



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Chişinău, 2023



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Message of the Executive Director

Throughout history, Moldovan society has always faced various challenges. In 2022, Russia's war against Ukraine and the heightening of security risks in the region pushed Moldova, just like other countries, into a new cycle of economic and energy crises that hit every family. Still, Moldovans stood by tens of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing from the war. Civil society and the authorities joined efforts to support the refugees who sought safety in our country. Despite constant attempts of subversive anti-democratic groups to break order in the country, people resisted, remaining humane and loyal to democratic principles and their European choice. All this time, the Soros Foundation Moldova kept supporting the visionaries working toward a just and healthy society with effective and accountable institutions and a free, functioning economy where people and communities can have a better future.

Elsewhere in the world, to increase its positive impact globally, the Open Society Foundations group, which includes the Soros Foundation Moldova, was busy going through an ample re-assessment and re-positioning of its work. This transformation was meant to gain a sharper focus on top-priority areas where the state of affairs prevents further development of humankind. The key areas where the Soros Foundation Moldova will continue its work are (1) democratization and the rule of law and (2) social and economic resilience. These two are vital concerns where all development partners must cooperate so that the Republic of Moldova can overcome its challenges.

Protecting Democracy and the Rule of Law

Reforming justice is crucial for the future of democracy and the rule of law in the Republic of Moldova. To restore confidence in the rule of law, the Soros Foundation Moldova supports the most daring justice reform and the strengthening of key institutions—the Anticorruption Prosecution Office, the

Ministry of Home Affairs, including the General Police Inspectorate, and the National Anticorruption Center, including the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency.

The Foundation supported the preparation of independent screening reports on the integrity and lifestyles of candidates for various positions from the judiciary's self-management system, which came to the attention of the Pre-vetting Committee. We also offered support to experts who worked to improve the legal framework concerning the justice sector, namely the Criminal Procedure Code, the Act on the Organization of the Judiciary, etc.

To contribute to the fight against corruption, the Foundation supported a training course dedicated to anticorruption and good governance, which increased the professionalism of public officers, finance professionals, board members of state-owned companies, journalists, and workers of the non-commercial sector. In addition, the Foundation offered technical assistance and support to the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency under the National Anticorruption Center in carrying out an assessment of their needs, increasing institutional capacities, defining workflows, improving public communication, and developing the legal framework.

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported a comprehensive needs assessment of the Anticorruption Prosecution Office and its relationship with other actors of the justice and law enforcement sectors. Currently, this is the most rigorous, accurate, and complex needs assessment of this institution, accompanied by a roadmap, fully endorsed by the Anticorruption Prosecution Office.

Not least of all, the Soros Foundation Moldova supported establishing a network of human rights defenders among Ukrainian refugees that participated in documenting war crimes and collecting testimonies and evidence from the refugees who suffered from and witnessed war crimes..

Social and Economic Resilience

Right from the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Soros Foundation Moldova supported actions of community solidarity by integrating and protecting child refugees, distributing medications and school supplies, and ensuring legal assistance for refugees upon their arrival into Moldova.

We offered support for initiatives facilitating access to education for children with disabilities. Together with the Delegation of the European Union and other civil society partners, we are working on a large-scale project to develop 40 welfare services and achieve a systemwide improvement across the country.

The Foundation supports promoting new labor policies to set the prerequisites for a fairer economy and better social security for vulnerable groups. We also assist the authorities in improving access to palliative care as an essential healthcare service, humanizing antidrug policies, improving medical education, and helping civil society monitor healthcare policies better.

2022 was a year that raised challenges Moldovan society had never experienced for decades, and yet the country overcame them thanks to people who did not want to stand by but acted instead.

Petru Culeac, Executive Director

**JUSTICE
AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Justice Reform

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported a series of initiatives by nongovernmental organizations specializing in justice sector matters to monitor and support progress on justice reform policies and improve human rights guarantees in criminal proceedings. The Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) prepared four independent screening reports on the integrity and lifestyles of candidates for various positions from the judiciary's self-management system and shared them with the Independent Committee for Evaluating the Integrity of Candidates for Member in Self-management Bodies of Judges and Prosecutors (Pre-vetting Committee). IPRE also prepared legal opinions concerning the laws, by-laws, and procedural documents necessary for extraordinary evaluation and participated in establishing an interagency task force responsible for making policies that ensure better efficiency in the criminal investigation of and sanctioning for grand corruption. As part of the same project, the Soros Foundation Moldova facilitated the establishment of operating partnerships and strategic partnerships between the Anticorruption Prosecution Office, the Prosecutor General's Office, the National Anticorruption Center, and the Romanian National Anticorruption Department. Our interventions helped the Anticorruption Prosecution Office strengthen its in-house communication mechanisms by purchasing a Microsoft 365 subscription and training its staff to use this software.

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported the [business analysis of the Anticorruption Prosecution Office](#) and its relationship with other actors of the justice and law enforcement sectors. This is by far the most rigorous, accurate, and complex needs assessment of this institution, accompanied by a roadmap. Now anticorruption institutions can use a reasonably precise

algorithm to improve the efficiency of criminal investigation in grand corruption cases. The Anticorruption Prosecution Office and the entire legal community have recognized the unparalleled value of this study. Assisted by IPRE team, study author Vitalii Kasko, former deputy prosecutor general of Ukraine, conducted approximately 45 interviews with representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Anticorruption Prosecution Office, the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency, and the Ministry of Justice, with EU high-level advisers, representatives of development partners (US Embassy, USAID, INL, and World Bank) and civil society, and with lawyers and judges.



Anticorruption Prosecution Office Chief Veronica Dragalin attending the release of the Business Analysis Report, IPRE, November 22, 2023.

Supported by the Foundation, the Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM) established a group of experts, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and civil society representatives, to amend the Criminal Procedure Code and the Act on the Organization of the Judiciary. The group developed and submitted several bills to the Ministry of Justice, which, if approved by Parliament, can potentially revolutionize criminal proceedings. In particular, the amendments:

- remove deficiencies related to procedural statuses in criminal proceedings by abandoning the status of suspect and automatically attributing the status of victim of crime;
- address the loophole related to the confidentiality of the criminal investigation, which the prosecution could exploit, and introduce the rule that criminal investigation materials are not confidential except for limited situations where the circumstances of each case warrant confidentiality and the rule that the sittings of investigating judges are public with a few exceptions;
- liberalize the provisions concerning the rights of criminal trial parties by entitling the defense and the victim, injured party, or civil party to access to criminal investigation materials during prosecution;
- strengthen procedural guarantees against abuses committed by the prosecution by introducing the rule that the investigating judge must examine all complaints before referring a case to court;
- ensure a more explicit regulation of the nullity of procedure;
- strengthen the adversarial procedure of the trial phase;
- abolish the practice of sending criminal cases to court and regulate that only the indictment and the list of evidence will be sent to court to ensure that judges do not make conclusions using inadmissible evidence from the case;

- address criminal procedure inconsistencies by closing the loopholes in the Criminal Procedure Code that the prosecution or the defense could exploit;
- simplify the documentation and examination of criminal cases using the civil procedure model;
- introduce several levers that help to standardize judicial practice.

In addition, experts proposed changing the legal requirements for appointment as investigating judge by prohibiting the appointment of former prosecutors, criminal investigation officers, and recently appointed judges to this position. It was also proposed to revert to the requirement of mandatory experience of a minimum of three years for appointment as investigating judge and to the prohibition of serving as investigating judge for more than three consecutive years—provisions that were repealed in 2017 and 2018. Other changes included introducing a special system for professional training (that would precede the assumption of office) and for the remuneration of investigating judges (roughly on par with judges from appellate courts). In addition, the bill proposed reintroducing criminal liability for the misrepresentation of accused individuals or defendants.

Human Rights

In the first hours following Russia's war against Ukraine, thousands of people decided to seek safety in the Republic of Moldova. The Soros Foundation Moldova supported the initiative of the Bar's Law Center (CDA) and the Office for Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the Ministry of Home Affairs to set up a hotline for Ukrainian refugees. CDA delegated six counsels to provide round-the-clock legal assistance. From March through September 2022, the call center processed 7,000 calls, offered border refugee assistance to 156 unaccompanied or separated juveniles, provided documentation and Moldovan residency legalization assistance to 3,242 individuals, and referred 10 cases of trafficking in humans to the authorities. CDA enjoyed total support and openness throughout the project from the authorities and the Office of Ombudsperson. As a result, the project's counsels learned not only to offer counseling and legal assistance but also to offer psychological assistance and to get involved in resolving very complex individual cases.

