

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova (2023-2028)

Newsletter No 5 January - June 2025

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 and its subordinate institutions – including the General Police Inspectorate, the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, and 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.

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 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.

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.

In 2025, the project entered its third implementation year. Relying on strong relationships built with the donor, implementing partners, and beneficiaries, and building on processes started during the preceding years, the project saw a busy first semester, with the implementation of a wide range of activities. Among other highlights, the DCAF office in Chisinau was reinforced with the onboarding of a **new staff joining the project** in April, to support the work of DCAF and its partner, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, in **crisis management and civil protection**.

Outcome I

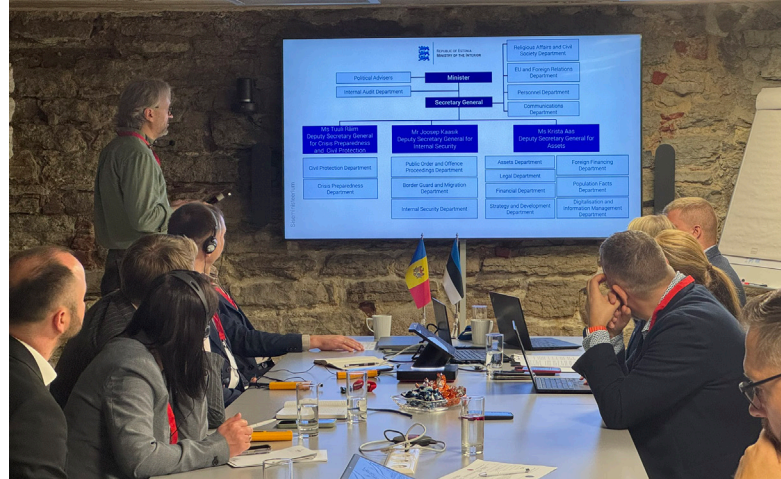
Enhancing National Security Governance

During the first half of 2025, DCAF was engaged extensively with parliamentary standing committees and the supreme security council secretariat, by providing feedback and advice in the development of the draft law on national security. The project also continued its support towards the Moldovan judiciary, strengthening their capacities in judicial control of the security sector.

SUPPORT TO LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT

In January, DCAF continued to build on its multi-year effort to improve the Moldovan security sector governance legislative framework, by organising public discussions, conferences, and advising national experts. To strengthen this contribution, DCAF started the year with the **development of two food for thought papers for the Supreme Security**

Council (SSC) Secretariat, aimed at reviewing the implementation of the national security strategy and assessing the legislative development needs arising from the strategy. The first policy paper assessed the possibility of restructuring the SSC and its Secretariat, by providing a **structured analysis of the legal mandate of the SSC and proposing reforms to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with democratic principles**. The second policy paper analysed the current state security legislation and provided recommendations for drafting a **new national security law to strengthen Moldova's legislative framework on national security**, ensure its alignment with international standards, and enhance institutional resilience and accountability. Both papers were subsequently presented at the occasion of a Debate Forum on Security Sector Governance organised on the 28 January 2025 by DCAF in Chisinau (further detailed below under the project's Outcome 3).



Moldovan delegation study trip on security sector governance and crisis management, 24-31 May 2025, Tallinn, Estonia

STUDY TRIP FOR STAFF MEMBERS AND ADVISORS OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS ON SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

From the 24 to 31 May 2025, DCAF organised a **week-long study trip for a delegation of 12 Moldovan officials to Tallinn, Estonia**, focused on **security sector governance, the role and mandates of executive bodies in crisis management, and civil preparedness**. The delegation was composed of the staff from the supreme security council secretariat and representatives from the president's administration, the prime minister's office, the ministry of internal affairs, the general inspectorate for emergency situations, the national crisis management centre, the ministry of energy, and the cybersecurity agency. The delegation members met with their Estonian counterparts and experts from the security sector and visited a series of Estonian governmental institutions and independent organisations – the Presidential Administration, the State Chancellery, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the National Security and Defense Coordination Unit, the Estonian SITCEN (Situation Centre), the Rescue Board, the Tallinn Municipal Police Department and the Border Guard Board, the 112 Emergency Response Centre, ELERING (the Energy Transmission System Operator), the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, the Stockpiling Agency, and the International Centre for Defense and Security. The study visit gave the opportunity to the participants to learn about the **Estonian experiences and model of security sector architecture and crisis management**, which reflects their concept of 'total defense' and the decentralisation of responsibilities, shared between citizens, specialised authorities, and the state. The visits and meetings



