

Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova 2010–2015

Overview of Migration Trends for the Period 2005–2015



Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
Bureau for Migration and Asylum



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International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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ANALYTICAL REPORT

Chisinau, 2017



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| AMP | Aid Management Platform |
| NEA | National Employment Agency |
| LFS | Labour Force Survey |
| BMA | Bureau for Migration and Asylum |
| NBS | National Bureau of Statistics |
| BDR | Bureau for Diaspora Relations |
| HBS | Household Budget Survey |
| CCD | Coordinating Council of People Originating from the Republic of Moldova and Residing Abroad |
| CIS | Commonwealth of Independent States |
| BPD | Border Police Department |
| MDT | Multidisciplinary Team |
| TWG | Technical Working Group |
| IASCI | International Agency for Source Country Information |
| ICMPD | International Centre for Migration Policy and Development |
| UNHCR | (Office of the) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| SE SIRC “Registru” | State Enterprise, State Information Resource Centre “Registru” |
| MFAEI | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration |
| MIA | Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| LFM | Labour Force Migration |
| MLSPF | Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family |
| MITC | Ministry of Information Technology and Communications |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| EMP | Extended Migration Profile |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| NRS | National Referral System |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| USAID | US Agency for International Development |

INTRODUCTION

This analytical report is a continuation of a complex exercise initiated in 2010: the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) of the Republic of Moldova. The first edition of the EMP report covered a detailed analysis of migration data in the 2005–2010 period. The entire process of supporting the development of the first edition of the EMP encompassed a set of multilateral actions and synergy among all stakeholders, which assisted in improving the collection and exchange of data, and in promoting wider coherence and a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to the development of migration policies.

This edition of the Republic of Moldova EMP analytical report, which covers the years 2010–2015, was developed by the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, appointed as the institution responsible for subsequent production of the EMP via the Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, approving the List of Indicators and the Template of the Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova. The responsible persons within the BMA were Mrs Olga Poalelungi, BMA Director, and Mrs Jana Mazur, Head of Monitoring, Data Management, and Risk Analysis Section under the Legislation, Data Coordination and Management Division.

This report also represents the outcome of a huge joint effort to collect and analyse data, to which many institutions and persons have contributed in different ways, all equally important. In this context, acknowledgements are expressed to all members and observers of the inter-institutional Technical Working Group (Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; Ministry of Internal Affairs; National Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Education) and observers for their active participation and valuable input.

KEY DATA: REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Geography

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Total area (sq km) ¹ | 2015 | 33,800 sq km |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------|

Economy and development

| | | |
|---|------|------------|
| GDP per capita (in current prices) ² | 2015 | MDL 34,374 |
| Human Development Index ³ | 2014 | 0.693 |

Population

| | | |
|--|------|-------------------|
| Total resident population ⁴ | 2015 | 3,553,100 persons |
| Population forecast ⁵ | 2050 | 3,129,800 persons |
| Foreigner population ⁶ | 2015 | 21,876 persons |
| Population born abroad ⁷ | 2015 | 294,419 persons |

International migration

| | | |
|--|-----------|------|
| Net international migration rate ⁸ per 1,000 inhabitants ⁹ | 2005–2010 | -9.4 |
| | 2010–2015 | -5.9 |

¹ National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, *Statistical Yearbook of Moldova 2014* (Chisinau, 2014), p.10. Available from www.statistica.md

² Dynamics of the main macroeconomic indicators 1995–2015. Available from www.statistica.md/public/files/serii_de_timp/conturi_nationale/serii_anuale/Dinam_princ_indic_macro.xls

³ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World* (New York, 2013), p. 169. Available from <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr14-report-en-1.pdf>

⁴ Stable Population by Sex and Area of Residence, at the Beginning of the Year, 1970–2014. Available from http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/pxweb/ro/20%20Populatia%20si%20procesele%20demografice/20%20Populatia%20si%20procesele%20demografice__POP010/POP010100.px/?rxid=9f06e683-bba9-45f8-88d6-7901d377a785

⁵ G. Paladi, O. Gagauz and O. Penina, "Population Ageing in the Republic of Moldova: Economic and Social Consequences" (Chisinau, Academy of Science of Moldova, 2009). The forecast was calculated based on three scenarios – for the closed-type population, without taking into consideration migration and taking account of lack of some complete data on migration. According to the pessimist scenario, by 2050, the number of inhabitants may decrease to 2,596,200 persons (according to the II-moderately pessimist scenario, the number may decrease to 2,830,800, and according to III-optimist scenario, it may decrease to 3,129,800).

⁶ State Enterprise, State Information Resource Centre (SE SIRC) "Registru", Total Number of Foreigners, Including the Stateless Persons, Staying on the Territory of the Republic of Moldova as of 31 December of the Year of Reference. Data submitted for the EMP Matrix; see Table 22 in Annex.

⁷ SE SIRC "Registru", Number of Persons Born Abroad, Regardless of the Citizenship, as of 31 December. Data submitted for the EMP Matrix; see Table 24 in Annex.

⁸ Hereinafter, "international migration" is referred to as "migration", except when "internal" is used with "migration" or "migrant".

⁹ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*. Available from <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=PopDiv&f=variableID%3A85>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analytical report on the Extended Migration Profile (EMP) of the Republic of Moldova, 2010–2015 edition, is a country-owned tool developed in consultation with a wide number of government and non-government stakeholders, and it is envisaged to be used for enhancing policy coherence, for evidence-based policymaking and for mainstreaming migration into national development planning.

The EMP analytical report covers four basic blocks of information and analysis, namely: migration trends (part A); migration impact (part B); migration management framework (part C); and main findings, policy implications and recommendations (part D).

The migration studies that have been carried out reveal that the economic reasons remain to be the main push factor for Moldovans, especially the lack of local employment opportunities and low salaries offered in the country. The migration phenomenon in Moldovan context continues to be characterized more by the international emigration of the country's population and less by the immigration of persons from abroad. In general terms, three approaches are used to estimate international emigration from the Republic of Moldova, namely:

- authorized emigration, which involves deregistration from the place of residence and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good from the country, also known in the country as “permanent emigration”;
- labour migration, that is, leaving to work or to look for a job abroad, with the intention to return, also termed “temporary/circular migration”;
- exit from the country, which is registered at the border, including both authorized/permanent emigration and temporary/circular migration.

Although **authorized emigration** from the Republic of Moldova continues to be significant, as shown by data estimates from the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (State Enterprise, State Information Resources Centre “Registru” (SE SIRC “Registru”), this phenomenon shows a decreasing trend during the reference period, based on the data on annual flow of authorized emigrations. According to official data, 4,714 Moldovans emigrated in 2010; the number decreased in 2015 by 52 per cent, corresponding to 2,284 persons. It is mainly the urban population that emigrated using regular channels: in 2015, 2.6 times more persons from urban areas (1,652) as from rural areas (632)

emigrated. According to the data estimated based on authorized emigration, the stock of the total number of Moldovan citizens going abroad continued to increase: this number increased by 14,400 persons in 2015 as compared with the number in 2010, accounting for 106,595 persons.

Another important source of information that offers the possibility to estimate the volume of emigration according to the international definition is the **State border crossing registration** provided by the Border Police Department (BPD), specifically the data about the duration of a person's stay outside the country, based on border crossing data. By the end of 2015, a total of 282,000 persons (of whom 133,000 men and 149,000 women) had stayed abroad for more than 12 months.

According to the data presented by the National Employment Agency (NEA), the number of Moldovans working in the host countries with legal work contracts concluded via the NEA is increasing from year to year, but remains to be quite small as compared with the total number of persons working or looking for a job abroad. It is noteworthy to mention that 2,010 official work contracts were concluded in 2015, an increase from 924 in 2014. As compared with 2010 data, the number of legal work contracts registered by the NEA increased six times.

Overseas student population. The number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad under international education agreements showed an increasing pattern until 2013, but it registered a decrease in 2014 as compared with the previous year, almost maintaining in 2015 the level achieved in 2014. Hence, this number increased by 1.4 times in 2015 as compared with the number in 2010, accounting for 5,485 persons (in 2014 there were 5,469 persons).

Involuntary emigration. This type of emigration registered an increase by the end of 2015 as compared with the number in 2010. The analysis in this context is based on information obtained from international databases. According to the data, the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad totalled 633 in 2010 and 3,402 in 2015.

Taking into account that the information provided by the BPD only contains data about border crossings accumulated from the State border crossing points under the control of the official authorities of the Republic of Moldova, **the total volume of Moldovan emigrants cannot be accurately measured, as emigration volume can be overestimated or underestimated due to the fact that persons may cross the border through the Transnistria segment.**

Temporary emigration. The data of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) reveals a stable number of Moldovans – approximately 300,000 – who were working or looking for a job abroad in the period 2010–2015. In 2015, the number of Moldovans working or looking for a job abroad decreased, accounting for 325,400 persons, of whom 210,800 were men and 114,600 were women, as compared with 341,900 persons in 2014, of whom 219,100 were men and 122,800 were women.

Repatriation. In 2010–2015, the annual number of repatriated persons has oscillated among increases and decreases. In 2015, the number of repatriated persons increased by 195 as compared with 2014, growing at a rate of 8.8 per cent. A certain number of children were registered among the repatriated persons, accounting for 8.7 per cent of the total number of repatriated persons in 2015.

Readmission. During the period of reference, the number of readmitted persons considerably varied, registering different values. At the beginning of the period of reference (2010), this number accounted for 110 persons, and by the end of this period, 130 persons were readmitted, the majority being from France (79 per cent).

Combating trafficking in human beings. In 2015, the Multidisciplinary Teams of the National Referral System (NRS) identified 132 victims of trafficking in human beings, increasing by 52 as compared with the figure in 2014. At the same time, in 2015 the NRS assisted in identifying and assisting 298 potential victims of trafficking in human beings, as compared with 328 in 2010. It is assumed, nevertheless, that this number could be much higher, as it includes an extended group of persons considered to be at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Foreigner population. By the end of 2015, there were a total of 21,876 foreigners (including the stateless persons) staying in the Republic of Moldova, representing 0.6 per cent of the total resident population in the country. The foreigner population growth rate from 2014 to 2015 was 0.9 per cent, and from 2010 to 2015 growth was 8.8 per cent.

Naturalized foreigner population. By the end of 2015, there were 745 naturalized foreigners in total. It should be mentioned that stateless persons represent 64.8 per cent of the total number of naturalized persons, followed by foreigners with undetermined citizenship – accounting for 22.3 per cent – and other foreigners (those who had another citizenship before) at 12.9 per cent. A total of 41 persons were naturalized in 2015, 24 in 2014 and 9 in 2013.

Non-natives. The number of persons born abroad (all citizenships) staying in the Republic of Moldova increased from 2010 to 2015. By the end of 2015, there were 294,419 non-natives in the Republic of Moldova, accounting for 8.3 per cent of the total population. The growth of non-natives from 2014 to 2015 was 2 per cent.

Immigration into the Republic of Moldova. The annual number of immigrants into the country over the past years has registered an uptrend and accounted in 2015 for 4,210 persons, which is 1.7 times more than the number in 2010. It is mainly men (total number of whom is 2.1 times higher than that of women) and persons with professional secondary education/higher education/scientific degrees (64%) who immigrate to the Republic of Moldova. By the end of 2015, there were 10,661 foreigners in the Republic of Moldova holding **permanent stay permits**, showing a negative growth rate from 2009 (-31.4). During the period of reference, an increase was registered among **foreigners coming to the Republic of Moldova for studies** – their number grew by 8.6 per cent from 2010 to 2015.

Asylum seekers. Statistical data shows that the number of **asylum seekers** in the Republic of Moldova varied continuously from 2010 to 2015. A total of 276 asylum applications (first request) were registered in 2015, corresponding to an increase of 3 times from 2010. It should be mentioned that there were 110 asylum seekers with pending asylum applications by the end of 2015. The number of asylum seekers with pending applications from 2014 to 2015 decreased, accounting for about 26 per cent. The increase of asylum applications during the period of reference is explained by the proximity to the conflict areas (e.g. Ukraine), as well as the existence of kinship relations between Moldovan citizens and the citizens of the countries from the conflict areas.

Humanitarian protection. In 2015, 150 foreigners benefited from humanitarian protection, which is 87 persons more than the number registered in the previous year. However, 36 persons were refused humanitarian protection. According to national statistical data, 1,513 persons in the Republic of Moldova were documented as **stateless** in 2015; this figure is 153 persons more than in 2010. By the end of 2015, 144 persons were living in the Republic of Moldova as **refugees**, registering 2.1 times growth from 2010.

Demographic decline. Over the last decades, demographic decline was also observed in the country during the period of reference (2010–2015), when the stable population decreased by 7,000 persons. The last two years, however, have registered some stabilization trends, confirmed by a number of indicators

in the respective areas. Population growth from 2014 to 2015 was only -0.06 per cent; negative natural growth decreased significantly and registered -0.37 persons per 1,000 inhabitants 2015 as compared with -0.89 persons per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010. Meanwhile, this phenomenon continues to negatively influence other sociodemographic indicators. It may be noted that during the period of reference, the number of registered marriages continued to decrease from 26,500 in 2010 to 24,700 in 2015, accounting for 7.0 marriages per 1,000 population as compared with 7.4 in 2010.

Demographic composition. It should be mentioned that during the period of reference, the worsening trend for the population structure by age was maintained. The share of persons under 15 years old decreased from 16.15 per cent in 2010 to 16.00 per cent in 2015; conversely, the share of elderly people increased from 20.3 per cent in 2010 to 20.7 per cent in 2015. The demographic dependency ratio (national definition) remained rather high in 2015, accounting for 55.7 per cent. Migration accelerates the country's population ageing, as mainly the young and working-age persons migrate; the ageing coefficient accounted for 16.7 per cent in 2015, coming closer to the critical value of 16 per cent – revealing a rather advanced status of the said phenomenon. In women's case, the ageing coefficient is even higher, reaching 19.3 persons aged 60 years and over per 100 population.

Urban migration versus rural migration. The migration phenomenon, which is more pronounced in rural than in urban areas, has significantly influenced the demographic situation in villages. The demographic indicators confirm the human capital degradation believed to be happening in rural areas. In 2015, the dependency ratio in rural areas exceeded by almost 9 percentage points than in urban areas; the rural share of people aged 65 years and over exceeds by 0.7 percentage points that of the urban share; and the seniority ratio in rural areas exceeds that in urban areas by 4.2 percentage points. At the same time, the urbanization rate shows an uptrend, alongside a decrease in the share of persons under 15 years old. This reflects the ongoing internal migration from villages to cities, which occurs in parallel with international migration.

Macroeconomic context. As the number of persons leaving to work abroad increases, **money transfers from abroad** from these individuals have also increased significantly, registering a huge influence on the main macroeconomic indicators. During the period of reference, a fluctuation may be noted for the nominal value of the GDP. The nominal value of the GDP per capita increased continuously during the reference period, reaching MDL 34,374 in 2015 as compared with MDL 20,171 in 2010.

For Moldovans, remittances represent an important resource for escaping poverty. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) data shows that about 25 per cent of households in the Republic of Moldova in 2015 benefitted from remittances; in 2010 it was 24.5 per cent. A higher share of households benefiting from remittances was registered in rural areas (28.5%) than in urban areas (20.5%). The LFS/Labour Force Migration (LFM) Study 2012 data reveals that the majority of migrants (81.3%) stated that they sent money to their families. The amounts remitted varied: over one third of migrants (35.8%) stated that they sent under USD 500 on a monthly basis; 12.4 per cent remitted between USD 500 and USD 800; and 7.2 per cent sent more than USD 800. Less than one fifth of migrants (18.7%) stated that they did not send money home. The HBS data shows that from 2010 to 2015, remittances accounted for over half of the disposable income of Moldovan households depending on remittances, registering a value of 56.7 per cent in 2015.

In 2010, the share of the **population under the absolute poverty line** accounted for 22 per cent of the country's total population, being in constant dropping. In 2015, the share of the population under the absolute poverty line was 9.6 per cent, down 12.3 percentage points from 2010.

From 2010 to 2015, the **economically active population** varied, registering increases and decreases, and accounting for 1,266,000 in 2015 as compared with 1,232,000 in 2010. Hence, the activity rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points during this period.

Official statistics reveal a stable downtrend in the **working-age population** (working age: 16–56/61 years old) from 66.69 per cent to 65.12 per cent, confirmed by a decrease in the growth rate of this segment from 100.14 per cent in 2010 to 99.22 per cent in 2015. In 2015, **foreigners of working age** (15–64 years old) accounted for 19,218 persons or 87.8 per cent of the total number of foreigners staying in the country.

The indicators for **labour force participation and employment** increased in 2015 as compared with the indicators in 2014. To be specific, the labour force participation rate, calculated according to the national and international definitions, increased by 1.3 percentage points. The unemployment rates among the general population, the youth and women increased in 2015 as compared with the rates in 2014.

The shortage of teaching staff and medical personnel continues to be one of the negative social effects of migration. According to the data of the study on the impact of migration on teaching staff and researchers in the Republic of Moldova,¹⁰ more than half of the interviewed teachers mentioned their intention to leave for work abroad – 40.3 per cent of respondents said that they wanted to leave for temporary work abroad, 7.9 per cent wanted to leave for good and 5.4 per cent wanted to leave for studies. The salary was mentioned as a determining factor in this respect.

In 2014, the **health protection** system counted 10,397 doctors and 21,527 health workers with secondary education (in 2010, 10,619 and 23,003, respectively). Staffing rates in 2015 were 29.3 doctors and 60.6 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population, which were below the average European Union (EU) levels of 32.3 doctors and 77.5 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population. The situation is even worse in rural areas (staffing rate for doctors was 5.7 persons and for health workers with secondary education was 21.7 persons per 10,000 population). According to the study *Health Workers from the Republic of Moldova: Reasons for Abandoning the Profession*,¹¹ the main reasons for giving up the medical profession included as well the wish of the health workers **to emigrate abroad**, and **economic factors** (e.g. salary, dwelling space, living conditions) were top-of-mind answers among the factors compelling the respondents to give up their medical profession.

Migration also influences children’s integration in education, as well as the visions related to such an opportunity. In 2015, the gross enrolment rate in primary education was 91.8 per cent, a drop of 1.1 percentage points as compared with the 2010 enrolment rate. The enrolment rate in gymnasium education also decreased during the period of reference, registering a drop of 1.4 percentage points. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education and the analysis of school census data for 2015, there were 40,000 **children left behind** with parents working abroad, of whom 10,000 had both parents abroad and around 30,000 had one of the parents abroad.

Migration management framework. Over the past years, awareness of migration as a phenomenon that produces positive results for the country’s development and induces negative social costs, as well as the parallel

¹⁰ A study carried out within the “Efficient Management of Labour Migration and Competencies” Project, implemented from March 2011 to December 2013, by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank.

¹¹ World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, *Health Workers from the Republic of Moldova: Reasons for Abandoning the Profession* (Copenhagen, 2014). Available from www.hrhobs.ms.md/uploads/Studies/MDA%20report%20Changing%20professions%20ENG.pdf

commitment to proactively manage migration challenges and opportunities, has induced the Government of the Republic of Moldova to undertake intensive activities in relation to legislation and policy development. A number of concept documents and laws were adopted to determine the migration policy in the key areas of migration management and migration policy administration for the midterm and long term. The majority of them comply with international standards and *acquis communautaire*, taking European integration aspirations into consideration.

The Republic of Moldova has a well-developed institutional framework in the area of migration management, as well as migration policies developed with the participation of a number of institutional stakeholders of different levels: commissions, committees, working groups with different moderators. In this respect, it is important to mention the relaunch in November 2013 of the **commission for the coordination of certain activities related to migration**. The Ministry of Internal Affairs chairs the commission and provides secretariat.

The Republic of Moldova continues to benefit from solid foreign assistance. About 200 projects related to migration were implemented with foreign support from 2010 to 2015. A considerable number of projects are implemented under the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership.

PART A: MIGRATION TRENDS

A. I. Background and main determining factors

Migration processes in the Republic of Moldova have been subject to deep analyses all over their evolution. Migration patterns and evolution have been widely described by researchers in the area. They point out four stages of the migration phenomenon in the country: the first stage (1990–1994); the second stage (1995–2000); the third stage (2001–2006); and the fourth stage, which started in May 2006.¹² Each of the four emigration periods is characterized by specific peculiarities; nevertheless, the economic reasons and labour migration are the core elements that serve as a common basis for the development of the migration phenomenon.

The fourth and current stage is characterized by considerable migration management efforts undertaken by the State. The concept-based approach is promoted in relation to the regulation of labour migration, development of institutional reform and closer cooperation with the EU. For the purpose of streamlining the policy framework related to diaspora relations and based on the commitments assumed under the Republic of Moldova's Government Activity Programme 2011–2014, as well as a response to the requests coming from Moldovan citizens staying abroad (e.g. the need to create a State agency for relations with the diaspora, as identified in the resolution adopted during the Fourth Moldovan Diaspora Congress held on 10–12 October 2010, regarding the need to create a State subdivision for diaspora relations), the Government decided to establish the Bureau for Diaspora Relations (BDR) (with the status of a general division) within the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, an entity responsible for diaspora policies and programmes coordination at the government and ministry levels, contributing to maintenance and affirmation of the ethnical, cultural, and linguistic identities of Moldovans abroad, and harnessing the diaspora's human and material potential.¹³ Additional competencies regarding the analysis of migration flows were delegated to the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA).¹⁴

¹²Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul", *Migration Trends and Policies in the Black Sea Region: Cases of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine* (Chisinau, 2008). For more details about the different stages of migration, see: IOM, *Extended Migration Profile of the Republic of Moldova* (Chisinau, 2012), available from http://iom.md/attachments/110_emp_report.pdf

¹³Government Decision No. 780 dated 19 October 2012, available from <http://lex.justice.md/md/345122/>

¹⁴Government Decision No. 1009 dated 26 December 2011, Action Plan for 2011–2015 to Implement the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).

Over the past years, especially during the economic crisis in Europe, the situation of return migration became a timely issue – returning of migrants became a rather emphasized phenomenon when the conditions for the stay and employment of migrants tightened up in the Russian Federation. Moldovan authorities, with the support of international bodies, aimed to provide the necessary assistance to Moldovan citizens who intended to return home or those who had already gone back.

A.1.1. Push and pull factors of migration

The studies carried out in the area of migration reveal that the main push factor for Moldovan migrants remains to be economic reasons, especially the lack of employment opportunities and low salaries offered by the labour market in the country.¹⁵

A.2. Current migration patterns

Available data and sources of information. The exercise for developing the first Extended Migration Profile (EMP) report – which is a multilateral analysis of the migration phenomenon – involved an assessment of existing data in the country, the identification of relevant migration indicators and data sources, the development and approval of a list of EMP indicators (which allowed for a description of the complex situation), and the identification and evaluation of the negative and positive effects of migration on the country’s socioeconomic situation.

The necessary actions were identified, along with the authorities responsible for the continuous production of data and the development of the EMP reports – all of these being stipulated in the Action Plan for 2011–2015 for the Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).¹⁶ Since 2013,¹⁷ the respective central authorities and subordinate institutions have produced and delivered annually to the BMA data series in line with the approved list of indicators. The report also analyses additional data series from research and surveys carried out during the period of reference.

¹⁵ Labour Force Migration (LFM) Study, carried out during the fourth quarter of 2012; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?!=ro&idc=350&id=2570. According to the survey data, 76.5 per cent of migrants indicated “low salaries in Moldova” as their main reason for leaving the country, and 8.8 per cent indicated “lack of jobs according to their skills/qualifications” (WHO Regional Office for Europe, (Copenhagen, 2014), available from www.hrhobs.ms.md/uploads/Studies/Studiu%20abandonarea%20profesiei%20ROM.pdf).

¹⁶ Government Decision No. 1009 dated 26 December 2011.

¹⁷ Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012.

The tables showing the data used to develop the migration profile analysis are included in Annex 2 of this report.

A.2.1. Flow of international migration of Moldovan citizens and stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad

The migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova continues to be characterized by the international emigration of Moldovan citizens and less by the immigration of persons from abroad. At the same time, starting in 2010, a constant increase may be noted for the number of immigrants, asylum seekers and applications for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova. In 2013, for the first time over the last 20 years, the number of immigrants exceeded the number of authorized emigrations, and the Republic of Moldova's proximity to the EU and the liberalization of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU attract even more immigration flows.

Three approaches are generally used in the Republic of Moldova to estimate international emigration, namely:

1. authorized emigration, which involves deregistration from the place of residence and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good, also known in the Republic of Moldova as "permanent emigration";
2. labour migration, that is, leaving to work or to look for a job abroad, with the intention to return, also termed "temporary/circular migration";
3. exit from the country, which is registered at the border, including, de facto, both authorized/permanent emigration and temporary/circular migration.

There are different data and sources of information for estimating emigration. The most relevant data for monitoring migration and its impact in different areas are presented and analysed in this report. The respective data was collected and estimated based on the legislative–normative framework in force at the time this report was developed.

It should be noted that because an important share of the population has dual citizenship, the emigration analysis in this report is focused on data on the country's population and disregards the citizenships that the persons had at the time or that were declared by those going through the migration processes; as such, the term "Moldovan citizens" in this context refers to the entire population of the country, unless an alternate definition is provided.

Emigration of citizens

The analysis of emigration from the Republic of Moldova in this chapter is focused mainly on the available data regarding the annual flows of those who have left the country from administrative sources. Only in some cases is data related to cumulative stocks on the reporting date presented for comparison.

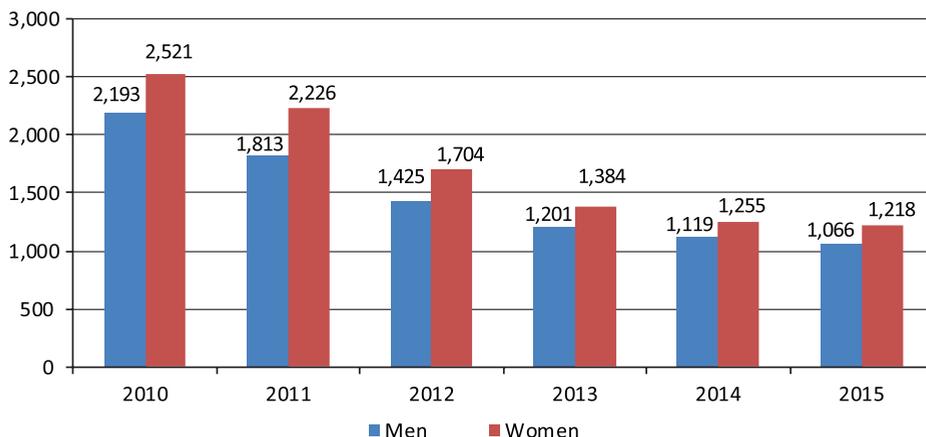
Annual flow of international authorized emigration.¹⁸ Although authorized emigration from the country, which is estimated based on the data provided by the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (MITC) (through the SE SIRC “Registru”), continues to be a timely issue in the Republic of Moldova, the phenomenon shows a downtrend. According to official data, 4,714 persons emigrated in 2010, with the number decreasing by 52 per cent in 2015 to 2,284 persons (Table 1).

It was mainly the urban population that emigrated during the reference period. In 2015, 2.6 times more persons from urban areas (1,652 persons) as compared with those from rural areas (632 persons) emigrated (Table 1). The relative share of international emigrants from rural versus urban areas registered a constant increase until 2010. Afterwards, the given indicator constantly decreased and was down to 32.43 per cent in 2015 (Table 2).

According to the data on annual flow of authorized emigrations, more women than men emigrated over the last six years. Hence, the number of women exceeded by almost 14 per cent the number of men in 2015 (Figure 1). The highest number of outflows (emigration) – 4,714 persons (2,193 men and 2,521 women) – was registered in 2010, but afterwards the number of emigrant men and women continuously decreased, to 2,284 persons (1,066 men and 1,218 women), in 2015. It should be mentioned that in 2015, authorized emigration flow decreased 48 per cent as compared with the rate in 2010 for both men and women.

¹⁸ In the 2005–2010 EMP report, the term “permanent emigration” is used for this group of population, while in this report this term has been replaced by “authorized emigration”, in accordance with Government Decision No. 125 dated 18 February 2013.

Figure 1: Authorized emigrations from the Republic of Moldova, by sex, 2010–2015 (persons)

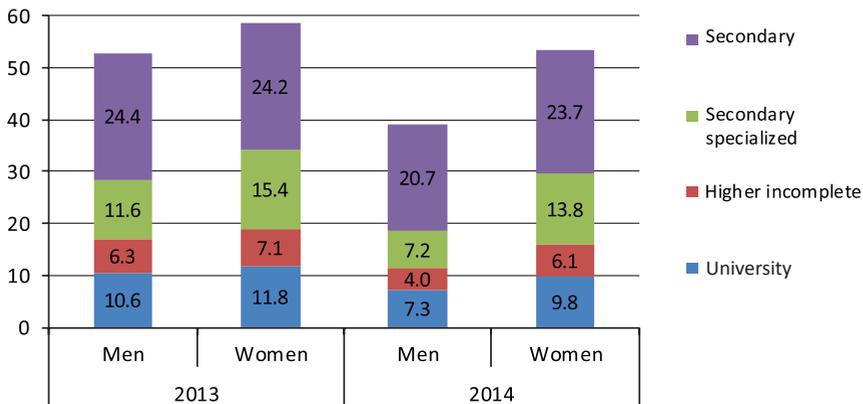


Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Data on the annual flow of authorized emigrations reveals that mainly the young persons are emigrating. The 25–34 years old group (23%) and the 35–44 years old bracket (16%) held the largest shares of the total number of authorized outflows in 2015 (2,284 persons), followed by the 15–24 (15%) and 45–54 years old groups (11%). At the same time, it should be mentioned that the youth (persons aged 15–29 years) represented more than one fourth (27%) of the total number of persons who emigrated with authorization in 2015. In the group of persons closer to the retirement age (65 and over years old), the number of persons leaving the country to settle down permanently abroad decreased by 2.3 times in 2010–2015 (Table 1).

About one third of emigrants attained secondary and secondary professional education levels, and 13.7 per cent reached incomplete higher education or university education levels in 2014. Larger shares of emigrant women achieved higher education as compared with men (Figure 2 and Table 3).

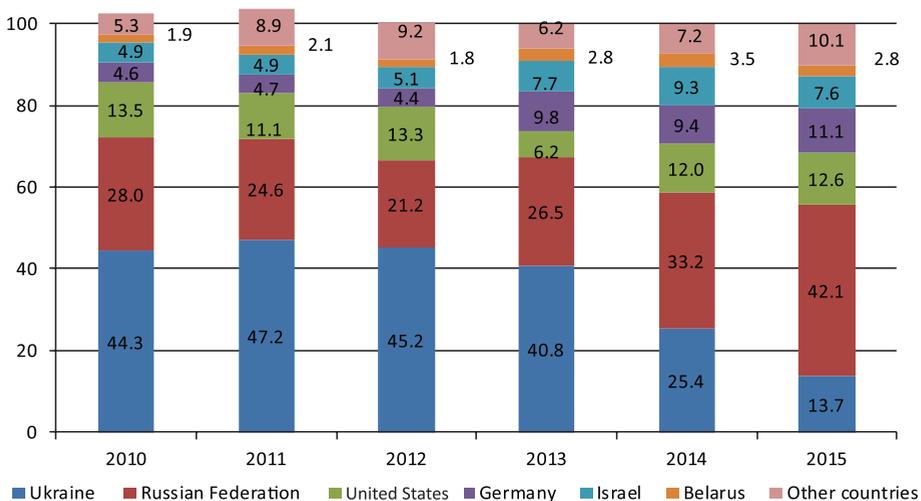
Figure 2: Distribution of emigrants, by education level and sex, 2013 and 2014 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Analysis of the data regarding the authorized emigrants' countries of destination reveals that in 2015 the Russian Federation and Ukraine continued to receive the largest populations (almost 56% share) of authorized emigrants, nevertheless registering a decrease from 72 per cent in 2010. The Russian Federation was on the top in 2015 with 42.1 per cent, followed by Ukraine with 13.7 per cent and the United States with 12.6 per cent. It may be noted that there were uptrends for emigration to Germany (11.1% in 2015 as compared with 4.6% in 2010) and Israel (7.6% in 2015 as compared with 4.9% in 2010) (Figure 3).

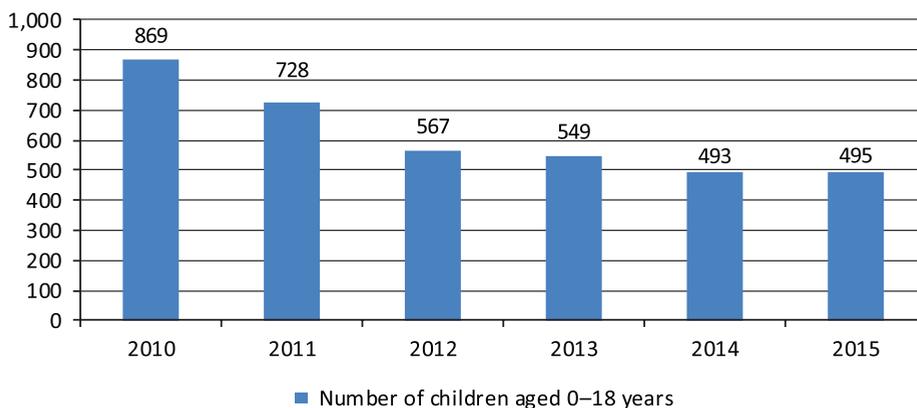
Figure 3: Distribution of emigrants, by country of destination, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Authorized emigration of children. Since 2010, the annual flow of children’s emigration has been registering a stable drop, decreasing by half in 2015 as compared with 2010 (Figure 4). In 2015, the number of children who went abroad with their parents accounted for 495 as compared with 869 in 2010. It should be mentioned that this data reflects the annual flow of children aged 0–18 years, who emigrated with their parents to settle down abroad permanently during the year of reference.

Figure 4: Number of children who went abroad together with their parents, 2010–2015 (persons)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad

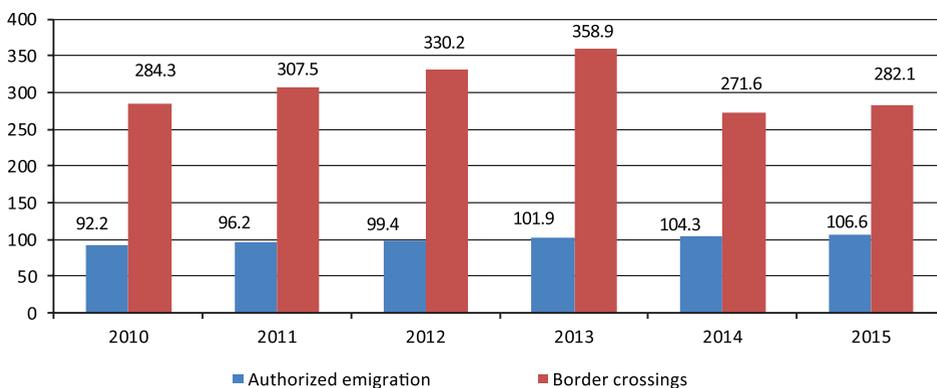
There are several data sources that can be used as bases for estimating the stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad, namely:

- the stock of the total number of Moldovan citizens who have done authorized emigration;
- the number of persons who have exited the country by crossing the border and are registered as being absent for one year and longer; and
- the number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, which is submitted by the host countries, being obtained from the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova.

Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad. According to estimates of authorized emigration, the number of Moldovan citizens living abroad continued to increase by almost 14,411 persons from 2010 to 2015 (Table 5 and Figure 5), when the number stood at 106,595. Other estimates of the stock of Moldovan citizens who may be considered emigrants, in line with the international definition,¹⁹ reveal an underestimation of the total number of emigrants.

Important data sources that allow for the estimation of the volume of emigration according to the international definition are those provided by the Border Police Department (BPD), namely, data about the duration of a person's stay abroad, based on registered State border crossings. According to the BPD data, 282,127 persons had been staying outside the county for more than 12 months by the end of 2015 (Table 5 and Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, 2010–2015 (thousand persons)



Source: SE SIRC "Registru"; BPD.

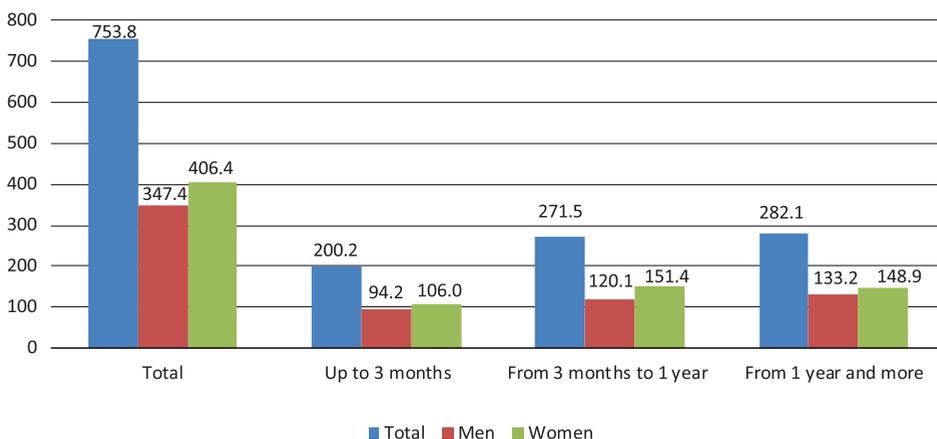
It should be mentioned that data on both authorized emigration and border crossing records (Figure 5) shows a similar uptrend over time for the number of persons living abroad, but the actual value of the increase differs between the two. Data on authorized emigration shows that emigration trends during the reference period, as noted above, registered a rather reduced pace as compared with previous years, as indicated by the annual flow of this type of emigration (Table 1). Stays abroad of more than 12 months registered at the border contributed to the uptrend, resulting in an annual numeric increase and a slight decrease of the respective number in 2014. It should be mentioned that this decrease is explained by the way the respective indicator is calculated, and namely the fact that the BPD data reflects the stock for the last five years, but

¹⁹ An emigrant is a person absent from the country for at least 12 months.

only for those persons who crossed the border with passports attesting the Moldovan citizenship.

According to border crossing data, 753,813 Moldovan citizens had left the country (with various durations of stay abroad) by the end of 2015, of whom 46 per cent were men and 54 per cent were women; of the total number of Moldovans abroad, 471,686 stayed in their host countries for a period up to one year and 282,127 persons stayed for more than one year. The distribution of emigrants by duration of their stay abroad and sex is provided in Figure 6 and Table 6.

Figure 6: Number of Moldovan citizens registered at the border as gone abroad, by duration of stay and sex, at the end of 2015 (thousand persons)

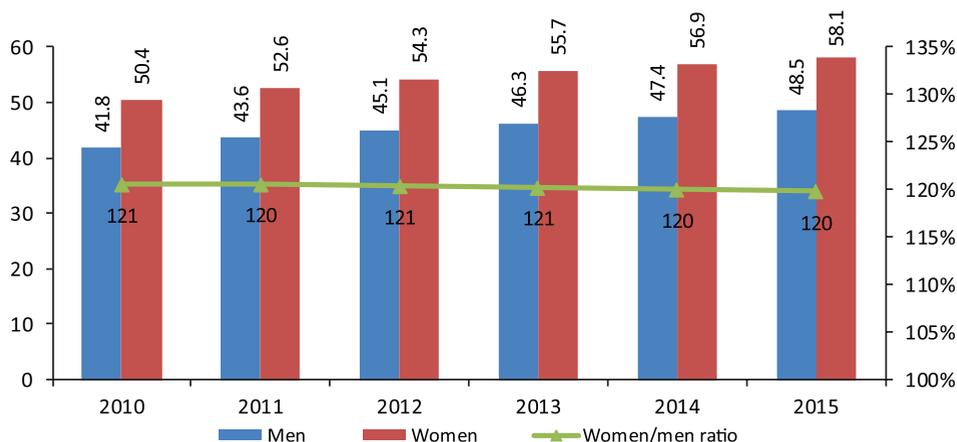


Source: BPD.

Note: The information is presented according to the data accumulated from the State border crossing points under the control of the authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Analysis of the data from both sources reveals that women account for a larger percentage of all Moldovan citizens living abroad (Table 5). In the case of authorized emigration, the women-to-men ratio constantly evolved from 2010 to 2015 (Figure 7), with women exceeding the number of men living abroad by almost 20 per cent.

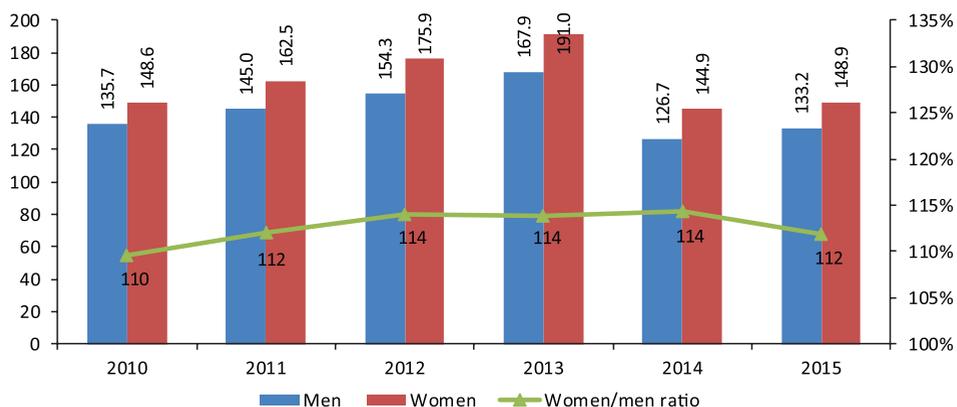
Figure 7: Stock of Moldovan authorized emigrants residing abroad, by sex, 2010–2015 (thousand persons)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Departures from the Republic of Moldova for a period longer than 12 months, registered at the border, followed the same uptrends, but the women-to-men ratio was smaller. During the 2010–2015 period, the ratio varied between 12 per cent and 14 per cent, with uptrend starting in 2011 (Figure 8 and Table 5).

Figure 8: Number of Moldovan citizens registered at the border as being abroad for 12 months and more, by sex, 2010–2015 (thousand persons)

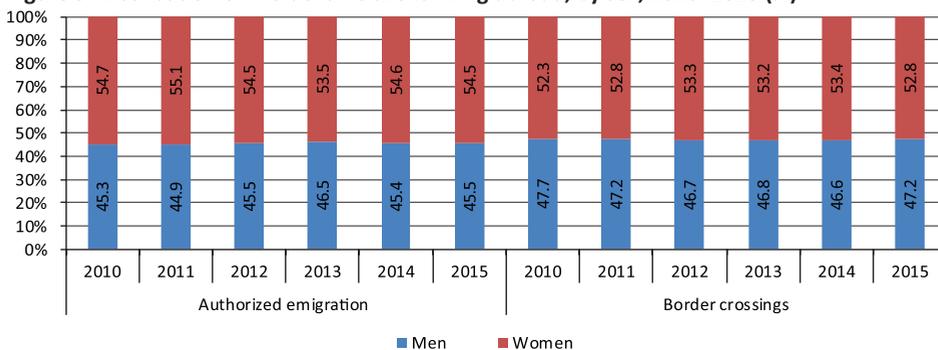


Source: BPD.

According to the data from the SE SIRC "Registru", women accounted for 54.5 per cent of authorized emigrants from 2010 to 2015. In the case of border

crossing data, women accounted for almost 52.8 per cent of the total number of Moldovan citizens living abroad for one year and more. It should be noted that the distribution of emigrants by sex remained generally constant during the period of reference (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Distribution of Moldovan citizens living abroad, by sex, 2010–2015 (%)

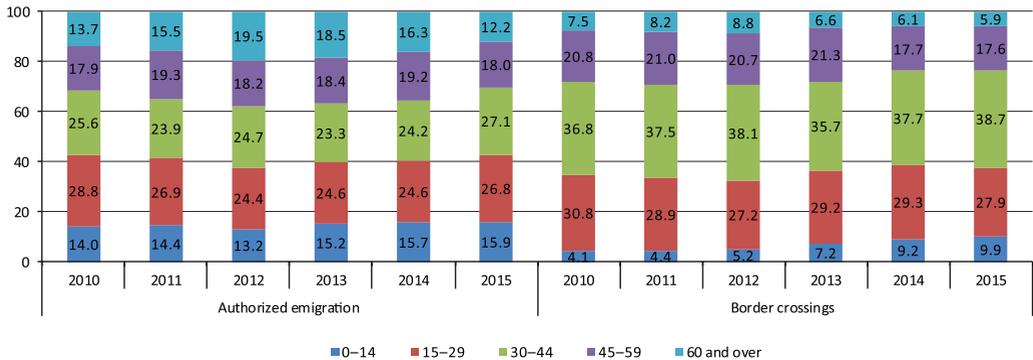


Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”; BPD.

Two age groups held the largest share of the total number of authorized emigrants during the period of reference (Figure 10). In 2015, the 15–29 years old and 30–44 years old groups each accounted for 27 per cent of the total number of Moldovan citizens living abroad. These age groups cumulated about 54 per cent of all authorized outflows in 2015.

The age distribution of persons who had been away from the country for 12 months and more, as registered at the border by the end of 2015 (Table 7), reveals that almost the same age groups registered the highest shares, with a more pronounced quantum for the age group of 30–44 years old. It is noted that for the entire reference period, according to border crossing data, the share of persons included in the 15–29 and 30–44 years old groups cumulated in 2015 about 66.6 per cent of the total number of persons who had been abroad for 12 months and more. It is also important to point out the trend for the 45–59 years old group, which was rather representative and annually accounted for about 17.6 per cent of all emigrants. The data confirms the assumption that persons of working age are the ones leaving the country. A slight uptrend is also noted for children living abroad: according to border crossing data, an increase in their share of the total number of emigrants was registered – from 4.1 per cent in 2010 to 9.9 per cent in 2015 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Distribution of Moldovan citizens living abroad, by age group, 2010–2015 (%)

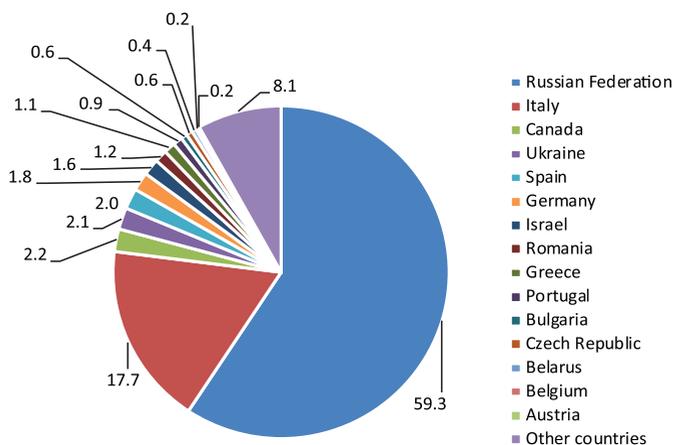


Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”; BPD.

Taking into account that the information provided by the BPD covers only the data on border crossings gathered from the State border crossing points controlled by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, the full population of emigrants from the country also cannot be estimated; hence, underestimation or overestimation of the emigration volume can exist in this case as well, due to the fact that the persons may cross the border through the Transnistria segment.

Another source of data that can be used to estimate the volume of emigration is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), which obtains such data from Moldovan diplomatic missions and consular offices. According to the data from the MFAEI, there were about 805,500 Moldovan citizens living abroad in 2015, regardless of the duration of stay in the host country (Table 9). Analysis of host country distribution reveals that about 77 per cent of all Moldovan citizens living abroad are in the Russian Federation and Italy (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Distribution of the estimated number of Moldovan citizens living abroad, by host country, at the end of 2015 (%)

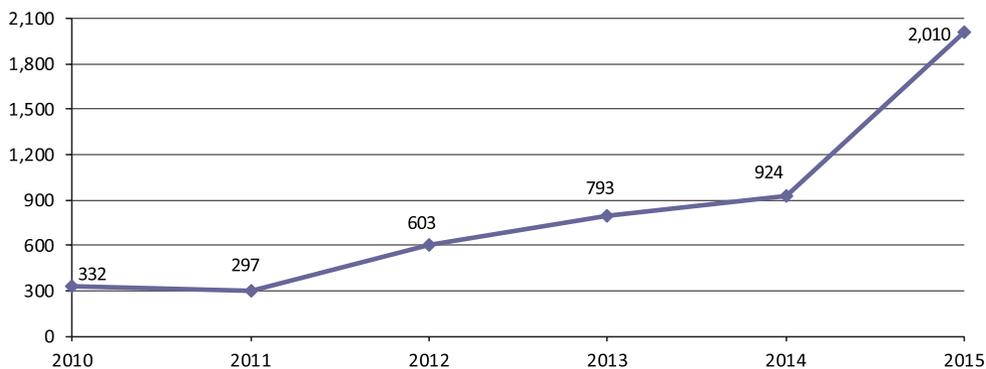


Source: MFAEI.

Note: Data of the Republic of Moldova’s diplomatic and consular missions in the host countries.

According to the data presented by the National Employment Agency (NEA), a rather small number of persons work in host countries with work contracts concluded via the NEA. It should be mentioned that in 2015 this figure grew considerably by 1,086 cases as compared with 2014, and by 1,678 cases as compared with 2010 (Figure 12 and Table 10).

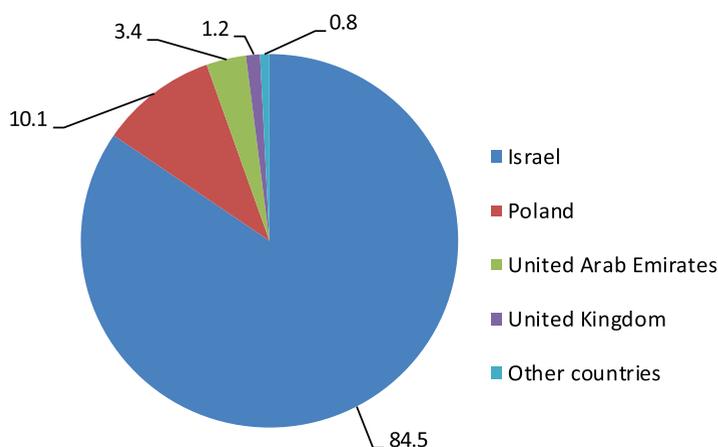
Figure 12: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, 2010–2015 (persons)



Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF)/NEA.

The distribution of Moldovan emigrants by country of employment under a legal work contract shows that the largest share of emigrants (84.5%) were hosted by Israel in 2015, followed by Poland (10.1%), the United Arab Emirates (3.4%) and the United Kingdom (1.2%) (Figure 13 and Table 11).

Figure 13: Distribution of Moldovan citizens working abroad under legal work contracts, by host country, 2015 (%)



Source: MLSPF; NEA.

Emigration for studies

There was an increase in the number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad during the reference period, under international collaboration protocols signed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova. In 2015, there were 5,485 Moldovan students overseas, which is 1.4 times the number in 2010 (Table 12). In 2015, about 91 per cent of Moldovan citizens studying abroad were in Romania, 6.0 per cent were in the Russian Federation and 2.4 per cent were in Bulgaria.

Involuntary emigration

Involuntary emigration registered an increase of about 5.4 times by the end of 2015 as compared with 2010, based on data from international databases (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)). According to the data, 633 Moldovans sought asylum abroad in 2010; while in 2015 there were 3,402 Moldovan asylum seekers (Table 13).

At the same time, it may be noted that during the period of reference, the total number of asylum seekers from the Republic of Moldova, who had obtained the refugee status abroad, decreased by 2.7 times; and by the end of 2015, a total of 2,264 persons from the Republic of Moldova were registered and recognized as refugees, as compared with 6,200 persons in 2010.

It should be mentioned that the growth rate of the *number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad* increased, while and the *growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad* decreased during the period of reference as compared with the previous year (Table 13).

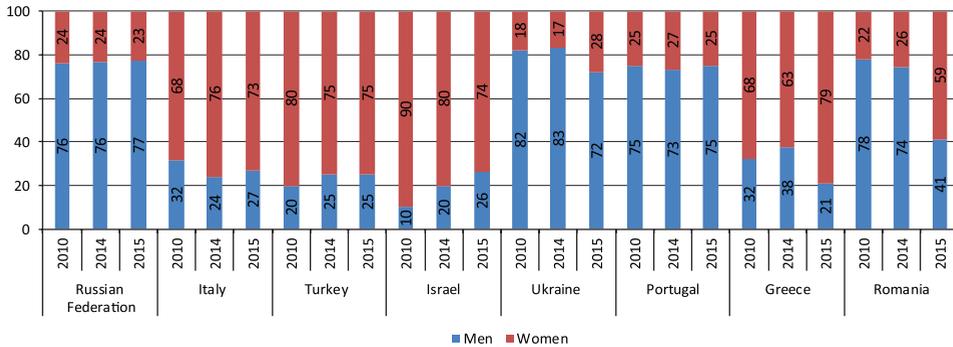
Temporary migration

Labour migration has persisted in the Republic of Moldova for two decades. Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS),²⁰ which is carried out on a quarterly basis by the NBS, shows that an approximately stable number of persons, about 300,000, were working outside the country or looking for a job for a certain period between 2010 and 2015. Based on the LFS data, the NBS estimated the volume of labour migration as the number of persons aged 15 years and over who had gone abroad to work or look for a job at the time the survey was carried out. According to the LFS estimates, the top receiving countries of Moldovan migrant workers were the Russian Federation, Italy, Turkey, Israel, Ukraine, Romania, Portugal and Greece (Table 14).

In 2015, the number of people staying abroad increased to 325,400, of whom 210,800 were men and 114,600 were women, as compared with 341,900 in 2014, of whom 219,100 were men and 122,800 were women. Distribution by sex shows significant disparities regarding the countries of destination, with men mainly leaving for the Russian Federation, Portugal and Ukraine, and women going to Greece, Turkey, Israel and Italy (Figure 14).

²⁰ The Labour Force Survey (LFS), which started in 1998, is an annual household survey carried out by the NBS. Beginning in 2006, the LFS was carried out based on a new sample of households and according to a methodology adjusted to the most recent recommendations of the ILO, European standards and the Labour Code of the Republic of Moldova. The target population of the survey would be the persons from selected households, and the variables regarding the labour market are collected only for the persons aged 15 years and over. For more information, see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=263&id=2204

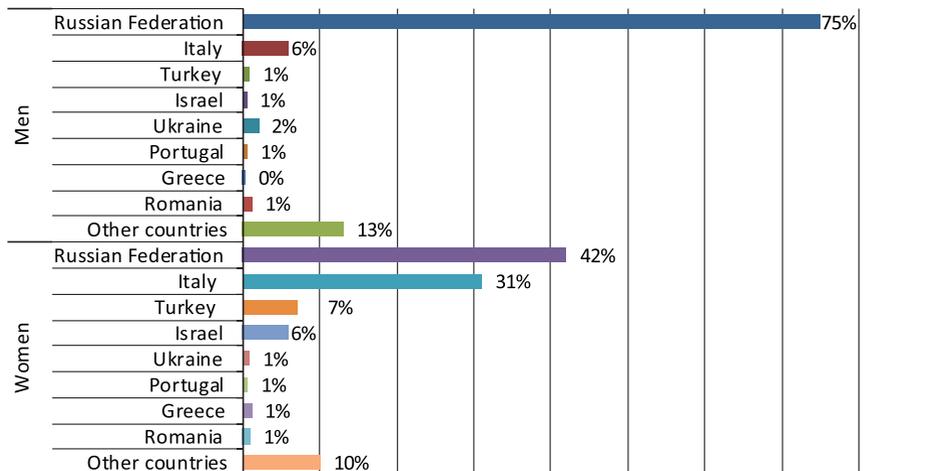
Figure 14: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by country of destination and sex, 2010, 2014 and 2015 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

Of the total number of men who went abroad, the share of men who left to work or to look for a job in the Russian Federation in 2015 accounted for 75 per cent; those who went to Italy held 6 per cent; and those who left for Ukraine accounted for 2 per cent. In the same year, of the total number of women migrating to work abroad, 42 per cent left for the Russian Federation, 31 per cent went to Italy, 7 per cent went to Turkey and 6 per cent went to Israel. Other countries hosted about 1 per cent and less of labour migrants of both sexes (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by sex and country destination, 2015 (%)

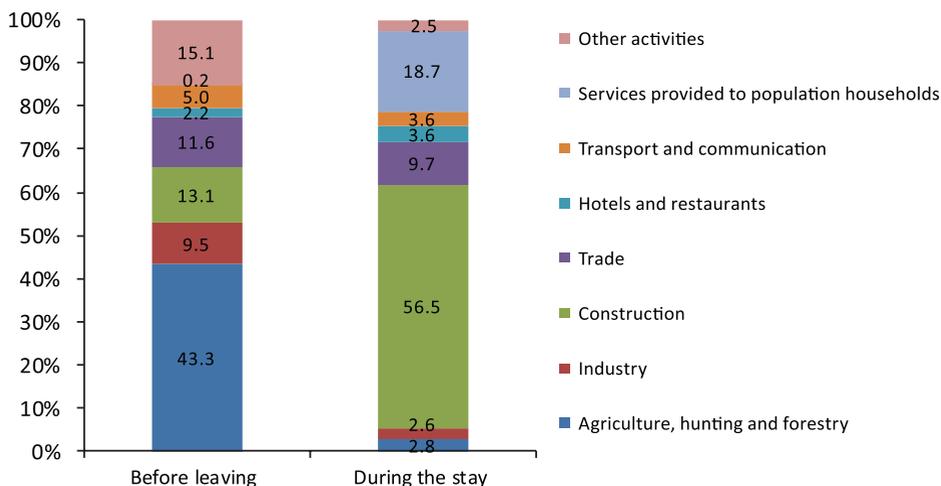


Source: NBS/LFS.

It should be mentioned that the distribution by sex of Moldovans working abroad reflects the continuous trend of more men migrants in the labour force: in 2015 the distribution was 65 per cent men versus 35 per cent women, as compared with about 64 per cent men versus 36 per cent women in 2010 (Table 14).

About 69 per cent of Moldovan citizens who were abroad in 2015 came from the rural areas, hence registering a slight decrease as compared with the previous years. As in 2010, this share accounted for about 71 per cent (Table 15). Surveys in the area of labour migration²¹ confirm that mainly persons who had worked in agriculture (which is mostly in rural areas) prior to migration were leaving the country. The distribution of migrants by economic activity prior to leaving the country reveals that 43.3 per cent were working in agriculture, hunting and forestry; 13.1 per cent in construction; and 11.6 per cent in trade. It should be mentioned that more than half of all the migrants (56.5%) had worked or were currently working abroad in construction. As well, among the most widespread economic activities abroad were domestic services to private households (18.7%) and trade (9.7%) (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Distribution of Moldovan migrants by the economic activity at the job they had before leaving the country and during their stay abroad (%)

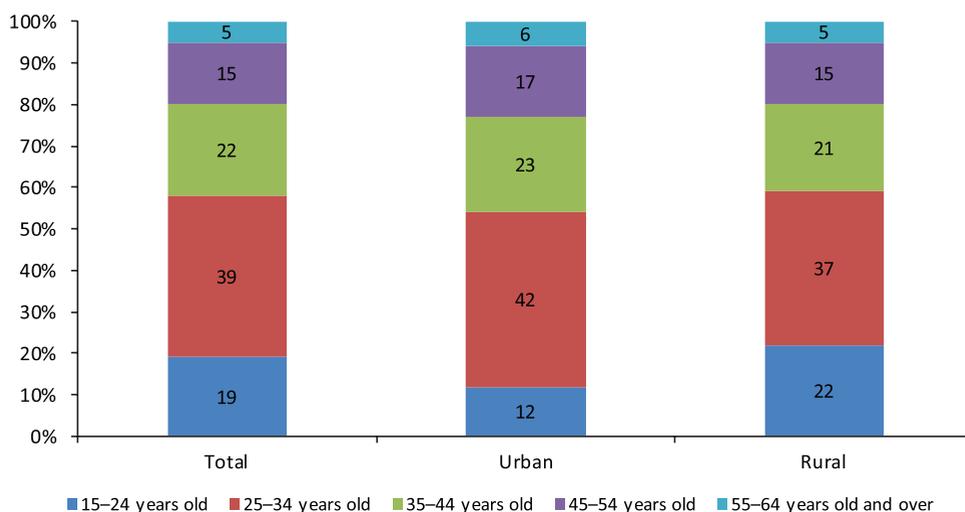


Source: NBS/LFS and LFM, 2012.

²¹ LFM Study, carried out in the fourth quarter of 2012 by the NBS; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?!=ro&idc=350&id=2570

The distribution of migrants by wide age group in 2015 is as follows: 78.9 per cent were persons aged 15–44 years; 39 per cent of the total were 25–34 years old; this was followed by those aged 35–44 years accounting for 22 per cent and 15–24 years at 19 per cent. Migrants aged 45–54 years held a share of 15 per cent, and those aged 55 years and over accounted for 5.6 per cent. It may be noted that mainly young people from rural areas left the country: the 15–34 years old group accounted for about 59 per cent of all emigrants from rural areas, as compared with 54 per cent for the same age group in urban areas (Figure 17 and Table 15).

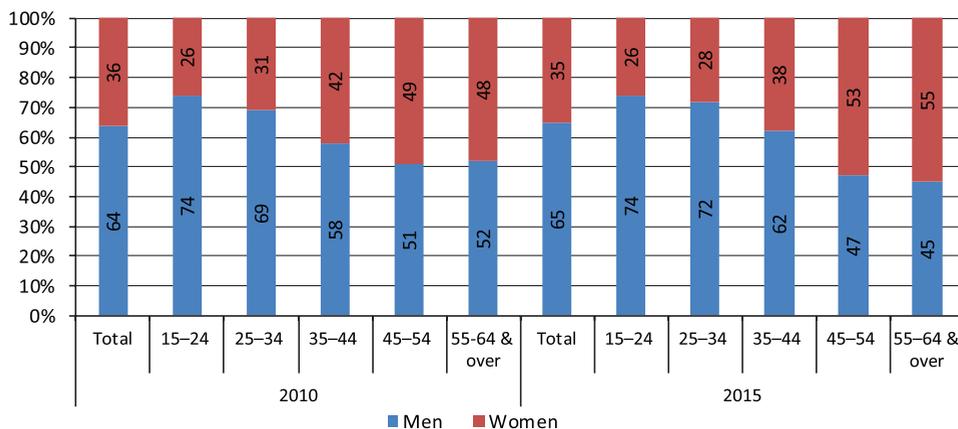
Figure 17: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by area of residence in the Republic of Moldova and age group, 2015 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

Significant disparities between the sexes are maintained within migrants' age groups. The younger the group is, the larger the share of men, with the gap getting smaller with older age groups. In 2015, men accounted for 74 per cent of the 15–24 years old group and held 47 per cent share of the 45–54 years old group – a difference of 27 percentage points (Figure 18 and Table 16).

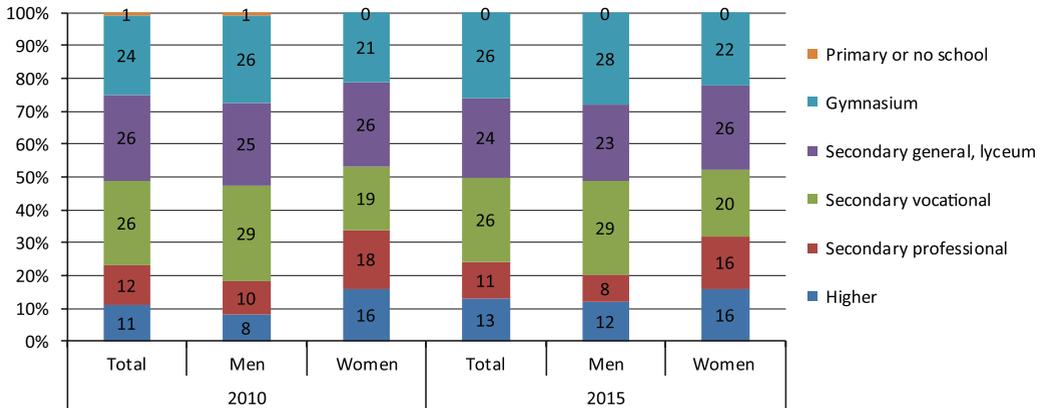
Figure 18: Gender gap in the distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by age group, 2010 and 2015 (%)



Source: NBS/LFS.

Statistical data shows that level of education, which influences the capacity to get integrated into the labour market abroad, plays a significant role in setting the migration flow. In 2015, about 50 per cent of the total number of migrants were found to have attained secondary education (lyceum, gymnasium), and 37 per cent were found to have achieved vocational and professional secondary education. Persons with higher education accounted for 13 per cent of the total number of migrants. It is important to mention that the shares of persons with higher education have increased as compared in 2010, especially for men (from 8% to 12%) (Figure 19 and Table 17).

Figure 19: Distribution of Moldovan citizens aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for a job abroad, by education level and sex, 2010 and 2015 (%)

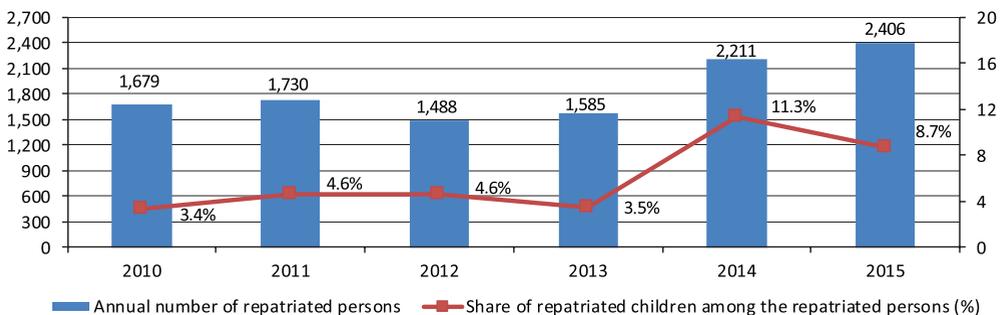


Source: NBS/LFS.

Repatriation²²

The annual number of repatriated persons oscillated during the period 2010–2015, registering drops and ups. In 2015, the number of repatriated persons increased by 195 – totalling 2,406 – as compared with 2014. A certain number of children were registered among the repatriated persons in 2015, representing 8.7 per cent as compared with 3.4 per cent in 2010 (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Number of persons repatriated to the Republic of Moldova, 2010–2015



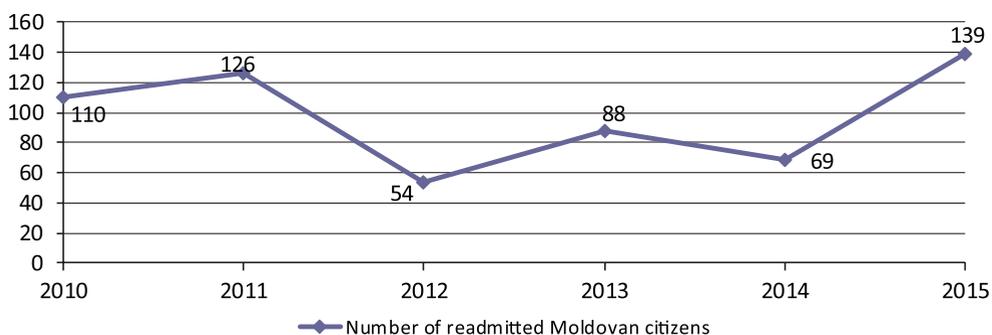
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)/BMA; MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

²² According to Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners’ Stay in the Republic of Moldova, “repatriation” is defined as the “voluntary return into the home country of the persons born in the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, according to the law”.

Readmission

An important element of migration management is an efficient system for readmission. The readmission of Moldovan citizens returning from the EU countries is carried out in line with the provisions set in the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorization, as well as in the readmission agreements signed with the countries of destination of Moldovan migrants, which have helped made the activities in migration management more efficient.²³ During the period of reference, the number of readmitted persons varied considerably, ending up with 110 persons in 2010 and 139 persons in 2015 (Table 18 and Figure 21).

Figure 21: Annual number of Moldovan citizens readmitted, 2010–2015 (persons)

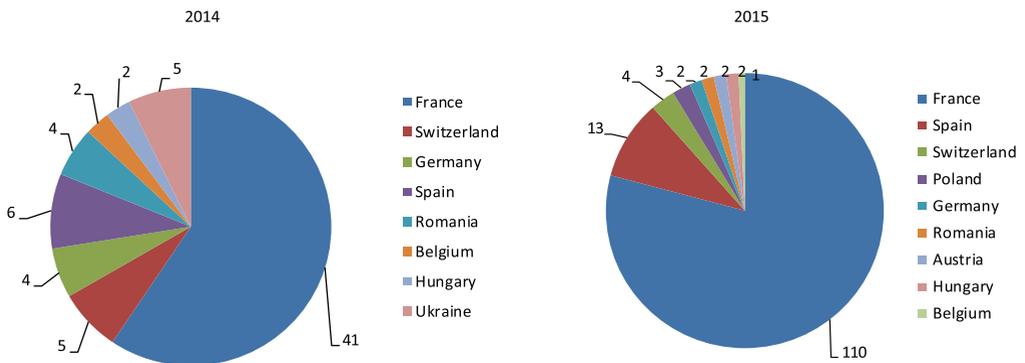


Source: MIA/BMA.

Distribution of readmitted Moldovan citizens by country indicates that in 2015 the majority (110 persons) returned from France, followed by Spain (13 persons), Switzerland (4 persons) and Poland (3 persons), and other EU countries (Figure 22).

²³ In 2008, the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the readmission of persons residing without authorization and the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of visa issuance entered into force. In 2010, the provisions of the Readmission Agreement signed with the European Community regarding the readmission of third-country nationals entered into force.

Figure 22: Distribution of readmitted persons by country, 2014 and 2015 (persons)



Source: MIA/BMA.

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings was set as a national priority; hence, a number of international acts were ratified and a set of legislative–normative and strategic acts were adopted to straighten out the situation in this area.²⁴

Besides the measures for constraining the given phenomenon, the need to support victims based on a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach was identified.