In another initiative supported by the Foundation to protect human rights amid the war in Ukraine, Promo-LEX decided to establish a network of human rights defenders among Ukrainian refugees that joined the efforts to inform the refugees about war crimes and to collect testimonies and evidence from the refugees who suffered from and witnessed them. Promo-LEX Association is a member of the coalition of human rights organizations that collect affidavits and evidence of war crimes from Ukrainian refugees on the territories of the Republic of Moldova and Romania. This evidence is essential for bringing war criminals to justice in the future. It can be sent to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court or any other international

criminal tribunal that will try Russian individuals charged with war crimes.

Promo-LEX organized two summer schools for 60 persons to offer them hands-on training about how to collect information and testimonies of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity and the institutions responsible for the investigation of and indictment on such charges. The participants also learned about civil society, civic activism, human rights, the work and role of the ombudsperson in the Republic of Moldova, the situation of refugees in Moldova, and the protection of human rights during wars.

During the project, Promo-LEX cooperated with the Embassy of Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova, the National Congress of Ukrainians from Moldova, the civic initiative Moldova for Peace, the Bar's Law Center, and the UN Refugee Agency.

Reform of the Police and Home Affairs Sector

The Soros Foundation Moldova continued the initiatives aimed at reforming the police and supporting the Ministry of Home Affairs. By the beginning of 2022, the nongovernmental sector viewed the Foundation as the primary advocate of the reform of the MHA. We advocate the development of high-quality police services that are compliant with international human rights standards and the commitments made in the context of the RM-EU Association Agreement and the candidate status awarded to our country.

The Soros Foundation Moldova took a series of advocacy actions to fill information gaps and to coordinate donors' efforts in support of the reform of the law enforcement sector. The Soros Foundation Moldova supported the development of two documents that underlie the reform of the MHA:

1. Detailed interoperability analysis report on the GPI and GIC with suggested scenarios on how to streamline the work of these subdivisions of the MHA;
2. Report concerning the recommendations for the strategic development of the GPI and a draft plan for the development of the GPI during 2022–2024.

Authors Frans Lang and Willi Apreutesei proposed a clear vision of the functionality, cooperation opportunities, and potential merger of the General Police Inspectorate and the General Inspectorate of Carabiniers and a plan for developing the GPI for the years 2022–2024.

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported developing and approving a single sectoral policy framework based on the standards of advanced democracies, including from the European Union, and the expectations of MHA employees and the public concerning high-quality law enforcement services. The Foundation directly contributed to developing the Strategy for the Development of the Law Enforcement Sector (SDLES) and developing and approving the sectoral development programs and related action plans. In addition, the entire set of sectoral policy papers concerning the modernization and streamlining of the law enforcement sector was prepared and sent to the State Chancellery for public consultation. These documents include the following:

- Sectoral Program for Public Order and Security;
- Sectoral Program for the Prevention of and Fight against Criminality;
- Sectoral Program for the Prevention and Management of Emergencies;
- Sectoral Program for the Integrated Management of the Border;
- Sectoral Program for Migration, Asylum, and the Integration of Foreigners;
- Sectoral Program for the Prevention of, and Fight against, Corruption at the MHA for the Years 2022–2025;

Sectoral Program for Digitalizing the Law Enforcement Sector with a View to Developing Education, Research, and Professional Training during 2022–2025.

Our work also contributed to establishing an EU support hub for internal security and border management, opened by European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson and Minister of Home Affairs Ana Revenco in Chișinău, Moldova, in July. This way, the Republic of Moldova became not only a beneficiary of but also a contributor to the European security system. The EU support hub is focused on preventing and counteracting trafficking in arms, drugs, and humans, smuggling, terrorism, cybercrimes, and information crimes. Furthermore, the Foundation supported and participated in the works of Together4Home Affairs Strategic Dialogue for Security. This platform for dialogue annually gathers donors, experts, and decision-makers determined to help Moldova find quick and practical solutions to new security threats in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition, the Foundation purchased a sizeable batch of office equipment amounting to USD 158,000 in total and donated it to the MHA and the GPI. The purchased 135 all-in-one computers and 50 high-capacity all-in-one printers will support the work of police officers across the country.

