



UNECE



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
and
the Ministry of Education and Research of Republic of Moldova
with support of the Government of Sweden*

Report:

High-level launch of the UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Moldova and a capacity building programme to support implementation of selected recommendations

Thursday, 16 June 2022

14:00 – 16:00 (EET)

Zoom platform (simultaneous interpretation in English and Romanian)

Background

Since its independence, Moldova has made significant steps to transition to a fully-fledged market economy with improvements in the business environment and development of its national innovation system. Further economic growth will mean that innovation in the form of systematic experimentation with ideas must take centre stage in Moldova's policy efforts. Innovation would also be crucial in meeting Moldova's commitments under the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including the imperative to transition towards a more circular and inclusive economy and the resilient post-pandemic recovery.

To support Moldova's development efforts, the UNECE has carried out the **Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) of Moldova**. The I4SDR aims to support the national authorities and policymakers in promoting an enabling environment for innovation and knowledge-based competitiveness to foster sustainable development.

The I4SDR was carried out following a request from the Government of Moldova and with the financial support from the Government of Sweden. It contains recommendations aimed at stimulating innovation activity in the country through policy actions to enhance innovation policy governance, science-industry linkages and technology commercialisation, and the innovation and technology transfer infrastructure. For the first time, the I4SDR proposes possible policy solutions to leverage the Moldovan diaspora for innovation-driven sustainable development.

The I4SDR of Moldova is available in [English](#) and [Romanian](#) on UNECE website.



Objectives

This event served as an opportunity to present Moldovan stakeholders and international partners with the final main findings and recommendations of the I4SDR of Moldova. It was also a platform to launch the **capacity-building programme on innovation and technology transfer**, as agreed with the Ministry of Education and Research. The capacity-building programme is aimed at supporting the implementation of the selected Review recommendations by the Government of Moldova.

Participation

This event brought together more than 70 people, including Moldovan Government representatives, academia and private sector representatives, as well as international experts, including authors of respective chapters of the I4SDR, development partners and the UNECE secretariat.



UNECE



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

Summary of the discussion

The opening session featured high-level speakers from the Government of Moldova, ECE and UNDP.

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UNECE opened the meeting highlighting the uncertain times facing Moldova and the region and the importance of innovation to improve lives and continue with progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals. Ms. Algayerova welcomed progress on the reforms achieved by the Government of Moldova and called to step up efforts on innovation policy governance and building the absorptive capacities of the private sector and R&D institutions, while re-iterating the commitment of UNECE to support further Government efforts in this direction.

- Ms. Adriana Cazacu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova thanked UNECE for the excellent work conducted under this Review and welcomed the actionable recommendations the analytical document provides. Ms. Cazacu highlighted the importance of the effective involvement and coordination of all innovation policy stakeholders in policy design and implementation to achieve results, including when it comes to building industry-science linkages, fostering innovation at the sub-national level and engaging the diaspora. The Secretary of State reiterated the Government's commitment to implementing the policy recommendations, including through the upcoming Roadmap on innovation and technology transfer to contribute to the new National Programme on Innovation and Research (2024-2027) and called relevant stakeholders to participate actively in consultations for the development of the Roadmap to be supported by UNECE. Mr. Simon Springett, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Moldova highlighted the timeliness of the Review in these challenging and uncertain times for Moldova and called for the integration of its main findings and recommendations into the national development strategy Vision 2030. Mr. Springett stressed the importance of an "all-government" approach to innovation policy to address sustainable development challenges and economic and social insecurity in the country. The Resident Coordinator welcomed Moldova's efforts to digitalise its state services noting at the same time fragmented efforts when it comes to innovation in the public sector, and the need to strengthen linkages between industry and R&D institutions while enhancing their absorptive capacities.

The session was followed by presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Review by UNECE, i.e. Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, and Ms. Lyudmyla Tautiyeva, Consultant, Innovative Policies Development Section, and international experts, i.e. Mr. Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Tobin College of Business, St John's University, United States of America and Ms. Lisa Cowey, Expert on Technology Transfer at JRC and WIPO, Technology Transfer Interface Ltd (T3I), United Kingdom.