Public consultations on draft law on national security, 7 May 2025, Chisinau

Starting April 2025, the project contributed to the **development and review of the draft law on national security**, by providing **comments and expert advice to both the supreme security council secretariat and to the members of parliament and parliamentary standing committees**. In April, DCAF submitted a **written expert opinion** on the draft law, followed by consultations with the SSC Secretariat in May, until the submission of the law to parliamentary adoption. In June, project team members participated in two **public parliamentary debates** with the parliamentary committee on national security, as well as multiple **informal consultations** with members of parliament and parliamentary staff. Consultations will continue into July with the parliamentary working group before the final reading in July 2025.

Moldovan delegation study trip on security sector governance and crisis management, 24-31 May 2025, Tallinn, Estonia



touched upon the **topics of national resilience, of risk preparedness, of security policy coordination and inter-institutional coordination**, as well as the **digitalisation of processes**. The study trip was organised at an especially timely moment, as on one hand, the supreme security council secretariat, following the development of the new national security law, is working on refining its mandate and strategic priorities, while on another hand, following the development of a new crisis management law, Moldova is re-structuring its crisis management system.



Moldovan delegation study trip on security sector governance and crisis management, 24-31 May 2025, Tallinn, Estonia

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

At the end of last year, DCAF began to coordinate a long-term process to develop a **guideline on parliamentary oversight of the security sector**, with a focus on **intelligence oversight**, following the adoption of the laws regulating the activity of the security and intelligence service in 2023. The guideline, developed in a participatory manner by a group of experts from civil society and from various parliamentary committees and departments, intends to act as a practical tool to support the work of elected members of parliament and staff and advisors working on parliamentary oversight of the security sector and intelligence activities. During this period, DCAF continued the guideline coordination process, convening meetings with the authors, providing feedback and mentoring advice throughout the drafting progression. Following three workshops in June, September, and November last year, the project organised a **fourth in-person workshop reuniting the group of authors** on 18 February 2025. The finalisation and publication of the guideline is planned for the beginning of autumn, coinciding with the parliamentary elections taking place in September.

ENHANCING JUDICIAL CONTROL OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

Over this semester, DCAF also carried on with the coordination for the development of a **judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures**, which aims to establish clear guidelines for exercising judicial control in criminal proceedings and intelligence activities, while ensuring compliance with standards of the European Court of Human Rights and international good practices. Started at the end of 2024, and following three workshops in June, September, and November last year, during which the working group of authors composed of experts and practitioners from Moldovan courts and prosecution offices involved in the authorisation and monitoring of special investigative measures was formed, and the methodology for the drafting of the benchbook was agreed on, the project organised a **fourth in-person workshop** on 19 February 2025. The finalisation and publication of the benchbook is planned for the coming year.



Conference on judicial control in carrying out special investigative and counterintelligence measures, 23 May 2025, Chisinau

To complement the benchbook drafting process, DCAF organised on 23 May 2025 a **regional conference on “Judicial Control in carrying out Special Investigative and Counterintelligence Measures”**, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy, and the Superior Council of Prosecutors. The conference gathered Moldovan judges, prosecutors, members of parliament, legal experts and academics, and brought in senior practitioners and experts from Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, and Ukraine. The conference provided an arena to tackle comparative discussions, including between representatives of judicial and intelligence institutions, on European standards and practices in judicial review of intrusive methods for information collection, emphasizing the role of courts in upholding human rights and the rule of law while ensuring national security.