**GOOD
GOVERNANCE**

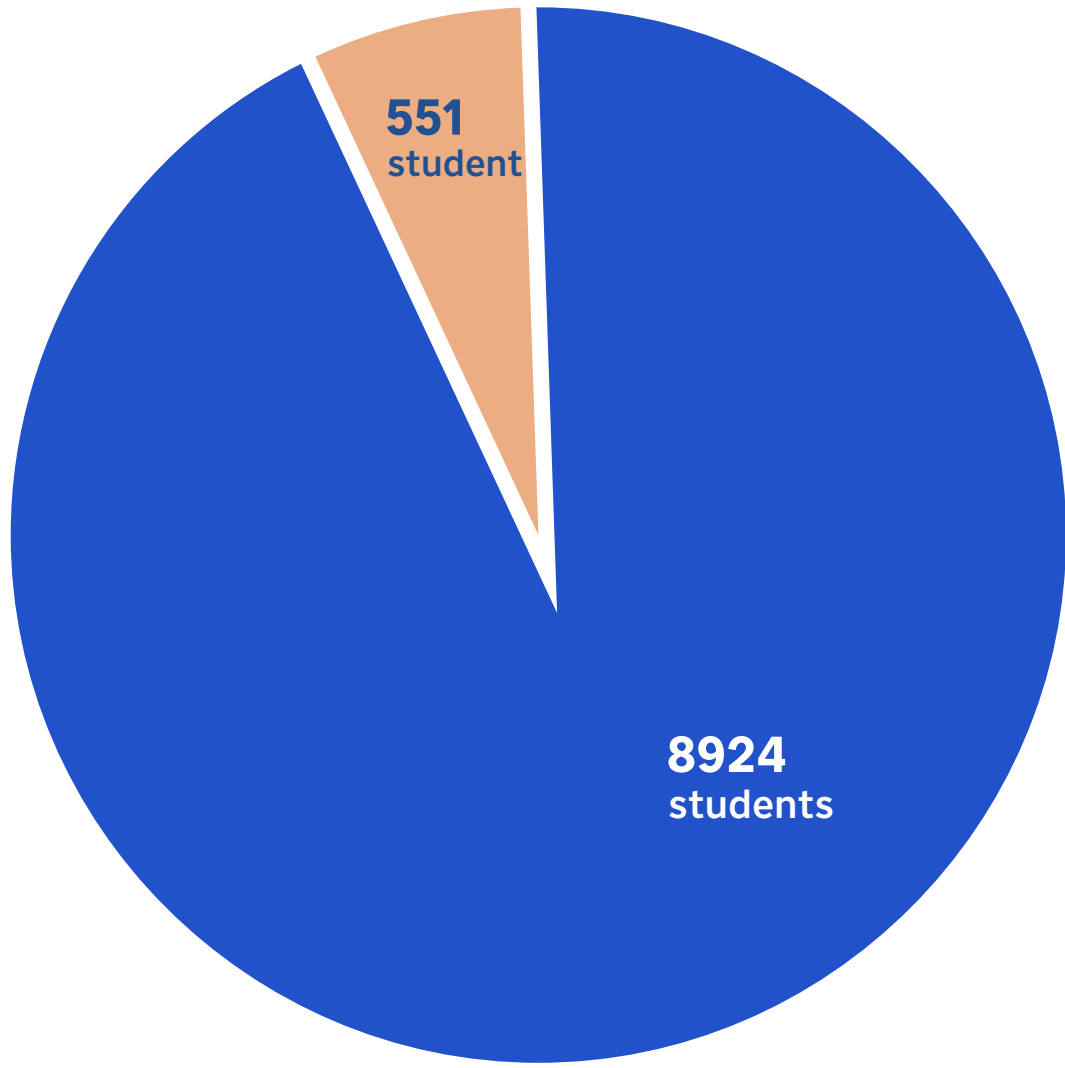


Education

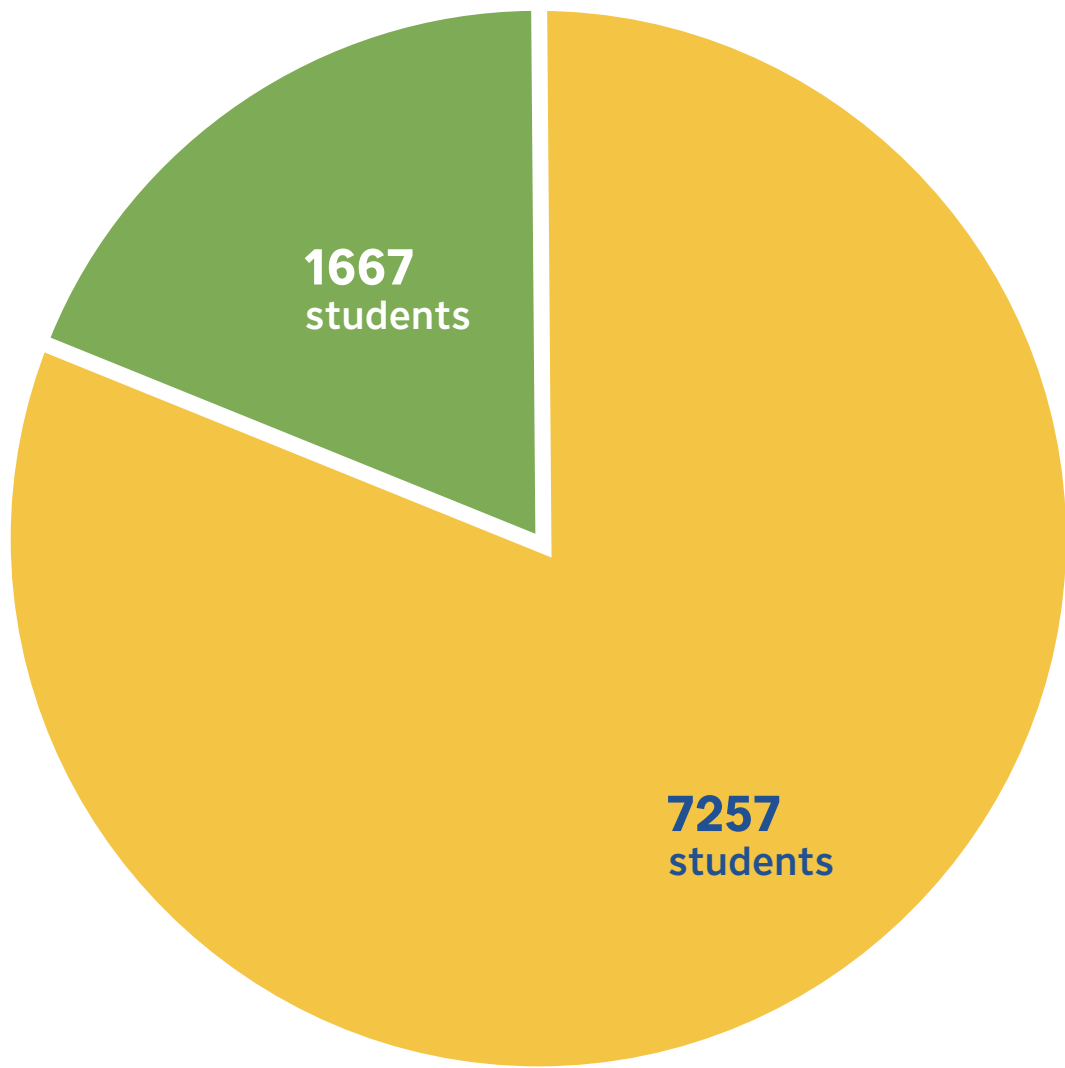
Since its establishment, the Soros Foundation Moldova has supported education in the Republic of Moldova. In 2022, we supported the initiatives for inclusive education, the development of a university training program dedicated to anticorruption efforts, and an initiative aimed at integrating child refugees from Ukraine.

With support from the Foundation, Keystone Moldova prepared the study Educational Path for Children with Severe Disabilities: Constraints and Opportunities. The study authors analyzed the current legal framework and its application in practice. The research covered 218 individuals, mainly teachers, and parents. The study includes a set of recommendations concerning the reform of inclusive education. The Ministry of Education and Research committed itself to intervene in the educational-psychological assistance system by developing nine integrated educational assistance services (at preschool, school, and vocational education levels), including regulations and quality standards. The changes supported by the Soros Foundation Moldova aim at ensuring full professional assistance for families with children with disabilities.

In 2022, the second iteration of the training course Anticorruption and Good Governance was completed. This program increased the professionalism of 60 specialists—public officers, young finance professionals, board members of state-owned companies, journalists, and workers from the non-commercial sector. The curriculum for Anticorruption and Good Governance was approved by the decision-making forum of ASEM and submitted to ANACEC for accreditation. The project was implemented by Expert-Grup Independent Think Tank and contributed to the establishment of anticorruption education in university curriculums.

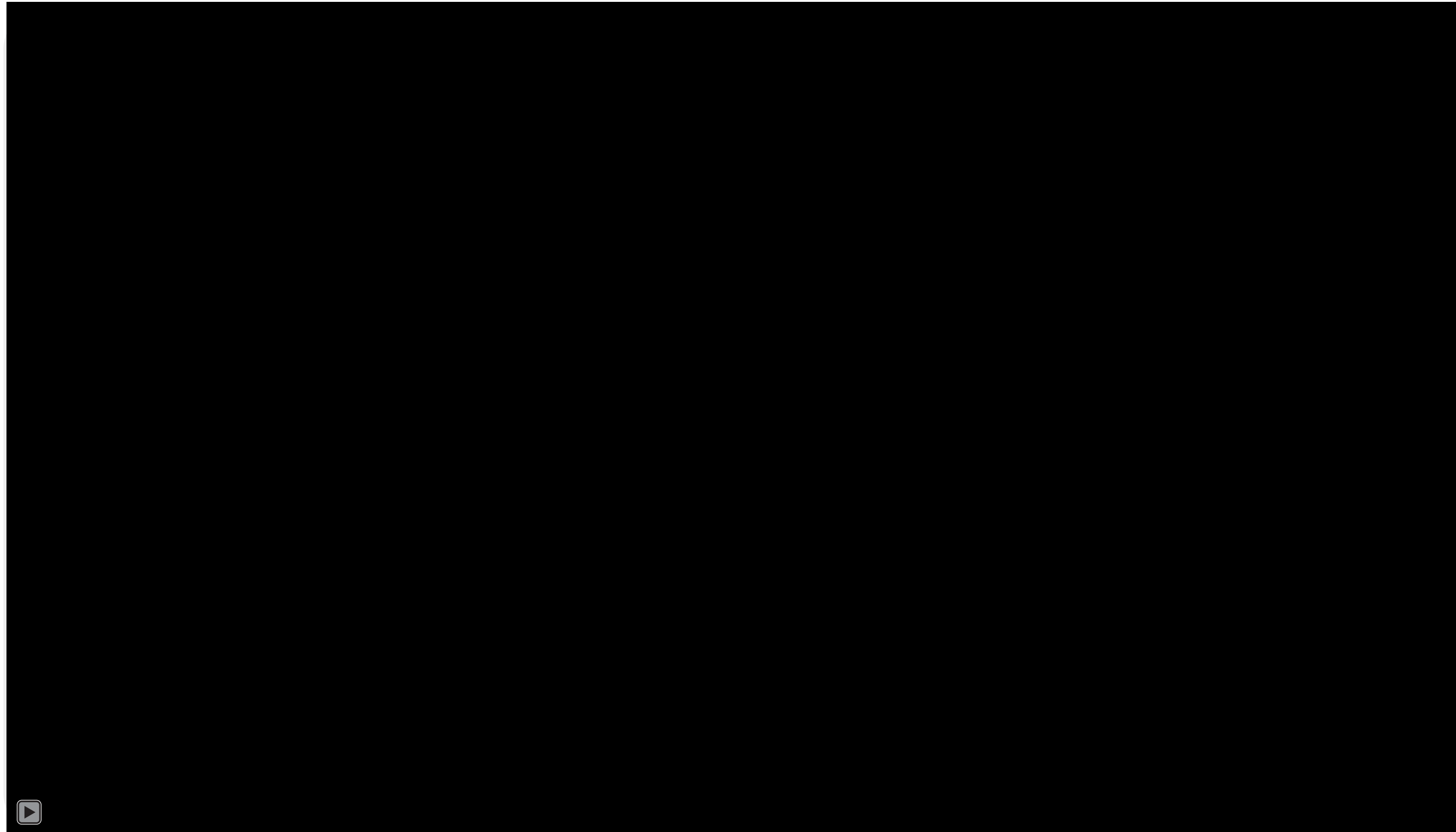


In the 2021/22 academic year, 9475 students with special educational needs and disabilities were admitted to national educational institutions, including **8924** students admitted to general education institutions and 551 — to schools for children with mental and physical development disorders. *Source: NBS*



In the 2021-2022 academic year, **7257** students with special educational needs and **1667** students with disabilities studied at general education institutions.

