

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova (2023-2028)

Newsletter No 4 July – December 2024

Since its launch in January 2023, DCAF's project '**Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova**' (2023-2028) has engaged 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 National Institute of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistrature, the Superior Council of Prosecutors, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its subordinate institutions – including 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, executive, and judicial institutions, civil society, and citizens, promote trust, and increase democratic resilience.

At the end of 2024 the project reached its two-year implementation mark. Relying on strong relationships built with the donor, implementing partners, and beneficiaries, the project has continued to contribute to its objectives with the implementation of a wide range of activities.

Following the project's extension, formalised in June 2024, DCAF started several new partnerships:

- With the **National Institute of Justice**, the **Superior Council of Magistrature**, and the **Superior Council of Prosecutors**, to build judicial capacity and expertise in the supervision of special investigative and counterintelligence measures.
- With the **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)**, to jointly support strengthening the Moldovan crisis management system, with a focus on the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES).
- With the **Women's Police Association (WPA)**, the **Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA)**, and the **Institute for Democracy and Development (I4DD)**, to build their capacities for research, advocacy, informal oversight, networking, public outreach, and independent project management.

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.

"Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova" project extension launch event, 12 September 2024, Chisinau.



Partner Steering Mechanism

The project is governed through two steering committees consisting of representatives of the project's main beneficiary institutions. The steering committees provide strategic guidance on the project's implementation and ensure its relevance and responsiveness to local developments and priorities.

Outcomes 1 & 3 – Steering committee meeting, 3 December 2024

The third steering committee meeting for Outcomes 1 and 3 took place in Chisinau on the 3 December 2024. The meeting was attended by representatives of DCAF, the Embassy of Sweden in Moldova, the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, Defence and Public Order, the Parliament Secretariat, the Supreme Security Council Secretariat, the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA), and for the first time, the Security and Intelligence Service, the National Institute of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistrature, and the Superior Council of Prosecutors. During the meeting, participants reflected on the activities implemented within the project in 2024. They further discussed partnerships within the project, institutions' priorities, and planned activities for 2025.

Outcome 2 – Steering committee meeting, 23 December 2024

The third steering committee meeting for Outcome 2 occurred in December in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The meeting offered a space for DCAF and project beneficiaries under Outcome 2 to reflect on the successes and challenges of activities implemented in 2024 and identify priority areas for engagement in 2025. The meeting was attended by representatives of DCAF, the Swedish Embassy, and the MIA, including heads of directorates tasked with strategic management and project management in the MIA's central apparatus and General Police Inspectorate, the head of the internal control unit, the deputy head of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, head of the international cooperation and European integration department, and president of the Women's Police Association.

Steering Committee Meeting, Pillar 2, 23 December 2024, Chisinau.

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Outcome I

Enhancing National Security Governance

During the second 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.

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Expanding on the 2023 contribution of the project in the development and adoption of the laws regulating the activity of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS), DCAF provided insights to the defense committee into different European approaches in setting up intelligence oversight committees. This work contributed directly to the formulation of amendments to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, whose approval is pending.



Parliamentary Roundtable for the development of a Guideline on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector, 5 November 2024, Chisinau.

In the second half of 2024, DCAF began to coordinate a long-term process to develop a **Guideline on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector**. This development of this guideline is based on recommendations from a roundtable discussion on intelligence oversight between international experts and elected members and parliamentary staff advisors to three different committees (defence, human rights, legal affairs) hosted by DCAF in June 2024. The guideline will be developed in a participatory manner by a group of authors from across the parliamentary committees and departments and will be designed as a practical tool to support the newly elected parliament following the 2025 elections. To support and inform the guideline development process, DCAF organised a **first workshop on the 11 September and a second on the 5 November 2024**. The workshops brought in experts from Romania and North Macedonia to

present **European standards and best practices in parliamentary oversight** and allowed the **group of authors to have thorough discussions on the guideline's objectives, content, and methodology.**

ENHANCING JUDICIAL CONTROL OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