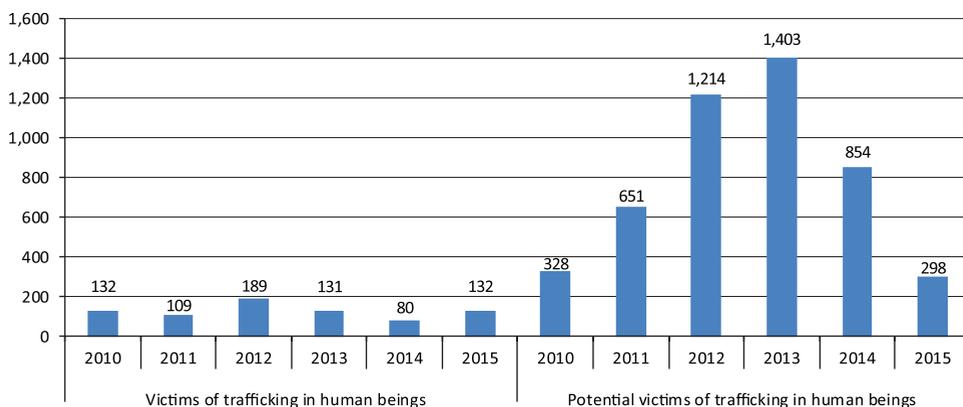
In 2006, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), external donors and civil society, the National Referral System (NRS) was launched in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of ensuring a complex framework of protection and assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings and high-risk groups. Currently, it constitutes the main framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts undertaken by the stakeholders active in the area of combating trafficking in human beings. The activities set in the NRS are carried out through the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs), which cover the whole country.

²⁴ Parliament Decision No. 257 dated 5 December 2008, approving the Strategy for the National Referral System (NRS) for protection and assistance of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings and the corresponding action plan for its implementation, 2009–2011.

Statistical data shows that 132 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified in 2015 through the MDTs of the NRS, which is 52 cases more than in 2014 (Table 19). Of the identified victims, 81 per cent were adults (58.3% women and 41.7% men) and 19 per cent children (64% girls).

A total of 298 potential victims of trafficking in human beings were identified and assisted through the NRS in 2015, as compared with 328 in 2010, decreasing by 30 cases (Figure 23), but registering a significant drop over the last three years, with 1,214, 1,403 and 854 potential victims, respectively. It is assumed that the real number could be much higher, as there exists another group of other persons considered to be at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Figure 23: Number of Moldovan citizens – victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings – assisted within the National Referral System, 2010–2015 (persons)



Source: MLSPF.

Analysis of data on trafficking in human beings shows that despite the measures in place, the Republic of Moldova continues to be a country of origin and less a country of transit for victims of trafficking from the ex-Soviet Union countries to the European States.

A.2.2. Resident population with foreign background

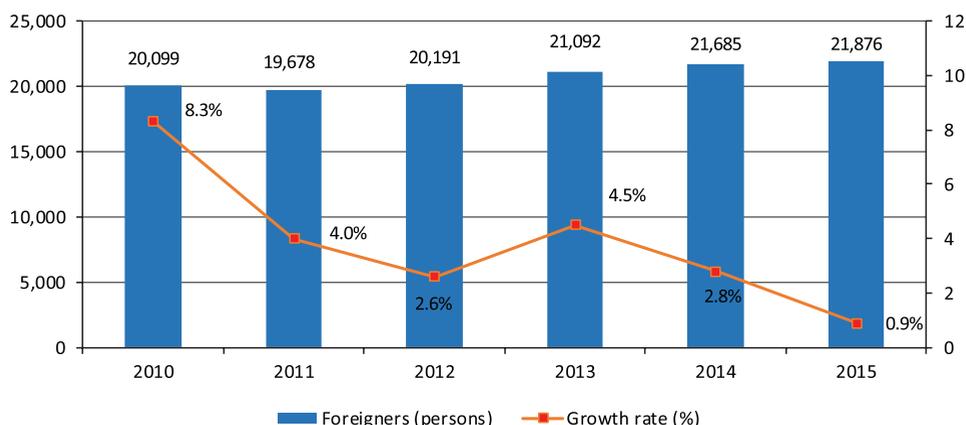
This subchapter analyses the migration trend among persons with foreign background residing in the Republic of Moldova, based on the data submitted by the MITC (SE SIRC “Registru”) and the MIA/BMA, which are the main sources of information on this subject. The following are used as additional data sources: administrative data of the MLSPF and the MFAEI; results of the analytical reports

related to the subject; the normative and government strategic framework; and statistical data from international organizations such as the UNHCR.

Stock of population with foreign background

By the end of 2015, there were 21,876 foreigners (including stateless persons) staying in the territory of the Republic of Moldova in total, representing 0.6 per cent of the total population. The growth rate of foreigners' number is 15.6 per cent as against 2010 (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Number of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova and year-to-year growth rates for the foreign population, 2010–2015

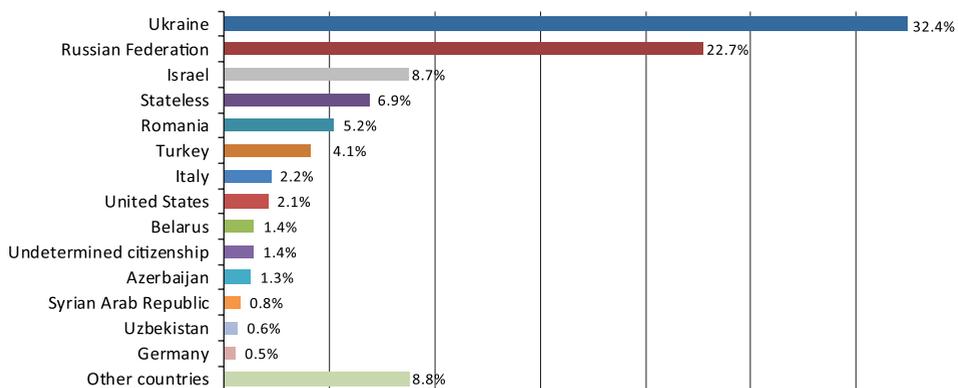


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

A similar trend was observed for the concentration of foreigners in urban areas, with the share of those settling down in cities accounting for over three fourths of all foreigners in the Republic of Moldova during the entire period of reference (Table 20).

The 2015 distribution of the foreigner population by country of previous citizenship shows that the most significant share, 55.1 per cent cumulatively, was registered by those originating from Ukraine and the Russian Federation (32.4% and 22.7%, respectively), followed by Israel (8.7%), Romania (5.2%) and Turkey (4.1%). Other nations held shares of 2 per cent or less each. A rather important share (8.3%) of the foreigner population was held by stateless people and persons with undetermined citizenships (Figure 25 and Table 22).

Figure 25: Distribution of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova, by country of citizenship, 2015

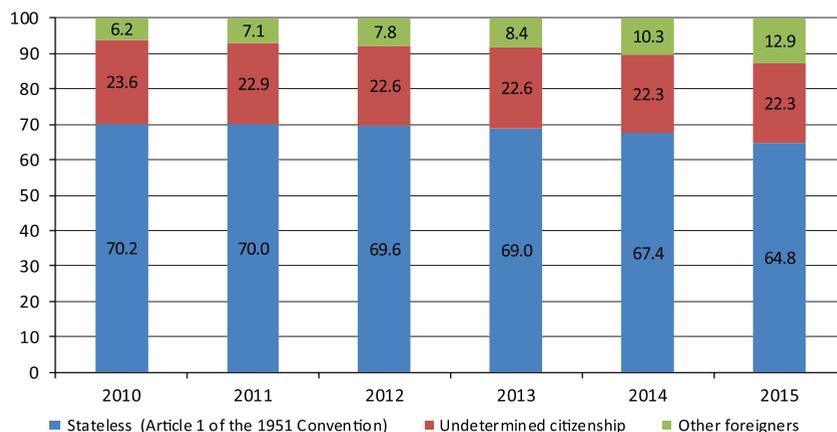


Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Naturalized citizens. In the Republic of Moldova, naturalization is carried out in line with the Law on Citizenship,²⁵ which sets the eligibility conditions for applying for naturalization. According to the data on annual flows, in 2015, a total of 41 persons were naturalized (Table 20), the majority (56%) having previously the statuses of refugee, stateless person, beneficiary of humanitarian protection and with undetermined citizenship. By the end of 2015, the stock of a total of 745 foreigners had been naturalized (Table 23). It should be mentioned that stateless persons accounted for 64.8 per cent of the total number of naturalized persons, followed by foreigners with undetermined citizenship at 22.3 per cent, and other foreigners (those who previously had another citizenship) at 12.9 per cent (Figure 26).

²⁵ Article 17 of Law No. 1024, dated 3 June 2000, on Citizenship in the Republic of Moldova.

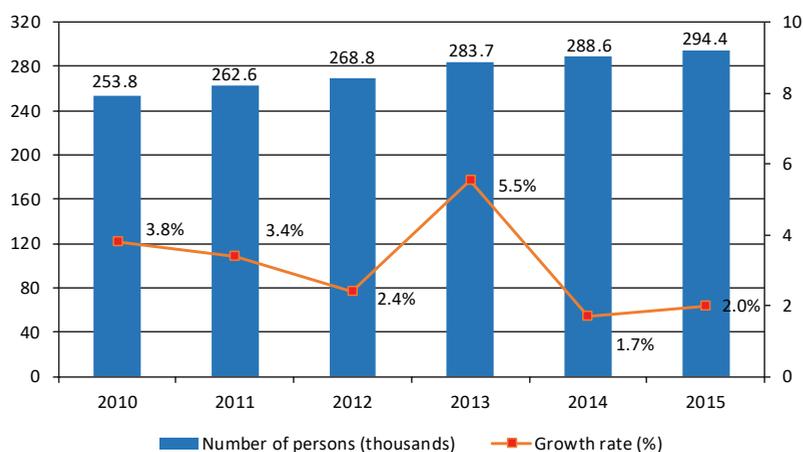
Figure 26: Share of naturalized foreigners, by category, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Non-natives. The number of foreign-born persons (regardless of citizenship) staying in the Republic of Moldova increased during the 2010–2015 period. By the end of 2015, there were 294,419 non-natives in the country, representing 8.3 per cent of the country's total population (Table 24). The population of non-natives grew 2.0 per cent from 2015 (Figure 27). The distribution of the non-natives according to the country of birth shows that 75.1 per cent of them were born either in Ukraine (35.3%) or the Russian Federation (36.2%). The shares of non-natives born in other countries vary from 7 per cent to 0.6 per cent (7% – Italy; 4.4% – Kazakhstan; 2% – Romania; 1.6% – Belarus, and 1.3% – Turkey).

Figure 27: Number of persons from the Republic of Moldova born abroad and growth rates for this group, 2010–2015



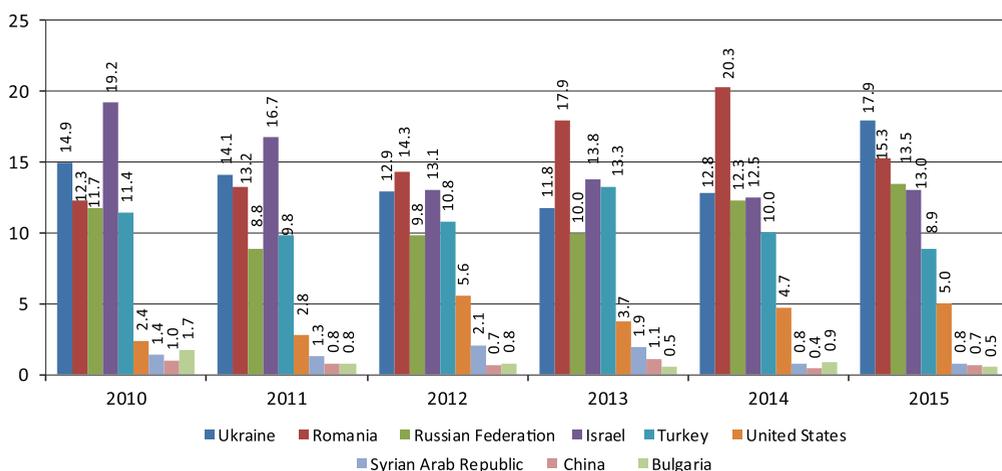
Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Immigration of foreigners

Annual immigration to the Republic of Moldova registered an uptrend over the period of reference, registering 4,210 persons in 2015, which is 1.7 times more as compared with 2010. Immigrant population grew 0.14 per cent in 2015 as compared with 2014, and grew 25 per cent as compared with 2013. It was mainly men (with women accounting for 48.1% of immigrants) and persons with professional secondary education/higher education/scientific degrees (64%) who immigrated to the country (Table 25). There was also an increase in the number of those with higher education, from 812 persons in 2010 to 1,581 persons in 2015 (Table 26).

The 2015 distribution of immigrants by country of citizenship reveals that over the past years, most of them arrived from Ukraine (17.9%), Romania (15.3%), the Russian Federation (13.5%) and Israel (13.0%). Those who arrived from Turkey and the United States accounted for 8.9 per cent and 5.0 per cent, respectively, and the share of those who arrived from other countries varied between 0.8 per cent and 0.1 per cent (Figure 28 and Table 27).

Figure 28: Distribution of immigrant population, by country of citizenship, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: MIA/BMA.

In 2015, 28.5 per cent of the total number of immigrants came to the country for work, 34.3 per cent for family reintegration, 19.4 per cent came for studies and 17.8 per cent came for other purposes (of whom about 6.7% for religious, humanitarian and volunteering activities). The data reveals a significant increase in 2015 and 2014 in the number of immigrants who came for

family reintegration (1,442 and 1,255 persons, respectively), as compared with 905 in 2010 (Table 28). This increase is mainly due to the sociopolitical situation in Ukraine over the last two years.

Foreigners' stay in the Republic of Moldova

The number of foreigners seeking permission to stay in the Republic of Moldova is continuously growing. Currently, depending on the purpose of entry and stay in the country, a foreigner may obtain either a temporary stay permit (for work, studies, family reintegration, humanitarian and religious activities, health treatment and other reasons under the national legislation) or a permanent stay permit.

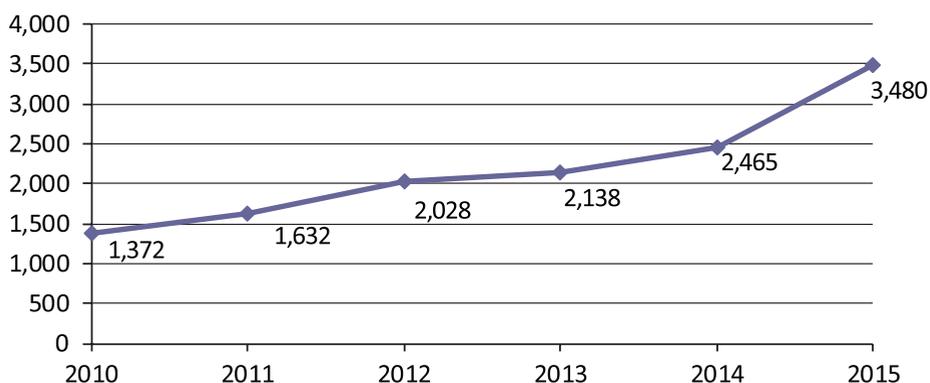
Statistical data shows that 2,000–3,000 foreigners annually obtain temporary stay permits for the first time. By the end of 2015, the total number of holders of such valid permits exceeded 9,300 as compared with around 4,500 in 2010. About 42 per cent of the total number of foreigners holding temporary stay permits were persons who reunified with their families; 19 per cent came for work or business; and 16 per cent for studies or training. In 2015, 26 foreigners obtained local border traffic permits, as compared with 32 persons in 2014 (Table 29).

The share of foreigners living in the country for at least five years was 22.3 per cent in 2015, which is an increase of 3.4 percentage points as compared with 2014 (Table 29).

By the end of 2015, there were 10,661 foreigners in the Republic of Moldova holding permanent stay permits. Over the last years, the share of the working-age foreigners (15–64 years old) holding permanent stay permits decreased; in 2015, the share of this group decreased by 31.4 percentage points as compared with 2010 (Table 29).

Foreign students in the Republic of Moldova. A significant growth in the number of foreigners coming to study in the Republic of Moldova was registered during the period of reference, being 2.5 times higher in 2015 than in 2010 (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Moldova, 2010–2015 (persons)



Source: NBS.

According to the data presented in Figure 29, there were 3,480 persons studying in the Republic of Moldova in 2015. The distribution by country of origin reveals that the majority of those who came to the Republic of Moldova to study were from Israel (2,039 persons), followed by those from Romania (791 persons), Turkey (141 persons), Ukraine (139 persons) and the Russian Federation (67 persons). It should be noted that the number of migrant students from Israel increased 2.7 times during the period of reference (Table 30).

International protection

International protection of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova is carried out within the limits of the provisions set by international norms.²⁶ Statistical data shows that the number of *asylum seekers* in the Republic of Moldova varied continuously from 2010 to 2015. A total of 276 first applications were registered in 2015, which is 3 times higher than in 2010. It should be mentioned that there were 110 asylum seekers with pending applications by the end of 2015, registering 26 per cent decrease as compared with the previous year (Table 31).

By country of origin, the 2014 distribution of asylum seekers was dominated for the first time by citizens from Ukraine, followed by those from the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan. This is different from the trend in 2013, as there were no asylum seekers from Ukraine in that year and Syrian citizens accounted for the highest number, followed by those from Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. This

²⁶ Law No. 677, of 23 November 2001, on Republic of Moldova's Accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

increase reflects clearly the consequence of the conflict from Ukraine. Hence, by country of citizenship, Ukrainians accounted for 54.7 per cent of the total asylum seekers in the Republic of Moldova in 2014, followed by those from the Syrian Arab Republic (24.9%), Afghanistan (4.1%), Iraq and Kyrgyzstan (2.0% each).

In 2015, there were 276 asylum seekers in total, the highest share (44.6%) being registered also by Ukrainian citizens, followed by those from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Afghanistan, together accounting for 35.4 per cent (Table 32).

Significant gender-based disparities were observed among the asylum seekers during the period of reference. The majority of applications were from men, while applications from women accounted for only 36 per cent in 2015 (40.4% in 2014).

In 2015, 150 foreigners benefited from *humanitarian protection*, while 36 persons were refused protection.

By the end of 2015, 144 persons with *refugee status* were living in the Republic of Moldova, recording 116 per cent growth from 2014 (Table 31).

Stateless persons. According to statistical data, 1,513 stateless persons were documented in the Republic of Moldova by the end of 2015, which is 153 persons more than in 2010 (Table 22). At the same time, some insignificant increasing trends were observed about the share of stateless persons among foreigners: in 2015 this group accounted for 6.9 per cent as compared with 6.8 per cent in 2010. It should be mentioned that by 2015, 305 persons with undetermined citizenship were living in Moldova, accounting for 1.4 per cent among foreigners (Table 22).

The analysis of the national legal framework of the Republic of Moldova reveals a high level of compliance with international standards, as well as the presence of an adequate information system to identify, prevent and reduce cases of statelessness.²⁷

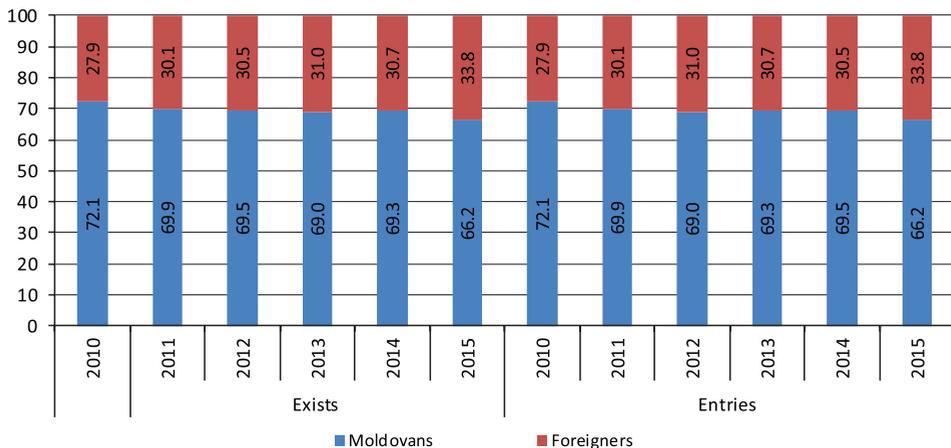
²⁷ In December 2011, the Republic of Moldova ratified two UN Conventions – the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness – and passed Law No. 275 dated 27 December 2011 (available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=342052>) and Law No. 252 dated 8 December 2011 (available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=vie&view=doc&lang=1&id=341953>).

General cross-border mobility

Cross-border mobility continuously increased during the reference period (except for 2010 and 2014). About 8,553,000 entries were registered at the Moldovan border (5,676,000 Moldovans and around 2,877,000 foreigners) and 8,538,000 exits (5,646,000 Moldovans and 2,892,000 foreigners) were registered in 2015 (Table 33).

In terms of cross-border mobility, exits and entries of Moldovans represented 66.2 per cent of all movements. The share of Moldovans' entries and exits decreased in 2015 by 5.9 percentage points as compared with 2010 (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Cross-border mobility, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: BPD.

As for visa-based entries of foreigners, statistical data from the MFAEI shows that in 2014 the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova abroad issued 7,040 visas, recording 2.2 per cent decrease as compared with 2013 (Table 34). The low number of visas issued in 2014 as compared with the 2013 figure was conditioned by the abolition of visa requirement for some States in 2014²⁸ and increasing the number of countries whose citizens may enter the Republic of Moldova without visas.²⁹ The decreasing trend in issued visas also continued in 2015, as there were only 3,900 visas granted.

²⁸ The visa system is applied for citizens of 131 States (mainly from countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, Latin America and South America). The citizens of the EU, the United States, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Israel and the Commonwealth of Independent States, except for Turkmenistan, may enter the territory of the Republic of Moldova without visas and stay in the country up to 90 days, calculated from the date of the first entry. See www.mfa.gov.md/entry-visas-moldova/

²⁹ Law No. 257 dated 1 November 2013.

Legislation enforcement in the area of migration and return

Enforcement of the legislation on combating irregular migration. As a result of the democratization processes and the agreement on liberalization of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, the foreign relations framework has been expanded, hence generating as well an increase in the inflow of foreigners into the country. A proportion of those who have entered the territory of the country without registration and those staying illegally may be potential asylum seekers. The factors that favour this process on the territory of the country are:

- conflicts, including the military ones, in different regions of the world, which were triggered by political, religious, interethnic and other reasons;
- geographical location of the Republic of Moldova, the territory of which is used as a bridge head by irregular migrants to transit towards the Western European countries;³⁰
- impossibility to ensure control of the Transnistria segment of the eastern border of the territory of the country by the Moldovan authorities.

All these factors attract irregular migrants from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), especially from the Caucasus region, and also from China, India, Bangladesh, and countries from the Near and Middle East, among others.³¹

In 2015, 4,417 immigrants were identified as illegally staying in the Republic of Moldova, including those who had exceeded the legal stay term – this is 11 per cent more than in 2014 and double as compared with the number in 2010. Also, in 2015, 410 cases for revoking the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova were registered, and the return measure from the territory of the country was applied in cases of 622 foreigners; 120 foreigners were taken under public custody; and 110 foreigners were declared undesirable on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (in 2014, there were 67) (Table 35). The majority of foreigners who were declared undesirable were considered a danger to public order and national security, according to the investigations undertaken by the line authorities (National Investigation Inspectorate of the General Police Inspectorate and the Security and Intelligence Service).

In 2015, the BMA applied interdiction of illegal entry of foreigners to the territory of the Republic of Moldova for a period from 1 to 5 years in 282 cases as compared with 232 cases in 2014.

³⁰ Frontex, Eastern European Borders Annual Risk Analysis 2014.

³¹ Ibid.

PART B: IMPACT OF MIGRATION

The magnitude of the labour migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova during the past several years has had a dual impact on the population of the country: on one hand are the positive socioeconomic effects determined by remittances; on the other hand are the sociodemographic effects that lead to the deterioration of human capital.

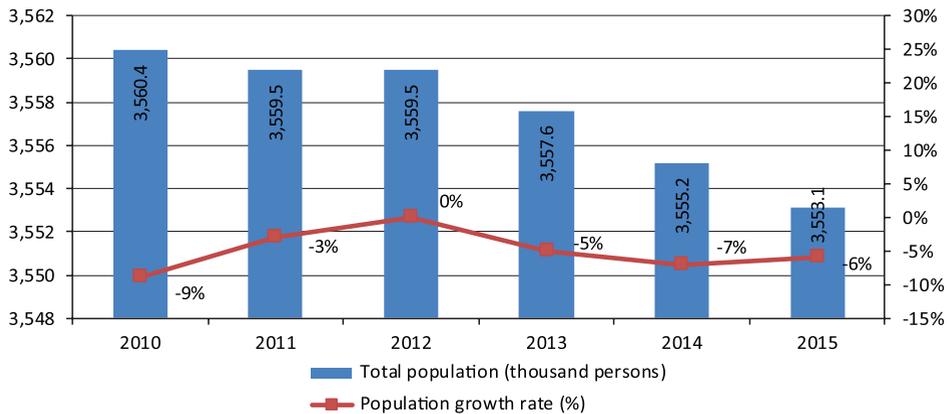
B.1. Migration and demographic development

International migration continues to be an important factor for the country's demographic development, having both direct-and-immediate and indirect impacts over time. To be specific, the prevalence of emigration over immigration has an immediate impact on the size of the population and contributes to its continuous decrease, and the labour migration of women of childbearing age leads to the deterioration of the main demographic indicators due to birth rate decrease. In 2010–2015, the birth rate in the country decreased, accounting in 2015 for 10.9 live births per 1,000 inhabitants (as compared with 11.4 live births per 1,000 inhabitants in 2010).

Population trends. The demographic decline registered in the country over the past decades was also observed during the analysed period. From 2010 to 2015, the stable population decreased by almost 7,000 persons.

In addition, the past two years have witnessed some stabilization trends, confirmed by a number of indicators in the area (Table 36). Thus, negative population growth in 2015 as compared with 2014 was rather small at -0.06 per cent (Figure 31). The negative natural growth also registered small values of -0.37 in 2015 and -0.25 per 1,000 population in 2014 as compared with -0.89 per 1,000 population in 2010 (Table 36).

Figure 31: Demographic trends in the Republic of Moldova, 2010–2015



Source: NBS.

Emigration versus immigration. Statistical data confirms as well that emigration continued to prevail over immigration in the Republic of Moldova. Nevertheless, the recent years have exhibited a trend towards stabilization.

At the same time, labour migration or migration to seek a job abroad continued to influence negatively other sociodemographic indicators. For example, the number of registered marriages continued to drop from 26,500 in 2010 to 24,700 in 2015, accounting for 7.0 marriages per 1,000 population. The emigration of one of the spouses leads to a definite break-up; as a result, many marriages fall apart. In 2015, there were 11,200 divorces, which is 69 cases more than in 2014; hence, the divorce rate was 3.2 divorces per 1,000 population (Table 36).

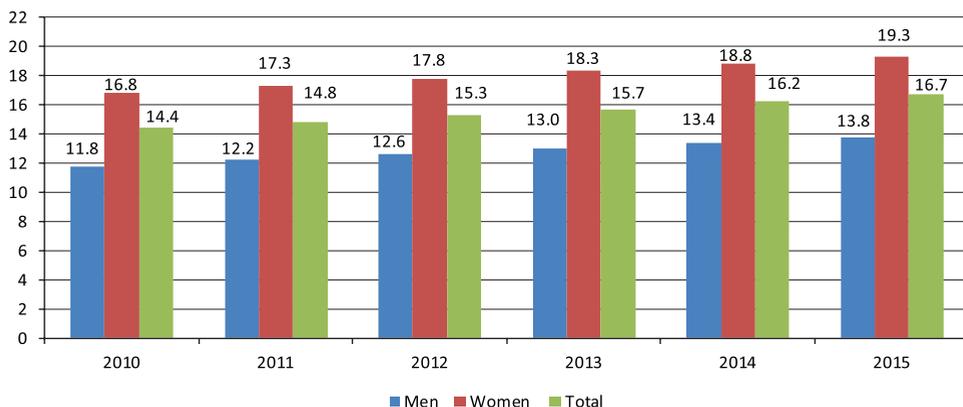
Demographic composition. In parallel, it may be noted that population structure by age has also worsened. The population share of persons aged under 15 years dropped from 16.5 per cent in 2010 to 16.0 per cent in 2015, while the share of elderly people increased from 20.3 per cent in 2010 to 20.7 per cent in 2015, and the demographic dependency ratio (national definition) remained to be rather high in 2015, accounting for over 55.7 per cent³² (Table 37).

Migration accelerates population ageing, because it is mainly the young and working-age population who emigrate. It should be noted that the ageing coefficient in 2015 reached the value of 16.7, reaching the

³² The demographic dependency ratio (international definition) accounted for 36.4 per cent in 2015, increasing by 0.5 percentage points as compared with 2010 (Table 37).

critical value of 16, which indicates an advanced stage of the phenomenon. The ageing coefficient for women is even higher, computed at 19.3 (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Population ageing coefficient, 2010–2015



Source: NBS.

Urban migration versus rural migration. Migration is more common in rural areas than in urban areas, significantly influencing the demographic situation in villages. Demographic indicators, disaggregated by area of residence, confirm the deterioration of human capital in rural areas. For example, it may be noted that in 2015, the dependency ratio in rural areas exceeded the ratio in urban areas by almost 8.6 percentage points; the population share of persons aged 65 years and over in villages exceeded the share in cities by 0.7 percentage points, and the seniority ratio in rural areas was higher by 4.2 percentage points. At the same time, there was an increasing urbanization rate alongside a decreasing share of persons aged under 15 years, leading to the assumption that internal migration from villages to cities was in parallel with international migration (Table 39). According to the survey carried out by the International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI)/Nexus in 2013³³ (the presented data referred to the 12 months prior to the data collection period of May–August 2013), 411,566 persons in total were abroad for a long period of time, of whom about 30 per cent were from urban areas and 70 per cent were from rural areas. According to the report on the survey results, the distribution of persons who went abroad by reason is as follows: among the 368,157 persons who left for work, 31.6 per cent were from urban areas and 68.4 per cent were from

³³ For more details about the “Households Survey, Country Migration Profile (2013)”, please contact: info@nexusnet.md and info@iasci.info.

rural areas; of the 18,377 persons who left for studies, 33.9 per cent were from urban areas and 66.1 per cent were from rural areas; and among 18,717 persons who left for family reunification, only 28.1 per cent were from urban areas and 72 per cent were from rural areas.

Foreigner population. An uptrend over the last five years was noted for the foreigner population in the Republic of Moldova. The population of persons of foreign origin by the end of 2015 reached 21,876. This represents just a little over 0.6 per cent of the total stable population of the country and, thus, does not affect the population age distribution.

An uptrend was registered for the number of elderly foreigners. Foreigners' share of the population of the elderly (aged 65 years and over) increased from 0.4 per cent in 2010 to 0.6 per cent in 2015. There were more men than women among foreigners, with the foreigner men-to-women ratio reaching 117.8 per cent in 2015 (Table 40).

B.2. Migration and economic development

Macroeconomic context. Labour force migration out of the country has an important and significant role, not only in terms of demographic indicators but also from an economic perspective. As the number of Moldovans leaving the country to work abroad increased, a significant growth was noted for the amount of transfers made by these individuals from abroad, widely influencing the main macroeconomic indicators. The Republic of Moldova's GDP growth over the previous years is mainly attributed to the revenues earned from the remittances of Moldovan migrants working abroad. The nominal value of the GDP per capita increased continuously, accounting in 2015 for MDL 34,374 as compared with MDL 20,181 in 2010 (Figure 33 and Table 41).

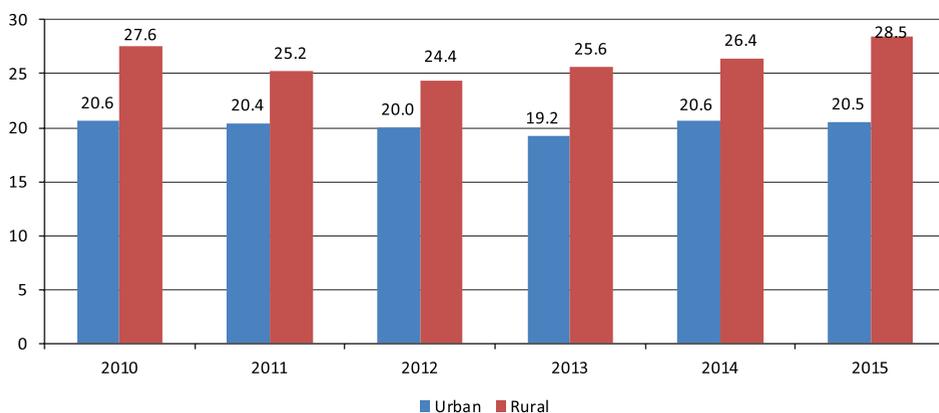
Figure 33: GDP per capita and growth rate, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

Households and remittances. Remittances are an important means for the population of the Republic of Moldova to escape poverty. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) data reveals a considerable share of Moldovan households receiving remittances during the reference period (Table 42). Over 25 per cent of the total number of households benefited from remittances in 2015, as compared with 24.5 per cent in 2010. A higher share of households benefiting from remittances was registered in rural areas than in urban areas, 28.5 per cent and 20.5 per cent, respectively, in 2015. This gap is noted all over the period of reference (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Share of households receiving remittances, by area of residence, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

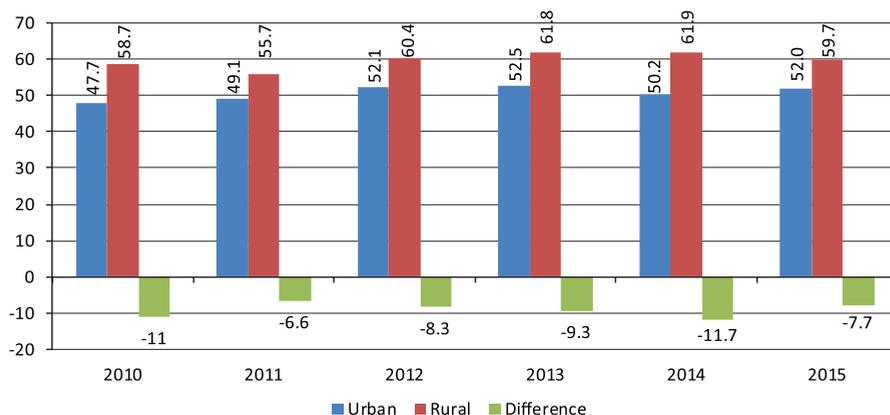
The 2012 LFS/LFM data³⁴ reveals that the majority of migrants (81.3%) sent money to their families. The transferred amounts varied: over one third of migrants (35.8%) sent less than USD 500 on a monthly basis; 12.4 per cent remitted between USD 500 and USD 800; and 7.2 per cent sent over USD 800. Less than one fifth of the migrants (18.7%) stated that they did not transfer money back home. The distribution of migrants transferring money back home by age group indicates that the increase relates to the age groups 25–34 years old and 35–44 years old, cumulating about 60 per cent (Table 43).

- **Household disposable income is significantly influenced by remittances.**

The HBS data shows that during the 2010–2015 period, remittances accounted for half of the disposable incomes of recipient households (the share depending on the amounts received), accounting in 2015 for 56.7 per cent (Table 42).

