

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova (2023-2025)

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In January 2023, DCAF started implementing the project '**Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova**' (2023-2025). The project, financed by **Sweden** (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida), engages the Moldovan security sector and its oversight institutions – the Moldovan Parliament, the Supreme Security Council, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Police Inspectorate, the Police Academy Stefan cel Mare, and civil society organisations with expertise on defence and security, governance, and human rights – to promote good security sector governance in Moldova.

What does this project seek to achieve?

Outcome 1: National legislative and executive actors identify feasible reform solutions, adopt laws, and take policy decisions in line with EU guiding norms and good practices.

Outcome 2: The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and General Police Inspectorate (GPI) 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.

Built around three outcomes, the project aims to enhance professionalism and performance in the public sector, foster partnerships between legislative and executive institutions, civil society, and citizens, promote trust, and increase democratic resilience.

Ultimately, the project's goals are to:

- contribute to improved good governance of the security sector in Moldova through nationally owned, inclusive, participatory reforms based on EU norms and good practices,
- contribute to the country's alignment with the European acquis and system of values and help Moldovan institutions to fulfil conditions established in the EU accession process,
- support Moldovan authorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Between January and June 2023, DCAF has implemented a series of activities to lay the foundations of the project.

In February 2023, DCAF formally opened a **project field office in Chisinau**. Staffed by three full-time local staff, the field office allows implementation to be responsive and guided by local expertise and for on-site communication with beneficiary partners.

In March 2023, the project was officially launched through a **high-level kick-off conference**, attended by Nathalie Chuard, Director of DCAF, Katarina Fried, Swedish Ambassador to Moldova, Lilian Carp, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, Defence and Public Order, Ana Revenco, then Minister of Internal Affairs, Stefan Tibuleac, Secretary of the Supreme Security Council, Janis Mažeiks, Head of the European Union delegation to Moldova, and other officials and civil society representatives.





Over 70 participants from Parliament, government, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and the international community were informed about the objectives and modalities of the project and discussed the project's role in supporting current objectives and priorities in Moldovan security sector reform and governance. The event agenda was structured around the following topics: Security sector governance in Moldova – current achievements, remaining challenges, and future priorities; Implementation of the Home Affairs Strategy: ways forward, coping with challenges, and increasing support and assistance; The role of the Parliament and the Supreme Security Council in shaping the strategic and normative foundations of the national security governance system; Integrity building as one of the conditionalities of European Union accession; How to build social cohesion – cross government coordination, strategic communication, and civil society support; and Moldova's path towards European Union accession/ Challenges and requirements of the accession process. Particular attention was given to issues related to strategic planning in national security and home affairs, public perceptions about security threats and national priorities, and institutional requirements raised by the European Union accession process.



SSGM Launching Conference
9-10 March 2023, Chisinau.

During the launch event, **Memorandums of Understanding** were signed between DCAF and the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, the Supreme Security Council Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA), establishing official cooperation with these institutions.

Partner Steering Mechanism

The project is governed through steering committees (one for Outcomes 1 & 3, and one for Outcome 2) 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.

The steering committee meetings take place twice a year and are led by project beneficiaries.

Outcomes 1 & 3 – Steering committee meeting, 14 June 2023

The first steering committee meeting for Outcomes 1 and 3 took place on the 14 June 2023, in Chisinau. The meeting was attended by representatives of DCAF, the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, Defence and Public Order, the Supreme Security Council Service, PISA, and the Embassy of Sweden in Moldova.

Linked to the activities implemented in the time leading up to June and the proposed activity plan for the months to come, the steering committee members discussed priorities, public expectations, and institutional requirements for strengthening security sector governance, focusing on the development of the new National Security Strategy and its implications for Moldovan regulatory framework and for the project.

Outcome 2 – Steering committee meeting, 27 April 2023

The first steering committee meeting for Outcome 2 occurred in April in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The meeting was attended by representatives of DCAF and the MIA, including the State Secretary in charge of EU accession dialogue, heads of directorates tasked with strategic management in the MIA's central apparatus and GPI, the head of the internal control unit, and the head of the international cooperation and European integration department. The steering committee facilitated dialogue around priority areas of engagement for DCAF and the MIA and contributed to the finalisation of the 2023 annual activity plan for Outcome 2.



