

**DECISION**  
**on approval of the Strategy**  
**on Migration and Asylum Management**  
**in the Republic of Moldova**

no. \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ 2011

\* \* \*

In order to implement the provisions stipulated in the Republic of Moldova – European Union Action Plan on liberalization of visa regime for Moldovan citizens in the European Union, the Government

**DECIDES:**

1. To approve the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management of the Republic of Moldova (attached).
2. The ministries and other central administrative authorities will ensure, according to competences, the development until October 1 of the current Strategy Implementation Program.

**PRIME MINISTER**

**Vladimir  
FILAT**

**Countersigned:**

**Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and European Integration**

**Iurie Leanca**

**Minister of Internal Affairs**

**Alexei Roibu**

**Minister of Economy and Commerce  
Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family**

**Valeriu Lazar  
Valentina  
Buliga**

**Minister of Information Technologies and  
Communications**

**Pavel Filip**

**Minister of Finance**

**Veaceslav  
Negruta**

## **Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management in the Republic of Moldova**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management in the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) is an internal document designed to ensure regulation of the movement of people in order to contribute to the prosperity of the population of the country, to its social and economic development, to ensuring the rights and social security of migrants.

The Strategy serves as a unique tool for the integration of the existing strategic framework, the connection of policies related to the management of migration and asylum processes with the processes of planning various strategic actions in the country.

The main objective of the Strategy is to ensure a comprehensive regulation of the management of migration and asylum processes; connection with the mutually recognized universal principles and the Community documents signed by the Republic of Moldova; regulation of people movement, designed to serve as a contribution to the social and economic development, country's security, including social security, achievement of objectives of European integration.

The European Union migration policy has a complex nature and includes three major components: fighting illegal/irregular migration; labor force migration and migration and development, which shall be considered in a holistic manner when developing long-term strategies related to migration and asylum.

All priority areas of activity foreseen in the Strategy aim to ensure effective management of migration and asylum processes for sustainable development of the country, minimization of the undesirable effects of migration, reduction of irregular migration, adjustment of relevant national policies to the European ones.

The actions taken to implement the Strategy will be based on EC Directives on migration and asylum, and the connection to them could provide the approach of the Republic of Moldova to the European structures.

The development of the Strategy derives from the need to implement two adopted strategic documents: the Governance Program for 2011-2013 and the RM-EU Action Plan on the liberalization of visa regime.

## II. ANALYSIS of SITUATION

**1.1. Geographical data.** The Republic of Moldova is located on South - Eastern Europe, between Romania and Ukraine, east of Prut River and west of Dniester River.

The country area makes up 33,846 km<sup>2</sup>. In terms of administration, the Republic of Moldova consists of 1,679 localities, including: 5 municipalities (Chisinau, Balti, Bender, Comrat and Tiraspol); 60 towns; 39 localities in the composition of towns (municipalities); 917 residential villages (village where village or commune council is situated); 658 localities in the composition of communes (except for the residential villages).

The country's population is composed of 75.8% Moldovans, 8.4% Ukrainians, 5.9% Russians, 4.4% Gagauzes, 2.2% Romanians, 1.9% Bulgarians, 0.4% Roma and 0.1% Hebrew.

The Transnistrian conflict of 1992 has resulted in the departure or the internal displacement of a part people. Although the problem of returning of the displaced population to their living spaces has been successfully solved, the conflict is not solved so far, so the secessionist Transnistrian region, which is not controlled by the Moldovan authorities, exists.

**2.2. Economic situation and causes of migration.** The economic recession that followed the USSR dissolution, inconsistent implementation of several economic reforms led to economic stagnation and impoverishment of about 70% of the country's population. The country does not have its own mineral deposits, is dependent on energy sources imported from third countries and

its economy is based on agriculture, which represents 42% of the dominant sector of the economy. Although by 2004 the poverty rate was reduced to 40%, because of the lack of jobs about a quarter of the economically active population has left the country to work abroad. Thus, migration has become an adaptation strategy, which allowed households to fill basic needs due to the revenue resulted from migration.

**2.3. Demographic situation<sup>1</sup>.** According to statistics from January 01, 2011, the country's resident population made up 3,560,400 persons<sup>2</sup>, of whom 48.1% were men and 51.9% - women. The Republic of Moldova remains a state with the lowest degree of urbanization in Europe: 58.6% of the total population lives in rural areas. The highest concentration is in Chisinau Municipality where one fifth of the population lives, or nearly half of its urban population.

Along with the high degree of ruralization, the depopulation trend is observed. The estimated number of the country's population by 2050 will make up only 2.9 million. The high level of mortality, particularly for the working-age population, is not compensated by low birth rate. Along with the processes of depopulation, an imbalance between age groups of the population of working age (16-60 years old) and unable to work (0-15, 60 + years old) is observed.

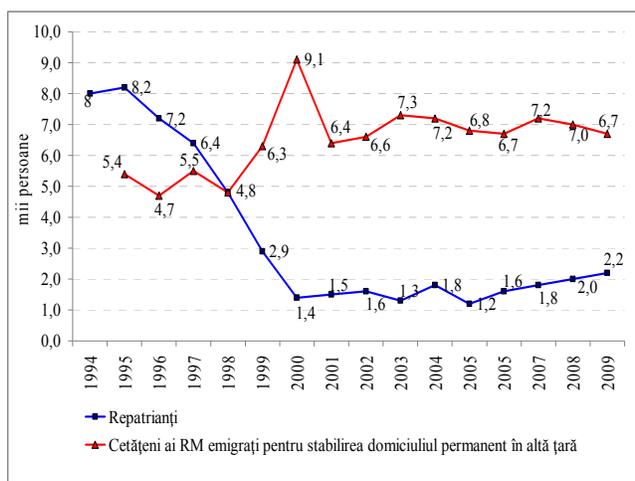
Ongoing reduction in the number of working age population and aging processes will have lasting impact on the complex social and economic development of the country, with direct impact on total labor force, investment, income distribution, increases the pressure on social funds; causes serious shortcomings of human capital needed for sustainable development of the country, etc. Human resource problem is a sensitive topic of major concern to the Government, which is covered by the draft of the Strategy on Demographic Security of the Republic of Moldova.

**2.4. External migration.** The external migration, by its scale and due to the long period of our citizens staying abroad, worsens social, marital, family and other relationships, aggravating the negative trends of demographic processes. In this context, approaches to migration and asylum shall take into account the inertia of some processes related to human resource development and long-term impact of such processes.

The period after the Republic of Moldova obtained its independence is marked by the intensity of the *permanent* (leaving the country for permanent residence abroad or repatriation of our citizens), as well as by the *temporary* external migration (migration for a certain period of

time: for work, education, family reunification and other purposes). In both cases, the migration balance is negative, which means that the number of people who left the country permanently or temporarily exceed the number of people entering the Republic of Moldova with the same purposes.

**2.4.1. Permanent migration.** The phenomenon of citizen leaving the Republic of Moldova to live permanently abroad arose in response to the dismantling of the USSR and change of citizenship in former Soviet republics.



**Fig.1 Dynamics of departure of Moldovan citizens for permanent residence abroad and return to the DM**

thousands of persons  
Returnees

<sup>1</sup>The analysis was conducted based on statistical data except for those of the Transnistrian region .

<sup>2</sup> NBS, without the population of the Transnistrian region

Citizens of the RM emigrated abroad for permanent residence in another country

Processes of permanent migration reflect the willingness and ability of individuals to return to the historical homeland or to reunite broken families as a result of such historical factors, such as for eg., the political regime. The processes of departure from Moldova for permanent residence become more obvious since 1998 and keep their intensiveness up to present (Fig. 1). Annually, the number of people going to live permanently abroad exceeds 2-3 times the number of returnees in the country. Going to live permanently abroad is a harmful phenomenon for the Republic of Moldova, because migrants constitute a well-trained potential (Fig. 2), women prevail among those who went abroad (Fig. 3). The main destination countries of people who went to live permanently abroad are USA, Canada, Germany, Israel, and among the CIS - Russian Federation and Ukraine. Organization and collaboration with the Moldovan diaspora in these countries can help revitalizing the cultural and social and economic relations with Moldova.

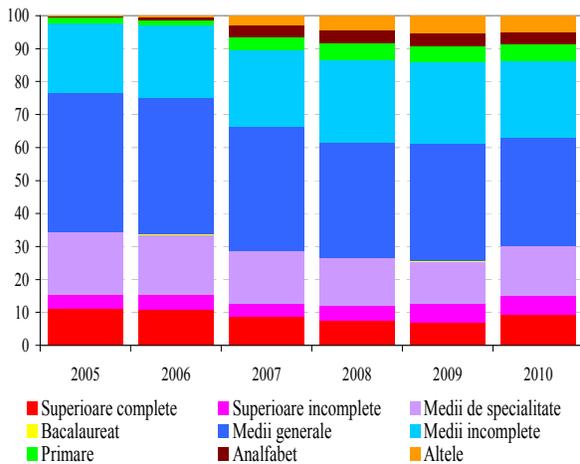


Fig.2. Citizens of the RM who went abroad for permanent residence, 2005-2010, by educational level (%)

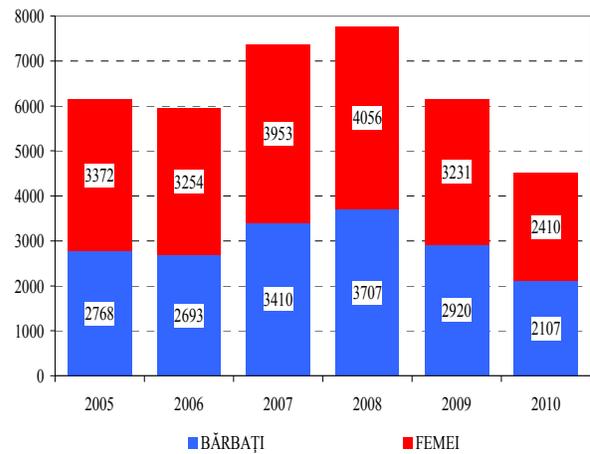


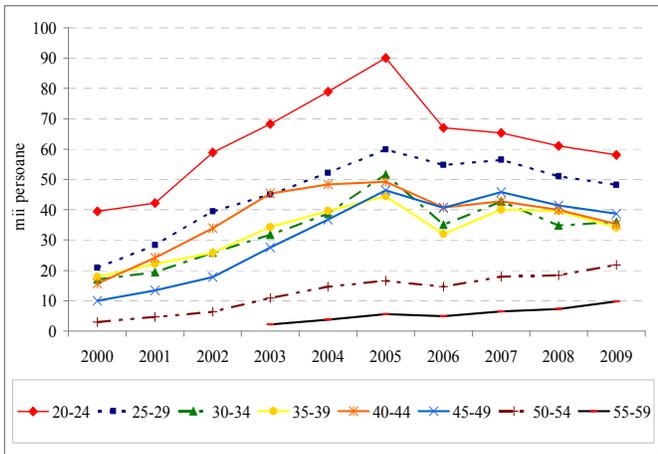
Fig.3. Citizens of the RM who went abroad for permanent residence, 2005-2010, by sex (persons)

	MEN	WOMEN
Completed higher education		
Baccalaureate		
Primary education		
Incomplete higher education		
General secondary education		
Illiterate		
Secondary vocational education		
Secondary incomplete education		
Others		

Repatriation of people in the Republic of Moldova do not recover losses caused by going to live permanently abroad neither in terms of number, nor in terms of level of training of returnees.

