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1 The Transformation of Moldovan Migrant Communities into the
2 Moldovan Diaspora in the European Union: The Main Directions
3 and Mechanisms

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7 **Abstract**

8 The article is dedicated to the analysis of the primary directions and mechanisms of
9 transformation of moldovan migrant communities in European Union countries into the
10 Moldovan diaspora. The authors identify, as primary mechanisms, the participation of
11 moldovan migrants in the political and socio-economic processes of the country of origin; the
12 development of the Moldovan communities' institutional potential; the policies of the Republic
13 of Moldova for the consolidation of the Moldovan diaspora. The Moldovan diaspora plays an
14 important role in the political life of the Republic of Moldova, actively participating in its
15 electoral processes. Its participation in the origin country's economic life mainly comes down
16 to monetary transfers. At the same time, among members of the diaspora there are those that
17 desire to invest in business and development projects. Moldovan diaspora associations are
18 active in most European Union countries.

19

20 **Index terms**— Republic of Moldova, European Union, Moldovan communities, Moldovan diaspora.
21 he Republic of Moldova became an active participant of migration processes in the 1990's. In the last 25-30
22 years a significant number of Moldovan citizens departed the country for the European Union, which led to the
23 formation of Moldovan migrant communities in the destination countries. Gradually the process of transformation
24 of those communities into a diaspora began to take place, diaspora organizations begin to appear; the diaspora
25 started getting institutionalized. First and foremost, the diaspora is striving to maintain the identity, language,
26 T and culture of its country of origin, but also contributes to the integration of migrants into the accepting
27 countries.

28 Today, the number of Moldovan citizens residing abroad reaches more than a million people, of which 47%
29 reside in European Union countries ??Gubernul, 2023a). The EU attracts them with its work opportunities,
30 high salaries, a developed democratic and social system, and policies that contribute to migrant inclusiveness.
31 Moldovan labor geography in the EU looks as follows: Italy (the primary consumer of Moldovan labor migrants),
32 Czech, Germany, Greece, France, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and the UK. More than 80% of all Moldovan labor
33 migrants are found in these countries.

34 The importance of a comprehensive analysis of Moldovan communities in the European Union, of the
35 consolidation of their diaspora potential is determined by two primary factors: firstly, the diaspora identifies
36 itself as a part of the people that resides in another state, and possesses its own strategy of interaction with both
37 the host country and the country of origin. Secondly, diaspora organizations are formed, and their activity is
38 directed at maintaining its members' ethnic identity, language, culture, traditions, etc.

39 It is important to clarify the difference between Moldovan communities and Moldovan diaspora, which, in
40 Moldovan political science and practice are often treated as one and the same (Cheianu-Andrei, 2013). The state
41 institutions of the Republic of Moldova employ the «diaspora = Moldovan communities abroad» formula, but
42 this approach undermines the diaspora phenomenon in itself ??Mosneaga, 2017, p. 17).

43 Migrant communities can be identified as social ethnic groups of migrants that have arrived to one country
44 from another, and that have a common culture, the members of which identify as a singular, autonomous subject

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45 of social action (Dikun, 2014). The researcher R. Schwartz considers that the diaspora closely interacts with
46 migrant communities, which is the basis for its development (Schwartz, 2007). This point of view is shared by
47 V. Mosneaga, who notes that diasporas are maintained, consolidated, and developed through the attraction and
48 integration of members of migrant communities. In his opinion diasporas

49 The dominant indicator of belonging to the diaspora is the migrants' deliberate desire to maintain their ties
50 with their country of origin, to contribute to its sustainable development. In this regard one can speak of both
51 the Moldovan migrants' participation in the political and electoral processes and of their socioeconomic input
52 into Moldova's development as a whole, and into its local communities in particular.

53 The forms of diaspora's activity in political and socio-economic processes of the country of origin are quite
54 varied. Specialized scientific literature identifies different forms of diaspora participation in the life of the country
55 of origin: voting; political representation; direct investments; remittances; financing; support or direct action
56 (Gottschlich, 2006).

57 Turning to the analysis of Moldovan migrants' participation in the political process, we should note that the
58 most widespread form of political activity in the communities is participation in elections, which allows migrants
59 to exercise their right and gives them the ability to express their political attitudes, and to influence the political
60 life of their homeland. For this reason the Republic of Moldova, like many other states, strives to reach out to
61 its citizens that are staying abroad, in order to attract their support for the development of their homeland. In
62 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova the Moldovan diaspora is represented by three deputies.

63 We should underline that previously Moldovan communities abroad were viewed primarily as an object of
64 political influence. Today this is gradually changing, with the communities becoming an increasingly important
65 subject of political life of the Republic of Moldova. The number of Moldovan citizens abroad that participate
66 in homeland parliamentary and presidential elections is constantly growing. As such, 212 thousand Moldovan
67 migrants participated in 2021 parliamentary elections. The number of participants in the presidential (2020)
68 elections was as high as 263 thousand. This allows the diaspora to influence the political and state decision-
69 making processes in Moldova.

70 The diaspora's voting became the object of close attention of the Moldovan authorities in the last two decades.
71 The current electoral system limits the possibilities of external voting, the sole variant of which is personal voting
72 at diplomatic missions or at additionally-established polling stations. There are no other options for Moldovan
73 citizens staying abroad nowadays, whereas other countries have already implemented the practice of e-voting,
74 voting by post, by fax, by e-mail, etc. aimed at maintaining relations/ ties to the homeland, the country of
75 origin; at consolidation of their ethnic migrant communities in the host country, which manifests as participation
76 in the diaspora associations' activities (organizations, institutions). Not all people that came from the country
77 of origin (in our case, from Moldova) to the country of destination are a diaspora. Only those that seek to,
78 and indeed, actively maintain their ties to their homeland, those who manifest and strengthen these ties are a
79 diaspora (Mosneaga, 2017, p. 17).

80 Today the question regarding the regulation of migration flows, minimization of negative consequences of
81 migration, development and implementation of state policy for the consolidation of the diaspora, as well as for
82 the return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants is put at the forefront. At the same time, the Republic of
83 Moldova is taking measures to utilize the positive potential of the diaspora for the sustainable development of
84 the country of origin. The Moldovan diaspora is providing aid and collaboration to its homecountry, both at a
85 national and ant a local level. It can become a functional development tool in the interest of its communities in
86 the country of origin.

87 The issues in the formation of Moldovan communities and diaspora became the object of scientific analysis of
88 Moldovan researchers starting with the second half of the 2000's. V. Mosneaga pioneered the research of three
89 aspects (migration, Moldovan communities abroad, Moldovan diaspora in the European Union), both individually
90 and in co-authorship with other scientists, and published numerous works on this subject (Mosneaga, Tsurcan,
91 2012; Mosneaga, 2017; Mosneaga, Mosneaga, 2019). D. Cheianu-Andrei charted the Moldovan diaspora in certain
92 EU countries as well (Cheianu-Andrei, 2013).

