

In brief Moldova



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

SWITZERLAND IS ACTIVE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA BECAUSE...



...it wants to promote social cohesion within the population and create economic prospects for young people and rural populations as an alternative to labour migration. Switzerland plays a stabilising role in the geopolitical interests between Europe and Russia. It supports health reform, good governance and works to improve investment conditions. In so doing, Switzerland contributes to reducing social tensions and building trust between citizens and their government.

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Moldova remains Europe's poorest country despite a significant reduction in poverty in the last decade. Around 15% of mainly young people and people from rural areas work abroad. Although these remittances have helped to reduce poverty in the country, they have not stimulated the local economy. Moldova has a large urban-rural prosperity gap and one of Europe's lowest rates of employment. Although the Republic of Moldova has made progress in building democratic institutions since its independence in 1991, the state remains fragile. The geopolitical tug-of-war between Europe and Russia is reflected in Moldova's polarised nation. The country's business and political elites fuel these differences and use their influence to further their own interests. This situation is further exacerbated by the unresolved conflict with the breakaway region of Transnistria, which has close ties to Russia. At the other end of the spectrum, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia is working hard to consolidate its autonomous status in line with the Republic of Moldova's constitution.

EXPECTED RESULTS

For the 2018–21 period, Switzerland has earmarked CHF 47 million for activities in the Republic of Moldova, which are aimed at improving living conditions for the local population and strengthening social cohesion. The SDC lists the following expected outcomes in the areas of good governance, economic development and health: local authorities provide good-quality public services and receive more government funds in order to do so; citizens are able to include their concerns in the political decision-making process and demand accountability from the authorities; awareness and behaviour in terms of healthy living improves among the local population; basic healthcare services are of a high quality and equally accessible for all population groups; reducing regulatory obstacles makes the business environment more attractive for foreign investors; certain business sectors become more competitive and create more jobs – to this end, potential workers should be trained in such a way so as to meet this market demand.