Significant differences in the volume of remittances received are observed between urban and rural households. In rural areas, the share of remittances of the total household disposable income is very significant, exceeding 59.7 per cent in 2015, with a difference of 7.7 percentage points than the share in urban areas. Among urban households receiving remittances, the share is nevertheless important, accounting for almost half of the disposable income over the last three years (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Share of remittances of the total household disposable income among households depending on remittances, 2010–2015 (%)



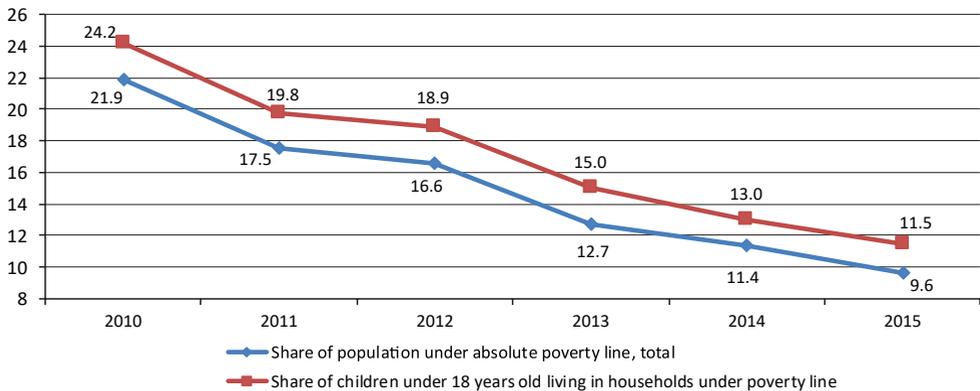
Source: NBS.

³⁴ LFM Study, carried out in the fourth quarter of 2012; see www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&id=2570&idc=350 (According to the survey data, 76.5 per cent of migrants indicated “low salaries in Moldova” as their main reason for leaving the country, and 8.8 per cent indicated “no jobs according to their skills/qualifications”.)

- **Remittances help improve a household's well-being.**

The proportion of the population under the absolute poverty line decreased continuously in 2010–2015, accounting for 9.6 per cent of the total population of the country in 2015, as compared with 21.9 per cent in 2010 (Table 44). It should be mentioned that poverty incidence among children under 18 years old was higher in 2015 and accounted for 11.5 per cent, keeping the continuous decreasing trend (Figure 36).

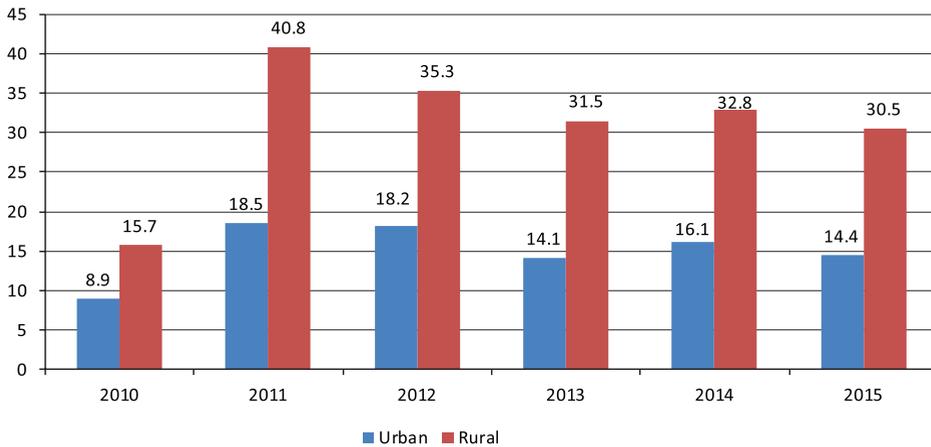
Figure 36: Share of population under the absolute poverty line, 2010–2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

The flow of financial resources from persons working abroad may help diminish absolute poverty and also leads to an increase in inequality between households that receive remittances and those that do not. The NBS data indicates that the proportion of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances increased from 12.9 per cent in 2010 to 23.4 per cent in 2015, with the highest increase registered in rural areas from 15.7 per cent to 30.5 per cent in the mentioned year. This indicator registered during the period of reference much higher values, accounting for 40.8 per cent in rural areas in 2011 (Table 42 and Figure 37).

Figure 37: Share of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances, 2010–2015 (%)



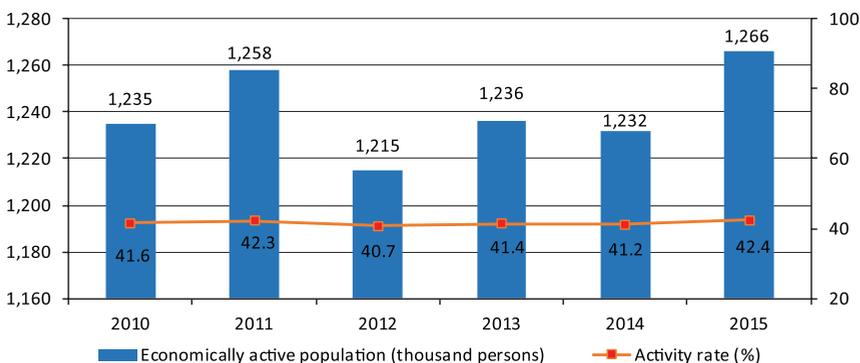
Source: NBS.

B.3. Migration, employment and the labour market

B.3.1. Labour market features

The labour market in the Republic of Moldova continues to face difficulties, with a dramatically negative impact on the employment rate. During the 2010–2015 reference period, the size of the economically active population³⁵ reached about 1,266,000 persons in 2015, the registered increase being 31,000 persons as compared with 2010. Hence, the activity rate also varied during the period of reference, registering the lowest share (40.7%) in 2012 and the highest (42.4%) in 2015 (Figure 38 and Table 45).

Figure 38: Indicators regarding the economically active population, 2010–2015

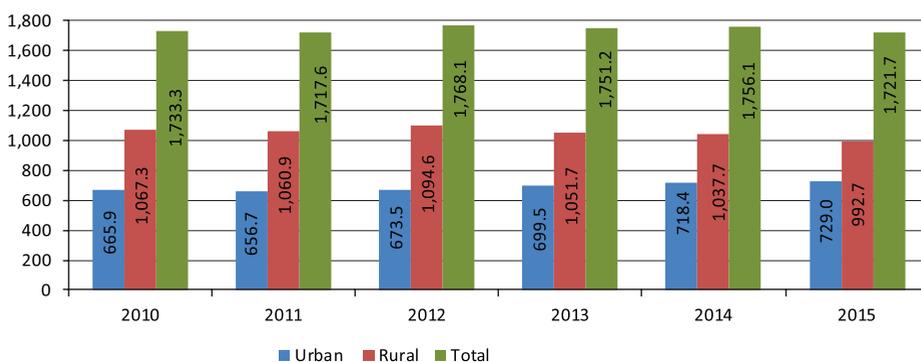


Source: NBS.

³⁵ The economically active population includes those persons supplying labour for production of goods and services, including the employed and the unemployed.

A decrease in the economically inactive population³⁶ was registered during the period of reference, in general in the whole country, by 11,600 in 2015 as compared with 2010, at the same time registering discrepancies between urban and rural areas. A constant increase in the inactive population was registered over the last four years in urban areas. In 2015, the number of the economically inactive from the urban areas increased by 55,500 persons as compared with 2012 (Figure 39). A significant share of the working-age population that is economically inactive has become one of the most challenging demographic features of the labour force market in the Republic of Moldova.

Figure 39: Dynamics of economically inactive population, by area of residence, 2010–2015 (thousand persons)



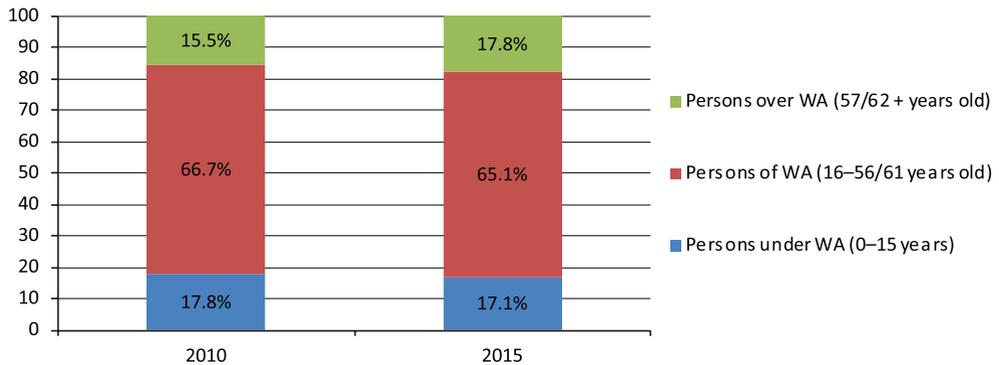
Source: NBS.

Working-age population. Official statistical data indicates a slight decrease in the size of the working-age population (working age: 16–56/61 years old³⁷) from 66.7 per cent in 2010 to 65.1 per cent in 2015. Although these differences seem insignificant, the data reveals some changes in the population structure. In 2015, the share of population of persons under the working age decreased to 17.1 per cent as compared with 17.8 per cent in 2010, while the share of the population of persons over the working age increased from 15.5 per cent to 17.8 per cent. If the migration of the younger segments of the population persists, the working-age population will continue to shrink, inducing negative effects associated with this phenomenon (Figure 40).

³⁶ Economically inactive covers all persons, regardless of age, who did not work at least one hour and who were not unemployed during the period of reference. The economically inactive population includes the following categories of population: (i) pupils or students; (ii) pensioners (of all categories); (iii) housewives (who perform only domestic work in the household); (iv) persons maintained by other persons or by the State, or those who maintain themselves from other revenues (rents, interest rates, leases, etc.); and (v) persons declared as working or looking for a job abroad (this category of population conventionally belongs to the economically inactive population) (NBS definition).

³⁷ According to the national definition.

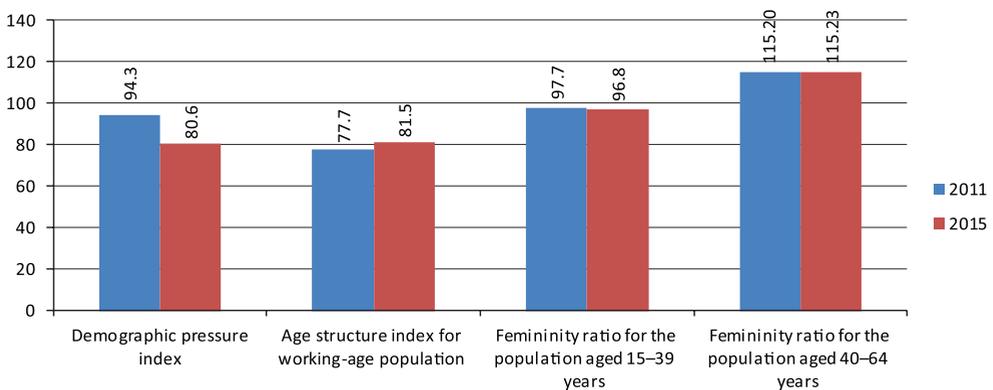
Figure 40: Structure of population, by age, 2010 and 2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

A number of specific demographic indicators confirm the deterioration of the labour force, even though insignificant positive trends were registered. From 2011 to 2015, a downtrend was registered – for the labour demographic pressure index from 94.3 per cent to 80.6 per cent, and for the femininity ratio for the population of persons who are 15–39 years old from 97.7 per cent to 96.8 per cent. On the other hand, the age structure index for the working-age population increased from 77.7 per cent to 81.5 per cent, while the femininity ratio for the population of persons aged 40–64 years increased insignificantly from 115.20 per cent to 115.23 per cent (Figure 41).

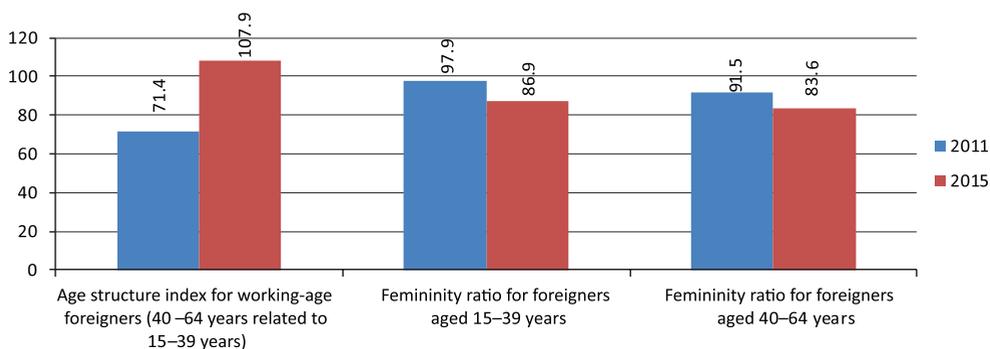
Figure 41: Dynamics of the specific demographic indicators characteristic for labour force, Moldovan citizens, 2011 and 2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

Foreign working-age population (15–64 years old³⁸). In 2015, there were 19,218 working-age foreigners, accounting for 88 per cent of the total number of foreigners staying in the Republic of Moldova. The number of working-age foreigners in 2015 was higher only by 12 persons than in 2014, and the growth rate of the group decreased from 102.1 per cent to 100.1 per cent (Table 47). The age structure index for working-age foreigners increased from 101.7 per cent in 2014 to 107.9 per cent in 2015, while the femininity ratio increased from 79.0 per cent to 86.9 per cent in the same years. The dynamics of the respective indicators in 2015 as compared with 2011 are shown in Figure 42.

Figure 42: Dynamics of specific demographic indicators characteristic for labour force, foreigners, 2011 and 2015 (%)

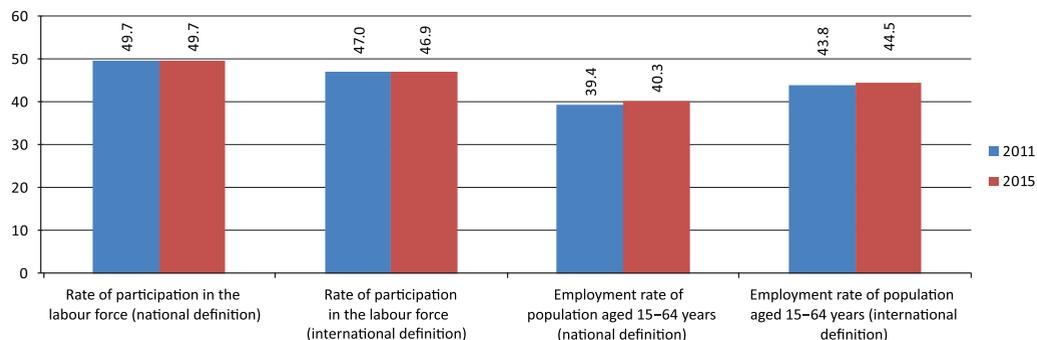


Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Participation in the labour force and employment. The indicators characterizing employment and participation in the labour force remained unchanged in 2015 as compared with 2011. To be specific, the labour force participation rate, calculated according to the national definition, accounted for 49.7 per cent; using the international definition, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points. The employment rates, estimated according to either definition, increased by 0.9 and 0.7 percentage points, respectively (Figure 43).

³⁸ According to the international definition.

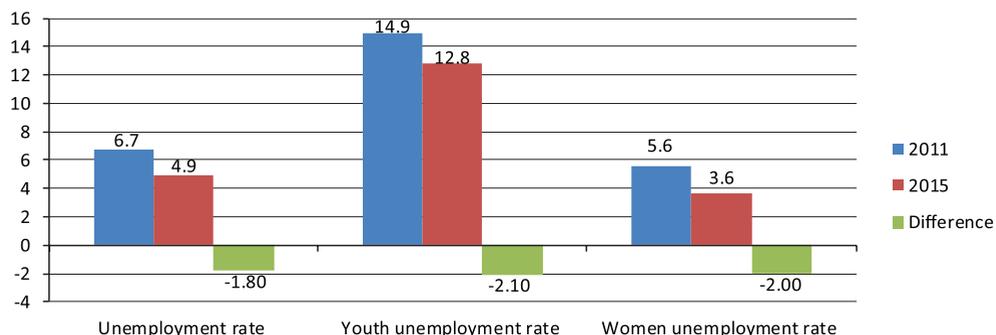
Figure 43: Dynamics of indicators related to employment and participation in the labour force, 2011 and 2015 (%)



Source: NBS.

Unemployment. Unemployment indicators also registered a downtrend. For instance, the unemployment rate decreased in 2015 as compared with 2011, both overall as well as among youth and women (Figure 44 and Table 48). It would seem that the situation is getting better, but taking into consideration the continuously growing migration flow and the increasing number of Moldovans working abroad, unemployment indicators should be interpreted carefully, as the observed effect may be due mainly to continuous migration processes.

Figure 44: Dynamics of unemployment-related indicators, 2011 and 2015 (%)

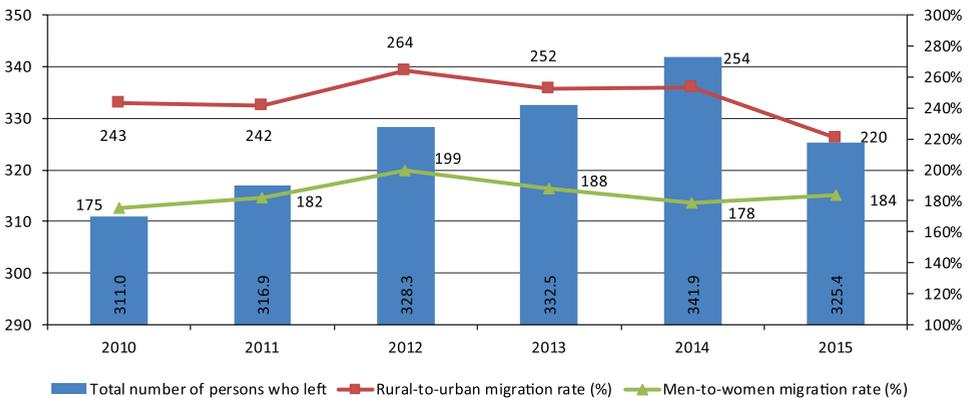


Source: NBS.

B.3.2. Labour migration

Labour migration in the Republic of Moldova is assessed based on the LFS data. As mentioned in part A of this report, about 300,000 persons aged 15 years and over are registered annually as working abroad or looking for a job abroad. The migration profile throughout the reference period is characterized by a large share of inhabitants from rural areas, and the urban-to-rural migrant ratio ranges between 243 per cent and 220 per cent. There were more male migrants than female migrants, with the men-to-women ratio ranging between 175 per cent and 184 per cent during the 2010–2015 reference period (Figure 45). Moldovans who were younger than 44 years were mainly those who migrated abroad for work, accounting for 78.9 per cent of the total number of labour migrants in 2015 (Table 16); of those migrants, about 13 per cent had higher education (Table 17).

Figure 45: Dynamics of labour migration, 2010–2015



Source: NBS/LFS.

B.4. Migration and social development

To develop effective and efficient migration policies, it is very important to carry out an in-depth analysis of the migration phenomenon, which would allow the national authorities to adopt data-based actions.

The shortage of teaching staff continues to be one of the negative effects of the migration phenomenon. Education remains to be an area heavily affected by migration, and teaching staff drain continues to be triggered by economic factors. The data revealed by the survey on the impact of migration among

teaching staff and researchers in the Republic of Moldova³⁹ shows that low wages in the country are among the main push factors for the emigration of teachers and researchers. Even though teaching staff benefited in 2010–2015 from an annual wage increase,⁴⁰ their salaries are 20 per cent lower than the country's mean salary according to the NBS data.⁴¹ This problem of small salaries is rather acute among young teachers and researchers. Another important economic push factor is *the impossibility to improve the living conditions of families*.

According to the data from the aforementioned survey, over half of all interviewed teachers reported having intentions to go abroad; 40.3 per cent of respondents mentioned that they would like to leave the country for temporary work; 7.9 per cent would like to leave for good; and 5.4 per cent would like to study overseas. The profile of those who intend to leave temporarily to work abroad is as follows: young teachers, aged 25–39 years, with children, living in rural areas, with small incomes and usually with dual citizenship. Those who wish to leave the country permanently are – in most cases – married, with work experience up to 10 years, living in urban areas (except for those who live in the municipalities of Chisinau and Balti) and have average incomes. Migration intentions are more pronounced among men than among women. Intention to leave the country is more common among young teaching staff and researchers, with the largest share held by the 25–29 years old group (67%).

Migration of the population to look for better-paying jobs abroad reduces poverty on one hand but leaves a strong social impact on children on the other hand. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education from the analysis of the data collected during the school census, there were nearly 40,000 left-behind children in 2015, of whom around 10,000 had both parents working abroad and almost 30,000 had one of their parents abroad (Table 49). It should be mentioned that this data does not differ significantly from that provided by the MLSPF, which indicates that in 2015 there were 38,982 left-behind children (of whom 19,611 were girls and 19,310 were boys), and 56.9 per cent of them were aged 7–16 years.⁴²

³⁹ A survey implemented within the Project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and Its Skills Dimension”, implemented in March 2011–December 2013, by the ILO, in partnership with IOM and the World Bank.

⁴⁰ Law No. 276, dated 18 December 2008, for Amending and Completing Law No. 355-XVI, dated 23 December 2005, on the Wage System in the Budgetary Sector.

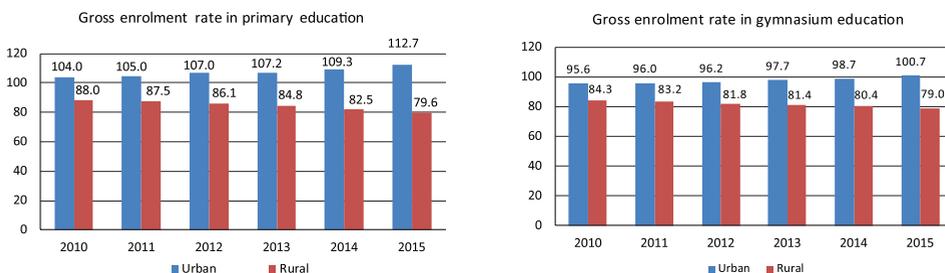
⁴¹ NBS, “Ratio of average nominal monthly earning per employee, by type of economic activities, to the average monthly salary for total economy, 2013–2014” (2015). Available from www.statistica.md/category.php?l=en&idc=452

⁴² The MLSPF data is collected from the territorial structures of social assistance according to Law No. 140, dated 14 June 2013, and Statistical Reporting Form No. 103, subchapter 1.2.

At the same time, although still rather small, the level of re-registration abroad of Moldovan migrants' families is increasing (18,700 or 4.5% of long-term migrants), especially due to children reunifying with their parents abroad. This trend is more outlined in EU, where about 32 per cent of the migrants' households are reunified. This fact may have important demographic consequences, because the return intention is lower within this category of migrants.⁴³

Migration also influences integration in education, as well as the perception of school enrolment opportunity. Statistical data shows that the enrolment rates within compulsory general education are decreasing, with significant urban–rural gaps. The overall gross enrolment rate in primary education in 2015 was 91.8 per cent, which is 1.8 percentage points lower than in 2010 (Table 51). The gross enrolment rate in primary education in rural areas in 2015 was 79.6 per cent, which is 35.8 percentage points lower than in urban areas. The overall gross enrolment rate in gymnasium education in 2015 was 86.7 per cent as compared with 88.1 per cent in 2010 – a decrease of 1.4 percentage points. The gross enrolment rate in gymnasium education in rural areas was 79.0 per cent, 21.7 percentage points lower than in urban areas (Figure 46).

Figure 46: Gross enrolment rates in primary and gymnasium education, by area of residence, 2010–2015



Source: NBS.

Assuring social minimum guarantees and migrants' access to the social protection system. The assurance of social minimum guarantees for migrant workers and their families is a priority among the social policies of the Republic of Moldova. In the period 2009–2014, 11 bilateral social security agreements were signed with Bulgaria (December 2008), Portugal (February 2009), Romania (April 2010), Luxembourg (June 2010), Austria (September 2011), Estonia (October

⁴³ N. de Zwager and R. Sintov, *Driving Innovation in Circular Migration: Migration and Development in Moldova* (International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI)/Nexus, Chisinau, 2014).

2011), the Czech Republic (November 2011), Belgium (September 2012), Poland (2013), Hungary (2013) and Lithuania (2014).⁴⁴

As well, negotiations were continued in 2015 regarding the draft social security agreements between the Republic of Moldova and Turkey. An Administrative Arrangement was signed for the enforcement of the Social Security Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Kingdom of Belgium. At the same time, preliminary technical meetings were organized at the experts level with Greece and Italy to discuss the need to conclude bilateral agreements so that citizens of both countries can be assured of their right to social insurance.

An important factor is the availability of the States to regulate the relations in this area with the Republic of Moldova. Being hosts to a high number of Moldovan workers, Italy, Greece, Spain, France and the Russian Federation remain to be among the priority States, which currently have not expressed yet their final will to conclude an agreement in this area with the Republic of Moldova.

It should be mentioned that the social insurance system of the Republic of Moldova does not impose any conditions that are advantageous to migrants and their families. Access to the system is offered only when some general conditions are met, specifically social insurance contributions. As such, the majority of migrants who work abroad do not participate in the social insurance system, and this fact generates increased pressure that undermines the financial sustainability of the system. Current migrants are potential applicants for State social allocations (social assistance benefits similar to social pensions). Although, currently, the State social insurance system has been offering the option of individual insurance⁴⁵ through a contract with the National Social Insurance Company to obtain a minimum pension under general conditions, very few migrants avail of this opportunity.

In 2014, based on the social security agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova with other States, the following types of benefits were established: (i) retirement, disability and loss-of-breadwinner benefits; (ii) allowances for disability caused by work accidents or occupational diseases; (iii) allowances for temporary work incapacity and maternity leave (depending on agreement);

⁴⁴ Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, "Efficient Labour Force Migration and Qualifications Management" Project, Component 3, "Activities regarding the negotiation and implementation of the social security bilateral agreements". Available from www.mmprsf.gov.md/

⁴⁵ Article 2 amended through LP 399-XVI dated 14 December 2006; Article 169, Government Decision No. 39-42 dated 23 March 2007.

(iv) allowances for child birth and for taking care of the child up to the age of 3 years (depending on agreement); and (v) death and unemployment benefits (depending on agreement).⁴⁶

In 2015, the social security/insurance agreements concluded between the Republic of Moldova and other countries based on the proportionality principle were used as basis to establish pensions for 78 persons, of whom 64 benefited from the age-limit pension, 12 persons – disability pension, and 2 persons – descendant pension.

In relation to foreigners' access to social protection and health care, according to Law No. 274 of 27 December 2011 on Foreigners' Integration in the Republic of Moldova, foreigners employed based on an individual work contract, foreigners holding permanent stay permits, and refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection have the same rights and obligations in the area of social insurance and social assistance, as well as compulsory health insurance, as the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, in line with the legislation in force, if the international treaties do not provide otherwise.

The foreigners who were issued the right for temporary stay in the territory of the Republic of Moldova for the purpose of family reintegration, studies, humanitarian work or religious activities are entitled to get insured individually, paying the compulsory health insurance premium similarly to Moldovan citizens who pay the insurance premium set in fixed amount, if the international treaties do not provide otherwise.

Under the Single Programme for Compulsory Health Insurance, the respective persons benefit from health-care assistance, which includes: prehospital emergency health care; primary health care; ambulatory specialized health care, including dental care; hospital health care; high performance health care; and home health care.

In 2015, the insured status was provided to 53 foreigners, who are beneficiaries of one of the protection forms included in an integration programme.

⁴⁶ Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF), Annual Social Report 2014 (Chisinau, 2015), p. 69.

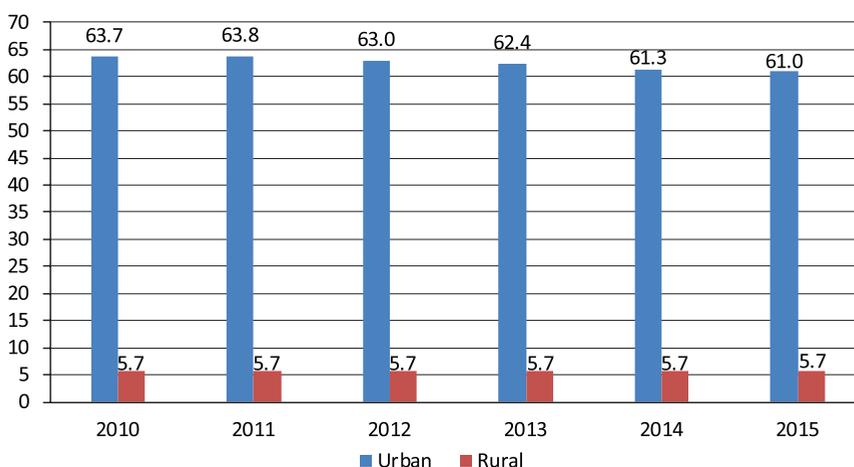
B.5. Migration and the health protection system

The health sector continues to cope with problems related to health professional staffing. With the relaunch of the economy and the introduction of mandatory health insurance schemes in the 2000s, the intensity of brain drain in the health sector has decreased. The indicators have been registering a rather constant evolution, but the shortage of personnel in the health sector remains to be a problem.

In 2015, a total of 10,397 doctors and 21,527 health workers with secondary education were working in the health sector (in 2010, 10,619 and 23,003, respectively) (Table 52). Among the health professionals, there were 29.3 doctors and 60.6 health workers with secondary education per 10,000 population during the year of reference, which were below the average levels registered in the EU of 32.3 and 77.5, respectively, per 10,000 population.

Another problem is the uneven distribution of health professionals between rural and urban areas, with staffing levels 11 times higher in urban areas (61.0 doctors per 10,000 population) than in rural areas (5.7 doctors per 10,000 population) (Figure 47).

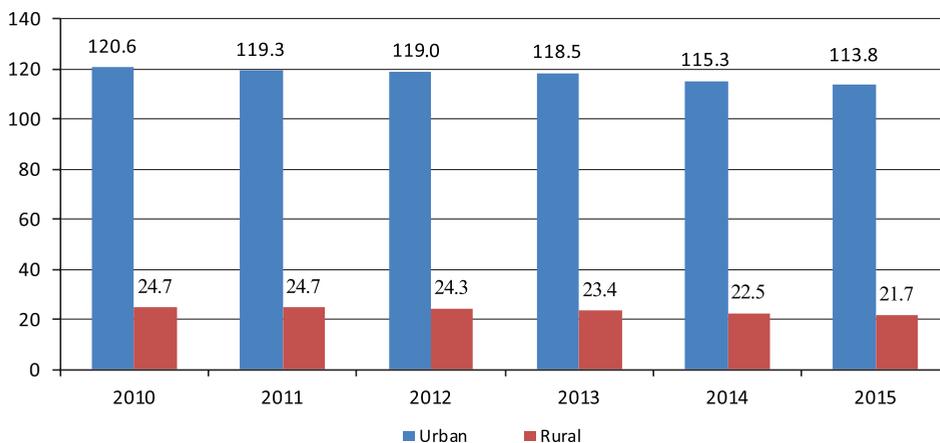
Figure 47: Number of doctors in urban and rural areas per 10,000 population, 2010–2015



Source: Ministry of Health.

Staffing of health professionals in rural localities registered a downtrend. In 2015, the staffing level accounted for 21.7 specialists per 10,000 population, as compared with 22.5 in 2014, and which is fewer by 3 specialists per 10,000 population than in 2010 (Figure 48).

Figure 48: Number of health professionals with secondary education, by area of residence, per 10,000 population, 2010–2015



Source: Ministry of Health.

The shortage of health professionals in rural areas is explained by the higher levels of development and concentration of hospital infrastructure in cities, which provides additional social and economic opportunities, and by the high emigration rate of health professionals.

It should be mentioned that in 2015 for the purpose of selecting, motivating, improving and retaining the recruited medical personnel, the “Better Managing the Mobility of Health Professionals in the Republic of Moldova” Project organized training courses in the area of health human resources management for the managers and the personnel of public medical-sanitary institution, specifically regarding the use of human resources tools.

PART C: MIGRATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Section C.1 reveals the most recent amendments and completions of the national legislative and regulatory frameworks in the area of migration. Section C.2 presents a description of the changes that occurred within the institutional framework for migration management, including the creation of the BDR. Section C.3 presents and analyses policy documents pertaining to migration developed and/or adopted over the past several years. Section C.4 provides an overview and assessment of programmatic actions that have been implemented in the country over the last six years.

C.1. Laws and regulations (national, regional and international levels)

During the past four years, an array of conceptual documents and laws determining policy in key areas of migration management (namely: regular migration, including emigration, immigration, and social integration; asylum; and the prevention of irregular migration and smuggling of migrants)⁴⁷ and practices were adopted for the long term.

Organizing and facilitating legal migration. In line with the opinions expressed by experts from the European Commission (EC), the legislative and policy framework on preventing and counteracting trafficking in human beings is consolidated and aligned with international standards.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ While discussing and analysing migration management in the Republic of Moldova, the macro-level pillars exposed in the country's National Strategy for Migration and Asylum (2012–2020) are used for categorization. The choice of this Strategy is predetermined by the fact that it seeks to link the realm of migration and asylum to the general development policy framework of the country and is closely intertwined with the Government's activity programme, as well as feeds into the new development strategy of the Republic of Moldova (Moldova 2020: National Development Strategy: Seven Solutions for Republic of Moldova) that has been in force since January 2012. (A. Oprunenco, *National Strategy for Migration and Asylum: An Attempt of Holistic and Integrated Approach towards Migration Issues in Moldova*, Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM East) Explanatory Note 12/10, Socio-Political Module (Florence, CARIM East, 2012, available from www.carim-east.eu/media/sociopol_module/Explanatory%20Notes%20Template%20Moldova%20-%202010.pdf)

⁴⁸ High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, "Second progress report on the implementation by the Republic of Moldova of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation", joint staff working document (Brussels, 2012).

Bilateral agreements represent important governing tools meant to provide a high level of flexibility to countries, and allow these countries to focus on a specific group of migrants, adjust themselves to the fluctuations on the labour market, and share the monitoring and management responsibilities between the countries of destination and origin. The social security agreements aim to determine the rights of the citizens to circulate between States and benefit from social security, hence avoiding the restrictions to the entitlement for such benefits.

By 2014, the Republic of Moldova had signed a total of 16 bilateral agreements in social security area, of which 11 were treaties signed with the EU States and 6 agreements were signed in the nineties of the last century with some States from the post-Soviet era.

For the purpose of establishing collaboration and cooperation relations between countries in relation to the migration flows of Moldovan citizens on the territory of other countries, as well as for the purpose of their labour market integration and social protection, the Government of the Republic of Moldova signed in 2015 two agreements on labour migration with the Government of Italy (2011) and the Government of Israel (2012).

In 2015, the bilateral agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Israel regarding the temporary employment of Moldovans in Israel in certain sectors was extended for a period of three years.⁴⁹ The agreement contains the priority objectives focused on ensuring legal, fair and transparent employment of Moldovans to be temporarily employed in Israel. The implementation of the agreement will contribute to ensuring protection of the rights of Moldovan workers according to the Israeli laws and rules, including on labour and living conditions. Workers employed under this agreement will also be protected, according to the legislation in the social security area, in case of work accidents, temporary loss of workability and enterprise insolvency. The temporary employment of the workers will be within the remit of the two States' relevant public institutions. In the case of the Republic of Moldova, the NEA will be in charge of that. In 2015, there were 1,154 persons recruited based on the above-mentioned agreement (in 2014, 775 persons were employed). In total, since the signature of the respective agreement until 2015, five stages of the implementation of the said agreement were successfully fulfilled, with 2,112 persons employed. Most of the persons

⁴⁹ MLSPF, "Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel in the employment area extended for 3 years". Available from www.mmps.gov.md/ro/content/acordul-bilateral-intre-r-moldova-si-statul-israel-domeniul-angajarii-campul-muncii-fost

were employed as plasterers (685 persons), fitters (632 persons), plates installers (449 persons) and encasement workers (346 persons).⁵⁰

At the same time, in 2015, the negotiations continued to review the bilateral agreement on labour migration with the Russian Federation (concluded in 1993 and the provisions of which are now obsolete), and with the State of Qatar regarding the temporary employment of Moldovan citizens on the territory of State of Qatar.⁵¹ As well, the Government of the Republic of Moldova initiated negotiating an agreement with the Government of Turkey on cooperation in the labour area. This proposal was reviewed and subsequently an alternative draft on temporary labour migration was sent to the Government of Turkey for consideration. The agreement will regulate: assurance of the legal and temporary nature of labour migration; assurance of migrant workers' work and social rights, guaranteeing salary payment and other payments agreed upon in the individual work contract; and equal treatment for workers from the countries of destination in the respective areas of activity. In April 2015, negotiations in relation to the draft Social Security Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Turkey concluded.