Conference on judicial control in carrying out special investigative and counterintelligence measures, 23 May 2025, Chisinau

On 12 June 2025, DCAF co-organised a **joint judicial training with the National Institute of Justice** on the “**investigation and prosecution of offenses against public authority and national security**”. Featuring both theoretical sessions and practical discussion-based exercises, the training aimed to enhance the ability of justice sector professionals to interpret and apply national and European legal standards in cases involving threats to public authority and national security in Moldova. DCAF brought in guest experts from Slovenia and North Macedonia, to complement the Moldovan trainers whose backgrounds sit in the general prosecutor’s office and the security and intelligence service. During the training, the participants analysed the distinctions between special investigative techniques and counter-intelligence measures, learned about applicable procedural safeguards, and reflected on the critical role of the judiciary in protecting fundamental rights in national security contexts.



Training on investigation and prosecution of offenses against public authority and national security, 12 June 2025, Chisinau

SEMINAR ON SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE FOR THE DEFENSE SECTOR

On 10 April 2025, DCAF took part in a **seminar at the Military Academy of Moldova** for a group of representatives from various state institutions, focused on **security sector governance**. The seminar,

developed by the DCAF project team, was part of a three-month tailored training programme on security sector administration and coordination organised by the academy.



Seminar for Military Academy on security sector governance, 10 April 2025, Chisinau

OUTCOME 2

Supporting Strategic Management Capacity in the Law Enforcement System

In the first half of 2025, the project expanded its work on strategic planning and management in the Moldovan law enforcement system with a view towards EU accession. DCAF implemented a range of activities in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its subordinate institutions on strategic planning, integrity building, the coordination of gender strategies and action plans, and project management. Highlights include the creation of a dedicated room for strategic planning in the MIA, expert guidance for developing sectoral programmes for the MIA’s next four years, training the second generation of integrity facilitators, and the ongoing institutional development for the Women’s Police Association and their implementation of activities via their sub-grant. Specific activities and processes are detailed below.

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING WITH A VISION TOWARDS EU ACCESSION

In February, DCAF **sponsored a representative of the MIA to participate in a Bi-lateral Screening Meeting on EU Acquis Chapter 1: Free Movement of Goods** in Brussels, Belgium. The participation of the MIA representative was essential to ensure that certain subjects on the screening agenda related to police equipment, weapons, and protective systems were sufficiently addressed. The MIA is also engaged in screening meetings on other chapters, and understanding the procedures around these meetings will assist them in future EU accession stages.

Between March and May, **DCAF supported the MIA to equip a room in their central premises designated to strategic planning and EU accession processes.** The room will host the Directorate for Public Policy Coordination and European Integration, a reorganised unit tasked with supporting institutional processes related to European accession and responsible for developing and promoting public policy documents in line with national requirements and recommendations presented by the European Commission in the bilateral screening. To make the room functional for this Unit, DCAF donated computers, monitors, printers, laptops, and room furnishings, among other items, to the MIA. The room was officially launched in a ceremony that featured the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Head of Development Cooperation, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden to Moldova on 28 May 2025.



Launch of MIA room for strategic planning and EU accession processes, 28 May 2025, Chisinau



From April to June, DCAF provided **expert guidance to the MIA on implementing recommendations from the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).** GRECO conducted a Fifth Evaluation Round of Moldova in 2017 and provided recommendations for the Moldovan authorities on preventing corruption and promoting integrity in a Report adopted on 1 December 2023. To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the GRECO recommendations, DCAF contracted

a local consultant to review the MIA's existing action plans for implementing the recommendations, support thematic groups in the MIA to monitor their implementation, and assist those same thematic groups to develop reports on their implementation. In June, the MIA, with the assistance of the local consultant, finalised and submitted a progress report on the implementation of the GRECO fifth round recommendations covering 1 January 2024 to 1 June 2025. This progress report fulfils Moldova's obligations in terms of being a GRECO member and presents a clear image of the status of preventing corruption and promoting integrity in top executive functions in the central government and law enforcement agencies. This has allowed the MIA to determine which GRECO recommendations need to be further addressed and to adapt its integrity building practices to target these areas.

