

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova (2023-2028)

Newsletter No 3 January – June 2024

Since its launch in January 2023, DCAF's project '**Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova**' (2023-2028) has continued to engage with the Moldovan security sector and its oversight institutions to promote good security sector governance in Moldova.

Supported by **Sweden** (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida), DCAF collaborates with the Moldovan Parliament and standing parliamentary committees, the Supreme Security Council and its secretariat, the Judiciary, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its subordinate institutions (the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (SPIA), the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES)), the Police Academy Stefan cel Mare, and civil society organisations with expertise on defence and security, governance, and human rights, among other institutions to implement the project and achieve its objectives.

The project is built around three outcomes, aiming to enhance professionalism and performance in the public sector, foster partnerships between legislative and executive institutions, civil society, and citizens, promote trust, and increase democratic resilience.

What does this project seek to achieve?

Outcome 1: National legislative and executive actors identify feasible reform solutions, adopt laws, and take policy decisions in line with EU guiding norms and good practices.

Outcome 2: The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its subordinate institutions utilise their enhanced strategic and operational capacities to effectively implement locally owned modernisation processes and build integrity in line with EU practices and norms.

Outcome 3: The public is better informed of the objectives and results of reforms that align Moldova with EU norms and good practice in the area of security and rule of law.

In the first half of 2024, as the project entered its second year of implementation, DCAF strengthened its relationship with the donor, implementing partners, and beneficiaries. In June 2024, Sweden and DCAF signed an amendment to the project's grant agreement to extend the project to the end of 2028 and enlarge the scope of project activities. As a result, the project will include several new workstreams and partnerships:

- Through a new strand added under outcome 1, the project will cooperate with the Moldovan judiciary, including the National Institute of Justice, to address questions of **judicial oversight in the security sector**. In particular, the project will work with judges and prosecutors involved in the **authorisation and review of special investigative measures used in criminal proceedings** by law enforcement agencies and intelligence services in order to ensure the respect of the rule of law and alignment with EU standards.
- The project will form a multi-year partnership with the **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)** to support the crisis management system of Moldova and strengthen the capacity of the **General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES)**, along with other institutions involved in **disaster risk reduction and crisis management**, to fulfil their mandate for civil protection. The partnership will focus on the utilisation of and interoperability with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), which Moldova recently joined, for inter-agency coordination, crisis communication, and public risk awareness.
- The project has, since its inception, cooperated extensively with **non-governmental and civil society organisations** in Moldova to increase their ability to provide independent expertise and participate in informed public debate on security issues. In order to consolidate their **capacities for research, advocacy, watchdog activities, networking, and public outreach** on matters related to security sector reform and governance, as well as their capacities for **independent project management**, the project will provide selected organisations with sub-grants, contributing towards

their sustainable institutional development and allowing for organisational growth and effective functioning as independent organisations. In particular, the project will partner with **the Women's Police Association, the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives, and the Institute for Democracy and Development.**

OUTCOME I

Enhancing National Security Governance

During the first half of 2024, DCAF continued its collaboration with Moldova's national security governance bodies, supporting increased expertise and capacity to contribute to good security sector governance through policy design, legislative development, and meaningful oversight. In anticipation of the project's scope enlargement, DCAF has also started preliminary activities involving judicial institutions, laying the foundation for future engagement.

SUPPORT TO LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Over the course of 2023 and 2024, DCAF actively participated in public consultations and provided expert advice for the development and adoption of the new **Law on the activity of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS)** and the new **Law on counterintelligence and external intelligence activity**. Following the adoption of these laws in June and July 2023 respectively, the project continued to engage members of parliament and the parliamentary committee on national security, defence, and public order in informal and formal discussions on the need for an effective mechanism for parliamentary oversight of the SIS activities and the need for new legislation on the topic.



Parliamentary expert hearings on SIS oversight, March 2024, Chisinau

In March 2024, DCAF participated in **closed-door parliamentary expert hearings** with the standing committee on national security and provided

information on international good practices and advice to Parliament on how to organise intelligence oversight activities. As a result, a **review of the parliamentary oversight mechanism** was put on the committee's agenda and a working group to draft new legislation set up. The project continues to engage in discussions around the creation of a sub-committee on intelligence oversight, through participation in the working group for the elaboration of new normative acts, through the dissemination of relevant knowledge products and expert opinions, and through the organisation of exchanges during roundtables and workshops.