As well, an administrative arrangement was signed for the enforcement of the Social Security Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Belgium.

In October 2015, the social protection agreement (signed in October 2014 and ratified by the Republic of Moldova via Law No. 127 of 2 July 2015) between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Lithuania entered into force.

Based on the agreement on collaboration in the area of health and medical science, a declaration of intention to collaborate in the area of medical workers' migration between the Republic of Moldova and Germany was signed in 2014. This declaration served as the basis for finalizing a pilot project for Moldovan health workers' mobility in Germany.⁵²

⁵⁰ NEA, "Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel in the employment area extended for 3 years", press release. Available from www.anofm.md/news/2015/12/17

⁵¹ Government Decision No. 561 dated 16 July 2014, for initiating negotiation of the draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the State of Qatar on temporary employment of Moldovans in the State of Qatar.

⁵² Ministry of Health, "Progress report on fulfilment of the action plan for implementing the health system development strategy for 2008–2017, for the year 2014" (2015). Available from www.ms.gov.md/sites/default/files/sdss_2014.pdf

In the *readmission* area, in 2010–2015, the Republic of Moldova signed additional implementation protocols under the EU–Republic of Moldova Readmission Agreement with 19 Member States, as well as readmission agreements with 5 non-EU States. In the same context, additional protocols for implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Readmission Agreement are negotiated with 6 EU Member States and some countries of origin of the irregular migrants identified in the past years (e.g. Cyprus, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Armenia).

Communication and collaboration with the diaspora. The BDR within the State Chancellery is the institution responsible for the development and coordination of public policies – with the participation of the diaspora – for the diaspora. One of the BDR’s strategic objectives is to develop a continuous dialogue with the communities created in 35 countries upon the initiative of Moldovan citizens, including with those over 250 diaspora organizations (non-governmental associations, groups of initiative, cultural centres, research institutes, sport clubs, groups of professional interest, etc.) from 35 countries. The actions and programmes of the State policy in the area of diaspora relations are promoted as distinct services provided to diaspora members as legitimate and active beneficiaries. The promotion of initiatives and programmes focuses on: exchange of information and productive dialogue among the stakeholders, based on efficient use of mass communication tools (www.din.md, www.dor.md, www.stagii.gov.md, www.galastudentilor.md), including through the online medial resources (e.g. the official Facebook page of the BDR); collaboration with public and private organizations; and participation of diaspora members in the process of public consultations of policy documents and decision-making.

Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. According to the governing objectives and priorities laid down in the Government’s Activity Programme “European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Well-being”, and as mandated in Government Decree No. 58 dated 7 June 2013,⁵³ focal points were appointed in ministries and other central administration authorities to be responsible for promoting and implementing the State policy on the diaspora, as well as for coordinating, applying and implementing topics related to the diaspora at the technical level. Government Decree No. 58 is one of the initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to mainstream migration into national development strategies. The objectives of the Decree are to: enhance institutional capacities to implement the State policy in the area of diaspora relations; ensure efficient interaction among government institutions

⁵³ Government Decree No. 58 dated 7 June 2013. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=348273>

and their cooperation with the diaspora; ensure better mainstreaming of responsibilities in policymaking for the diaspora; and implement the whole-of-government approach in developing policies for the diaspora, according to which every institution would be responsible, within the limits of its own mandate, for diaspora-related issues (covering all Moldovan citizens and persons originating from the Republic of Moldova, whether in the country or outside its borders). The appointed focal persons shall perform their duties in the area of cooperation with the diaspora in coordination with the BDR. At the same time, in line with Decree No. 58, and for assessing the impact of developing public policy on the diaspora and on migration, necessary amendments are to be developed and promoted to include ex-ante and ex-post analyses of public policy impact in the draft Methodological Guide.

For the purpose of formulating the strategic vision and objectives of the Government for the long term in relation to diaspora–migration–development, a working group was established to develop the draft Strategy and Action Plan, in accordance with Government Decree No. 64 dated 4 July 2014.⁵⁴ Taking into account the political background, which posed challenges to complex consultation with the diaspora communities during the pre-electoral period in 2014 and post-electoral in 2015, it was not possible to finalize the draft Strategy and Action Plan “Diaspora – 2025” within the set deadlines. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), an international consultant provided assistance to the BDR to develop the draft Strategy, which was presented to the participants of the Fourth Diaspora Congress in 2014.

A series of achievements was attained in relation to mainstreaming actions for supporting the Moldovan diaspora and their initiatives in sector-specific strategical frameworks. Thus, starting in 2014, the Medium-term Budgetary Framework included a sub-programme on supporting the Moldovan diaspora,⁵⁵ and two sector-specific strategies have integrated objectives and actions meant for the Moldovan diaspora.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Government Decree No. 64 dated 4 July 2014. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=353762>

⁵⁵ See www.mf.gov.md/en/middlecost

⁵⁶ Government Decision No. 271 dated 9 April 2014, approving the Strategy for Culture Development (Culture 2020) and Action Plan for its implementation, available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=352588>; Government Decision No. 338 dated 19 May 2014, approving the Strategy for Tourism Development (Tourism 2020) and Action Plan for its implementation in 2014–2016, available from <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=353037>

C.2. Institutional framework

The Republic of Moldova has a solid institutional framework in the area of migration policymaking, as well as migration management, with the participation of a huge number of institutional stakeholders (see Annex 4).

The **Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) under the MIA** (www.bma.gov.md), established in July 2006, is further on responsible for developing and implementing the State policy in the area of migration and asylum. Additionally, based on Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, the BMA was appointed to be the institution responsible for the development of subsequent EMP analytical reports.⁵⁷ In this respect, a new unit was created within the BMA, to be responsible for coordinating the collection and analysis of data for the EMP, as well as for initiating and coordinating the meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the EMP.

The **Bureau for Diaspora Relations (BDR)** (www.brd.gov.md), established in October 2012, is under the direct subordination of the Prime Minister. The mission of the BDR is to ensure a coherent and comprehensive policy framework to mobilize the Moldovan diaspora, which includes citizens of the Republic of Moldova staying temporarily or permanently abroad, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, and their communities, for the active participation of all the country citizens in the cultural, social and economic development of their country of origin. With diaspora participation, the BDR also deals with developing and coordinating public policies for the diaspora. The strategic objectives of the BDR may be categorized into two directions: on one hand, the BDR ensures the coordination of policies and programmes for the diaspora at the government and ministry levels; on the other hand, it maintains a continuous dialogue with the Moldovan diaspora.

The **Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family** (www.mmpsf.gov.md/) is the central specialized body of public administration empowered to develop, promote and ensure the implementation of the State policy in the area of labour migration. In this context, it undertook measures to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements to regulate the flow of migrant workers and to protect them, and to prevent family violence and trafficking in human beings (more information on this is presented in section C.1). In 2012, the **Section for Overseas Employment** was created within the **National Employment Agency** (www.anofm.md). This unit is responsible for: (a) implementing and

⁵⁷ Government Decision No. 634 dated 24 August 2012, approving the List of Indicators and EMP Template. Available from http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=344691&lang=1_

coordinating activities provided for in the bilateral agreements concluded by the Republic of Moldova with other countries; (b) enforcing and observing the provisions of legislation in the area of labour migration; and (c) monitoring the activities of private employment agencies. Other duties of the unit also include: provision of information assistance to Moldovan citizens about policies on the legal emigration of the labour force; monitoring of activities related to the implementation of bilateral agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova with other States; and evaluation and monitoring of private employment agencies' activities.

The **Ministry of Economy** (www.mec.gov.md/) is responsible for creating a favourable investment climate in the Republic of Moldova to attract internal and foreign investments, including remittances. In this respect, the Government decided to extend the pilot Programme for Attracting Remittances into the Economy (PARE 1+1) (<https://odimm.md/en/component/content/article/70-programul-pare.html>) until 2015. The pilot PARE 1+1 served in 2015 as the basis for signing 77 non-reimbursable financing contracts envisaging investments for business launch and/or development for a total amount of MDL 14.9 million. The allocated grant amounted to MDL 7.6 million.

The programme is implemented and coordinated by the **Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development** (www.odimm.md), and works "to facilitate migrants' access to finance, helping at the same time to channel remittances through official ways, to introduce the best practices from the migrants' host countries, to create some levers to introduce know-how, creating new jobs and solving other social problems".⁵⁸

The **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** (www.statistica.md) is the central administrative authority managing and coordinating statistics-related activities, including those in the area of migration. The main sources providing data about population migration are the Population and Housing Census, LFS and HBS. The Census is currently the only source of data in the Republic of Moldova regarding the composition of the resident population by general demographic characteristics, as well as specific characteristics relevant to international migration, such as citizenship or country of birth. In 2012, the NBS started undertaking different measures to plan the 2014 Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova. In this respect, Law No. 90 on the 2014 Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova was adopted, as well as Government Decision No. 967 dated 21 December 2012, regarding actions for enforcing the aforementioned

⁵⁸ See www.odimm.md/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36&Itemid=184&lang=en

Law. The Census was carried out on 12–15 May 2014, whereby data and information about the population and dwellings were registered in the census questionnaires, as approved by the NBS. The following data was collected during the Census: number of population, including the number of persons who left the country by period of time and purpose; territorial distribution of the population; demographic and economic characteristics; the educational attainment of the population; the funds used for building the dwellings and houses of the citizens; and the living conditions in the country. The Republic of Moldova was the first former Soviet republic to organize a census not only of its population but also of the dwellings of the population, in line with existing practices in the EU. It should be mentioned that according to the **preliminary** data of the Population and Housing Census dated 12–25 May 2014, the number of Moldovan citizens who have left abroad accounted for 329,100 persons.⁵⁹

Since its reorganization from the Border Guards Service in 2012, which implied the incorporation under the MIA subordination, the **Border Police Department (BPD)** (www.border.gov.md) was demilitarized and professionalized to assume new duties in the area of combating illegal migration and trans-border crimes. The process of institution reform was carried out in line with the European standards for border management, including the recommendations and good practices provided in the EU Schengen Catalogue, under the guidance and in collaboration with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Bodies of the EU Member States (Frontex), the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) and other international organizations. The duties appointed to the BPD via Law No. 283, dated 28 December 2011, on Border Police Department include: the development and implementation of policies on integrated border management, investigation and criminal prosecution of trans-border crimes (illegal migration organization, trafficking in human beings falsification of travel documents, etc.); the identification of offences related to persons' illegal stay in the border zone, such as illegal crossing of the State border; and issuance of visas at the border in emergency cases.⁶⁰ For the purpose of fulfilling these duties, subdivisions for special investigation, criminal proceedings and expertise on identifying falsified documents were created in the institution.

⁵⁹ See www.statistica.md/public/files/Recensamint/Recensamint_pop_2014/Nota_informativa_Preliminare_Recensamint_2014.pdf

⁶⁰ Law No. 283, dated 28 December 2011, on Border Police.

Regional partnerships in the migration area. The Republic of Moldova is part of some regional partnerships in the migration area, meant to enhance cooperation in relation to policies with neighbouring countries, migrants' countries of destination and migrants' countries of origin. The following may be listed among them:

- Eastern Partnership⁶¹
- Operational Cooperation Frontex⁶²
- EUBAM⁶³
- Mobility Partnership⁶⁴
- Prague Process⁶⁵
- Budapest Process⁶⁶
- Global Forum for Migration and Development⁶⁷

C.3. Policy framework

Development of the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. The Government has developed the Strategy for the SME Sector Development for 2012–2020 and the action plan for its implementation for 2012–2014, “in the context of shifting from the consumption-based economy development model to a new paradigm focused on export, investments, and innovations”.⁶⁸

Mobility. From the mobility perspective, in June 2014, the Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of Moldova was signed, which also provides for establishing the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. The main objective of the EU–Republic of Moldova collaboration framework, as set forth in the Association Agreement, is to promote the political association and economic integration between the parties, based on common values and close relations, including by increasing the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the EU policies, programmes and agencies. One of the commitments assumed by the parties refers to

⁶¹ See www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eastern-partnership/

⁶² See www.mfa.gov.md/jai/

⁶³ See <http://infoeuropa.md/misiunea-uniunii-europene-de-asistenta-la-frontiera-in-moldova-si-ucraina-eubam/>

⁶⁴ See www.mfa.gov.md/mobility-partnership-ro/

⁶⁵ See www.icmpd.org/our-work/migration-dialogues/prague-process/participants/

⁶⁶ See www.icmpd.org/our-work/migration-dialogues/budapest-process/

⁶⁷ BDR, “Informative note for the activity report of 100 days regarding the implementation of the Government Activity Program, 2015–2018, activity report” (2015). Available from http://gov.md/sites/default/files/biroul_pentru_relatii_cu_diaspora.pdf

⁶⁸ Strategy for SME Sector Development, 2012–2020. Available from <http://particip.gov.md/proiectview.php?l=ro&idd=278>

deepening the dialogue and cooperation in the areas of mobility, migration, asylum and border management, in line with the EU migration policies related to collaboration in the area of legal migration and the assurance of efficient implementation of the readmissions agreement. Hence, migration is reflected as an important topic in the Association Agreement, specifically in:

- Article 14, which tackles “cooperation in the area of migration, asylum and border management” with a focus on “joint management of migration flows”; “the main causes and consequences of migration”; and facilitation of “circular migration favouring development”;
- Article 32, which discusses “collaboration based on exchange of information and the best practices” in the area of “labour migration efficient management, related to enhancing the positive impact of migration on development”.

In this respect, the National Action Plan for implementing the Association Agreement for 2014–2016 provides for the implementation of a number of actions related to common cooperation in the area of migration flow management between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, management of joint borders, as well as in other areas related to international protection, foreigners’ integration, preventing and combating illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and migrants, facilitation of circular migration in the benefit of the development of the Republic of Moldova and ensuring legal circulation of persons, among others.

Reintegration and return. The return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants is one of the elements included in the national legislation. A number of activities continued to be successfully implemented after 2012 as well, such as the pilot project PARE 1+1 and the Programme for Youth Economic Empowerment (PNAET), which provide training to develop entrepreneurial skills as well as financial assistance for start-ups.

For the purpose of consolidating the information centres under the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova, including through supply of information about the possibilities for return and socioeconomic reintegration, the first meeting of the Diplomatic Economic Club was organized, reuniting representatives of diplomatic missions, development partners and bilateral chambers of commerce. A new approach for the export market was presented during an event for the priority economic sectors of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the 2015–2016 strategy for exports promotion.

In this context, Moldova Investment and Export Promotion Organization (MIEPO), in cooperation with the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing States (CBI), launched a training programme for commercial attachés and investment promoters. The aim of the event was to familiarize the Moldovan commercial attachés with the concept, characteristics, criteria, and modality of attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) and promoting business at the international level. Twenty-five participants were trained, of whom 19 were commercial attachés from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, and representatives of MIEPO, CBI and the Team for Attracting Investments under the Office of the Prime Minister.

For the purpose of approving the continuous training programmes launched by non-governmental organizations, economic units, secondary vocational education institutions and others, a public–private consultative workshop on identifying efficient public policy tools to meet the needs of the SMEs was organized, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands. The event was attended by the key stakeholders from the public sector of the Republic of Moldova, representatives of business support institutions, academia, business associations, and experts from other national institutions and organizations.

Different events were organized in 2015 for the purpose of building entrepreneurial skills. To expand the business environment in rural areas by attracting revenues (remittances), the Ministry of Economy undertook actions for extending the network of business incubators.

During the period of reference, the Cimislia Business Incubator was opened. Its aim is to facilitate the SMEs' access to financing sources, increase the number of competitive economic activities, enhance the investment climate and reduce the unemployment rate in the target areas. The incubator will host at least 19 companies from different areas of activity, creating about 60 new jobs. The network of business incubators in the Republic of Moldova covers nine business incubators in the following districts – Soroca, Stefan-Voda, Leova, Rezina, Singerei, Dubasari, Ceadir-Lunga and Nisporeni – in which 155 service and production companies operate.

The return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants remains a major objective clearly stipulated in the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020) and in the action plan for implementing the Strategy for 2011–2015.

On 20 May 2014, Government Decision No. 339 approved the 2014–2016 action plan for supporting the reintegration of citizens who returned from abroad. This plan refers mainly to the development of efficient legislative, institutional and information framework to facilitate the integration of returned migrants; facilitation of their integration into the labour market; development of migrants' entrepreneurial skills to attract their incomes into the national economy; and support for the reintegration of Moldovans who returned from abroad into the compulsory health insurance and social protection schemes, among others.

Through the implementation of this plan, Moldovan citizens who returned from abroad may benefit from information about the employment possibilities and support for reintegration. As well, their training and requalification needs will be identified to obtain a profession requested on the internal labour market. The MLSPF is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the process for carrying out the respective plan.

In 2015, there were 2,582 Moldovan citizens who returned to the country, of whom 1,192 persons were integrated into the labour market according to the MLSPF data. Of the total number of those who got employed, women accounted for 50.3 per cent (600 persons) and men accounted for 49.7 per cent (592 persons). Most of the Moldovans who returned from abroad and registered as unemployed came back from the Russian Federation (2,230 persons, or 86%), Italy (108 persons, or 4%), Ukraine (40 persons, or 2%) and Israel (23 persons, or 1%), among other countries. From the territorial profile perspective, most of the returned Moldovans were registered at the territorial employment agencies in Chisinau (307 persons), Glodeni (181 persons), Singerei (165 persons), ATU Gagauzia (141 persons), Balti (125 persons) and others.

For the purpose of facilitating the integration into the labour market in the country, the Moldovans who returned from abroad and registered as unemployed benefited from the vocational training services provided by the NEA territorial employment agencies. In 2015, 108 returned Moldovans graduated from qualification, requalification and qualification improvement courses.

Socioeconomic reintegration of migrants. The State pilot programmes for **remittance investment and permanent/temporary re-attraction and socioeconomic reintegration of migrants** continued to be successfully implemented. Currently, the focus is on providing Moldovans abroad with wide protection, preserving cultural identity and fostering migrants' return home. In this context, the 2012–2014 action plan for cultural and social support for the Moldovan diaspora was adopted. The action plan aims to promote and create

conditions for preserving the development and manifestation of cultural and linguistic identity in the country of residence, guaranteeing multidimensional cooperation with Moldovans residing abroad.

Programme for the diaspora children. In August 2014, the fourth edition of the **Diaspora, Origins, Roots (DOR) Programme**, meant for diaspora children, was organized. The DOR Programme is a government initiative carried out under the Office of the Prime Minister and implemented by the BDR starting in 2013, in partnership with the IOM office in the Republic of Moldova. The DOR Programme is meant to consolidate the emotional, cultural and identity links of Moldovan children – the second generation of emigrants – with their country of origin. The DOR Programme was formulated as a result of the clearly expressed need of the Moldovan diaspora to preserve the link with traditional Moldovan values and increase the level of emotional connection with the country. The DOR Programme was organized by the Government of the Republic of Moldova (through the BDR) in partnership with the IOM office in the Republic of Moldova, intended to become a large programme to meet the needs of different beneficiaries. In 2015, the Programme was attended by 100 persons from 13 countries – Italy, Ukraine, Romania, Spain, Greece, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Austria, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and the Republic of Moldova – aged 12–17 years old.

The main tool for operationalizing the strategic policies and documents related to **combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings** continues to the NRS (under the MLSPF) for victims and potential victims of trafficking. The NRS is an integrated system providing comprehensive assistance to victims and vulnerable persons, including left-behind children and the elderly, by referring them to local authorities and service providers for civil society.

Coordination and coherence of policies at the national level. Currently, the coordination of migration-related policies and strategies occurs within an impressive institutional set-up, channelled through the following interinstitutional bodies.⁶⁹

The **Commission for Coordination of Certain Activities related to the Migration Process** is a permanent government advisory body established in February 2010 and chaired by the MIA. It was created to coordinate the activities of public authorities as regards the management and monitoring of the migration processes; supervise the activities in the field of migration; and

⁶⁹ More information about the consultative interministerial bodies in the migration area may be analysed in section C of the 2005–2010 EMP report.

ensure cooperation between State institutions, non-governmental organizations and international agencies/organizations with competencies in the field of migration management. The Commission convenes as necessary or at least once per quarter. Prior to 2013, the Commission was not efficient due to the sporadic character of its activity and recommendatory character of its decisions. Thus, the Government of Moldova and the United Nations (UN) Republic of Moldova Country Team held a prioritization retreat in May 2013, which aimed to set up priorities in the area of migration and development, being organized within the pilot programme “Mainstreaming of Migration into Development in Moldova” (MOMID). During the retreat, the need to relaunch the activity of the Commission was discussed and proposed among many other topics. In this context, the second meeting of the Commission was held on 11 November 2013, convening the members appointed according to Government Decision No. 133 dated 23 February 2010, to establish this consultative body. In this meeting, the participants discussed the need to amend the Regulation of the Commission so as to complete the Commission membership with representatives from civil society – the main partners in developing and adjusting policies in line with international and European standards, as well as in implementing migration policies. Hence, representatives from the BDR, IOM Republic of Moldova and UNHCR Republic of Moldova were invited to attend the meeting. All the suggested amendments were made to streamline the activity of the Commission, ensure transparency for its activity and enable better dissemination of information. It was agreed that the entire EMP coordination process would be supervised in the future by the Commission, taking over this function from the National Commission for Population and Development, which had coordinated the process of EMP development and approval until 2012.

The **EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership (MP)** provides a political framework of cooperation with the EU (European External Action Service, European Commission, European Training Foundation and Frontex) and 16 EU Member States in the area of migration, related to all the cooperation dimensions of the Global Approach for Migration and Mobility (GAMM).⁷⁰ The mechanism for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the MP encompasses a number of tools, including the High-level Meeting, the Meeting of the Local Cooperation Platform transformed into the Extended Meeting of the Local Cooperation Platform and the National Steering Committee, which is responsible for reporting to the Government the last developments in MP implementation.⁷¹

⁷⁰ EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership, the eighth High Level Meeting. Available from www.brd.gov.md/ro/content/parteneriat-de-mobilitate-rm-ue-opta-reuniune-la-nivel-inalt

⁷¹ EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership. Available from www.mfa.gov.md/parteneriatul-de-mobilitate/

The Extended Meetings of the Local Cooperation Platform convene the representatives of Moldovan authorities, the EU Member States, the EC, the European External Action Service, international organizations, civil society and the academia. The objectives of such meetings were to: assess the implementation level of the objectives stipulated in the Joint Declaration on the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership; present the current and planned implemented activities within the MP; assess the existing mechanisms for implementation, cooperation, and monitoring within the MP for their consolidation and improvement; set the perspective and opportunities for future cooperation among partners; identify the priorities for cooperation within other bilateral and multilateral platforms on migration and mobility area at the regional and global levels; and present the preliminary results of the MP evaluation process. In this context, starting in 2012, annual Extended Meetings of the Local Cooperation Platform of the MP were held. The following topics were discussed within these meetings: the implementation progress of the MP, mobility, legal migration and integration; the increased impact of migration and mobility on development, border management, readmission, identity and travel documents; combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings; and aspects related to monitoring and evaluating the MP. As well, annual High-level Meetings of the MP were held in Brussels, in which the results of the activities carried out during the year were discussed and the possibilities to launch new initiatives were explored. Promotion of legal migration, support for academic mobility, mainstreaming migration into development and combating illegal migration were just some of the areas of priority identified by partners. In November 2015, the Eighth High-level Meeting of the MP was held in Brussels, where the achievements of the MP were presented, among which were the development of the draft National Strategy “Diaspora – 2025”, the implementation of the whole-of-government approach, and the appointment of migration and development focal points at the national level.⁷² The participants in this meeting also discussed the new approach on migration and mobility suggested in the Joint Communication of the High Representative of the EU and the European Commission to Review the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), and reviewed the new initiatives for the future. The representatives of the EC and the EU Member States have highly appreciated the efforts and the positive dynamics in the implementation of projects and initiatives carried out in the area of legal migration and consolidation of relations with the diaspora, preventing and combating irregular migration, facilitation of curricula mobility and mainstreaming migration into national development policies. European partners have encouraged the Republic of Moldova to share this experience with other countries implementing the MP,

⁷² EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership, the eighth High Level Meeting. Available from www.brd.gov.md/ro/content/parteneriat-de-mobilitate-rm-ue-opta-reuniune-la-nivel-inalt

expressing their availability to provide support for the practical application of initiatives and projects in the area, including through the new financial tools of the EC. At the same time, the Republic of Moldova presented during the meeting the cooperation priorities for 2016 under the MP and the information updated based on the online electronic database Mobility Partnership Scoreboard was approved.⁷³

The **Technical Working Group (TWG)** created in 2010 within the IOM project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership”, which coordinates the activities related to the development of the Republic of Moldova EMP, continues to be operational. The members of this group are actively involved in developing and implementing the fifth edition of the Republic of Moldova EMP. The activity of the TWG is coordinated by the BMA under the MIA.

The **National Integrated State Border Management Council (NISBMC)** is a consultative body created in 2010, with the mandate to ensure the general interinstitutional coordination of unitary and coherent policy implementation in the area of integrated State border management so as to facilitate legal mobility of persons and goods over the State border, at the same time ensuring well-controlled borders; to prevent and combat illegal/irregular migration; and to ensure efficient exchange of data on State border crossing. The main tasks of the NISBMC are as follows: (i) formulation of proposals for improving the legal, strategic and political frameworks according to the international regulations and practices, especially those of the EU, in the area of integrated State border management; (ii) coordination of the activities of the specialized commissions and of the Consultation Group in the area of integrated State border management, as well as of their logistical and financial activities for ensuring the compatibility, interoperability and integration of authorities with the integrated State border management system; (iii) adoption of decisions related to the debated problems; (iv) assurance of the coordination and consultation process in drafting the Strategy for Integrated State Border Management and the related implementation plan, including implementation evaluation and monitoring, formulation of proposals of measures for overpassing the identified deviations and information, and presentation of reports in this context to the relevant authorities; (v) evaluation and monitoring of the stages and results of cooperation among the authorities under the integrated State border management system with other national authorities, and neighbouring States’ authorities, including

⁷³ Deputy Minister Daniela Cujbă co-chaired the Eighth High Level Meeting of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership. For more information, see www.mfa.gov.md/comunicate-presa-md/502535/

European and international partners, with formulation of measures proposed for improving this process.⁷⁴

It should be mentioned that due to the sporadic and formal nature of the NISBMC meetings, and with the appointment of the Border Police Department, a subdivision of a central public authority responsible for implementing policies in the area of integrated State border management,⁷⁵ to be the coordinator of the Council, the efficiency of the NISBMC until the end of 2014 waned. After a period of inactivity of two years, the NISBMC met in 2014, in which stakeholders discussed the draft National Strategy for Integrated State Border Management for 2015–2017,⁷⁶ as well as the need to reform the interinstitutional structure of the NISBMC, by delegating the chairing role to the MIA, and to determine the frequency of ordinary meetings, and involvement of civil society in consultations related to the reform of the respective area. All these suggested modifications were approved by the Government. In particular, the NISBMC met in 2015 to discuss the new Rules of Procedure of the NISBMC, approved via Government Decision No. 902 of 31 December 2015.

The **Coordinating Council of People Originating from the Republic of Moldova and Residing Abroad (CCD)**, established in February 2005 as an advisory body to the Government of Moldova for the promotion, preservation, development, and expression of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of Moldovans residing abroad, operated until 2014. The CCD comprised Moldovan government officials and representatives of Moldovan diaspora associations. It was established of five thematic working groups in the following areas: social protection; culture, youth, education and science; justice and human rights; return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants; and economy and entrepreneurial environment. Due to the CCD's reduced efficiency, during the meetings of the Fourth Diaspora Congress, the 145 members of Moldovan diaspora organizations from 28 countries who participated in the meetings suggested dissolving the CCD and voted openly and unanimously for this decision. As a result of the recommendation, in October 2014, the Government approved the decision to abolish the CCD.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ Government Decision No. 902, dated 31 December 2015, regarding the National Council for Integrated State Border Management.

⁷⁵ Law No. 283, dated 28 December 2011, on Border Police.

⁷⁶ Government Decision No. 1005, dated 10 December 2014, Approving the National Strategy on Integrated State Border Management for 2015–2017 and Its Implementation Plan.

⁷⁷ Government Decision No. 873, dated 21 October 2014, for the Abrogation of Certain Government Decisions.

Nevertheless, in spite of the already existing solid institutional arrangement, the Republic of Moldova needs to improve its inter-institutional coordination mechanism (which could be eventually developed through a well-organized and adjusted assistance) further to develop a more efficient institutional framework and policies for migration management.

C.4. Programme framework

For the purpose of ensuring better coordination of foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova, the Government issued Decision No. 561 of 19 August 2015, regulating the institutional framework and mechanism for providing foreign assistance. This Decision is an update to the previous Government Decision No. 12 of 19 January 2010 and stipulates directly the country's assumption of the international commitments in the area of ensuring efficiency of foreign assistance, such as the Paris Declaration (2005), the Accra Agenda for Actions (2008), the Busan Commitments (2011) and the Mexico Release (2014). Government Decision No. 561 also authorizes the Prime Minister to exercise the function of National Coordinator in the area of foreign assistance, and the task of providing orientation on foreign assistance and its relevance to the fulfilment of national priorities in the area of socioeconomic development as well as the efficient use of the foreign aid entrusted to the Inter-ministerial Committee for Strategic Planning (ICSP).⁷⁸

Under the new institutional modifications/adjustments, the State Chancellery maintained its role as the ***national authority for the coordination of foreign assistance***, responsible for programming, monitoring, and operational and methodological evaluation, as well as for ensuring transparency in harnessing the foreign assistance provided to the country by donors. In particular, the General Division for Policy Coordination, Foreign Assistance and Reform of Central Public Administration (also known as the National Coordination Unit) are mandated to perform the following tasks, inter alia: (i) defining the foreign assistance priorities in line with the main national development documents and sector proposals; (ii) coordinating the development and negotiation of agreements in the area of foreign assistance; (iii) diversification and intensification technical and financial cooperation with the donors community; (iv) continuous analysis of the programming process, implementation of foreign assistance at the national level (capacity and degree of absorption) and proposals of solutions for overcoming problems; (v) provision of necessary support for public

⁷⁸ State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova, *Cooperation for Development: Annual Report 2015 on Foreign Assistance Provided to the Republic of Moldova* (2016). Available from http://amp.gov.md/portal/sites/default/files/inline/aod_2015_report_md.pdf

administration authorities to make the mechanism of sectoral coordination of foreign assistance more efficient, including for ensuring intersector coherence and compliance between foreign assistance projects and programmes, and ensuring the exclusion of overlaps; (vi) monitoring and evaluation of foreign assistance to maximize its impact on the country's economic development; (vii) record-keeping and validation of technical assistance provided to the country; and (viii) ensuring transparency of foreign assistance and implementation of communication policies with the donors community and civil society.⁷⁹

To carry out these tasks, the State Chancellery makes use of⁸⁰:

- (i) Aid Management Platform (AMP), an automated information system storing information about projects/programmes of foreign assistance provide to the country; and
- (ii) Sectoral Coordination Councils for managing and monitoring the efficiency of foreign assistance.

The National Authority for Foreign Assistance Coordination uses the information provided by the Sectoral Coordination Councils to define the priorities for foreign assistance, which should be approved by the ICSP. The State Chancellery's AMP,⁸¹ which provides complete and up-to-date data about the technical assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova, and includes lists of technical assistance projects in different areas implemented in the country. The binding descriptions of the projects included in the AMP are the following: (i) name of project (in Romanian and English languages); (ii) beneficiary agencies and donor agencies; (iii) primary sectors and operation sites; (iv) de facto start and closing dates of the project; (v) and commitments and current disbursements (in euros). Optionally, the following information may be obtained: the project status, goals, objectives, suggested actions and results, signed memorandum, connections with the national strategic development priorities, project budget and special cases, including details about the finance type, financing agency and implementation partners.⁸² The new projects should be included in the AMP by the responsible institutions, immediately after signing and approving the project. Donors should update the AMP with new information on a quarterly basis. The

⁷⁹ Government Decision No. 561 dated 19 August 2015, on the Regulation of the Institutional Framework and Mechanism for the Coordination of the Foreign Assistance Provided to the Republic of Moldova by the International and Donor Organizations, pp. 19–20. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/md/360497/>

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ The Aid Management Platform (AMP) is available online starting in 2014. See <http://amp.gov.md/portal/?language=ro>

⁸² See <http://amp.gov.md/portal/activities>

State Chancellery is the authority responsible for validating any changes made in the AMP.⁸³

The implementation of the migration and development component of the MP continued over the past years with ample information about the different migration modalities of the population, and increased the competency of the MFAEI consular officers in the area of diaspora affairs. At the same time, the BMA provided support for the launch and development of the visa management information system. The visa management information system was launched on 5 May 2014; and starting on 1 August 2014, the MFAEI-managed system for issuing electronic visas started to function.

In 2013, the Republic of Moldova made progress in implementing the Mobility Partnership signed with the EU, contributing to the achievement of a number of priorities set by the partners, through projects and initiatives from the GAMM. In November 2013, the EC came up with a proposal to liberalize the visa regime for Moldovan citizens, which implied the amendment to Regulation 539/2001, abolishing the obligation to possess a visa for short-term trips into the Schengen area for Moldovan citizens. Hence, on 20 December 2013, the EU Member States accepted the proposal of the EC.

Starting on 28 April 2014, the citizens of the Republic of Moldova could freely travel within the EU as a result of the liberalized visa regime. Since then, over 300,000 citizens holding biometric passports have benefited from the new visa regime.

The Republic of Moldova ensures the continuity of the reforms started through the implementation of the matrix policies on budgetary support for the liberalization of the visa regime for 2014–2016 (EUR 21 million). The representatives of the relevant national institutions ensure their participation and active involvement in the activities under the four platforms of the **Eastern Partnership** (EP), namely: democracy, good governance and stability; economic integrity and convergence with the EU policies; energy security; and human contacts.⁸⁴ The BMA participates in the works of the Panel on Migration and Asylum, which aims to ensure cooperation and exchange of best practices in the area of migration and asylum policies between the EP countries (Armenia,

⁸³ “Chapter 7: Programme update”, in “Guidance note/plan for data management for the Aid Management Platform – Republic of Moldova”. Available from http://amp.gov.md/portal/sites/default/files/inline/amp-planul_de_gestiune_a_datelor_0.pdf

⁸⁴ Government of the Republic of Moldova, *Report on the Implementation of the Government Activity Program “European Integration: Freedom, Well-being and Democracy 2013–2014* (Chisinau, 2015), p. 6. Available from http://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/1_raport.pdf

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine) and the EU, to facilitate the adjustment of migration and asylum management systems to the international standards. At the same time, the Moldovan border authorities participate in the works carried out by the Panel on Integrated Border Management, which ensures dialogue and cooperation between the border authorities of the EP, the EU and other international stakeholders in areas related to border management, so as to facilitate the mobility of persons and goods over the border by ensuring efficient border control, preventing and combating transborder crime, including trafficking in persons, and preventing irregular migration. Both panels are active under the EP Platform “Democracy, Good Governance and Stability”.