**2.4.2. Temporary migration.** The temporary migration means the legal residence in another state for purposes predetermined by the legislation (labor, education or family reunification and other purposes).

**Emigration.** One of the major challenges for the Republic of Moldova is the temporary labor emigration, which by its scale and features cause lasting negative effects on the economic, social and demographic development of the country.

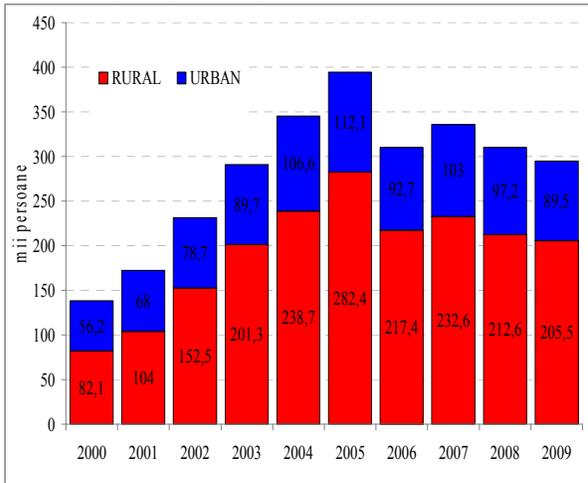


**Fig.4. Persons who are temporarily working abroad or in search of a job by age group**

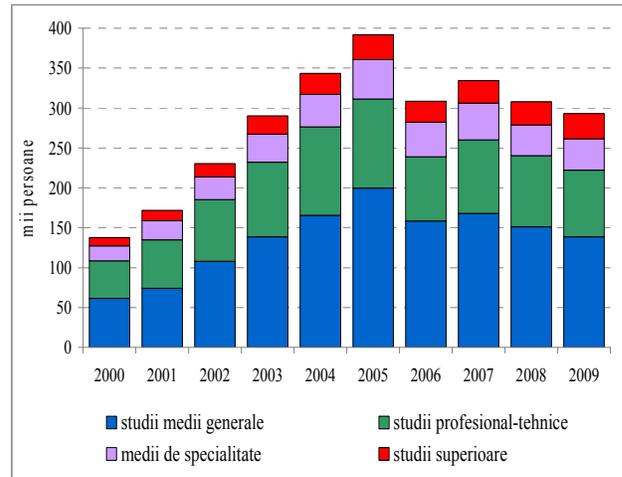
abroad, in particular those of the age group 20-24 years old, is alarmingly high. Since 2002 the statistics showed separately the age group 55-59 years old. (Fig. 4). Unlike young people who are disadvantaged on the internal labor market, the migration of older people abroad can be explained by processes related to family reunification. This along with the fact that most migrants come from rural areas - 67% (Fig. 5) lead to imbalances in economic and demographic development of the country, especially in rural areas

During 2000-2010, the number of those working abroad increased from 138,300 to 420.0 thousand in 2006. The expansion of the European Union boundaries in 2006 and the related change of the visa regime for a category of people, and the processes of financial recession in 2008-2009, although reduced the scale, still keep the intensity of these processes. In 2009 the number of persons living temporarily abroad to work amounted to about 296,000 migrants, or a quarter of the population of working age.

Although the migration processes involved mainly men - 66% of the total number of migrants, the number of women is disturbingly large - 34%. The share of young people went



**Fig.5. Persons who are temporarily abroad for work, by residence environment**



**Fig.6. Persons who are temporarily abroad for work, by level of education**

RURAL URBAN

General education  
 Secondary vocational education  
 Technical professional education  
 Higher education

Migration affects much the interests and the development of children remained without parental care. Among those who have gone abroad to work, the number of married people is two times greater than the number of unmarried people - 61.3% compared to 31.0%; 42.0% of migrants have children. The number of children without parental care is around 100,000, of which 37% live in the city and 67% in rural areas. The lack of parents, regardless of the cause and duration of absence, in particular, the absence of mothers affects the emotional, psychological and intellectual

development of children increases the level of juvenile delinquency. Long absence of both parents made the state to take care of children left alone - 7% of all children of migrants are placed in social institutions.

Strengthening networks of migrants, their long period of living abroad contribute to their social integration in destination countries, family reunification (for children and parents migration to the host countries) and creation of preconditions for transforming the temporary migration into permanent one. Currently there are no sufficient data in the Republic of Moldova on the number of migrants who intend to return home or to stay permanently in the host country, but such data shall be taken into account while developing long term social and economic policies.

Brain drain is a sensitive issue, which has not yet been covered by national policies. Although during the last decade there has been a continuous increase in the number of migrants with higher and secondary vocational education gone to work abroad (*Fig. 6*), currently the criteria for recording high-skilled migrants are not determined, direct and indirect losses of public investment in health and education of migrants and, where appropriate, private investment in public higher education are not evaluated. The lack of policies focusing on bilateral or regional mechanisms for mutual recognition of diplomas and irregular residence status of Moldovan citizens in the host countries do not allow employment of migrants from Moldova according to their competences and level of training. This reduces the positive effects of migration both for the individual migrant, as well as for the host society.

In terms of educational migration, we can observe that the liberalization of border crossing regime and the possibility for people to move have increased the access of young people from Moldova to study abroad. The number of scholars enrolled in various higher education institutions abroad is growing steadily, but the lack of national policies<sup>3</sup> targeted to this category of people is not conducive to their return and employment in the Republic of Moldova.

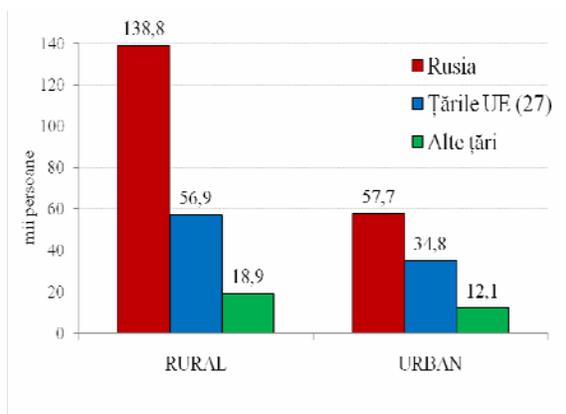
The orientation of migration flows constitutes an important issue for developing migration management policies. The specifics of the Republic of Moldova consist in the country's location at the intersection of two geopolitical systems - Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Union. Both systems are pro-active in their policies of selectively attracting migrants from third countries to fill the demographic potential and their needs in terms of labour force. However, the difference in the mechanisms that allow entry, documentation, residence, employment opportunities, access ways, languages and other communication capabilities, etc. caused sharing the migration flow from Moldova in two major branches: CIS countries, mainly the Russian Federation and the EU, mainly Italy. Depending on the changes occurring in national and regional migration policies that have influenced migration processes, the ratio of people migrated in those directions changes, but not essentially, while maintaining the basic proportions between 60% went to the CIS as compared to 40% in other directions.

The qualitative features of the migration flow differ significantly depending on the orientation: towards the CIS or the EU. Thus, out of the total number of migrants went in the CIS 2/3 are men (*Fig. 8*), most migrants come from rural areas (*Fig. 8*), being mainly with secondary or special education. As a rule, the migration to the CIS has a seasonal nature - up to 12 months with interruptions.

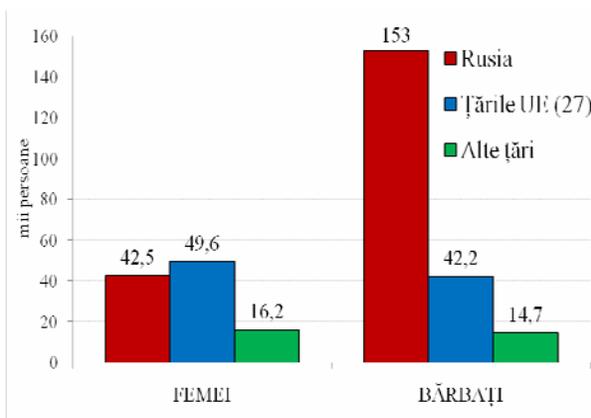
The migration to the EU is characterized by higher share of women than men - 70%, and 19% of migrants have higher education. Unlike the CIS countries, the average period of residence is longer in the EU countries, especially for women - 2.3 years versus 2 years for men.

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<sup>3</sup> Only the IOM project is being developed, which provides for assistance to the return to the RM of young people who obtained education abroad, but it is a pilot project which provides assistance to the return (travel costs), in search of a job and supplement salary (200 euros per month) for the first half of the labor year. Currently this assistance is provided to around 20 people.



**Fig.7. Oientation of migration flows, by average**



**Fig.8. Oientation of migration flows, by sex**

Russia, EU states (27), Other countries

\*in cazul cifrelor se inlocuieste virgule cu puncti si vice versa

Maximizing benefits and minimizing long term negative effects of the migration is not possible unless while developing and implementing policies the features of migration flow for each direction are not taken into account.

*Remittances* are one of the positive effects of migration. According to the National Bank of Moldova money transfers from abroad in the last decade have maintained a positive trend, reaching the maximum share in 2006 related to the GDP - 38%. (Table 1). The amount of remittances has increased not only nationally as absolute value, but also separately for households. Thus,<sup>4</sup> the average amount of remittances from abroad has grown for a household to an average of 1.296 USD in 2006 up to 1.848 USD in 2008. The global financial recession and shortcomings occurred on the international labor market in 2008-2009 reduced the number of migrants and hence the volume of remittances to 30% of the GDP. However, the volume of remittances remains impressively high, especially related to direct foreign investment in GDP for the same period. Although remittances are the most well studied issue, it has not been proactively in the state policies. Targeting remittances-based investment in economic areas with a significant potential and a significantly multiplier effect, aimed at a balanced development in interests of migrant and community for the development of the economy, remains a priority for migration policies. Currently, remittances are mainly used for purposes of current consumption, invested in children's education and health services. The latter can be considered a lasting contribution to the quality of human potential.

Table 1. Remittances transferred from abroad by individuals through commercial banks in million USD<sup>5</sup> compared to the GDP<sup>6</sup>

Years	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Remittances (th. USA dollars)	109,8	159,0	223,0	268,0	461,0	701,0	915,0	1,182,0	1,286,0	1,612,0	1,216,0
Remittances % of GDP	9,3	12,3	15,1	16,5	23,5	27,1	31,7	38,2	36,2	30,8	30,8
Foreign Direct Investment to GDP (th. USA dollars)	65,8	129,5	100,3	90,1	77,3	130,1	176,3	233,6	591,2	718,0	38,5

<sup>4</sup>European Training Foundation (ETF). (2009). Moldova Country Report. Black Sea Labor Market Reviews.,p.80

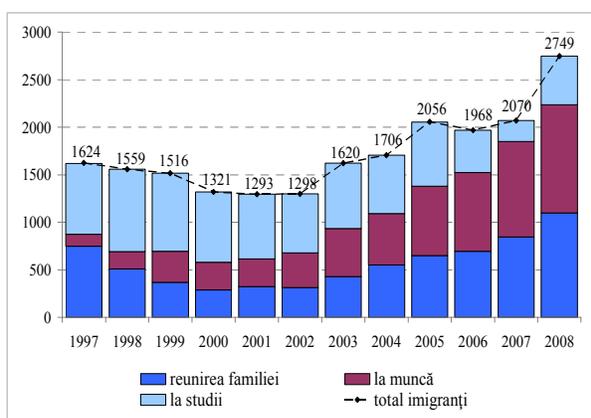
<sup>5</sup> National Bank of Moldova

<sup>6</sup>

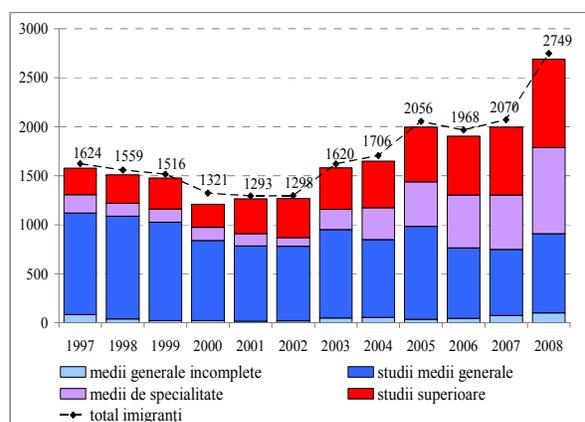
**Immigration.** Geographical location near the borders of the European Union makes the Republic of Moldova attractive to migrants from third countries. Depending on the purpose of entry, they may obtain temporary residence permits (work, education, etc.) or permanent residence permits.