93 Based on the results of the sociological researched conducted by the authors in 2022-2023 among Moldovan
94 migrants in European Union countries, the article will analyze the primary destinations and mechanisms of
95 transformation of Moldovan migrant communities into diasporas. Among these we identify: participation in
96 political and socio-economic processes of the country of origin; development of the Moldovan communities'
97 institutional potential; the policies of the Republic of Moldova on the consolidation of the Moldovan diaspora.
98 Qualitative research was conducted among Moldovan migrants in European Union countries, as well as in the
99 UK, Norway, and Switzerland, where there is a large number of residing and working citizens of the Republic of
100 Moldova. In total, 513 respondents were interviewed.

101 institutionalize by way of deliberate collective activity II.

102 The Participation of Moldovan Migrants in the Political and Socio-Economic Processes in the Republic of
103 Moldova

104 Before 2010 there were 34 polling stations established outside of the Republic of Moldova. This allowed for the
105 participation of approximately 16000 voters (1.09% of the total number of voters). In the early parliamentary
106 elections of 2021, taking into account the increasing electoral activity of the Moldovan diaspora, 150 polling

107 stations were opened in 36 countries, which was by 11 more than in the presidential elections of 2020. As an
108 exception, Moldovan voters abroad could vote using their expired passports (ENEMO, 2021, p.11).

109 In the last presidential elections, in 2020, the Moldovan diaspora demonstrated a high degree of mobilization.
110 More than 263 thousand members of the Moldovan diaspora participated in the second tour of the elections, and
111 almost 93% voted for M. Sandu. Over the course of the entire history of presidential elections in the Republic of
112 Moldova, no other candidate received such strong electoral support from the Moldovan diaspora. The diaspora
113 not only actively took part in the elections, but it also determined the victor.

114 In the early parliamentary elections of 2021 the Moldovan diaspora univocally voted for the PAS, which
115 amassed 86.23% of the votes abroad. However, it would be a mistake to assume the "Action and Solidarity"
116 Party won only due to the diaspora. It won internally as well, and the diaspora reinforced its victory.

117 The migration of Moldovan citizens abroad continues. At the same time, their desire to maintain ties with their
118 homeland, including by way of participation in elections raises the question on the multitude of forms of voting.
119 The global electoral practice uses a variety of forms: personal voting; voting by post; voting by proxy; e-voting.
120 In our opinion, personal voting is preferable for Moldovan migrants, who have access to polling stations, whereas
121 e-voting and voting by post will allow diaspora members that reside too far from polling stations to also express
122 their right to vote. This requires changes to be made in the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, however one
123 should keep in mind that these kinds of voting carry not only great opportunities, but also great risks.

124 Unlike the Moldovan migrants' political activity, economic projects that contribute to the socio-economic
125 development of Moldova have not yet received adequate attention from the Moldovan diaspora. At the same
126 time, the issue of the diaspora's input into the Republic of Moldova's sustainable development became the object
127 of the state's policy and attracted the attention of the scientific community.

128 Local and foreign scientific literature covers the influence of labor migrants' remittances on the economic
129 development of the country of origin. Remittances act as one of the elements of the development equation,
130 alongside direct foreign investments, liberalized trade, and management improvement (Olsen, 2002) and are
131 the net profit for the recipient countries (Bourguignon, Levin & Rosenblatt, 2009). Furthermore, in the opinion
132 of D. Drbohlav, remittances are closely tied to social transfers, which include values, behavior, identity, and
133 social capital that flows transnationally from the host country to the country of origin. By adopting these new
134 values, rules, ideas, practices, and behavioral models migrants can enrich the society of their country of origin
135 and contribute to the development of social relations (Drbohlav et al., 2017, p 528).

136 Moldova is among the top-10 largest beneficiaries of monetary transfers in the world. The current analysis
137 is based on official data on Moldovan migrants' remittances through banks, as well as on estimates of the
138 National Bank of Moldova (Table 1). During the period between 2005 and 2008 the volumes of remittances
139 were continuously increasing and on average, they made 31% of the country's GDP. This peaked in 2006 when
140 remittances reached 34.67% of the GDP (Luecke, 2009, p.5). A significant decline in the monetary influx was
141 observed in 2009, which was the result of world economic crisis and its impact on the labor market and the
142 labor migrants' income. In 2010 the influx of foreign currency again began to show signs of growth, the volume
143 of monetary transfers through banks increased by 5.3% compared to 2009 (Extended Migration Profile, 2013,
144 p.127).

145 Remittances play an important role in reducing the deficit of the country's payment balance, contribute to
146 the development of the service sector, and provide a minimal living standard for thousands of households in the
147 Republic of Moldova (Ghencea, Gudumac, 2004). The inflow of financial resources coming from Moldovan citizens
148 that work abroad, on the one hand contributes to the decline of absolute poverty, especially in the rural areas,
149 but on the other hand, also contributes to the increase of inequality between households that receive transfers,
150 and those that do not (Extended Migration Profile, 2015, p.47-48).

151 In 2018 and 2019 Moldovan migrants' remittances reached 16.05% of the GDP (IOM rapid field assessment,
152 2020, p.7). In the following years the share of monetary transfers in the GDP structure continued to decline,
153 but it nonetheless remained an important source of income for many households in Moldova. According to the
154 data of the National Bank of Moldova, in the second quarter of 2020 the largest share of transfers from European
155 Union countries came from Italy -31.6%, followed by transfers from Germany (24.0%), France (12.5%), Ireland
156 (5.4%), Romania (3.7%), Czechia (3.4%), Spain (3.1%), Belgium (2.8%), Portugal (2.5%), Poland (2.2%), Greece
157 (1.0%) and Cyprus (0.9%) (Money transfers from abroad, 2020) which confirms the geography of Moldovan labor
158 migration to EU countries.

159 In poor countries, Moldova being one of them, the majority of remittances from abroad are mainly used for
160 consumption. On the one hand, this leads to the improvement of households' living standards, but on the other,
161 this is obtained not through economic activity, but through an influx of financial resources from abroad (Giuliano,
162 Ruiz-Arranz, 2009).

163 The importance of remittances for Moldovan households is confirmed by the data of empirical studies.
164 According to the results of the 2022-2023 survey, more than 70% of Moldovan labor migrants (often or
165 occasionally) transfer money to Moldova. Every third migrant transfers money to Moldova often (30.3%), 42.6%
166 of the respondents transfer money on occasion. 27.1% of the respondents do not transfer money at all. This
167 shows that the process of family reunification is taking place, migrants are bringing to the destination countries
168 not only their children, but also their own parents, and after this no longer have anyone left in Moldova.