In the discussions that followed, Ms. Aliona Onofrei, Deputy Head of the Research and Innovation Policies Directorate, Ministry of Education and Research of Moldova, thanked UNECE for the Review and highlighted the usefulness of the recommendations for further development of national innovation policy. Ms. Onofrei acknowledged the need to strengthen private sector absorptive capacities and the capabilities of the R&D institutions to provide quality research results with potential for commercialisation. She also stressed the importance of cooperation of all ministries and



UNECE



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

agencies involved in innovation policy on one hand, and with sub-national authorities on the other. Priority directions for action for the Ministry include revision of the legal framework for innovation, enhancing innovation policy governance, development of effective and accessible innovation and technology transfer infrastructure, enhancing cooperation with EU on research and innovation, as well as building the capacities of Ministry staff to design and implement innovation policy. Ms. Onofrei pointed out that the Ministry has already started delivering on a range of recommendations provided under the ECE's Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook 2020 and current Review, namely the introduction of innovation vouchers, re-introduction of the young researcher programme, mapping the research and innovation infrastructure with the help of international partners (JRC), launching an evaluation of innovation and research institutions, finalising the smart specialisation strategy (to be one of the drivers of innovation at the sub-national level), etc. In conclusion, Ms. Onofrei called for the active participation of all relevant ministries and agencies, as well as the private sector and academia in the development of the Roadmap for innovation and Technology Transfer of Moldova, a key policy document to be embedded within the wider strategic policy framework for innovation.

Mr. Vadim Iatchevici, Head of Division of Innovation Projects, National Agency for Research and Development of Moldova agreed with the priority actions and suggestions announced by the Ministry of Education and Research, highlighting the usefulness of the Review and the commitment of NARD to implement its recommendations, including through the Roadmap to be developed.

Ms. Violina Donu, Deputy Director, Diaspora Relations Bureau of Moldova thanked ECE for the analysis of the diaspora in the Review and highlighted the relevance of the recommendations for the Bureau's work and strategic vision of diaspora engagement for development and innovation. Ms. Donu briefed participants on recent development of the diaspora academic profile and the guidebook on academic diaspora to ensure better engagement with this segment of the diaspora, along with plans to establish diaspora hubs (beginning in 2023) and a network of hometown associations (with UNDP support). She also explained that the Bureau had partnered with the Ministry of Education and Research and set up a platform for cooperation with the diaspora. Ms. Donu stressed the importance of mechanisms to involve highly skilled members of the diaspora, maintaining flexible engagement frameworks with the diaspora, continued efforts to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the diaspora through questionnaires and other initiatives, as well as exploring the gender dimension of the diaspora, namely the engagement of women for innovation and economic development in Moldova. Finally, she highlighted the need to establish a national data collection instrument that would allow accessibility and harmonization of data gathered by all ministries and agencies for a more informed, evidence based and coordinated policy approach.

Ms. Ilona Panurco, Business Regulation Consultant, Economic Council under the Prime Minister of Moldova welcomed the work undertaken by ECE in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research and pointed to the ambitious recommendations contained in the Review. On behalf of the Economic Council, Ms. Panurco indicated the readiness and commitment of the Council to support the implementation of these recommendations, including through the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology Transfer.



UNECE



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

The following session was dedicated to the presentation of the concept, methodology and timeline of UNECE capacity building support to Moldova to support the implementation of selected recommendations. Based on the discussions and subsequent agreement with the Ministry of Education and Research, the capacity building will aim to support the development of the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology Transfer of Moldova and conducting follow-up training activities for policymakers. Ms. Lisa Cowey, Expert on Technology Transfer at JRC and WIPO, Technology Transfer Interface Ltd (T3I), United Kingdom and the international expert leading this capacity building, presented the concept, methodology and timeline of the project and inviting participants to comment. In the discussion that followed, the Diaspora Relations Bureau representative suggested including high-skilled diaspora members in consultations on the development of the Roadmap; the representative of ATIC (Association of ICT businesses in Moldova) expressed their readiness to be involved in the consultations process and stressed the need to discuss revision of the requirement of holding a PhD degree to teach at universities in Moldova (i.e. one of the reasons for low quality of ICT education); the representative of Endava, a private company, expressed an interest in taking part in the consultations and highlighted the need to invest in the skills of university graduates to close the gap with the labour market needs.

