

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova (2023-2028)

Newsletter No 6 July - December 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** through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), DCAF collaborates with institutions across Moldova's political system, reflecting a whole of society approach to governance. These partners include the Parliament and its standing committees, the National Security Council and its secretariat, 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", the National Institute of Justice, the Superior Council of Magistrature, the Superior Council of Prosecutors, as well as civil society organisations with expertise on defence and security, governance, and human rights.

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 2025, "Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova" completed the first half of its

implementation period. Over the past three years, the project has built strong and trusted relationships with the donor, implementing partners, and beneficiaries, leading to significant achievements across its area of intervention. Thanks to the partners' sustained commitment and active engagement, this last semester was once again particularly dynamic, marked by the implementation of many activities and the consolidation of processes started in the preceding periods. Key highlights include the project contribution to the adoption of a new National Security Law, or the participation in the organisation of the second edition of the Moldova Security Forum.

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.

Moldova Security Forum, 18-19 November 2025, Chisinau, Moldova

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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 meetings 10 July and 26 November 2025

Two steering committee meetings for Outcomes 1 and 3 took place in Chisinau on the 10 July 2025 and the 26 November 2025. The meetings were attended by representatives of DCAF, the Embassy of Sweden in Moldova, the National Security Council Service, the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives, the National Institute of Justice, and the Supreme Council of Prosecutors. During the meeting, participants were briefed on the activities being implemented and planned within the project throughout 2025. Discussions focused on the new national security law, on the September 2025 parliamentary elections in Moldova, and the institutions' priorities and expectations amidst the political context. The exchanges also informed the development of the 2026 workplan for the project.

Outcome 2 – Steering committee meeting 15 July 2025

The fourth steering committee meeting for Outcome 2 took place in Chisinau at the Ministry of Internal Affairs headquarters on 15 July. The meeting was attended by representatives of DCAF, the Swedish Embassy, and the MIA and its subordinate agencies, including heads of directorates tasked with strategic management and project management in the MIA's central apparatus and General Police Inspectorate, the deputy 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 Police Academy training leadership. The meeting featured an overview of ongoing activities linked with outcome two, including strategic management and project management processes, crisis management support, integrity building efforts, and support on reporting on Women, Peace, and Security initiatives, and allowed for participants to raise any challenges in implementation and highlight achievements as a result of project support. A fifth steering committee meeting is planned for the beginning of 2026 to finalise 2026 annual planning between stakeholders.

Outcome I

Enhancing National Security Governance

During the second half of 2025, DCAF continued to engage extensively with parliamentary standing committees and the National Security Council (formerly Supreme Security Council) service, by providing feedback and advice for the implementation of the new Law on National Security, adopted in July 2025. The project also continued its support towards the Moldovan judiciary, strengthening their capacities in judicial control of the security sector.

ADOPTION OF THE LAW ON NATIONAL SECURITY

In July 2025, a new Law on National Security was adopted by the Moldovan Parliament, alongside a new Law on Crisis Management and a new Law on Critical Infrastructure. DCAF contributed to the **development and review of the draft National Security Law**, building on discussions held with the National Security Council Service since the beginning of the year. The project team provided **several rounds of expert advice on the National Security Law to the National Security Council Service during the drafting and review phase**, including facilitating consultations with civil society and academia, as well as to the Parliament when the draft law was submitted to parliamentary procedure. **Written opinions were submitted and subsequently defended in three public consultations organised by the standing committee.** Closely linked to — and partly triggered by — the adoption of the new National Security Law, the project accompanied the National Security Council in reflecting on how best to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the National Security Strategy, including the development of indicators and assessment approaches. Through a combination of formal and informal consultations, the project team sought to renew momentum for **evaluating the implementation of intelligence legislation and advance amendments to the parliamentary Rules of Procedure to strengthen oversight mechanisms.**

PARLIAMENTARY GUIDELINE ON INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT

In 2024, DCAF initiated a long-term, participatory process to develop a **guideline on parliamentary oversight of the security sector**, with a particular focus on **intelligence oversight**. A dedicated working group was established, bringing together parliamentary staff advisors from standing committees



WG drafting workshop for the parliamentary guideline on intelligence oversight, 21 October 2025, Chisinau

and relevant administrative departments. Developed as a practical tool to support the work of elected members of parliament and staff engaged in security and intelligence oversight, the guideline has been developed collaboratively by its authors. In the second half of 2025, DCAF continued to coordinate this process, convening working group meetings and providing ongoing feedback and technical guidance. Two drafting workshops were held on 9 July 2025 and 21 October 2025, gathering the group of authors to advance the content. By the end of the year, the publication entered its finalisation stage. The launch and dissemination of the guideline is planned for the beginning of 2026.

