

INFOBULLETIN

Secretariat of the Economic Council to
the Prime Minister of the RM

2024

Q4





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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW MEASURES TO DEREGULATE BUSINESS ACTIVITY

In November 2024, the Government approved the deregulation package of legislative amendments no. 7. The amendments will simplify administrative procedures and will result in annual savings for the business community of approximately MDL 11 million. The main changes include: extending the validity of sanitary permits for goods from 1 to 3 years for imported products, similarly to local products; extending simplified licensing requirements for rural pharmacies; significantly reducing the bureaucracy and costs of closing a business; increasing the area of the company name (logotype) from 1 to 3 square metres, which can be placed on the building free of tax without being considered as advertising; allowing shareholders to interact for administrative purposes with electronic documents, and other improvements.

The package was developed by the MEDD with the support of the EC Secretariat and UNDP Moldova.

MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT REDUCES THE BURDEN OF CONTROLS AND RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON BUSINESS

This will be achieved by amending several legislative acts, which will contribute to the development of an attractive business environment that encourages investment and catalyses entrepreneurial initiative. The draft law was approved by the Government in November 2024 and adopted by the Parliament in the first reading in December 2024. The main provisions of the draft relate to amendments to the Law on State Control and sectoral laws on state control, such as those on market supervision and consumer protection, technical supervision, construction, fire prevention, labour relations control, environmental protection, public health supervision, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, food safety, road transport and other areas relevant to business activity.



The amendments were developed by the State Chancellery with the support of the EC Secretariat and the USAID/MISRA project.



SURVEY ON KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN LABOUR FORCE TO RM

The recent National Committee on Migration and Asylum addressed several key issues: mechanisms for gradual integration of foreigners, including displaced persons; immigration policies to attract skilled workers and entrepreneurs; the draft law on the admission, stay and control of foreigners in Moldova; difficulties faced by businesses in recruiting talent. By understanding the specific challenges faced by businesses, all the stakeholders can work together to implement solutions that will develop Moldova's labour market and economic competitiveness. Thus in December 2024, the EC Secretariat had finalised a survey on the challenges faced by companies in recruiting personnel, both domestically and internationally.



The results of the survey have been analysed and a report with recommendations for legislative improvements has been submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for future amendments to the relevant legislation.

DRAFT LAW AMENDING LAW 1540/1998 ON THE PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with a Member of Parliament, has initiated a draft law. This legislation aims to clarify the implementation and reporting requirements for companies under Law 246/2023; and to address inconsistencies resulting from the implementation of EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging waste. The draft also aims to: improve the achievement of recovery targets for packaging waste; respond to requests from businesses; facilitate the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR); ensure reliable data on the traceability of packaging waste. The EC Secretariat and EC members actively participated in the consultation and improvement of this particular draft law.

This legislative initiative was approved in the Parliament in the second reading on 5th December 2024.

INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE PRIVATE SECTOR UNDERSTANDING OF EPR IN MOLDOVA

In order to promote a deeper understanding of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principles among Moldovan companies, the USAID MISRA project, at the initiative of the EC Secretariat, contracted a reputable consulting company in order to conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify shortcomings in the current legal framework for EPR implementation; develop practical recommendations to address the identified legal gaps and improve EPR compliance; produce a user-friendly guide to help Moldovan businesses understand their EPR obligations under existing legislation. Following a meeting organised by the EC Secretariat with key stakeholders to discuss the results of the assessment of Moldova's EPR framework, it was agreed that the Ministry of Environment would incorporate the proposed solutions to address legal gaps in a draft regulation to be submitted for public consultation in early 2025.

GENDER LENS FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING FOR STATE AUTHORITIES

The first authority to benefit from training on Gender Responsive Budgeting was the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The EC Secretariat facilitated the dialogue between the Ministry and UN Women for this exercise. On 19, 25 and 26 November, the Ministry benefited from 3 training sessions and the feedback was very positive.

As a result, the EC Secretariat plans to replicate this exercise for 3 other ministries in the coming months.

GENDER LENS

FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING
FOR STATE AUTHORITIES

Gender
Responsive
Budgeting





ISSUES WE ARE STILL WORKING ON



01 DEREGULATION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY



The EC Secretariat's primary goal here is to considerably improve Moldova's business climate, to boost up the entrepreneurial activism in the country and thus to advance in international economic rankings in order to attract foreign investments. Right now the EC is focused on developing and promoting the so-called deregulation legislative packages aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on businesses by up to 5 bln MDL annually (approx. 1.7% of GDP, compared to the last year's result of approx 1 bln. MDL (0.3% of GDP) in savings for Moldovan businesses through deregulation initiative.

