

INFO BULLETIN

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The government is examining a series of actions to support the economy and population during the pandemic period

On September 2, 2021, Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita had a meeting with heads of the working groups of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister, during which several draft proposals were discussed aimed at eliminating constraints in businesses activity and support businesses during the pandemic period. According to the Prime Minister, the government will support impactful initiatives that help the economic environment and society in general. "The government is now working on a series of actions to support the economy, keep jobs and social protection of citizens. We will come up with initiatives to



subsidize reduced working time for employees and increase access to working capital for companies.", mentioned Natalia Gavrilita. The heads of 7 working groups presented proposals in their areas of expertise. Thus, there were discussions about legislative changes related to the digitalization of the economy, harmonization of national legislation on personal data with the European one, improvement of the legal framework in the area of competition. At the same time, it was proposed to reconceptualize the function of control bodies with a focus on prevention and consulting entrepreneurs regarding the application

of legislative provisions. Economic initiatives were also presented for the purpose of facilitating cross-border trade, in accordance with the DCFTA agreement. Participants also examined several options for promoting technological innovation in various sectors of the economy, such as providing a minimum set of documents in electronic format without the need for physical presence. In this context, it was agreed to hold a working meeting with authorities involved in coordinating the necessary actions.



Agenda of the Economic Council discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister on digitalization and the Minister of Economy

On August 12, 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for digitalization Iurie Turcanu and Minister of Economy, Sergiu Gaibu had a working meeting with experts of the Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister of Moldova on the agenda of digitalization of the economy and improvement of business environment.

During discussions, officials were informed about the implementation of items on the Economic Council's agenda and challenges in finding solutions for issues alerted by the business community in Moldova. Thus, experts of the Secretariat of the Economic Council informed members of the government that at the moment an increased focus

within the platform is put on promoting the items of the Roadmap to boost the process of digitization of the national economy and development of electronic commerce.

In this context, officials discussed the possibility of creating an advisory tool to boost the promotion and adoption of items related to the digitization of the economy, addressed by the business community and donor institutions, which support the digitization of G2B relations, but also other economic and social processes. In the same vein, experts from the Economic Council Secretariat noted that the first digitisation package is ready to be promoted in Parliament with experts now focusing on the second legislative package.

The purpose of these documents is to modify some legal provisions that allow the business community of Moldova to interact remotely with a number of state institutions. During the meeting, parties also discussed the government's activity plan for the next 4 years, which is in the process of being developed. Representatives of the executive mentioned that many items in the roadmap and in the Operational Plan of the EC are also present in the government document.

Thus, in order to more effectively promote the agenda of the Economic Council, a number of them will be included in the government's activity plan, the participants noted.

Heads and officials of several state institutions were trained on the implementation of the anti-bribery management system

Trainings, attended by more than 240 representatives of control bodies and issuers of permissive acts, take place in the context of the Prime Minister's decision on the implementation of the international standard ISO 37001:2017 "Anti-Bribery Management Systems. Requirements with a user guide" Courses were held between 20 and 24 September.

Within the framework of the training courses, which have been carried out with the support of the project "Fight against corruption by strengthening integrity in the Republic of Moldova", implemented by UNDP with the financial sup-

port of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, there were trained three types of employees: management, technical staff, and potential internal auditors in the field.

The ISO 37001 standard involves the identification and management of bribery risks in an institution in order to mitigate them, that is, the identification and implementation of actions and measures that would control the risks, and prevention of possible integrity incidents. In support of the implementation of the standard in those 40 institutions with control functions and issuers of documents, a concept and an action plan were prepared with the support of UNDP

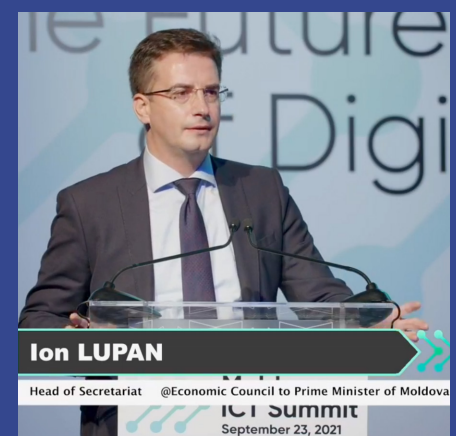
at the request of the Secretariat of the Economic Council, which exercises the functions of the Secretariat of the government working group for the implementation of the anti-bribery standard. The implementation of this Standard should simplify the interaction of business with state control institutions. That is, these bodies will have to strictly follow the rules for conducting checks at companies, and during the process of issuing permissive acts. This means drastically reducing the possibilities of giving and taking bribes, which will lead to a reduction in the costs that businesses and population bear when they get to interact with state institutions.

The Secretariat of the Economic Council participated in Moldova ICT Summit

During the event, held on September 23, 2021, experts of the Secretariat of the Economic Council presented the agenda of activities on which the platform is focussing. A priority, according to the head of the Secretariat of the Economic Council, Ion Lupan is the development and promotion of the roadmap to boost the process of digitization of the national economy and development of e-commerce. The document, developed with the involvement of the Ministry of Economy, refers to 4 major areas: remote interaction and development of electronic services for business; development of electronic commerce and

electronic payments; improvement of customs procedures for online exports and stimulation of postal and courier services and attraction of international e-commerce platforms on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The document also ensures the promotion in the government's action plans of new approaches on the modernization of business interaction with authorities and citizens, the Economic Council contributing to the crystallization of a new vision of digital transformation of the Republic of Moldova. This year's edition of Moldova ICT Summit 2021 was dedicated to digital transformation. Participants discussed the latest trends, opportunities and IT solutions that can be used for business development and the economy in general, as well as for improving the quality of public services. The event was organ-

ized by the Association of IT Companies and in partnership with the Investment Agency of the Republic of Moldova and the German International Cooperation GIZ Moldova and with the support of Tekwill project, which is financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Sweden.