Child Refugees



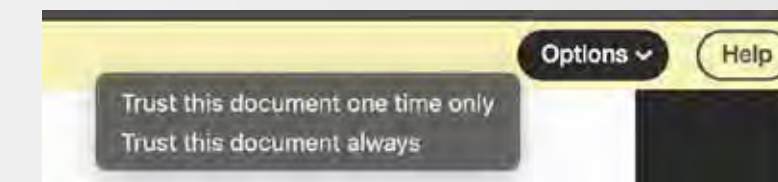
From the onset of the war in Ukraine, Moldova offered shelter to approximately 100,000 refugees. Almost 40,000 of them are children of preschool and school age. In response to the authorities' call, the Soros Foundation Moldova ensured a stay at the summer camp Perlele Nistrului for [200 child refugees from Ukraine and children whose families hosted refugees.](#)

To watch the video, please, tap the image.

You may receive a warning in a yellow ribbon in the upper part of the document.

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Anticorruption

The Soros Foundation Moldova partnered with the National Anticorruption Center to improve the system's quality for recuperating criminal assets in the Republic of Moldova. During 2022, we offered technical assistance and support to the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency in conducting a needs assessment, increasing institutional capacities, defining workflows, improving public communication, and developing the legal framework.

On December 1, 2022, the Foundation released a [report that assessed the needs](#) of the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency (ARBI). Study authors Pedro Gomes Pereira and Cristina Ciubotaru (Țărnă) analyzed the work of ARBI, its current workflows, and the applicable legal framework. They proposed recommendations for improving the criminal assets recovery system. In the short run (one or two years), the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency should focus on three immediate priorities:

- defining the National Criminal Assets Recovery Program and having it approved;
- mapping the processes of the assets recovery system; and
- establishing key performance indicators to assess the efficacy of the Moldovan criminal assets recovery system.

The Foundation actively participated in the work of the interinstitutional task force established by the National Anticorruption Center and contributed to the development of the National Criminal Assets Recovery Program. The program is a strategic vision paper for 2023–2027, designed to increase

the total value of forfeited criminal property by improving communication, cooperation, and coordination between the agencies responsible for forfeiting assets and their foreign counterparts. In addition, implementing the program's goals will enhance transparency and ensure the accountability of the agencies involved in the system for recuperating criminal assets. The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova approved the program on December 15, 2022.

The Foundation hired two international experts — Brazilian ex-prosecutor Pedro Gomes Pereira, with over 20 years of experience in recuperating criminal assets, and Romanian expert Radu Nicolae with 20 years of experience, who specialized in the monitoring and evaluation of anticorruption initiatives and played a key role in the development of the Romanian National Strategy for the Recovery of Liabilities of Criminal Provenance for the Period from 2021 through 2025. In addition, the experts mapped the processes of Moldova's criminal assets recovery system to enable the visualization of the entire criminal assets recovery system and the identification of process-related challenges, legal loopholes, and opportunities for improvement.

The Soros Foundation Moldova carried out a communication and advocacy campaign in support of ARBI, where it cooperated with several media outlets to explain the functioning of the criminal assets recovery system, the role of ARBI and other relevant agencies and talked about the [outcomes](#), challenges, and new concepts, such as “social reuse of confiscated assets.”



Ministry of Justice Secretary of State Veronica Mihailov-Moraru; National Anticorruption Center CEO Iulian Rusu; journalist Vasile Botnaru, event moderator; Executive Director of the Soros Foundation Moldova Petru Culeac, December 1, 2022



Expert in the monitoring and evaluation of anticorruption initiatives Radu Nicolae, NAC, November 30, 2022

Economic Justice

The Foundation entered into a new partnership with the Public Property Agency (APP), the central administrative authority subordinated to the government to ensure the implementation of state policies concerning the administration and denationalization of public property and the performance of the public-private partnership. In addition, the agency carries out—on behalf of the government—the duties of the founder of state-owned companies and shareholders in trading companies with fully or mostly public equity.

The Soros Foundation Moldova, the Public Property Agency, and Expert-Grup Independent Think Tank signed a cooperation agreement to provide technical assistance for developing the sector of companies with public equity from the Republic of Moldova. The Public Property Agency consulted with Expert-Grup to develop internal regulations that would directly contribute to improving corporate governance at companies with public equity. As a result, Expert-Grup, supported by the Foundation, contributed to developing the preliminary version of the Strategy concerning the Management of State-owned Property in the Field of State-owned Companies and Trading Companies with Fully or Mostly Public Equity for the Years 2022–2023. The government of the Republic of Moldova approved the Strategy on December 21, 2022.

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported promoting new policies for the transition to legal labor. Expert-Grup’s team developed several tools to stimulate the transition from informal economic activity to formal one, which offered the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection the basis for developing more detailed public policies. On November 4, 2022, the Soros Foundation Moldova held the international conference “Moldova

Changes over to Legal: Solutions to Encourage Transition to Legal Labor," where participants discussed policies concerning tax incentives for employers to promote formal employment, the simplification of the declaration of specific categories of employees, and the reform of the State Labor Inspectorate and how to inform the public about the benefits of legal employment and the risks of informal employment.

We supported the Institute for Strategic Initiatives (IPIS) and Expert-Grup Independent Think Tank in organizing three editions of External Assistance Monitor, which were presented at press clubs and donor meetings. External Assistance Monitor analyzes the social-economic impact of current assistance projects and the efficiency of managing the state's external debt and international financial assistance. In addition, the publication establishes top-priority needs that the development partners of the Republic of Moldova can address.

To mitigate the effects of the crises in the healthcare, energy, and security sectors and to improve the resilience of the sector of small and medium-sized businesses, the Foundation worked with the Alliance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (AIM) on the development of the first resource center for small and medium-sized enterprises. It offered consultations concerning access to finances and legal, accounting, and fiscal matters to 45 entrepreneurs. Supported by the Foundation, the Alliance organized the conference Empower Locals, attended by the minister of economy and the interim director of the Organization for the Development of Enterprise, where it presented the in-depth study of small-scale producers. The study's recommendations were adopted in the National Program for the Promotion of Enterprise and the Growth of

Competitiveness for 2022–2026. The Alliance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises contributed to developing multiple strategic papers, including the government's action plan for 2021–2022, the roadmap for reducing the regulatory burden on SMBs, and the tax and customs tax policy for 2023.



President of the Republic of Moldova Maia Sandu at the conference "Moldova Changes over to Legal."



Minister of Labor and Social Protection Marcel Spatari and Minister of Finance Dumitru Budianschi at the conference "Moldova Changes over to Legal," November 4, 2022.



Soros Foundation Moldova Executive Director Petru Culeac opens the conference "Moldova Changes over to Legal."

MEDIA



Support for Independent Press

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported the efforts of the Independent Journalism Center to support Ukrainian journalists and media activists who had taken refuge in Moldova in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Supported by the Foundation, the Independent Journalism Center strengthened the crisis management cell and ensured constant communication with international and local organizations to offer journalists logistic and informational assistance, which was so much needed, especially in the first months of the war. As a result, tens of newsrooms and NGOs responded to this call and were put on the list of workspaces/jobs offered to refugee journalists in Moldova. In addition to the informational and logistic assistance, 21 refugee journalists received USD 1,000 in subsidies to overcome their challenges.

The Foundation supported the initiative “True Stories from Ukraine,” by which the newsroom of Oameni și kilometri decided to contribute to the information of Moldovan citizens about the war in Ukraine, including encouraging reflection on its social-economic, cultural, and security consequences. As a result, the reporters Nicolae Cușchevici, Olga Ceaglei, Vadim Vasiliu, and Polina Cupcea went to Ukraine with a long-term documentation mission. They communicated with residents from Moldovan and Romanian communities in Cernăuți and Odesa.

They used the collected documentary material to publish life stories and feature reports covering the situation in Ukraine after the Russian invasion. The authors talked about the courage of Ukrainians, their will for victory, sacrifices for

freedom, and how they deal with Russian aggression, about booming businesses destroyed by the war, elderly volunteers who weave camouflage netting for soldiers, and how it feels to survive in a village situated at just 70 km off Snake Island.

Through this project, the journalists made the voices of Moldovan and Romanian communities from Ukraine heard.