REGULATORY MAPPING ALONG THE LIFECYCLE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES



The EC Secretariat is working on the implementation of the PM's Decision no. 21, dated 23.02.24. The Decision envisaged organising a WG on mapping all regulatory obligations and processes prescribed by regulations along the entire lifecycle of business activity within major economic sectors. PM, ministries, State Chancellery, PM Delivery Unit and ECS are members of the WG. Experts produced draft amendments on the following: crosscutting domains, (related to administrative, registrations, trade and other similar domains), transport regulation, tax, animal agriculture, tourism, wine, construction, environment, labor, pharma, electronics. Numerous meetings have been organised to discuss the proposals, including: PM, DPM / Minister of MEDD, Head of Parliamentary Economic Committee and MPs, Minister of Health, Minister of Finance etc. The ECS facilitated extensive consultations on amendments in "Livestock Agriculture and Food Safety" within WG2, "Facilitating Green Transition and Cross-Border Trade." A set of draft legislative amendments related to cross-cutting areas was presented and discussed during an online meeting under WG1, "Eliminating Constraints in Entrepreneurial Activity." Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and with support from the OPTIM/Helvetas project, the Secretariat developed tax reform proposals, which were discussed at the WG7, "Advisory Council for Small and Medium Enterprises," meeting. On 30.12.2024 the first package of deregulation was submitted for institutional and public consultations. The EC Secretariat is working on the second package to be proposed for consultations.

EU LEGAL HARMONIZATION FOR BUSINESS

The EC Secretariat has continued to implement the State Inspections Reform Action Plan, as approved by the Government Decree 108-d. To this end, the EC has established eight thematic working groups on inspection reform. Experts provided by USAID/MISRA have drafted amendments to sectoral laws, with a view to primarily correcting inspection domains and developing solutions to prevent discretion and lack of proportionality in applying restrictive measures in inspection. The experts also drafted amendments to the Contraventions Code, with the aim of ensuring that offences are justified and fines are proportionate, to the extent possible and degree of participation/responsiveness of relevant ministries

and inspection bodies. Finally, the experts proposed amendments to the Tax Code, with the aim of aligning tax inspection to a number of major better regulation principles, stated in the Law on inspections. The experts are continuing to work with the agencies on revising the checklists. The State Chancellery has launched a consultation process within the National Dispute Resolution Council on the draft amendments developed by the EC Secretariat to revise the risk-based inspection planning methodologies. Once contributions are received, the State Chancellery will propose the draft for formal consultations. The Ministry of Justice is processing proposals on the Contraventions Code from the EC Secretariat.



STATE INSPECTIONS REFORM

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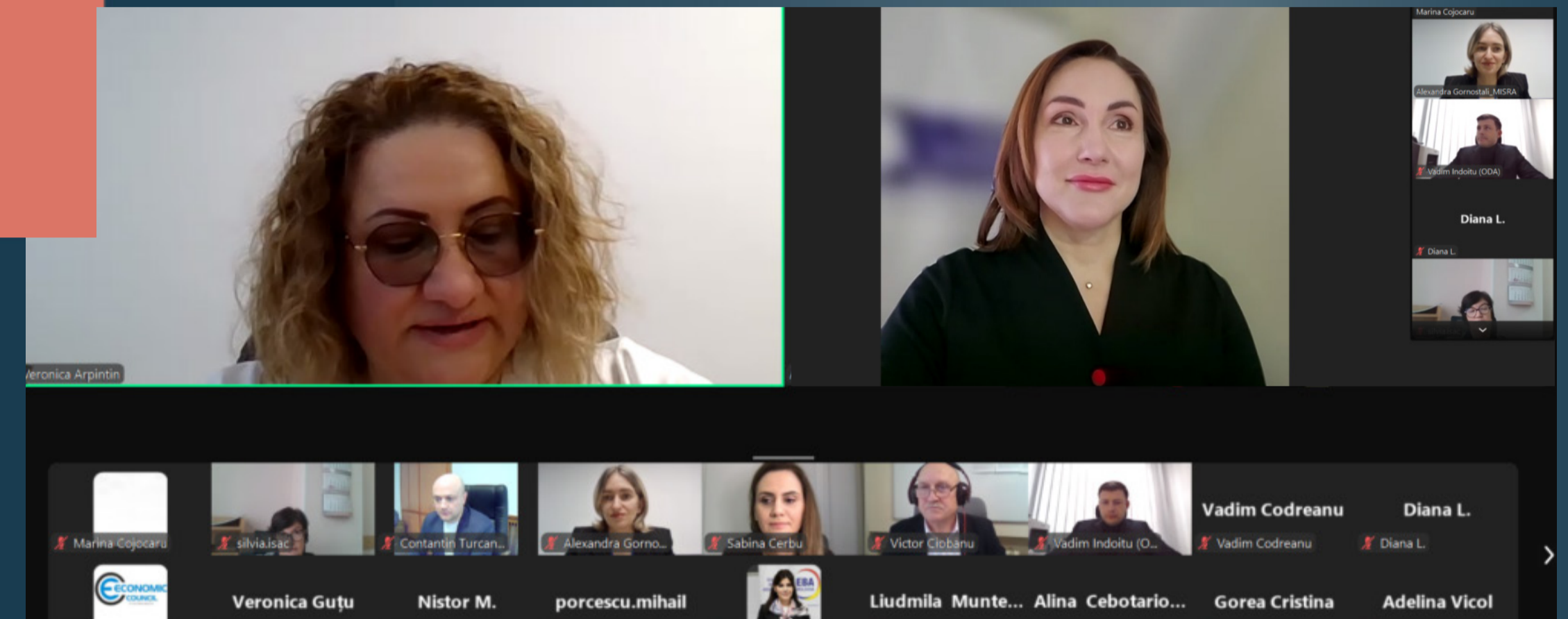
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MEETING ON THE EC PLATFORM TO DISCUSS THE REVISION OF THE LAW ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Economic Council to the Prime Minister hosted a meeting of Working Group 3 “Stimulating and Maintaining Private Investments”. During the meeting, the MEDD presented a draft law on entrepreneurship, developed with the support of MISRA/USAID. This legislative initiative aims to create a modern legal framework that establishes the general principles for conducting entrepreneurial activities in the Republic of Moldova, replacing the current Law No. 845/1992, which is considered obsolete. The current law, adopted over 30 years ago, has been frequently amended through ad-hoc interventions, resulting in contradictions and a lack of a clear structure. The Ministry proposes developing a new law that will establish fundamental principles of entrepreneurial activity. By adopting this law, the authorities aim to create a more friendly and efficient business environment; facilitate access to finance and support business development; increase transparency in the interaction between entrepreneurs and public authorities; and stimulate innovation and sustainability in the national economy. MEDD will continue to ensure public dialogue, which will contribute to improving the legislative draft, including on the platform of the EC.