STUDY TRIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT FOR STAFF MEMBERS AND ADVISORS OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ON CROSS-CUTTING SECURITY TOPICS

The project sponsored a **Moldovan delegation to participate in the 2024 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development**, organised by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) from 6-8 May. The delegation, comprised of representatives from Moldovan legislative and executive bodies, as well as civil society, had an opportunity to meet and network with international counterparts and partners, learn about regional and international experiences and best practices in peace and security, and discuss current questions and initiatives in the security landscape, from building trust and geopolitical fragmentations to climate resilience and people-centred security sector reform.



Moldovan delegation participating in the 2024 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, May 2024, Stockholm

One session led by DCAF, the Clingendael Institute, and the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, focused on the topic of **"Security dilemmas for Ukraine and Moldova"**. In addition to access to European expertise and colleagues, the delegation members also used the opportunity to exchange on the same topics between themselves, enhancing inter-institutional coordination and communication.

EXPERT ROUNDTABLES ON JUDICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR FOR MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND THE PARLIAMENT

On 11 and 12 June 2024, DCAF organised **two roundtables on the implementation of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) Laws and on the use of special investigative measures in Moldova** respectively. The two-day workshop is the first activity implemented in the lead-up to the new workstream integrated to the project, aimed at strengthening judicial oversight of the security sector.



Judicial roundtable on the authorisation and use of special investigative measures in intelligence and criminal proceedings, 11 June 2024, Chisinau

The first day of the workshop involved participants from the judiciary, including the National Institute of Justice and the Superior Council of Magistrates of Moldova. This day featured presentations by a senior European practitioner on European standards and best practices in the **authorisation and control of intrusive intelligence gathering measures** and discussions around the current status of and national legislation on intrusive measures in Moldova.

The second day of the event brought in participants from legislative bodies and its secretariat to reflect on **the role of Parliament and parliamentary oversight of the SIS**. Sessions on European standards, best practices in the surveillance of intelligence services, and on new legislative proposals focused on the Parliament's function and on parliamentary practice, across Europe and in Moldova.

OUTCOME 2

Supporting Strategic Management Capacity in the Law Enforcement System

In the first half of 2024, DCAF worked with various actors from the MIA engaged in strategic and operational management to enhance capacities for



Roundtable on parliamentary oversight of the security and intelligence service, 12 June 2024, Chisinau

project cycle management in light of EU accession processes, proliferate trainings on integrity and high-level discussions on integrity building, and contribute to building a solid foundation for the successful implementation of gender equality policies in law enforcement agencies. Specific activities and processes are detailed below.

INCREASING STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES IN THE MIA

To support the MIA in increasing its organisational capacity for strategic planning and management, particularly in light of EU accession requirements, DCAF engaged managers in the MIA in a range of capacity building activities.

To promote more efficient management processes across the MIA, the Ministry of Finance delivered a three-day **training on auditing institutional processes** to MIA staff with DCAF's support. The training introduced participants to national internal control standards in the public sector, their basic processes, and their reporting mechanisms to encourage the MIA to refine their internal managerial control system. This included discussions of defining responsibilities of managerial and executive staff in the internal control system and of developing basic process identification and documentation skills in the MIA.

STRENGTHENING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES IN THE MIA

Managers in the MIA and its subordinate institutions require strong **project management skills and effective digital tools for project tracking and coordination** to ensure the more effective implementation and careful coordination of an increasing number of projects/programmes.

To reinforce the project management skills of key managers in the MIA, DCAF has arranged for several high- and mid-level managers to receive **certification in project cycle management**. During this period, one training on PM², the project management methodology

of the European Commission, was delivered to ten MIA representatives and access to e-learnings for certification on the Prince2 project management methodology was provided to four MIA representatives. Through these trainings, and the certifications that should be awarded in the next project period following examinations, **MIA representatives are enhancing their abilities to design, coordinate, and implement projects and their institutional eligibility to receive funding**, both of which enable more effective reform processes and subsequently quicker institutional alignment with EU standards.



Participants of the training on PM2 Methodology, 11-13 June 2024, Chisinau

To support the establishment of a more robust project management system, DCAF is supporting the MIA to **procure and make use of a digital project management tool**. During this period, the MIA identified its preferred tool and DCAF coordinated the procurement of project management software for 15 MIA users. These users will receive training on the use of the software in the next project period.



