NBS and Ministry of agriculture and food industry to improve harmonization/adaptation to data needs, whereby a cautious and realistic approach considering available resources and avoiding increased reporting obligations of economic operators must be applied.⁶³

Joint capacity building events, study tours or sector reviews with key stakeholders shall be foreseen in this component. Thereby, a contribution is expected to improving data availability for monitoring of agriculture sector performance, policy objectives and indicators defined in the National strategy for agriculture and rural development 2023-2030 and the National strategic programme 2025-27, in

⁶² GD 952/2022 of 28.12.2022 for 2023 Work programme:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134849&lang=ro

⁶³ Including with reporting of economic operators in the Farm registry and e-ANSA.

close alignment with the EU acquis and Common agriculture policy and in preparation of a possible IPARD⁶⁴ programme for Moldova.

Activities under this component shall be coordinated and aligned to the 'Agrifood' Twinning to which the Ministry of agriculture and food industry and the National Agency for interventions and payments in agriculture is the main beneficiary. A Framework Agreement for agricultural statistics data exchange and management between MAFI and NBS within the local framework, based on EU Member state good practices, shall be elaborated with expert support.

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

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning contract between the Beneficiary Country and EU Member State(s). 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, Component Leaders (CL), and a pool of short-term experts to cover each sub-result to be achieved.

Member State(s) inputs shall be concise and focused on the strategy and methodology and an indicative timetable, the quality of the expertise to be mobilized to clearly show the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entities to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory 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 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 Twinning 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).

The interested Member State(s) shall include in their proposal the 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:

- Master's degree in a relevant field to this Twinning Project or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in the absence of the required degree;
- At least 3 (three) years of professional experience in a National Bureau of statistics, statistical office or Data centre (preferably covering agriculture statistics) of an EU member state administration (required);
- Previous practical experience in project management;
- Experience in leading or managing a team is considered an asset;
- Professional work experience in EU accession countries, the western Balkans or neighbourhood east is an asset;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);

⁶⁴ EU Instrument for Pre-accession assistance for agriculture and rural development

- Computer literacy;
- Proven contractual relation to a public administration or mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 4.1.3;
- Experience in an EU-funded Twinning Project is an asset.

The Project Leader should attend the Steering Committee meetings with at least a quarterly visit to 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 input and expected outputs, manage the project team, prepare project management reports, help overcome project related obstacles, and assist the RTA for continuous development of project initiatives. In addition, he/she will coordinate, from the MS side, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will meet in Moldova every three months. He/she 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:

- Design, supervision, and coordination of overall project preparation;
- Overall coordination and management of the implementation of the project in cooperation with the Beneficiary Country's Project Leader;
- Timely achievement of the project results;
- Ensuring sound implementation of the envisaged activities;
- 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;
- 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 RTA will be based at the National Bureau of statistics of the Republic of Moldova.

The RTA will have the overall coordination, responsibility for the reporting and ensuring EU visibility of activities, contribute to common coordination and other tasks under component 1 and 2 on demand, whenever needed.

She/he will provide full-time input and advice to the project for the entire duration of the project, as main liaison partner for the Beneficiary Project leader with the responsibility to coordinate in the field and on a day-to-day basis all the activities planned in the Twinning.

She/he will be responsible for the selection and supervision of a RTA Assistant and the management of the short-term experts' input. She/he will brief, guide and support the STEs seconded to the project and participants of study visits. She/he will provide 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).

Profile RTA:

- University degree in a relevant field for this Twinning Project (i.e. statistics), or at least eight years of equivalent professional experience;
- At least 3 years of specific professional experience in agriculture statistics, preferably related to the implementation and monitoring of the CAP and EUROSTAT reporting. Having at least six years of experience is an asset;
- Professional work experience in EU accession countries, the western Balkans or neighbourhood east is an asset;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (verbal and written, minimum C1 level);
- Excellent analytical and report writing skills;
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and interest groups;
- Computer literacy;
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian language is 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 advice 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 assistant(s) 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.
- (co-)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- or part-time project and/or language assistant. The RTA assistant will cooperate on the organisational matters under the direction of the RTA and will be recruited and funded by the project for the duration of the respective RTA assignment. The RTA assistant 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 assistant 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 three 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 monitor progress and the implementation of recommendations. While Component Leaders will not be resident in Chişinău, they are expected to visit Chişinău and work locally (for extended periods) with the beneficiary institutions at least 2 times per working year. CVs and proposed activities of each Component Leader shall be an integral part of the MS proposal. Detailed expert input shall be established when drawing up the Twinning Work Plan. The Component Leaders of each Mandatory Result will work in close collaboration with the RTA. They will report to the 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:

- Be a civil servant or a staff member in a Member State public administration or mandated body responsible for the agricultural (components 1, 3) or statistics sector (component 2);
- 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;
- Good knowledge of related EU legislation and regulations.
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (minimum C1 level);
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and interest groups;
- Computer literacy;
- Previous experience in IPA or ENI countries is an asset;
- Knowledge of Romanian or Russian language is an asset.