A screenshot of a presentation slide titled "NECESITATEA INTERVENȚIEI" (The Need for Intervention). The slide contains a list of bullet points in Romanian, detailing the reasons for the need for a new law on entrepreneurship. To the right of the slide is a video feed of a woman with long brown hair, identified as Sabina Cerbu. Below the video feed, a name bar lists participants: Marina Cojocaru, silvia.isac, and Constantin Turcanu M...

- Legea este în vigoare de peste 32 de ani, suferind modificări frecvente prin intervenții punctuale, fără o abordare sistemică, ceea ce a condus la lipsa unei structuri clare;
- Contradicții și lipsa sincronizării cu alte legi (ex. Codul Contravențional, Codul Civil modernizat, Legea nr. 220/2007 privind înregistrarea de stat a persoanelor juridice și a întreprinzătorilor individuali, etc.)
- Existența mai multor norme desuete (ex. întreprinderea de arendă);
- Reglementări duplicitate în special a normelor procedurale ce țin de înregistrarea întreprinderii, operarea modificărilor și dizolvare;
- Existența unor prevederi care nu țin de obiectul de reglementare a unei legi a antreprenoriatului (ex. activitățile financiare ilegale, reglementarea unor contravenții, întreprinderile cu statut de monopol fiscal, etc.)



02 DIGITALIZATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMY



The primary objective of the EC is to facilitate the digitalization of essential public services for businesses in Moldova through the Contactless Business in Moldova Initiative. It was developed to provide the tools for online company creation, administration, and closure in Moldova. This initiative is designed to benefit entrepreneurs and foreign investors, including the diaspora. In this regard, the Council has initiated and promoted two comprehensive legislative packages and a series of secondary legislation proposals. Furthermore, two technical assistance projects were implemented: the development of a remote identification platform (eKYC) and a digital notarization platform (eNotary).



NEW EECONOMY/ECOMMERCE REGULATORY PACKAGE

The EC Secretariat maintains an ongoing public-private dialogue with its members, fostering the generation and collection of proposals to improve the business environment through digital transformation. The latest efforts have gathered a set of regulatory reforms aimed at addressing critical challenges and opportunities, including: mitigating the shortage of IT professionals in the key sectors of the economy; attracting global talent through the introduction of digital nomad-friendly legislation; reforming immigration and work permit regulations to facilitate investment and talent mobility; streamlining remote company registration; expanding the adoption of eKYC tools for secure and efficient digital onboarding; promoting a cashless economy and other digital services to companies; advancing electronic invoicing and enhancing eCommerce frameworks. The Legislative package was advanced to public consultations in July. In October a comprehensive set of proposals and objections was collected. Currently, feedback from the 2-nd round of public consultations is being analyzed and integrated. The draft is being prepared for Governmental approval in January 2025.