In parallel with the development of a guideline for Parliament, DCAF initiated a similar process with a group of judges and prosecutors from various courts and judicial institutions in Moldova. In cooperation with the National Institute of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy, and the Superior Council of Prosecutors of Moldova, DCAF organised **two roundtables on the 10 September and 6 November 2024 to discuss aligning Moldovan judiciary practices with European standards**, following an initial event that took place in June. The roundtables featured contributions by experts from North Macedonia and, in addition to covering the alignment of national legislation and practice with European standards, offered space to discuss the new responsibilities of the Moldovan judiciary, in the authorisation and review of the use of special investigative and counterintelligence measures by the intelligence services. The roundtables brought together practicing judges and prosecutors to form a dedicated working group that will develop a **Judicial Benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures**. This initiative aims to inform the development of judicial practice, clarify procedures, and support the judiciary in safeguarding fundamental human rights, including the right to privacy and the right to a fair trial.



Judicial Roundtable on the alignment of Moldovan judicial practices to European standards, 10 September 2024, Chisinau.

Coordinated by DCAF, the Benchbook will establish clear guidelines **for authorising special investigative measures both within and outside criminal proceedings, for exercising judicial control on intelligence activities, and for ensuring compliance with standards in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).**

MOLDOVA SECURITY FORUM

On 19 and 20 November, DCAF co-organised the **first edition of the Moldova Security Forum** in Chisinau, led by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in the Republic of Moldova, the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova, and the Institute for European Policies and Reforms of the Republic of Moldova. The forum brought together leaders, experts, and practitioners from across the world to discuss Moldova's security challenges, regional stability, evolving regional threats, democratic resilience, and security policies and partnerships.

DCAF organised one session entitled **“Crisis Management as a Key Element for Building Resilience”** that took place on 20 November. With panel contributions from DCAF, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Moldova, the Inspectorate for Operational Management of Moldova, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, the Tony Blair Institute, and the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, the session covered topics such as **the integration of Moldova into the EU civil protection mechanism, democratic governance in crisis management, capacity building for effective crisis management, and building resilience through regional cooperation.**



Moldova Security Forum, “Crisis Management as a Key Element for Building Resilience” panel, 20 November 2024, Chisinau.

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On the same day, DCAF also contributed to panel discussions in a session on **“Climate crisis and the urge for green transition: how to adapt”**. There, experts addressed the importance of a shift towards sustainable practices in response to the escalating climate crisis and highlighted the need to anchor the impacts and challenges stemming from climate change in security sector discussions.



Moldova Security Forum, "Crisis Management as a Key Element for Building Resilience" panel, 20 November 2024, Chisinau.

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REGIONAL PEER EXCHANGE ON THE USE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE MEASURES

From 12 – 13 December 2024, DCAF, in collaboration with the Superior Council of Magistracy, supported the organisation of **a study trip to Bucharest, Romania for a group of judges from the Chisinau Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Justice, members of the Superior Council of Magistracy, and officers from the Security and Intelligence Service**. This study visit was organised as part of the project's collaboration with the Moldovan judiciary to strengthen capacities and expertise for judicial oversight of the security sector. The trip included visits to the Romanian Superior Council of Magistracy, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Romanian Intelligence Service. Exchanges between the high-level practitioners centred on topics such as **the steps to follow in the judicial processes for authorising security warrants, evidentiary requirements for warrant approval, the procedures to follow for appointing judges authorised to issue security warrants, standards and safeguards against the misuse and overuse of intrusive powers by the intelligence services, and best practices developed by the Romanian institutions**. This visit contributed to increasing the technical and legal knowledge of Moldovan judges and intelligence officers for managing security warrant requests and approvals and on oversight mechanisms. The representatives of the Romanian intelligence services also provided their Moldovan counterparts with advice on **practical approaches to preparing and presenting security warrant applications, as well as ensuring confidentiality and protecting data integrity**.

