



Ministerul Afacerilor Interne al Republicii Moldova
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova



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Dear Ms. Algayerova,

On behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and on my own, I would like to present my compliments to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and to you personally.

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova was appointed the national coordinator of the process of voluntary reporting on the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regulated migration.

In this regard, the *Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration* was approved on 22.09.2020 by the Commission for the coordination of activities in the field of migration and asylum, established by the Government Decision no. 947/2018.

It is worthy to point out that this detail-oriented document was developed based on the contribution of the relevant national authorities and organizations with competences in the field, with direct support in information gathering and report making of the International Organization for Migration.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, please find enclosed the *Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration*.

Please allow me to address our sincere compliments with the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, wishing you good health, happiness and great achievements in your noble tasks.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity, dear Ms. Algayerova, the assurance of my highest consideration and esteem.

Annex: Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration - 14 pages.

Sincerely yours,

State Secretary

Gheorghe BĂLAN

Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

National Voluntary Review Report on the status of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration implementation by the Republic of Moldova

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I. Methodology (suggested 500 words)

With the initiation of activities related to developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Republic of Moldova (RM) has become an active supporter, making relevant contributions to the document drafting process. In this context, national priorities were identified and formulated through a participatory process which included two consultation workshops in November 2018. This process informed the society about RM's attendance of the GCM Marrakech Summit and the adoption of the GCM in December 2018. The country has implemented a series of strategic coordination and institutional monitoring measures since the document's adoption to date, to progress in achieving the 23 objectives of the GCM.

Proceeding from international commitment in this regard, at the end of this June the Government of Moldova confirmed its interest in preparing and carrying out the first voluntary review in the context of GCM's implementation.

The aim of the National Voluntary Review Report on the status of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GSM) implementation is to provide information on the progress achieved by the Republic of Moldova in managing migration processes, focusing particularly on the results obtained with respect to the GCM's objectives since its adoption in December 2018, the reference point being also the concomitant adoption of the Agenda 2030.

Conducting the exercise of voluntary reporting is a complex process through which a country presents its achievements and performances in various areas related to the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Furthermore, it evaluates the current situation and identifies problems for a better vectoring and adjustment of measures and implications in the process of meeting the commitments made.

Being a new and complex exercise for the Republic of Moldova, its accomplishment from methodological perspective was based on the envisaged Action Plan for managing the development of the national voluntary review Report on the status of the GCM implementation, approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs which has assumed the role of the process coordinator¹. The Action Plan clearly specified the stages of the respective process, the actions therein, the timeline of their delivery, the entities directly responsible for the implementation of each specific action, as well as the relevant partners (CPA, LPA and the civil society), so as to ensure transparency and a participatory approach.

Consequently, two working groups were created as part of an extended participatory process. They agreed upon the details of carrying out a national voluntary review, proceeding from the general provisions of the Action Plan. Furthermore, a Migration Task Force of the United Nations Country Team was set up in June 2019 (UNCT MTF). It brings together all resident UN agencies and also serves as a platform to engage NGOs and other entities in view of ensuring an integrated and whole-of-society approach in migration management and GCM's implementation. The MTF, through its activity, contributes to capacity building of the UN country team in order to provide efficient, timely and coordinated support to the RM Government with regard to facilitating the fulfillment of SDG objectives linked to migration, the implementation, monitoring and review of the GCM and the United Nations – Republic of Moldova Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022 (UN PFSD).

The actual evaluation process was conducted by applying the following interconnected methods: desk review, data collection, and compilation. Desk review encompassed the overview of regulatory and analytical information (at central and local level) which is publically available on the web pages of public institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. Data collection was done with the help of two feedback collection forms regarding evolutions and achievements in the context of the GCM's objectives, which were specifically developed for this purpose (for public institutions and other involved actors). Contributions of relevant governmental agencies, NGOs and a series of UN agencies were processed and compiled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

II. Policy and enabling environment (suggested 1500 words)

The Republic of Moldova has a well-developed institutional and policy framework in the area of migration management. This fact is confirmed by the presence of the necessary enabling environment to ensure the achievement of the GCM's objectives.