ASSESSING MOLDOVA READINESS FOR THE EU REGULATIONS ON DIGITAL MARKETS AND SERVICES, DRAFTING PARTIAL TRANSPOSITIONING LEGISLATION

The EC has prioritized the transposition of the EU Digital Services Act into its agenda, recognizing its significant impact on Moldova's internal digital market. The EC approached this initiative from two key perspectives: assessment of Moldova's current needs and opportunities; drafting legislation to align national regulations with EU DSA regulation. The DMA and DSA assessments and recommendations were prepared with USAID technical assistance and published in March,

after a series of consultations with EC members. Following the recommendations, the EC Secretariat drafted the new law on partial transposition of DSA, submitted to MEDD in May 2024. During a consultation meeting in December, the EU experts expressed general support for the draft law and clarified concerns about non-transposable provisions. The draft is scheduled to be proposed for public consultations in February 2025.



eNOTARY PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

E-Notarization is another essential component for the success of the Contactless Business initiative, due to the role of notary authentication of various transactions required by Moldovan law. The greatest achievement of ECS in this regard was the development, promotion and approval of Law 126/2023, creating the necessary legal framework for electronic notarisation. Following this, the MoJ and Chamber of Notaries requested that EC and EGov Agency provide support for the implementation of the eNotary platform. In January 2024, the EC Secretariat delivered the eNotary Platform Technical Specifications, the Draft Concept of the eNotary Platform, and the Draft Regulation on Maintenance and Use of the Platform to the MoJ. The Ministry formally accepted these documents in July 2024. In September 2024, EC received EBRD approval for implementation support. The MoJ requested an independent review of the Concept prior to its approval. EBRD engaged experts from the Estonian eGovernance Academy, who provided an independent opinion in November that served to improve the Concept and ToR. The WG meeting on approval by the MoJ of the eNotary Portal Concept is planned for January 2025, and the procurement process will follow.



EKYC PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

Contactless business initiative launched by the EC, with MEDD, EBRD and UK-GGF support, requires a trustful and functional digital onboarding tool - Electronic Know Your Client Platform. The deliverables of the 1st stage of this TA project cover regulatory and technical requirements development, and the 2nd stage refers to the eKYC platform development. The Secretariat applied in October 2023 for the UIPAC/WB financing of the development and implementation stage of the eKYC project. The budgeting was approved

in December 2023 (approx. 450'000 Euro). In March 2024 UIPAC initiated a Due diligence on the technical documentation, regulatory framework, and market demand for eKYC services. The study was presented and approved in September 2024, decision was approved in October, and procurement documentation submitted in December for final approval to implementing partner - E-gov Agency. Currently, the partnering organization is working on a series of proposals for the improvement of the acquisition documentation.



AI TO HELP HARMONIZE WITH EU LEGISLATION

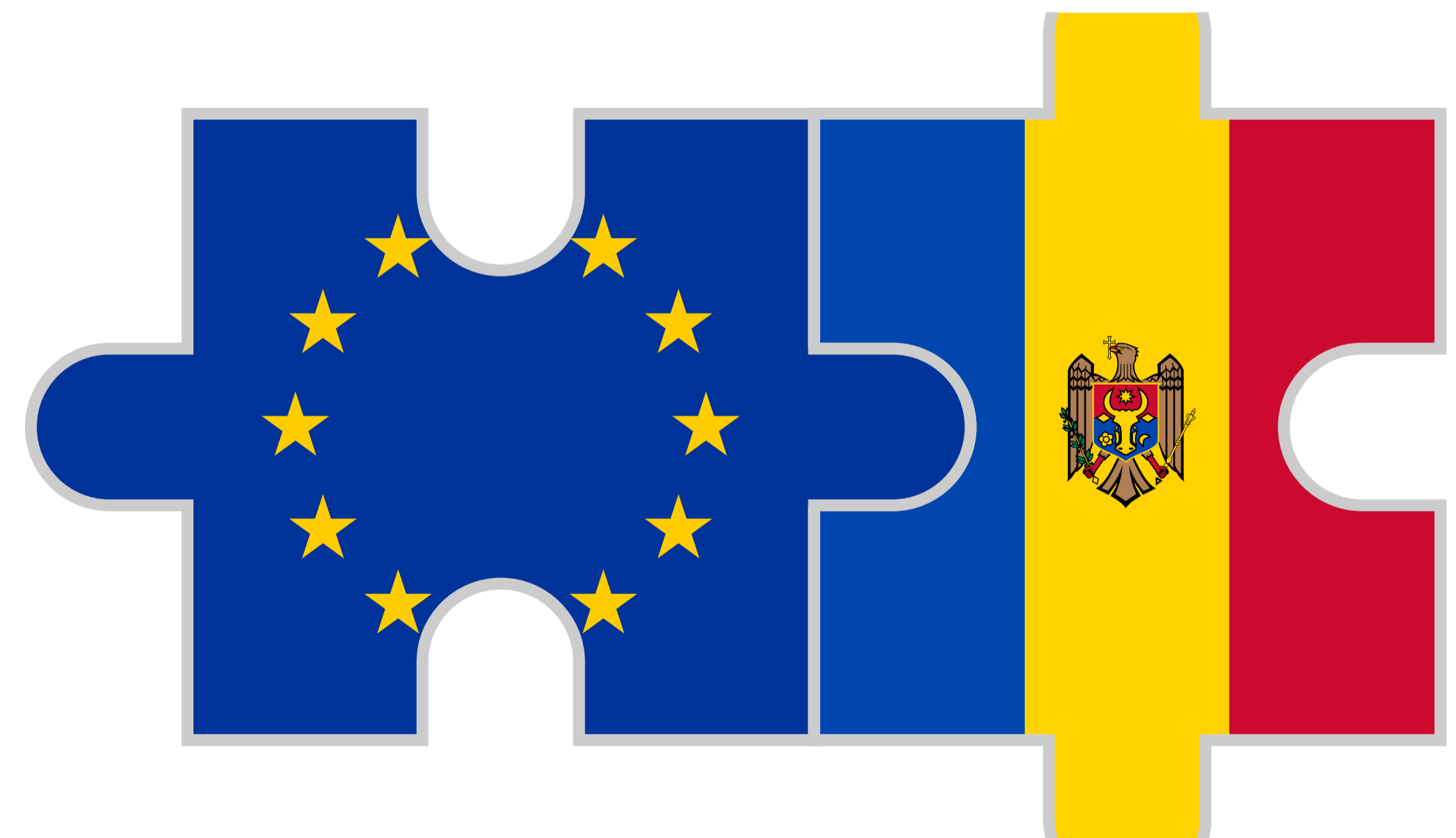
The EU integration process requires Moldova to align its legal framework with over 27,000 European regulatory acts. This is a significant undertaking, especially given the country's limited resources and tight deadlines. To address this challenge effectively, the adoption of cutting-edge technologies is essential.