The Foundation supported all editions of the 2015 Media Forum. This is the most important professional event for journalists from the Republic of Moldova. Photo: Independent Press Association, November 22 and 23, 2023



Support for the Development of the Media

In 2022, the Soros Foundation Moldova continued New Media Incubator—an initiative to support new media content creators. This edition gathered 18 projects whose creators started by taking theoretical classes on media communication, screenwriting, stage direction, primary filming and editing techniques, production process organization, and sound in audiovisual productions. Afterward, they attended individual sessions where a group of trainers met with the authors of each project to learn about the concept, particulars, themes, and specificities of the media production and to make recommendations and tailored approaches.

During the hands-on phase, the trainees produced the first episodes for their projects with assistance from the New Media Incubator's team and the equipment of the video/audio production studio. Subsequent episodes were produced with a high degree of autonomy, using the knowledge gained in the theoretical classes and the skills acquired while working on the first episodes with the trainers. The trainees could request consultation and assistance depending on the availability of the studio's technical and staff resources.

Eventually, the authors of six projects received grants worth USD 1,500 each.

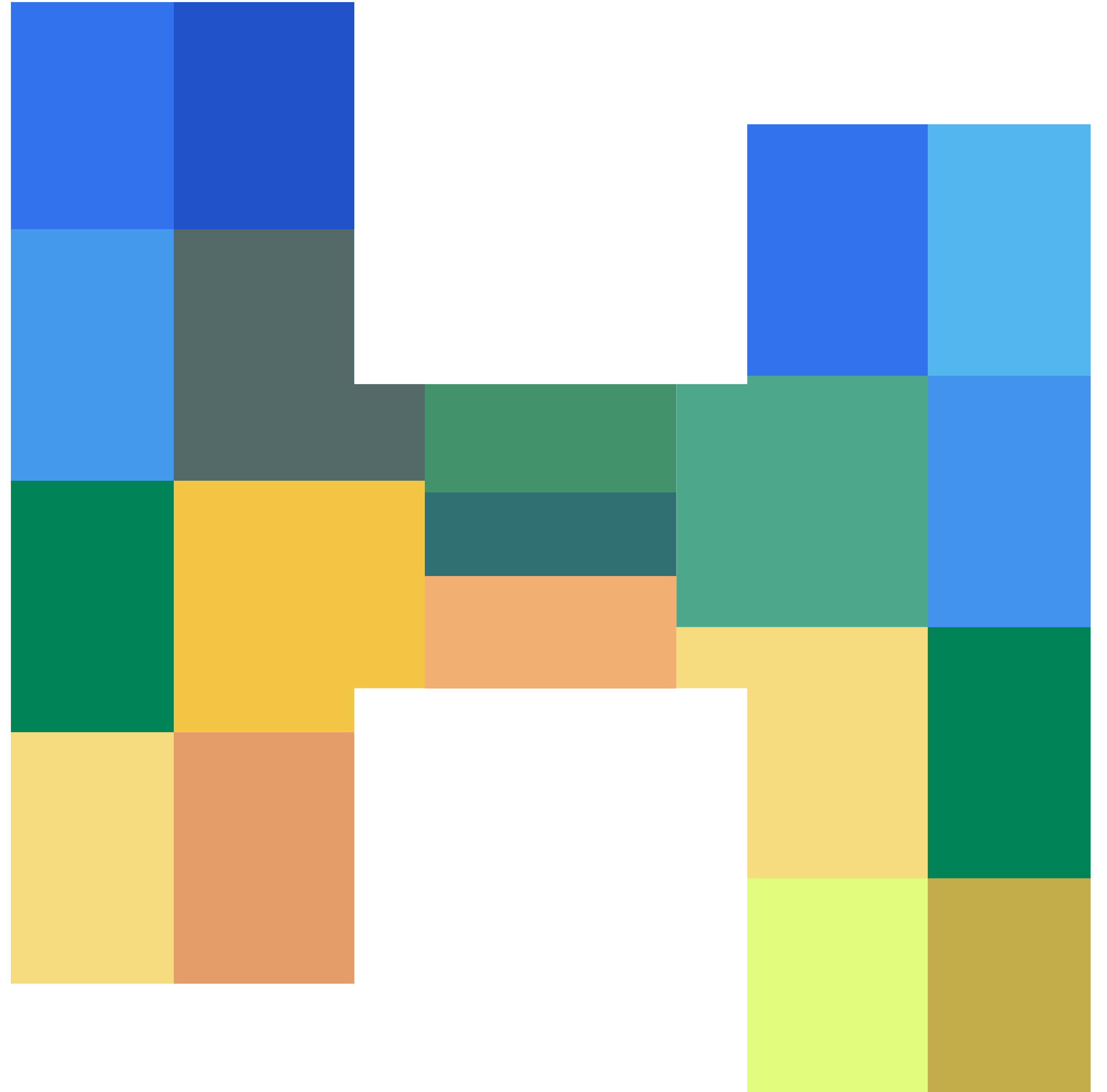
- Vitalie Dogaru – „Două mâini”
- Viorel Zaporojan – „Acces egal pentru toți”
- Alla Bargan – „DeafNews”
- Petru Dodu – „Dr. Tzoi”

- Natalia Munteanu – „Oameni & Afaceri”
- Gheorghe Șova – „Cămara cu zestre”

The Soros Foundation Moldova partnered with the Embassy of France in Chișinău, the Council of Europe, the Lille Graduate School of Journalism, and AO Agora Francophone to organize a training program for journalists from the Republic of Moldova. The program aimed at supporting journalists from Moldova amid changes in the ethics and technology that impact the profession of journalism. Developing and sharing necessary skills is essential for the press to keep its central role in the transition to democracy.

The activities included a workshop on professional photography, Writing in Light (October 11–13, 2022), four thematic workshops (October 17–20, 2022) dedicated to investigative journalism and the relationship between the media and the rule-of-law state, journalism, and environmental protection, and journalism and public health, and a training and documentation visit to France (November 14–19, 2022). The visit to France included three workshops on the best techniques for identifying and combating fake news and two trips to the European institutions from Brussels and editorial offices from France. The beneficiaries of the program included Olga Guțuțui (New Media Platform), Anghelina Gaidarji (TUK.md), Ion Preașcă (Mold-street.com, RISE Moldova), Andrei Bordian (Rezina în Obiectiv), and Dumitru Gargaliuc (Jurnal TV).

**PUBLIC
HEALTH**



Palliative Care

Following up on the outstanding success of the advocacy actions that had led to the acknowledgment of palliative care as an essential healthcare service, the Soros Foundation Moldova, in partnership with the National Association of Palliative Care, the Center for Health Policies and Analyses, and the School of Public Health Management, offered the government assistance in updating regulations. As a result, the revised draft regulations concerning palliative care were submitted to the Ministry of Health at the end of 2021. In 2022, to support the implementation of Action 10.15.1 of the government's action plan for the years 2021–2022, the draft standards for the evaluation and accreditation of specialized palliative care providers were transmitted. The standards for the evaluation and accreditation of specialized palliative care providers were aligned with the provisions of the draft minimal quality standards for palliative care and the draft regulation on the work of palliative care services.

In 2022, we supported the legal analysis of palliative care as a form of healthcare in the context of effective primary and secondary regulations carried out by the law firm Efrim, Roșca și Asociații.

The draft acts to be approved by the government will regulate the organization and functioning of palliative care services and the quality and cost of palliative care, all of which will improve access to this service and raise its quality.

A joint advocacy campaign by the Center for Health Policies and Analyses and the Moldovan Association of Pediatricians, supported by the Foundation, resulted in the approval of amendments to the government decision concerning the

approval of the Single Program on Mandatory Healthcare Insurance, which ensures access to palliative care for children with limited prognosis and a lifespan of more than 12 months.

With support from the Foundation, the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacology is working on a two-month training program called Palliative Care — Specialization for a Competent Work, which the Department of In-service Medical Education will offer. The development and implementation of the training program are driven by an increased demand for training and qualification in palliative care among doctors and healthcare staff, considering the formalization of qualitative palliative care for patients. In addition, thanks to support from the Foundation, the University of Medicine is also working on updated national clinical protocols for palliative care and a new clinical protocol for palliative care in neurological diseases. The successful implementation of these initiatives will help to increase the number of qualified professionals in palliative care and to improve the quality of palliative care.

Thanks to advocacy efforts that spanned many years to improve access to medications that manage chronic pain, from July 1, 2022, patients in palliative care can benefit from several medications compensated from the mandatory health insurance fund. This achievement complemented the accomplishments of 2021 when the authorities extended the national list of essential medications in another effort supported by the Soros Foundation Moldova over several consecutive years.