Institutional framework

A series of public institutions are entirely responsible for the implementation of activities related to safe, orderly and regular migration in all the complexity of the phenomenon.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (MHLSP) takes actions directed to negotiating and signing bilateral agreements to regulate flows of migrant workers and ensure their protection in the context of the GCM.

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

The Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure (MEI) is in charge of an area related to the GCM, which is the business environment development through streamlining the regulatory framework for entrepreneurship, the Small and Medium Enterprise sector, tourism and domestic trade.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR) is empowered to regulate aspects related to negotiating and signing bilateral agreements with respect to academic mobility, recognition of academic credentials issued abroad, authentication of academic credentials issued in the Republic of Moldova, and validation and certification of knowledge and skills acquired in the context of non-formal education.

The Diaspora Relations Bureau (DRB) is responsible for coordination of diaspora-related policies and programs at the level of the Government and ministries, aiming at building a continuous dialogue with the Moldovan diaspora.

The Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the MIA is accountable for developing and implementing the state migration and asylum policy on, as well as integration procedures, monitoring of stay, and implementation of readmission agreements. The Bureau has been appointed to develop the Extended Migration Profile Report².

The National Employment Agency (NEA) has powers and duties in the field of employment and migration, promotion of employment, and unemployment insurance³, being responsible for the

^a NEA

implementation and coordination of activities within the framework of bilateral agreements between the Republic of Moldova and other countries, enforcement of and compliance with legal provisions on labor migration, as well as monitoring the activities of private employment agencies.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the central statistical authority and the main producer of official public statistics which coordinates the development and production of official national statistics, including statistics on population and migration, with the right to access and use administrative data sources, including sources containing individual data³.

The Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (CCTHB) is a specialized subdivision that reports to the National Investigation Inspectorate of the General Police Inspectorate. It has the mission to investigate, prosecute and prevent trafficking in human beings and related cross-border crimes character of major complexity and increased risk^b.

The General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP) has the following functions of state border crossing surveillance and control: maintaining the state border regime, the border area and border crossing points regimes; ensuring aeronautical security; combating illegal migration and cross-border crime.

In the field of reference, the *Public Services Agency (ASP)* has competencies regarding state records and state information resources, including population and civil status records. Also, the institution manages the national archive fund, produces controlled issue forms and state signs, and holds the State Population Register.

The said institutions, through fulfilling specific functions, carry out activities that contribute to achieving the GCM's objectives, ensuring Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and achieving the SDGs with reference to migration.

The Republic of Moldova also has a comprehensive migration coordination mechanism that applies the whole-of-government approach to migration. This includes various levels: inter-ministerial commissions and committees, working groups with various moderators etc. Thus, a Commission for Migration and Asylum Coordination was created to monitor and coordinate activities in the field of migration, asylum, statelessness and integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, as well as to ensure a uniform and coherent application of governmental policies in this area⁴. In addition, an Interministerial Committee on Diaspora, Migration and Development was established. Its Interministerial Working Group (IWG) consists of experts from state institutions with powers in the field who, among other things, advise relevant NGOs (specifically the Charity Center for Refugees, the Law Center of Lawyers^c and the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova) to ensure coherent and participatory M&E processes and implementation of an integrated approach to Diaspora, Migration and Development (DMD)⁵.

Achievements at policy level

A series of activities and major achievements in terms of policies and initiatives implemented in compliance with the 23 objectives assumed by the country have been registered since the adoption of the GCM. Consequently, the new National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030"⁶ addresses a wide range of the GCM's dimensions (objectives 5, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23). They will also be integrated in the major strategic documents in the area, such as the National Migration and Asylum

^b CCTHB

^c LCL

Strategy 2020-2030 and the Action Plan for the National Strategy "Diaspora-2025". Both documents are in the course of development and approval.

Changes have been made to the regulatory and institutional framework of labor migration⁷ related to certification of private employment agencies and monitoring their activities with the purpose to eliminate illegal recruitment and employment and reduce labor exploitation abroad (GCM's objective 6). Labor market liberalization for foreigners in certain sectors of the economy and simplified admission and documentation procedures for those who want to work or invest in the Republic of Moldova⁸ were achieved (GCM's objectives 5 and 18).