These technologies can streamline complex analyses, accelerate document processing, and improve the accuracy and efficiency of regulatory alignment efforts, enabling Moldovan authorities to meet integration goals more effectively and within the required timeframe.

The EC Secretariat has initiated and advanced its partnership with a local company and the Ministry of Energy in the development of an AI-based prototype. During this process, an immersive discovery phase was conducted and a prototype of the support tool was developed and tested in September with the MoE's team of experts, who expressed their high appreciation and desire to use it.

In October, the Secretariat showcased the prototype to the EBRD team.

Parallel consultations were held with key partners, including OPTIM/SCO, MISRA/USAID, UNDP, and GIZ, to discuss funding and development opportunities. The initiative is currently under review by the PM's Office. It is positioned as a practical, native language-based and sector-tailored complementary tool to the EU Commission's top-down GenAI solution, which monitors the conformity of member states' legislation (translated into official English) with the EU Acquis.





TRADE INFORMATION PORTAL

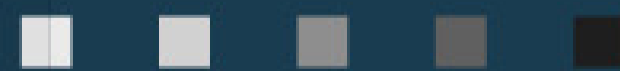
Moldova has entered into various external trade agreements that present significant opportunities for MSMEs. However, these opportunities remain largely untapped due to limited access to trade-related information, inadequate understanding of trade agreements, and difficulties in navigating complex trade regulations.

The initiative to develop a comprehensive Trade Information Portal was launched by UNDP Moldova and consulted with the EC Secretariat to address key barriers faced by MSMEs. The Secretariat contributed to the initial conceptualization and ToR development, between January and March 2024 and reconsidered it in December, after a contradictory approach by local stakeholders. In December, at a stakeholders meeting initiated by the Secretariat, with participation of

the MEDD, Investment Agency, Customs Service and UNDP, it was agreed to update and enhance the existing portal, currently maintained by the Customs Service at <https://trade.gov.md/ro>. The updated portal will integrate contributions from stakeholders, as well as integrate advanced features, such as interactive chatbots and mobile-friendly functionality on BizRadar platform.



03 TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY



Moldova's transition to a green economy is crucial for addressing environmental challenges, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing energy security. This transition will create a more prosperous and resilient nation for generations to come. The EC Secretariat actively participates in initiatives promoting green and circular economies, ensuring transparent and inclusive policy development. Currently, the Secretariat focuses on implementing the Action plan of the Program on Promotion of Green and Circular Economy for 2024-2028, and the Regulatory Sandbox for Energy Innovation.



MOLDOVA'S ENERGY SANDBOX - PHASE 2

The newly enacted innovative energy regulatory testing spaces (Sandbox) law empowers the Ministry of Energy to establish a controlled environment within the energy sector. This “sandbox” will feature temporary, customised rules for a specific geographic area or market participants, facilitating the testing and implementation of innovative energy solutions. By leveraging modern market design and digital tools, Moldova aims to overcome regulatory hurdles and foster a culture of innovation in its energy sector. The EC Secretariat supported the ME throughout the drafting and promotion of the Sandbox law, facilitating transparent and participatory consultations with its members and ensuring that the final legislation reflects diverse perspectives and expertise. Before final adoption, the draft regulation is subject to a comprehensive review. This includes obtaining compatibility assessments from the Centre for Harmonisation of Legislation, as well as inputs/ opinions from several stakeholders. Following this review, the improved draft will be submitted to the Government for final approval. The EC Secretariat has committed to assist the Ministry of Energy in disseminating information on the new regulation and raising awareness among the business community.