Thus, from 2005 till 2011 the annual number of documented aliens with permanent residence permit makes up from 1,788 up to 1,684 people per year, or a total of 15,882 of persons and the number of documented persons with temporary residence permit has increased from 3,123 in 2005 up to 4,774 in 2010, or a total of 22 644 people.

The number of aliens who have obtained a certificate of immigrant for work, education or family reunification purposes has also increased from 2000 till 2010 the number from 1,321 up to 2,749 of persons (*Fig. 9*). If till 2007, the total number of migrants admitted to the Republic of Moldova to work, study or reunify the family could not exceed the rate of 0.05% compared to the number of country's population, as of January 01 of the previous year, from 2008 the rate has been kept only for immigrants who arrived for work. In recent years within the total number of immigrants, a steady increase in the number of economic (labor) immigrants is observed, which requires on the one hand improving the mechanisms of individual ongoing records for this category of people of the rights to social and health insurance, and on the other hand – developing mechanisms of selective attraction of aliens, taking into account the reduced possibilities of the labor market and the need to ensure the local population with jobs to prevent the irregular exodus.



**Fig.9. Temporary labor, educational and family unification immigration, years 1997-2008 (thousands of people)**



**Fig.10. Education level of migrants, years 1997-2008 (thousands of people)**

Incomplete secondary education  
 Secondary vocational education  
 General secondary education  
 Higher education  
 Total migrants

Of the total immigrants, the largest group is comprised of those originating from CIS - 50.5% (45% - Russia, 48% - Ukraine, 2.4% - Armenia, 1.8% - Azerbaijan, 1.4% - Belarus). The second place is occupied by the representatives of Asian states and third world - 28%: (Syria - 25.8%, Jordan - 15.6%, Sudan - 18%, the number of migrants from Turkey and Israel is also significant). The third group is comprised of the immigrants from European countries - 17.5% (Romania - 31.2%, Bulgaria - 12.3%, Germany, etc.).

Easier access of foreign investors to our country is also one of the important aspects of migration policies. The national legislation related to migration helps to attract investors by

simplifying procedures of aliens' documentation depending on the amount of made investments. However, over the past 5 years, a downtrend in the number of registered companies with foreign capital is observed, except those related to real estate activities and those related to transportation and communication. Among those registered, the largest amount of foreign direct investment comes in sectors which do not produce competitive export goods and services: financial activities - 22.7%, real estate - 19.8%, wholesale and retail trade - 18.3%.

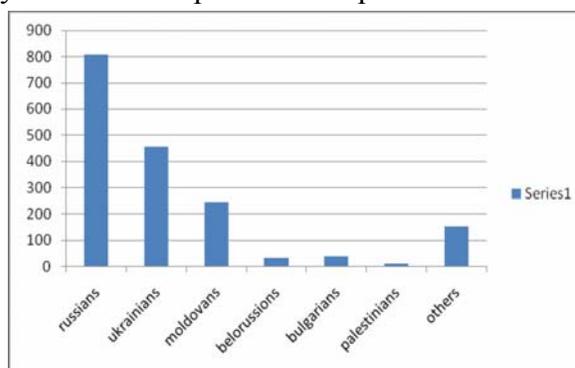
The fluctuations in the correlation of aliens entering the Republic of Moldova for work, including investment, education or family reunification, reflect the features of change in the relevant national legislation and the lack of strategic vision on the paradigm of immigration policy in the country.

**Asylum.** The Republic of Moldova ratified the UN Convention on Refugees of 1951. The purpose of asylum policies in Moldova is that the state provides protection on its territory based on the *principle of non-refoulement* and provides a form of protection according to the national and international law. Compared to the legislation of other former Soviet states, the relevant legislation in the Republic of Moldova is one of the most advanced. Adoption of the legal framework and development of the institutional system allowed provision of protection to several people, coming from Armenia, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Turkmenistan.

**Statelessness.** Statelessness in the Republic of Moldova requires a special approach. At the time of the 2004 Population Census in the Republic of Moldova, 5,374 of people were declared stateless and 390 did not indicate their citizenship. According to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, as of January 01, 2011 2, 049 of stateless persons with permanent residence were registered, who were issued identity documents. Of these, 1,559 reside on the left bank of Dniester River, territory, which is not controlled by the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova. According to ethnic criteria, the largest groups of people are comprised of the Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans and Belarus. The relatively high number of stateless persons is due to former Soviet citizens who have remained in Moldovan and have not acquired citizenship, and to former Soviet citizens who were displaced in Moldova without establishing a legal status, as well as persons who because of various reasons, could not extend the national passport.

Although the national legislation related to issues of citizenship and status of foreign citizens in the Republic of Moldova generally complies with the requirements of major international conventions, the large number of *de facto* stateless persons, who are unable to prove that they are *de jure* stateless persons is still a concern, and at the same time, they do not hold any actual citizenship and do not enjoy national protection. The lack of resident status restricts the right of such persons to registration, documentation, so they are unable to realize their fundamental rights to: shelter, employment and labor protection, rest and protection of health, social assistance, property and intellectual ownership, education, family, etc.

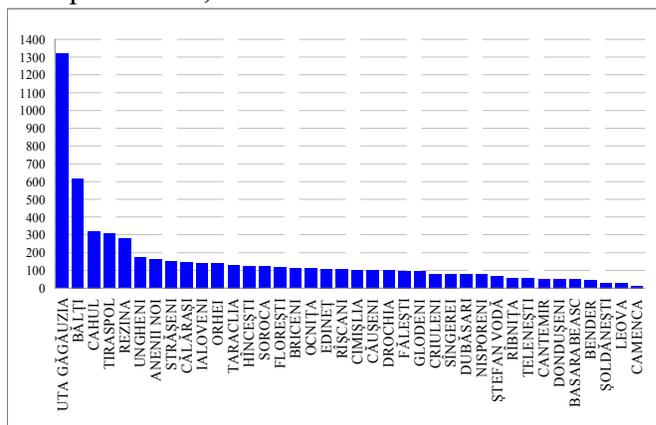
**Integration.** Formally, Moldovan legislation contains no restrictions on the rights of foreign citizens in the country, except for political ones, and establishes equal rights both for aliens and Moldova citizens in the country. At the same time, there are no policies that would facilitate the integration of aliens and would reduce the risk of social exclusion. The key issues to



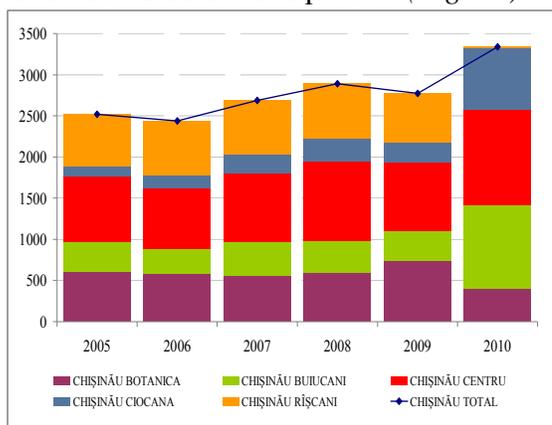
**Fig.9. Distribution by ethnicity of registered stateless persons (persons)**

be considered when analyzing the situation are related to the territorial location and the countries of aliens' origin, duration of stay in the country, sex and age, etc.

Statistics indicate that 88% of all aliens documented in the Republic of Moldova reside in Chisinau, 73% of all work permits are issued to aliens allowing carrying out economic activities in Chisinau, 88.3% of refugees and persons benefiting from one of the forms of humanitarian protection also live in the municipality. An insignificant share of aliens is documented in other territorial administrative units: for example, in Comrat - 5.8%, in Balti - 1.4%, in Cahul and in Tiraspol - 1.2%, in other territorial administrative units number is below one percent (*Fig. 11*).

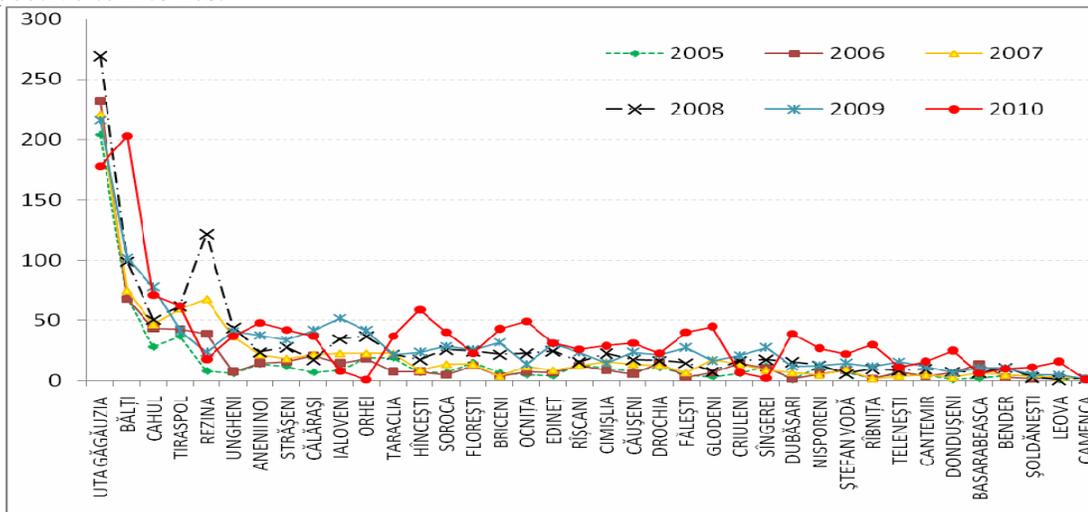


**Fig.11.** Foreign citizens with temporary residence permit by territorial administration units, except for Chisinau Municipality (persons), total during 2005-2010



**Fig.12.** Foreign citizens with temporary residence permit in Chisinau Municipality (persons), during 2005-2010

The tendency to establish the place of living in Chisinau is characteristic for several years (Fig. 13). Although in 2008 and 2010 shows a trivial increase in migration flows to Hincesti and Rezina general correlation does not change the number of aliens with residence permit document the respective territories.