A series of other activities and governmental programs have been launched and major achievements have been implemented. They are also ongoing. Therefore, in recognition of the important partner role migrants' communities and diasporas play in the country's development, the period of implementation of the Program for attracting remittances into the economy "PARE 1+1"⁹ has been extended until 2021, the third round of the governmental thematic grants program "Diaspora Engagement Hub"¹⁰ was carried out, and the governmental program „DAR 1+3 – Diaspora Succeeds at Home”¹¹ has been launched for 2019-2025 (GCM's objectives 18, 19 and 20).

Challenges and gaps

The main challenges to obtaining some qualitative and relevant data were bureaucratic, administrative and legislative impediments which limit or even block access to individual/personal data from administrative sources (objective 1). Thus, the Law 133/2011 on personal data protection is used frequently to justify the refuse for the NBS's access to these data, albeit the institution has the obligation to continue reforming the national statistical system in compliance with the *Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union*¹² and also to make efforts towards continuous alignment with the EU acquis in the statistical field on the basis of the *National Statistical System Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova*¹³, with due account for the development of the European Statistical System.^d

The need to ensure a high level of citizen awareness of safe and regular migration tendencies is one of the constant challenges in studies conducted in the field (objective 17). There has been a low level of information, particularly on irregular migrant workers, lack of regulations on employer liability, and implementation mechanisms (objectives 3, 5, 6 and 7).

It is important to constantly diversify and improve services offered to migrants and their families through developing information systems, enabling electronic services, especially those related to determining the legal status, and ensuring the socio-economic rights of migrants (objectives 3, 4, 15 and 16).

It is necessary to ensure ongoing participation in negotiating agreements and signing new treaties on migration at the government level at the same time (objectives 7, 22 and 23).

A constant priority for the institutions charged with preventing and combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings (THB), such as proper information on legal migration, is to develop national partnership and to strengthen collaboration with development partners (objectives 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 23). Development partners (OSCE Mission and IOM in Moldova, USA Embassy in Moldova, GRETA experts, International Center „La Strada”, CNPAC, ICMPD etc.) continued to provide

^d NBS

support in training professionals in the field and informing the general public about the risks and consequences of THB by developing, publishing and distributing information materials during 2019.

Taking into consideration an increased number of illegal/irregular migrants (potential victims of organized illegal migration) identified at the state border or on the RM territory over the last years, who come from third countries that do not have any relationships with the Republic of Moldova, starting a dialogue with representatives of respective countries on preventing and combating irregular migration and cross-border crimes is a current priority (objectives 9, 10, 11 and 23).

In addition, a priority is the negotiation and signing of readmission agreements with third countries of origin of irregular migrants detained at the border or within the territory of the Republic of Moldova (objectives 11, 13, 21 and 23)^e.

III. Progress on GCM objectives (suggested 2000 words)

The Republic of Moldova has achieved significant progress with reference to a series of objectives out of those 23 stipulated in the document since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Among the most important achievements, from the perspective of registered policies related to efficient migration management in the context of the GCM, the following could be listed.

In 2018-2019, an analysis of international migration was performed based on data on state border crossings by individuals, using international recommendations and standards and applying the methodology developed with the support of IOM. This helped improve statistical evidence in the respective context and estimate the number of population with usual residence in the country¹⁴ (objective 1).

A new EU-aligned legal framework in the field of employment¹⁵ aiming at increasing the level of employment and minimizing the factors that boost labor migration processes was adopted and is being implemented as of 10.02.2019. The law contains a separate chapter on the development, coordination, implementation and control of policy on employment promotion and labor migration, which regulates and monitors the activity of private recruitment and employment agencies abroad, promotes diversified active measures of employment of unemployed and returned migrants (objectives 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15 and 18).