BENCHBOOK ON JUDICIAL CONTROL OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE MEASURES

During the same period, the project also coordinated — in partnership with the National Institute of Justice — the development of a **judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures**.



WG drafting workshop for the judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures, 22 October 2025, Chisinau

Developed in a participative manner by a working group of experts and practitioners from Moldovan courts and prosecution offices, the benchbook aims to provide practical guidance on the exercise of judicial control in both criminal proceedings and intelligence activities, following the adoption of the laws regulating

the activity of the Security and Intelligence Service in 2023. As the drafting process continues, the project convened a fifth working group workshop on 22 October 2025, bringing together the authors to review and refine the content developed so far. The benchbook will be introduced as reference material within the National Institute of Justice's training curricula, and its development will continue into 2026, with finalisation and publication planned for the second half of the year.

JUDICIAL TRAININGS ON THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Beyond coordinating the development of the judicial benchbook, the project also supported the **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)** in organising **professional trainings**. Following an initial session in June 2025, DCAF and the NIJ co-organised a second **joint training on “The investigation and prosecution of crimes against public authority and national security”** on 27 November 2025. The training brought together Moldovan experts and justice practitioners, and guest judges from the Stockholm District Court, who shared experience from national security cases in Swedish courts, including in the handling of classified evidence and the use of secret information collection measures under judicial control. The joint trainings are part of the National Institute of Justice's broader training program, for continuous professional training of the Moldovan judges and prosecutors. While a relatively new topic within judicial training curricula, it is attracting growing attention across European jurisdictions, in light of the increasing number of cases related to espionage, treason, and acts aimed at undermining constitutional order. The collaboration will continue into 2026, with several joint trainings planned on the topic within the project.



Joint training on the investigation and prosecution of crimes against public authority and national security, 27 November 2025, Chisinau

PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES ON STRENGTHENING AWARENESS RAISING AND OUTREACH EFFORTS BY OMBUDS INSTITUTIONS

From the 7-9 October 2025, the project supported the participation of two Moldovan delegates from the People's Advocate of Moldova, in the **17th International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces (17ICOAF)**, organised by DCAF, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference this year focused on **"Building Bridges – Awareness and Outreach Efforts by Ombuds Institutions"**, and provided a platform for the participants to exchange knowledge and best practices on strengthening their awareness raising and outreach efforts, as part of the preconditions to effectively fulfilling their mandates.



17th International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces, 7-9 October 2025, Johannesburg, South Africa

STRENGTHENING THE CYBERSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DESIGN

From September to December 2025, DCAF provided technical support to the **National Cybersecurity Agency of Moldova**, through the contracting of a locally based **network and systems architect**. The support contributed towards the **development and strengthening of the agency's internal IT infrastructure and facility design**, enhancing the resilience and effectiveness of cybersecurity services. This allowed for the implementation of network design, server and storage infrastructure, targeting resilience and redundancy for critical services, and the development of guidelines, SOPs, and capacities.

OUTCOME 2

Supporting Strategic Management Capacity in the Law Enforcement System

In the second half of 2025, the project continued its work on strategic planning and management

in the Moldovan law enforcement system with a view towards EU accession. During this period, highlights include the development and approval of new sectoral programmes linked to the Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs, the graduation of the second generation of integrity facilitators, the development of a draft mid-term evaluation of the National programme on women, peace, and security, and ongoing institutional growth for the Women's Police Association. Details on all activities and processes occurring under outcome 2 are provided below.