Tasks:

- Coordination and implementation of the project activities related to their component in close cooperation with the Beneficiary Country's Component Leader, RTA, and RTA Counterpart;
- Preparation of Terms of Reference (ToR) for short-term expert (STE) missions relevant to their component and overseeing the implementation of STEs' missions;
- Continuing monitoring of objective achievements related to their component and comparing current progress with the specified benchmarks and time frame;
- Support RTA in preparation of the interim, quarterly, and final reports related to their component;

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

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

STE profiles (general 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 specific experience in the specific field of expertise, such as: general agricultural census, agri-environment indicators (pesticides and fertilizers use);
- Good knowledge of related EU legislation and regulations.
- Experience in knowledge transfer and/or training of employees in EU Member State.
- Institutional Strengthening, Strategic Planning, Good Governance and Business Planning expertise.
- IT/e-Government / Training and capacity building / Communication / Reporting expertise.
- Excellent analytical skills.
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English (verbal and written, minimum C1 level).
- 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.
- Facilitating workshops and delivering training sessions.
- cooperate closely with all beneficiaries' experts in undertaking all activities.
- advance preparation and familiarisation with relevant documentation.
- report to the project team.

4. Budget

The maximum budget available for the Grant is EUR 850 000.

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

Address: 10 Str. Mitropolit Petru Movilă, MD-2004

Tel.: +373-22-505210

E-mail: Natalia.BURCIU@eeas.europa.eu

5.2 Institutional framework

The National Bureau of statistics (NBS) is the leading beneficiary institution, specifically the Agriculture and Environment Division.

Other main beneficiary is the Ministry of agriculture and food industry, especially the Directorate of Policy coordination and European integration (*Direcția coordonare politici publice și integrare europeană*).

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary Administration:

The Project leader (PLs), Resident Twinning advisor (RTA) and Component leader (CL) 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:

Ms Emilia Cebotari
Head of External Assistance and European Funds Coordination Department
State Chancellery
1, Piața Marii Adunări Naționale,
MD-2012, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
E-mail: emilia.cebotari@gov.md

5.3.2 PL counterpart:

Natalia Istrate
European integration and international cooperation Division,
National Bureau of Statistics,
106, Str Grenoble, MD-2019
natalia.istrate@statistica.gov.md

5.3.3 RTA counterparts

Elvina Butmalai, Head of Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division,
National Bureau of statistics,
106, Str Grenoble, MD-2019
elvina.butmalai@statistica.gov.md

6. Duration of the project

The overall execution period of the Twinning project is 27 months, with 24 months of implementation.

7. Management and reporting⁶⁵

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.

7.2 Project Steering Committee

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements in line with the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalizing the interim reports, and discussing the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning

⁶⁵ Sections 7.1-7.3 are to be kept without changes in all Twinning fiches.

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 sections 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and input. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and a 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 in line with the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by to ensure further progress.

8. Sustainability

With the Twinning, 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.

9. Crosscutting issues

The principle of equal opportunity will be integrated into all stages of the project implementation, including equal opportunities in training, study visits, and participation in all the Projects' missions and events, contributing thus to the promotion of gender equality. The principle of equal opportunity shall apply both to the staff involved in the project and to other parties participating in the project activities. Every effort will be made to ensure broad gender representation at all stages of the project implementation.

The activities envisaged under the project will not negatively affect the environment. During the implementation of the project, the production of printed material will be minimized to have a positive influence on the environment.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

There is no general precondition set for this twinning project.

Mobilization of Twinning Short term experts is subject to sustained and persistent minimum staffing levels towards absorption and implementation of relevant input under this project. Should this subjection become relevant, the Contracting authority reserves itself the right to suspend Twinning activities and/or mobilization of short term experts, even if foreseen in the Rolling workplan.
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The project will ensure a well-coordinated legal approximation process involving all responsible parties in compliance with the recognized standards and good practices.

The twinning beneficiary commits to provide the contributions stated in the Fiche. They include such as:

- Strong commitment and support of management throughout the project implementation period;
- Strong involvement of assigned staff at all levels;
- Assigning dedicated staff according to the project components;
- Ensuring coordination between departments and institutions connected with the Project;
- Ensuring access to necessary information and documents, especially concerning the national regulatory framework.

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

11. Indicators for performance measurement

The specific objective of the Twinning project is to strengthen the capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for increased alignment and harmonization of the national agricultural statistics with EU standards and best practises.

Therefore, a key performance indicator will be the progress reported in the Enlargement progress report chapter 18 ‘statistics’ and 11 ‘Agriculture and rural development’ as per the improved level of preparedness.

Overall, Twinning performance measurement will be based on the quality and timeliness of expert 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.