An agreement between the Moldovan and the Bulgarian governments on labor migration regulation (in force since 11 September 2018) was signed on 18 June 2018. This was the 7th agreement in this area signed by the Republic of Moldova. 68 persons are now employed on the territory of Bulgaria on the basis of the Moldovan–Bulgarian agreement: 58 were employed in 2019 and 10 in 2020^f (objectives 3, 5, 6, 7 and 23).

It is worth mentioning that awareness raising activities designed to inform migrant workers about contract terms, working and living conditions and other obligations deriving from employment relationships are indispensable elements in the framework of those agreements. Negotiations have continued on updating agreements with the Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus and the Italian

^e GIBP

^f NEA

Republic, extending the existing agreement with the State of Israel (signed in 2012) related to home care and the one with Germany on collaboration in the field of labor migration¹⁶ (objectives 3, 5, 6, 7 and 23).

An important aspect in managing migration processes and maintaining visa free regime with EU member states depends on Moldova's fulfilment of its commitments within the framework of the Readmission Agreement with the EU and third countries.

Currently, Moldova has signed 13 agreements on readmission of persons residing without authorisation (*European Community, Swiss Confederation, Kingdom of Denmark, Kingdom of Norway, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine*) and 23 additional Protocols. At the same time, special emphasis is placed on the recently launched negotiation of 6 new agreements (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan).

The Republic of Moldova has maintained a positive dynamic of indicators related to readmission applications received from its partners in the EU, identification of persons, information on transfer and providing transfer of persons over the years 2018, 2019 and 1H 2020. In 2018, 492 readmission applications were examined, in 2019 – 593 readmission applications (growing by appr. 17%), and in 1H 2020 – 289 applications (objectives 7, 8, 21 and 23).

A series of modifications related to integration of foreigners¹⁷ were operated. They define the necessary integration activities (specialized information sessions, socio-cultural adaptation sessions, official language learning courses, information/counselling on ways of access to the labor market, career guidance services in view of facilitating economic integration, information/counselling on acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Moldova, introduction of specialized information sessions) (objectives 3, 7, 15, 16 and 18). It is worth mentioning that Moldovan education is becoming attractive for foreigners. According to official statistics, the number of foreign students in the academic year 2019/20 was 4,600 persons, which is 500 students more comparing to the previous academic year. Every second foreign student studied healthcare. The most foreign students come from Romania (40.1%), Israel (35.6%), India (12.1%), Ukraine (2.6%), USA (1.7%) and Turkey (1.4%)⁸.

Amendments to the regulatory framework related to labor migration and terms of foreigners' stay in the Republic of Moldova were initiated.¹⁸ The labor market was liberalized for foreigners in certain priority areas of the national economy, and immigration procedures were simplified for those who want to work or invest in the Republic of Moldova (objectives 5 and 7). In 2019, 28.74% or 2,445 out of the 8,506 foreigners with temporary resident permits were issued resident permits for employment purposes (in 2018 it was 1,150 people out of a total of 6,349).

According to the Public Services Agency, the number of foreigners who were granted valid residence permits constituted 18,874 persons, out of which 6,476 foreigners held permanent residence permits, while 12,398 – temporary residence permits. Documented foreigners enjoy the same rights and obligations as citizens of the Republic of Moldova, with the exceptions provide for by the regulatory framework.

⁸ NBS, Activity of higher education institutions in the academic year 2019/20, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6547>

In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, immigration procedures were modified to grant exemptions during the emergency period so as to protect the rights of foreigners who had not met the administrative requirements on immigration (objectives 5 and 13).

During 2019-2020, the regulatory and institutional framework of labor migration management was amended¹⁹ to ensure certification and efficient monitoring of the private employment sector to eliminate illegal recruitment and employment and diminish labor exploitation abroad. In 2019, 5,685 individual work contracts were signed with citizens employed abroad through private agencies, which constitutes a growth of 82.8 pp comparing with 2018, and 2,369 contracts were registered in the first six months of 2020^h (objectives 6 and 7).