THE PRIME MINISTER MEETS BUSINESSES TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY CRISIS

The EC Secretariat participated in a meeting of the PM with representatives of major companies and business associations. The main focus was on strategies to mitigate the impact of energy supply disruptions, in particular following the bombing of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Key discussions centred on: the need for companies to adapt to market-based pricing for electricity, similar to the existing model for natural gas; plans to create an independent electricity supply infrastructure by the end of 2025; the introduction of a compensation scheme for businesses, similar to the existing scheme for citizens; encouraging businesses to shift energy-intensive activities to off-peak (night) hours to reduce consumption during peak demand periods; encouraging companies to take advantage of government subsidies for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, particularly in the photovoltaic and wind energy sectors.





DIALOGUE WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The EC Secretariat supported a dialogue between the Deputy Prime Minister / Minister of Agriculture and agribusiness associations. The meeting facilitated discussions between producers, processors and the Ministry's leadership to identify solutions to industry challenges. The first edition of the Agro Business Climate Briefing, prepared by EBA Moldova, a member of the Economic Council, with the support of agribusiness associations, was presented. The Ministry also presented some legislative initiatives developed to address these issues, taking into account the ongoing process of legislative transposition and Moldova's European path.

MEETING ON GREEN FINANCING

The EC Secretariat supported the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation in organising a meeting with key stakeholders, including the Association of Banks, the National Bank of Moldova, commercial banks and Entrepreneurship Development Organization (ODA) representatives. The aim of the meeting was to address green financing issues and foster cooperation for a sustainable economic transition. Focusing on the implementation and promotion of environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles, participants explored ways in which public authorities, the banking sector and the business community can work together to create an effective framework for a green transition.

ESG TASK FORCE REVIEWS PROGRESS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The EC Secretariat participated in the year-end meeting of the ESG Task Force. Key activities during the meeting included: assessing the achievements and outcomes of various ESG initiatives, such as the USAID FTA project, the UNDP Green Transition project and the Sustainable Moldova campaign; facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices among stakeholders involved in the ESG agenda; outlining the next steps and priorities for implementing the ESG agenda at the national level.

CONTRIBUTION TO UNECE GUIDELINES ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The EC Secretariat contributed to the completion of a questionnaire on UNECE Guidelines for promoting Circular Economy in Public-Private Partnerships for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative aligns with SDGs and Moldova's 2024-2028 Green and Circular Economy Programme, supporting innovation in resource utilization, local material recycling, and waste reduction. By participating, Moldova gained valuable insights to strengthen its alignment with SDGs and EU standards.



04 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY



Statistics show that women represent 52% of the population and only 47% are part of the labour market. From the total number of businesses, only 33.9% are run or managed by women. Also, there is a gender pay gap of around 15% less income than men, which leads to 37% difference in retirement pension. Based on these assessments, the newly established National Council for Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality aims to engage more women in the economic circuit, boost the number of women-lead businesses and significantly reduce the GPG. The measures to be taken in this respect are provided in the NCEEGE Roadmap, with concrete KPI's, stakeholders and terms of implementation.



THE ROADMAP ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Roadmap is a sustainable instrument for the involvement of business associations, civil society, the donor community, and government agencies in promoting initiatives aimed at increasing the role of women in the economy and addressing actions related to gender equality. The roadmap consists of 41 specific activities with KPIs and stakeholders. Approximately 75% of the provided actions have been completed/are in the implementation phase. The most recent accomplished activities are: the Entrepreneurial Marathon has been launched in 10 pilot-schools, the presentation of the Concept of the digital platform Finantare.ai was done at the annual UN Women Moldova Conference, the presentation of the progress of the Roadmap at the WG9 meeting, and others.

DIGITAL PLATFORM PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACCESS TO FINANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES

Based on an assessment exercise and the repeated requests of women, we have identified the need for a single online platform, providing the relevant information regarding the access to finance for women who intend to start a business or who already run a business. The discovery phase has been duly performed. The concept of the platform was presented at

the annual UN Women Conference on Gender-Sensitive approaches to Women's Financial Empowerment, on December 6, 2024. The platform Finantare.ai is expected to be launched before summer 2025.



SUPPORT AND RESOCIALIZATION OF IMPRISONED WOMEN

The concept is about providing psychological, legal, mentor etc support to women in prison who have a maximum of 24 months before their release. These women will also receive vocational training to empower them and help them integrate into society and the economic ecosystem. Following the extended meeting with all relevant stakeholders, held in November, a Roadmap regarding further actions has been drafted. Based on this, it was decided to create a digital class for the imprisoned women, thus the Orange Foundation will donate 20 laptops in January and currently is elaborating, jointly with the National Penitentiary Authority, the curriculum for the digital courses. Also, the State Chancellery will donate the necessary pieces of furniture (desks, chairs, cupboards) for the full equipment of the digital class. Active discussions are being held with an apparel manufacturer, in order to operate on the territory of the prison, thus creating jobs for imprisoned women. The final target is the approval of a National Program on Social Reintegration of Imprisoned Women, so that the activities provided by the Roadmap were binding and implemented.



