



THE EU AND MOLDOVA

Membership status: candidate country

#StrongerTogether
#EUEnlargement



November 2023

On 3 March 2022, the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') applied for EU membership. On 17 June 2022, the European Commission presented its Opinion on the application. Based on the Commission's Opinion, the European Council acknowledged the European perspective of Moldova and granted the country candidate status on 23 June 2022.



EU FUNDING AND SUPPORT

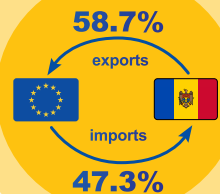
The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Moldova. The EU supports socioeconomic development and reforms in Moldova, with financial and technical assistance through the **Neighbourhood Development and Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)**.

For 2021-2024, the funding for Moldova is expected to amount to **€260 million** to support the reform agenda as well as key investments. The priority areas cover economy, institutions, rule of law, security, environment and climate resilience, digital transformation, gender equality and inclusive society.

Moldova participates in the Solidarity Lanes initiative that helps the country ensure secure supply chains and food security. For this purpose, the EU has allocated **€32 million** in investments for Moldova, out of which €20 million in grants.

In June 2023, the EU presented a support package for Moldova, identifying 5 priority areas: economic development and connectivity, administrative capacity, energy, security, and strategic communication.

The EU is Moldova's biggest trade partner



in 2022

Source: Eurostat



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Total EU Foreign Direct Investment in Moldova reached €200 million in 2021.

Total volume of trade in goods with the EU was €7.3 billion in 2022.

In July 2023, the EU granted Moldova one-year full trade liberalisation measures for country's exports of agricultural products to the EU.

KEY MILESTONES

JUNE 2014

Signature of the Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)

JULY 2016

Association Agreement and DCFTA enter into force

MARCH 2022

Application for EU membership

JUNE 2022

Commission Opinion recommends candidate status

JUNE 2022

European Council grants candidate status

JUNE 2023

Commission oral update to the Council on the progress in the 9 steps

NOVEMBER 2023

Commission recommends opening accession negotiations



HUMAN CAPITAL

3,600+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and Moldova in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)

The EU has provided €10 million in support to civil society (2021-2022).



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The EU has provided **over €48 million** in humanitarian assistance to support vulnerable Ukrainian refugees and the families hosting them in Moldova.

Moldova is participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism that allows states to offer assistance to one another when struck by a disaster.



SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

With EU assistance, Moldova has made its first purchases of gas and electricity from the EU.

Moldova is eligible to participate in the EU common gas purchasing mechanism.

Since October 2021, the EU has mobilised **€240 million** in budgetary support to help support vulnerable families and SMEs facing the rising energy costs. The actions are also aimed at supporting the long-term socio-economic recovery, energy security and energy transition.

For 2021-2023, the EU has allocated **€87 million for non-lethal support** through the European Peace Facility.



ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Launched in 2021, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Eastern Partnership aims to mobilise up to €17 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP for Moldova, the EU has already mobilised **€1.2 billion** in investments, out of which €365 million in grants.

For instance, the flagship investments help:

- support for Moldovan SMEs
- refurbish the district heating systems in residential buildings in Chişinău and Bălţi
- improve connectivity with the Trans-European transport network

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