In June, DCAF began to provide support to the MIA on their development of the next iteration of sectoral programmes linked with their Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs (SDHA). DCAF engaged **two national experts to assist the MIA to draft two sectoral programmes for the period 2026 – 2030:** the Programme for Preventing and Combating Crime and the Programme for Public Order and Security. The MIA will receive similar support on drafting the other sectoral programmes from the Soros Foundation Moldova. These experts will guide the MIA to develop strategic vision, objectives, indicators, actions, and budgets for these programmes as well as contribute to drafting and stakeholder consultation. This support will finish in July and will be detailed further in the project's next newsletter.

INTEGRITY BUILDING IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

DCAF has continued to work on expanding the pool of integrity and gender trainers, and their reach, to contribute to integrity building within the MIA. In this period, DCAF **supported several integrity and gender trainers engaged with the training-of-trainers (ToT) from previous project years** to deliver trainings to different groups in the MIA.

Second generation training-of-trainers sessions on integrity and gender themes, 13-21 May 2025, Chisinau





Second generation training-of-trainers sessions on integrity and gender themes, 13-21 May 2025, Chisinau



In addition to this, to replicate the successful ToT from previous project years, DCAF ran a **second generation training-of-trainers on integrity and gender themes in May**. This second generation consists of thirteen new facilitators who participated in the first two phases of the ToT from 13-21 May. The two-week course includes a pre-course e-learning phase, one week of training on integrity topics and modern adult learning techniques, and one week of training delivery and debriefing sessions. After completing the 3 phases of the training-of-trainers course, these trainers will become integrity facilitators and will deliver trainings on integrity building, gender mainstreaming, anti-discrimination, and the anti-corruption policies in the MIA's subordinate institutions across Moldova. The third phase of the ToT and the graduation for the second generation of facilitators will occur in the next project period.



Facilitators from the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, ToT, 13-21 May 2025, Chisinau

ENHANCING CAPACITIES TO IMPLEMENT GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGIES/ACTION PLANS IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

From 30-31 January, DCAF organised a **workshop on Leadership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** for 25 mid-level representatives of the MIA. The group included members of the MIA Secretariat in charge of coordinating the implementation of Moldova's National programme on Women, Peace, and Security as well as gender focal points engaged on implementing the same programme. The workshop facilitated communication and collaboration between the gender focal points and introduced useful leadership principles for women in the security sector working on National programme implementation.

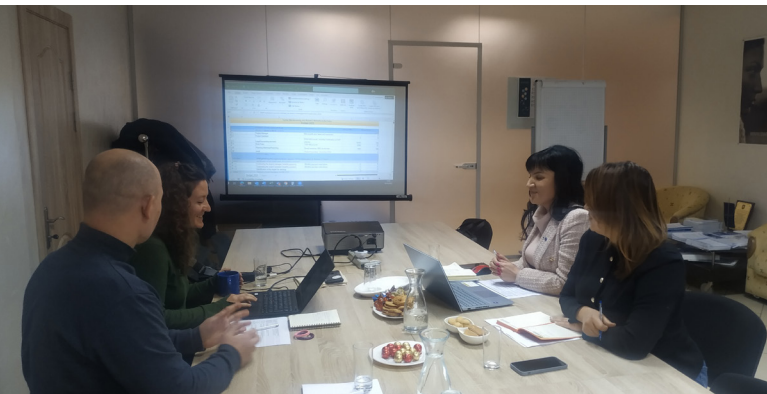


Workshop on leadership for gender equality and women's empowerment, MIA, 30-31 January 2025, Chisinau



During this period, the **Women's Police Association entered into their first full year of implementation for their project 'Gender mainstreaming and women's networks in the police'** as a result of a sub-grant provided by DCAF under the project. The Women's Police Association delivered a range of activities, including several inspiring brunches, a workshop for police officer on sharing family roles, and the development and presentation of a study on training needs in the MIA and its subdivisions. DCAF additionally engages board members of the Association in ongoing institutional development, in this period running a workshop on reporting, monitoring,

and evaluation on January 14 and 15 and a workshop on benchmarking and partnerships on 23 May. Through the implementation of their sub-grant, and by engaging on institutional development with DCAF, the Women's Police Association is building capacities for sustainable growth as an organisation.