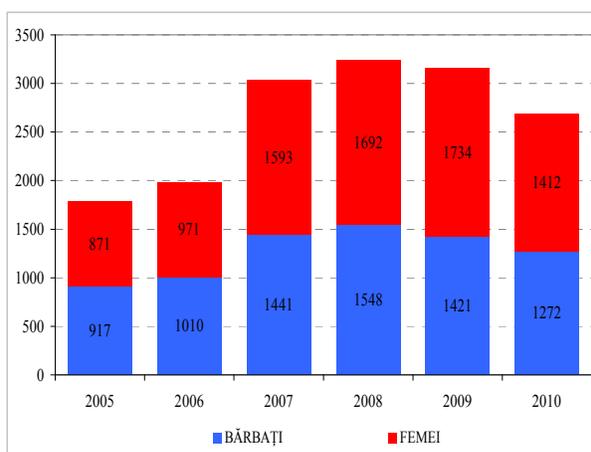


**Fig.13.** Documentation of foreign citizens with temporary residence permit in dynamic during the years 2005-2010, by territorial administration units, except for Chisinau Municipality (persons)

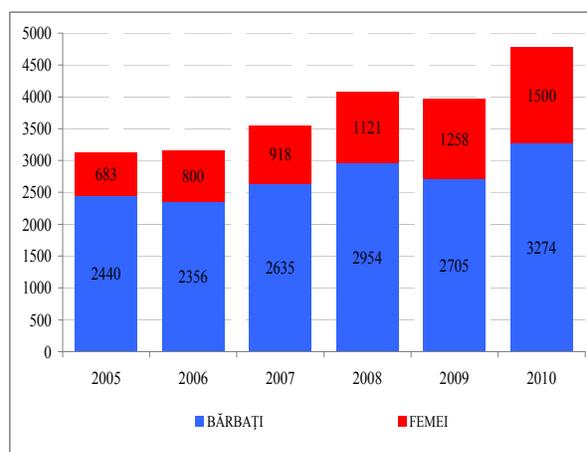
TAU Gagauzia

\*Unitatile ter. admin. Ramin cum sint dar fara diacritice

Note that the people who have obtained temporary residence permit in the Republic of Moldova the number of men outnumber women and, if documented aliens with permanent residence status, number of men outnumber women (Fig. 14, 15).



**Fig.14. Foreign citizens with permanent residence (persons)**

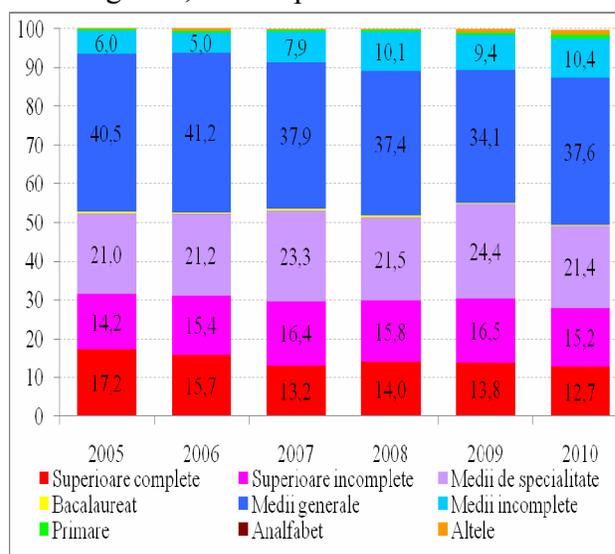


**Fig.15. Foreign citizens with temporary residence permit (persons)**

Another important criterion to be taken into account when developing integration policies is the training of aliens. About 12.7% of the total number of aliens in Moldova holding permanent residence permit are higher institutions graduates. Being analyzed in time, the data show the decrease in the share of aliens with higher education from 17.2% in 2005 to 12.7% in 2010 and the increase in the share of the group of people with incomplete higher education and those with incomplete secondary education, respectively from 6.0% to 10.4% (Fig. 16). Significant gaps in the territorial location and excessive concentration of aliens in Chisinau Municipality requires policies aimed at facilitating their social integration. The practice of other countries, such as France, Germany etc., indicate that such policies will be of long term and will compulsorily contain second and third generation immigrants.

In the context of integration / reintegration of migrants, it is important to take account of their family status, sex, and of the data on the number of children of migrants' families and children born in mixed families. Administrative records indicate continuous increase in the number of children born in the Republic of Moldova in mixed families (one parent is listed as a foreign citizen): during the years 2005-2010 9,879 children were born. Integration implies creating conditions that provide employment, access to preschool and school institutions, health care, etc.

A particular issue to be addressed is the issue of *reintegration of Moldovan migrants returned home* and of the children of Moldovan citizens born abroad. Currently there are no relevant reliable records; we hold data just about the number of children born abroad, which were reconfirmed birth certificates to civil registration offices in Moldova.



**Fig.16. Foreign citizens with permanent residence permit according by level of education**

Higher education  
 Baccalaureate  
 Primary education  
 Incomplete higher education  
 General secondary education

Illiterate  
Secondary vocational education  
Secondary incomplete education  
Others

According to these data, during the years 2006-2010 19,073 children were born abroad. Most children were born in Italy – 4,726, Russian Federation – 4,934, Romania – 1,262, Spain – 800, Portugal - 788, Turkey - 766 etc. Although the degree of intent of parents to return home or remain in the country to live permanently abroad is unknown, hypothetical return to the country shall be taken into account when developing migration policies and mechanisms of returning in the country the migrant workers.

## **1.2. Legislative framework and institutional system of migration and asylum management**

*The legislative framework.* Migration and asylum issues are addressed based on national, international legislations and bilateral intergovernmental agreements in specific areas.

During two decades national migration concepts have changed several times. Initially, documents had a reactive feature (response to the created situation) with a strong Soviet footprint, according to which people migration was restricted and conditional. Subsequently, the need to ensure people's right to free movement, intensified migration process, the need to protect migrants' rights abroad have led to changing the national legislation and adjusting international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party (*Annex 1*).

Currently basic legislative acts in this area are: the Law on Labor Migration, no.180-XVI of July 10, 2008; the Law on aliens' regime in the Republic of Moldova no.200-XVI of July 16, 2010 and the Law on Asylum in the Republic of Moldova no.270-XVI of December 18, 2008. However, many issues regarding the mechanisms and procedures on aliens' entry, residence, leaving the country, ensuring the rights of migrants living abroad, granting asylum, etc. are governed by related laws (*Annex 2*).

In the wide context of interests of the Republic of Moldova on guaranteeing the rights of its citizens abroad, the creation of the mechanisms necessary for active state participation in the processes of legal migration, a number of bilateral agreements in areas related to labor migration, social protection of migrant workers, readmission agreements, etc. were signed. (*Annex 3*).

*Institutional framework.* The legislative changes have conditioned many institutional reforms, according to which in different periods (1990-2002, 2002-2006, 2007-2011) functional responsibilities in migration and asylum management have been exchanged and shared in different ways. Currently the main public authorities responsible for managing migration and asylum are: the Ministry of Internal Affairs (develops policies on immigration, fighting illegal migration, the status of foreign nationals, asylum issues, issues related to the readmission and return, etc.); the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (policies on labor emigration / immigration, social security of migrant workers, development of pre-emigration, post-emigration, (re) integration of migrants policies, etc.); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (protection of the rights of Moldovan citizens abroad, developing visas policy, etc.).

Different aspects on migration are managed by the Ministry of Economy (policies of use of remittances derived from migration), Bureau of Interethnic Relations (policies of diaspora in the country and abroad), the Ministry of Education, etc.

Migration, a complex phenomenon, conditions solving problems by involving several relevant ministries, as well as various levels of government, which predetermine an institutional approach to the development and implementation of policies.

**1.3. Justification of developing a comprehensive Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management.** Being properly and efficiently managed, migration can bring benefits to migrants

and society. Thus, the Strategy can be an investment in economic and social welfare of society and must be applied long term.

The Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management can be effective only in correlation with the economic, political and social orientation of the Republic of Moldova, so that demographic background, employment situation, temporary labor migration and its impact on social policies became priority. The society must be aware that the migration as a long-term phenomenon requires a comprehensive management Strategy including controlled migration (emigration, immigration, asylum, social integration policies) and policies preventing illegal migration and smuggling of migrants. Being correlated with the economic development strategy, demographic security strategy, employment strategy, etc., it is relevant that the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management could be oriented for activities at least until 2020.

Comprehensive addressing of issues requires a consensus between all public authorities and civil society on major issues included in this Strategy. It is important that accurate and correct information about migration and migrants becomes an essential element that will support the development of such a policy. This can be achieved through awareness and involvement of the legislative and executive authorities at all levels, specialists in this area, trade unions, employers' associations, migrants' networks and associations, NGOs, local community, mass media etc.

**1.4. The main objective** of the Strategy is to ensure a comprehensive regulation of migration and asylum management; connecting with the general universal principles unanimously recognized and Community acts signed by the Republic of Moldova; regulation of people movement, meant to serve as a contribution to the social and economic development, security, including social, country's security, respect for human rights and humanitarian obligations assumed by the country, achieving the objectives of European integration.

**1.5. Basic principles.** The Strategy is defined in terms of principles that will enable comprehensive and consistent implementation of policies, comparable with other sustainable policies (and programs). It is an integrative tool of implementing migration policies at the legislative and executive levels, and the informative value designed to various interest groups in the country and abroad. The monitoring and implementation of policies, as well as the assessment of their impact compared to the expected results, will ensure the dynamic development of general policies.

The Strategy will be based on the following principles:

- *Consistent promotion of the priority role of the state* in managing migration issues. Given the scale and the impact of migration processes at global and national level, the role of the state is indisputable and the influence of group or regional interests in implementing migration policies is not allowed.

- *Efficient coordination of activities of the central and local public authorities*, both vertically and horizontally, with the active involvement of relevant civil society and international structures in implementing migration policy.

- The long-term *observance of the macroeconomic usefulness* related to legal migration, except for the migration aimed to family reunification and repatriation. In terms of immigration, the criteria of controlled and selective admission shall be defined based on the needs of labor forces and capital, investments, fighting illegal migration and smuggling of migrants.

- The *reduction of all forms of illegal migration* and of illegal relevant activities by applying international and national legal tools requires development and use of measures to reduce illegal migration; improving methods of detecting illegal migrants prior to entering the country and during the period of stay in the Republic of Moldova.

- *Ensuring the rule of law and human rights* requires observing the obligations deriving from international treaties, generally accepted principles and their coverage by the politics of

migration and asylum management. The principle requires respect, with some exceptions, for all civil rights of persons staying legally in the country, including protection of personal data and freedoms and the principle of non-refoulment (of asylum seekers and refugees), as stipulated in international acts;

- *Active cooperation with the European Union* requires active cooperation in implementing joint projects and relevant activities of liberalization of visa regime, harmonization of the national legal framework consistent with the international law and the European Union acquis;

- The *flexibility* refers to periodic adoption of policies and implementation measures on migration and asylum needs, economic, social, cultural, national and regional needs and reality;

- The *transparency* requires implementation of an active policy of information and consultation of civil society on policies and decisions adopted in the context of migration.

### 1.6. Priority fields of policies

The comprehensive addressing of issues related to migration and asylum management requires consideration of several interrelated areas, including certain sub-areas of development a policy on: *Controlled migration; Counteracting illegal migration and migrants trafficking; Migration control tools and Information assistance.*

The Strategy and subsequent activities (Action Plan on Implementation) shall ensure consistency and compatibility with other national policies and durability for possible adjustments of policies led in changed migration circumstances.