Between January and April 2023, the project team engaged in an **inception phase** to refine the project's objectives and develop a workplan and budget for the rest of the year.

Outcome I

Enhancing National Security Governance

During the first six months of the project, DCAF started its collaboration with the Parliament and the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, Defence and Public Order, the Supreme Security Council, and the Office of the Ombudsman in Moldova to increase their capacities to contribute to good security sector governance through policy design, legislative development, and meaningful oversight.

REVIEW OF MOLDOVAN INTELLIGENCE AND STATE SECURITY LAWS

On the request of the Parliamentary Committee for National Security, Defence, and Public Order, DCAF provided an **Expert opinion on the draft Laws on the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova (SIS law) and the counterintelligence and external intelligence activity (CI law)**.

The expert opinion, compiling the reviews of four senior intelligence experts engaged by DCAF (from Austria, Poland, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom) and DCAF experts, provided findings on and recommendations for the two draft laws, according to international best practice. The opinion was taken into consideration in the committee's process of reviewing the draft laws.



Following the delivery of the opinion, DCAF facilitated a **closed-door hearing in Parliament with the intelligence experts** who contributed to the opinion. The hearing gave the experts an opportunity to explain their comments and provide further comments and advice on the draft laws and gave the participants an opportunity to ask questions and clarify issues.

The parliamentary committee went on to modify the draft laws, considering the expert opinion provided by DCAF and reviews from other organisations. DCAF participated in twelve parliamentary hearings and meetings on the review and update of the draft Law on the Security and Information Service and seven

hearings on Counter Information activity Law, providing support and advice during the legislative review.



Closed-door expert hearing in the Parliament on the review of the draft SIS and CI Laws.
19 April 2023, Hybrid-Chisinau.

THE MOLDOVAN NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

As part of the project's contribution to the development of the new Moldovan National Security Strategy, DCAF participated in the **Forum on National Security** on 12 April 2023, organised by the President's Office, with the support of PISA and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

DCAF participated in discussions during the forum on the development of the national security strategy, entitled 'Strategic vision on ensuring national security, in the context of developing the national security strategy'. The panels discussed the Moldovan security environment and its impact on the country's national security and the response of government institutions in the field of security and defence and looked into ways to strengthen societal resilience.

DCAF's participation in these discussions is a first step in engaging with the development of the National Security Strategy. The National Security Strategy is currently being drafted and will undergo public consultations.

ENHANCING PEER EXPERTISE EXCHANGE

The project supported the participation of the **People's Advocate (Ombudsman) of Moldova** in the **15th International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces (15ICOAF)**, organised by DCAF on 18-20 June 2023 in Vienna, Austria.

During the event, Moldovan participants networked with other representatives of Ombuds institutions, exchanged information and experiences, and defined best practices in and lessons learned from the work of Ombuds institutions in ensuring security sector accountability.

OUTCOME 2

Supporting Strategic Management Capacity in the Law Enforcement System

DCAF engaged with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and its subordinate institutions during this period to initiate work on strategic planning, integrity building, and the strengthening of normative frameworks.

INCREASING STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES IN THE MIA

Strategic planning and management capacities of senior and mid-level managers in the MIA are essential to the effective and efficient implementation of institutional strategies and reforms. To promote capacity building, DCAF organised three activities on the topic of strategic planning and management.



Workshop on strategic planning and training design
14 March 2023, Chisinau.

DCAF organised a **Workshop on strategic planning and training design**, the first activity on this theme, from 14 – 15 March 2023 for the MIA. The workshop facilitated discussion between representatives of the MIA, National Anticorruption Centre (NAC), and the National Integrity Authority (NIA) about the status and effectiveness of current in-service training for senior and mid-level managers on management topics, including the topic of integrity. DCAF experts introduced DCAF's training methodology and content on building integrity in law enforcement agencies to present a base for future training-related activities under Pillar 2.

