



EU solidarity with the Republic of Moldova

March 2022



The EU has been a steadfast partner of the Republic of Moldova over the years. We continue to stand by Moldova in view of the recent challenges.

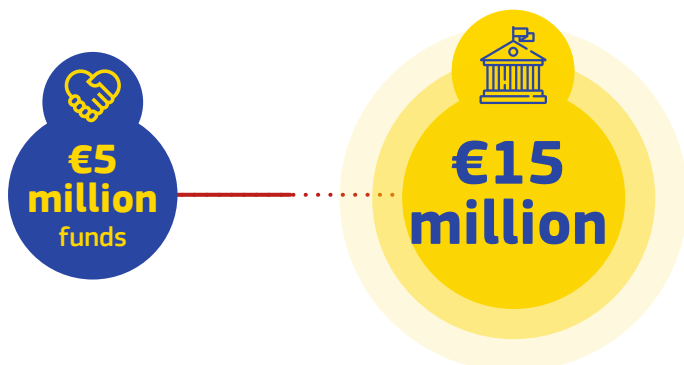
Support for hosting refugees from Ukraine

As the **humanitarian situation** in Ukraine worsens the **EU has announced an initial €5 million of immediate funding for humanitarian programmes in support of refugees hosted by Moldova**. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism has also been activated following a petition by Moldova for assistance. The first humanitarian aid shipments, including tents, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, generators, have started arriving in Moldova.

A further €15 million package will help the Moldovan authorities to provide assistance to people fleeing from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The **EU Border Assistance Mission** has been relocated to Chisinau and is now providing direct support at the border crossings.

EU Agencies are also ready to support. The Commission recommended to the Council to open negotiations for a status agreement between Frontex and the Republic of Moldova. This will allow Frontex teams to support the Moldovan authorities in border management tasks, including registration and border checks.



Support to defence sector

In the field of **defence**, €7 million from the European Peace Facility adopted in December 2021, will support the Republic of Moldova's Armed Forces. It will help finance its field hospitals, ambulances, medical imaging and surgery equipment, as well as Explosive Ordnance Disposal kits, including essential equipment and vehicles. This will improve their ability to provide services to civilians in crises or emergency situations over the next 36 months.



Support to tackle the energy crisis

Since the outbreak of the **energy crisis** in autumn, the EU has also step up its assistance to help the country face its current severe gas crisis with a €75 million package to help the most vulnerable citizens ahead of winter and help the Moldovan government in energy reform.



€75 million

COVID-19 support

EU granted assistance worth €127 million to help Moldova fight the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, €100 million in macro-financial assistance were provided to help Moldova deal with the fallout of the pandemic. **Moldova was the first European country to receive donations** of COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility and the EU vaccine-sharing mechanism.



Support to Moldova over the years

The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Moldova. **Over the last seven years, Moldova has benefited from more than half a billion euros** in grants and had access to an additional **€200 million in loans and grants** under two previous Macro-Financial Assistance programmes.

The Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, one of our most advanced agreements, is our main tool for bringing Moldova and the EU closer together.



Since
2014

The EU and **European financial institutions** have made available **more than €700 million** in grants and loans to the country.

In autumn
2021

Following the outbreak of the energy crisis, the EU provided **€75 million** to support vulnerable customers and build capacity in **energy sector**.

In
January 2022

A new Macro-Financial Assistance package of **up to €150 million** proposed by the European Commission to help support the Moldovan economy in the coming three years. The European Parliament and Council are currently discussing this package.

In
March 2022

€5 million in EU humanitarian programmes in **support of refugees** to be complemented by **€15 million** to provide assistance to people fleeing from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Long-term support through the Economic and Investment plan

On 2 June 2021, the European Commission announced an Economic Recovery Plan for the Republic of Moldova. The Commission will mobilise up to **€600 million** over the next three years to promote investments in Moldova and support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, in conjunction with structural reforms.

To help spur the long-term recovery and resilience, the EU's Economic and Investment plan for the EaP will leverage up to **€3.4 billion in public and private investments for Moldova** in cooperation with the international financial institutions.

The plan foresees five flagships for Moldova to support an innovative and competitive economy, boost EU-Moldova trade, increase energy efficiency, improve connectivity and invest in human capital.



**€3.4
billion**



Support to civil society and media

The EU is supporting independent media - key for any free, resilient and prosperous society - through a **€5 million** project focused on strategic communication, investigative journalism and tackling disinformation.

Another project worth **€1 million** will support local media and start-ups in content creation and developing business skills. Moldovan media will also benefit from the new EU4Independent Media regional programme worth **€8 million**.

In 2022, the EU will also mobilise **€10 million** to support the participation of the **civil society** in the implementation of the Association Agreement. Moldova's CSOs will also benefit from a regional programme worth **€25 million**.

In addition, over the last three years, the EU has supported democratic civil society and free journalism with **€1.1 million** through the European Endowment for Democracy in the Eastern Partnership.

Support to mobility and people-to-people contacts

From 2015-20, nearly **3,700 students and academic staff** benefitted from Erasmus+ academic mobility between Moldova and the EU. The new Erasmus+ offers new opportunities for Vocational Education and Training (VET) and virtual exchanges for higher education and youth.



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