Participants of the training on PM2 Methodology, 11-13 June 2024, Chisinau



PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN THE MIA THROUGH SUPPORT TO INTEGRITY TRAINERS

DCAF continued to support facilitators, trained as part of the project in 2023, to enhance the quality of their integrity trainings in order to contribute to sustainable integrity building processes in the MIA.

In February, **11 facilitators trained by the project on integrity received a training course on communications from DCAF**. Communications was identified as a topic that requires greater attention in in-service training across the MIA and its subordinate institutions and these 11 facilitators of integrity trainings can continue to enhance their facilitation skills by adding topics essential to the MIA's functioning into their training repertoire. These same facilitators additionally participated in a train-the-trainers refresher seminar in March.



Integrity Facilitators during a ToT Refresher, 27 February 2024, Chisinau

In March and April, **facilitators trained by the project in 2023 delivered integrity trainings to representatives of their respective institutions – specifically the General Police Inspectorate, General Inspectorate of Border Police, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, and the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri – and received real time feedback from DCAF trainers.**



Facilitators trained by DCAF award their students certificates following integrity training, 3-4 April 2024, Chisinau



These supervised training delivery and debriefing activities are an essential part of the train-the-trainer process and allow for adult learning methods introduced in the classroom to be implemented in practice.



Full class from integrity training delivered by Facilitators, 3-4 April 2024, Chisinau

In June, DCAF supported the MIA integrity facilitators to deliver a 2-day workshop aimed at identifying corruption risks and integrity building efforts within the National Inspectorate of Public Security. The workshop targeted heads of police patrol units and addressed topics such as the responsibility of police leadership in ensuring integrity, integrity risks and mitigation strategies, and encouraging anti-corruption attitudes in employees.

To encourage the continuation and increase of in-service training courses delivered on integrity topics, **DCAF donated modern training equipment to enable the establishment of a dedicated training room in the MIA.** This room can be used for trainers from the Internal Protection and Anti-corruption Service of the MIA to deliver in-service trainings and will also, when available, act as a space to hold other project activities for MIA staff.



DCAF and Facilitators during the inauguration of the integrity training room, 20 March 2023, Chisinau. Photo credit: Ministry of Internal Affairs



Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Adrian Efras, and Facilitators during the inauguration of the integrity training room, 20 March 2023, Chisinau.

Photo credit: Ministry of Internal Affairs

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF, AND REPORTING ON GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLANS

In 2023, DCAF worked with the MIA on developing a list of indicators for measuring gender equality in Moldovan security and defence institutions against the backdrop of the recently approved National Programme for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security for 2023 – 2027 (National programme).

Between February and June, DCAF continued to work with the MIA on enhancing reporting capabilities and data collection processes linked with the National Programme. A **high-level seminar on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda** was held in March with the Secretariat within the MIA tasked with coordinating the National Programme's implementation and gender focal points from the MIA's subordinate institutions.



DCAF and gender focal points during the Seminar on Women, Peace, and Security, 26 March 2024, Chisinau

A national expert on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in the Moldovan context subsequently developed a methodology for data collection on the indicators drafted in 2023. **A training on data collection and reporting was held for gender focal points from all security and defence institutions in**

April based on this methodology, and data collection on the indicators for the year of 2023, to establish a 'gender equality baseline', began.



*Training on data collection and reporting for the national programme on UNSCR-1325, 23-24 April 2024, Chisinau.
Photo credit: Ministry of Internal Affairs*

Data collected between April and June will be used to draft a baseline report, which is expected to be finalised and approved by the MIA in July. This activity aims at ensuring a standard and comprehensive data collection process that can inform gender policies in the Moldovan security and defence sector and will be replicated annually to provide evidence for WPS reporting.



*Group photo from the training on data collection and reporting for the national programme on UNSCR-1325, 23-24 April 2024, Chisinau.
Photo credit: Ministry of Internal Affairs*

DCAF additionally initiated a **partnership with the Women's Police Association** in May, marked by a week-long working visit with their board members in Chisinau to perform a needs assessment.