Humanizing National Policies on Drugs

The Union for Equity and Health (formerly known as the Union for HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction), in partnership with the National Probation Inspectorate and with the support of the Foundation, prepared the Individual Program for the Psycho-social Recovery of Offenders Associated with the Use of Narcotic Drugs in the Republic of Moldova. The Union for Equity and Health will implement the program for the offenders referred from the National Probation Inspectorate and territorial probation offices. Jointly with the authorities, specialists developed a vision and an action plan to implement mechanisms for the referral of drug users to services that offer alternatives to arrest.

In addition, the Union carried out advocacy actions that included a picket at the Ministry of Justice and the House of Government to demand prompt measures for humanizing and streamlining national anti-drug policies. The activities gathered representatives of 15 relevant public associations and the community of drug users and drug addicts. The advocacy and the received media coverage resulted in joining the efforts of several interested organizations and establishing a communication platform by the Parliamentary Committee for Social Protection, Health, and Family.

Several SCO's picket the Ministry of Justice and the House of Government of the Republic of Moldova, demanding the humanization of anti-drug policies and the promotion of services alternative to arrest for drug users in Moldova, June 21, 2022



Keeping a Watchful Eye on Health

The Soros Foundation Moldova supported the Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center) in developing policy briefs and analyses that track the progress of the commitments of the Moldovan government and communicate the opinions of independent experts to the authorities and the public to improve healthcare policies, transparency in decision-making, and participation.

- [At the request of the National Health Insurance Company](#) (NHIC), the PAS Center published a review of the legal framework governing the organization and operation of Moldova's mandatory health insurance system. The authors examined how laws impacted universal healthcare coverage.
- The qualitative study accompanies the ex-post impact assessment [report Awareness of](#), Perceptions about, and Experiences related to, Access to Healthcare among the Insured.
- [Policy brief Analysis](#) of the Lithuanian Experience of Providing Expert Healthcare to Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome. One of the paper's conclusions is that the current centralized structure of the Moldovan pre-hospital emergency healthcare facilitates the successful implementation of the system for the regionalization of cluster-based healthcare in cases of acute heart attack (<http://pas.md/ro/PAS/Studies/Details/384>).
- PAS Center developed [an opinion](#) on the initiative to subordinate district hospitals to the Ministry of Health (Bill for the Amendment of the Healthcare Act (459 of December 12, 2022)). The authors of the opinion identified several loopholes that impact both the bill's content and

transparency in decision-making. The authors submitted the opinion for the public hearing in Parliament on December 20, 2022.

- The Republic of Moldova needs to catch up on what concerns the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005). One of the most problematic components—Emergency Response—directly contributed to our country's low level of preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic. [The study The Implementation of the International Health Regulations](#) (2005) in the Republic of Moldova was released at a public event.
- PAS Center and the School of Public Health Management prepared, and submitted to the authorities, the recommendations on the draft government decision concerning the approval of the standard agreement for the provision of healthcare under the mandatory health insurance program. The opinion contained 17 [recommendations](#), and the NHIC accepted 13 of them. However, the NHIC rejected one of the most important recommendations—excluding the illegal rules allowing the NHIC to hire healthcare services for the mandatory health insurance program at rates negotiated with providers. The signatories consider that the draft decision must be put out for public consultation, in line with the law on transparency in decision-making, ensuring "a broad participation of healthcare providers and their founders, civil society organizations, and the citizenry, considering that the healthcare services hired by the NHIC are intended for more than 2.5 million insured persons."

- PAS Center and the Moldovan Association of Pharmacists prepared [a joint opinion](#) on the legislative amendments concerning the protection of data obtained from preclinical and clinical studies of medical drugs with an active patent and medical drugs protected by the provisions concerning "the protection of data obtained from preclinical and clinical studies".
- PAS Center submitted the [recommendations](#) concerning the mental health and wellbeing bill to the authorities.
- PAS Center developed a methodology for monitoring the transparency of the healthcare sector's decision-making process in line with the laws that regulate transparency in decision-making. This methodology was used to prepare the report Analysis of the Follow-through on the Healthcare Commitments Made by Government Decision 235/2021 and Compliance with Public Consultation Procedures in the Decision-making Process. The report found that, despite a robust legal framework, national institutions continue taking decisions unilaterally, on short notice, without a clear agenda, and effective consultation with the public.

- We offered support for aligning the national legal framework on pharmaceuticals with best international practices. To that end, PAS Center prepared an ex-post legal assessment report, an ex-post impact report on the Pharmaceutical Business Act (1456 of May 25, 1993), the new version of the Pharmaceuticals Bill, and an informative draft note and impact analysis to support it. The prepared acts were presented at a public event at the State University of Medicine and Pharmacology on November 29, 2022.
- On November 22, 2022, PAS Center held [a roundtable](#) dedicated to insurance against medical errors and compensation for damages caused to patients, which gathered representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Parliamentary Committee for Social Protection, Health, and Family, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacology, and the Moldovan Institute for Human Rights (IDOM) as well as chiefs of healthcare facilities. The attendance learned about the experience of democratic states, presented by international expert Juozas Galdikas, in insuring against medical errors and compensating damages caused to patients. In addition, IDOM gave a review of the national legal framework on medical errors



Support for Ukrainian Refugees

When the humanitarian crisis induced by the war in Ukraine hit, the Foundation responded by establishing a Reserve Fund for Refugees and mobilizing financial resources to cover the immediate needs of the refugees, especially children.

We assisted the organizations Copil, Comunitate, Familie (CCF Moldova) and AVE COPIII Association for the Empowerment of the Child and the Family.

In Cărpineni, District of Hîncești, the Foundation supported the establishment of a center for unaccompanied child refugees. The project offered accommodation, counseling, and support to 411 beneficiaries, including 135 children. To address children's needs, it repaired and arranged a playground, a recreational area, and an area for leisure time that were part of the premises of the Boarding School of Cărpineni. Establishing safe areas was one of the first recommendations made by international experts. Play therapy was one of the first therapies effectively used for child refugees. We helped to outfit the center with bed linen; play sets for children, sports inventory, underwear for children, individual hygiene sets, hygiene products for the placement center, first aid kits, a tumble dryer, a television set, and other appliances.

Child and adult refugees from Ukraine as well as local vulnerable children from the Municipality of Bălți and neighboring districts, including Ungheni, Cahul, Leova, Cimișlia, Basarabeasca, Vulcănești, and Comrat, benefited from assistance, including medical and educational, tailored to their individual needs identified with the help of mobile teams from

AVE Copiii. As a result, the most vulnerable, 700 child refugees and 300 children from Moldova, and the most vulnerable, 1,000 adult refugees from the districts covered by AVE Copiii benefited from support for healthcare and education. The organization distributed 1,000 vouchers for school supplies to 700 child refugees and 300 children from Moldova. In addition, the 1,000 most vulnerable refugees, children, and adults received support for purchasing medications.

We improved the working conditions of the mobile teams of AVE Copiii by reconditioning the ventilation system and purchasing a car to ensure their mobility.

CCF Moldova supported the operation of five daycare centers in Căușeni, Leova, Orhei, Călărași, and Sîngerei (Alexăndreni), where both children from local communities and child refugees could spend their leisure time.

These round-the-clock services are part of the child protection system and remain open both in summer and during the academic year in an afterschool format.

Almost 300 children aged between three and seventeen, including 150 refugees, participated in weekly activities at the five daycare centers.

Executive Director of Open Society Foundations–Europe and Central Asia Daniela Schwarzzer; Regional Director Anton Artemyev, and the Soros Foundation Moldova Executive Director Petru Culeac visiting AVE Copiii Daycare Center, October 12, 2022



Better Social Services

The project Civil Society Organizations Acting for Better Welfare Services aims at developing 40 welfare services across the country. In July, the project donated vehicles to six welfare services, namely Echipă Mobilă from Chișinău, Echipă Mobilă from Bălți, Echipă Mobilă from Strășeni, the early response service from Criuleni, Spălătorie Socială from Glodeni, and the welfare center from Selemet, District of Cimișlia, thus making them closer to their beneficiaries. The vehicles will help the services Echipă Mobilă from the Municipalities of Chișinău and Bălți and Strășeni and Criuleni in their work. Echipă Mobilă will offer specialized services for children and adults with disabilities. The early response service from Criuleni will offer home-based assistance for children with increased vulnerability who have limited access to public transportation.

The Civil Society Organizations Acting for Better Welfare Services project is financed by the European Union, co-financed by the Soros Foundation Moldova, and implemented by the Soros Foundation Moldova in partnership with Keystone Moldova and Institutum Virtutes Civilis.