In closing, Mr. Christopher Athey, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE thanked all stakeholders, experts and partners their contributions during the event and, most importantly, throughout the Review process. He reminded participants of the next steps under the project, i.e. the establishment of the Task Force to hold consultations on development of the Roadmap on Innovation and Technology Transfer and encouraged the active participation of all relevant innovation policy stakeholders.

DRAFT AGENDA Thursday, 16 June <i>High-level launch of the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Moldova and of the follow-up capacity-building programme</i> Click here to join	
13:30– 14:00	<p>Access to the session</p> <p><i>Participants are recommended to join the meeting at least 15 minutes prior to the opening.</i></p>
14:00– 14:20	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p><i>Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Adriana Cazacu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Simon Springett, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Moldova</i></p>
14:20 – 14:50	<p>Presentation of the I4SDR of Moldova</p> <p>In this section, the UNECE Secretariat will elaborate on the research process, the structure and the main findings and recommendations of the I4SDR of Moldova.</p> <p>UNECE Secretariat and international experts -authors of the chapters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Slavo Radosevic, Ph.D., Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, University College London, United Kingdom</i> • <i>Ms. Lisa Cowey, Expert on Technology Transfer at JRC and WIPO, Technology Transfer Interface Ltd (T3I), United Kingdom</i> • <i>Mr. Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Tobin College of Business, St John's University, United States of America</i>
14:50– 15:30	<p>Comments by key stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Aliona Onofrei, Acting Head of Research and Innovation Policy Directorate, Ministry of Education and Research of Moldova</i> • <i>Mr. Vadim Iatchevici, Head of Division of Innovation Projects, National Agency for Research and Development of Moldova</i> • <i>Ms. Violina Donu, Deputy Director, Diaspora Relations Bureau of Moldova</i> • <i>Ms. Ilona Panurco, Business Regulation Consultant, Economic Council under the Prime Minister of Moldova</i>



Sweden
Sverige



UNECE



MINISTERUL
EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

15:30-15:50	<p>Capacity-building programme: Supporting the development of the Roadmap on innovation and technology transfer in Moldova</p> <p>To support the implementation of the recommendations in the field of innovation and technology transfer, UNECE will be providing its expertise. A draft outline and structure of the Roadmap will be presented drawing on Chapter 5 of the Review and selected other elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Lisa Cowey, <i>Expert on Technology Transfer at JRC and WIPO, Technology Transfer Interface Ltd (T3I), United Kingdom</i> <p>Comments by Moldovan stakeholders</p>
15:50– 16:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>Mr. Christopher Athey, <i>Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE</i></p>

List of participants

Iatchevici	Vadim	National Agency for Research and Development	Head of Innovative project directorate
Cujba	Rodica	Technical University of Moldova	Head, Department of Scientific Research
Suditu	Natalia	Foundation for Innovation and Sustainable Development	Director
Bzovii	Marina	ATIC	Executive Director
Levitskaia	Alla	Innovative incubator "Innocenter"	Director
Nemciuc	Mary	Technovator	CEO
Tirsu	Mihai	Institute of Power Engineering	Director
Todiras	Mihail	Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Director of Health and Biomedicine research Center
Donu	Violina	Diaspora Relations Bureau, State Chancellery	Deputy Head
Rusnac	Cristina	Ministerul Agriculturii și Industriei Alimentare	Consultant principal
Varlan	Marcel	ELIRI SA	CEO
Platon-Lungu	Dorina	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration	Attaché
Andronic	Corina	ATIC / EU4Moldova: Startup City Cahul Project	Deputy Project Director
Nicoara	Igor	Institute of Geology and Seismology	Director
Cociug	Victoria	ASEM	Vice-rector for Research and Premiership
Moisei	Andrei	AGEPI	Senior Consultant, Communication and Training Section
Afteniuc	Igor	ODIMM	Senior specialist, Green Economy and Sustainable Development Division
Botizatu	Alexandru	"Timofei Mosneaga" Republican Clinical Hospital	Head of Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care
Croitoru	Catalina	Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and PHarmacie	Associate professor
Carpovici	Elena	Nicolae Testemitanu SUMP	Main librarian
Tibuleac	Anna	Helvetas Moldova/ SDC's Optim Project	Deputy Team Leader
Lucia	Casap	World Bank	Operations Officer
Shor	Elina	Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Assistant of department of Surgery
LUPOLOV	TATIANA	SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL INSTITUTE OF BIOTECHNOLOGIES IN ZOOTECHNY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE	Scientific Secretary
Catanoi	Natalia	National pre-hospital emergency medical center	Director
Victor	Meșina	Universitatea de Stat de Medicină și Farmacie „Nicolae Testemițanu” din Republica Moldova	Associate professor
Pecerschih	Elena	Moldcell SA	HR Business Partner