Result:		Indicator:
1	Agricultural statistics aligned to EU Integrated farm statistics standards and data requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of harmonization with the European Statistical system and Eurostat data needs (data sets, methodologies etc.) • Increased production and transmission of timely and high-quality data to Eurostat • Enhanced staff skills for effective agricultural data management: No. of trainings, events, study tours (min 1), internships (min 1); with participants satisfaction and progress evaluations
2	Improved data exchange and coordination for enhanced agriculture sector monitoring, evaluation and policy making	<p>Framework Agreement(s) for agricultural statistics exchange and management between MAFI and NBS based on EU Member state good practices</p> <p>Data exchange protocols approved on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farm structure ○ Land tenure and land use ○ Crop statistics ○ Livestock Statistics

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 one RTA and one assistant will be made available by and at the NBS. Meeting facilities and office space will be made available for short term experts during their in-country missions.

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 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

1. Annex C1a: Simplified Logical Framework

SIMPLIFIED LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Twinning Agri-statistics					
	Description	Indicators (with relevant baseline and target data)	Sources of verification	Risks	Assumptions (external to project)
Overall Objective	The overall objective is to improve agriculture sector performance in line with the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement, the EU Integration process, and international agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased agricultural incomes (comparison of agricultural income with non-agricultural labour costs) MDL5,683.6/8,899.6 (USD)⁶⁶ - Increased farm productivity / Value added per worker USD 6,205.19 (2019)⁶⁷ - Rural labour force participation rate (2022: 37.1%) - Increased percentage of young farmers/generation renewal (age structure of farm managers: ratio between young farm managers (less than 40 years) and farm managers of 55 years or older) 	National Bureau of statistics annual editions; MAFI reports; The World Bank data		
Specific (Project) Objective(s)	The specific objective of the Twinning project is to strengthen the capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for	Level of compliance with the EU Acquis increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of legal acts, regulations and administrative procedures formulated / revised with EU support 	Enlargement progress reports; Official journal and tables of compliance for legal acts; Training reports and evaluations	Unclear mandates and responsibilities among involved entities causes delays in counterpart	Continuation of Moldova's path of cooperation with the EU. The beneficiary institutions are properly staffed and

⁶⁶ <http://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/en/30%20Statistica%20sociala/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774>

⁶⁷ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.EMPL.KD?locations=MD>

	increased alignment and harmonization of the national agricultural statistics with EU standards and best practises.	Baseline: 0, Target: tbc - Progress on Enlargement chapter 18 statistics and 11 Agriculture and rural development)/ improved level of preparedness Baseline chapter 11: early stage of preparation (2024) Baseline chapter 18: some level of preparation (2024)		mobilization and engagement as well as preparation and follow-up of activities	provided with necessary absorption capacity to receive and benefit from the proposed actions. Development of the Agri-food sector continues a Government priority and vested interests do not hamper reform processes. Favorable investment climate for agri-food is maintained, no extreme weather events that undermine initial production gains/results
Mandatory results/outputs by component 1	Agricultural statistics better aligned to EU Integrated Farm statistics standards and data requirements	Increased level of harmonization with the European Statistical system and Eurostat data needs (data sets, methodologies etc.) Increased production and transmission of timely and high-quality data to Eurostat (baseline: 0 data submission to Eurostat via <i>EDAMIS platform</i> ; Target: tbc) Enhanced staff skills for effective agricultural data	TAIEX assessment of 11/2023; Project documents; Data sets, reports	- Unclear responsibilities, conflicting staff assignments, high staff turnover, vacancies, overall workload; Technical/IT solutions are required that exceed available budget/ financial and human resources;	Intra-Governmental Cooperation regarding data access and exchange

		management: No. of trainings, events, study tours (min 1), internships (min 1); participants satisfaction and progress evaluations			
Sub-results per component (optional and indicative)	2.1 Development, production and dissemination of Agricultural Statistics improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparative analysis of Moldovan data sets on respective requirements and future reporting obligations arising from EU accession Baseline: 0; target: 1 - Concept and roadmap for development of the Moldovan agriculture statistics data system available Baseline: 0; target: 1 - Data specifications defined and sample data set created Baseline: 0; target: 1 - Internal procedures for functioning of the Integrated data system defined Baseline: 0; target: 1 - No. of developed operational tools for data collection and validation, submission mechanisms, data sharing, and protection Baseline: 0; target: tbc 	Project documents, Internal procedure guide, checklists		
	2.2 Agricultural Census in the Republic of Moldova prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept/Methodology and Action plan for the implementation of the census formulated Baseline: 0; target: 1 - Plan for a pilot survey completed; Baseline: 0; target: 1 	Project documents; Meta data / NBS data entry records		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal provisions (Government decisions and orders) for realization of the agriculture census drafted Baseline: 0; target: tbc - Analysis of existing data sources completed Baseline: 0; target: 1 - No. of staff trained on the implementation of EU quality standards for effective management of agriculture census and FSSs Baseline: 0; target: tbc 			
Mandatory results/outputs by component 2	Improved data exchange and coordination for enhanced agriculture sector monitoring, evaluation and policy making (e-governance)	<p>Framework Agreement(s) for agricultural statistics exchange and management between MAFI and NBS based on EU Member state good practices</p> <p>Data exchange protocols approved on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm structure; - Land tenure and land use; - Crop statistics: Crop production, Balances of main cereals and oilseeds - Livestock Statistics: Livestock number, Livestock production <p>Baseline: 0; target: 4</p>			