A mechanism for recognition and certification of skills acquired in the context of informal and non-formal education²⁰ was tested and approved (objective 18). During 2018-2019, an Inter-institutional Reference Mechanism for integration of foreigners and reintegration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova returned from abroad (IRM)²¹ was piloted and institutionalized at the national level²² and at the level of political subdivisions. To stimulate the voluntary return and to support the social and economic reintegration of Moldovan nationals staying on the territory of the French Republic, a Framework Partnership Agreement between the MHLSP and the French Office for Immigration and Integration was signed on 2 October 2017 and is being implemented (objectives 16 and 21)ⁱ.

Public services under being constantly improved and developed: favorable conditions are created for their high quality delivery through those 39 multifunctional centers opened over 2018-2019, including diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova, which operate as one-stop-shops, and operational processes are being streamlined and simplified (objective 15).

During 2019-2020, amendments were made to the regulatory framework relating to such issues as citizenship, issuance of identity documents, and population records, putting in circulation new models of improved identity documents with additional security elements (43 models) and optimizing the delivery of these public services, including to Moldovan citizens abroad.

During 2018-2019 and within the first half of 2020, 76,597 services were provided through diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova to Moldovan citizens concerning the issue of identity documents by the national passport system (passports issued in 2018 – 25,210, in 2019 – 27,597, in 1H 2019 – 15,220, in 1H 2020 – 7,932; identity cards issued in 2018 – 6,639, in 2019 – 7,093, in 1H 2019 – 3,689, in 1H 2020 – 2,126) (objectives 4, 14 and 21).

A bilateral social security agreement with the Republic of Belarus was signed in 2019 pursuant to the obligations assumed through ratification of Article 12 of the revised European Social Charter²³. This was the 14th agreement signed by the Republic of Moldova. 5 more agreements with the Italian Republic²⁴, the Russian Federation, Spain²⁵, Greece²⁶ and Estonia²⁷ are in the process of negotiation (objectives 22 and 23).

Activities related to development and/or implementation of automated information systems were carried out, such as the Automated Facial Recognition Information System "Back Office FRS". They underpin operational processes of population documentation services delivery, interaction with systems of other institutions and authorities that keep records of persons whose right to free movement has been temporarily suspended under the law, and control of data that ensure that

^h NEA

ⁱ MHLSP

identification documents are issued on legal grounds. Most specifically, starting with 2019, the interconnection to the “Wanted Persons” outline of the automatized informational systems “Register of forensic and criminological information” of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was implemented (objectives 1 and 23).

Furthermore, starting from 2018, a new strategic framework is being implemented for integrated state border management and the prevention, combatting and eradication of trafficking in human beings in the context of international migration²⁸ (objective 11).

A series of modifications and additions were operated to the legal and regulatory framework on asylum in the Republic of Moldova²⁹, THB or related issues³⁰. The Guidelines on conducting parallel financial investigations, the draft Concept of the National Referral Mechanism to protect and assist victims of crimes for 2020–2030 and the relevant Action Plan for 2020–2022, as well as the Framework Regulation³¹ on the organization and operation of the Regional Center for integrated assistance to children victims/witnesses of crimes and Minimum Quality Standards^j were developed, and the “Mechanism for assessing the needs of asylum seekers in a vulnerable situation (unaccompanied minors, unaccompanied women and girls, persons with disabilities) and referring them to competent authorities” was approved (objectives 9, 10, 11 and 23).

In 2019–2020, plans of cooperation with Romania, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Belarus were put into effect on the basis of applicable agreements, conventions, protocols and arrangements between the said states. Cooperation with the EUBAM mission, FRONTEX Agency and international organizations, such as OSCE, INTERPOL and EUROPOL, within the areas of common interest is ensured (objective 23).

IV. Means of implementation (suggested 500 words)

The Republic of Moldova has a well-developed policy and program framework to manage migration processes in an efficient and effective manner in the context of adopted international arrangements, among which are the GCM objectives. A secondary regulatory framework (various action plans, programs), as well as operational, functional, instructional, methodological and financial instruments (Mid-term Budgetary Framework etc.) serve as implementation mechanisms. Their functionality is backed up by the existing institutional framework and technical and financial measures, which are not always adequate and relevant for achieving the GCM’s objectives, and where the presence of development partners is extremely important. In particular, the UN Agencies mobilized themselves through UNCT MTF and contributed to strengthening the GCM-relevant regulatory, coordination and implementation mechanisms.