In order to respond to the MIA's request for technical guidance on preparing for EU integration, and the role of managers in this preparation, DCAF organised a **Hybrid conference on strategic planning and management linked to the EU accession process** from 14 to 15 June 2023. Experts from Slovenia and

Serbia discussed the role of senior managers in, the operational conditions for, and the challenges to aligning law enforcement institutions with standards set by the EU. The conference also featured a Q&A session to allow MIA representatives to gain further practical insight into the strategic planning and management required in the EU accession process.



Conference on strategic planning and management
15 June 2023, Hybrid-Chisinau.

In addition, DCAF initiated work on a **Functional analysis of strategic planning within the MIA** and its subordinated institutions in June 2023. The functional analysis, accompanied by a list of recommendations, will assist the MIA in streamlining their strategic planning and management processes and will enable a targeted, coordinated approach to the delivery of SSGM activities. The development of the functional analysis is ongoing and will be concluded in the next half-year period.

DCAF will continue to work with the MIA in the next period on increasing their strategic planning and management capacities by organising targeted mentoring sessions and trainings for senior and mid-level managers and concluding the functional analysis.

BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

DCAF engages in integrity building with the MIA and its subordinate institutions as an integral aspect of building strategic planning and management capacities. On 25 April 2023, DCAF organised a **Workshop on integrity planning** to facilitate conversation between the MIA, NAC, and NIA around current integrity building mechanisms and explore the need for integrity planning. The workshop included sessions on principles and best practices for integrity planning and management in law enforcement agencies, current strategies for integrity building, and standard methodology for corruption risk assessments. DCAF will continue to work with the MIA

and its subordinate institutions in the next period on complementary integrity building processes.



Workshop on integrity planning
25 April 2023, Chisinau.

STRENGTHENING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS IN THE MIA

DCAF engaged with the MIA and its subordinate institutions on a range of normative frameworks during this period, providing examples of international best practice and tailored expertise.

On 7 June 2023, DCAF organised a **Regional conference on standard operating procedures for the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement agencies** for MIA officials. The conference highlighted best practice examples of body-worn camera programmes in other European countries, specifically Switzerland, Slovenia, Sweden, and Portugal, and fostered a discussion around the practical implications of the introduction of body-worn cameras to the work of the General Police Inspectorate (GPI). Representatives of the MIA, specifically of the GPI, are currently identifying a model of implementation of body-worn camera programmes that best fits their needs and will develop their own body-worn camera system architecture.



Regional conference on standard operating procedures for the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement agencies
7 June 2023, Hybrid-Chisinau.

At the same time, upon the MIA's request, DCAF initiated two **Analyses of normative frameworks related to SDDAI** in June 2023. The first is a review of training and human resource management processes within the MIA and the second is an analysis of recruitment and promotion procedures in terms of their resilience against corruption. Both analyses will be completed within the next project period and will be accompanied by a list of recommendations and discussed with MIA beneficiaries.

OUTCOME 3 Building Public Trust

During this period, DCAF has initiated several processes for improving public communication and awareness of the objectives and results of security sector reforms and governance processes in Moldova. DCAF also initiated capacity-building processes for civil society organisations and independent experts.

SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE REPORT

In May 2023, DCAF, in collaboration with PISA, published a **call for applications** for researchers and experts from civil society to **steer the development of a new publication, a Report on Security Sector Governance in Moldova (SSG Report)**.

The aim of the report is to provide an independent, objective, and comprehensive analysis of the security sector, to evaluate the reforms implemented so far and identify achievements, and to determine strengths and existing good practices in security sector governance alongside problematic or deficient practices. The SSG report, when completed, will include recommendations for improving governance and promoting reforms and democratic consolidation in the security sector, while building capacities in civil society.



Roundtable on Security Sector Governance in Moldova
13 June 2023

As a first step in the development of the report, DCAF organised a **Roundtable on Security Sector Governance in Moldova**, bringing together candidate authors on 13 June 2023. The roundtable allowed for the experts to become familiar with each other, the project, and the methodology that will guide the report's development.

DCAF identified a group of 11 authors as a result of the Roundtable who will engage in research and drafting in the coming months.