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

Between June and September, DCAF provided 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). As referenced in the previous newsletter, 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. These experts guided the MIA to develop **strategic vision, objectives, indicators, actions, and budgets** for these programmes and additionally contributed to drafting and stakeholder consultation. This support was provided as a collection of activities, **including teambuilding sessions for MIA working groups in August and a conference to present the final sectoral programmes in September**. By September, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had finalized the remaining sectoral programmes with support from the Soros Foundation Moldova and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This assistance enabled the Ministry to establish the necessary normative framework and continue implementing the SDHA in line with updated priorities.

From **13 to 15 August**, to complement the development of the updated sectoral programmes, **DCAF organised a training on strategic planning for 40 participants** from the MIA's central apparatus, administrative authorities, and subordinate institutions.

Training on strategic planning for the development of updated sectoral programmes within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 13-15 August 2025, Chisinau





Training on strategic planning for the development of updated sectoral programmes within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 13-15 August 2025, Chisinau

This training familiarised managers in the **Moldovan law enforcement system with the recently developed strategic planning guide**, which clarifies the amendments made to the provisions of the Regulation on Strategic Planning in November 2024. The three-day training **targeted individuals that were members of the working groups responsible for drafting the new SDHA programmes to ensure that the development of the programmes considered existing strategic planning practices within the MIA**. As a result of this training, the sectoral programmes incorporated strategic planning outputs and those involved in drafting became better prepared for managing their implementation.

In August, **DCAF supported the General Police Inspectorate to outfit an on-the-job training room for 25–30 participants at the National Public Security Inspectorate**. To facilitate the delivery of modern in-service trainings on integrity, ethics, gender equality, non-discrimination, and similar topics, the training room was equipped with a TV screen for displaying training materials and furniture, all donated by DCAF. **This room has been, and will continue to be, used by both facilitators from DCAF's integrity training-of-trainers and trainers certified by the Swedish project for reforming the National Police** on topics such as intervention tactics, community policing, and gender mainstreaming.

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES OF THE GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In 2024, DCAF started a partnership agreement with the **Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency** (formerly the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency – MSB), to contribute towards strengthening the operational capacities of the **General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES)** of Moldova.

This semester, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency continued to build on the foundations of the workshops previously delivered on introducing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

(UCPM), and organised, on the 22-23 October 2025, a two-days' **workshop introducing participants from the GIES and its subdivisions to UCPM tools such as Copernicus and EFFIS (European Forest Fire Information System)**. In parallel, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency also focused on supporting the inspectorate's capacity on **external risk and crisis communication**, by conducting an assessment for identifying the GIES' development needs. In October 2025, from the 6-10, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency organised a **study visit for a GIES delegation to Stockholm, Sweden, on crisis communication, with a focus on the education of youth and children**. The study trip will be followed, in 2026, by support to the development of a toolkit on risk communication and the organisation of awareness raising campaigns with prevention officers of the GIES.

INTEGRITY BUILDING IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

DCAF continued its ongoing process of building a strong network of integrity and gender trainers throughout the MIA and its subordinate institutions. **As in the first half of 2025, between July and December DCAF provided support to several integrity and gender trainers who participated in DCAF's 2023 training-of-trainers course**. By covering costs for subscriptions to digital training tools and refreshments during trainings organised off-site and by convening the network of trainers regularly for reflection and discussion, **the project continued to enable further reach and higher frequency of integrity trainings delivered by the group**. To further support the training capacities of the Service for Internal Protection and Anti-corruption (SPIA), in August 2025 DCAF donated additional equipment to the integrity training room in the premises of the MIA central apparatus.



*Training-of-trainer course, second generation of integrity and gender facilitators, 3 September 2025, Chisinau
© Ministry of Internal Affairs*

DCAF additionally continued its work with the second generation of integrity and gender facilitators, who initially attended the training-of-trainers course in May this year. The first and second phase of the course in May, which targeted 13 new trainers, was complemented by a third and fourth phase on 16 July and 2 to 3 September respectively. Both phases were aimed at consolidating knowledge introduced in the May sessions and, following the September workshop, the **13 new trainers received certification from DCAF for police integrity training.** These trainers will join the ten trainers from the first generation in organising and delivering in-service integrity and gender trainings in collaboration across the MIA's subordinate institutions throughout the remainder of the project period and beyond.