At the same time, the MFAEI ensures constant promotion of the Republic of Moldova’s priorities in the EP context within the dialogue with the European partners. The Republic of Moldova has participated in all the meetings of the cooperation platforms and pilot initiatives carried out within the EP, taking over the experience of its European partners, which would be relevant for the respective areas from the Association Agreement, as well as sharing the accumulated good practices with the EP, for instance, in the visa area or migration management area. The good results obtained by the Republic of Moldova in the context of bilateral dimensions of the EP make the country a frontrunner within the EP – which is recognized by the EU and its Member States.

The area of labour migration focused on improving the legislative framework and adjusting other legislative acts according to legal norms. Hence, changes were made to the Law on Labour Migration and the Law on Foreigners’ Regime in the Republic of Moldova. These amendments – which also include removing the quota for labour immigration – will contribute to creating a more efficient normative framework to regulate the relations between the stakeholders involved in the labour migration process and set an empowering climate for foreign investors. At the same time, the **Pilot Project on Labour Force Mobility** carried out services in the area of labour force training and employment, and improvement of management of qualified labour force migration flows between Italy and the Republic of Moldova. The basic activities focused on the organization and the implementation of linguistic-vocational courses.⁸⁵ As well, the **regional project Promotion and Protection of Women Migrant Workers’ Rights** implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in partnership with the MLSPF, carried out a review of the national legislation in relation to its compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the results of the review were tackled in a number of

⁸⁵ Ibid.

workshops organized for the representatives of the government, civil society and women migrant workers. The recommended amendments to the legislative and normative frameworks were discussed and sent for final approval.⁸⁶ As well, a guide on locally provided services was developed. The guide represents a mapping of the services available at the local level, in the area of social assistance and protection, employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture, land and cadastre services, depending on the migration stage (i.e. pre-migration, migration or post-migration). The same project was used as a basis for developing the electronic platform www.e-angajare.md, which made it possible to organize periodically online job fairs for the purpose of informing, first of all, the Moldovan citizens staying abroad and also those residing in the country. In these online job fairs, a total of 538 employers participated, offering 6,440 vacancies; the platform was accessed 29,930 times and 1,206 applications were made.⁸⁷

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Minors and Young Adults Project, which focuses on preventing trafficking and is implemented by the Government of Austria and the European Return Fund, has contributed to assisting a number of beneficiaries and creating an inter-institutional committee for monitoring the implementation of project activities.⁸⁸

The Government of Norway, the Government of Denmark and the Government of Switzerland have contributed to combating trafficking in human beings, preventing risks, and identifying victims and potential victims by developing individual plans for rehabilitation, reintegration and complex assistance for trafficking victims through the NRS.⁸⁹

During the period of reference, a total of around 200 actions relevant to migration were implemented or are currently under implementation. Project objectives vary – from efficient governance of labour migration and labour skills to protection and empowerment of domestic violence and trafficking victims. Starting in 2014, the major national programmes focused on harnessing migration development opportunities, a considerable part of actions relevant to migration were and are implemented under the MP. Hence, over 100 migration-related initiatives were and are under implementation in different areas, from monitoring migration flows (which also include the migration profile) up to

⁸⁶ Republic of Moldova–European Union Mobility Partnership, *Information Newsletter No. 12* (November 2015). Available from www.mfa.gov.md/img/docs/buletin-informatiional-mobilitate-12.pdf

⁸⁷ Acting Deputy Minister Boris Gilca attended the High-level Meeting of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership. For more information, see www.mmprf.gov.md/ro/content/viceministrul-exercitiu-boris-gilca-participat-la-reuniunea-la-nivel-inalt-parteneriatului

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

cooperation in border management, ID and travel documents, combatting illegal migration and trafficking in human beings.⁹⁰

The following are among the key donors: European Commission; SDC; UN Human Security Trust Fund; US Agency for International Development (USAID); Soros Foundation; Czech Agency for Development; Austrian Agency for Development; Swedish Agency for International Development; Government of Japan; Government of Romania; Government of Finland; Government of Italy; Government of Cyprus; Government of Germany; Government of Greece; Government of Denmark; Government of Norway; Government of Switzerland; Soroptimist International (Norway); and Lakarmissionen (Sweden). The most important partners for implementing the projects and programmes relevant to migration are: IOM Republic of Moldova; International Labour Organization (ILO); UNHCR; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund Moldova; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Moldova; European Investment Fund; and International Centre for Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD).

The following initiatives are among the main migration-related projects implemented during the period of reference:

1. *Strengthening the Link between Migration and Development: Testing an Integrated Service Provider to Moldovan Migrants and Their Communities*, financed by the EU and implemented by IASCI/Nexus.
2. *Enhancing National Efforts to Protect the Rights of (Potential) Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Moldova*, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and implemented by IOM Republic of Moldova.
3. *Programme against Trafficking of Human Beings in Eastern Europe*, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and implemented by IOM Republic of Moldova.
4. *Combatting Irregular Migration and Transnational Crime by Enhancing the Institutional capacities of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum in the Republic of Moldova*, financed by the US State Department and implemented by IOM Republic of Moldova.
5. *Enhancing the Development Capacities of Moldova by Creating Partnerships between the Diaspora and the Country of Origin*, financed by the IOM Development Fund and implemented by IOM Republic of Moldova.
6. *Effective Governance of Labour Migration and Its Skills Dimension*, financed by the EC through the Thematic Cooperation Programme with

⁹⁰ EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership scoreboard. Available from <http://scoreboard.mfa.gov.md/projects/ongoing>

the third countries in the area of migration and asylum, co-financed and implemented by ILO.

7. *Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies of the Republic of Moldova (MOMID) Phases I and II*, financed by the SDC and implemented in partnership with the UNDP, IOM, and UN Women.
8. *Tackling the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind*, financed by the EU, co-financed and implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy in partnership with the MLSPF of the Republic of Moldova and IOM.
9. *Supporting the Republic of Moldova in Implementing the EU–Moldova Visa Liberalization Action Plan*, financed by the EU and implemented by the ICMPD.
10. *Strengthening Migration Management Capacities in the Republic of Moldova*, financed by the EU and implemented by the Swedish Public Employment Service.
11. *Enhancing Migration Management and Cooperation in the Area of Readmission in the Eastern Europe (MIGRECO)*, financed by the EU, co-financed by the US Department of State, co-financed and implemented by IOM in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova.
12. *Harnessing Migration for the Development of the Republic of Moldova*, financed by the SDC and implemented by IOM.⁹¹
13. *Migration and Local Development (MiDL)*,⁹² financed by the SDC and implemented by the UNDP in partnership with other two projects implemented by IOM Republic of Moldova and IASCI/Nexus.
14. *Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership and Harnessing Its Benefits for the Residents of the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova*, financed by EU and implemented by IOM.
15. *Enhancing the Institutional Framework of the Republic of Moldova in the Area of Migration and Development*, financed by the SDC and implemented by IOM.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Moldova continues to hold an active role at the international level in the area of diaspora, migration and development (e.g. Global Migration and Development Forum and the UN post-2015 Development Agenda).

⁹¹ See <http://amp.gov.md/aim/viewActivityPreview.do~public=true~pageId=2~activityId=7239~language=ro>

⁹² See www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/operations/projects/inclusive_growth/integrated-migration-local-development-project-.html

Donor coordination mechanisms. During the reference period, some donor coordination mechanisms were established to improve the coordination among development partners and between development partners and the Government of the Republic of Moldova. At the national level, the key development partner coordination mechanism is the monthly regular donors meetings, organized to improve coordination and harmonization between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and its partners.

The Partnership Principles Implementation Plan, signed in March 2010 by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the World Bank and other relevant donors (EU, UN and other bilateral donors), sets out a more formal process for establishing Sectoral Foreign Assistance Coordination Councils (also called Sectoral Coordination Boards) and an advisory body – the Joint Partnership Council – that reflects the partnership between government, civil society (including private sector) and development partners. The Joint Partnership Council is co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova and a representative of the external aid partners. In the context of the migration phenomenon, it is worth mentioning that the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Labour and Social Protection was established, chaired by the MLSPF and co-chaired by a representative of the donor organization active in the area, such as the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the SDC, IOM, the World Bank, USAID, the OSCE, the Austrian Development Cooperation/Austrian Development Agency, UN Office in the Republic of Moldova and UN agencies, among others.⁹³

To improve the coordination of the joint activities of the MLSPF and donor organizations, the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Gender Equality started its activity in 2012. The MLSPF, in collaboration with UN Women and the Centre for Partnership Development, organized training sessions about gender policy issues, developed a set of legislative amendments related to ensuring equal opportunities for women and men, and initiated the process for approving these changes. With the support of the EU specialists from the Assistance and Protection Centre, and those from the MLSPF, the Multidisciplinary Teams visited to monitor some specific cases, as well as to assess the extension of the NRS for protection and assistance for victims and potential victims of trafficking at the community level.⁹⁴

⁹³ MLSPF Order No. 060 dated 17 February 2010, on establishing the Foreign Assistance Coordination Council for Labour and Social Protection (with the respective annexes).

⁹⁴ Annual Report 2012 on foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova (draft). Available from www.ncu.moldova.md/public/files/2201423_md_ae_raport_2012.pdf

In 2012–2014, thematic working groups were formed in the Republic of Moldova, consisting of representatives from government institutions, civil society and the private sector. Together, these groups were tasked to provide support and expertise in the key areas identified by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. As one of the five priorities stipulated in the application of the Republic of Moldova to the Democracy Partnership Challenge (DPC) refers to migration and border management, a working group was created comprising donors in the area of migration, co-chaired by the Embassy of Romania and the Embassy of Slovak Republic in the Republic of Moldova, being hosted by the Embassy of the United States in the Republic of Moldova. From 2012 to 2013, five sessions were held for this working group, which identified and discussed priorities in the areas of migration, border management and combating trafficking in human beings; these areas would be the focus of the efforts of the country’s development partners within the DPC.

For the purpose of coordination, monitoring and evaluation of foreign assistance in the area of domestic affairs, including migration management and integrated State border management, the Sector Council for Foreign Assistance in the area of domestic affairs was launched in 2015, chaired by the MIA. Besides the representatives of the MIA and its subdivisions, the meetings of the Council are attended by representatives of donors, the State Chancellery, civil society and other relevant institutions. The first meeting of the Sector Council was organized in 2015, during which the progress achieved in accessing foreign assistance was presented, as well as the assessment results of the programmes on foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova by the EU in the area of State border security over the period of 2011–2015.

In 2015, the Government⁹⁵ continued the joint actions for planning foreign assistance, implementing and assessing the performance indicators set forth by the Global Partnership, and improving the process of information exchange via the new platform of AMP data management. To continue the improvement of efforts for streamlining the assistance for development, the State Chancellery envisages a number of commitments in the future, such as:

- aligning foreign assistance with national development priorities and harmonizing the foreign aid programming cycle with the budgetary and policy planning cycle;

⁹⁵ Annual report 2012 on foreign assistance provided to the Republic of Moldova (draft). Available from www.ncu.moldova.md/public/files/2201423_md_ae_raport_2012.pdf

- ensuring transparency and publishing relevant information for foreign aid management, as well as revising and adjusting the information platform on foreign assistance;
- rethinking of interministerial coordination, and ensuring united and efficient dialogue platforms; and
- further supporting and fostering the institutional capacities of the ministries depending on the performance levels achieved.

PART D: KEY FINDINGS, POLICIES' IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section D.1 summarizes the main findings of parts A, B and C revealed by the available data on the current migration and development situation.

Section D.2 presents some key recommendations for policymakers to improve the current migration management situation based on an assessment of the current situation.

Section D.3 continues from the previous section and presents an array of recommendations towards mainstreaming migration into the development policies of the country.

Section D.4 identifies existing data gaps and offers recommendations and possible strategies to improve migration statistics and the overall migration database.

D.1. Main findings on migration and development nexus

Background. The migration phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova continues to be characterized more by the emigration of the country's population and less by the immigration of people from abroad. The current efforts of the State are focused on managing the phenomenon, including by implementing institutional reforms in this respect and via a close cooperation with the EU.

As the economic crisis engulfed Europe and the migrants' stay conditions became tougher in the Russian Federation (one of the main countries of destination for Moldovans), addressing the problems of migrants returning home became absolutely necessary. Former migrants may contribute to the development of their countries of origin through active involvement in the labour market or by launching their own businesses, establishing business links between the country of origin and the country of destination; transferring skills, knowledge and technologies gained abroad, not to mention ideas, beliefs and living standards, among others.

According to the different migration studies done, the main push factors for Moldovan migrants are economic in nature: lack of jobs and/or unattractive salaries offered in the labour market in their home country.

Current migration patterns. The migration situation was analysed based on statistical and administrative data submitted by different data providers.

A series of administrative data from the SE SIRC “Registru” enables the analysis of the situation of *authorized emigration*, including the deregistration from the place of residence before leaving the country. Based on this data, it was estimated that 106,600 persons were living abroad in 2015. *Annual authorized emigration* registered a stable downtrend, with the decrease rate reaching 3.4 per cent in 2015 as compared with 2013, and 48.5 per cent as compared with 2010. The phenomenon is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, with more women emigrating in an authorized manner than men. Mainly trained young people with professional secondary education, higher education or incomplete higher education leave the country. The main countries of destination are Ukraine and the Russian Federation, where almost 56 per cent of the total number of emigrants are found. The United States, Germany and Israel are other countries with significant shares of emigrants from the Republic of Moldova.

An important source providing the possibility to estimate the volume of international emigration is State border crossing information from the BPD, specifically the duration of a person’s stay abroad. According to this source, by the end 2015, some 282,100 persons had been outside the country for more than 12 months, of whom 67 per cent were between 15 and 44 years old, with women exceeding the number of men by 11.2 per cent.

Data from the MFAEI, obtained from the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova, reveals that by the end of 2015, around 805,500 Moldovans were staying abroad, regardless of the duration of their stay in the countries of destination. According to this data, 59.2 per cent were in the Russian Federation, 17.6 per cent were in Italy, 2.1 per cent were in Portugal, 2.0 per cent were in the United Kingdom, 1.7 per cent were in Israel, 1.2 per cent were in Greece and Romania, and between 0.9 per cent and less in other countries.

Temporary/circular migration for labour purposes with the intention to return home is estimated based on the LFS data. Survey data reveals that about 300,000 persons were working abroad at any time within the 2010–2015 period. The profile of temporary migration is different from that of authorized emigration. It was mainly the rural population who migrated for labour purposes during this period (about 69%). In addition, in this type of migration, the number of men exceeded the number of women. The main countries of destination overall continued to be the Russian Federation and Italy, but the distribution by

sex is different: for almost 75 per cent of men the country of destination was the Russian Federation, followed by Italy with 6 per cent; in the case of women, the distribution was more uniform, with 42 per cent going to the Russian Federation and 31 per cent to Italy.

As for the age distribution of temporary migrants, a significant prevalence may be noted for those who are 15–44 years old, who accounted for about 79 per cent of the total number of temporary migrants. Almost half of migrants had secondary education (lyceum, gymnasium), and about 37 per cent had professional or vocational secondary education.

The NEA has observed an uptrend in the number of persons working abroad with legal work contracts; nevertheless, this number remains rather small. The main countries of destination of Moldovans working under legal contracts are Israel and Poland positioned in second place in 2015.

As for migration for study purposes, data reveals that the number of Moldovans studying abroad increased by 1.4 times within the 2010–2015 period; and about 91 per cent of them were studying in Romania, 6 per cent in the Russian Federation and 2.4 per cent in Bulgaria. Because of the limited slots for studies abroad provided to the Republic of Moldova under the international agreements, the number of Moldovans studying abroad, according to data from the Ministry of Education, is relatively small. The number of Moldovans who study abroad not by virtue of any international agreements and the number of those who do not notify the Ministry of Education are not known, but figures are probably higher.

Involuntary emigration. This type of migration registered an increase by the end of 2015 as compared with 2010. There were 633 Moldovan asylum seekers abroad in 2010, increasing to 3,402 persons in 2015 (in 2014, there were 1,449 asylum seekers). During the same period, there was a decrease in the number of persons who obtained refugee status abroad, from 6,200 in 2010 to 2,264 in 2015. Nevertheless, over the period of reference, uptrends were attested, as compared with the previous years, *for the growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad, and the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad.*

Repatriation. During the 2010–2015 reference period, trends in the annual number of repatriated persons evolved differently. The number increased significantly in 2015 as compared with 2010, registering 1.4 times growth. As well, the number of repatriated children increased during the reference period,

accounting for 8.65 per cent in 2015 as compared with 3.39 per cent registered in 2010.

It should be noted that since 2011, two institutions – the BMA of the MIA and the SE SIRC “Registru” of the MITC – have been collating data on repatriated persons. Hence, according to the law, the BMA provides the right to repatriation and issues the repatriation confirmation, based on which the SE SIRC “Registru”/ MITC issues the permit of permanent stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova or ID cards for the stateless persons.⁹⁶

Readmission. Positive dynamics was noted for readmissions to the Republic of Moldova. The number of readmitted persons varied in 2010–2015, registering an increase of 26.4 per cent in 2015 as compared with 2010.

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. The NRS⁹⁷ is the main framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts undertaken by the active stakeholders in the area of combating trafficking. The activities within the NRS are carried out through the MDTs, which have national coverage. The efficiency of this system is also confirmed by the increased number of persons identified via the NRS. Statistical data shows that in 2015, there were 132 trafficking victims identified – which is 52 cases more than the number identified in 2014. There were 298 potential THB victims in 2015 as compared with 854 persons in 2014. Of the total number of persons identified as THB victims, women represented 81 per cent and children accounted for 19 per cent.

Resident foreign population. By the end of 2015, there were a total of 21,876 foreigners (including stateless persons) staying in the Republic of Moldova (representing 0.6% of the total population). The majority of foreigners originated from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Israel, Romania, Turkey and other countries, each group accounting for less than 2.2 per cent. The annual number of foreigners immigrating to the Republic of Moldova increased from 2,510 persons in 2010 to 4,210 persons in 2015. It should be mentioned that the foreigner immigration growth rate increased by two thirds in 2015 as compared with 2010.

Demographic impact of migration. The prevalence of emigration over immigration influences the demographic development of the country, characterized by continuous contraction of the population and acceleration of

⁹⁶ Article 87 of Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners’ Stay in the Republic of Moldova.

⁹⁷ The NRS was launched in the Republic of Moldova in 2006 with the support of IOM, external donors and civil society.

population ageing. It should be mentioned that over the past two years some stability has been noted in relation to population size, as estimated by the NBS. As well, some stability has been observed for other demographic indicators, such as the natural growth and net migration rates. The migration phenomenon is more pronounced in rural areas than in urban areas; at the same time, stable uptrends are noted for the urban population alongside the reduction or stabilization of the total population of the country, hence pointing to internal migration from villages to cities, especially among the economically active population.

Economic impact of migration. Labour migration from the country has an important and significant role from an economic point of view. The increase in the number of persons who left for work abroad has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of transfers from them, thus influencing the main macroeconomic indicators. The constant growth of the GDP is mainly attributed to the revenues sent back to the country by Moldovan migrants working abroad.

Remittances represent an important source of income for population to escape from poverty. About 25 per cent of the country's households benefited from remittance-based financial resources in 2015, with rural households holding a share of 28.5 per cent. According to the 2012 LFS/LFM data, over 80 per cent of migrants sent money to their families on a monthly basis, with half of them sending amounts over USD 500 monthly.

The incomes of Moldovan households are considerably influenced by remittances; thus, the respective share accounts for 56.7 per cent in case of the households benefiting from remittances, and over 59.7 per cent for the rural households benefiting from remittances (with 52 per cent for urban areas). If receiving remittances, the share of households that would have been under the poverty level in 2015 would be 23.4 per cent, or 30.5 per cent in rural areas.

The indicators characterizing the labour force market get continuously worse. During the 2010–2015 period, the number of the economically active population varied and accounted for 1,266,000 persons in 2015 as compared with 1,235,000 in 2010. At the same time, the share of population under working age decreased during the period of reference from 17.8 per cent to 17.0 per cent and that of the persons of working age from 66.7 per cent to 65.1 per cent and the share of persons over working age increased from 15.5 per cent to 17.8 per cent. If the migration of the young population continues, a continuous contraction of the working-age population, with all the negative effects associated with this phenomenon, may be expected.

The studies conducted in this area reveal some trends that motivate migrants to return home to work. At the same time, return migrants encounter a lot of reintegration problems, caused by lack of jobs and low salaries. Launching a start-up is rather difficult for different reasons, including insufficiency of financial resources and lack of information on how to put up a business. In such conditions, a considerable percentage of migrants choose to reemigrate.

Social impact of migration. The social negative impact generated by migration is confirmed by several studies done. One such impact is the shortage of personnel in areas such as health and education, due to the emigration of qualified staff in these sectors. Although migration reduces poverty, it also has negative social effects on children and the elderly left behind. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education, there were 40,000 children left behind by their parents in 2015, of whom 10,000 had both parents abroad and 30,000 had one of the parents working overseas.

Labour migration and the national social insurance system. Labour migration affects the sustainability of the national social insurance system. Being outside the country, a significant percentage of the economically active population does not participate in the system, thus leading to an increased burden on the economically active population in the national economy. This phenomenon has already induced a deficit in the State social insurance budget, which had to be compensated over the past years from the State budget. As well, the lack of the cumulative pillar of the social insurance system and the narrow package of benefits provided by the current individual insurance system make the participation in the system unattractive for migrants. Thus, the nonparticipation of current migrants in the system will be reflected upon their mid- and long-term return in the impossibility to obtain some benefits within the system, and this will directly contribute to increased burden on the social insurance system. Ensuring the minimum social guarantees for Moldovan labour migrants abroad and finding some adequate solutions for when they return home is a timely concern for the State. In this context, a number of social security agreements have been signed or negotiated over the past years with different countries of destination, with contribution-based principles included.

Institutional framework. A number of State institutions are involved directly or indirectly in migration management, in line with their areas of activity and competence. The BDR was created to streamline the activities in communication and collaboration with Moldovan migrants abroad and to coordinate the policies in the area. Focal points (at the level of deputy ministers or deputy directors) were appointed in ministries and other central administrative

authorities to be responsible for promoting and implementing State policies related to the diaspora.

The BMA was given new duties when it was appointed as the institution responsible for the subsequent development of the Republic of Moldova EMP report.

Legal and regulatory framework. The national legal and regulatory framework has made significant progress in establishing a comprehensive base for an efficient system of migration management. According to the experts from the EC, the legislative and policy framework on preventing and counteracting trafficking in human beings is consolidated and aligned with international standards.

Activities continue in view of signing bilateral agreements in the area of labour migration to ensure social and labour security for Moldovan migrants abroad.

Policy framework. Policy framework is continuously developing. Some State policies and strategies in different areas related to migration were developed and enforced, such as mobility at the border, reintegration and return of migrants, investment of remittances for development, small and medium enterprises' development, and combating irregular migration and trafficking in human beings. Coordination and assurance of migration policy and strategy coherence is carried out via an impressive institutional arrangement. Nevertheless, it is necessary to further improve the mechanism for inter-institutional coordination for a more efficient management of migration.

D.2. Recommendations on migration management

During the period of 2010–2015, being recognized as a political phenomenon with all its positive and negative effects, migration became a key element in developing national, sectoral and intersectoral policies.

The mechanisms related to foreigners' immigration became the most visible.⁹⁸ They have ensured, to a large extent, the transposition of a number of EU directives in this area. This fact has contributed to making more efficient the bilateral dialogue with the EU Member States on migration-related areas (occupational, social, educational, etc.).

⁹⁸ Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova.

At the same time, the following still needs attention:

- Building the capacities of the competent authorities from the country to promote and correlate the principles and procedures for admission into the country and documentation of foreigners in the country (economic and non-economic migrants) with the economic realities of the country;
- Continuously improving the normative framework on selective admission of foreigners immigrating for work purposes so as to cope with the shortage of highly qualified personnel: (1) in the areas that lack qualified labour force; (2) in the economic sectors, which are the priority areas for the sustainable development of the country⁹⁹ and which do not have the necessary local qualified resources; and (3) in facilitation of admission and stay of foreign investors in the Republic of Moldova, as well as of the persons who manage foreign investments in the economic areas with multiplicative effect.¹⁰⁰ It should be noted that proactive attraction of foreign investments through migration policies follows a number of international examples. The practices of European and Northern American States include mechanisms for facilitating the admission and documentation of foreigners investing in business in some pre-established economic areas (rural areas, and/or development of multiplicative economy in correlation with general conditions) or creating new jobs;
- Development of mechanisms for the recognition of foreigners' professional qualifications in the areas needing qualified personnel;
- Promotion of higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova for the purposes of attracting foreigners to study in the country and for improving the image of higher education institutions in the country;
- Improvement of the legal and institutional tools, ensuring the non-discrimination principle for foreigners staying in the country, avoiding any unjustified discriminatory restrictions based on any reasons, such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics or health condition, religion or beliefs, among others;
- Promotion of a legality climate for foreigners' admission and stay in the Republic of Moldova by increasing the information level of potential migrants who would like to come to the Republic of Moldova for a short period of time (for study, work, etc.).

⁹⁹ Moldova 2020: National Development Strategy, approved via Law No. 166 dated 11 July 2012.

¹⁰⁰ For instance, road construction, economic infrastructure and irrigation systems in agricultural areas.

A special role in migration management refers to foreigners' integration policies promoted in the State. Although the regulatory framework adopted in this area in the Republic of Moldova¹⁰¹ is recognized as innovative in the CIS zone, as well as in a number of Western European countries, its implementation is just at the initial stage and needs more attention to ensure correlation with the needs pointed out.

The rapid increase of foreigners' immigration into the country did not allow their pre-selection from the third countries, similar countries, or countries closed by their cultural, civilization or religious identities – a fact that would exclude integration deficiencies. EMP data shows that by the end of 2015, over 22,000 foreigners from 114 different countries were staying permanently or temporarily in the Republic of Moldova.

Hence, it is important to develop, within migration management policies, some long-term policies for the mutual accommodation of all the foreigners (beneficiaries of a form of protection, immigrants, persons born outside the country and other categories of persons) and the inhabitants of the Republic of Moldova.

The necessary mechanisms were developed in 2015 for cooperation between the State entities responsible for foreigners' accommodation and integration, guaranteeing their access to sociocultural and linguistic accommodation programmes by ensuring the necessary allocations in the State budget.¹⁰²

At the same time, taking into account the importance of foreigners' integration for the social and civic cohesion in the country, it is necessary to actively support foreigners and stateless persons staying legally in the Republic of Moldova, ensuring their participation in the economic, social and cultural sectors of the country. This objective will be supported by increasing the awareness of public officials, civil society and foreigners about the importance of the integration process.

¹⁰¹ Law No. 274, dated 27 December 2011, on Foreigners' Integration in the Republic of Moldova.

¹⁰² Law on the State Budget for 2014 No. 339 dated 23 December 2013.

Although public authorities have recognized the importance of integration policies by allocating public funds for the implementation of such policies, they are not enough to cover the entire range of possible needs and all categories of foreigners. Thus, it is necessary to determine the categories of foreigners who may benefit from a facilitated treatment in this area, for instance, vulnerable categories of persons, beneficiaries of certain forms of protection, unaccompanied minors and women, among others.

The implementation of integration policies needs objective monitoring by establishing some sets of indicators in all relevant areas, as well as collecting, processing and analysing the obtained data.

Emigration and its associated social costs have been given utmost attention in surveys and comprehensive approaches when developing State policies. The aspects related to the situation of the family members, children and the elderly left behind¹⁰³ remain to be a priority. In the case of the elderly, the difficulties are mainly generated by the level of personal autonomy, which decreases as the person gets older, and the need for support in this respect. In the children's case, the rather high number of those left behind by their parents to look for a job abroad is really alarming.¹⁰⁴ The survey data reveals reduced levels of socialization, increased school dropout rates, reduced levels of training, and increased risk to become victims of violence, negligence and exploitation.¹⁰⁵ A burden for these children would be increased domestic tasks, especially in rural areas, and insufficiency of emotional relations. Negative effects may be also induced by the inefficient use of remittances received from parents by the children, especially by the teenagers, who undergo the risk to become consumers of harmful substances, to have early sexual intercourses, and to be attracted in circles of delinquent influence.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰³ National Action Plan for the Protection of Left-behind Children for 2010–2011 (dated 2 June 2010); "Addressing the Negative Effects of Migration on Minors and Families Left Behind" Project, implemented by the Government of Italy in collaboration with IOM, and co-funded by the EC (duration: 2011–2012).

¹⁰⁴ UNICEF Survey on Juvenile Delinquency in the Republic of Moldova: Legal Book, 2011.

¹⁰⁵ UNICEF, "Chapter 6: Right to nurturing and safe environment" in "Situation analysis of children in Moldova and status of realization of child rights", draft (2016).

¹⁰⁶ Strategy for Child Protection for 2014–2020, approved via Government Decision No. 434 dated 10 June 2014. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/md/353459/>

The aforementioned problems need the proactive involvement of the State and the entire society, the establishment of stable partnerships for solidarity and community and/or social cohesion, for development, consolidation and implementation of preventive mechanisms at the national level, as well as support provided to this group of children. It is regrettable that there is no coherent and unitary approach at the level of authorities with determining duties (e.g. MLSPP, Ministry of Education, MIA, local public authorities and others) in relation to the problems encountered by the children whose one or both parents have left abroad, the place the migration phenomenon has among the vulnerability causes for these children, the range of necessary services for assisting these children and the specialization levels of such services.¹⁰⁷ In this respect, to reduce the negative effects of parents' migration on left-behind children, it is necessary to cultivate sustainable, efficient and diligent partnerships among all the involved stakeholders to: (i) develop and implement the mechanism of record-keeping and monitoring of such children's situation; (ii) develop and implement community and social information dissemination and awareness-raising programmes; (iii) compensate the lack of community social services with services that would meet the needs of the children and youth from families of migrants, among which are counselling services; and (iv) increase the capacities of social protection, education and health protection systems, as well as public order and security in tackling social risks including the social risks for children whose parents are migrants. It is also important to continue the existing joint initiatives with countries of destination, such as the Russian Federation, Italy, Israel and Turkey, which are meant to ensure circular migration and migrant workers' return and reintegration into the Moldovan labour market. In this context, it is also necessary to diversify the opportunities for employment abroad for migrant workers by developing efficient circular migration services that would meet the needs of Moldovan migrants and ensure the observance of their rights and security. At the same time, to foster Moldovan migrants' return and facilitate their economic and social reintegration in the country, it is necessary to develop a mechanism for recognizing the qualifications of migrant workers, certifying their work experiences and facilitating their requalification. As well, for redirecting the resources accumulated from migration from consumption towards

¹⁰⁷ Strategy for Child Protection for 2014–2020, approved via Government Decision No. 434 dated June 2014. Available from <http://lex.justice.md/md/353459/>

economic development, the following are necessary: (i) de facto development of a favourable environment for business, which would allow the economic empowerment of migrants, channelling of the remitted revenues as investments into the real sector of the economy and creation of employment/self-employment opportunities; (ii) reform of the banking system, increasing its credibility and accessibility for business investments; (iii) development and implementation of grant programmes and microgrants for businesses in different sectors of the national economy that mainstream gender sensitivity and equality in their business models as well as ensure a fair regional distribution of the microgrants across the country, with a focus on innovative approach and practices, including the ones adopted during migration.

The assurance of recognition of qualifications of returning migrants and transfer of innovations in certain sectors, especially in the rural areas, by creating conditions that would foster the temporary return of highly qualified Moldovan nationals and would facilitate brain circulation remains to be a stringent need.¹⁰⁸ At the same time, to prevent and reduce brain drain, it is necessary that the education offered meets the demands of the labour market, that the barriers to accessing the labour market are reduced, and that remuneration conditions are reviewed and ensured to be in line with the value of the performed work.

Moldovan authorities paid special attention to setting the links between diaspora associations in different countries and their home country, including by establishing specialized authorities in this area, such as the BDR under the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.¹⁰⁹ Nevertheless, it is important to further support the BDR in organizing different activities with Moldovan communities and diaspora organizations abroad.

Although the Republic of Moldova has already created a solid institutional framework in the area of migration management, it is still

¹⁰⁸ The initiative “Addressing Brain Drain through Temporary Return of Scientists – Moldovan Expatriates and Young Researchers from Abroad – to Strengthen Moldova as a Research and Development Centre and to Promote Temporary and Permanent Returns and Transfer of Skills” financed by the EU and implemented by IOM in 2010–2011 within the framework of the Project “Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership” may be mentioned in this context.

¹⁰⁹ See www.brd.gov.md/

necessary to continue developing migration management capacities. Hence, the development of subsequent policies should be based on comprehensive and well-structured data, and should take into account the specific interests and objectives of the country, referring to the different aspects of the general public policy, such as occupational, demographic and circular migration promotion, and migrants' return and reintegration, among others.

To achieve this goal, it would be necessary to support and build the capacities of public institutions in ensuring the development and implementation of the policies related to migration issues (e.g. through increased material resources, training workshops, elimination of bureaucratic impediments, increased consideration of local practice and expertise and avoidance of excessive reliance on foreign experts' interventions).

In this context, there is an increased role for the public institutions to ensure coordination,¹¹⁰ as they should have sufficient trained human resources, including in modern areas of activity and communication.

D.3. Recommendations on mainstreaming migration into development policies

Mainstreaming migration into development is envisaged in some long-term policies of the country. The main objectives in implementing the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020)¹¹¹ are set in the Strategy itself, as well as in the National Action Plan for 2011–2015. These documents establish a link between migration and asylum and the general framework of the country's development policies.

The new national development strategy of the Republic of Moldova – Moldova 2020: Seven Solutions for the Republic of Moldova¹¹² – also contributes towards correlating the sectoral strategies implemented by different line ministries.

¹¹⁰ Government Decision No. 133, dated 23 February 2010, on Creating a Commission for Coordinating Certain Activities related to the Migration Process.

¹¹¹ Government Decision No. 655, dated 8 September 2011, Approving the National Strategy of the Republic of Moldova on Migration and Asylum (2011–2020).

¹¹² National development strategy Moldova 2020: Seven Solutions for the Republic of Moldova, approved via Law No. 166 dated 11 July 2012.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Government of the Republic of Moldova has an existing foreign policy and is committed to migration management and development, as reflected in documents such as: the Joint Declaration regarding the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership,¹¹³ the National Program for Implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan in the Area of Visa Regime Liberalization,¹¹⁴ and the National Action Plan for Implementing the Republic of Moldova–European Union Association Agreement for 2014–2016.¹¹⁵ All these, due to the comprehensive approach used in the migration management module in line with the EU directives, guided the cardinal legislative and institutional framework reform in migration management.

At the same time, the dynamics and magnitude of the migration processes during the reported period need to correct and include some specific elements in the development policies.