CARTOGRAPHY OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN MOLDOVA

DCAF is supporting the development of a **map of external assistance in Moldova**, in partnership with PISA. The cartography will list and provide detail on international assistance provided by bilateral or multilateral donors for the development of the security and defence sector in Moldova. The final product will allow for better coordination between donors and partners in the field of security sector governance and ensure more transparency and efficiency in the distribution of funds and expertise. The development of the cartography will be finalised in the latter part of the year.

WOMEN FOR SECURITY DAY



Women for Security Day
13 June 2023, Chisinau.

On 13 June 2023, DCAF supported the Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs in the organisation of the second edition of the **'Women for Security Day'** in Chisinau. The event, attended by Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova, Nicoleta Pauliuc, President of the Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security of the Romanian Senate, Doina Gherman, President of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration of Moldova, Ana Revenco, then Minister of Internal Affairs

of Moldova, and other high-level government officials, brought together around 200 women involved in the security sector in Moldova and Romania to discuss and exchange on the organisational and security culture in the two countries. The participants had an opportunity to network, brainstorm on developing sustainable partnerships, and propose new policies. The event is part of the project's support to the national security governance bodies in their efforts towards public communication and gender mainstreaming.

Guest Appearances

During this period, DCAF also took part in events and activities organised by other projects and institutions, of relevance to the SSGM project. Two major events with DCAF participation can be highlighted:

Moldova Youth Forum 2023

From 30 June to 2 July 2023, DCAF participated as panellist in the Moldova Youth Forum organised in Comrat, Gagauzia, by the International Republican Institute, with the support of several embassies and international organisations. DCAF provided insights into the meaning of good security sector governance, the state of security sector reform in Moldova, and proposals for youth participation in civic activism.

Annual Conference "Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society"

On the 16 June 2023, DCAF participated in the annual conference "Cooperation between Parliament and Civil Society", organised by the Parliament and the EU Delegation to Moldova. DCAF presented plans and proposed suggestions on improving the public communication of national governance bodies, both with civil society organisations and the general public, on topics such as the legislative agenda of the Parliament regarding public oversight.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

July - December 2023

The following activities are planned for the second half of the year within the 'Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova' project.

- Continued assistance in the review of the regulatory framework, formulation of policies and strategies and legislative development: including

the follow up on the completion and adoption of SIS laws, the development of the National Security Strategy, the amendments to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the review of the State Security Law of 1995.

- Continued assistance in improving institutional capacity: including to the Parliament and Committees on improving oversight performance, and to the Supreme Security Council Service in improving its legal mandate and procedures.
- Exchange of experience between Moldovan and regional institutions: increased peer exchange and study visits, notably for the staff from the Supreme Security Council Service.
- Continued work on analyses of normative frameworks for MIA, specifically on human resource management and training and recruitment and promotion procedures.
- Finalisation of functional analysis of strategic planning in the MIA, accompanied by recommendations.
- Tailored trainings on project cycle management, strategic planning and management, and EU funding facilities.
- Train-the-trainers on integrity for SPIA. These train-the-trainer courses will be focused on refreshing the knowledge of the current pool of trainers, and increasing the amount of trainers, that deliver in-service training on integrity, gender, and non-discrimination topics.
- Workshop on conducting corruption risk analyses for the General Police Inspectorate.
- Support to the MIA in monitoring and evaluation of the National programme for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. DCAF will provide expertise for the MIA to develop a methodology and list of indicators that measure institutional gender equality in security and defense institutions in Moldova.
- Tailored Trainings: a training program will be developed for members and secretariats of standing Parliamentary Committees, members of the Supreme Security Council Service, staff from specialized authorities and institutions in the security sector, civil society organisations and the media. The training program will be oriented towards the democratic governance and crisis management, with a focus on environmental emergencies and energy security.
- Multi-stakeholders dialogue: a multi-stakeholders event is planned for October 2023. The topics will focus on improving the public communication of national governance bodies and on new security threats.
- Strengthening capacities of civil society organisations to provide expertise in the field of security and rule of law: the cartography of international assistance in Moldova will be finalised and published.
- Support to civil society organisations in monitoring and evaluating the performance of national security governance bodies: the Security Sector Governance Report will be further developed and published.
- Dissemination of knowledge products to national security governance institutions and partners: several thematic briefs, toolkits, guidelines are in the process of being translated to Romanian and will be distributed to beneficiary partners.

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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