EU and the Republic of Moldova ties have been in place for over 20 years. Since 2014, relations have been based on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which provides the foundations for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and Moldova. The EU’s assistance and support for democratic reforms have delivered tangible benefits to Moldovan citizens.

Key benefits from this relationship include a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which opens the EU market to Moldovan businesses and products, and visa-free travel to the Schengen area for Moldovan citizens since 28 April 2014.

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 the country, in exchange for structural reforms.

The EU supported Moldova with concrete investments to help post-pandemic recovery and improve the lives of Moldovan citizens. In the coming years, the EU will invest in the following five flagship projects:

**ECONOMY**
- More than 19,000 Moldovan SMEs benefitted from EU support for access to finance in 2020, of which 24.3% are women-owned, and more than 33,000 new jobs were created in 2019 and 2020. 10 business incubators were set up with EU support.

**INSTITUTIONS**
- Thanks to the EU budget support programme for police reform, the level of public confidence in the police rose from 25.5% in April 2016 to 41% in October 2020. Further, the share of women in the police force has increased from 14% in 2016 to 19% in 2020.

**GREEN**
- New drinking water supply infrastructure was built in South of Moldova with EU support. As a result, approximately 15,700 additional people have access to sufficient and safe drinking water.

**DIGITAL**
- A new ICT Innovation Centre in Cahul for innovative SMEs and a seed-fund for innovative companies in Moldova are being set up.

**SOCIETY**
- From 2015-20, nearly 3,700 students and academic staff benefitted from Erasmus+ academic mobility between Moldova and the EU.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**
- The EU reacted quickly and responded to the urgent needs of Moldova and its citizens. As part of Team Europe, the EU mobilised a tailor-made COVID-19 response package of almost €128 million to support immediate needs and socio-economic recovery. In addition, Moldova also received €100 million in macro-financial assistance. These funds have delivered support for emergency needs, healthcare resilience, socio-economic recovery and alleviated the needs of vulnerable groups. Moldova was the first European country to receive donations of COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility, supported by Team Europe with over €3 billion, and bilaterally from EU Member States. Since 15 November 2021, digital COVID certificates are mutually recognised between Moldova and the EU.

The EU is Moldova’s largest trading partner and biggest investor. In 2020, the EU accounted for approximately 62% of Moldova’s total exports and 53% of its total trade.

Thanks to visa liberalisation, more than 2.5 million Moldovan citizens have visited the EU without a visa.

The European Commission: ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/moldova | twitter.com/eu_near
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