INTEGRATING 100 WOMEN IN BPO SECTOR

Following a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, 100 Moldovan women from the country's regions will be trained to work in the BPO sector in the RM. The ECS participated at the Cahul IT Connect, Dialogue on the future of the IT industry in Cahul, on 24 October. During the event, the State Secretary of the MEDD and the Director of Moldova IT Park discussed the benefits and opportunities offered to IT companies by government organisations and presented the Concept of integrating 100 Women

in the BPO sector. Also, the Gender Expert had discussions with potential partners, obtaining some confirmations on provision of free premises for the training. Also, a meeting was held with the representative of the BPO company, partner to this project, in order to discuss the necessary curriculum, in order to advance with the project.



MEETING WITH HE FERN HORINE, UK AMBASSADOR

The EC Secretariat attended a meeting with HE Fern Horine, UK Ambassador, organized on the platform of the Moldovan Women Entrepreneurs Association (AFAM), on December, 9th. Thus, the activities provided by the NCEEGE Roadmap, with special attention to those related to the empowerment of women - victims of domestic violence, were tackled during the discussions.



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY MEETING

The event tackled the initiatives dedicated to economic opportunities for women, highlighting successes, best practices and examples of advocacy to promote economic empowerment, gender equality and leadership, bringing together opinion leaders, entrepreneurs, public and private sector representatives from

Moldova and Romania. During the event, the progress of the NCEEGE Roadmap for the first 6 months since its adoption was presented.