The Women's Police Association, founded in 2017, is a network of women within the MIA, including those from the General Police Inspectorate and other

agencies subordinate to the MIA, who voluntarily organise trainings to support the implementation of the National Programme in MIA and offer support to their members on work-related issues. **The Association has the potential to enrich gender equality efforts within Moldovan law enforcement institutions and establish itself as a resilient civil society organisation capable of attracting international funding.**



Representatives of the Women's Police Association during needs assessment with DCAF, 28-31 May 2024, Chisinau

In March, DCAF sponsored a representative of the Association to attend an international conference on efforts in law enforcement agencies to achieve the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and, in May, met with the Board of the Association to identify strengths of and challenges faced by the organisation. DCAF will continue to work on the Women's Police Association in the next project period on **capacity building for project management and grant management via a sub-grant and developing more comprehensive internal policies that promote organisational longevity.**

Women's Police Association and DCAF following working visit, 28-31 May 2024, Chisinau



OUTCOME 3

Building Public Trust

During this period, DCAF continued its engagement with Moldovan actors to improve public communication on and awareness of the objectives and results of security sector reforms and governance processes in the country, including on anti-corruption matters. The project continued to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement between governmental bodies and civil society and support the latter's capacity and expertise building. This period featured the finalisation and launch of two publications developed by civil society members within the project, as well as the development and ongoing implementation of a public information campaign on security sector topics.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: MIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE 2024

DCAF sponsored **three delegates from the MIA and its subordinate institutions to attend the 2024 International Anti-corruption Conference that took place in Vilnius in June**. The MIA representatives attended as a part of a greater Moldovan delegation and had the opportunity to exchange with their European counterparts on a range of issues linked with anti-corruption, including the links between corruption and global insecurity, environmental degradation, and human rights violations. These exchanges provided inspiration for the MIA delegates, some of whom will be involved in organising a regional anti-corruption conference in Moldova in the autumn of 2024.

CARTOGRAPHY OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN MOLDOVA

On 26 January 2024, the project co-organised a **launch event for the publication “Mapping external assistance in the field of security and defence of the Republic of Moldova”**, developed in 2023 in partnership with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives. The study, mapping the current projects and landscape on international assistance in Moldova, aims to contribute to improved inter-institutional coordination in the mobilisation and distribution of international funds and expertise. The event brought together representatives from Moldovan security sector institutions (including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Intelligence and Security Service), the international community (NATO liaison office, EU partnership mission, various embassies), civil society, and academia.



Presentation of the cartography of international assistance in Moldova, 26 January 2024, Chisinau

A Moldovan delegation took part in the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Conference, 22 June, Vilnius





Multi-stakeholder roundtable for the official launch of "Security Sector Governance in Moldova - an independent report", 12 March 2024, Chisinau

REPORT ON SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE IN MOLDOVA & MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

On 12 March 2024, DCAF organised its **first multi-stakeholder roundtable of the year**, to bring together representatives from national authorities, civil society, and the international community to reflect on and discuss current topics in security sector governance. In particular, the event represented an occasion for the **official launch of "Security Sector Governance in Moldova – an independent report"**. The report was drafted and reviewed in the course of 2023, and finalised at the beginning of the year, in a collaborative process involving 13 researchers and experts from civil society, mentored by DCAF and the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives.

The report launched aims to provide an independent, objective, and comprehensive analysis of the security sector landscape and offer recommendations for improving governance and promoting reforms and democratic consolidation.

The publication has since been disseminated to various actors in the security sector, and certain recommendations were taken on board by institutions to improve governance and democratic participation in security sector processes.

EXPERT OPINION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON MOLDOVA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

To address a recommendation to the Ministry of Defense (MoD) for greater **transparency on the development of draft National Defense Strategy** from the 'Security Sector Governance in Moldova – an independent report', the MoD opened public consultations on the draft strategy and welcomed independent expert opinion on the text.



Public consultation on the draft national defense strategy of Moldova, 24 May 2024, Chisinau



Multi-stakeholder roundtable for the official launch of "Security Sector Governance in Moldova - an independent report", 12 March 2024, Chisinau

DCAF, in partnership with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, contributed to the review of the strategy by sponsoring the **development of a policy paper** written by three experts from Moldovan civil society. The opinion paper was published at the end of May 2024 and submitted for consideration to the MoD.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

In collaboration with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, DCAF is currently implementing a **public information campaign based on the National Security Strategy** adopted at the end of last year, to raise awareness among citizens and employees working in security sector institutions on major security policy objectives and approaches. The campaign aims to strengthen the security culture in Moldova

by disseminating easy to understand information about security policy and reforms and their benefits for the people, and by promoting civic participation and interest in security topics, ultimately increasing transparency, encouraging open dialogue between the state and citizens, and contributing to public informational resilience.