Workshop on reporting, monitoring, and evaluation with the Women's Police Association, 14-15 January 2025, Chisinau



Workshop on benchmarking and partnerships with the Women's Police Association, 23 May 2025, Chisinau

ENCOURAGING STANDARDISED APPROACHES TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Between January and June, DCAF provided the MIA with **support to utilise a portfolio management software to organise and manage projects and programmes**. As in 2024, DCAF covered the costs for 17 user licenses for a designated portfolio management software during this period. These licensed users received trainings on use of the software from MIA staff familiar with its functions, and began to implement project data regularly into the software. The use of this software across the MIA and its subordinate institutions should encourage a more standardised approach to project management.



Presentation of portfolio management software for project management, MIA, Chisinau

Between January and March, DCAF ran a **series of activities to encourage the development of standard operating procedures on project management in the MIA**. On 28 January, DCAF held a workshop for individuals from the MIA that became certified in the project management methodology of the European Commission, PM², as part of the project in 2024. This workshop offered a platform to discuss the next steps for this certified group of individuals. A series of meetings with the same group were held throughout the period, in which DCAF continued the discussion on the development of a standard guide on project management and project management standard operating procedures for the MIA and its subordinate institutions. In March, the MIA held a workshop on the potential for developing standard operating procedures on project management with DCAF's support for all relevant stakeholders. Activities linked to the institutionalisation of project management capacities will continue in the next period.



Workshop on project management methodology, 28 January 2025, Chisinau



STRENGTHENING MOLDOVA'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Last year, DCAF started a **partnership with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)**, to contribute towards **strengthening the operational capacities of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Moldova** and the overall Moldovan **crisis management system**. To facilitate the implementation of the activities focused on this new workstream, the DCAF Chisinau office was reinforced with the inclusion of a **new staff member**, starting Easter this year, bringing the local office workforce engaged on the project to four people. In May 2025, MSB led a two-days' **workshop introducing the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) to stakeholders involved in disaster management**, within and beyond the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, aiming at providing an in-depth understanding of its structure, procedures, and working methods, based on the Swedish experiences. The workshop was complemented, a month later, by a **discussion-based exercise**, which built on the learnings of the first sessions, and focused on **interagency and cross-sectoral cooperation through the application of UCPM tools and principles**.

OUTCOME 3

Building Public Trust

During this period, DCAF continued to support the efforts of security institutions to improve their internal communication as well as public communication on their work and mandate. The project also renewed its sub-grants agreements with selected civil society organisations, contributing towards their independent functioning, while working extensively on their capacity building.

STUDY ON CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

At the end of last year, DCAF started coordinating the development of a **study on the protection of classified information and the free access to information of public interest in Moldova**. Led by two experts from the Moldovan civil society, the study aims to provide an analysis of the current legislation on classified information and free access to information of public interest and provide recommendations for a harmonisation of the legal framework in line with international standards and European good practice regarding information classification, declassification, and security vetting processes. In parallel to the development and adoption of the new law on national

security and new aspects linked to the access to and classification of information, the study is being edited and finalised, to match the legislative changes made this year. The study is expected to be published and disseminated in the second part of the year.

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Between January and June this year, **DCAF continued to sponsor a communications consultant who provides strategic guidance, training, and hands-on support to the Minister and the Ministry's communication team**. This consultant focuses their support on enhancing public communication efforts, improving engagement with media, and building institutional capacity to effectively handle various internal and external communication challenges.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

This semester, the project worked extensively with the **Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA)**, building on the partnership and collaborations started in the preceding years.