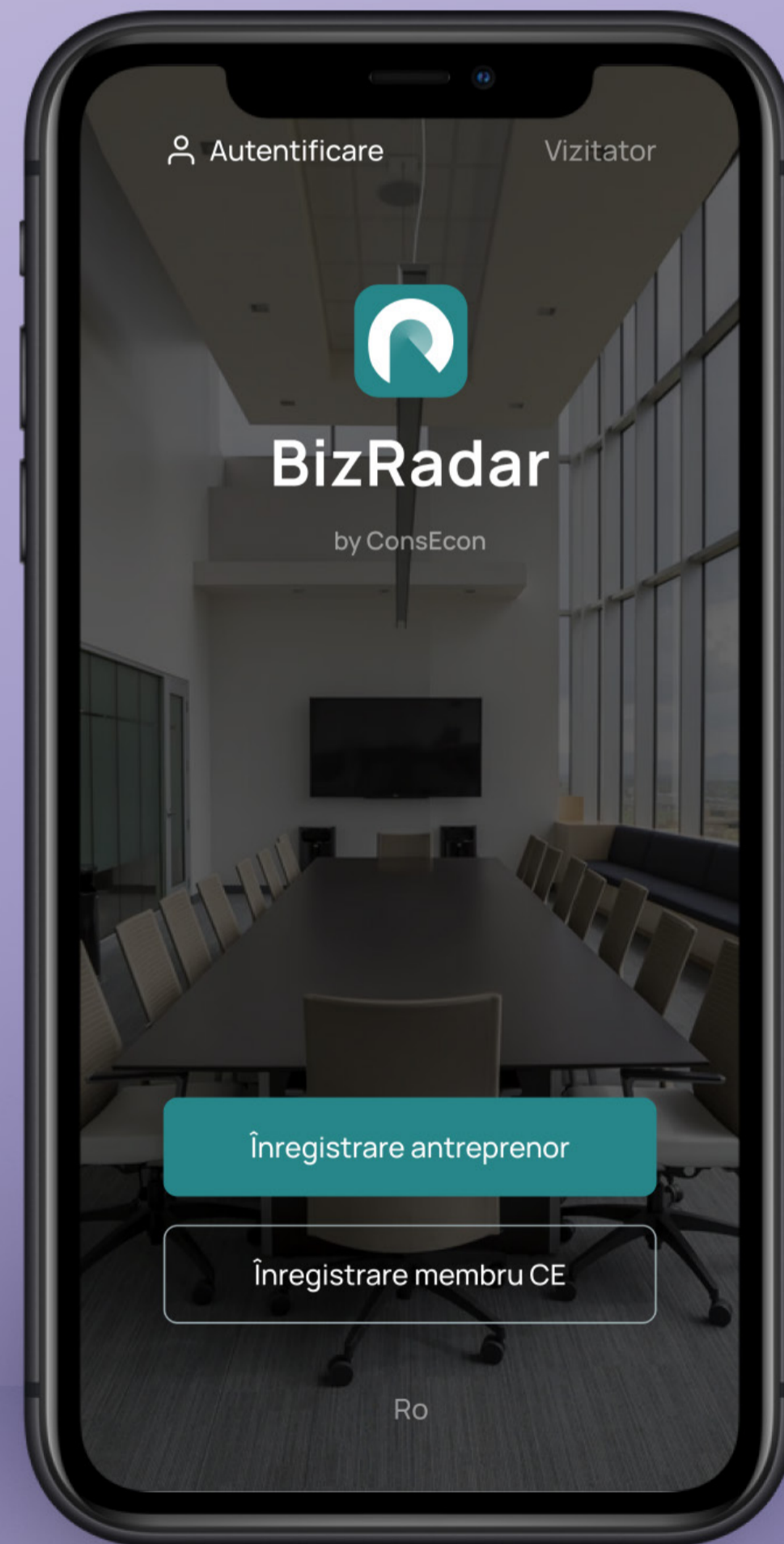


BUILDING PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE



The EC Secretariat is fostering the PPD by regularly organising meetings on the EC platform that provide a unique opportunity for various stakeholders, including government officials, business associations, donors institutions and representatives of research institutions, to come together and discuss important and problematic economic issues. In the last 3 months we have organised a total number of 41 meetings (of which 9 meetings of the permanent Working Groups), that were attended by 645 participants. These figures highlight the growing engagement and the impact of the platform in addressing relevant issues and supporting the decision-making process. Additionally, on December 27, 2024, Prime Minister Dorin Recean met with representatives of major companies and business associations, members of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister, to discuss concrete measures for adjusting energy consumption at the enterprise level and state support for the business environment.

BIZRADAR SOFTWARE



Digitization of direct interaction between authorities and the business community is the main goal of the mobile application “Virtual business community” BizRadar, developed by the EC Secretariat. BizRadar has 4 modules: informative and interactive with useful regulatory initiatives news; fast online surveys; evaluation/assessment of the efficiency of public institutions in the form of a ranking; reporting of irregularities and misuse of power caused by public institutions. The current total number of users of the application is 2185, an increase of 111 users in the last month. The application’s content continues to be diversified, with relevant topics from daily updates provided by institutions and regulatory bodies being effectively incorporated. These updates offer valuable insights for entrepreneurs in their respective fields, ensuring that the content remains both pertinent and beneficial. A draft application promotion plan for 2025 has been formulated. The document has been sent to the OPTIM Project team with the objective of facilitating ongoing collaboration in 2025 and approval is currently awaited.

DPM D. ALAIBA MEETS WITH MARKETS' ADMINISTRATORS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND IMPROVE REGULATIONS

The EC Secretariat participated in a meeting convened by the DPM Alaiba with market administrators from 15 districts across Moldova. The meeting focused on addressing the challenges faced by market administrators in their daily work and identifying solutions. During the meeting, the administrators raised a number of concerns, highlighting in particular the challenges posed by outdated or inadequate legislation. Following the meeting, the Secretariat will collect and summarise the information gathered from all participants. Subsequently, the MEDD, in cooperation with the EC and relevant institutions, will analyse this information and develop amendments to improve the regulatory framework for market operations.

WG2 MEETING ON CUSTOMS GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS

The EC Secretariat organized a meeting of the WG2 Trade Facilitation and green transition, to discuss with businesses their compliance with customs guarantee requirements as outlined in the Customs Code. According to it, guarantees issued before January 1, 2024, will remain valid until December 31, 2024, without the need for additional authorization. To ensure uninterrupted economic activity, the companies holding global guarantees must take specific actions. The Customs Service, at the request of the EC Secretariat, outlined these measures during the meeting.



SKILLING UP MOLDOVA: EC SECRETARIAT AND GIZ JOIN FORCES TO ENHANCE VET

The EC Secretariat held a meeting with GIZ to discuss the current state of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Moldova. The meeting reviewed recent advancements and government initiatives aimed at improving the VET system. Participants identified and discussed key challenges facing the VET sector, including: the gap between skills taught and the demands of the labor market; limited access to quality equipment and technology, and insufficient funding for institutions; lack of qualified instructors. The EC Secretariat in collaboration with GIZ and other development partners, will continue to work towards modernizing VET programs, improving infrastructure, and strengthening partnerships with the private sector to enhance the effectiveness of VET in Moldova.

WORLD BANK'S COUNTRY ECONOMIC MEMORANDUM (CEM) FOR MOLDOVA

The World Bank's CEM was unveiled in Chisinau on November 25th. The document shows the present economic challenges and the opportunities which Moldova can turn to account, in order to boost the development of the economy. The EC Secretariat highlighted that when it comes to enabling the private sector, the EC plays an important role to improve the business climate. Its immediate priorities in this sense are: EU harmonization for business regulation: risks and opportunities, and deregulating business activity: mapping, eliminating bottlenecks etc. Estimated potential annual savings to businesses out of these activities are equivalent to approx. 2% of GDP.





CONTACT US

Phone: 022-250-373

E-mail: consecon@gov.md

Office: Chişinău, Piaţa Marii Adunări Naţionale, 1

Site: consecon.gov.md