STUDY ON THE PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN MOLDOVA

In the midst of recent legislative changes, such as the 2023 Law on Access to Public Interest Information, the 2023 National Security Strategy, and the 2024

Law on Personal Data Protection, and current efforts to bring updates to the Law on State Secrets, DCAF is coordinating **the development of a study on the protection of classified information and the free access to information of public interest in Moldova**. This study will be conducted by a group of civil society experts, with the aim of evaluating the implementation and impact of the current laws, providing a thorough analysis of Moldova's existing legislation on classified information and free access to information of public interest and potential outdated elements, and providing actionable recommendations for the harmonisation of the legal framework in Moldova with international standards and European good practice regarding information classification, declassification, and security vetting processes. The study, work on which began in December 2024, will be completed in the first months of 2025.

OUTCOME 2

Supporting Strategic Management Capacity in the Law Enforcement System

In the second half of 2024, the project continued its work on strategic management in the Moldovan law enforcement system. Of note are developments in project management capacities and processes demonstrated and deployed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, progress on reporting on the sectoral programmes of the MIA's current strategy, the continued delivery of quality trainings on integrity by the Internal Protection and Anti-corruption Unit, and the launch of the Women's Police Association's project 'Gender mainstreaming and women's networks in the Police'. Specific activities and processes are detailed below.

INCREASING STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES IN THE MIA

DCAF continued to support the MIA in increasing its organisational capacity for strategic planning and management, particularly in light of EU accession requirements.



In August, DCAF supported the MIA and its subordinate institutions to receive a second **three-day training on auditing institutional processes** from the Centre for Information Technologies. Aimed at promoting efficient management processes across the MIA, the training featured a combination of theoretical and practical sessions on processes for documenting management activities and decisions. By supporting MIA representatives to be better prepared to meet national standards on internal managerial control systems, DCAF aims to encourage a standardisation of management processes across the MIA.

From July to October, DCAF organised a **collection of activities to assist the MIA and its subordinate institutions in developing comprehensive, evidence-based reporting on the sectoral programmes of the Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs (SDDAI)**. The activities included the development of an evaluation methodology for the SDDAI and its sectoral programmes, trainings on data collection and analysis according to that methodology, workshops on approaches to data presentation for the separate working groups tasked with reporting on each sectoral programme, and feedback on draft reports. This guidance facilitated the reporting process and built capacity for future reporting processes linked to SDDAI, which will be essential for informing strategic planning and management to the end of 2030.



Training on reporting and data collection for the MIA and its subordinate institutions, July-October 2024, Chisinau.

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DCAF additionally conducted an **evaluation of the MIA's internal functional analysis of the central apparatus** in November 2024. The evaluation examined the internal analysis developed by the MIA on the structure of and processes used by their central apparatus in order to assess its efficiency and effectiveness. The evaluation offers recommendations for improvements to the central apparatus that align with national priorities and EU governance standards. This evaluation, along with its recommendations, will be presented to the MIA in the next project period and DCAF will further support the MIA to implement the recommended changes.

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 is arranged for several high- and mid-level managers to receive **certification in project cycle management**. After receiving trainings on PM², the project management methodology of the European Commission, in the first half of 2024, **four representatives of the MIA and its subordinate institutions sat the examination and received certification in this project management methodology**. DCAF will engage these certified individuals in train-the-trainers in the next project year in order to equip them to share their knowledge with managers throughout MIA and its subordinate institutions. This process has enhanced the ability of **MIA representatives to design, coordinate, and implement projects and resultingly MIA's institutional eligibility to receive funding**, both of which will enable more effective reform processes and facilitate institutional alignment with EU standards.

DCAF additionally sponsored one manager from the MIA to enrol in a Masters' Programme for Project Management. This individual plays a key role in project coordination in the central apparatus and the one-year degree will assist in building their capacity to coordinate project management processes in light of EU accession.

To support the establishment of a more robust project management system, DCAF continued to support the MIA to **initiate the use of a digital project management tool**. The project management software procured during the first half of 2024 was, in the second half of the year, populated with existing

projects. By introducing this software, the MIA aims to standardise and streamline their approach to project management.