Training-of-trainer course, second generation of integrity and gender facilitators, 3 September 2025, Chisinau

In October – November 2025, **DCAF supported the GPI in delivering a specialized training program on the management of sensitive functions**, an initiative aimed to **strengthen the skills required for the effective, consistent, and high-quality identification and handling of sensitive functions within the police.** Over the course of five interactive, regionally organized sessions, **75 police employees** participated in the training. Each GPI subdivision delegated one staff member directly responsible for analysing, identifying, and managing sensitive functions within their unit. This ensured that the learning reached those most closely involved in enhancing integrity processes across the institution.

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

Between July and December, DCAF supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs on developing a mid-term evaluation report for the National action

programme on women, peace, and security (NAP).

The NAP has an implementation period that spans from 2023 to 2027 and in mid-2025 the MIA, as the institution that hosts the Secretariat responsible for coordinating and reporting on Moldova's NAP, began to conceptualise their approach to the programme's mid-term evaluation. DCAF supported this process by working with both a local consultant and the MIA Secretariat to **develop a methodology, develop indicators and questionnaires, collect data through interviews and focus group discussions, analyse data, and develop the first draft of the evaluation report.** The report details the status of the NAP's implementation as of mid-2025 as well as reflections on challenges and lessons learned for the full NAP process. **The draft was finalized in the end of December, and the MIA is currently in the review process.** DCAF will continue to support the MIA's capacity to report, coordinate, and implement gender strategies through similar activities in the next project years.

During this period, the **Women's Police Association continued to implement their first full year of 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, continuing to organize motivational sessions, workshops for police officers and their children, and build project management skills in the MIA and its subordinate institutions (see project management trainings detailed below). More information about the activities implemented by the Women's Police Association in the context of the DCAF partnership agreement can also be found on the Women's Police Association's social media platforms.



Workshop on strategic planning for the Women's Police Association, 9 July 2025, Chisinau

In addition to the work done within the sub-grant by the Women's Police Association members, **DCAF carried on with its support for the institutional development of the Association.** In collaboration with

a regional expert, DCAF organized two workshops as part of the capacity building series initiated earlier this year: the first focused on **strategic planning** on 9 July and the second focused on **financial management and sustainability** on 5 November. As a result of these workshops, the **Women's Police Association developed a draft strategy for their organization**, which will be finalized in a strategy workshop organized by DCAF in the next project period.

To complement the sub-grant and the capacity building efforts, the **Women's Police Association (WPA) attended two international conferences for women in police**. As part of the project, two WPA representatives attended a training from 8 – 12 September organized by the International Association of Women in Police in Scotland and three attended a conference of the European Network of Policewomen in Serbia from 27 – 28 November. These conferences covered **key thematic topics for women's police associations and allowed for an exchange of experiences between the Moldovan delegates and their European or international counterparts, sparking ideas and collaborations that will be supported under the project in the next period**.



*European Network of Policewomen Conference,
27-28 November 2025, Belgrade, Serbia*



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

From **23 to 24 August**, DCAF supported two representatives of the Women's Police Association to organize and deliver a training on project management to 20 individuals within the MIA and its subordinate institutions. The two trainers, who previously received certification in project management as a result of trainings organized by the project in 2023 and 2024, **developed training material, inclusive of a project management booklet**, and delivered the training in order to share their expertise with a wider audience in the MIA. This training complements other efforts by the MIA to standardize approaches to project and portfolio management.

Between July and December, **DCAF continued to provide the MIA with support to utilize a portfolio management software to organize and manage projects and programmes**. Since 2024, DCAF has covered the costs for 17 user licenses for a designated portfolio management software. These licensed users continued to input project data regularly into the software. The use of this software across the MIA and its subordinate institutions should encourage a more standardized approach to project management.

OUTCOME 3 Building Public Trust

During this period, DCAF continued to support security institutions to improve both internal and public communication on their work and mandate, with a focus on anti-corruption and integrity building efforts. Through annual sub-grant agreements with selected civil society organisations, the project continued to contribute towards their independent functioning, while investing extensively in their organisational capacity building.