## III. SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus of majority on European vector;</li> <li>• Existence of strengthened political desire and commitment to policy reforms;</li> <li>• Existence of legal and administrative mechanisms for managing issues;</li> <li>• Cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with global and regional structures in migration and asylum;</li> <li>• Existence of a trained human potential in the field of migration and asylum;</li> <li>• National capacity to analyse changed circumstances, drawing conclusions and adjusting the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management to them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of a strengthened partnership with countries of origin, transit and destination for migrants;</li> <li>• Dependence on the external factors in issued related to migration and asylum management;</li> <li>• Departmental and institutional dispersal of various aspects related to efficient management of migration and asylum and the lack of mechanisms of relevant inter-institutional cooperation.</li> <li>• Fragmented and incoherent approach to the policies governing migration and asylum processes;</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical proximity to EU countries;</li> <li>• Availability of international structures, donor countries and the EU in particular, to support relevant reforms by providing financial and technical assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative image of the Republic of Moldova on the regional and global levels in terms of the phenomenon of human trafficking, irregular massive labor emigration;</li> <li>• Dependency of solving migration and asylum issues in terms of external factors;</li> <li>• Changes that may occur in the intensity and direction of migration flows at regional level under the pressure of policy makers of countries in the region;</li> <li>• The lack of own financial, technical and human resources trained in the field;</li> <li>• Insufficient monitoring of the manner of coordinating and use of external and internal resources allocated for Strategy implementation;</li> <li>• A possible change of policies contrary to reforms set out within the Strategy.</li> </ul>
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- When achieving the Strategy's goals, the advantages will be especially taken into account:  
*The consensus of majority on European vector.*

The Republic of Moldova constantly promotes as a priority of the foreign policy the approach to the European Union. The *Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the RM* was signed in November 1994. In 2005 the EU established a permanent Delegation in Chisinau, which would facilitate the EU assistance programs and close relations between the EU and the RM and adopted the *EU – RM Action Plan*, which has set the strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Policy. In 2009, the Action Plan was extended until 2012. Also this year the Republic of Moldova signed the Joint Declaration on the *Mobility Partnership* with the 13 EU countries and the EC.

*Existence of strengthened political desire and commitment to policy reforms.* The desire of approaching to the European Union was reconfirmed by the Republic of Moldova by its commitment of institutional reform and adjustment of policies to the Community Acquis by adopting the EU-RM Action Plan, approved by the Government Decision no.122 of March 4, 2011.

*Cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with global and regional structures in migration and asylum.*

The success in migration and asylum management, given the complexity of the phenomenon, are possible by joining regional and international efforts. Since the late 90's of the XX<sup>th</sup> century, Moldova participates in the *Budapest Process* focused on issues of migration control; *Sederkoping Process*, supported by the Swedish Government, which geographically covers Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus; the Cooperation Process in Southeast Europe; Central European Initiative and Multinational Advisory Group of the Center for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC); During 2008-2009 Moldova plays an active role in the *Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation* and in the *Regional Cooperation Council* - the successor of the

*Stability Pact*, *SECI* (Southeast Europe Cooperation Initiative) and *GUAM* (Regional Initiative for Democracy and Economic Development in Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova). A separate role is played by the cooperation with international structures which have a mandate in the field of migration and asylum: *IOM*, *ILO*, *UNHCR*.

The national *capacity* to analyse changed circumstances, drawn up conclusions, and to adjust the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management to them.

#### IV. FIELDS OF PRIORITY POLICIES

##### 1. Controlled migration

Effective management of controlled migration requires a comprehensive and interdependent approach to issues of emigration, immigration, solving and provision in accordance with unanimously recognized treaties of a form of legal protection guaranteed by the asylum system in the Republic of Moldova, as well as ensuring mechanisms for efficient social integration of citizens coming from third countries, staying legally in the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure population prosperity, social and economic development, protection of the country's security, observing human rights and humanitarian obligations.

##### **Emigration<sup>7</sup>**

Argumentation. The intensity of labor migration processes along with the constant reduction of the human resources necessary for sustainable development of the country requires adjusting legislative and institutional practices in order to promote more efficiently the model of *circular migration* and ensure the social security for migrant workers.

The efficiency of emigration policies, although is an inviolable field of national jurisdiction, depends on obligations deriving from international law and agreements signed with other countries. Although the Republic of Moldova signed the major international and regional conventions and agreements on migration and asylum (*Annex 4*), provision of mechanisms of legal employment abroad and ensuring individual social security measures for migrant workers is difficult for several reasons. Externally sufficient relevant bilateral agreements with host countries lack, and the existing ones, signed in the 90's of last century, shall be reviewed and adjusted to the new migration circumstances (*Annex 5*).

The possible liberalization of visa regime with the EU would reduce the intensity and the risks of irregular migration, will create legal employment opportunities in the EU, would contribute to ensuring mechanisms of social security of migrant workers in Moldova and in host countries.

Internally a comprehensive and lasting approach to migration policies is required in correlation with key strategies for economic and social development of the state, so that the proposed policies could help minimize the negative effects of migration.

One important area shall be granted to the policies of using positive effects of migration (remittances, new skills) for development purposes.

##### *Objectives:*

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<sup>7</sup> Reference to documents: Directive EC - Global Approach to Migration, 2007; Working Paper EC-Mobility partnerships as tools of overall approach to Migration; Brussels, September 09, 2009 SEC (2009) 1240 final; Joint statement on the launch of mobility partnership between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, June 5, 2009; Program Stockholm-Justice, Freedom, Security in Europe since 2005 till present: assessment of the Hague Program and Action Plan "COM (2009), 263; GD "Action Plan on stimulation of the return from board of Moldovan migrant workers, the Conclusions EC of June 18, 2007 on extension and strengthen of the Global Approach to Migration."

*Objective I.* Promoting *circular migration* model and improving the positive effects of migration for individual, host society and the Moldovan community as a whole.

*Objective II.* Counteracting irregular labor migration by making efficient the measures promoted at the stages of pre-emigration, emigration and post-emigration, as well as making efficient the control measures of agencies activities providing (legal / illegal) mediation of employment abroad.

*Objective III.* Counteracting and reduction of brain drain, emigration of young people, women, ensuring the rights of children remained without parental care because of their departure to work abroad on the basis of national programs designed for respective categories of people.

*Objective IV.* Maximising the positive effects of circular migration by transfer of knowledge and new skills upon return of migrants in the country; diversifying possibilities and facilitating the condition for investing remittances in their own business in the real sector of the economy, stimulating creation of joint ventures with the participation of migrants and the support of employers / employers in host countries etc.

*Objective V.* Strengthening the capacities of diplomatic missions and consular offices in the country and abroad in order to provide professional services to ensure social and economic rights for migrant workers, ensuring effective dialogue with the Moldovan diaspora and community in the host country, providing information and other assistance upon the return / repatriation of migrants in the country, etc.

*Objective VI.* Strengthening ties with the diaspora and promotion of transfer of "social remittances" - democracy, economy, culture, gender relations, Community organization and practices, contributing to the overall development in the country.

*Relevant measures:*

- Ensuring correlation of the unit of definitions and notions used in the national legislation with those of the Community legislation, especially the Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council of July 11, 2007 on the Community statistics on migration and international protection and the Regulation 311/76 of the Council on the development of statistics on foreign workers. Adjustments will allow an assessment of processes and a correct statistical record, the use of indicators of monitoring migration processes and policy outcome.

- Strengthening the national and the bilateral legal framework on mechanisms of social security of migrant workers; providing mechanisms for their permanent record throughout their migration period, receiving information from relevant authorities of host countries on migrants from Moldova and their rights to different types of social assistance; the conditions necessary for ensuring the transfer of rights acquired in terms of social insurance upon migrants return in the country.

- Strengthening the capacities of diplomatic missions and consular offices in the country and abroad in order to provide professional services to ensure social and economic rights for migrant workers, ensuring effective dialogue with the Moldovan diaspora and Community in the host country, providing information and other assistance upon the return / repatriation of migrants in the country, etc.

- Strengthening the legal framework and adopting measures on the reintegration of Moldovan citizens (returned voluntarily or readmitted on the basis of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova).

- Promoting policies to maximize the positive effects of migration through diversification of investment possibilities of investing by migrants remittances in activities producing goods and services competitive on foreign markets, etc.; facilitating conditions of creating joint ventures with the support of owners - representatives of host countries with the participation of Moldovan migrants etc.

- Strengthening mechanisms of managing information stocks on migration, improvement of mechanisms for monitoring migration groups and flows by defining the migration profile of the Republic of Moldova, regularly updated with data on legal and illegal migration.
- Strengthening and developing legal tools and national and bilateral mechanisms on the situation of some specific categories of migrants: a highly skilled migrant, migrants' children, migrant women, etc.

### **Immigration**

Argumentation. Over two decades, the Republic of Moldova was recognized as a country of emigration and transit, but the geopolitical changes in the region over the last decade, particularly the existence of common border with EU countries, the emergence of new integration opportunities, cross-border cooperation, etc. made the country attractive to the immigration of aliens.

During the period 2008-2010, the Republic of Moldova adopted new legal instruments governing the regime of aliens staying in the country for work, education, family unification, etc., their admission and documentation mechanisms granting a temporary or permanent residence permit were determined. Legal norms were mainly focused on and correlated with international acts, European policies and use of the European Community's *acquis*. However, the normative framework does not define in strategic terms the paradigm of the immigration policy in the Republic of Moldova. In accordance with Community documents, Moldova is entitled to decide upon the conditions of aliens' legal admission on its territory, to establish and implement its own policy on immigration, depending on the actual needs of economic and social situation in the country, while ensuring the necessary preconditions their further social integration. Given the analysis of economic and social situation, labor market situation in Moldova, the need for ensuring priority areas for economic development, etc. the Strategy shall establish the importance of the policies of selective attraction of migrants in priority areas for national economic development, the role of responsible authorities etc.

#### Objectives:

*Objective I.* Ensuring the correlation between immigration policies with economic and demographic policies, achieving a balance between interests of the state, business sector and individual interests of immigrants.

*Objective II.* Facilitating the admission and the stay in the Republic of Moldova of foreign investors and of individuals who manage foreign investment in economy with multiple effects.

*Objective III.* Admitting aliens for work in accordance with the needs identified on internal labor market, encouraging admission (selective attraction) of aliens with a high qualification able to cover deficient areas, directly impacting economic development.

*Objective IV.* Creating preconditions for further integration of aliens by identifying third countries whose nationals are or may be a potential of migration to the Republic of Moldova, admission criteria for different categories of people, except for non-economic migrants.

#### Relevant measures:

- Correlating principles and procedures for admission to and documentation of aliens in the Republic of Moldova (economic - non-economic migrants) with social and economic realities of the country, using a utilitarian approach to the country and the manner of ensuring the basic rights of immigrants.
- Adjusting national regulations to the Council Resolution of June 20, 1994 on limitation of the admission of third country nationals to member states for employment and the Council Directive 2004/114/EC of December 13, 2004 on conditions of admission of third

country nationals for education, exchange of students, training unremunerated or voluntary services and others.

- Drawing mechanisms of selective admission of aliens for work to fill the shortage of highly qualified personnel in: a) areas leading to that lack of local skilled labor force; b) in priority economic sectors for sustainable national development<sup>8</sup> and that have no local resources of necessary qualification. The determination of criteria for admission for work, having as basis the forecast of the needs of the labor force and the national economy priorities. In order to ensure flexibility, the system of conditions and procedures for admission will be updated periodically.