Finally, in December, DCAF **donated new equipment to the European Union Integration Unit in the General Police Inspectorate to support their project management work linked with EU accession.**

Equipping this unit with two desktop computers will enable increased efficiency in their work in terms of information analysis and data comparison. A similar donation of equipment will occur for the central apparatus of the MIA in first quarter of 2025.



Donation of new equipment to the General Police Inspectorate, December 2024, Chisinau.

PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN THE MIA THROUGH SUPPORT TO INTEGRITY TRAINERS

DCAF continued to support the group of 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 August, DCAF delivered **a one-day workshop on modern training tools to the group of facilitators.** This workshop introduced the group to new training tools for more interactive trainings and offered an opportunity for the group to exchange on their achievements in the delivery of integrity trainings.

In July and October, **facilitators from the group, supported by DCAF, delivered integrity trainings to representatives of a range of institutions** – specifically managers in Human Resources Units in the MIA subdivisions and mid-management representatives from the General Police Inspectorate and General Inspectorate of Border Police in Edinet. These trainings allow for the group of facilitators to

implement the methods introduced in workshops with DCAF in practice and reinforce the work of MIA's Internal Protection and Anti-corruption Service (SPIA).



*Trainings delivered by integrity facilitators, July 2024, Chisinau.
© Ministry of Internal Affairs.*



*Trainings delivered by integrity facilitators, July 2024, Chisinau.
© Ministry of Internal Affairs.*



*Trainings delivered by integrity facilitators, July 2024, Chisinau.
© Ministry of Internal Affairs.*





Trainings delivered by integrity facilitators, October 2024, Chisinau.



In connection with these trainings, a representative of SPIA adapted DCAF's **Police Integrity Pocketbook to the Moldovan context**. The Police Integrity Pocketbook is a resource developed by DCAF that features key integrity principles relevant to police officers. The adapted version includes normative anti-corruption frameworks specific to Moldova and integrity building practices used in the MIA and its subordinate institutions. The Pocketbook was finalised and printed in November and will be distributed by facilitators during future integrity trainings.



their proposed project 'Gender mainstreaming and women's networks in the police' in November.

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. This project will provide them the opportunity to engage in project management and grant management while expanding their reach in the home affairs system to promote the association's principles, including gender equality. **The Association held a launch event for their project as well as two 'inspiring events' in December.** DCAF will accompany the sub-grant to the Women's Police Association with mentoring on project management, leadership, communications, and gender mainstreaming to build the capacity of the Association.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED 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 National Programme for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security for 2023 – 2027 (National programme).

In July, a **baseline report on gender equality was compiled and presented to the MIA** based on data collected by gender focal points from Moldovan security and defense institutions on these indicators throughout the first half of the year. This baseline will enable the MIA to draft more informed reporting on their National programme and will be replicated annually to assist in future strategic planning around Women, Peace, and Security.

BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE WOMEN'S POLICE ASSOCIATION

Following the establishment of a partnership with the Women's Police Association this year, **DCAF awarded the association a sub-grant based on**



Launch event for the project "Gender mainstreaming and women's networks in the police" by the Women's Police Association, November 2024, Chisinau.

© Women's Police Association.



OUTCOME 3

Building Public Trust

During this period, DCAF continued work with Moldovan security sector actors to improve public communication 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 increased regional multi-stakeholder dialogue by organising a regional conference on anti-corruption. This period saw the implementation of the public information campaign on security sector topics – part II, the creation of a discussion club for civil society members, and the official launch of two sub-grants for civil society organisations.

EXTENSION LAUNCH EVENT

To celebrate the official extension of DCAF's project until the end of 2028, along with the inclusion of new implementing partners within the project, DCAF organised **an extension launch event, on the 12 September 2024**. Hosted at the Europe Café in Chisinau, the small-scale reception served as an opportunity to **present the project's new partners and new workstreams** to representatives of Moldova's security sector institutions and the international community. A first panel introduced the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency into the project, and presented the interventions planned with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, while a second panel showcased the group of civil society organisations which the project will support through the allocation of sub-grants, namely the Women's Police Association, the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, and the Institute for Democracy and Development.