169 However, the migration to the European Union and the financial wellbeing of Moldovan migrants were affected

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170 by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the research of the International Organization for Migration, conducted in April-
171 May, 2020 shows, one of the direct consequences of COVID-19 was the cessation of professional activity or the
172 loss of employment, which was indicated by 47% of the respondents. This inevitably led to a sharp decline of
173 income, and 80% of the respondents that had previously conducted remittances to Moldova started transferring
174 less, whereas 41% stopped transferring money altogether ??Mosneaga, 2021, p. 163).

175 At the same time, in May, 2020, the National Bank of Moldova registered an explosion in the number of
176 remittances, the total sum of which was of more than 120 million dollars. In January and February of 2021 the
177 volume of remittances from labor migrants was of 219 million Dollars, which was an absolute record for Moldova
178 (Record volume, 2023).

179 International experience shows that an important field for investment of resources received from migrants'
180 monetary transfers is the opening of a business and entrepreneurship in the county of the migrant's origin.
181 Working abroad the labor migrants obtain entrepreneurial skills that can be employed at home. However,
182 the unpleasant investment and business climate that formed in Moldova does not contribute to the opening
183 of businesses or to investment in projects by migrants or their family members. According to the research,
184 only a small number of monetary transfers is used to finance entrepreneurial or investment activities, herewith
185 migrants manifest a more active entrepreneurial spirit than their family members, to whom they transfer money.
186 ??Ghencea et. Al, 2004, p.64-65) In the realization of entrepreneurial activity, migrants and members of their
187 households are facing objective and subjective difficulties. Among the objective difficulties we can list the difficult
188 socio-economic situation in Moldova. Among the subjective ones we can list: corruption, ineffective management,
189 limited access to banking services and trust in financial institutions, lack of qualified workforce ??Blouchoutzi,
190 Nikas, 2004, p.105). The financing of entrepreneurial activity is negatively influenced by moral risk problems
191 and initially low income norms, which lead to the ruin of many Moldovan migrants' enterprises shortly after they
192 were established (The socioeconomic impact, 2009, p.20).

193 Moldovan experts consider that although today monetary transfers remain an important source of fuel for the
194 Republic of Moldova's economic growth, the authorities should focus more on attracting the Moldovan citizens'
195 savings that are being kept abroad. These savings should be attracted into the Moldovan economy, which can
196 contribute to the migrants' return home.

197 The way migrants and their family members that are staying in Moldova distribute the transferred money
198 is another sign that they are not ready to invest in the development of entrepreneurship in the country of
199 origin. The results of sociological research shows that the money received from migrants is being spent on food
200 (62%), healthcare (61%), home repair and construction (45%), purchase of consumer goods (34%), and children's
201 education (32%). In 2022-2023 only every seventeenth respondent indicated that monetary transfers were invested
202 into land or agricultural equipment. Even less money is spent on production; the number of those that invested
203 in manufacturing remains very low (2.4%).

204 At the same time, the presence of investments in the country of origin speaks of maintaining ties with
205 the homeland, and at the same time is a stimulus for an eventual return to Moldova. Unlike remittances,
206 entrepreneurial investments give members of the diaspora direct control over the use of their resources. Our
207 research has shown that 18.4% of Moldovan citizens that reside in EU countries have investments in the Republic
208 of Moldova. Furthermore, there is a category of Moldovan migrants that have the desire to invest in a business
209 in Moldova (36%).

210 Over the course of the conducted survey we attempted to determine what causes the desire of Moldovan labor
211 migrants to invest in a business in Moldova. The answers can be divided into three groups: 1) to have one's own
212 business, which is a source of income; 2) to be able to live at home, with one's family; 3) to develop the country.
213 Economic growth and political and legal stability in Moldova could contribute to investments. In general, it can
214 be noted that having one's own business in Moldova is one of the stimuli for Moldovan migrants' return home.

215 1 III. The Formation and Development of Moldovan Commu- 216 nities' Institutional Potential in EU27+ Countries

217 When it comes to the consolidation of Moldovan diaspora in European Union countries, a big role falls to the
218 diaspora structures that have formed in many EU countries. In general, the Moldovan diaspora consists of 250
219 associations in more than 30 countries of the world.

220 Diaspora associations are quite varied and differ in terms of legal status, management model, and sphere
221 of activity. However, specialized scientific literature practically ignores the subject of association typology. D.
222 Dijkzeul and M. Fauser identify hometown associations, migrant development NGOs, and umbrella organizations.
223 Their activity is directed towards different things; it is oriented at providing social services, has the potential for
224 widespread action and carries a relatively inclusive character ??Dijkzeul, Fauser, 2020, p.14).

225 Moldovan diaspora organizations are usually of the second type, but they are all united by the fact that they
226 "play an important role in the realization of strategic action and goals in the field of diaspora, migration, and
227 development. An integrating factor for all diaspora bodies is national and civil belonging" (Guvernul Republicii
228 Moldova, 2016a). Diaspora associations act as the social institution that allows Moldovan communities abroad
229 to consolidate into a diaspora. The formed diaspora influences the development of culture, economics, and
230 democratic values of the migrants' home country ??Mosneaga, 2021b, p. 239).

231 The process of formation of diaspora associations is tied to the desire of Moldovan citizens abroad to unite,
232 to create bodies that promote and maintain language, culture, and traditions, bodies that provide migrants with
233 informational and legal support. Gradually new associations began to appear, ones that distanced themselves
234 from the goal of maintaining Moldovan identity and all things related to it, instead focusing on other socio-
235 cultural interests. This testified to their increasing integration into the host country's society, as well as to their
236 gradual transformation from Moldovan associations abroad into organizations of the host country's civil society
237 (Cojuhari, 2018).

238 The activity of Moldovan diaspora organizations includes a wide spectrum of directions: establishment of
239 cultural and lingual centers for promotion of national culture, traditions and customs, study of the host country's
240 language for adults, and of Romanian for children; information services and legal consultations, both live and
241 online; consultations in the field of entrepreneurship (opening and managing a business in Moldova or abroad);
242 psychological support for migrants, members of migrant families, etc. (Cheianu-Andrei, 2013, p.37).

243 As the conducted research has shown, Moldovan diaspora institutions have their strengths and weaknesses.
244 Among their strengths we can list their role as cultural and social mediators with the local community, as well
245 as their ability to organize and mobilize people. Moreover, we can also mention the fact that the activity of
246 Moldovan associations abroad is mainly relying on volunteers, who interact with migration services in the region
247 and as well as various social actors.