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

On 31 July, DCAF supported the General Police Inspectorate to organise a one-day event entitled **'Growing with Integrity'**. Two employees of the National Public Security Inspectorate (NPSI), trained by DCAF as integrity and gender facilitators, delivered a one-day workshop to NPSI staff and their children with a focus on strengthening cohesion and fostering integrity among youth. Throughout the day, participants took part in **interactive activities centred on policing**

and integrity, as well as guided discussions between parents and children facilitated by the integrity trainers. The event encouraged open dialogue, reinforced positive values, and helped build a shared understanding of integrity within the community.



Growing with Integrity event with the General Police Inspectorate, 31 July 2025, Chisinau



In July and August, with a continued focus on youth awareness, **the MIA organised a summer camp for the children of staff of the MIA and its subordinate institutions**. Alongside the sports and recreational activities typically offered in a summer camp, the MIA incorporated dedicated **sessions for the children on integrity, gender equality, selfcare, and EU values** to which DCAF contributed.

These thematic activities were delivered by DCAF staff and by specialists trained within DCAF's project, including integrity facilitators from SPIA, representatives of the Women's Police Association, and MIA staff certified in project management. By organising the camp and integrating these important



*Summer Camp for children of employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its subordinate institutions, on integrity, gender equality, inclusion, selfcare, anti-corruption and anti-discrimination principles, and EU values, July-August 2025, Chisinau
© Ministry of Internal Affairs*

topics, the **MIA promotes the values of integrity, inclusion, equality, and wellbeing, while raising awareness of anticorruption and antidiscrimination principles among Moldovan youth.**

From 8 to 11 December, **DCAF organised a working visit to Skopje, North Macedonia for eight representatives of the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs**. During the visit, the Moldovan delegation met with counterparts from the Department of Internal Control, Criminal Investigations, and Professional Standards, as well as the Training Centre in Idrizovo, all within the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia. The programme featured **exchanges on good practices in integrity planning, preventative anticorruption measures, basic police training, e-learning and hybrid training approaches, and effective delivery methods for police integrity courses**. This activity complements ongoing integrity building efforts under Outcome 2 and **builds on the peer exchanges initiated during the 2024 regional conference "Building Integrity from Within: Strengthening Internal Controls for a Corruption free Future"**, which focused on the role of internal control structures in supporting national anti corruption work. These regional exchanges encourage collaboration and innovation for future anti-corruption work in both Moldova and North Macedonia.

As in previous project years, DCAF supported a



*Working visit of Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs delegation to North Macedonia, on integrity planning, anti-corruption measures, police training, hybrid training approaches, and police integrity courses
8-11 December 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia*



collection of activities linked with World Anti-corruption Day, celebrated on 9 December 2025. **SPIA, with DCAF's support, presented 50 certificates of appreciation to colleagues throughout the MIA and its subordinate institutions to recognise their contribution to building integrity and their anti-corruption efforts within the institutions.** This ceremony is held each year in order to foster a culture of integrity in Moldovan law enforcement institutions. On 15 December, **the Swedish Embassy in the Republic of Moldova organised a reception at the Ambassador's residence to celebrate anti-corruption week with its Moldovan partners.** DCAF contributed to parts of the reception by providing visual materials on the topic of anti-corruption and integrity building work in Moldova.

*Anti-corruption Day at the Swedish Embassy in Moldova,
15 December 2025, Chisinau*



CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

This semester, the **Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA)** continued to implement their project in the framework of their annual partnership agreement with DCAF, through a sub-grant destined to support PISA's organisational growth, financial stability, and effective functioning as an independent civil society organisation in Moldova's security sector. In the context of the sub-grant, among other activities, PISA developed a **toolkit on hybrid threats, using Moldova as a case study**, highlighting notably the presidential elections of 2024, and the parliamentary elections of 2025. DCAF supported the finalisation, peer-review, and editing of the toolkit, which was presented on the 19 September 2025 at the occasion of a launch event organised jointly by PISA and DCAF. The publication was subsequently promoted and disseminated during the Moldova Security Forum, organised in November 2025 in Chisinau (see multistakeholder events below). The toolkit, initially published in Romanian, is also being edited in its English version, to be launched at the beginning of 2026. More information about the activities implemented by PISA in the context of the DCAF partnership agreement can also be found on PISA's website and social media platforms.