SSGM extension launch event, 12 September 2024, Chisinau.



SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

In this period, DCAF increased support to the MIA and its subordinate institutions to enhance and improve their public communications.

DCAF arranged for a **communications consultant to provide strategic guidance, training, and hands-on support to the Minister and the Ministry's communication team** between September and December of 2024. This consultant focused their support on enhancing public communication efforts, improving engagement with media, and building institutional capacity to effectively handle various internal and external communication challenges.

DCAF additionally provided **support to the General Police Inspectorate (GPI) for their organisation of Police Day**, an annual celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of the police institution occurring on 18 December. The celebration was a high-level event attended by the Moldovan President and featured speakers highlighting successes from GPI's 34 years of work and priorities for upcoming work to address current security challenges.



Police Day, 18 December 2024, Chisinau.
© Ministry of Internal Affairs.



Regional Anti-Corruption Conference “Building Integrity from Within: Strengthening Internal Control for a Corruption-Free Future”, 3-4 December 2024, Chisinau.

PROMOTING REGIONAL EXCHANGE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION APPROACHES AND INCREASING AWARENESS ON INTEGRITY

Linked with work in Outcome 2 focused on integrity building in the MIA, DCAF promotes regional exchange on anti-corruption themes and contributes to anti-corruption awareness raising activities for the MIA and its subordinate institutions.

DCAF sponsored the **participation of two representatives from the Internal Protection and Anti-corruption Service (SPIA) in the ‘Together for Integrity’ conference organised by the European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC) network and held in Bucharest, Romania from 26 to 27 November**. This conference gathered representatives from justice and security sector institutions and international organisations across Europe to exchange on a multitude of anti-corruption topics, including investigating and prosecuting corruption and fraud, mechanisms for preventing corruption in law enforcement, and institutional culture, awareness-raising and integrity training in the police.



Regional exchange between representatives from SPIA and their Romanian counterparts, 26-27 November 2024, Bucharest.
© Ministry of Interior, Romania.



Back in Moldova, DCAF organised a **regional anti-corruption conference entitled ‘Building Integrity from Within – Strengthening Internal Control for a Corruption-free Future’ from 3 – 4 December**.

The conference brought representatives of security sector institutions from across Europe, including representatives from Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Romania, and North Macedonia, to exchange best practice on internal control mechanisms in law enforcement. The conference featured panels on the role of internal control units in national anti-corruption strategies, challenges and opportunities in building institutional integrity, regional cooperation on anti-corruption efforts, and emerging corruption threats and future trends.

In recognition of **International Anti-corruption Day, taking place on 9 December, DCAF supported the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (SPIA) of the MIA to raise public awareness of their function and activities**. SPIA visited schools to spark discussions about corruption and integrity and to distribute promotional material about their mandate and organised a friendly football competition for its second consecutive year entitled the “Integrity Cup”. This support, coupled with other activities implemented under Outcome 2, aims at comprehensive integrity building in the MIA by complementing internal capacity building with external awareness raising and efforts towards reinforcing integrity as a cultural value.



Anti-corruption awareness raising campaign, December 2024, Chisinau.
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BUILDING CAPACITIES IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

DCAF provides small grants to Moldovan civil society organisations (CSOs) with mandates focused on security sector governance/reform to encourage local ownership of informal oversight over the Moldovan security sector and build grant management skills within those CSOs.