248 One of the more notable weaknesses is the reduced interest of Moldovan migrants towards the organizations'
249 activities. This was confirmed by our study: more than 90% of Moldovan migrants do not participate in the
250 activity of Moldovan diaspora associations, in the host countries. Furthermore, compared to the 2016-2017
251 study (Turco, Svetlicinai, 2019), there was actually a decrease in the number of respondents that participated in
252 Moldovan diaspora associations' activities (from 9.5% in 2016-2017 to in 2022-2023).

253 If in 2016-2017 12.5% of the respondents considered themselves active members of Moldovan diaspora
254 associations, the 2022-2023 survey has shown an almost three-fold decrease of this category of migrants (Table
255 2). In 2016-2017 approximately a third of the respondents indicated that they sometimes participate in diaspora
256 organizations' activities. After five years the number of migrants in this category decreased almost thrice. In
257 2016-2017 more than half of those surveyed indicated that they only follow the organizations' events and news,
258 but do not take active part in them. In 2022-2023 their number increased by almost 1.5 times. According to
259 the results of the 2016-2017 survey, the primary reasons for non-participation among Moldovan migrants in the
260 activities of diaspora associations were: lack of interest (34%); unfamiliarity with Moldovan organizations in the
261 region that they reside in (42%); the belief that "it doesn't matter" (10%); other (13%).

262 The 2022-2023 survey demonstrated the increase of two respondent groups: those that are not interested in
263 participating, and those, who do not think it is important to participate. It can be assumed that this stems
264 from the fact that Moldovan migrants expected Moldovan authorities to support these organizations, something
265 that did not happen, causing disappointment among the migrants. At the same time there was a decrease in
266 the number of Moldovan migrants that indicated ignorance of Moldovan organizations in their vicinity and ? big
267 workload or lack of time, etc. as their main reasons.

268 Another weakness that can be listed is the issue of personnel and of association leaders' professional training,
269 as well as the lack of financial resources. Having limited financial capabilities, diaspora leaders are using various
270 means to obtain financing for their projects: the look for sponsors among business representatives in the host
271 countries, present their projects to Moldovan state institutions (Bureau for Diaspora Relations of the Republic
272 of Moldova), seek financing with European bodies. However, as noted by diaspora representatives, thus far
273 collaboration has been difficult ??Mosneaga, 2017, p.122-123).

274 Another weakness of the Moldovan diaspora is its division on the political, geopolitical, and confessional
275 spectrums. The political division between Moldovan diaspora associations is tied to the fact that diaspora
276 associations are often oriented toward different political powers in Moldova (Korobkov, 2018), and strive to
277 obtain various political benefits from this.

278 The division takes place along religious lines as well. We cannot ignore the fact that the church often follows
279 its own interests. The division of the faithful into those that follow the Russian Orthodox Church and the
280 Romanian Orthodox Church, the priests of which are at odds with each other, hurts the entire community
281 abroad ??Mosneaga, 2021b, p. 240). This is particularly sad when one takes into account the fact that Moldovan
282 diaspora associations were often established within church parishes.

283 Another key problem of diaspora functionality is tied to communication, and the inability to successfully utilize
284 the existing communications channels: the Internet, social networks, the telephone, and the newspapers published
285 by the diaspora. Communication must take place in several directions: firstly, between diaspora associations and
286 Moldovan migrants staying in the host country; secondly, among the associations themselves; thirdly, between
287 diaspora associations and state and non-state institutions of the Republic of Moldova; fourthly, between diaspora
288 associations and state and non-state institutions in the host country ??Mosneaga, 2017, p.129).

289 By accessing the website of the Bureau for Diaspora Relations [https://emoldovata.gov.md/lista-aso-ciatilor-](https://emoldovata.gov.md/lista-aso-ciatilor-diasporei)
290 [diasporei](https://emoldovata.gov.md/lista-aso-ciatilor-diasporei), we have determined the quantitative composition of Moldovan diaspora organizations in the EU27+
291 countries. In total, in EU countries, as well as in Norway, Switzerland, and the UK, there are 139 active Moldovan
292 diaspora organizations that differ by number, field of activity, and degree of engagement Lists, 2022). Among the

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293 aforementioned countries, the most organizations are registered in Italy (51), France (12), the UK (10), Spain
294 (10), Romania (9), Portugal (7), and Germany (6).

295 In each of these countries the activity of Moldovan diaspora associations is characterized by certain
296 particularities. The defining trait of Italy is a large number of educational centers, organized, among other
297 places, in church parishes. If the first diaspora associations in Italy were concentrated on promoting Moldovan
298 culture and traditions, the ones that came later were more socially oriented and engaged in promoting and
299 protecting human rights. This speaks of a gradual qualitative transformation of the organizations; they become
300 more complex, establishing networks. Yet the issue of communication among them persists.

301 According to the Bureau for Diaspora Relations, in Portugal there are seven registered Moldovan diaspora
302 associations, but experts list other diaspora organizations also active in the country. In particular, they note
303 the importance of the Asociația Culturală a Imigranților Moldoveni MIORITA din Portugalia, which provides
304 assistance to migrants in legalization, social integration, and learning the Portuguese language. Recently there
305 has been a growing interest in establishing industry-focused associations. The MOLDMED association that
306 united Moldovan medics in Portugal is quite successful. Similar professional associations for teachers are also
307 being established.

308 The Portuguese authorities provide assistance to diaspora organizations that are active in the country. The
309 High Commissioner of Portugal for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue provides daily financial aid to the
310 most active organizations. Moldovan associations are always counted among the main beneficiaries ??Mosneaga,
311 2021b, p. 240).

312 The particularity of Germany is that Moldovan citizens in this country prefer to communicate with their
313 co-nationals online, via social networks, rather than live. This can be explained by the large number of students
314 among migrants, who study in universities all across the country and it is easier for them to communicate on the
315 Internet.

316 Romania is the main direction for educational migration, and as such the Moldovan community there is
317 represented by associations that unite the studious youth from many Romanian cities. The primary goals of
318 these associations are to promote national, cultural, and civil values among youth, to facilitate the process of
319 young people's integration into the host society, and collaboration with various organizations.

320 France is on the second place by number of students. A likewise large group consists of Moldovan medics,
321 about 500 people. In the European Union France is a country that has a high percentage of Moldovan citizens
322 that have established their own business.

323 Representatives of diaspora organizations in France are facing the same difficulties as their peers in other
324 countries do, when it comes to their work. These difficulties are largely conditioned by the low level of
325 Moldovan migrants' engagement in the organizations' activities. However, the majority of associations are an
326 important source of information for Moldovan migrants, they promote Moldovan culture abroad, keep in touch
327 with migration services of the destination countries, collaborate with different social subjects ??Cotilevici, 2018,
328 p.420).