The project donated vehicles to six CSOs — Echipă Mobilă from Chișinău, Echipă Mobilă from Bălți, Echipă Mobilă from Strășeni, the early response service from Criuleni, Spălătorie Socială from Glodeni, and the welfare center from the village of Selemet, District of Cimișlia, July 18, 2022

Specially equipped minibus, part of the inventory of Încredere Center for Specialized Assistance and Temporary Placement established by AO PRODOCS and the Council of the District of Ștefan Vodă, November 4, 2022





The beneficiaries of the service established by the Association for Supporting Children with Physical Disabilities from Persecina, District of Orhei, received tablets and learned how to use them.



Pediatrician Maria Moșneguț from Lăstărel Early Response Center in Criuleni examines children aged up to three.

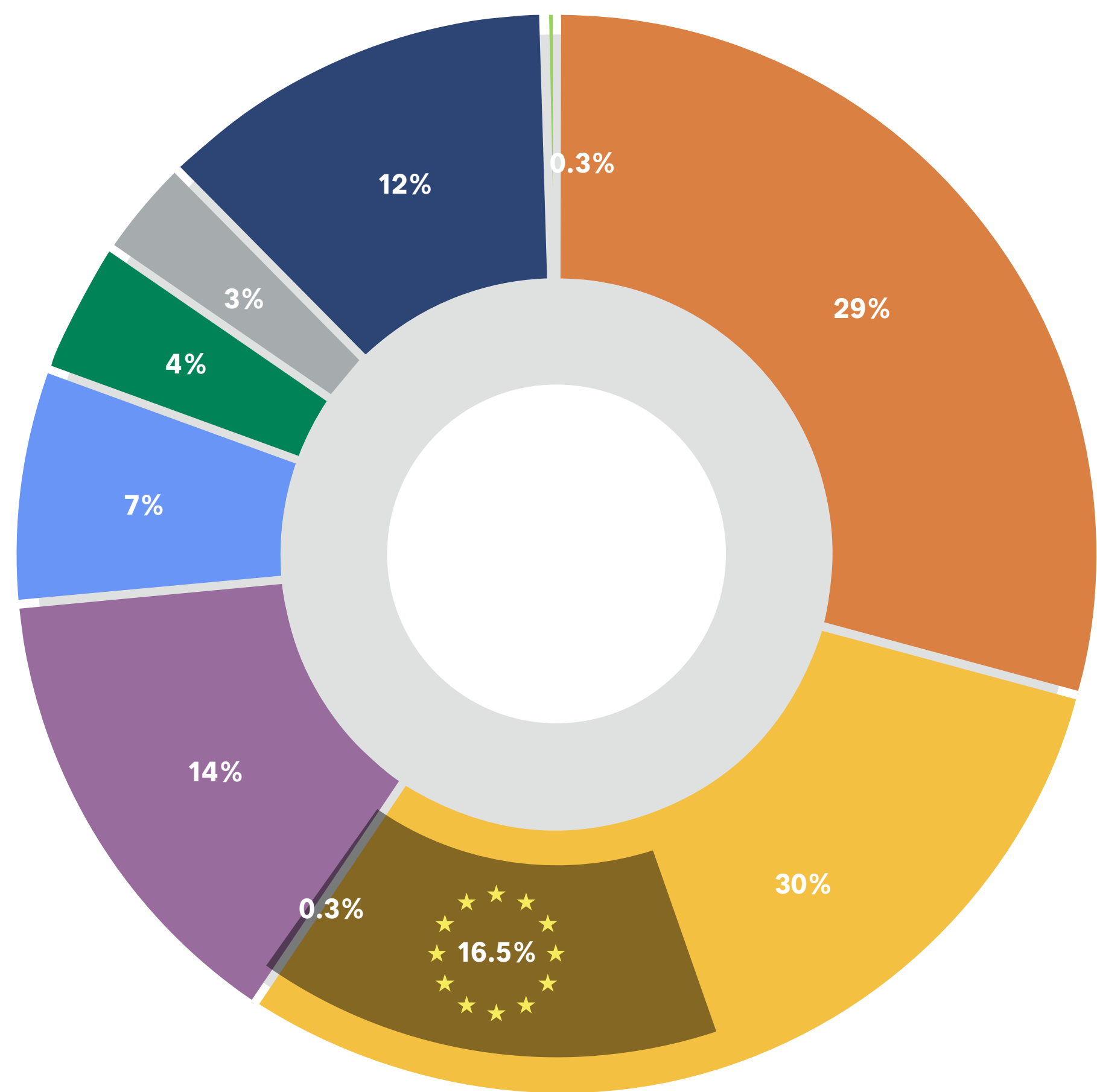


Representatives of 38 CSOs working on welfare services learned how to prepare financial sustainability plans.

ANNEXES



Statement of Expenditure



	Buget USD	%	EU Funds 	
 Economic Equity & Justice	1,510,174	29%		
 Health & Rights	1,564,348	30%	868,295	16.5%
 Justice Reform & the Rule of Law	756,732	14%	17,000	0.3%
 Journalism	386,162	7%		
 Human Rights Movements & Institutions	231,798	4%		
 Democlastic Practice	158,926	3%		
 Foundation Administration	635,375	12%		
 Cross-Thematic: Commnications	20,000	0.3%		
Total	5,263,515	100%		

Soros Foundation Moldova Team

As of August 1, 2022

General Administration

Petru Culeac
Executive Director

Varvara Colibaba
Deputy Director

Dmitri Gudumac
Communications Manager

Finance Department

Elena Vacarciuc
Head of the Finance Department

Irina Bejenaru
Chief Accountant

Lucia Ciuperca
Accountant

Liuba Cotorobai
Finance Assistant

Operations Department

Nicolai Gudima
Head of the Operations Department

Alina Moşneagu
Administrative Assistant

Mihai Lungu
Driver and Operations Manger

IT Department

Dumitru Chitoroagă
Head of the Grants Management and IT Department

Victor Andronic
Administrator de rețea

Justice and Human Rights Department

Victor Munteanu
Head of the Justice and Human Rights Department

Marcel Varmari
Finance and Program Manager

Mihaela Burduja
Project Director

Natalia Marcoci
Program Coordinator

Denis Albu
Program Coordinator

Antonina Stratu
Project Assistant

Good Governance Department

Natalia Camburian
Head of the Good Governance Department

Ana Corețchi
Project Director

Cristina Vîrlan
Program Coordinator

Irina Istrati
Finance and Program Manager

Artur Ucolov
Program Assistant

Maria Vataman
Program Assistant

Media Department

Victoria Miron
Head of the Media Department

Adrian Bivol
Program Coordinator

Dorin Scobioală
Project Manager „New Media Incubator”

Public Health Department

Liliana Gherman
Head of the Public Health Department

Vitalie Slobozian
Program Coordinator

Svetlana Hangan
Project Director

Diana Teacă
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Ala Cojocari
Finance and Program Manager

Ștefan Ivanov
Finance and Procurement Specialist

Tatiana Ciolac
Project Assistant



Soros Foundation Moldova Team at the reception on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Foundation, October 12, 2022.

National Board and Department Boards

National Board Ana Mihailov <i>President</i> Ian Feldman <i>Ombudsman at Soros Foundation Moldova</i> Radu Danii Liliana Busuioc Dumitru Lazur Alexandru Pelivan Valeriu Prohnițchi	Justice and Human Rights Department Traian Țurcanu Denis Arcușă Viorica Grecu Aliona Bleah Mihaela Vidaicu	Good Governance Department Natalia Balta Sergiu Conovalu Ana Țibuleac Doina Nistor Eugen Burdelnii	Media Department Tatiana Puiu Mariana Tacu Cristina Mogîldea (Leva) Alexandru Dorogan	Public Health Department Svetlana Plămădeală Valentina Vilc Viorel Gorceag Alexandru Voloc
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PROJECTS AND GRANTS



Justice and Human Rights

Nr. Project title		Implementor/ONG	Budget, USD
1.			
1.1	“Support for sustainable reforms and ensuring good governance of the internal affairs of the Republic of Moldova”	Justice and Human Rights Department of the Soros Foundation Moldova in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs	300,000
1.2	”Technical assistance in developing strategic documents to ensure sustainable changes in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Police Inspectorate in Moldova”	Justice and Human Rights Department of the Soros Foundation Moldova in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs	46,000
1.3	”Build the capacities of the Ombudsman office to monitor, report and investigate cases of ill-treatment”	Ombudsman Office	40,000
2.			
2.1	”Developing a more transparent and accountable criminal justice system, able to efficiently protect human rights”	Public Association “Legal Resources Centre from Moldova”	249,383
2.2	”Securing an integer, efficient and independent justice system in Moldova”	Public Association “Institute for European Policies & Reforms”	260,617
3.			
3.1	”Legal Protection of the freedom of expression against manipulation and propaganda”	Public Association “Institute for Public Policy”	55,000
4.			
4.1	„Urgent legal assistance for Ukrainian refugees”	Public Association “The Law Center of Advocates”	81,510.50
4.2	„Civic and Human Rights activism for Ukraine”	Public Association ”Promo-LEX”	31,200