- Periodically identifying and updating the states which have<sup>9</sup> potential of migration to the Republic of Moldova and facilitating immigration of nationals of these states on the basis of national policies and relevant bilateral agreements.

- Drawing mechanisms for recognizing skills and professional qualifications in the fields requiring qualified staff (working with complicated equipment or dangerous chemicals, explosives, etc.).

- Pro-active promotion of attracting foreign investment through migration policies. Facilitating admission and documentation of aliens who invest in business in rural and / or multiplicative economy development compared with the general conditions; excluding duplication of activities of several authorities on making decision on a single case. Applicability of the system shall be limited only in order to do business.

- Promoting higher education institutions in Moldova in order to attract aliens to study. Determining conditions under which the aliens may extend their stay in the Republic of Moldova after graduation if they are fulfilled.

- Developing mechanisms to facilitate the access of non-economic migrants to the labor market: (a) arrived to unify the family; (b) refugees and persons who have been recognized the status of humanitarian protection in the Republic of Moldova; (c) other categories of migrants who could benefit from rights to facilitate entry and residence<sup>10</sup>. Adjusting national policies to Community relevant principles.

- Ensuring the fact that the free movement of aliens living legally in the Republic of Moldova or of stateless persons is not subject to undue restrictions, including discriminatory measures based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, health condition (including HIV / AIDS), language, religion or belief, political or other opinions, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability or age.

- Developing interdepartmental information records that would allow recording individual rights of aliens in terms of social security, access to health services and education system, social welfare etc.

- Promoting a climate of legality for the admission and stay of aliens in the Republic of Moldova by increasing awareness of potential migrants wishing to come in the Republic of Moldova for short time periods (tourism, business, private visit) or long time periods (work, education, family unification).

### **Asylum**

Argumentation. The Republic of Moldova has legal and institutional tools of asylum system function, mainly adjusted to the requirements of international law. The law determines the manner of granting a certain form of protection (refugee status, political asylum, humanitarian protection, temporary protection). Despite the fact that the goal, the number of asylum seekers or

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<sup>8</sup> According to the Government Program 2010-2013

<sup>9</sup> based on defined criteria of possible cultural compatibility, in terms of education, qualification, etc.

<sup>10</sup> Refers to volunteers, artists, journalists, sportsmen, members of their diaspora, students, researchers and other categories of migrants. Proposal of the MLSPF.

beneficiaries of a form of protection is one of the most pronounced for the Republic of Moldova, the importance of asylum will increase, mainly due to changing phenomenon of migration flow, which takes a more pronounced mixed nature. In future the delimitation of the cases of requesting a form of real protection for people entering the country, of the cases when aliens staying in the country seek such status improperly is required. The achievement of strategic objectives of asylum shall ensure keeping a balance between full maintenance of the rights of asylum seekers and maintenance of the quality of decisions, in conditions of reasonable consideration of the asylum application.

Objectives:

*Objective I.* Strengthening the national asylum system and ensuring unhindered access to asylum procedures in line with the principle of non-return in correspondence with standards, international treaties and conventions to which the Republic of Moldova is party.

*Objective II.* Strengthening mechanisms ensuring that maintenance of a consistent and quality practice in processing asylum applications in order to ensure the existence of an efficient and functional system.

Relevant measures:

- Ensuring application of quality standards to all procedures throughout the process of determining a form of protection guaranteed by the asylum system of the Republic of Moldova<sup>11</sup>.
- Determining quality criteria for asylum procedures and practices and/or a form of humanitarian protection, including those based on updated information from countries of origin, in order to prevent, deter abuses within the asylum procedure.
  - Ensuring minimum standards for receiving asylum seekers, including people with special needs (unaccompanied minors, victims of torture, disabled people, single women).
  - Ensuring the development of asylum policies in order to exclude obtaining protection forms through the procedure of asylum by economic migrants.
  - Implementing the Law on asylum in accordance with international asylum standards by strengthening infrastructure of institutions responsible (staff, funding) for asylum procedures, receiving asylum seekers and protecting their rights, integration of refugees.
  - Developing programs of voluntary and assisted return, especially for potentially vulnerable categories (women, unaccompanied minors and other potentially vulnerable categories).
  - Ensuring the right of free movement of refugees and beneficiaries by humanitarian protection form of the asylum system of the Republic Moldova issuing travel documents provided by law.

**Statelessness.**

Argumentation. The national legislation provides sufficient protection against the risk of statelessness, including cases that occur as a result of restrictions imposed on parents in transmitting the citizenship to their children; restricting women's right to transmit their citizenship; waiver without having other citizenship; automatic loss of citizenship because of a long stay abroad; loss of citizenship after marrying a person from another country (alien) or following a change of citizenship of either spouse during marriage, deprivation of citizenship as a result of discriminatory practices. The legal framework provides a definition of statelessness under relevant international conventions and the legal framework stipulates equal rights and freedoms of persons with those granted to aliens and stateless citizens, except for political rights.

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<sup>11</sup> The quality in services and procedures involves: observing the terms of review, quality of legal services, quality of interpreters, quality of social, health care services (obviously depending on the actual economic situation and the minimum amounts);

However, in the absence of a procedure of determining statelessness and lack of public authorities empowered to receive decisions on applications, the *de fact* solution of issues is not possible. Thus, the issues of statelessness require a special coverage in the Strategy.

Objective:

*Objective I.* Joining the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons from 1954 (Convention from 1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness from 1961 (Convention from 1961).

*Objective II.* Further harmonization of legislation and internal procedures related to migration and asylum with the EU *acquis* and international standards on statelessness.

Relevant measures.

- Developing the national legislative framework through mechanisms for determining the status of stateless person.
- Strengthening institutional capacities related to the migration and asylum policy by creating a specialized structure with the right to decide on applications for obtaining the status of stateless person.
- Developing norms that would allow the inclusion of *de facto* stateless persons in the definition of statelessness and treating them similarly to *de jure* stateless persons and addressing the issue of persons with unknown status staying on the territory of the country after dismantling the former USSR.
- Developing institutional capacity related to statelessness by professional training the decision makers, people involved in examining applications for obtaining the status of stateless persons, etc.

**Integration**

Argumentation. The increasing number of aliens holding residence permits in the Republic of Moldova, of beneficiaries of certain form of protection, of children born in mixed families, etc. occurs in the absence of clear policies on their subsequent integration into Moldovan society. The lack of a long term concept on territorial location of migrants have led to excessive concentration of aliens in Chisinau Municipality, creating prerequisites for the formation of closed ethnic and cultural enclaves, which complicates the promotion of some measures and programs aimed at social integration of aliens. Various administrative records of aliens are not correlated between themselves; they have no mechanisms that would allow the individualized exchange of information on the rights of aliens and members of their family in Moldova. This limits the access of aliens to employment and to various services: education, health, social assistance and insurance, etc., which will reduce the effectiveness of integration policies for the future. The involvement of the central and local authorities in developing and implementing programs for social integration of aliens is sporadic, current and future possibilities of local social infrastructure (nursery, schools, etc.), taking into account the migration factor, etc. are not assessed.

Objective:

*Objective I.* Developing the national legislative framework on social integration of aliens.

*Objective II.* Ensuring through continued and long-term policies efficient processes of mutual accommodation among all aliens (migrants, beneficiaries of a certain form of protection, stateless persons) and residents of the Republic of Moldova.

*Objective III.* Supporting the active participation of aliens and stateless persons with legal residence status in the Republic of Moldova in the economic, social and cultural life of the country, observing the right of aliens to their own cultural identity.

*Objective IV.* Raising awareness of people, civil society, aliens in terms of the importance and need of supporting the integration process.

Relevant measures:

- It is important that immigration and integration policies are interdependent to ensure facilitation of processes of aliens' social integration.
- Integration policies will take into account the priority areas necessary for successful integration of aliens: employment, education, health and social insurance, etc.
- Integration policies that will create respective mechanisms to adapt and encourage social activities of aliens, helping to develop relationships based on trust and mutual accountability of aliens and the Moldovan society, first generation migrants, as well as second and third generation.
- Integration policies will take into account the need for specific activities of cultural accommodation, counselling and language learning within integration programs etc.
- Approaching to a special treatment when developing policies for vulnerable categories: beneficiaries of a certain form of protection, unaccompanied minors, elderly people, women, etc.
- Monitoring integration policies, by establishing a set of indicators in all relevant areas, collection, synthesis and analysis of obtained data.
- Developing mechanisms for practical implementation of integration programs with the involvement of central and local public authorities, civil society.

## **2. Fighting illegal migration and smuggling of migrants**

Argumentation. The processes of globalization, information technology development, flexibility and interdependence of international trade, investment and financial capital followed by repeated migration flows along with many positive aspects related to development, are the cause of many social challenges and risks. The processes draw attention to criminal structures engaged in areas that at the moment promise maximum benefits, thanks to the dynamism and flexibility of activities, particularly such areas as: illegal migration, migrants, human, arms, drugs trafficking, etc. These phenomena are a major challenge both in terms of national security of states, as well as regionally.

Given the international nature and complexity of the phenomenon, efficient countering of illegal migration requires an advanced degree of international cooperation of both government structures, as well as the NGO sector and society as a whole.

Given the gradual transformation of the Republic of Moldova in a country of destination for migrants, the national policies shall reduce the weight of the illegal factor in the migration processes by preventing illegal immigration, transit and residence in the country for those persons who do not satisfy the requirements foreseen by the legislation or are dangerous for public and citizen safety, along with developing mechanisms for effective return of illegal migrants to their countries of origin.

Illegal migration can be reduced by developing effective mechanisms to control legal migration related to observing by aliens of the purpose of entry and residence in the Republic of Moldova. It is equally important to create an effective mechanism to sanction the "third persons", who receive benefits on account of their activities that contribute to illegal migration.

If in terms of immigration and integration policies each state, based on analysis of social and economic situation, is entitled to decide its own policies, fighting illegal migration is the common activities, promoted jointly with the EU, neighbouring countries, countries of origin and destination for migrants to / from Moldova.

In achieving those objectives, the Republic of Moldova will approach to EU policies in this area, it will opt for a fair sharing between states of responsibilities to reduce illegal migration.

Objective:

*Objective I.* Development of comprehensive policies on the prevention of massive uncontrolled immigration into the country or in transit to the European region of persons from disadvantaged regions in terms of policy, economy or society, from areas affected by internal and international conflicts, humanitarian and environmental crises.

*Objective II.* Making efficient the monitoring of illegal migration flows from the country by coordinating and enhancing the efforts of the authorities responsible for detecting and removing aliens illegally residing in the Republic of Moldova.

*Objective III.* Improving the legal and institutional framework, developing mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation to prevent illegal entry and fighting illegal stay of aliens in the Republic of Moldova.

*Objective IV.* Developing cooperation with countries with an increased migration potential to reduce illegal migrants, making effective the policies of returning to these states of persons likely to commit crimes, belonging to different criminal groups, etc. that may constitute a danger to state security and citizen.