In parallel to the sub-grant, DCAF had started an **institutional development process** with PISA, at the beginning of the year, adding up to the efforts undertaken by the organisation, to **consolidate their strategic planning and refine their mandate and governance mechanisms**. In the second half of 2025, the project continued with series of workshops, under the guidance of an experienced researcher and civil society expert from the Western Balkans in security governance. On the 2 July 2025, the project organised a second online session dedicated to the topic of **advocacy and influencing, with a focus on the European Union and European countries**. This thematic falls within PISA's networking and fundraising, as well as brand building efforts.

A week later, on 9–10 July, PISA members gathered in Orheiul Vechi for an **in-person summer retreat focused on strategic planning**. The overnight setting in the countryside allowed the team to share valuable team-building moments, fully concentrate on the organisation's needs, and reflect on the past months of analysis building on earlier workshops on scenario planning, security context and risk analysis, programme definition within PISA's portfolio, and the refinement of organisational functions. The retreat created space for in-depth discussions among the members on **PISA's strategic and programming priorities and operational needs**.



Summer retreat on strategic planning for the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, 9-10 July 2025, Orheiul Vechi, Moldova

During this reporting period, the **Institute for Development and Democracy (I4DD)** continued the implementation of its project “**Enabling Peace, Human Rights and Women’s Role in the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and Community Resilience**”, supported through its ongoing partnership with DCAF. I4DD’s project aims to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda and strengthen cohesion and resilience in the Moldovan law enforcement sector. Among other activities, I4DD finalised a study on “**Aligning and Implementing International Standards for Respecting and Promoting Women’s Rights in Times of Peace or Conflict**” as part of their work supporting Moldova’s National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. In October, following a one-year term led by the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives, I4DD assumed the **leadership for the coordination of the WPS Initiative Group**, a consultative platform gathering civil society organisations engaged in influencing national policies and strengthening women’s participation in peacebuilding.

In parallel to the work focused on the WPS agenda, I4DD initiated **institutional strategic development efforts**, drafting notably its **Concept Paper for its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan**, a document which integrates a comprehensive context analysis, and which aims to serve as a foundational guide for the organisation’s long-term planning. Their implementation in the second half of the year also included **extensive fundraising and networking efforts**. More information about the activities

implemented by I4DD in the context of the DCAF partnership agreement can also be found on I4DD’s website and social media platforms.

On 4, 5, and 6 November, **DCAF organised a workshop in Chisinau on financial management for I4DD, the WPA, and PISA respectively**. The half-day workshops featured an **overview of budgeting and financial principles for project implementation, discussions about financial management systems for small organisations, and a brief introduction to existing and potential fundraising facilities** for civil society organisations. This workshop was delivered as part of greater support for capacity building with the three sub-grantees and served as a starting point to identify areas of interest for the organisations in terms of institutional development and finance. The conclusions of these three workshops will be used to further tailor future capacity building support delivered in the next project period.

On the 26 November 2025, the project convened its **third edition of its “Security Sector Governance Discussion Club”** with civil society members, created in 2024. The participants, composed of civil society organisations representatives, gather in an informal setting, to discuss and exchange views on current issues and recent developments in the Moldovan security sector. This edition, the discussion centred on the national security law, adopted in July 2025, and the parliamentary elections that took place in September 2025. The Discussion Club also comprises several authors of the **Independent Report on Security Sector Governance in Moldova**, coordinated and edited by DCAF and PISA in 2023-2024. The participants launched during this meeting the discussions for the development of a **follow-up edition** to the Independent Report, to be started in 2026.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCES

On the 11-12 November 2025, the project contributed to the co-organisation of the **Women for Security Conference**, led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. DCAF took part in the event by facilitating a panel

Women for Security Conference, 11-12 November 2025, Chisinau, © Ministry of Internal Affairs





Women for Security Conference, 11-12 November 2025, Chisinau, © Ministry of Internal Affairs

discussion on **“Translating global Women, Peace and Security commitments into meaningful impact – dialogue with key WPS champions”**.

As the UNSCR 1325 turned 25 years old in 2025, high-level national and international development partners gathered, to reflect on ways to uphold the commitments to the WPS agenda, while navigating a global environment marked by increased number of conflicts and uncertainty, including political shifts, economic constraints, and shrinking development budgets.