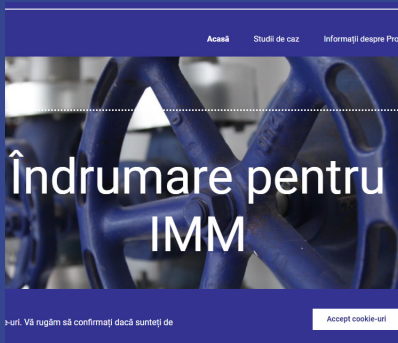


New online platform for small businesses with legal and business guidance



The Secretariat of the Economic Council, together with the Office for Diaspora relations, will prepare a list of experts from the Diaspora from different fields who can be involved, if necessary, in the process of examining several reforms promoted by the Council. This understanding was reached during the work of the 9th Congress of the diaspora, held between 20-23 august 2021. Present at the event, the head of the Secretariat of the Economic Council, Ion Lupan mentioned the Council's collaboration last year with the representative of the diaspora in the UK, expert in financial markets, Dumitru Vicol

in the process of elaborating the Impact Study of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic sectors and the policy matrix for economic recovery. In this context one mentioned the openness of the Secretariat of the Economic Council in the creation of a framework for collaboration with the EBRD. In particular, a list of Diaspora experts on whom the Secretariat could call for advisory services should be prepared. In return, Director of the Office for Diaspora relations Nadejda Zubco thanked the Secretariat of the Economic Council for the initiative, stressing the EBRD's interest in the launched proposal.



New online platform for small businesses with legal and business guidance

On 9 September 2021 the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development launched an online resource www.ghidulafacerii.ebrd.md with legal and business guidance to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to step up their response to new challenges following the Covid-19 pandemic. The website also contains a separate section for Moldova, which provides country-specific legal and financial guidance in the local language, developed with financial support from the UK Government Good Governance Fund. To develop the guidelines for Moldovan enterprises, the EBRD team worked closely with the Secretariat of the Economic Council of the Prime Minister and the Organization for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises sector to create synergies, as well as with other local business associations and organizations.



Policies of economic empowerment of women will be proposed to the authorities for consideration

The Economic Council to the Prime Minister of Moldova in collaboration with UN Women Moldova and with the financial support of Sweden will develop a set of policies for economic empowerment of women that will be proposed to authorities for consideration. The policy proposals will be contained in the roadmap for the economic empowerment of women in the Republic of Moldova.

Topics will be collected from the country's business community, donor organizations and state institutions. The launch of the roadmap was announced during a workshop organized on the Economic Council platform on July 2, 2021. During the event, UN Women Moldova experts presented the analysis of the structure of government interventions during the pandemic period aimed at the private sector.

The analysis showed that a number of state interventions can be reviewed to ensure women's economic empowerment and social inclusion. UN Women Moldova experts also made an analysis of the items on the agenda of the Economic Council and the Matrix with policies for the rehabilitation of economic sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research has shown that a number of measures in the Matrix can be readjusted so that they meet the objective of economic empowerment of women. Based on this assessment, the roadmap for women's economic empowerment will address the following areas: promoting women's entrepreneurship and ensuring equal access to resources; education and skills development; improving access to the labour market and engaging the private and public sector in implementing the principles of women's empowerment.

The obstacles to promoting these areas will be alerted by the 118 members of the Economic Council, who will be able to participate in a survey that will collect all opinions in this regard.

These will be incorporated into the roadmap to be discussed on the Economic Council platform. Subsequently, the document will be proposed for approval by the government or relevant ministries. According to UN Women data, presented at the workshop, only a third of all businesses in the Republic of Moldova are run by women, and in more than 90% of cases, women manage only micro enterprises, and rarely own medium – sized and large businesses-1.3%.

Increased opportunities to attract industrial investment



The Secretariat of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister met on August 24, 2021 with representatives of the administration of Balti Free Economic Zone. FEZ administrator, Marin Ciobanu, presented several opportunities to attract foreign investment in the industrial area, as well as in research and development. It explores solutions to facilitate the creation of an industrial research and development platform.

More foreign investors would be interested in bringing and attracting engineers to launch such activities in Moldova. Such investments would have a chain effect in the

development of human capital in the field of engineering and increase the attractiveness of the Moldovan economy. In addition, opportunities for modernization and digitalization of the activities of small suppliers in Moldova were discussed, in order to connect them with large foreign investors who require more components and services in production, which are currently imported. In this regard, Information Solutions and support for their implementation should be developed, together with quality management systems within moldovan enterprises.

The proposed initiatives would allow the creation of more highly skilled jobs and the growth of high-added-value

domestic production.

The Secretariat of the Economic Council explained the economic development activities it manages and showed interest in identifying opportunities for collaboration with FEZ Balti in order to increase investment activity and collaboration for the prompt implementation of large-scale investment projects in Moldova.

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