Workshop on institutional development for PISA, 20 February 2025, Chisinau



In February, DCAF started an **institutional development process** with PISA, under the guidance of an experienced researcher and civil society expert from the Western Balkans in security governance. Over several months, **the project brought support to PISA to consolidate their strategic planning and refine their mandate and governance mechanisms**. On 20 February 2025, the project organised a first in-person workshop on institutional development with the members of PISA, to **reflect and brainstorm on the development and status of the organisation, its ambitions, organisational plans, strategic actions**, and to make an in-depth analysis of the security environment it is evolving in. In April, the team met up twice in online sessions organised on 2 April and on 24 April. The first online session built on the work started in February, and the PISA team worked on **scenario building, risk analysis, and how different scenarios impact the programs and functions of the organisation**. The second online session covered topics related to **advocacy and influencing, with a focus on the European Union and European countries**. On 22 May, the project convened the PISA members for another in-person workshop, during which the institutional development process honed in on the specific **programs within PISA's portfolio** and on its **organisational needs**. The process will carry on into July with further online meetings, and a summer retreat planned outside of Chisinau.

This year, DCAF also renewed its **annual partnership with PISA**, with a sub-grant covering 2025, to **contribute towards its organisational growth, financial stability, and effective functioning as an independent civil society organisation in Moldova's security sector**. During this period, PISA continued to work towards building their organisational capacities and image, while implementing a series of three main activities started in 2024 – **management of a civil society platform for coordination of the work done on promoting the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, the development of a toolkit on hybrid threats, using Moldova as a case study, and the finalisation of an analytic report assessing Moldova's Information Security Strategy (2019–2024)**. At the occasion of the report's publication, titled **"Independent Report on the Information Security Strategy of Moldova"**, which identifies the strengths and weaknesses in the current information security landscape of Moldova and provides recommendations for a new information security strategy, DCAF supported the **organisation of a launch event** on 29 January 2025 in Chisinau. The event gave an opportunity to PISA and the authors of the report to present its content and findings, as well as engage the participants in discussions on Moldova's information security framework. Participants included representatives from the Superior Council for Audiovisual, National Regulatory Agency for Electronic

Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, the Free International University of Moldova, the Independent Centre for Combating Disinformation, and from the international community.



Launch event for the independent report on the information security strategy of Moldova, 29 January 2025, Chisinau

In this period, the **Institute for Development and Democracy (I4DD)** continued to implement their project 'Enabling Peace, Human Rights and Women's Role in the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda and Community Resilience' as a result of their ongoing partnership with DCAF. 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 first half of the year included **publishing op eds on their website on various key themes for women's inclusion the security and defense sector, presenting a study on promoting women's rights in peace and conflict times to the MIA, delivering trainings to MIA representatives on negotiation and mediation skills, and delivering lessons on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda to police academy students**, among other activities. Their project implementation, via DCAF's support, will continue into the second half of 2025.

Apart from the support to PISA and I4DD, the project also involved larger civil society crowd in its activities throughout the semester.

On 21 February 2025, DCAF organised a **workshop on "strengthening the resilience of civil society in Moldova"**. The workshop gathered participants from over a dozen civil society organisations, including from beyond Chisinau, that cover various topics and areas of expertise. Following the political turmoil that accompanied the 2024 presidential elections, and in preparation for the parliamentary elections to take place in September, the participants reflected on the challenges faced by civil society in adapting to rapidly

evolving political environments and the difficulties in ensuring sustainability and efficiency in their work. DCAF brought in an expert from the Western Balkans, to lead the discussions on strategies to increase the democratic and institutional resilience of civil society organisations in changing political and security landscapes. The expert shared their experience in running a think tank in volatile societies facing multiple crisis, and their tips in strengthening organisational resilience.