A week later, the project also participated in and contributed, on the 18-19 November 2025, to the co-organisation of this year's **Moldova Security Forum**, led by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in the Republic of Moldova, the Institute for European Policies and Reforms of the Republic of Moldova, and the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova. Attended by the President of the Republic of Moldova Maia Sandu, this second edition of the Forum was held under the theme of resilience building and countering hybrid threats in a fractured geopolitical context. The event gathered leaders, experts, and practitioners from across the world, to reflect notably on the experience of the country through the parliamentary elections held in September 2025.

DCAF curated and facilitated a session entitled **“From Risk to Resilience (from vulnerability to strength): crisis management in the new age of hybrid threats”**. On the basis of the recently adopted new laws on national security and on crisis management, the panel explored how effective crisis governance can reduce the cascading impacts of hybrid tactics, and examined the role of crisis management as a central pillar of national resilience when facing political, economic, environmental, and social vulnerabilities. During the event, the project also sponsored the organisation of another panel, titled **“Behind the screens: cyber threats and the battle for Moldova’s democracy”**, exploring the intersection between cyber threats, digital surveillance, and hybrid conflict, while assessing Moldova’s current cybersecurity architecture.



DCAF's 25th anniversary

2025 also represented the year DCAF turned 25 years old. The DCAF Chisinau office took an active part in the celebrations, by organising an anniversary event on the occasion of a visit by DCAF's deputy director, attending the Moldova Security Forum in November.

On the 19 November 2025, DCAF held a cocktail apéro at the Organ Hall of Chisinau, gathering project partners for an intimate reception celebrating years of work on security sector governance and reform, including DCAF's initiatives in Moldova.

National Security Strategy Implementation

On the 27 and 28 November 2025, DCAF participated in an event organised by the National Security Council Service, facilitated by the European Union Partnership Mission (EUPM), reflecting on the implementation of the Monitoring Roadmap 2026-2029 for the National Security Strategy, adopted in 2024.



Moldova Security Forum, 18-19 November 2025, Chisinau

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

January - June 2026

The following activities are planned for the next project period.

- Continued assistance in the development and review of the Moldovan regulatory framework
- Continued assistance in improving the institutional capacity of national governance bodies, with a focus on parliamentary standing committees and intelligence oversight
- Continued assistance to the National Security Council Service on their mandate implementation
- Publication, launch, and dissemination of the parliamentary guideline on intelligence oversight
- Publication and launch of the study on the protection of classified information and free access to information of public interest in Moldova
- Continued coordination for the development and finalisation of the judicial benchbook on the authorisation and control of special investigative and counterintelligence measures
- Organisation of joint trainings with the National Institute of Justice, on judicial control of intrusive methods for information collection and the investigation of state security crime
- Organisation of a workshop on crisis management and institutional coordination with the National Crisis Management Centre
- Support for peer-to-peer exchanges for representatives of the MIA on the EU integration process, including a working trip to the Munich Security Conference
- Trainings for managers in the MIA and its subordinate institutions on strategic planning and other key management skills
- Continued support to the implementation of activities led by the Swedish Civil Defense and Resilience Agency and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
- Continued support to the network of integrity facilitators, including logistical support to integrity and gender trainings delivered by the Integrity Team
- Trainings for managers within the MIA and its subordinate institutions on internal managerial control and anti-corruption standards
- Continuation of sub-grant for the Women's Police Association and support for their strategic development and fundraising efforts
- Continued 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
- Continued support to the MIA for portfolio management software and implementation of project management standard operating procedures
- Support for enhancing the leadership and institution's capacities for public communication in the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Support to the MIA for increasing youth engagement on EU integration and security reform
- Continuation of sub-grant for the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives and support towards their strategic development and public outreach efforts
- Continuation of sub-grant for the Institute for Democracy and Development
- Facilitation of exchanges and workshops for civil society members on current topics of security sector governance
- Support for capacity and expertise building of civil society members on advocacy, monitoring, and EU accession processes
- Continued coordination for the development of a second edition of the independent report on security sector governance in Moldova
- Organisation of multi-stakeholder roundtables on current topics of security sector in Moldova

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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