For example, in accordance with the Government’s Action Plan for 2020-2023³², the National Bureau of Statistics has assumed the obligation to recalculate migration rates in territorial terms and the number of population through applying the international (UN and EU) definition of usual residence, including more efficient production of vital statistics by using “multiple register” type systems. Territorially adjusted statistical data will allow for more efficient planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of public policies at the local level. However, regardless of the importance of these activities for the country, they are fully funded by development partners, such as United Nations

^j CCTHB

Population Fund (UNFPA Moldova), the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, and the India – UN Development Partnership. In addition, they are challenging in terms of ownership and ensuring sustainability in the context of objective 1 of the GCM.

Another example is provided by NEA and BMA which owns automated information systems that maintain records of emigration and immigration processes with the purpose of legitimate employment of foreigners and returning migrants. This makes it possible to extract disaggregated data within these categories, including by types of services provided and measures applied. Nevertheless, although new legal provisions regarding employment and labor migration require modification of this System, funds are necessary to fulfil this process. This is also a challenge in the context of achieving GCM objectives 1, 3, 5 and 6. Moreover, the need for staff capacity building is mentioned by the NEA in the context of new reforms, proceeding from the relevant practices of other countries^k.

In addition, underfunding of prevention and combatting trafficking in human beings, insufficient equipping as well as structural constraints (multiple hierarchical subordination) were also mentioned as challenges that could affect achievement of GCM's objectives 5, 7, 9 and 10 by the BMA and the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Meanwhile, reduced interest of destination countries to set up joint investigation teams (as an instrument for prosecution and investigation of THB cases) as well as delays in execution of rogatory letters were expressed by the CCTHB as additional challenges in this context. These require support and intermediation on behalf of the partners.

Staff turnover caused by administrative and political reforms (parliamentary and local elections) is among other major challenges which could affect the country's ability to fulfill the assumed objectives. This results in loss of institutional memory and diminishing capacities that have been enhanced over the last years with the support of development partners in different areas.

V. Outlook (next steps) (suggested 500 words)

Migration for economic purposes remains the main driver for Moldovan migrants, in particular due to lack of employment opportunities and low wages offered on the national labor market.

Migration of population abroad in search of better-paid jobs, on the one hand, reduces poverty. However, it generates powerful social effects on the children left behind in the country.

Moldova has already created a solid institutional framework in the field of migration management. However, it is necessary to develop further migration management capacities. Therefore, development of future policies shall be based on comprehensive and well-structured data, taking into account the country's interests and specific objectives and referring to various aspects of general public policy such as employment and demographics, promoting circular migration, return migration and reintegration of migrants etc.

It is important to constantly enhance communication and cooperation between government structures to ensure data exchange, including management of migration flows, aiming at continuation of activities in the context of ensuring the GCM's objectives.

^k NEA

In this context, there is a need to ensure NBS's access to personal data from administrative sources to produce qualitative and reliable official statistics with necessary desegregations, including with regard to population and migration. It is also necessary to strengthen the capacities of state institutions in ensuring interoperability and compatibility of the administrative data collected and generation of comparable statistical indicators^l.

Developing and maintaining national capacities in the public sector (retention of institutional memory) remains a priority, thus ensuring continuity and efficient functionality of government structures in all areas.^m

Sharing positive experience on implementation of bilateral intergovernmental agreements could be successfully achieved by the NEA which is prepared for new challenges. Despite clear regulation of the migration process, there are cases of negative emigration which means that more comprehensive information should be provided to citizens. Thus, we note the need to develop policies targeting return migration and development for the purpose of keeping population in the countryⁿ.