329 Moldovan diaspora associations exist in other European Union countries as well, but firstly, their number of
330 limited, and secondly, they do not have a lot of members. Most often their activity is directed at supporting
331 Moldovan culture and traditions, informing and contributing to Moldovan migrants' integration in the destination
332 country.

333 Of the countries that are not part of the EU that pose an interest for our research, the most Moldovan diaspora
334 organizations are active in the United Kingdom.

335 Experts note that the real number of Moldovan associations in this country is larger, because many of them
336 were established and function online (Cheianu-Andrei, 2013, p.127; Mosneaga, 2017, p.113). Moldovan students
337 in this country are quite active, which is important as the youth are not as strongly tied to their home country
338 as the older generations of migrants are. It is vital that the young generation not lose interest in participating
339 in the life of their home countries.

340 Unlike in other countries, diaspora organization members here are motivated to provide legal consulting on
341 topics such as residence legalization and obtaining work permits, because in the UK this procedure is complicated.
342 Another particularity of Moldovan associations in this country is the capability of obtaining financing for one's
343 project on their own, without asking Moldova for financial support. In this regard an important role falls to the
344 support of Moldovan business in the UK, which relies on the British mentality of social responsibility.

345 Moldovan diaspora organizations in the UK are characterized by a high degree of social activity. Moldovan
346 migrants adopt the British orientation towards charity, which creates a factual basis for the consolidation of the
347 diaspora, its establishment as an active actor in social processes.

348 Over the course of conducted sociological research respondents were asked to estimate the importance or
349 unimportance of the goals that put forth by the Moldovan diaspora associations in the host countries. They were
350 proposed to express themselves regarding the directions of activity of Moldovan diaspora organizations in the
351 European Union.

352 The directions that concern the migrants themselves in the host countries received the highest support from
353 the respondents. These are, first and foremost the support of migrant children's Moldovan education, and this
354 index in 2022-2023 increased, compared to 2016-2017 (Table 3). This direction opens up a large field of activity
355 for diaspora organizations that, in collaboration with the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova in the

356 host countries, can open Sunday schools and various courses for the study of language, history, literature, and
357 traditions of Moldova (Turco, Svetlicinai, 2017, p.241). Likewise, Moldovan migrants in EU countries note the
358 importance of the "support Moldovans in order to organize their lives here" direction. The number of respondents
359 that consider this important in 2022-2023 is increased slightly compared to the first survey.

360 The results of the 2022-2023 survey have shown a decline in the number of Moldovan migrants that consider
361 maintaining Moldovan migrants' ties to Moldova an important direction of diaspora organizations' activity. This
362 firstly demonstrates the shift of focus in favor of the host country rather than the country of origin, and the
363 desire to integrate into the host society. Secondly, it indirectly confirmed the results of the previous survey, which
364 have shown that migrants do not consider the consolidation of the Moldovan community an important direction
365 of the organizations' activity.

366 In this regard it is important to solve the issue of mutually-beneficial collaboration between the diaspora
367 associations and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Diaspora associations act as the main vector of
368 democratic change in Moldova, of its European future. They are capable of promoting the image of the Republic
369 of Moldova abroad, its products, its culture, and traditions; to contribute to the conservation of the members' of
370 Moldovan communities' ethno-cultural identity abroad.

371 When it comes to the Moldovan government, it must provide the necessary support to the diaspora associations
372 abroad. Firstly, this means financial and informational support. Secondly, state bodies must assist in broadening
373 the spheres of diaspora organizations' activity, training of employees and organization leaders, including among
374 the second generation of Moldovan migrants. These measures will contribute to the inclusion of Moldovan
375 migrants into the activity of diaspora institutions, to the consolidation of Moldovan communities in European
376 Union countries.

377 2 IV.

378 The Policies of the Republic of Moldova for the Consolidation of the Moldovan Diaspora

379 In the consolidation of Moldovan communities/ diaspora abroad a large role is played by the policies of
380 Moldovan state bodies in the field of migration and diaspora. The policies in the field of diaspora represent
381 "the state's actions, implemented through various institutions, embassies, consulates, specialized agencies,
382 transnational networks, etc., in partnership with interested parties and partners of the diaspora. The parties
383 are being implemented based on mutually beneficial relations between the country of origin and the emigrants.
384 Migrants are encouraged to participate in the life of the origin country by way of attractive and functional
385 political, civil, or social offers, access to social and moral resources, and the strengthening of their potential. The
386 migrants' input into the origin country's development, on the other hand, is achieved through monetary transfers
387 and investments" (Donu, 2018, p.435).

388 Experts identify several stages of evolution of Moldovan policy in the field of migration and diaspora. These
389 are characterized by different goals, and objects and subjects of action (Mosneaga, 2017).

390 The first stage (1990-1991-1992-1993-1994): Its essence can be characterized as "Migration and
391 security". At this stage migration was viewed and regulated in the context of security, protection of the local
392 population from uncontrolled mass immigration to the Republic of Moldova from other regions in post-Soviet
393 space. The legal and institutional framework in the field of migration begins to form at this stage. In 1990 the
394 law "On migration" was adopted. In 1994 the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova enshrined the right of
395 citizens for free entry to, and exit from Moldova (art.27), which was further detailed in the laws "On entry to
396 and departure from the Republic of Moldova" (1994) and "On the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless
397 persons in the Republic of Moldova" (1994). The regulation of migration flows was assigned to the Department
398 for Migration of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family.

399 The second stage (1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000): Migration continued to be viewed
400 through the prism of security, however the subject was changed. The state shifted its focus from protecting the
401 entire Moldovan population to protecting Moldovan labor migrants that are staying abroad legally. However,
402 during this period the majority of Moldovan migrants were irregulars and the Moldovan state failed to find
403 common ground with its European partners. As such, the goals established at this period were not achieved.

404 The legal framework for labor migration management was developed at this stage. Readmission agreements
405 were signed within the framework of international collaboration. These established the procedures of mutual
406 return of irregulars to their country of origin, or to the transit country through which they arrived.

407 The institution regulating migration was still the Department for Migration of the Ministry of Labor, Social
408 Protection and Family. The third stage (2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006): In spite of the
409 continued view of migration through the prism of security, the main goal of this period became the protection of
410 both legal and illegal Moldovan migrants.

411 The legislative framework in the field of migration was improved: the Concept for migration policy (2002) was
412 adopted, as well as the laws "On migration" (2002), "On preventing and combating human trafficking" (2005),
413 and others. Bilateral and multilateral agreements on collaboration in the field of labor migration were signed,
414 international documents on the protection of labor migrants' and refugees' rights were ratified.