Since its start in March 2024, the campaign has seen the development of several articles (on selected topics such as social cohesion, culture of security, public order, economic security, energy security, and others), a series of social media promotions (including posts, polls, questionnaires), and the production of various visual products such as infographics and video testimonials. The informational materials produced and published have been coupled with civil society and academic experts sharing opinions on radio and TV shows.



VOX Populi: What are, in the opinion of the capital's inhabitants, the greatest threats to the security of the Republic of Moldova?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0aIHK9kRk>
 Video edited by: Zugomedia.

The development of knowledge products within the information campaign has been accompanied by support to civil society from DCAF on expertise and capacity building. In order to reflect on the efficiency

of the campaign and improve the expertise of the campaign coordinators, the project organised a **workshop on public communication** in May 2024, bringing in an expert on external communication for security sector institutions to give concrete advice and recommendations. The campaign will run until the end of August 2024.

Guest Appearances

During this period, DCAF also took part in events and activities organised by other projects and institutions of relevance to the SSGM project. A few notable events with DCAF participation can be highlighted.

DCAF participated in a **series of regional roundtables on Women, Peace, and Security organised by PISA**. The roundtables were held in three regions: Stefan -Voda, Causeni, and Balti and reached over 100 participants in total, including representatives of public administration, civil society, and law enforcement institutions. Discussions focused on barriers to women's meaningful participation in administration and law enforcement.



DCAF, alongside 80 participants from Parliament, governmental institutions, law enforcement agencies, civil society, international organisations, and diplomatic missions, participated in the **conference "Empowering women – strengthening peace and security" organised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs** with the support of UN Women, Sida, and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

July - December 2024

The following activities are planned for the next project period, as the project widens its scope and reach.

- Continued assistance in formulation of policies and strategies and legislative development, and in the review of the Moldovan regulatory framework.
- Continued assistance in improving institutional capacity, including to the Parliament and committees on setting up the sub-committee on intelligence oversight, and to the Supreme Security Council Service on their mandate development.
- Organisation of tailored trainings, relevant study trips, and regional/international exchanges for staff members and advisors of governmental institutions on cross-cutting security issues.
- Partnership agreement with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and start of tripartite activities implemented with MSB and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.
- Presentation and potential adaptation of monitoring tool for strategic programs to MIA.
- Review of MIA's functional analysis of the central apparatus aimed at evaluating the institution's efficiency and adaptability.
- Development of methodology for mid-term evaluation of the Home Affairs Development Strategy for 2022-2030 (SDDAI) and the sectoral programs for 2022-2025, followed by training on application of the methodology.
- Assistance for the development of mid-term evaluation reports on the implementation of the SDDAI and its six sectoral programs for 2022-2025.
- Regional anti-corruption workshop and anti-corruption awareness raising activities.
- Presentation of the Baseline assessment of gender equality in security and defense institutions to MIA and gender focal points working on implementing the National programme for Women, Peace, and Security.
- Conference on coordination for the National programme on Women, Peace, and Security.
- Partnership agreement with the Women's Police Association and mentoring to build their project management capacities.
- Enhancing capacities of national legislative and executive bodies to develop and promote public information on their activities, including sponsoring of an international expert to be integrated in MIA.
- Wrapping up of the implementation of the campaign for public information on the national security strategy of Moldova, developed in cooperation with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA).
- Organisation of tailored trainings for public communication officers, experts' responsible communication with the public in security governance institutions, and civil society members.
- Organisation of multi-stakeholder roundtables on current topics of security sector in Moldova.
- Partnership agreement with PISA, to strengthen their capacity for research, advocacy, watchdog activities, networking, and public outreach.
- Partnership agreement with the Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD), to increase their peacebuilding capacities and abilities to coordinate activities related to the Women, Peace and Security agenda with MIA.

About DCAF

DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is dedicated to improving the security of states and their people within a framework of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and gender equality. Since its founding in 2000, DCAF has contributed to making peace and development more sustainable by assisting partner states, and international actors supporting these states, to improve the governance of their security sector through inclusive and participatory reforms.

It creates innovative knowledge products, promotes norms and good practices, provides legal and policy advice and supports capacity-building of both state and non-state security sector stakeholders. cybersecurity threats is improved.

DCAF Geneva Centre
for Security Sector
Governance

Maison de la Paix
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2E
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland

☎ +41 22 730 94 00
✉ info@dcaf.ch
🌐 www.dcaf.ch
🐦 [@DCAF_Geneva](https://twitter.com/DCAF_Geneva)