On 22 May 2025, DCAF organised a **second edition to its 'Discussion Club' for civil society members**, started in December of last year. The participants, composed of several authors of the Independent Report on Security Sector Governance in Moldova, coordinated and edited by DCAF and PISA throughout 2023-2024, and other civil society organisations representatives, exchanged views on institutional coordination, and current issues and recent developments in the Moldovan security sector governance. The discussion focused on the draft national security law, under preparation, as it went on to review and adoption by the parliament.



Workshop on strengthening civil society resilience in Moldova, 21 February 2025, Chisinau

PARTICIPATION IN THE STOCKHOLM FORUM ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

On 13-14 May, DCAF participated in the **2025 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development**, organised by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The project sponsored the participation of two Moldovan delegates from the civil society and from the Security and Intelligence Service to the Forum, as well as the organisation of a panel discussion titled **"From Moldova to Armenia: strengthening resilience against hybrid threats in elections"**, moderated by DCAF. The session provided a platform to share strategies and lessons learned concerning hybrid threats from the 2024 presidential election in Moldova and anticipate challenges ahead of upcoming parliamentary elections in both Moldova (2025) and Armenia (2026). The discussions were contextualised within a broader trend analysis of these issues in recent years, and offered a glimpse into the hybrid threats toolkit, developed by the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives within DCAF's project.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE

On 28 January 2025, the project held its first multi-stakeholder roundtable of the year, by organising a **security sector governance debate forum**, in partnership with the Supreme Security Council Secretariat. The forum gathered representatives from state institutions, including the Supreme Security Council Secretariat, the parliamentary committee on national security, defense, and public order, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Security and Intelligence Service, representatives from civil society organisations, academia, as well as international partners, to review the state of legislative reforms and the 2025 priorities. The debate focused on **the status of implementation of the national security strategy adopted in 2023, and the development of the draft national security**



Multi-stakeholder debate forum on security sector governance in Moldova, 28 January 2025, Chisinau



law. Discussions covered the role of the supreme security council in security governance and the needs for updates and amendments to the current national legislation to ensure increased effectiveness and alignment to the current geopolitical environment. This forum, by taking place at the beginning of the year, fed into the activities and contributions of the project in the process surrounding the development and review of the draft national security law sent for adoption, by opening the public debates on its development and content.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

July - December 2025

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

- Finalisation, publication, and dissemination of the guideline on parliamentary oversight of the security sector
- Continued coordination and roundtable discussions for the development of the judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures
- Continued assistance to the Supreme Security Council Secretariat on their mandate development
- Finalisation and publication of the study on the protection of classified information and free access to information of public interest in Moldova
- Organisation of a workshop on crisis management and inter-institutional coordination
- Contribution to the organisation of the second edition of the Moldova Security Forum
- Continued support to the implementation of activities led by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
- Continuation of expert support to MIA to finalise the sectoral programmes for the years 2026 – 2030 linked to the Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs
- Support to enhancing the technical capacities of the National Cybersecurity Agency
- Phase three of the training-of-trainers on integrity, second generation and graduation ceremony
- Training on integrity and gender topics delivered by SPIA Integrity Team, supported logistically by DCAF
- Support to the MIA Secretariat for developing the mid-term evaluation report on the National programme for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security
- Participation in a conference on Women for Security
- Continuation of sub-grant for Women's Police Association for their project 'Gender mainstreaming and women's networks in the Moldovan police'
- Fourth institutional development workshop for the Women's Police Association
- Regional exchange of knowledge between women's police associations
- Continuation of support to MIA for portfolio management software and expert advice on standardising the software
- Development of a project management guide/manual
- Support towards the finalisation and publication of a Toolkit on Hybrid Threats with the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives
- Continuation of sub-grant for the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives and contribution towards their institutional development
- Continuation of sub-grant for the Institute for Democracy and Development and contribution towards their core funding
- Facilitation of exchanges and workshops for civil society members on current topics of security sector governance
- Coordination for the development of the second edition of the independent report on security sector governance in Moldova
- Organisation of a celebratory event in Chisinau at the occasion of the 25th anniversary of DCAF

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.

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