Furthermore, a series of other challenges and prospects could be mentioned:

- Developing a new Concept of strategic development at institutional level and migration policies in the context of regional and global mobility;
- Developing the information system and digitalize public services provided by the BMA to ensure efficient data exchange;
- Strengthening the management framework of relationships with the diaspora and enhancing its involvement in the country's development by harnessing the diaspora's material resources and human capital;
- Addressing the impact of migration on the Moldovan human capital from the perspective of brain drain and loss of skills;
- Developing, in cooperation with the nongovernmental sector, a number of reintegration services for migrants returned from abroad (including in the context of COVID-19 pandemic) for protecting the most vulnerable as well as for harnessing their skills and material resources;
- Addressing specific vulnerabilities resulting from the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on remittance-dependent Moldovan household;
- More productive involvement of foreigners, including asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, in RM's development through developing integration programs and services based on exploring foreigner profiles;
- Participating in common risk analysis activities jointly with law enforcement authorities, including crosscutting responsibilities in the area of combatting cross-border crime, irregular migration, THB and other related crimes;
- Recognizing the need to appeal to experts from other countries; learning from other countries' experience; taking over best practices adaptable to the Republic of Moldova, standard operating

^l BMA

^m NBS

procedures and specific protocols of interoperability for the institutions involved;

- Ensuring a better awareness among third-country nationals about the possibilities and conditions of legal immigration;
- Organizing ongoing information campaigns with respect to ways of admission and staying of third-country nationals;
- Informing citizens in countries of origin with respect to migration opportunities, their rights and obligations through competent authorities;
- Involving both the diplomatic missions or consular offices of the RM in their countries of origin and the diplomatic missions of these countries in the RM in the information of third-country nationals;
- Staying constantly informed about the risks of THB and clandestine employment as well as about sanctions and respective measures that can be applied;
- Extending investigations in view of counteracting the activities of specialized transnational criminal groups in trafficking in human beings and children;
- Enhancing international cooperation with law enforcement authorities of transit and destination countries;
- Developing and adopting a legal and regulatory mechanism of control and pursuit in relation to private agencies' activity of employment abroad.
- Alignment of policies related to THB (for work purposes, in particular) from the RM to the international system;
- Facilitating the dialogue within governmental institutions and between governments of countries affected by THB, between national and local authorities, between the government and relevant stakeholders, including private sector and civil society.
- Developing and implementing national action plans, roadmaps and bilateral arrangements related to recruitment;
- Make sure that the necessary documents, including civil status documents, are issued to migrants without delay at all stages of migration;
- Sharing and exchanging best practices in efficient migration management, prevention and combating of illegal migration, combating THB and victim exploitation with countries of origin as well as within international fora^o.