Relevant measures:

- Comprehensive approach to the policies for prevention and fighting illegal migration.
- Development and consistent implementation of efficient methodologies for detection of illegal migration routes within the country, including the segments uncontrolled by the Moldovan authorities<sup>12</sup>, analysis and investigation of organized facilitation of illegal migration, including through effective cooperation between relevant institutions.
- Strengthening the capacity of national authorities in order to prevent the immigration of those categories of people who do not meet the eligibility criteria prescribed by law, reduction of cases of fictional documentary, reduction of the possibilities of obtaining economic and social benefits through illicit means, the use of false documents etc.
- Increasing the degree of securing identity and travel documents at a level compatible with European standards.
- Discouraging illegal migration by developing permanent, accurate and complete information of potential migrants on the legal conditions of entry and documentation in the country and on the threat of possible sanctions in cases of failure to observe the legislation.
- Developing policies on increasing responsibilities for employers when employment contracts with migrant workers are terminated because until the expiry of their term, and because of cases when the employer fails to make the deductions prescribed by law in social and health insurance funds for the alien employee.<sup>13</sup>
- Making efficient the interinstitutional cooperation in fighting illegal migration between the structures, which, based on the law and functional powers, get in touch directly with aliens.
- Developing the cooperation with diplomatic missions, consular departments, relevant public authorities in countries of origin and transit of illegal migrants in/through the Republic of Moldova.

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<sup>12</sup>Transnistria, mobile control points

<sup>13</sup> Correlation with the Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

- Ensuring an adequate infrastructure<sup>14</sup> and strengthening the capacities of institutions responsible for the expulsion of persons<sup>15</sup> illegally staying or third-country nationals on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- Strengthening human resources involved in migration and asylum management, risk analysis, fighting illegal immigration and illegal residence, detention and recruiting procedures. Ensure continuous training of personnel through consistent staff policies, creation of mechanisms to maintain in the system and promotion of trained staff, taking into account, in particular, the implementation of institutional reforms.<sup>16</sup>

### 3. Migration control tools

#### *Visa policies*

Argumentation. Visa policies are one of the main control measures that allow the entry of aliens in the state and the period for which they can stay on its territory. They aim to facilitate legal travels of citizens and to prosecute illegal migration. Through visa policy preventive control measures can be established prior to the entry of aliens in the country, security and identification measures that require further strengthen and development of the administrative infrastructure designed to implement respective policies. When examining the need for the establishment or abolition of the visa regime, it is necessary to adopt as strategic point the policy issues on illegal migration and readmission, the foreign policy of state security.

In 2010, the Republic of Moldova<sup>17</sup> has correlated its visa regime with Community standards, passing to the type of: "transit ", " airport transit", " short stay" and "long stay" visas. In exceptional cases (disasters, natural calamities etc. cases specified in the legislation), visa is granted notwithstanding the general rule. Aliens staying in the Republic of Moldova for a short period of time can be divided into two groups: those who do not need an entry visa (EU, Japan, USA, Canada, Australia, the CIS, except Turkmenistan<sup>18</sup>, etc.), and citizens who enter the country under relevant bilateral agreements. Currently the Republic of Moldova has signed with about        countries agreements on exclusion of visa regime for all citizens or distinct categories of citizens. As a state that aspires to join the EU, the Republic of Moldova shall finalize its relevant policies in line with the requirements of Community directives.<sup>19</sup>

Except for visas in exemption cases, all visas shall be granted exclusively by diplomatic missions and consular representations of the Republic of Moldova from abroad, which calls for strengthening the capacity of these structures<sup>20</sup>, increasing their cooperation and collaboration with authorities in the country, responsible for migration management. The small number of diplomatic missions requires the need for development of modern information and communication systems in a manner that would facilitate the exchange of information with the

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<sup>14</sup> In particular, the capacities of the Center for provisional placement of aliens (Identification the needs of development of the infrastructure of the Center for temporary placement of aliens, ensuring sufficient staff resources etc.).

<sup>15</sup> Strengthening the capacities of the institution in charge of the execution of procedures of return and expulsion through seminars, trainings, educational visits, training of trainers

<sup>16</sup> GD122 dated March 11, 2011, p. 36

<sup>17</sup> Law on aliens in the Republic of Moldova no. 200-XVII of July 16, 2010

<sup>18</sup> See Annex....the States are established by legislation acts

<sup>19</sup>To specify the Directive: number, date, supplies, content, applicability.

<sup>20</sup> See the need to align the RM to the requirements of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe (EC) no. 767/2008 of July 9, 2008 concerning the Visa Information System and the Exchange of information on short stay (Schengen Agreement concerning the formation of Visa Information System).

relevant institutions in the country and further would facilitate access to Community information system on visas.<sup>21</sup>

Objective:

*Objective I.* Ensuring standards of granting and issuing visas in line with the Community criteria.

*Objective II.* Ensuring information management and interinstitutional exchange of relevant information with the relevant structures in the country.

Relevant measures:

- Further adjustment of national policies on visa issuance with Community legislation, adopting to this end new regulatory acts and making necessary amendments in legislation.
- Improving security standards for visa stickers.
- Determining<sup>22</sup> for which states national and Community regulations<sup>23</sup> on establishing and applying criteria to prevent illegal migration, ensuring state security, foreign relations etc. are applicable.
- Finalizing and implementing the Integrated automated information system in the field of "Consul"<sup>24</sup> and ensuring its interaction with the State Register of Population, with subsystems (developing and creation of programs (software) for other relevant authorities).

***Security of documents and personal data protection***<sup>25</sup>

Argumentation. Travel and identity documents are indispensably linked to control measures both prior to entry (visa policy, border control), as well as post-entry control (eg. return and readmission procedures). Thus, the importance of keeping secure identity and travel documents, personal data protection and combating fraud opportunities of these documents through identity theft or forgery becomes an imperative.

Development of information technologies in the Republic of Moldova, electronic data processing and creation of electronic databases provide enormous advantages of migration management, enables public authorities to improve the processes of collecting, processing and interlinking personal data. However, storage of electronic data in enormous quantities requires the implementation of a management information system based on international standards of personal data protection.

Objective:

*Objective I.* Ensuring standards of issuance and assessment of travel and identity documents in line with Community criteria.

*Objective II.* Ensuring information management in compliance with international standards of personal data protection.

Relevant measures:

- Strengthen the legal framework on protection of personal data, including ratification by the Republic of Moldova of the Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder flow of personal data, adopted in Strasbourg on November 8, 2001.
- Adjusting the provisions of the national law to data protection standards set by international and regional instruments.

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<sup>21</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe (EC) no. 767/2008 of July 9, 2008 concerning the Visa Information System and the Information Exchange on short stay (Schengen Agreement concerning the formation of Visa Information System).

<sup>22</sup> By common order of MIA, SIS, BGS, MFA EI, MTIC

<sup>23</sup> EC Regulation No 539/2001 of March 15, 2001.

<sup>24</sup> To correct the name

<sup>25</sup> See GD 122 dated March 11, 2011, p.36-41

- Introducing issuance standards to increase security of identity and travel documents, for aliens – visa, invitations, residence permits.
- Implementing the legislation on protection of personal data and ensuring effective functioning of autonomous control authority<sup>26</sup> to protect data by allocating necessary human and financial resources.
- Making efficient the review of documents, including the establishment of an electronic information exchange both internationally and nationally.
- Training of staff involved in data management and personal knowledge of the standards applicable to the principle of data confidentiality.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Integrated Border Control***

***Argumentation.*** According to Community legislation and practices, the integrated border control includes a set of activities suppressing illegal border crossing: border control and observation, detection and investigation of cross-border crimes, applying the model of the four elements to control the entry into the country (diversified application methods), interinstitutional and international collaboration. The border control is the confirmation that the entry on the territory of the country of individuals, transport units and goods shall be made in line with the requirements of national legislation on conditions of entry into and exit from the country. The Community Regulations contain a number of related definitions, binding for the Community states. The previous amendments to the legislation on the State Border of the Republic of Moldova in terms of the ideological concept of organization and function of the Border Guard Service have failed to achieve its modernization and demilitarization. In order to fulfil the commitments under the RM-EU Action Plan, the demilitarization of the Border Guard Service shall be carried out by taking over by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the functions of the State Border Control. The comprehensive approach to border management and migration management will contribute to the improvement of measures of surveillance and control of the state border crossings, preventing and fighting illegal migration, including on the Transnistrian segment, and cross-border crime, improving the comprehensive management of migration processes. Along with the reorganization, the military personnel, relevant training of civilian personnel in accordance with Community regulations, but keeping the decision-making autonomy of system structures ensuring the determination of aliens' status and documentation.

#### ***Objective:***

***Objective I.*** Reorganizing and demilitarizing the Border Guard Service according to the Community criteria.

***Objective II.*** Developing national capacities for training civilian personnel and that with the special status of the border according to the standards of powers applied in EU states.

***Objective III.*** Improving interinstitutional cooperation in preventing illegal migration, border management, visa granting and solving problems related to aliens.

#### ***Relevant measures***

- Promoting and observing the quad concept of integrated border management involving the comprehensive approach to border issues by all authors interested in managing a professional staff.
- Developing national capacities of training civilian and special status personnel to ensure border control in line with the standards of powers applied in the EU member states.
- Increasing interinstitutional cooperation aimed at preventing and fighting illegal migration, ensuring the flow of data on the state border crossing by the relevant structures, etc.

### ***Return and readmission***

<sup>26</sup>To identify and correlate additionally with MTIC

<sup>27</sup>Review the Law on personal data protection, Criminal and Offences Codes, Law on State Secrecy.

Argumentation. Sustainable policies of return, readmission and reintegration, the latter being related to the issue of illegal migration and transit, have parts covering the fight against illegal migration. An efficient system of return and readmission is an important element of migration management. The Republic of Moldova has ratified the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreement signed with the European Commission (ECRA), which entered into force on January 1, 2008, the Agreement is valid for the Republic of Moldova and the EU member states. From 2010 the provisions of ECRA on readmission of third country nationals came into force. Currently negotiations are being held on signing with the EU member states of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorization. Proprietarily the agreements with Italy, Bulgaria, France, Czech Republic, other countries with significant presence of migrants from Moldova will be negotiated.

The implementation of the Moldova-Community Agreement on readmission of illegally residing persons, and other readmission agreements has helped to streamlining relevant activities. If on the basis of bilateral readmission agreements with European Union in 2005, 2006, 2007 33, 18 and respectively 44 people were readmitted, along with the application of the ECRA, the number of readmitted people increased, in 2008, 2009 and 2010 making up 45, 88 and respectively 110 persons. Most of them are readmitted in France, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Austria, etc.

The practice shows that there are no problems with the readmission of citizens of the Republic of Moldova in the EU member states neither in terms of their number, no in terms of procedure. In this regard, in order to facilitate the dialogue on visa regime, the policy in readmission shall be considered in wider context. Currently, the Republic of Moldova has no instruments based on bilateral legal principles that would ensure the return or readmission of citizens of other states, which are not EU members, particularly those in the Middle East (Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon), the Indian subcontinent (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan), etc. countries such as the Republic of Moldova often lack sufficient influence to successfully negotiate such agreements. In this regard it would be relevant to seek EU support, so as the processes of negotiation and signing of agreements with third countries could include the Republic of Moldova in its efforts as well. Moldova's inclusion in a readmission agreement with the EU would benefit everyone.

In other order of ideas, the relevant authorities of Moldova should take into account that an illegal stay does not exclude a voluntary return entailing the need to draw up and diversify relevant policies and procedures, exclusion of practices of making criminal the procedures applied to illegal migrants.

In particular the issue of admission of Moldovan citizens in accordance with readmission agreements shall be considered, especially the development of special programs of assistance upon returning and assistance in reintegration of these people.

Objective:

*Objective I.* Increasing the level of state actions in fighting against illegal migration by improving mechanisms of return and readmission.