415 Changes were made to the institutional framework in the field of migration. In 2001 The fourth stage (2006-
416 2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012): This stage's essence can be identified as "Migration and
417 development", as for the first time the goal of Moldovan migration policy was to include migration into the larger

3 THE FIFTH STAGE (2013 -PRESENT):

418 scope of the country's sustainable development. Migration policy began to be viewed as a component of social
419 policies; it became subordinate to national priorities and prospects of the country's sustainable development.

420 The legal and juridical framework of migration management continued to evolve: the laws "On labor migration"
421 (2008), "On asylum in the Republic of Moldova" (2008), "On the status of foreign citizens" (2010), the National
422 strategy in the field of migration and asylum (2011-2020), the various plans of action for the implementation of
423 the adopted legal acts, and other documents were adopted.

424 In the framework of international collaboration, various bilateral agreements in the field of labor migration
425 and social protection were signed. The purpose of these was to define citizens' rights to travel between countries
426 and to fully benefit from social protection.

427 In 2009-2011 readmission agreements were signed with fourteen EU member-states, and with five non-EU
428 states. The Republic of Moldova -European Union Plan of action for the liberalization of the visa regime (2011)
429 was adopted, etc. Programs in the field of migration and diaspora began to be implemented within the context
430 of EU initiatives.

431 The primary state institution charged with regulating diaspora issues, starting with the second half of 2006,
432 became the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. During the period the mandate
433 in the field of diaspora was also held by the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of
434 Moldova (Vremis et al, p.204-208). In 2012 a specialized institution -the Diaspora Relations Bureau (BRD) -was
435 established within the State Chancellery.

3 The fifth stage (2013 -present):

436 The essence of this stage is still "Migration and development", but unlike in the previous stage, the primary goal
437 now is to support the diaspora, to motivate its participation in the country's development. The consolidation of
438 the diaspora contributed to its establishment as an independent actor of Moldovan migration policy.

440 During this period the "Diaspora -2025" National strategy (Guvernul, 2016a) and the Plan of action for its
441 implementation were adopted. These act as the baseline documents of the Republic of Moldova's policy in the
442 field of migration, development and diaspora.

443 The visa-free regime with the European Union (2014) created new opportunities for Moldovan labor migration
444 into the European Union. Agreements in the field of labor migration and social protection were signed with a
445 number of EU countries.

446 We should note that the transition towards policies concerning diaspora was inspired by both international
447 factor, and local context. This is tied to the changes of the global approach to migration, the transition from a
448 quantitative "migration policy" to a qualitative "diaspora policy". National context is tied to the formation and
449 development of the Moldovan diaspora, and the need of appropriate policies. The influence of these factors had
450 an effect on the institutional reform, the need to delineate the functions of specialized governmental bodies that
451 implemented the policy in the field of migration and diaspora (Mosneaga, 2018, p.94).

452 Regarding the development and implementation of these policies, in the Republic of Moldova there is a solid
453 institutional framework with a large number of interested parties. The primary state institution here is the
454 Diaspora Relations Bureau, established at the diaspora's request. The Bureau coordinated the government's
455 actions in the field of migration, diaspora and development, contributing to the preservation and assertion of
456 the ethnic, cultural, and linguistic identity of Moldovan citizens abroad, and the use of the diaspora's human
457 and financial potential. The Diaspora Relations Bureau developed and is implementing numerous programs:
458 Diaspora Engagement Hub, «DOR», Diaspora Business-forum, Diaspora congresses, Diaspora days, etc.

459 It is important to note that on the national level, state policies in the field of diaspora, migration and
460 development are being developed and promoted using an integrated approach, as well as through the functional
461 obligations of profile ministries, central public authority bodies and institutions (Guvernul, 2016b): the Ministry
462 of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Internal
463 Affairs (the Bureau of Migration and Asylum, the Border police), the Ministry of Economic Development and
464 Digitization, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Health, and others.

465 The analysis of the Moldovan state's role in the field of migration and diaspora policies has shown that
466 initially the state did not possess an effective and complex approach to the phenomenon of migration, including
467 the component of support in regards to diaspora. Under the influence of international institutions and the
468 realization of the necessity of collaboration with the diaspora, Moldovan authorities began to actively elaborate
469 a state policy regarding the diaspora. In this context we can underline the Government Decision 200 from
470 26.02.2016 on the approval of the National strategy "Diaspora-2025" and the Plan of action for its realization for
471 2016-2018, where the "new approach" to the policy concerning diaspora is reflected.

472 The national strategy "Diaspora-2025" contains the new priorities of Moldovan policy in the field of diaspora:
473 development of a strategic and organizational framework in the field of diaspora, migration and development;
474 promotion of diaspora rights and strengthening trust; mobilization, and use of the diaspora's human potential;
475 direct and indirect attraction of the diaspora to participate in the sustainable economic development of the
476 Republic of Moldova (Guvernul, 2016a).

477 Experts identify several aspects in the implementation of the new approach to the policy in the field of
478 migration, diaspora and development. Firstly, it is the shift from quantity to quality. This means the diaspora
479 is viewed not as a subject requiring support, and not as a beneficiary of state policies, but as a partner in

480 development policies. Secondly, the accent was shifted towards the mobilization of the diaspora's civic spirit
481 for the realization of socially-significant activity. Thirdly, it is the development and realization of the diaspora's
482 human potential (Mosneaga, 2017, p.182). According to the new approach, migrant return does not actually
483 mean physical return, instead the important part is that they've maintained their ties to the homeland, transferred
484 the knowledge and skills they've accumulated abroad, and contributed to the development of the Republic of
485 Moldova. For the implementation of this approach it is necessary for the Diaspora Relations Bureau to actively
486 collaborate with other Moldovan state institutions, with NGOs, international organizations, and all interested
487 parties involved in working with migrant communities and diaspora abroad.

488 An important instrument in the realization of the policies in the field of migration, diaspora and development
489 are the various programs that are being implemented by the Moldovan state bodies. In 2010 the "PARE 1+1"
490 program was launched, its purpose is to attract monetary transfers into the Moldovan economy and it is aimed
491 at labor migrants or their first-degree relatives that are willing to invest into opening or expanding businesses in
492 Moldova. The program functions on a 1+1 algorithm, where every Moldovan Leu that, invested via migrants'
493 monetary transfers is supplemented by another 1 MDL that serves as a grant. The grants in the program can
494 sum up to 250 000 MDL. In this regard, the state acts, on the one hand, as a donor, and on the other, as a
495 partner for diaspora members.

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497 The priorities of PARE 1+1 encompass the following fields: establishment and development of businesses in the
498 rural area; increasing the level of awareness among labor migrants and monetary transfer beneficiaries in the
499 Republic of Moldova concerning the possibilities of developing one's business in the country of origin; increasing
500 the entrepreneurial skills of labor migrants and monetary transfer beneficiaries; stimulating the establishment and
501 development of small and medium enterprises; facilitating labor migrants' and monetary transfer beneficiaries'
502 access to financial resources; creation of new workplaces; employment of new technologies, transfer of know-how,
503 innovations (Baltag, Burdelnii, 2022, p.39).