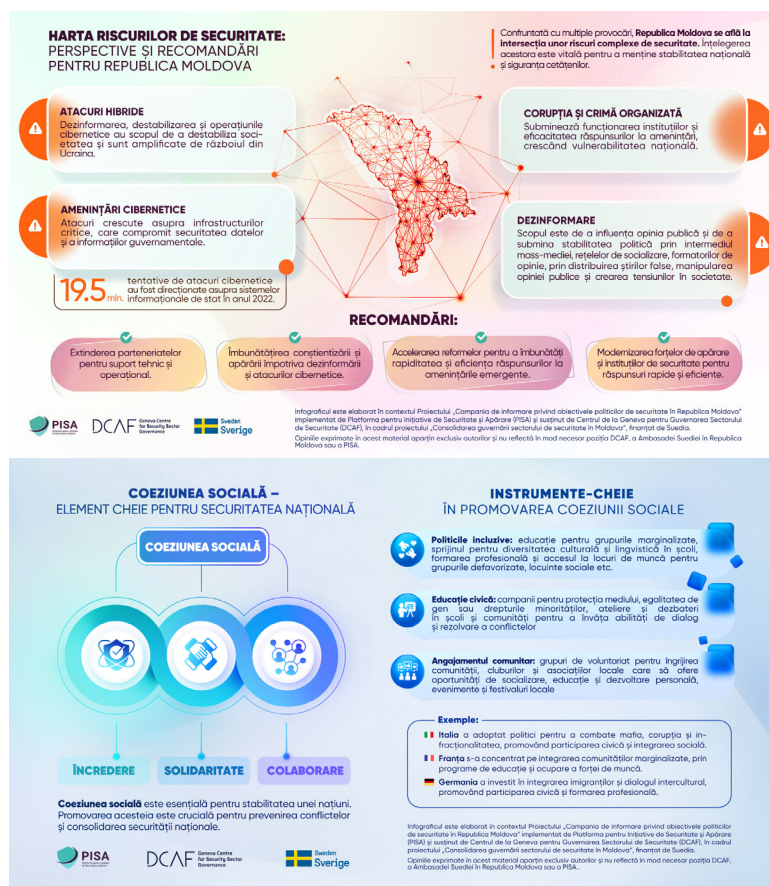
In July, the project began a **partnership with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA)**, supporting their capacity for research, advocacy, watchdog activities, networking, and public outreach. During the six-months implementation period of their project, PISA has led the **establishment of a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Initiative Group**, coordinating the actions of involved CSO actors in this field, and has initiated the **development of a Study on Information Security in Moldova**, as well as a **Toolkit on Hybrid Threats in Moldova**. In addition to the implementation of project activities, PISA benefited from the core support included in the partnership to **consolidate its organisational structure and internal governance framework and invest in its institutional policy development**. DCAF's support to PISA will continue in 2025.

In October, DCAF began a **partnership with the Institute for Development and Democracy (I4DD)** for their implementation of a project 'Enabling Peace, Human Rights and Women's Role in the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda and Community Resilience'. I4DD's project aims at advancing the implementation of the WPS agenda and strengthening cohesion and resilience in the Moldovan law enforcement sector. Their implementation in the fourth quarter of the year included **mapping training needs for individuals aiming to develop their skills as mediators, negotiators, and peacebuilders within the implementation of the National programme on WPS and advocacy activities for women's leadership and participation in the security sector**. Their project implementation, via DCAF's support, will continue into 2025.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

During the first semester of 2024, DCAF started the implementation of a **public information campaign based on the 2023 National Security Strategy**, in collaboration with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives. The campaign aims to raise awareness among citizens and employees working

in security sector institutions on major security policy objectives and approaches and to strengthen the security culture in Moldova by **disseminating clear, simple information about security policies and reforms, encouraging civic participation and open dialogue between the state and citizens, and contributing to public informational resilience**. The campaign spanned from March to September 2024, ending prior to the presidential elections that took place a month later. The campaign included the development of articles and journalistic short excerpts on selected topics from the security sector (such as economic stability, cybersecurity dynamics, public order and security, the reintegration process of the country, the importance of strategic communication, climate security), regular social media promotions (including posts, polls, questionnaires), the production of visual products such as infographics (social cohesion as an element of national security, security risk maps – perspectives and recommendations for Moldova, cybersecurity), video testimonials and street interviews (VOX Populis), and explanatory videos on the national security strategy. The informational materials produced and published were coupled with civil society and academic experts sharing opinions on radio and TV shows.