Good Governance

Nr.	Project title	Implementor/ONG	Budget, USD
1. Education			
1	Promotion the results of Student Councils' activities	Operational Project	5,148
2	Promotion the results of the scholarship program in the field of public policies (2017-2022)	Operational Project	1,775
3	Promotion of activities of the summer camp organized for refugee children from Ukraine	Operational Project	704
4	Summer camp for children	Private Institution „University Information Center"	3,3739
5	Support services for educational inclusion of children with disabilities – phase 2	Private Institution „Keystone Moldova”	160,000
2. Anticorruption and Economic Justice			
1	Technical assistance to the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency	Operational Project	115,020
2	Organization of training for representatives of State-owned Enterprises	Operational Project	3,625
3	Technical assistance of the Public Property Agency	Operational Project	47,370
4	Providing communication services for the International Conference on Informal Employment, organized by Expert Group with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Operational Project	6,859
5	Strengthening the institutional capacities of the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency	National Anticorruption Center/Criminal Assets Recovery Agency	25,000
6	Technical assistance to the Government and Parliament to promote just recovery and economic justice policies	Public Association „Independent Think Tank Expert-Grup”	200,000
7	Technical assistance to the SOEs' governance reform (SOE phase 3)	Public Association „Independent Think Tank Expert-Grup”	300,000
8	Boost efficiency of SOEs' sector (SOE phase 4)	Public Association „Independent Think Tank Expert-Grup”	
9	Technical assistance for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in the evaluation process of the Republic of Moldova for obtaining the status of EU candidate country	Public Association Institute of European Policies and Reforms	430,000 40,000
3. Civic Engagement and Advocacy			
1	Promoting the results of projects regarding the accessibility of Chisinau for groups with reduced mobility (Locals)	Operational Project	1,797
2	Consolidation Platform „Chisinau accessible for everyone" - phase 5	Public Association Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	60,000
3	Development of electronic participatory democracy tools (e-democracy)	e-Government Agency	171,200

Media

Nr.	Project title	Implementor/ONG	Budget, USD
Support for the Independent Media			
1	Supporting relevant to the public quality online media content: story-telling reports “Povești adevărate din Ucraina”	Association Oameni și kilometri	13,410
2	Experimental lab for young audio and video creators New Media Incubator 2022	Expenditures operationally managed by SFM	29,930
3	Start-up grants for the creative projects which reached the final stage of the 2022 edition of NMI and were assessed in the final competition	Vitalie Dogaru, Viorel Zaporojan, Alla Bărgan, Petru Dodu, Natalia Munteanu, Gheorghe Șova	9,000
4	Training program for journalists from Moldova, implemented in the frame of a Partnership Agreement between the Embassy of France to Moldova, the Soros Foundation Moldova, the Council of Europe Office in Moldova, Lille School for Advanced Journalism and the Association Agora Francophone	Olga Guțuțui, Anghelina Gaidarji, Ion Preașcă Andrei Bordian, Dumitru Gargaliuc	14,730
Total			66,000
Strengthening Investigative Journalism			
1	Quality investigative journalism for the benefit of citizens	Investigative Journalism Center in Moldova	33,000
Total			33,000
Media Forum			
1	Supporting the eighth edition of the Media Forum	Association for Independent Press	28,938
Total			28,938
Resilience and Crisis Response			
1	Increasing resilience of Ukrainian journalists and civil society representatives to cope with vulnerabilities in emergency times	Center for Independent Journalism	24,088
Total			24,088
Equipment Donation			
1	In-kind equipment donation in order to ensure the implementation of the “New Media Incubator Găgăuzia” Project	Association Pilgrim-Demo	9,145
Total of equipment donations			9,145
Tie-off grants			
1	Supporting the ninth edition of the Media Forum	Association for Independent Press	15,000
2	Investigative journalism for the benefit of citizens	Investigative Journalism Center in Moldova	40,000
3	New Media Incubator Găgăuzia	Association Pilgrim-Demo	80,000
Total (tie-off grants)			135,000

Public Health

Nr.	Project title	Implementor/ONG	Budget, USD
1.	Keeping a Watchful Eye on Health!		
1	Participatory democracy for rights and equity in health	Center for Health Policies and Studies, NGO	65,500
	Total		65,500
2.	Support to Refugees from Ukraine		
1	Emergency support for Ukrainian Refugee Children	"CCF Moldova – children, communities, families", NGO	29,980
2	Personalized support for vulnerable Ukrainian refugee children and adults and for the most vulnerable local children	Association for Child and Family Empowerment “AVE COPIII”, NGO	65,000
3	Integration of Ukrainian refugee children through joint recreational activities	"CCF Moldova – children, communities, families", NGO	64,000
	Total		158,980
3.	The grant program for completing cooperation in a certain field (TIE-OFF GRANTS)		
1	Facilitating civic participation in health decision-making	Center for Health Policies and Studies, NGO	70,000
2	Strengthening the sustainability of Union initiatives in the field of humanizing national anti-drug policies	Union for Equity and Health, NGO	70,000
3	Strengthening the human rights advocacy capacities of the Promo-LEX Association	Promo-LEX, NGO	40,000
4	Promotion of national pharmaceutical legislation in the context of its harmonization with the European ACQUIS principles	„Association of Pharmacists of the Republic of Moldova" (AFRM) NGO	26,000
	Total		206,000
Nr.	Project title	Implementor/ONG	Budget, EURO
4.	Better Social Services Project		
1	Portal for Social Service Providers	Alliance INFONET Public Association	14,960
2	The social laundry „Mrs. Teo”	TirnovEANCA Public Association	34,971
3	Mobile social canteen	Social center saint Stelian Public Association	1,048
4	Social services for the elderly and the disabled	Modern Village Public Association	34,510
5	Sustainable social services for vulnerable people in the village of Suri, Drochia	Association for Human Rights LEX XXI Public Association	35,000
6	Center for Social (Re) Integration of Young People	Eco Razeni Public Association	35,000
7	Different but the same - specialized support services	DORINTA Assoc. support of children & young people Public Association	35,000
8	Development of social services for vulnerable and disabled people	Consult Service, Non-Commercial Organization	4,722
9	Medical and psychosocial services to seriously ill and bedridden people	ANGELUS SOROCA Public Association	36,422

Public Health

Nr.	Project title	Implementor/ONG	Budget, EURO
4.	Better Social Services Project Budget Supplements		
10	Strengthen recovery and rehabilitation services for children and young people	MOLDOVA AID Public Association	36,359
11	Social center for integrated education for vulnerable people	Baxani - Parental home Public Association	
12	Career counseling and guidance service for children and young people with special educational needs "Equal opportunities"	CONCORDIA Public Association	34,644
			35,000
	Total (Euro)		337,635
5.	Better Social Services Project Budget Supplements		
1	Improved community social services in Selemet	Baştina Public Association	1,150
2	Social Laundry in Glodeni	University Legal Clinic, PA	2,900
3	Accessible social services for Stefan Voda	PRODOCS Public Association	2,882
4	Accessibility for children for a decent life	Active Women Public Association	2,300
5	Support and social inclusion Balti	Credis Public Association	1,710
6	Services for people with disabilities	Alliance of Organizations for People with Disabilities from RM	520
7	Hearing screening for children	AudiViz Public Association	1,700
8	Day center with quality services for children	Center for Social Assistance House of Hope Public Association	3,000
9	Development of a specialized social service	PRIMA, Public Association	6,000
10	Children's Day Center	Children of the Rain Public Association	2,000
11	Day center for children in Balti	Autism Hope Public Association	1,300
12	Services for the visually impaired	Low Vision Public Association	440
13	Safe at home	Eternity Association of parents of persons with disabilities Public Association	3,718
14	2nd year of the Better Social Services Project implementation_co-applicant Keystone Moldova (FPOS)	Keystone Moldova Public Institution	147,230
15	2nd year of the Better Social Services Project implementation_ co-applicant Institutum Virtutes Civilis	Institutum Virtutes Civilis Public Association	141,611
	Total (Euro)		318,461.00

CHIȘINĂU, 2023