504 Within the framework of the program support was offered to 739 enterprises and 1815 business initiatives
505 were co-financed; 2649 received specialized training; a total sum of 367.67 million MDL were offered in funds;
506 1080.15 million MDL were invested into the economy; 564 labor migrants were offered assistance in returning
507 home (Baltag, et al, 2022, p.30).

508 It should be noted that more than half of all PARE 1+1 program beneficiaries are enterprises managed by
509 migrants' relatives. On the one hand, this can indicate that the labor migrants might eventually return home.
510 On the other, the established enterprises represent a type of investment into the migrants' country of origin with
511 the purpose of obtaining an additional income (Vicol, Pistrinciuc, 2021). Almost half of all entrepreneurs (49%)
512 in the Program are young people below the age of 35, 84% of the beneficiaries reside outside of Chisinau, 32%
513 of the participants are women (571 enterprises were established and/ or are managed by women), 61% work in
514 European Union countries (ODIMM, 2020).

515 The government of the Republic of Moldova strives to include all the different segments of the diaspora, for
516 which reason it developed a number of programs in the fields of gender equality and youth. In 2016 the Ministry
517 of Economic Development launched the «Women in business» program, which is directed at reducing gender
518 inequality and at developing women's entrepreneurship, especially in the rural areas. Within this Program's
519 framework 614 contracts received financing, a sum of 89.47 million MDL were approved as grants; 138.83 million
520 MDL were invested into the economy, and more than 2000 new workplaces were created (Baltag, et al, 2022, p.30).

521 With the purpose of retention of youths in Moldova, especially in the rural areas, its integration into the
522 country's economy by way of supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills, in 2009 the Organization for
523 Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM) launched a special program for young people aged
524 between 18 and 35, called "Start for Youth: a stable enterprise at home". Within this program's framework
525 400 young people obtained access to grant financing in sums of up to 180 thousand MDL, and more than 1700
526 young people received entrepreneurial training and consulting on the process of investment project development
527 (Young, 2022).

528 Another Moldovan government program oriented at the younger generation of the Moldovan diaspora abroad is
529 the DOR (Diaspora*Origini*Reveniri) program. Its goals are to increase awareness among the second generation
530 of migrants on the cultural identity, national traditions and values, as well as to establish emotional ties between
531 the Republic of Moldova and the young members of the diaspora.

532 Over the course of 2013-2023, more than 1000 children and young people aged between 12 and 16 from more
533 than 25 countries, including Moldova, took part in the DOR program. However, despite the Moldovan government
534 institutions' attempts to popularize national culture, values, and traditions among the second generation of
535 Moldovan migrants, the limited number of participants in the Program speaks of a low interest on the part of
536 Moldovan citizens abroad. For the most part this is tied to the fact that the majority of Moldovan migrants
537 are oriented at fully integrating themselves into the host country's society, and as such, most of their efforts are
538 directed toward this goal.

539 With the financial support of the Swiss agency for development and collaboration, at the start of 2016 the
540 Bureau for Diaspora Relations and the International Organization for Migration launched the themed-grants
541 program "Diaspora Engagement Hub" for Moldovan citizens residing abroad. Starting with 2020, beside the

542 foreign aid, the Program is also funded out of the Moldovan budget. The purpose of the Program is to support
543 and motivate members of the Moldovan diaspora to realize their ideas in Moldova, thus utilizing the diaspora's
544 human and professional capital.

545 In order to support the associative environment of the diaspora for the development of lingual, cultural, and
546 emotional ties with the Republic of Moldova, ten educational diaspora centers in seven countries, including in five
547 EU countries (Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, France) and in the UK were established as part of the program's
548 framework. The establishment of educational centers in the diaspora implies study of the Romanian language,
549 of Moldovan culture, traditions and customs by the second generation of Moldovan migrants.

550 Another Moldovan government program directed at utilizing the human and financial potential of the diaspora
551 for the country's socio-economic development is the Diaspora Acas? Reu?e?te (DAR) under the aegis of the BRD.
552 The financial resources (local donations and donations from the diaspora) are directed toward socially-oriented
553 projects in Moldova in a ratio of 1:3 (each 1 MDL donated by the diaspora is supplemented by 3 MDL coming in
554 from international donors/ the government/ local authorities). Thus migrants, using collective monetary transfers
555 to support the local development of their country of origin, are becoming key non-governmental subjects to offering
556 goods and services.

557 Currently, as part of the "DAR" program there are 30 projects being implemented in 41 localities of the
558 Republic of Moldova, these are aimed at arranging recreation areas and sports grounds; repairing public buildings
559 and roads; setting up and reconstructing water supply and electric power systems, and others. The total cost of
560 the projects is 37.4 million MDL in accordance to the 1+3 formula, of which 4.1 million MDL were brought in
561 by the diaspora, and 9.9 million came from the government (Guvernul, 2023b).

562 Despite the implementation of the various programs involving the diaspora, our sociological survey shows a low
563 level of Moldovan migrants' awareness of Moldovan state initiatives that concern Moldovan citizens abroad. Only
564 12% of the respondents residing in European Union countries stated that they were aware of these initiatives.
565 However, when asked of which Moldovan government initiatives they were aware of, even those that gave a
566 positive reply were unable to name any specific initiatives.

567 The partnership between the state and the diaspora is realized through such mechanisms of participation as
568 Disapora congresses (taking place biyearly since 2014), Business-forms (bi-yearly since 2014), Diaspora investment
569 forums (since 2014). Such events allow the diaspora to interact with the Moldovan government, and to launch
570 new initiatives and projects for those that work both in the country and abroad.

571 It should be noted that in spite of their confidence in their own abilities, Moldovan migrants abroad are
572 expecting the Moldovan government to provide them with support. First of all, they expect informational
573 support: on the availability of workplaces in Moldova (45%); on the changes of the social protection situation
574 in Moldova (44%); on the possibilities of return to Moldova (32%). The collected data indirectly speaks of the
575 attitudes of Moldovan migrants regarding their return home. As such, one of the main priorities of state policy in
576 the field of diaspora, migration and development must be the establishment of conditions for the implementation
577 of the return migration mechanism.

578 However, as the survey shows, approximately half of the migrants (47%) have no wish to return to Moldova.
579 The reasons for this are the socio-economic and political instability in the country, the high level of corruption,
580 the uncertainty of tomorrow (47.7%); a stable future in the host country (27%); familial reasons ("my family is
581 here"; "I have no one left in Moldova") (8.9%).