Infographics, Map of Security Risks in Moldova & Social Cohesion as a Key Element of National Security, Public Information Campaign
© Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives



VOX Populi (*What is the role of the European Union as a security actor in the Republic of Moldova? How do you think the country's reintegration process should be solved? What are the biggest security threats in the Republic of Moldova?*) & Explanatory Video (*Understanding the security environment in the Republic of Moldova*) © Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives & Zugomedia

SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE DISCUSSION CLUB

As DCAF deepens its support for civil society organisations and for strengthening the civic space, the project brings together members of civil society in Moldova to discuss the current political state of affairs, the status of key security strategies and legislation, the position of civil society in the Moldovan security sector, and the challenges it faces. Following the publication of the Independent Report on Security Sector Governance in Moldova, developed in a participatory manner by a group of experts from civil society and launched in March 2024, the project continued engaging with the authors and experts involved in its production in attempts to support actionable recommendations and findings stemming from the report. On 4 December 2024, the project convened the first meeting of the **Security Sector Governance Discussion Club**, conceived to serve as a **consultative forum that assesses Moldova's security sector reforms and reviews the roles of security institutions**. Participants from diverse civil society organisations gathered to exchange perspectives on recent developments in Moldova's governance of its security sector. Heated discussions covered the implementation of the 2023 National Security Strategy, the reform efforts of the Security and Intelligence Service, internal affairs oversight, and security sector budget and resources. Further gatherings and structured discussions will be hosted by DCAF into 2025.

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.

On the 10 July 2024, DCAF participated in a roundtable organised by the People's Advocate Office of Moldova and the OSCE, on security sector oversight and human rights, entitled **"Strengthening Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector of Moldova through the Work of the People's Advocate"**, intervening with considerations on the role and impact of the people's advocate.

Still in July 2024, DCAF also contributed to a series of discussion events around the topic of **"Moldova on the Path to Europe: Countering Disinformation in Moldova's EU Accession Referendum"**, organised by the Centre for Strategic Communication of Moldova, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Info Trust Alliance Moldova, and the Institute for Strategic Initiatives (IPIS).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

January - June 2025

The following activities are planned, as the project goes into its third year of implementation.

- Continued coordination and roundtable discussions on the guideline on parliamentary oversight of the security sector
- Continued coordination and roundtable discussions on the judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures
- Finalisation and publication of the study on the protection of classified information and free access to information of public interest in Moldova
- Continued support to the elaboration and review of a new legislation regarding national security
- Facilitation of a study trip for the Supreme Security Council for regional exchange and learning
- Organisation of a multi-stakeholder conference on judicial control in the security sector, focused on special investigative and counter informative measures
- Support to the MIA for the creation of a dedicated room for strategic planning and EU integration
- Expert advice on aligning the practices and normative framework of the MIA with EU standards
- Presentation of the functional analysis of MIA's central apparatus and related teambuilding exercise
- Expert advice for drafting SDDAI sectoral programmes for the years 2026 – 2030
- Support to facilitators delivering integrity trainings
- Workshop on the risk management system in the MIA
- Support to the MIA to implement policy recommendations from study on integrity in recruitment and training processes
- Evaluation of whistleblower mechanism in the MIA
- Support to the Secretariat of the National action programme on Women, Peace, and Security for coordinating the implementation of gender strategies
- Continuation of the partnership agreement with the Women's Police Association and mentoring to build their project management capacities
- Continuation of expert support for the development and use of a shared project management database in the MIA
- Training of trainers on project cycle management in the MIA and its subordinate institutions
- Enhancing capacities of national legislative and executive bodies to develop and promote public information on their activities, including sponsoring a communications expert to support the MIA
- Facilitation of exchanges and workshops for civil society organisations on democratic resilience, CSO network and coalition, and advocacy
- Organisation of tailored trainings for CSOs on institutional development, strategic planning, and strategic communication
- Organisation of a Debate Forum on Security Sector Governance

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)