In this respect, it is important to consolidate the roles of the BDR and the State Chancellery to coordinate the mainstreaming of aspects related to diaspora, migration and development (DMD) into national policies, through the national focal points established within central public authorities responsible for promoting the state policy in the area of diaspora, created based on Government Order No. 58 of 7 July 2013. It is also necessary to extend the institutional framework for mainstreaming the DMD aspects at the level of local public authorities.

Taking into account the continuous decrease of population and increase of the population ageing coefficient up to 16.7 persons aged 60 years and over per 100 inhabitants in 2015,¹¹⁶ exceeding the critical value (16), hence representing an acceleration of population ageing, it is necessary to:

- ensure better management of temporary migration processes;
- ensure monitoring of return migrants, especially of persons encountering problems, and to study the problems that emerge during their social, psychological, occupational and educational reintegration; hence, it would be necessary to further develop data collection on persons who have temporarily went abroad (the dynamics statistics about emigration to

¹¹³ Joint Declaration regarding the EU–Moldova Mobility Partnership, signed on 5 June 2008, in Luxembourg within the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the EU.

¹¹⁴ Government Decision No. 122 dated 4 March 2011, Approving the National Program for Implementing the EU–Republic of Moldova Action Plan in the Area of Visa Regime Liberalization.

¹¹⁵ Government Decision No. 808 dated 7 October 2014, Approving the National Action Plan for Implementing the Republic of Moldova–European Union Association Agreement during 2014–2016.

¹¹⁶ NBS, “Elderly persons in the Republic of Moldova in 2015” (2016). Available from www.statistica.md/newsview.php?!=ro&idc=168&id=5358

work or study – by age, sex and level of education), to ensure correlation of information and the analysis of pre- and post-emigration data, and to develop adequate policies;

- develop the aspects related to the country's demographic security, which implies including in the country's long-term policies those aspects related to increasing the birth rate, ensuring social protection of families and children left behind, and developing demographic security policies based on the monitoring of selected indicators, including the ones established in this analytical report;
- improve the quality of statistical and administrative data related to authorized emigration, taking into account indicators pertaining to age, level of education, sex and area of residence of persons who have left.

To ensure the mechanisms needed for implementing the policies for child and family protection during parents' migration period, it would be necessary to ensure the periodical collection of dynamics statistics about the number of children left behind (reintegrated families), the number of marriages and cases of divorce in migrants' families, and the number of children born in migrants' families abroad.

As the Republic of Moldova has opted for integration processes and the liberalization of the visa regime with the EU, special focus is given to the existence and development of migration control tools to improve migration management. In this context, priority is given to the development of tools to collect statistical and nominal information on migration, to correlate the notions and definitions used in the national legislation with those used in the EU legislation, especially Regulation 862 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on community statistics on migration and international protection.¹¹⁷

D.4. Recommendations on improving migration statistics and developing evidence-based policies

The efficient management of migration may be carried out only if policies and strategies are based on up-to-date information regarding migration flows. Hence, collection of reliable data (including for forecasting purposes) should be part of a comprehensive national policy on migration. As well, there is too little available information regarding such important topics as remittances and the awareness level of current and potential migrants about legal migration and return possibilities.

¹¹⁷ See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/BG/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R0862&from=RO>

Some underestimations/gaps still exist in relation to the migration database in different areas. For instance, the Ministry of Education holds official data on the number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad based on international treaties, but there is no database about those who apply and get the opportunity to study abroad by themselves. Another problem lies in keeping of records on left-behind children – a task divided among several ministries that report different data. The Ministry of Education collects in an ad hoc manner data regarding children who are integrated into the educational system, while the MLSPF, as the national guardianship authority, collects data regarding the children at risk aged until 18 years old. Hence, delimitation and correlation in this respect are absolutely necessary.

The following can be mentioned among the actions/strategies recommended for improving and generating data on international migration of population.¹¹⁸

The EMP, rather perceived as a process and not as an output, represents a high potential for synergy with mainstreaming migration, so as to understand and use the data for informed policymaking and progress evaluation. The Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the List of Indicators and the Extended Migration Profile Template for the Republic of Moldova on 24 August 2012.¹¹⁹ According to the government decision, the BMA – in cooperation with other relevant ministries and central public authorities – shall ensure the update of the EMP indicators' values, as well as the development of the annual analytical report based on the List of Indicators and the Extended Migration Profile Template for the Republic of Moldova.

The following are suggested to fulfil these objectives:

- Compilation and update of the EMP should be carried out in a sustainable way, channelling the EMP findings into policymaking. Hence, it is recommended that the List of EMP Indicators is reviewed periodically to reexamine and reconfirm the data sources, based on the functional competencies of providers, including to determine the periodicity of this exercise in time.

¹¹⁸ This section is based on the main findings of M. Poulain et al., *Data Assessment Report for the Republic of Moldova* (Chisinau, IOM, 2011). Available from www.iom.md/attachments/110_data_assess_rep_eng.pdf

¹¹⁹ See <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=344691&lang=1>

- To solve the problem of data quality, it is necessary to build the capacities of State institutions (NBS, SE SIRC “Registru”, MIA, MLSPF/NEA, Ministry of Education, MFAEI, Ministry of Health, etc.) that are involved in collecting data at the national level.
- There is a strong need for more constructive and active collaboration among the main producers of statistical data, namely, the SE SIRC “Registru”, the NBS and the MIA. It is important to mention as well the need for a more active cooperation with the BPD in the area of statistics in relation to registration of migrants at the border crossing.
- The exchange of data with the countries of destination of Moldovan migrants is an opportunity for verifying the reliability of emigration data from the Republic of Moldova. Frequently, this data is not included in the annual statistics on migration; hence, it would be necessary to regularly request data from the countries concerned.
- There is a need for well-targeted training for and technical cooperation between the stakeholders responsible for updating the EMP, including through twinning projects.

In this context, it is necessary to continue developing information assistance for national and local public authorities as support for ensuring efficient management of migration and asylum.

Activities related to building institutional capacities for collecting, aggregating and systematizing data from the beneficiaries should continue for the development and implementation of policies in the area of migration and asylum, as well as integration of foreigners.

For the given purpose, it is important to continue ensuring inter-institutional information-sharing, both on the horizontal and vertical axes, for all the competent authorities, so as to facilitate migration management, coordinate joint activities and reduce risks.

There should be developed cooperation mechanisms for risk estimation and analysis and for collecting and processing data, and establishment, if needed, of some joint groups for investigation in new areas of activity; assurance of access to existing and newly created databases; and joint databases or rapid data exchange systems for public authorities.

It is important to develop mechanisms for joint planning of the inter-institutional cooperation (based on the cooperation protocols) based on joint understanding of risks and challenges, especially the ones related to information exchange between authorities, and mediation of competence conflicts, among others.

ANNEX

Annex I: Glossary of terms

1. *Absolute poverty line* – calculated based on the food expenditures of the second, third and fourth deciles, adjusted to 2,282 kcal/person/day and adding to it the non-food expenditures (the weight for all the households from the Household Budget Survey).
2. *Alien* – a person who is not a national or does not hold the citizenship of a given State (EU definition).
3. *Asylum seeker* – a third-country national or stateless person who has made an application for asylum in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken (Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status).
4. *Cancellation* – decision taken by the competent authority for foreigners against the alien, if he or she does not meet the conditions set forth by the law or if it is established that some of the documents which served as basis for granting him or her the right to stay in the country are false (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
5. *Child* – any human being below the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).
6. *Citizenship* – legal bond between an individual and a State; it is acquired through birth or through naturalization, regardless if it is through declaration, option, marriage or any other means, in line with the national legislation.
7. *Confirmation of repatriation* – an official document issued by the competent authority for aliens, confirming the right to repatriation (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
8. *Country of birth* – country of residence (within current borders, if information is available) of the mother at the date of birth; if not possible, the country (within current borders, if information is available) where the birth occurred.

9. *Declaring the foreigner an undesirable person* – a safety measure undertaken by the authority against a foreigner who has developed, is developing or in whose respect there are well-reasoned indices that he or she intends to develop activities that would endanger the national security or public order of the country (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
10. *Emigrant* – a person undertaking an emigration (involved in emigration process) (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
11. *Emigration* – the action by which a person, having previously been usually resident in the territory of a State, ceases to have his or her usual residence in that State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
12. *Equivalent income* – the total income of the household relative to its “equivalent size”, that is, taking into consideration the size and composition of the households, and being attributed to each member of the household (the total income of the households is relative to its equivalent size, using the so-called “equivalence scale” modified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
13. *Expulsion* – an act by an authority of the State with the intention and with the effect of securing the removal of a person or persons (aliens or stateless persons) against their will from the territory of that State (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).
14. *Foreign-born* – a person who was born outside the country of the current usual residence, regardless of the person's citizenship (Guidelines for Collecting Data on International Migration According to the Article in Regulation 862/2007 and for Collecting Additional Data on Voluntary Basis: Immigration, Emigration, Usually Resident Population, and Obtaining and Losing Citizenship).
15. *Humanitarian protection* – a form of protection, recognized by the Republic of Moldova, provided to the foreigner or the stateless persons due to other reasons than the ones laid down in the Geneva Convention dated 28 July 1951 (Law No. 270, dated 18 December 2008, on Asylum in the Republic of Moldova).
16. *Irregular migrant* – someone who, owing to illegal entry or expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country; the term applies to migrants who infringe a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).

17. *Illegal stay* – presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova of a foreigner who does not meet or does meet anymore the conditions related to entry, stay or residence in the Republic of Moldova (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
18. *Immigrant* – a person undertaking an immigration (involved in immigration process) (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
19. *Immigration* – the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of another State for a period that is, or expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another State (EC Regulation No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).
20. *Local border traffic* – regular crossing of an external land border by border residents in order to stay in a border area, for example social, cultural or substantiated economic reasons, or for family reasons, for a period not exceeding three months of uninterrupted stay since the day of the border crossing (Regulation EC No. 1931/2006).
21. *Migrants' remittances* – represent transfers from abroad of monetary means and goods, with an impact on households' incomes. They arise from the temporary or permanent movement of people to work in foreign economies, settling down for good in other States, as well as from inter- human relations: gifts, donations and inheritances. Remittances include cash and non-cash items that flow through formal channels (such as via electronic wire) or through informal channels (such as money or goods carried across borders) (International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, 6th edition, Appendix 5, Remittances).
22. *Naturalization* – the granting of citizenship upon request to persons lawfully and habitually resident in the territory of the Republic of Moldova, under the conditions set forth in the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated 2 June 2000.
23. *Net migration* – difference between entries or arrivals of immigrants and exits or departures of emigrants during the same period of time. It is also called “migration balance” (IOM, *Glossary on Migration*, 2nd edition, International Migration Law Series No. 25, 2011).
24. *Public custody* – a measure for restricting the freedom of movement (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
25. *Readmission* – the action of a State to accept the re-entry of an individual (national, third-country national or stateless person).

26. *Readmission agreement* – international agreements laying down the mutual procedures for returning the illegally staying non-nationals to their country or origin or the country they have transited through.
27. *Refugee* – any third-country national who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his or her former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it (based on Article 1 of the UN 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as Directive 2004/83/EC).
28. *Repatriation* – the personal right of a refugee, prisoner of war, or a civil detainee to return to his or her country of nationality under specific conditions laid down in various international instruments (Geneva 1949 Convention and 1977 Protocols, the Regulations Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention 1907, human rights instruments and customary international law).
29. *Return* – the process of going back of a foreigner, through voluntary execution of the return decision or through forced execution of such a decision, to the country of origin, a transit country, in line with the readmission agreements, or to a third country to which the foreigner decided to return voluntarily and in which he or she will be accepted.
30. *Return decision* – an administrative act of the competent authority for foreigners, establishing the stay of the foreigner as being illegal and obliging the foreigner to leave the territory of the Republic of Moldova within the set deadlines (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
31. *Revocation* – decision taken by the competent authority for foreigners if it is established that the foreigner does not anymore meet the conditions for the right to stay in the country or if he or she does not respect the reason for which the respective right is provided, or if he or she infringes the customs regulations or the regulations related to the State border (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
32. *Share of population under the absolute poverty line* – number of persons living in households with expenditures per adult equivalent (scale 1:0.7:0.5) under the poverty line, as related to the total size of the population.

33. *Statelessness* – this may result from different causes, including conflict of law, transfer of territory, laws regulating marriage, administrative practice, discrimination, missing registration of birth, de-nationalization (when a State cancels the nationality of an individual) and renunciation (when an individual renounces State protection).
34. *Stateless person* – a person who is neither a citizen of the Republic of Moldova nor a citizen of another State (Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated 2 June 2000).
35. *Status of refugee* – a form of protection, recognized by the Republic of Moldova, for the foreigner or the stateless person who meets the conditions set forth in the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, signed in Geneva on 28 July 1951, as well as in the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees signed on 31 January 1967 (Law No. 270-XVI dated 18 December 2008).
36. *Stay permit/ID for the stateless person* – an identification document attesting the right to legally stay in the territory of the Republic of Moldova (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
37. *Taking under public custody* – a measure for restricting the freedom of movement undertaken by a court against a foreigner who could not be returned within the deadline set forth in the present law, as well as against a foreigner who has been declared undesirable or whose expulsion has been decided by the court (Law No. 200, dated 16 July 2010, on Foreigners' Stay in the Republic of Moldova).
38. *Usual residence* – the place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, by default, the place of legal or registered residence (Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection).

Annex 2: Statistical tables

I. Emigration of population

A.) Authorized emigration¹²⁰

Table 1: Annual number of authorized emigrations, by area of residence prior to departure, sex, age and country of destination, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total emigrated | 4,714 | 4,039 | 3,129 | 2,585 | 2,374 | 2,284 |
| <i>Including from:</i> | | | | | | |
| Urban areas | 3,139 | 2,722 | 2,152 | 1,923 | 1,789 | 1,652 |
| Rural areas | 1,575 | 1,317 | 977 | 662 | 585 | 632 |
| <i>Of the total emigrated</i> | | | | | | |
| Men | 2,193 | 1,813 | 1,425 | 1,201 | 1,119 | 1,066 |
| Women | 2,521 | 2,226 | 1,704 | 1,384 | 1,255 | 1,218 |
| <i>Age</i> | | | | | | |
| 0–4 | 199 | 219 | 138 | 131 | 117 | 124 |
| 5–9 | 232 | 200 | 146 | 126 | 130 | 127 |
| 10–14 | 229 | 161 | 130 | 135 | 126 | 113 |
| 15–19 | 276 | 236 | 212 | 196 | 158 | 151 |
| 20–24 | 481 | 374 | 252 | 179 | 189 | 187 |
| 25–29 | 600 | 475 | 300 | 260 | 238 | 275 |
| 30–34 | 517 | 389 | 303 | 230 | 255 | 252 |
| 35–39 | 386 | 342 | 265 | 214 | 162 | 215 |
| 40–44 | 306 | 233 | 204 | 159 | 157 | 150 |
| 45–49 | 270 | 203 | 164 | 121 | 141 | 139 |
| 50–54 | 277 | 275 | 182 | 183 | 146 | 125 |
| 55–59 | 296 | 300 | 223 | 173 | 170 | 148 |
| 60–64 | 230 | 223 | 232 | 153 | 149 | 98 |
| 65–69 | 121 | 109 | 116 | 96 | 87 | 78 |
| 70–74 | 126 | 127 | 107 | 107 | 56 | 30 |
| 75–79 | 78 | 91 | 85 | 76 | 62 | 37 |
| 80–84 | 61 | 52 | 38 | 28 | 23 | 23 |
| 85 and older | 29 | 30 | 32 | 18 | 8 | 12 |
| <i>Country of destination</i> | 4,714 | 4,039 | 3,129 | 2,585 | 2,374 | 2,284 |
| Ukraine | 2,227 | 1,827 | 1,360 | 1,054 | 602 | 312 |

¹²⁰ This includes the withdrawal of the residence registration and declaration of long-term emigration or emigration for good, also known in the country as permanent emigration.

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Russian Federation | 1,162 | 858 | 772 | 684 | 788 | 961 |
| United States | 523 | 538 | 245 | 160 | 285 | 287 |
| Germany | 220 | 179 | 218 | 253 | 223 | 253 |
| Israel | 232 | 204 | 198 | 199 | 220 | 174 |
| Belarus | 100 | 74 | 48 | 72 | 82 | 64 |
| Czech Republic | 57 | 43 | 56 | 48 | 6 | 3 |
| Italy | 27 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 16 |
| Kazakhstan | 33 | 27 | 29 | 17 | 28 | 28 |
| Bulgaria | 19 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Other countries | 114 | 280 | 195 | 86 | 124 | 184 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 2: Relative indicators of authorized emigration of Moldovan citizens, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2.1.4. Growth rate of authorized emigrations of Moldovan citizens | 70.8 | 85.7 | 77.5 | 82.6 | 90.1 | 96.2 |
| 2.1.5. Authorized emigration gender gap for Moldovan citizens (women/men) | 115.0 | 122.8 | 119.6 | 115.2 | 112.2 | 114.3 |
| 2.1.6. Relative proportion of authorized emigrants from rural areas to urban | 50.2 | 48.4 | 45.4 | 34.4 | 32.4 | 32.3 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 3: Annual number of authorized emigrations, by education level and sex, 2013–2015 (persons)

| | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015* | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total emigrants | 2,585 | 1,201 | 1,384 | 2,374 | 1,119 | 1,255 | 2,284 | 1,066 | 1,218 |
| <i>Of whom with the level of:</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| University education | 290 | 127 | 163 | 205 | 82 | 123 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Incomplete higher education | 174 | 76 | 98 | 121 | 45 | 76 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Secondary professional education | 352 | 139 | 213 | 253 | 80 | 173 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Secondary education | 628 | 293 | 335 | 529 | 232 | 297 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Note: The 2015 data on the level of education is not available.

Table 4: Annual number of children taken abroad by their parents (authorized emigration), 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number of children aged 0–18 years old taken abroad by their parents | 869 | 728 | 567 | 549 | 493 | 495 |
| Growth rate of the number of children aged 0–18 years old taken abroad by their parents (%) | 72.1 | 83.8 | 77.9 | 96.8 | 89.8 | 100.4 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 5: Number of Moldovan citizens who live abroad, by sex, 2010–2015

| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2.3.1. Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad (authorized emigration – stock)* | Total | 92,184 | 96,223 | 99,352 | 101,937 | 104,311 | 106,595 |
| | Men | 41,829 | 43,642 | 45,067 | 46,268 | 47,378 | 48,453 |
| | Women | 50,355 | 52,581 | 54,285 | 55,669 | 56,887 | 58,142 |
| Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad according to border crossing data (persons who have left the country for one year and more)** | Total | 284,304 | 307,479 | 330,167 | 358,882 | 271,611 | 282,127 |
| | Men | 135,690 | 145,021 | 154,282 | 167,902 | 126,728 | 133,186 |
| | Women | 148,614 | 162,458 | 175,885 | 190,980 | 144,883 | 148,941 |

Sources: *MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

**BPD under the MIA.

Table 6: Number of Moldovan citizens who went abroad to get settle permanently, by sex and country of destination (stock by the end of the year), 2010–2015

| Country of destination | Total | | | | | | Men | | | | | | Women | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Total | 92,184 | 96,223 | 99,352 | 101,937 | 104,311 | 106,595 | 41,829 | 43,642 | 45,067 | 46,268 | 47,387 | 48,453 | 50,355 | 52,581 | 54,285 | 55,669 | 56,924 | 58,142 |
| Russian Federation | 31,038 | 31,896 | 32,668 | 33,352 | 34,140 | 35,101 | 14,119 | 14,498 | 14,833 | 15,157 | 15,539 | 16,001 | 16,919 | 17,398 | 17,835 | 18,195 | 18,601 | 19,100 |
| Ukraine | 24,601 | 26,428 | 27,788 | 28,842 | 29,444 | 29,756 | 10,753 | 11,573 | 12,191 | 12,691 | 12,992 | 13,156 | 13,848 | 14,855 | 15,597 | 16,151 | 16,452 | 16,600 |
| United States | 140,34 | 14,572 | 14,817 | 14,977 | 15,262 | 15,549 | 6,869 | 7,147 | 7,272 | 7,351 | 7,496 | 7,631 | 7,165 | 7,425 | 7,545 | 7,626 | 7,766 | 7,918 |
| Germany | 11,036 | 11,215 | 11,433 | 11,689 | 11,912 | 12,165 | 4,891 | 4,953 | 5,045 | 5,147 | 5,236 | 5,332 | 6,145 | 6,262 | 6,388 | 6,542 | 6,676 | 6,833 |
| Israel | 6,677 | 6,881 | 7,079 | 7,248 | 7,468 | 7,642 | 3,120 | 3,211 | 3,306 | 3,394 | 3,494 | 3,574 | 3,557 | 3,670 | 3,773 | 3,854 | 3,964 | 4,058 |
| Belarus | 2,101 | 2,175 | 2,223 | 2,295 | 2,377 | 2,441 | 986 | 1,021 | 1,045 | 1,074 | 1,107 | 1,139 | 1,115 | 1,154 | 1,178 | 1,221 | 1,270 | 1,302 |
| Canada | 582 | 588 | 594 | 598 | 603 | 612 | 257 | 260 | 263 | 265 | 267 | 272 | 325 | 328 | 331 | 333 | 336 | 340 |
| Czech Republic | 290 | 333 | 389 | 437 | 443 | 446 | 144 | 162 | 191 | 213 | 215 | 217 | 146 | 171 | 198 | 224 | 228 | 229 |
| Italy | 236 | 255 | 255 | 259 | 269 | 285 | 132 | 143 | 143 | 145 | 150 | 151 | 104 | 104 | 112 | 114 | 119 | 134 |
| Other countries | 1,589 | 1,880 | 2,106 | 2,240 | 2,393 | 2,598 | 560 | 674 | 778 | 831 | 891 | 980 | 1,029 | 1,214 | 1,328 | 1,409 | 1,512 | 1,628 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

B.) Temporary/circular emigration¹²¹

Table 7: Emigration of Moldovan citizens according to the international definition (persons staying abroad for a period of 12 months and more), by sex and age, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 284,304 | 307,479 | 330,167 | 358,882 | 271,611 | 282,127 |
| Men | 135,690 | 145,021 | 154,282 | 167,902 | 126,728 | 133,186 |
| Women | 148,614 | 162,458 | 175,885 | 190,980 | 144,883 | 148,941 |
| Age – total | 284,304 | 307,479 | 330,167 | 358,882 | 271,611 | 282,127 |
| 0–4 | 1,399 | 1,664 | 2,728 | 4,027 | 5,989 | 6,109 |
| 5–9 | 4,091 | 4,908 | 6,084 | 7,799 | 9,518 | 11,645 |
| 10–14 | 6,209 | 7,106 | 8,245 | 9,565 | 9,544 | 10,312 |
| 15–19 | 11,656 | 12,671 | 13,383 | 14,421 | 13,145 | 12,731 |
| 20–24 | 29,288 | 27,834 | 27,083 | 27,229 | 25,323 | 24,822 |
| 25–29 | 46,643 | 48,254 | 49,294 | 49,494 | 41,214 | 41,069 |
| 30–34 | 44,135 | 48,162 | 51,620 | 55,902 | 43,318 | 45,980 |
| 35–39 | 34,805 | 39,103 | 43,087 | 48,009 | 34,285 | 36,399 |
| 40–44 | 25,563 | 28,108 | 31,028 | 34,833 | 24,668 | 26,909 |
| 45–49 | 23,159 | 24,578 | 25,446 | 27,073 | 17,987 | 18,777 |
| 50–54 | 21,480 | 23,773 | 25,177 | 26,845 | 17,132 | 16,869 |
| 55–59 | 14,587 | 16,110 | 17,915 | 20,218 | 13,030 | 13,757 |
| 60–64 | 8,588 | 10,576 | 12,326 | 14,000 | 7,674 | 7,697 |
| 65–69 | 4,090 | 4,381 | 4,881 | 6,044 | 3,656 | 4,112 |
| 70–74 | 4,089 | 4,675 | 4,943 | 5,146 | 1,988 | 1,817 |
| 75–79 | 2,258 | 2,717 | 3,411 | 4,146 | 1,723 | 1,656 |
| 80–84 | 1,496 | 1,763 | 2,046 | 2,239 | 835 | 843 |
| 85 and older | 768 | 1,096 | 1,470 | 1,892 | 582 | 623 |

Source: BPD from MIA.

¹²¹ This includes those who have left to work or to look for a job abroad, but with the intention to return back, known in the country as temporary emigration.

Table 8: Number of Moldova citizens abroad, by duration of stay, sex and wide age group (stock by the end of 2015) (persons)*

| Duration | | Total | Age group | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | 0–14 | 15–29 | 30–44 | 45–59 | 60 and over |
| Total | Both sexes | 753,813 | 75,161 | 214,838 | 266,629 | 151,970 | 45,215 |
| | Men | 347,449 | 38,426 | 107,353 | 127,630 | 59,517 | 14,523 |
| | Women | 406,364 | 36,735 | 107,485 | 138,999 | 92,453 | 30,692 |
| <i>Of whom:</i> | | | | | | | |
| Until 3 months | Both sexes | 200,155 | 14,509 | 58,842 | 61,982 | 48,280 | 16,542 |
| | Men | 94,154 | 7,453 | 29,936 | 32,177 | 19,486 | 5,102 |
| | Women | 106,001 | 7,056 | 28,906 | 29,805 | 28,794 | 11,440 |
| From 3 months | Both sexes | 271,531 | 32,586 | 77,374 | 95,359 | 54,287 | 11,925 |
| | Men | 120,109 | 16,659 | 38,671 | 42,992 | 18,616 | 3,171 |
| | Women | 151,422 | 15,927 | 38,703 | 52,367 | 35,671 | 8,754 |
| From 1 year | Both sexes | 199,595 | 21,230 | 57,229 | 76,297 | 34,624 | 10,215 |
| | Men | 94,439 | 10,859 | 28,419 | 36,949 | 14,555 | 3,657 |
| | Women | 105,156 | 10,371 | 28,810 | 39,348 | 20,069 | 6,558 |
| From 3 years | Both sexes | 82,532 | 6,836 | 21,393 | 32,991 | 14,779 | 6,533 |
| | Men | 38,747 | 3,455 | 10,327 | 15,512 | 6,860 | 2,593 |
| | Women | 43,785 | 3,381 | 11,066 | 17,479 | 7,919 | 3,940 |

Source: BPD from MIA.

Note: *The information is presented according to the data accumulated from the State border crossing points controlled by the official authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Table 9: Estimated number of Moldovan citizens staying abroad, according to the data from Moldovan diplomatic and consular missions in host countries, 2011–2015 (persons)*

| Host country | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Total | 505,139 | 755,983 | 819,542** | 983,708 | 805,509 |
| <i>Of whom staying in:</i> | | | | | |
| Russian Federation | 211,000 | 459,700 | 560,000 | 550,000 | 477,949 |
| Italy | 130,948 | 147,519 | 149,087** | 150,021 | 142,266 |
| United States | – | – | – | 47,554 | – |
| Canada | 13,490 | 13,861 | 15,092 | 12,830 | 17,565 |
| Ukraine | 1,547 | 1,610 | 18,587 | 17,706 | 17,237 |
| Spain | 16,014 | 17,515 | 16,758 | 16,433 | 16,202 |
| Germany | 11,872 | 11,872 | 11,665 | 11,665 | 14,815 |
| Israel | 15,000 | 15,000 | 559** | 11,000 | 13,005 |
| Romania | 11,058 | 13,254 | 11,699 | 11,699 | 9,277 |
| Greece | 11,502 | 11,717 | 8,825 | 18,825 | 9,085 |
| Portugal | 13,586 | 11,503 | 9,971 | 23,000 | 6,948 |
| Bulgaria | 4,023 | 3,925 | 3,372 | 3,372 | 5,147 |
| Czech Republic | 7,605 | 6,764 | 6,061 | 5,415 | 5,129 |
| Belarus | – | 2,371 | – | 3,465 | 3,481 |

| Host country | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Belgium | 913 | 1,480 | 1299 | 1,299 | 1,364 |
| Austria | 304 | 805 | 1682 | 1,682 | 1,284 |
| United Kingdom | 16,000 | 20,000 | – | 1,052 | – |
| Switzerland | 710 | 783 | 650 | 650 | 765 |
| Poland | – | – | 876 | 876 | 756 |
| Ireland | – | 1,515 | 1,611** | 15,000 | 728 |
| Slovenia | – | 305 | 105 | 299 | 299 |
| Norway | 198 | 215 | 243 | 256 | 275 |
| Sweden | 208 | 245 | 273 | 273 | 243 |
| Hungary | – | 238 | 122 | 238 | 230 |
| Estonia | – | 502 | 502 | 128 | 129 |
| Other countries | 39,161 | 13,000 | 503 | 78,970 | 61,330 |

Sources: *MFAEI (data are estimates based on information provided by diplomatic and consular missions).

**EUROSTAT Database.

Table 10: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of persons working abroad with legal contracts | 332 | 297 | 603 | 793 | 924 | 2,010 |
| Growth rate of the number of persons working abroad with legal contracts (%) | 140.7 | 89.5 | 203.0 | 131.5 | 116.5 | 217.5 |

Source: MLSPF/NEA.

Table 11: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, by country of employment and sex, 2012–2015 (persons)

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Total | 603 | 793 | 924 | 2,010 |
| <i>Of whom in:</i> | | | | |
| Israel | 348 | 559 | 518 | 1,698 |
| Poland | 14 | 17 | 317 | 202 |
| United Arab Emirates | 150 | 147 | 33 | 68 |
| Thailand | 32 | 22 | 7 | 1 |
| Russian Federation | 55 | 48 | 32 | – |
| Other countries | 4 | 0 | 17 | 41 |
| <i>Of the total number:</i> | | | | |
| Men | 483 | 513 | 308 | 1,349 |
| Women | 120 | 280 | 616 | 661 |

Source: MLSPF/NEA.

Table 12: Number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad, by country, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total studying abroad* | 4,009 | 4,270 | 5,356 | 5,891 | 5,469 | 5,485 |
| <i>Of whom in:</i> | | | | | | |
| Romania | 3,600 | 3,800 | 5,000 | 5,500 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Ukraine | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | – | – |
| Russian Federation | 110 | 110 | 97 | 105 | 328 | 328 |
| Bulgaria | 110 | 194 | 131 | 140 | 114 | 130 |
| Turkey | 40 | 40 | – | – | – | – |
| China | 10 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Czech Republic | 15 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Sweden | 9 | – | – | – | – | – |
| Greece | 10 | – | – | – | – | – |
| Slovakia | – | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Estonia | – | – | – | 4 | – | – |
| Latvia | – | – | – | 10 | – | – |

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: *This excludes the Moldovan citizens who went abroad for studies based on individual contracts.

Table 13: Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers and recognized as refugees abroad, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Persons | | | | | | |
| 2.3.7. Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad | 633 | 460 | 441 | 878 | 1449 | 3402 |
| 2.3.8. Number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad | 6,200 | 6,264 | 6,148 | 2,207 | 2,242 | 2,264 |
| Growth rate compared with the previous year | | | | | | |
| 2.3.7. Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad (%) | -14.3 | -27.3 | -4.1 | 99.1 | 65.0 | 134.8 |
| 2.3.8. Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad (%) | 4.6 | 1.0 | -1.9 | -64.1 | 1.6 | 1.0 |

Source: UNHCR.

Table 14: Temporary/circular labour migration, * by sex and country of destination, 2010–2015 (thousand persons)

| Country of destination | Total | | | | | | Men | | | | | | Women | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | |
| Total left | 311.0 | 316.9 | 328.3 | 332.5 | 341.9 | 325.4 | 198.0 | 204.4 | 218.6 | 216.9 | 219.0 | 210.8 | 113.0 | 112.5 | 109.7 | 115.6 | 122.8 | 114.6 | |
| <i>Of whom to:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Russian Federation | 191.9 | 204.8 | 223.4 | 223.6 | 232.8 | 206.2 | 147.2 | 158.0 | 175.0 | 170.7 | 173.9 | 157.8 | 44.7 | 46.8 | 48.4 | 52.8 | 58.9 | 48.4 | 48.4 |
| Italy | 58.6 | 58.4 | 54.9 | 50.7 | 49.6 | 49.2 | 18.5 | 17.2 | 15.6 | 12.2 | 11.5 | 13.5 | 40.1 | 41.2 | 39.3 | 38.6 | 38.1 | 35.7 | 35.7 |
| Turkey | 9.0 | 7.4 | 5.8 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 11.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| Israel | 8.2 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 7.4 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 5.7 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 6.8 |
| Ukraine | 6.5 | 5.1 | 3.9 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Portugal | 5.1 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Greece | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Romania | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Other countries | 26.9 | 25.6 | 24.1 | 28.8 | 31.4 | 38.7 | 18.4 | 16.6 | 16.4 | 20.0 | 22.8 | 27.8 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 7.7 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 10.9 | 10.9 |

Source: NBS/AFS.

Note: *Population aged 15 years or over, either already working or looking for a job abroad.

Table 15: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by area of residence prior to departure and by age, 2010, 2014 and 2015 (thousand persons)

| Age | 2010 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural |
| Total | 311.0 | 90.6 | 220.5 | 341.9 | 96.7 | 245.2 | 325.4 | 101.6 | 223.9 |
| 15–24 | 69.7 | 12.3 | 57.3 | 72.3 | 10.7 | 61.6 | 60.6 | 12.2 | 48.4 |
| 25–34 | 102.2 | 31.7 | 70.5 | 121.2 | 34.7 | 86.5 | 125.8 | 42.4 | 83.4 |
| 35–44 | 68.6 | 19.7 | 48.9 | 71.6 | 22.9 | 48.7 | 70.3 | 23.6 | 46.7 |
| 45–54 | 58.3 | 20.9 | 37.3 | 59.0 | 21.7 | 37.3 | 50.6 | 17.0 | 33.6 |
| 55–64 | 12.2 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 17.2 | 6.5 | 10.7 | 17.4 | 6.3 | 11.2 |
| 65 and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.5 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

Table 16: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by sex and age, 2010, 2014 and 2015 (thousand persons)

| Age | 2010 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total | 311.0 | 198.0 | 113.0 | 341.9 | 219.1 | 122.8 | 325.4 | 210.8 | 114.6 |
| 15–24 | 69.7 | 51.6 | 18.1 | 72.3 | 54.4 | 17.9 | 60.6 | 44.8 | 15.8 |
| 25–34 | 102.2 | 70.3 | 31.9 | 121.2 | 86.6 | 34.6 | 125.8 | 90.6 | 35.2 |
| 35–44 | 68.6 | 40.0 | 28.6 | 71.6 | 42.3 | 29.3 | 70.3 | 43.4 | 26.9 |
| 45–54 | 58.3 | 29.7 | 28.5 | 59.0 | 27.6 | 31.4 | 50.6 | 23.9 | 26.7 |
| 55–64 | 12.2 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 17.2 | 8.0 | 9.2 | 17.4 | 8.0 | 9.5 |
| 65 and over | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.5 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

Table 17: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by education level and sex, 2010, 2014 and 2015 (thousand persons)

| Education level | 2010 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total | 311.0 | 198.0 | 113.0 | 341.9 | 219.1 | 122.8 | 325.4 | 210.8 | 114.6 |
| University | 33.3 | 15.6 | 17.6 | 37.7 | 19.9 | 17.8 | 42.9 | 24.3 | 18.6 |
| Secondary professional | 40.7 | 20.7 | 20.0 | 40.8 | 20.5 | 20.3 | 35.1 | 16.6 | 18.5 |
| Secondary vocational | 79.5 | 57.5 | 22.0 | 90.9 | 67.0 | 23.9 | 84.6 | 62.0 | 22.6 |
| Lyceum, secondary general | 79.4 | 50.1 | 29.3 | 80.8 | 47.1 | 33.8 | 78.9 | 49.2 | 29.7 |
| Gymnasium | 76.2 | 52.3 | 23.9 | 90.3 | 63.6 | 26.7 | 83.4 | 58.3 | 25.1 |
| Primary, no school | 1.9 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

II. Immigration of population

Table 18: Repatriation and readmission, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011* | 2012* | 2013* | 2014* | 2015* |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2.4.1. Annual number of repatriated persons | 1,679 | 1,730 | 1,488 | 1,585 | 2,211 | 2,406 |
| 2.4.2. Growth rate of the number of repatriated persons (%) | -22.0 | 3.0 | -14.0 | 6.5 | 39.5 | 8.8 |
| 2.4.3. Proportion of children among repatriated persons (%) | 3.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 11.3 | 8.7 |
| 2.4.4. Number of Moldovan citizens readmitted based on the Readmission Agreements (persons) | 110 | 126 | 54 | 88 | 69 | 139 |

Sources: MIA/BMA and MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 19: Trafficking in human beings, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2.5.1. Number of Moldovan citizens victims of trafficking in human beings, identified and assisted through the National Referral System (NRS) | 132 | 109 | 189 | 131 | 80 | 132 |
| 2.5.3. Femininity ratio for victims of trafficking in human beings (%) | – | 251.6 | 243.6 | 274.3 | 247.8 | 140.0 |
| 2.5.4. Number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings assisted through the NRS | 328 | 651 | 1214 | 1403 | 854 | 298 |

Source: MLSPF.