582 Currently Moldova cannot provide a stable socio-economic development, but the authorities can provide
583 political stability and an unchanging course toward the country's modernization, which will reduce the pace
584 of migration. The state must employ various means in order to motivate migrants to invest in the country of
585 origin. Furthermore, the knowledge-intensive industries should be developed, especially the field of Informational
586 Technologies. The diaspora can be attracted to stimulate export from the Republic of Moldova.

587 Taking into account the migrants' rhetoric such as "we will return when conditions will be created", the
588 Diaspora Relations Bureau, in tandem with other state institutions, encourages the diaspora to also participate
589 in the creation of beneficial conditions for the return, and communicates to those that wish to contribute to the
590 changes in their homeland. It is necessary to make more active use of the accumulated positive experiences, to
591 spread the best practices in the activity of the diaspora, of Moldovan businessmen that invest their financial
592 capital into their home country's development.

593 The political, economic, and social changes that have taken place in the region and internationally, as well as the
594 necessity to actualize the goals and actions listed in the National strategy "Diaspora-2025", with consideration for
595 challenges and achievements, conditioned the development of the Program for 2024-2027, for the implementation
596 of the Strategy.

597 Taking into account the national experience of interaction with the diaspora, the international standards and
598 best practices in this field, the goal of the Program is defined as attracting the diaspora toward the sustainable
599 development of the Republic of Moldova. Firstly this is to be done through the diversification of the levels
600 and channels of attraction to the development processes on the central and local levels. Secondly, this is to be
601 done by providing support and assistance to the associations of Moldovan diaspora abroad. The realization of
602 these goals will contribute to the strengthening of interactions between the state, the central and local public
603 authorities, the civil society, and the diaspora with the ultimate goal of sustainable development of the Republic
604 of Moldova. The Moldovan diaspora plays an important role in the origin country's economic and political

605 life. The number of Moldovan citizens abroad that participate in parliamentary and presidential elections in the
 606 Republic of Moldova is constantly increasing. Such active inclusion of the Moldovan diaspora into the homeland's
 607 political life speaks of its support of Moldova's European vector, its willingness to become an active subject in
 608 the process of democratization in the Republic of Moldova.

609 The economic participation of the Moldovan diaspora in the origin country's development amounts primarily
 610 to monetary transfers. Investments and development projects could become another, higher level of migrant
 611 participation in the country's sustainable development; however they did not yet receive appropriate attention
 612 from the Moldovan diaspora. Taking into account the fact that a third of Moldovan migrants are ready to invest
 613 in the Moldovan economy, the authorities must create a beneficial investment climate, and develop financial
 614 instruments for the attraction of investments.

615 Moldovan diaspora associations are active in the majority of European Union countries. For the most part
 616 their activity is directed toward the increase of the diaspora's organization, maintenance of ethno-cultural identity
 617 of Moldovan communities abroad, provision of migrants with information and legal support.

618 The sociological survey of 2022-2023 has shown that the overwhelming majority of Moldovan citizens are
 619 unfamiliar with the activities of Moldovan diaspora associations. This is the result of both quantitative (small
 620 number of organizations) and qualitative (weak organization, location in capitals and big cities, insignificant
 621 support) factors. On the other hand, the Moldovan migrants themselves manifest little interest, and do not strive
 622 to participate in the activity of these organizations.

623 The policy in the field of diaspora, as a standalone direction of the Republic of Moldova's migration policy,
 624 begins to stand out in 2013. The creation of a developed legal and institutional framework allowed the guarantee
 625 of the diaspora's rights, the strengthening of the diaspora's trust in the Republic of Moldova's authorities, the
 626 mobilization, employment, and recognition of the diaspora's human, social, and financial potential.

627 The results of the empirical research show that a significant portion of Moldovan migrants will not return home.
 628 The migrants have socialized and integrated into the host countries; they have good salaries and investments,
 629 and have no wish to start over from zero. For this reason, one of the directions of the Moldovan state's policy in
 630 the field of migration, diaspora and development should focus on the consolidation of the diaspora, on utilizing
 its social and financial capital for the sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova. ^{1 2}

1

Year	Flux of remittances to Moldova	Share in the GDP (%)
2000	178.600.000	13.8
2005	920.310.000	30.8
2006	1.181.720.000	34.6
2007	1.498.230.000	34.0
2008	1.897.300.000	31.2
2009	1.182.020.000	24.9
2010	1.244.140.000	25.1
2015	1.227.370.000	19.9
2018	1.266.840.000	16.05
2019	1.222.890.000	16.05
2020	1.486.740.000	15.8
2021	1.611.000.000	15.5
2022	1.745.000.000	15.4

Source: National Bank of Moldova Database. <https://www.bnm.md/bdi>;

The World Bank Data. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?end=2021&location=chart>

Figure 1: Table 1 :

631

¹ © 2023 Global Journals

² The Transformation of Moldovan Migrant Communities into the Moldovan Diaspora in the European Union: The Main Directions and Mechanisms

2

2016-2017 survey

2022-2023 survey

Source: Sociological research conducted by the authors in [2022][2023]

Figure 2: Table 2 :

3

	Not important		Don't know/ cannot answer		Important	
	2016-2017	2022-2023	2016-2017	2022-2023	2016-2017	2022-2023
Support of Moldovans in order to organize their lives here	3.2%	11.5%	21.3%	17.4%	70.1%	70.7%
Support the Moldovans' ties to Moldova	7.1%	12.0%	17.3%	15.0%	75.7%	73.1%
Aid in Moldova's development	7.2%	11.1%	21.5%	21.3%	72.1%	67.7%
Support the Moldovan education of children (language, history, literature, etc.);	7.7%	9.2%	14.6%	9.6%	77.4%	81.2%

Source: Sociological research conducted by the authors in [2022][2023]

Figure 3: Table 3 :

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657 Diaspora-2025)
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660 port cu privire la activitatea Guvernului)
- 661 [Hot?r?area Guvernului Republicii Moldova nr. 200 din 26.02.2016 privind aprobarea Strategiei Na?ionale "Diaspora-2025" ?i a Pla
662 'Hot?r?area Guvernului Republicii Moldova nr. 200 din 26.02.2016 privind aprobarea Strategiei Na?ionale
663 "Diaspora-2025" ?i a Planului de ac?iuni pentru anii 2016-2018 pentru implementarea acesteia'. *Republic of*
664 *Moldova*, 2016. p. 230.
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667 [ENEMOStatementofPreliminaryFindingsandConclusionsMoldovaEarlyParliamentaryElectionsJuly2021.](http://enemo.eu/uploads/file-manager/ENEMOStatementofPreliminaryFindingsandConclusionsMoldovaEarlyParliamentaryElectionsJuly2021.pdf)
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