*Objective II.* Promoting voluntary return policies as a part of migration management.

*Objective III.* Facilitating the return of aliens to their country of origin under the readmission agreements concluded with states with high migration potential.

Relevant measures:

- Bringing national legislation on expulsion, detention, coercive measures, etc. in line with the EU standards in order to ensure efficient policies on return and readmission.
- Making efficient the policies on return by correlating them with a sustainable policy on visas, where appropriate, to third countries.

- Strengthening legal instruments for readmission through the negotiation and signing with the EU member states of the Additional Protocols to the Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons with illegal stay.
- Intensifying efforts in the negotiation and signing of agreements on readmission, in particular with countries of origin and transit of migrants. Seeking for the EU assistance in facilitating dialogue with these countries.
- Developing, based on principles of international cooperation and cooperation with civil society, voluntary return programs, adjusted to the specific situation of migrant-sending countries, depending on the features of returnees ensuring relevant rights for all steps necessary to the process of return.

#### **4. Information support**

Argumentation. The need to ensure fair evaluation of the number of migrants, the proportions between legal and illegal migration, the possibility of monitoring based on predetermined indicators of migration processes and their correlation with economic, social circumstances, etc. is important for ensuring efficient management of migration and asylum. This requires continuous development of automated information systems that integrate information resources existing in different administrative records of public bodies authorized by the law to make decisions relevant to migration and asylum. The information support shall cover all aspects of migration: the entry into and exit from the country of citizens of the Republic of Moldova, aliens and stateless persons, to ensure control of stay in the country of aliens and stateless persons throughout the period of stay in the country, including the case of changed purpose of the stay in the country etc. Although over the recent years the required legislative basis has been adopted (*Annex. 5*), frequent institutional reforms have affected this process. The development of information support requires efficient mechanisms of interinstitutional collaboration of all structures involved in managing migration and asylum, such as: the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Finance, Customs Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Agency of Tourism, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, local authorities etc.

##### Objective:

*Objective I.* Providing information support to central and local public authorities as an analytical support in order to ensure efficient management of migration and asylum.

*Objective II.* Strengthening institutional capacity to collect, aggregate, systemize and use by beneficiaries the data for developing and monitoring the implementation of policies on migration, asylum, integration of aliens.

*Objective III.* Creating a viable mechanism for cooperation and efficient exchange of information between all relevant actors in order to effectively manage migration and asylum processes, including providing deep analysis on the possible impact of migration on different areas of the country's further development.

##### Relevant measures:

- Ensuring interinstitutional information cooperation of two types (vertical and horizontal) at all levels (national, regional and local), for all competent authorities in order to comprehensively manage migration and asylum, jointly coordinate activities, reduce risks and overlapping in activity.

- Developing mechanisms for cooperation on: risk analysis, cooperation in collecting and processing information, establishing, where appropriate, joint investigative groups, providing access to the existing or newly created databases, creation of common database and a system of quick exchange of information for involved authorities.

- Developing mechanisms (based on the protocols of cooperation) of the common planning of interinstitutional cooperation on the basis of a common understanding of risks and threats, in particular those related to the exchange of information between authorities, mediation of conflicts of powers, insurance operational aspects, such as: the use of a compatible communication equipment, organization of joint operations and participation in joint training and education, etc.

- The agreements signed with other countries are an effective tool for strengthening management of migration and asylum. Thus, the initiation and negotiation of bilateral agreements on issues related to human resources, particularly those related to migration and asylum issues, will include the clauses regarding the optimization of the information exchange, organization of the exchange of statistical and analytical data on migration and asylum on issues of common interest.

## **V. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Migration management is based on the participation of all institutions involved in the field, through a participatory management and ensuring the interinstitutional, national and international cooperation.

In order to implement the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management, an institutional mechanism for cooperation on the issue of coordinated planning of activities and monitoring their implementation will be established at government level.

Until the implementation of institutional reforms, the issues of institutional coordination will be in charge of the National Commission on migration and asylum issues under the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Concrete measures for practical implementation of the Strategy objectives will be covered in the Strategy Action Plan, and annual work plans of the relevant institutions. The work plans will establish concrete activities and responsibilities that will be assigned to all ministries and institutions responsible for migration and asylum in order to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.

If during the implementation of the Strategy, the national or international contexts undergo significant changes, the Moldovan Government will amend the proposal given the decision of the National Commission on migration and asylum issues.

## **VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The financial resources required to implement the Strategy are:

1. Budgetary allocations for involved ministries and departments according to the competence of achieving the objectives of the Strategy in line with the annual sectoral work plans;
2. Foreign loans that do not involve government guarantees;
3. Donations and sponsorship provided by law, including the NGO sector;
4. Other sources.

## **VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

During the implementation of the Strategy, the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of actions and outcomes will be carried out, so that, if necessary, amendments could be done of the policies on migration and asylum management lead during actions.

*The purpose of the monitoring* is to correlate the priorities and objectives proposed by the Strategy so that subsequently a more accurate assessment of the manner of implementing the Strategy and its impact on regulating the movement of people could be made, that would constitute a contribution to the country's social and economic development, social security for migrants, observance of human rights and humanitarian commitments. In particular, monitoring and evaluation will contribute to: the assessment of the current situation and trends in the Strategy objectives, analysis of the implementation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy; accurate assessment of final outcome.

*The function of comprehensive supervising of processes and activities* of implementing the Strategy on Migration and Asylum Management will be exercised by the National Commission on migration and asylum issues, led by the Commission President, the Minister of Internal Affairs.

*The duties of the Commission shall consist of:* supervision of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, medium-term and final evaluation of results of the Strategy, approval of annual action plans for Strategy implementation and annual reports on implementation of the Strategy, development of comprehensive recommendations on the adjustment of policies on migration and asylum and completing through them the strategies related to economy, poverty eradication, health, child protection, ensuring equal opportunities fields, adjustment with the policies of foreign states or international legal instruments signed by the Republic of Moldova .

*Coordination of the entire process of monitoring and evaluation* of the results of Strategy implementation will be made by the National Commission on migration and asylum issues. The Commission will ensure: transparency in Strategy implementation; mobilization and participation of the civil society and other stakeholders of the society in implementing the strategic document; creating an environment conducive to continuous and open dialogue between stakeholders in solving problems and differences within the period of implementation; strengthening the institutional framework and continuous interaction between public authorities and civil society; ensuring the development and implementation of effective strategy of communication and large and quick dissemination of relevant information by partners, etc.; developing and submitting recommendations in the process of updating the plans of Strategy implementation based on official reports and independent evaluations.

*The technical coordination and monitoring of the Strategy implementation will be carried out by the Government (Vice-Prime-Minister), which will be in charge of inter-ministerial coordination, fulfilling the following functions:* analysis and assessment of the current situation, trends of migration processes, social and economic changes in the country and their impact on migration processes; continuous monitoring of intermediate and final results at national level; evaluation of progress in achieving the Strategy objectives and priorities; evaluation of the impact of policies developed in the Strategy, collection of central and local authorities in information monitoring, collection, analysis and reporting; development and submission for the central and local administration authorities standard forms of reporting requirements for the content of annual reports.

*Tools of Strategy monitoring and evaluation.* Within the process of Strategy monitoring, sets of indicators developed within the extended migration Profile, depending on the implementation of the provisions established by priorities.

## Glossary, Annexes, List of Abbreviations

### List of Abbreviations

<b>AENEAS</b>	Special program for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum
<b>RA</b>	Readmission Agreement
<b>BGS</b>	Border Guard Service
<b>MAO</b>	Migration and Asylum Office within the Ministry of Internal Affairs
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>ICO</b>	Information from the Country of Origin
<b>DMCP</b>	Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUBAM</b>	EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine
<b>EURODAC</b>	European Dactyloscopy
<b>FRONTEX</b>	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
<b>GUAM</b>	Organization for Democracy and Economic Development of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization
<b>ICPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>OIM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>MEc</b>	Ministry of Economy
<b>MEd</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MFAEI</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
<b>MTIC</b>	Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications
<b>MIA</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
<b>RM</b>	Republic of Moldova
<b>CISEE</b>	Cooperation Initiative of South Eastern Europe
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>TACIS</b>	Technical Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>UNCHR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**National normative acts on information support on migration and asylum  
and Community documents regarding the collection of relevant statistical information.**

1. Law on the exit from and entry into the Republic of Moldova no.269-XIII of November 9, 1994 2.
2. Law on identity acts of the national passport system no.273-XIII of November 9, 1994
3. Law of the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the Refugee Convention and the Protocol on the status of refugees, nr.677-XV of November 23, 2001.
4. Law on legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Moldova no. 275-XIII of November 10, 1994
5. Law on asylum in the Republic of Moldova no.270-XV of December 18, 2008
6. Law on the status of aliens in the Republic of Moldova no.200-XVI of July 16, 2010
7. Resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Moldova no.1386-XV of October 11, 2002
8. Government Decision on the temporary employment of migrant workers no.1077 of November 20, 1997
9. Government Decision on approving the Regulation on conditions of compulsory health insurance of aliens and stateless persons in the Republic of Moldova no.43 of January 21, 2002
10. Government Decision on approval of the Concept of the automated information system "State register of population" and "Regulation of the State Register of Population", no. 333 of March 18, 2002
11. Government Decision on approval of the Regulation on training aliens and stateless persons in educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova no.746 of June 21, 2001
12. Government Decision on issuance of invitations to aliens and stateless persons, no. 33 of January 22, 2004
13. Government Decision on establishing the Integrated Automatic Information System on Migration, no. 40 of January 12, 2007
14. Government Decision on Customs Integrated Information System, no.561 of May18, 2007
15. Law on the Protection of Personal Data, no. 17-XVI of February 15, 2007
16. Government Decision on the Concept of Integrated Automatic Information System Migration and Asylum ", no.1401 of December 13, 2007
17. **Regulation (EC) No.862/2007** of the European Parliament and the Council of July 11, 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and abrogation of the Regulation (EEC) of No.311/76 of the Council on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. Official Journal of the European Union, July 31, 2007, no. L 199, p.23-29
18. **Commission Regulation (EU) No.216/2010** of March 15, 2010 implementing the Regulation (EC) No.862/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning Community statistics on migration and international protection, in terms of definitions of

the categories of reasons for issuing residence permits. Official Journal, March 16, 2010, nro.L066, p.1-2

19. **Commission Regulation (EU) No. 351/2010**, April 23, 2010 implementing the Regulation (EC) No.862/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning Community statistics on migration and international protection, in terms of definitions of the categories of groups of countries of birth, groups of countries of current and previous residence, the groups of countries of current and future residence and groups of citizens (Text with EEA relevance), Official Journal of the European Union, April 24,2010, no. L104, p.37-39.
20. Statistical Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (2004). Place of usual residence and other geographical features: national practices in 2000 on the censuses and comments regarding the recommendations on the census of UNECE, Working Paper No.7, Joint Work Session of UNECE-Eurostat on population censuses, Geneva, November 23-25, 2004
21. Norway Statistics (2010). Similarities and differences between Moldova and Norway on the conditions for demographic statistics - a discussion paper. Note of February 10, 2010; Support for the development of demographic statistics, Note of February 23, 2010.
22. UNO (2001). Principles and recommendations for vital statistics system, Review 2, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/19/Rev.2, p.176.
23. UNO (1998). Recommendations on international migration statistics. Review 1. Series of statistical documents M, No.58, Rev.1, p.95.