Chicu	Silvia	UPS „Ion Creangă” din Chișinău	Head, Research, Development and Innovation Management Section
Topciu	Vladimir	USMF N. TESTEMITANU	Assistant
Pîrău	Lucia	Liceul Teoretic Republican "Aristotel", Chișinău	Director adjunct
Toporova	Diana	ICS Huawei Technologies SRL	HR Manager
Gasitoi	Natalia	Alecu Russo Balti State University	Rector
Mazur	Minodora	Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Professor
Damian	Galina	MoF	Lead consultant in DAMEP
Oprea	Olga	Ministry of Finance	Main consultant
Catirau	Mircea	MIDR	Main consultant
Foca	Ecaterina	SUMP "Nicolae Testemitanu"	Vice-director of the doctoral school
Tutunaru	Sergiu	Economic Studies of Moldova	Director of the innovative ICT incubator, Chief of the department InfAB
Tabacaru	Sergiu	Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Deputy Head of Regional Development Policy Directorate, Head of Relations with Regional Development Institutions
Cojocaru	Igor	Information Society Development Institute	Director
Cuciureanu	Gheorghe	ANACEC	șef direcție
Staver	Liliana	Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova	Head of Science Department
Stihi	Liudmila	GIZ Moldova, Promotion Dual VET in the field of Green Economy, project	Adviser for Center Region
Răileanu	Viorica	Institutul de Filologie Română „Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu”	Scientific secretary
Buliga	Valentina	USMF N.T estemitanu	Doctor in FARMACIE, assistant
Andronic	Larisa	Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection	Director
Vornic	Vladimir	Public Procurement Agency	Deputy Director
Patrascu	Alexandra	ODIMM	Junior Specialist
Postolache	Natalia	Public Procurement Agency	Head of Statistics, Reporting and Electronic Procurement
Școlnii	Ina	Ministry of Economy	Deputy Chief, Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
Braga-Miță	Natalia	Public Procurement Agency	Head of Consulting and Training Service
Paglione	Giuseppe	Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova	Education, Research and Culture Programme Officer
Chastina (Ceastina)	Alla	Institute of Cultural Heritage of Moldova (Institutul Patrimoniului Cultural a RM)	Scientific researcher
Nipomici	Galina	MFAEI	Counsellor
Gușan	Liliana	MFAEI	Head of UN Division
Daniela	Varlan	USM	Stakeholder

FUNERIU	DANIEL	EU HLA MISSION	EU HLA ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
CEBANU	CEZARA	EU HLA MISSION	EU HLA Assistant on education and research
Ciochina	Valentina	The Institute of Physiology and Sanocreatology	Deputy Director for Scientific Activity
Catirau	Mircea	MIDR	Consultant principal
Tvigun	Iulia	UNDP Moldova	Communications Officer
Lescu	Artur	State University of Physical Education and Sports	
Botea	Marina	State Chancellery	
Petcu	Igor	Scientific-Practical Institute of Biotechnology in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine	
Cotenco	Eugenia	Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection	
Cojocaru	Violeta	Moldova State University	
Mustea	Valentin	Ministry of Health	
Stratu	Ecaterina	"Nicolae Testemitanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova	
Cangea	Silvia	ODIMM	
Chiriac	Tatiana	ODIMM	
Mereuță	Ion	Institute of Physiology and Sanocreatology	
Panurco	Ilona	Economic Council to the Prime Minister	Consultant
Ariana	Nouri	Iran National Inventions and Innovation Team / Sustainable Development Goals Program	Innovation expert and sustainable development program expert
Giselle	Hu	Huawei Technologies	VP
Petrusevschi	Daniela	Endava	Senior program and portfolio manager
Tiscul	Cristina	FIA Moldova	Project Manager
Babin	Anatolie	National Institute for Economic Research	Institutional PhD researcher, MBA - Public Relations, International Cooperation and Technology Transfer Department
Spinosu	Galina	USMF,,N.Testemițanu"	Asistant