^o CCTHB

References

- ¹ Memo of the State Chancellery No 21-06-5525 dated 30.06.2020
- ² Government Decision No 634 dated 24 August 2012
- ³ Law No 93/2017, Article 7, paragraph (2) and Article 16, paragraph (1)
- ⁴ Government Decision No 497 dated 03.10.2018 on the establishment of the Commission for coordination of activities in the area of migration and asylum
- ⁵ Government Decision No 725 dated 08.09.2017 on the Mechanism for coordinating the state policy on diaspora, migration and development. <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=371433>
- ⁶ Government Decision No 377 dated 10.06.2020. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121920&lang=ro
- ⁷ Law No 105/2018 on promoting employment and unemployment insurance, Law No 140/2011 on State Labor Inspectorate and Law No 131/2012 on state control of entrepreneurship activity
- ⁸ Law No 180 dated 10.07.2008 on labor migration, repealed by Law No 278 dated 29.11.2018. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112697&lang=ro#; Law No 200 dated 16.07.2010 on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112700&lang=ro#
- ⁹ Government Decision No 1087 dated 8.11.2018 on modification of the Government Decision No 972/2010 on the Program for attracting remittances into the economy „PARE 1+1” for 2010-2018. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109292&lang=ro
- ¹⁰ DEH. <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/diaspora-engagement-hub-0>
- ¹¹ State Chancellery. Call for the launch of Diaspora Succeeds at Home Program „DAR 1+3” 2019. <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/apel-privind-lansarea-programului-diaspora-acasa-reuseste-dar-13-2019>
- ¹² Articles 41-44 of the *Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union* dated 27.06.2014, ratified by Law No 112 dated 02.07.2014
- ¹³ Government Decision No 1451 dated 30.12.2016 on approval of the *National Strategy of the statistical system of the Republic of Moldova*
- ¹⁴ *Population with usual residence* is the actual population of the Republic of Moldova (RM) which includes persons who, in the last 12 months, have mostly lived on the territory of the country/political subdivision, regardless of any temporary absence (for the purpose of recreation, vacation, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimage etc.).
- ¹⁵ Law No 105 dated 14.06.2018 on employment and unemployment insurance. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122876&lang=ro
- ¹⁶ State Chancellery. Objective 3 of the NHRAP for 2018-2022: Achievements in 2019. https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/sinteza_raport_pnado_2018-2019_optimized.semnat-2.pdf
- ¹⁷ Law No 139/16.07.2020 on modification of certain regulations //Official Monitor 212-220/471, 21.08.2020
- ¹⁸ Law No 180 dated 10.07.2008 on labor migration, repealed by Law No 278 dated 29.11.2018. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112697&lang=ro#; Law No 200 dated 16.07.2010 on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112700&lang=ro#
- ¹⁹ Law No 105/2018 on promoting employment and unemployment insurance, Law No 140/2011 on State Labor Inspectorate, and Law No 131/2012 on state control of entrepreneurship activity
- ²⁰ Order of the MECR No 65 dated 24.01.2019 on approving the Regulation on validation of non-formal and informal education. https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/regulament_privind_educatia_nonformala.pdf
- ²¹ According to the MHLSP, the last Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of the Inter-institutional Reference Mechanism for (re) integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova returned from abroad was signed in July 2019 with the district of Făleşti.
- ²² Memorandum of Understanding between the MHLSP, MECR, MEI, NHSI, NHMI and NEA. https://msmps.gov.md/sites/default/files/mir_central_semnat_0.pdf
- ²³ Social Security Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Belarus signed on 23 October 2019. <https://msmps.gov.md/ro/content/acord-bilateral-domeniul-securitatii-sociale-semnat-de-republica-moldova-si-republica>
- ²⁴ Draft Social Security Agreement with the Italian Republic signed on 16 May 2018

²⁵ The first round of negotiations of the draft Social Security Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Kingdom of Spain took place in Madrid, 19-22 November 2019.

²⁶ The second round of negotiations of the draft Social Security Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Hellenic Republic took place on 13-15 November 2019 in Chisinau

²⁷ Government Decision No 520 dated 06.06.2018 on starting negotiations on the draft Protocol of amending the Arrangements to implement the Social Security Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Estonia signed in Tallinn on 19 October 2011

²⁸ Government Decision No 1101 dated 14 November 2018 on approving the National Strategy of integrated state border management for 2018-2023 and of the relevant Action Plan for 2018-2020, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=109892&lang=ro; Government Decision No 461 dated 22.05.2018 on approving the National Strategy of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for 2018-2023 and of the relevant Action Plan for 2018-2020, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101736&lang=ro; Government Decision No 461 dated 22.05 on approving the National Strategy of preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for 2018-2023 and of the relevant Action Plan for 2018-2020, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101736&lang=ro

²⁹ Law No 270 dated 18.12.2008 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova, as amended in 2018 and 2019. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110614&lang=ro

³⁰ Law No 198/2007 on state-guaranteed legal assistance (approved by Government Decision No 566/2019 approved by the Parliament in the 1st reading on 20.12.2019), Government Decision No 234/2008 on approving the Framework Regulation of the territorial commission for combating trafficking in human beings (as amended by Government Decision No 179/2019), Government Decision No 286/2019 on approving the Guidelines on certification of civil status deeds produced and recorded on the left bank of the Dniester and in Bender municipality, Government Decision No 708 dated 27.12.2019 on approving the Framework Regulation on the organization and operation of the Regional Center for integrated assistance to children victims/witnesses of crimes and Minimum quality standards

³¹ Government Decision No 708/2019

³² Activities 6.31 and 6.32 under Government Decision No 636/2019