Table 20: Resident population with foreign background, by the end of the year, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 3.2.1. Total number of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova (persons) | 20,099 | 19,678 | 20,191 | 21,092 | 21,685 | 21,876 |
| 3.2.2. Growth rate of the number of foreigners (%) | 108.3 | 104.0 | 102.6 | 104.5 | 102.8 | 100.9 |
| 3.2.3. Foreigners' share of the total population (%) | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 3.2.5. Proportion of foreigners who are stateless (%) | 10.3 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 8.7 |
| 3.2.6. Proportion of foreigners living in urban areas (%) | 78.5 | 78.5 | 77.9 | 76.7 | 76.0 | 74.9 |
| 3.2.7. Annual number of naturalizations (persons) | 14 | 18 | 17 | 9 | 24 | 41 |
| 3.2.10. Number of foreign-born persons (non-natives), stock | 253,847 | 262,572 | 268,836 | 283,674 | 288,578 | 294,419 |
| 3.2.11. Growth rate of the number of foreign-born persons (non-natives) (%) | 103.8 | 103.3 | 102.4 | 105.5 | 101.7 | 102.0 |
| 3.2.12. Foreign-born persons' share of the population (%) | 6.5 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| 3.2.13. Proportion of foreign-born persons living in urban areas (%) | 72.9 | 74.5 | 72.6 | 69.2 | 68.3 | 67.5 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 21: Number of population with foreign background, by age and sex (stock by the end of the year), 2011, 2014 and 2015 (persons)

| Age | 2011 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total | 19,678 | 9,960 | 9,718 | 21,685 | 9,981 | 11,704 | 21,876 | 11,833 | 10,043 |
| 0–4 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 34 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 16 | 8 |
| 5–9 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 34 | 22 | 12 | 45 | 33 | 12 |
| 10–14 | 46 | 24 | 22 | 36 | 17 | 19 | 35 | 16 | 19 |
| 15–19 | 1,153 | 647 | 506 | 642 | 422 | 220 | 502 | 318 | 184 |
| 20–24 | 2,402 | 1,284 | 1,118 | 2,346 | 1,571 | 775 | 2,344 | 1,611 | 733 |
| 25–29 | 2,403 | 1,103 | 1,300 | 1,860 | 948 | 912 | 1,937 | 1,008 | 929 |
| 30–34 | 2,394 | 1,167 | 1,227 | 2,220 | 1,123 | 1,097 | 2,100 | 1,058 | 1,042 |
| 35–39 | 2,249 | 1,155 | 1,094 | 2,453 | 1,255 | 1,198 | 2,362 | 1,192 | 1,170 |
| 40–44 | 1,863 | 1,003 | 860 | 2,550 | 1,318 | 1,232 | 2,523 | 1,284 | 1,239 |
| 45–49 | 1,897 | 1,045 | 852 | 1,894 | 1,103 | 791 | 2,009 | 1,163 | 846 |
| 50–54 | 1,634 | 830 | 804 | 1,953 | 1,114 | 839 | 1,969 | 1,144 | 825 |
| 55–59 | 1,319 | 628 | 691 | 1,859 | 1,010 | 849 | 1,986 | 1,083 | 903 |
| 60–64 | 860 | 451 | 409 | 1,429 | 716 | 713 | 1,486 | 759 | 727 |
| 65–69 | 576 | 280 | 296 | 921 | 483 | 438 | 1,082 | 565 | 517 |
| 70–74 | 393 | 186 | 207 | 520 | 250 | 270 | 495 | 224 | 271 |
| 75–79 | 243 | 82 | 161 | 473 | 193 | 280 | 485 | 208 | 277 |
| 80–84 | 139 | 38 | 101 | 224 | 79 | 145 | 253 | 86 | 167 |
| 85 and over | 65 | 14 | 51 | 237 | 61 | 176 | 239 | 65 | 174 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 22: Resident population with foreign background, by country of citizenship, 2010–2015 (persons)

| Country of citizenship | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 20,099 | 19,678 | 20,191 | 21,092 | 21,685 | 21,876 |
| <i>Including:</i> | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | 7,114 | 7,392 | 7,171 | 7,005 | 6,953 | 7,092 |
| Russian Federation | 5,001 | 5,032 | 4,736 | 4,815 | 4,812 | 4,973 |
| Israel | 957 | 1,096 | 1,527 | 1,694 | 1,925 | 1,908 |
| Stateless (Article 1, 1954 UN Convention) | 1,360 | 1,312 | 1,262 | 1,526 | 1,524 | 1,513 |
| Romania | 691 | 714 | 865 | 1,072 | 1,275 | 1,138 |
| Turkey | 792 | 711 | 810 | 929 | 920 | 890 |
| United States | 250 | 273 | 328 | 339 | 429 | 480 |
| Italy | 164 | 175 | 326 | 387 | 442 | 450 |
| Belarus | 296 | 299 | 300 | 322 | 318 | 310 |

| Country of citizenship | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Persons with non-determined citizenship | 357 | 352 | 331 | 327 | 317 | 305 |
| Azerbaijan | 201 | 216 | 223 | 239 | 252 | 276 |
| Armenia | – | 177 | 179 | 322 | 196 | 204 |
| Kazakhstan | – | 178 | 176 | 178 | 184 | 190 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 177 | 167 | 199 | 208 | 181 | 165 |
| Uzbekistan | – | 74 | 93 | 121 | 141 | 138 |
| Germany | 121 | 107 | 123 | 137 | 136 | 115 |
| Other countries | 1,814 | 1,403 | 1,542 | 1,471 | 2,201 | 1,729 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 23: Number of naturalized persons, by country of previous citizenship (stock by the end of the year), 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 644 | 662 | 671 | 680 | 704 | 745 |
| Stateless persons (Article 1, 1951 Convention) | 453 | 464 | 468 | 470 | 475 | 483 |
| Persons with undetermined citizenship | 152 | 152 | 152 | 154 | 157 | 166 |
| Refugees (Article 1, 1951 Convention) | 4 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 16 |
| Ukraine | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 13 |
| Russian Federation | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 12 |
| Beneficiary of humanitarian protection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Armenia | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Sudan | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Turkmenistan | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Azerbaijan | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Afghanistan | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Viet Nam | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Yemen | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kazakhstan | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| China | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Palestinian Territories | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | – | – | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Iraq | – | – | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | – | – | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Georgia | – | – | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Jordan | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| Mali | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| Romania | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Turkey | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 24: Number of persons born abroad, regardless of citizenship (stock at the end of the year), 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 253,847 | 262,572 | 268,836 | 283,674 | 288,578 | 294,419 |
| Ukraine | 105,949 | 107,159 | 105,601 | 105,825 | 104,601 | 103,920 |
| Russian Federation | 98,280 | 100,669 | 101,104 | 105,147 | 105,714 | 106,696 |
| Italy | 4,427 | 6,549 | 10,590 | 15,110 | 17,938 | 20,585 |
| Kazakhstan | 13,088 | 13,180 | 13,139 | 13,116 | 13,046 | 12,979 |
| Romania | 3,338 | 3,652 | 4,050 | 5,175 | 5,527 | 5,865 |
| Belarus | 4,969 | 5,017 | 4,926 | 4,931 | 4,833 | 4,764 |
| Turkey | – | 1,793 | 2,294 | 3,111 | 3,528 | 3,891 |
| Portugal | – | 1,556 | 1,946 | 2,607 | 2,776 | 2,878 |
| Germany | 2,205 | 2,289 | 2,357 | 2,572 | 2,645 | 2,835 |
| Spain | – | 1,196 | 1,628 | 2,152 | 2,469 | 2,787 |
| France | – | 767 | 1,211 | 1,775 | 2,205 | 2,728 |
| Greece | – | 1,575 | 1,778 | 2,145 | 2,280 | 2,398 |
| Azerbaijan | 1,992 | 2,004 | 1,998 | 2,018 | 2,000 | 1,987 |
| Uzbekistan | 1,971 | 1,994 | 1,991 | 1,973 | 1,962 | 1,938 |
| Georgia | 1,850 | 1,871 | 1,866 | 1,852 | 1,841 | 1,826 |
| Other countries | 15,778 | 11,301 | 12,357 | 14,165 | 152,123 | 16,342 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Table 25: Immigration of foreigners, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3.1.1. Annual number of immigrations of foreigners (persons) | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| 3.1.2. Growth rate of immigrations of foreigners (%) | 124.9 | 108.3 | 114.6 | 107.7 | 125.2 | 100.1 |
| 3.1.3. Gender gap for immigrations of foreigners (%) | 44.4 | 38.9 | 41.7 | 43.4 | 43.0 | 48.1 |
| 3.1.5. Annual number of immigrations of foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/science degrees | 1,291 | 1,750 | 2,008 | 2,259 | 2,430 | 2,694 |
| 3.1.6. Growth rate of immigrated foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/science degrees (%) | 108.9 | 135.6 | 114.8 | 112.5 | 107.6 | 110.9 |
| 3.1.7. Proportion of immigrant foreigners with secondary professional education/higher education/science degrees (%) | 51.4 | 64.4 | 64.7 | 67.3 | 57.8 | 64.0 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 26: Distribution of immigrants, by level of education, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total arrived | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| <i>Of whom to study:</i> | | | | | | |
| University | 812 | 1,022 | 1,257 | 1,231 | 1,600 | 1,581 |
| Secondary professional education | 479 | 728 | 751 | 765 | 630 | 920 |
| Secondary general education | 956 | 697 | 874 | 858 | 1,476 | 1,233 |
| Secondary incomplete | 136 | 154 | 74 | 199 | 111 | 102 |
| Primary, no school | 48 | 17 | 22 | 13 | 14 | 13 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 27: Distribution of immigrants, by country of citizenship, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total arrived | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| <i>Of whom citizens of:</i> | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | 375 | 384 | 403 | 396 | 537 | 754 |
| Romania | 309 | 360 | 445 | 602 | 853 | 646 |
| Russian Federation | 294 | 240 | 305 | 335 | 517 | 567 |
| Israel | 482 | 455 | 407 | 463 | 525 | 548 |
| Turkey | 287 | 266 | 337 | 446 | 421 | 373 |
| United States | 59 | 75 | 173 | 125 | 199 | 209 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 34 | 34 | 65 | 64 | 34 | 33 |
| China | 23 | 21 | 23 | 38 | 17 | 28 |
| Bulgaria | 43 | 21 | 25 | 18 | 37 | 23 |
| Jordan | 3 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 26 | 12 |
| Other countries | 601 | 855 | 927 | 862 | 1,038 | 1,017 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 28: Distribution of immigrants, by purpose of stay, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total arrived | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| <i>Including:</i> | | | | | | |
| Family reintegration | 905 | 865 | 1,061 | 1,075 | 1,255 | 1,442 |
| Work | 777 | 865 | 971 | 1,067 | 1,360 | 1,201 |
| Studies | 753 | 720 | 617 | 708 | 929 | 818 |
| Other purpose | 75 | 269 | 467 | 507 | 660 | 749 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 29: Temporary migration of the population with foreign background, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3.4.1. Number of foreigners holding a permanent residence permit (persons) | 15,546 | 13,342 | 12,240 | 11,775 | 11,121 | 10,661 |
| 3.4.2. Growth rate of the number of permanent residence permit holders (%) | 105.2 | 85.8 | 91.7 | 96.2 | 94.5 | 95.9 |
| 3.4.3. Proportion of working-age foreigners with permanent residence permits (%) | 79.2 | 62.1 | 55.5 | 55.0 | 50.3 | 47.8 |
| 3.4.4. Proportion of foreigners living in the country for at least five years (%) | – | 17.9 | 19.8 | 16.3 | 18.9 | 22.3 |
| 3.4.5. Number of foreigners who are first-time temporary residence permit holders (persons) | 2,232 | 1,971 | 2,490 | 2,530 | 3,065 | 3,156 |
| 3.4.6. Number of foreigners holding valid temporary residence permits (persons) | 4,553 | 4,757 | 6,148 | 7,385 | 8,636 | 9,314 |
| 3.4.7. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for family reunification purpose (%) | 36.1 | 37.8 | 38.1 | 38.9 | 37.8 | 41.7 |
| 3.4.8. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for work or business purpose (%) | 30.6 | 28.3 | 27.5 | 33.0 | 22.7 | 19.0 |
| 3.4.9. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for study or training purpose (%) | 33.3 | 29.3 | 19.6 | 16.3 | 18.4 | 15.7 |
| 3.4.10. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for humanitarian and religious activities (%) | 0 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| 3.4.11. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for medical treatment purpose (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3.4.12. Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for other purposes (%) | 0 | 0.3 | 5.4 | 7.5 | 17.0 | 19.5 |
| 3.4.13. Number of foreigners with local border traffic permits | 0 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 32 | 26 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 30: Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Moldova, by country of origin, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 1,372 | 1,632 | 2,028 | 2,138 | 2,465 | 3,480 |
| <i>Of whom arriving from:</i> | | | | | | |
| Israel | 764 | 1,068 | 1,384 | 1,551 | 1,726 | 2,039 |
| Romania | 36 | 80 | 155 | 108 | 158 | 791 |
| Turkey | 76 | 57 | 60 | 71 | 129 | 141 |
| Ukraine | 202 | 157 | 165 | 164 | 160 | 139 |
| Russian Federation | 118 | 113 | 102 | 82 | 71 | 67 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 23 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 24 | 19 |
| Jordan | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Belarus | 15 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Sudan | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 47 | 24 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| China | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | – | – |
| Other | 91 | 112 | 110 | 117 | 176 | 266 |

Source: NBS.

Table 31: Involuntary migration of the population with foreign background, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3.7.1. Annual number of asylum applications (first request) (persons) | 90 | 72 | 177 | 163 | 245 | 276 |
| 3.7.3. Femininity ratio among the asylum seekers (%) | 32.4 | 28.6 | 29.2 | 28.2 | 40.4 | 31.8 |
| 3.7.4. Annual number of humanitarian protection beneficiaries, including the stateless people (persons) | 25 | 20 | 45 | 83 | 63 | 150 |
| 3.7.5. Number of persons who were refused humanitarian protection | 35 | 74 | 55 | 36 | 35 | 36 |
| 3.7.6. Number of asylum seekers with pending applications (units) | 81 | 49 | 79 | 87 | 149 | 110 |
| 3.7.7. Number of persons granted stateless status | 0 | 0 | 6 | 95 | 89 | 66 |
| 3.7.8. Number of stateless persons granted the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova (persons) | 0 | 4 | 15 | 65 | 59 | 5 |
| 3.7.9. Growth rate of the number of asylum seekers with pending applications (%) | 155.8 | 60.5 | 161.2 | 110.1 | 151.7 | 73.8 |
| 3.7.10. Number of refugees in the Republic of Moldova (persons) | 70 | 56 | 72 | 78 | 124 | 144 |
| 3.7.11. Growth rate of the number of refugees (%) | 87.5 | 80.0 | 128.6 | 108.3 | 159.0 | 116.1 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 32: Number of asylum seekers, by country of origin, 2010–2015 (persons)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 90 | 72 | 177 | 163 | 245 | 276 |
| <i>Of whom arrived from:</i> | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | – | – | 1 | – | 134 | 123 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2 | 13 | 73 | 85 | 61 | 55 |
| Iraq | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 23 |
| Afghanistan | 9 | 1 | 17 | 14 | 10 | 20 |
| Turkey | – | – | – | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Armenia | 23 | 7 | 12 | – | 2 | 8 |
| Sri Lanka | – | – | – | – | – | 7 |
| Russian Federation | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 2 | 1 | – | 10 | 5 | 2 |
| Nigeria | – | 1 | 3 | 3 | – | 2 |
| Georgia | – | – | – | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | – | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Tajikistan | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | – | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | – | 1 |
| Pakistan | – | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Other countries | 38 | 29 | 49 | 19 | 16 | 17 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 33: State border crossing mobility, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.1.12. Number of departures of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (units) | 4,916,233 | 5,124,750 | 5,176,251 | 5,343,475 | 5,153,516 | 5,646,264 |
| 1.1.14. Growth rate of the number of departures of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (%) | 99.0 | 104.2 | 101.0 | 103.2 | 96.5 | 110.2 |
| 1.1.9. Number of arrivals of Moldovan citizens registered at the State border (units) | 4,825,359 | 5,011,442 | 5,056,087 | 5,215,177 | 5,076,005 | 5,676,532 |
| Growth rate of the number of arrivals of Moldovan citizens at the State border (%) | 95.3 | 103.9 | 100.9 | 103.2 | 97.3 | 111.8 |
| 1.1.10. Number of arrivals of foreigners registered at the State border (units) | 1,885,841 | 2,194,315 | 2,273,840 | 2,363,090 | 2,247,837 | 2,876,671 |
| 1.1.11. Growth rate of the number of arrivals of foreigners registered at the State border (%) | 127.6 | 116.4 | 103.6 | 103.9 | 95.1 | 128.0 |
| 1.1.13. Number of departures of foreigners registered at the State border (units) | 1,898,272 | 2,207,326 | 2,275,847 | 2,371,292 | 2,266,451 | 2,891,932 |
| Growth rate of the number of departures of foreigners registered at the State border (%) | 113.3 | 116.3 | 103.1 | 104.2 | 95.6 | 127.6 |

Source: BPD.

Table 34: Annual number of visas granted to foreigners, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| 3.1.8. Annual number of visas granted by the Republic of Moldova diplomatic and consular offices (units) | 16,772 | 14,954 | 15,541 | 15,272 | 7,040 | 3,900 |
| 3.1.9. Growth rate of the number of visas granted (%) | 72.9 | 89.2 | 103.9 | 98.3 | 46.1 | 55.4 |

Source: MFAEI.

Table 35: Illegal stay of foreigners in the territory of the country – main indicators, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3.8.1. Number of irregular migrants (illegal migrants) | 2,298 | 1,711 | 1,452* | 2,917* | 3,991* | 4,417* |
| 3.8.2. Number of expelled foreigners | 58 | 70 | 101 | 32 | – | – |
| 3.8.4. Number of foreigners with revoked right to stay in the Republic of Moldova | 0 | 0 | 201 | 237 | 510 | 410 |
| 3.8.5. Number of foreigners with refused right to stay in the Republic of Moldova | – | 49 | 66 | 39 | 88 | 118 |
| 3.8.6. Number of foreigners on whom was disposed the measure of return on the territory of the Republic of Moldova | 0 | 54 | 380 | 238 | 474 | 622 |
| 3.8.7. Number of foreigners declared “undesirable” on the territory of the Republic of Moldova | 0 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 67 | 110 |
| 3.8.8. Number of foreigners taken into public custody | 80 | 103 | 88 | 81 | 104 | 120 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Note: *Including the data of the BPD.

III. Impact of migration

Table 36: General demographic indicators, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1.1.1. Total population (thousand persons) | 3,560.4 | 3,559.5 | 3,559.5 | 3,557.6 | 3,555.2 | 3,553.1 |
| 1.1.2. Population growth rate (%) | -0.09 | -0.03 | 0.0 | -0.05 | -0.07 | -0.06 |
| 1.1.3. Birth rate (‰) | 11.4 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.9 |
| 1.1.4. Death rate (‰) | 12.3 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.2 |
| 1.1.5. Natural growth (‰) | -0.89 | -0.02 | -0.03 | -0.06 | -0.25 | -0.37 |
| 1.1.6. Gross immigration rate (‰) | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| 1.1.7. Gross emigration rate (‰) | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 1.1.8. Net migration rate (percentage points) | -0.2 | -0.4 | -0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Marriage rate (‰) | 7.4 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 7.0 |
| Divorce rate (‰) | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| Ageing coefficient of population – total | 14.4 | 14.8 | 15.3 | 15.7 | 16.2 | 16.7 |
| <i>Of which, for:</i> | | | | | | |
| Men | 11.8 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 13.4 | 13.8 |
| Women | 16.8 | 17.3 | 17.8 | 18.3 | 18.8 | 19.3 |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) – total | 69.1 | 70.9 | 71.1 | 71.9 | 71.5 | 71.6 |
| <i>Of which, for:</i> | | | | | | |
| Men | 65.0 | 66.8 | 67.2 | 68.1 | 67.5 | 67.5 |
| Women | 73.4 | 74.9 | 75.0 | 75.6 | 75.4 | 75.6 |

Source: NBS.

Table 37: Demographic composition of the population, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1.2.1. Proportion of population aged less than 15 years | 16.5 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| 1.2.2. Proportion population aged 65 years and over | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.3 | 10.7 |
| 1.2.3. Demographic dependency ratio | | | | | | |
| 1.2.3.1. Demographic dependency ratio (national definition) | 49.9 | 50.2 | 50.1 | 51.4 | 54.4 | 55.7 |
| 1.2.3.2. Demographic dependency ratio (international definition) | 35.9 | 35.4 | 35.2 | 35.2 | 35.7 | 36.4 |
| 1.2.4. Seniority ratio | 20.3 | 20.8 | 21.7 | 21.5 | 21.0 | 20.7 |
| 1.2.5. Proportion of males aged 65 years and over | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8.4 |
| 1.2.6. Proportion of females aged 65 years and over | 12.0 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 12.1 | 12.4 | 12.9 |
| 1.2.7. Femininity ratio for those aged 65 years and over | 167.1 | 166.9 | 166.5 | 166.5 | 165.5 | 164.5 |

Source: NBS.

Table 38: Number of stable population, by sex and age (end-of-year counts), 2010 and 2015 (persons)

| Age | 2010 | | | 2015 | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| Total | 3,560,430 | 1,712,106 | 1,848,324 | 3,553,056 | 1,709,085 | 1,843,971 |
| 0–4 | 192,835 | 99,489 | 93,346 | 190,722 | 98,199 | 92,523 |
| 5–9 | 184,731 | 95,179 | 89,552 | 192,251 | 99,193 | 93,058 |
| 10–14 | 207,983 | 106,477 | 101,506 | 184,601 | 95,105 | 89,496 |
| 15–19 | 280,899 | 142,978 | 137,921 | 207,760 | 106,416 | 101,344 |
| 20–24 | 352,445 | 179,261 | 173,184 | 280,223 | 142,765 | 137,458 |
| 25–29 | 325,872 | 165,603 | 160,269 | 350,308 | 178,329 | 171,979 |
| 30–34 | 278,881 | 140,370 | 138,511 | 322,250 | 163,953 | 158,297 |
| 35–39 | 243,281 | 120,001 | 123,280 | 274,713 | 137,805 | 136,908 |
| 40–44 | 225,578 | 109,426 | 116,152 | 238,289 | 116,652 | 121,637 |
| 45–49 | 253,172 | 120,188 | 132,984 | 219,799 | 105,323 | 114,476 |

| Age | 2010 | | | 2015 | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women |
| 50–54 | 271,360 | 126,191 | 145,169 | 243,565 | 113,399 | 130,166 |
| 55–59 | 231,129 | 104,706 | 126,423 | 255,946 | 115,682 | 140,264 |
| 60–64 | 156,930 | 69,176 | 87,754 | 211,657 | 92,203 | 119,454 |
| 65–69 | 110,158 | 45,986 | 64,172 | 136,386 | 56,782 | 79,604 |
| 70–74 | 101,180 | 38,289 | 62,891 | 91,150 | 35,932 | 55,218 |
| 75–79 | 71,852 | 25,983 | 45,869 | 74,766 | 25,984 | 48,782 |
| 80–84 | 46,367 | 14,995 | 31,372 | 44,214 | 14,699 | 29,515 |
| 85 and over | 25,777 | 7,808 | 17,969 | 34,456 | 10,664 | 23,792 |
| <i>Of the total population:</i> | | | | | | |
| Persons below working age (0–15 years) | 635,060 | 326,383 | 308,677 | 605,647 | 312,065 | 293,582 |
| Persons of working age (16–56/61 years) | 2,374,752 | 1,219,040 | 1,155,712 | 2,313,927 | 1,200,391 | 1,113,536 |
| Persons over working age (57/62+ years) | 550,618 | 166,683 | 383,935 | 633,482 | 196,629 | 436,853 |

Source: NBS.

Table 39: Comparison of urban and rural population, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1.3.1. Size of urban population (thousand persons) | 1,481.7 | 1,485.8 | 1,492.2 | 1,503.0 | 1,507.3 | 1,511.1 |
| 1.3.2. Urbanization rate (%) | 41.6 | 41.7 | 41.9 | 42.2 | 42.4 | 42.5 |
| 1.3.3. Growth rate of urban population (%) | 100.3 | 100.3 | 100.4 | 100.7 | 100.3 | 100.3 |
| 1.3.4. Proportion of persons aged under 15, in urban areas (%) | 14.0 | 13.9 | 13.8 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 13.7 |
| 1.3.5. Proportion of persons aged 65 and over, in urban areas (%) | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 10.3 |
| 1.3.6. Proportion of persons aged under 15, in rural areas (%) | 18.2 | 17.9 | 17.8 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17.6 |
| 1.3.7. Proportion of persons aged 65 and over, in rural areas (%) | 10.9 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 11.0 |
| 1.3.8. Dependency ratio in urban areas (international definition) (%) | 29.3 | 29.3 | 29.5 | 30.0 | 30.7 | 31.6 |
| 1.3.9. Seniority ratio in urban areas (%) | 18.6 | 18.8 | 19.3 | 19.1 | 18.5 | 18.2 |
| 1.3.10. Femininity ratio for population aged 65 and over, in urban areas (%) | 165.7 | 164.0 | 162.5 | 161.3 | 160.0 | 159.5 |
| 1.3.11. Dependency ratio in rural areas (international definition) (%) | 41.1 | 40.2 | 39.6 | 39.3 | 39.7 | 40.2 |
| 1.3.12. Seniority ratio in rural areas (%) | 21.3 | 21.9 | 23.1 | 23.1 | 22.7 | 22.4 |
| 1.3.13. Femininity ratio for population aged 65 and over, in rural areas (%) | 167.8 | 168.7 | 169.0 | 169.9 | 169.3 | 168.0 |

Source: NBS.

Table 40: Demographic composition of the population of foreign background, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3.3.1. Proportion of foreigners in the total population aged under 15 years | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| 3.3.2. Proportion of foreigners in the total population aged 65 years and over | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| 3.3.3. Sex ratio for foreigners | 101.8 | 102.5 | 110.4 | 114.0 | 117.3 | 117.8 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 41: Global economic indicators, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015* |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.6.1. GDP (thousand MDL) | 71,885.5 | 82,349.0 | 88,227.8 | 100,510.5 | 112,049.6 | 122,169.5 |
| 1.6.2. Growth rate of GDP (%) | 107.1 | 106.8 | 99.3 | 109.4 | 104.8 | 99.5 |
| 1.6.3. GDP per capita (MDL) | 20,181 | 23,132 | 24,786 | 28,252 | 31,506 | 34,374 |
| 1.6.4. Growth rate of GDP per capita (%) | 107.2 | 106.9 | 99.3 | 109.4 | 104.9 | 99.8 |
| 1.6.7. Human Development Index | 0.644 | 0.649 | 0.660 | 0.633 | 0.693 | – |

Source: NBS.

Note: *Semi-defined data.

Table 42: Impact of remittances on the welfare of households, 2010–2015 (%)

| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.7.5. Proportion of households receiving remittances | Total | 24.5 | 23.1 | 22.4 | 22.7 | 23.8 | 25.0 |
| | Urban | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.0 | 19.2 | 20.6 | 20.5 |
| | Rural | 27.6 | 25.2 | 24.4 | 25.6 | 26.4 | 28.5 |
| 1.7.6. Proportion of remittances in the disposable income of the households depending on remittances | Total | 54.3 | 52.9 | 56.9 | 58.0 | 57.1 | 56.7 |
| | Urban | 47.7 | 49.1 | 52.1 | 52.5 | 50.2 | 52.0 |
| | Rural | 58.7 | 55.7 | 60.4 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 59.7 |
| 1.7.7. Proportion of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances | Total | 12.9 | 30.9 | 27.6 | 23.6 | 25.3 | 23.4 |
| | Urban | 8.9 | 18.5 | 18.2 | 14.1 | 16.1 | 14.4 |
| | Rural | 15.7 | 40.8 | 35.3 | 31.5 | 32.8 | 30.5 |

Source: NBS.

Table 43: Distribution of migrants by average monthly amount sent back to the family, by age and sex (according to the LFM Study 2012) (%)

| Sex/Average monthly amount sent to the family | Total | Age | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 15–24 | 25–34 | 35–44 | 45–54 | 55–64 |
| Total | 410.4 | 79.0 | 132.3 | 100.3 | 79.3 | 19.6 |
| USD 0 | 99.0 | 31.3 | 34.8 | 18.6 | 11.7 | 2.6 |
| Up to USD 500 | 146.8 | 23.3 | 49.4 | 37.3 | 31.5 | 5.2 |
| USD 501–800 | 50.8 | 7.5 | 15.4 | 13.6 | 10.5 | 3.9 |
| USD 801–1,000 | 20.7 | 3.9 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 3.6 | 1.1 |
| USD 1,001 and over | 11.0 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 0.7 |
| Undeclared | 82.1 | 11.8 | 24.6 | 21.7 | 17.9 | 6.0 |
| Men | 277.9 | 52.5 | 82.2 | 52.0 | 33.6 | 6.0 |
| USD 0 | 70.8 | 22.2 | 29.3 | 12.6 | 5.9 | 0.8 |
| Up to USD 500 | 94.9 | 19.0 | 35.0 | 23.3 | 15.8 | 1.8 |
| USD 501–800 | 36.5 | 7.0 | 12.2 | 8.6 | 6.5 | 2.2 |
| USD 801–1,000 | 15.9 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 2.3 | 0.4 |
| USD 1,001 and over | 8.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 0.7 |
| Undeclared | 51.6 | 8.9 | 15.4 | 13.8 | 10.1 | 3.4 |
| Women | 132.6 | 17.7 | 34.6 | 34.5 | 35.7 | 10.2 |
| USD 0 | 28.2 | 9.2 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 1.8 |
| Up to USD 500 | 51.9 | 4.3 | 14.4 | 14.0 | 15.7 | 3.4 |
| USD 501–800 | 14.3 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 1.7 |
| USD 801–1,000 | 4.9 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.7 |
| USD 1,001 and over | 2.8 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.0 | – |
| Undeclared | 30.5 | 2.9 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 2.6 |

Source: NBS.

Table 44: Dynamics of poverty indicators, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1.6.5.1. Share of population under the absolute poverty line, total | 21.9 | 17.5 | 16.6 | 12.7 | 11.4 | 9.6 |
| 1.6.5.2. Share of population under the relative poverty line | 30.4 | 20.2 | 18.2 | 18.8 | 18.2 | 18.8 |
| 1.6.6. Proportion of children under 18 years old living in households under the poverty line | 24.2 | 19.8 | 18.9 | 15.0 | 13.0 | 11.5 |

Source: NBS.

Table 45: Economically active population, 2010–2015

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Economically active population (thousand persons) | 1,235 | 1,258 | 1,215 | 1,236 | 1,232 | 1,266 |
| Growth rate of the economically active population (%) | 97.6 | 101.9 | 96.6 | 101.7 | 99.7 | 102.8 |
| Activity rate (%) | 41.6 | 42.3 | 40.7 | 41.4 | 41.2 | 42.4 |

Source: NBS.

Table 46: Working-age population main indicators, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1.4.1.1. Proportion of working-age population (national definition) | 66.7 | 66.6 | 66.4 | 66.0 | 65.6 | 65.1 |
| 1.4.1.2. Proportion of working-age population (international definition) | 73.6 | 73.9 | 74.0 | 74.0 | 73.7 | 73.3 |
| 1.4.2.1. Growth rate of working-age population (national definition) | 100.1 | 99.8 | 99.7 | 99.5 | 100.7 | 99.2 |
| 1.4.2.2. Growth rate of working-age population (international definition) | 100.5 | 100.4 | 100.2 | 100.0 | 100.5 | 99.4 |
| 1.4.3. Demographic labour pressure index | 101.2 | 94.3 | 88.4 | 84.1 | 81.5 | 80.6 |
| 1.4.4. Age structure index for the working-age population | 76.8 | 77.7 | 78.7 | 80.0 | 80.8 | 81.5 |
| 1.4.5. Femininity ratio for the population aged 15–39 years | 98.0 | 97.7 | 97.4 | 97.2 | 97.0 | 96.8 |
| 1.4.6. Femininity ratio for the population aged 40–64 years | 114.87 | 115.20 | 115.45 | 115.45 | 115.39 | 115.23 |

Source: NBS.

Table 47: Foreign population of working age, 2011–2015

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3.5.1. Number of working-age foreigners (15–64 years old) | 18,174 | 18,661 | 18,803 | 19,206 | 19,218 |
| 3.5.2. Growth rate of working-age foreigners (15–64 years old) (%) | 103.9 | 102.7 | 100.8 | 102.1 | 100.1 |
| 3.5.3. Proportion of working-age foreigners (%) | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 3.5.4. Age structure index for working-age foreigners (ratio between 40–64 years old category and 15–39 years old category) (%) | 71.4 | 72.5 | 97.2 | 101.7 | 107.9 |
| 3.5.5. Femininity ratio for foreigners aged 15–39 years (%) | 97.9 | 89.7 | 83.8 | 79.0 | 86.9 |
| 3.5.6. Femininity ratio for foreigners aged 40–64 years (%) | 91.5 | 85.7 | 85.1 | 84.1 | 83.6 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru”.

Table 48: Labour force indicators, 2010–2015 (%)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1.5.1.1. Labour force participation rate (national definition) | 49.0 | 49.7 | 47.0 | 48.9 | 48.4 | 49.7 |
| 1.5.1.2. Labour force participation rate (international definition) | 46.5 | 47.0 | 40.7 | 46.0 | 45.6 | 46.9 |
| 1.5.2.1. Employment rate of population aged 15 years and over (national definition) | 38.5 | 39.4 | 38.4 | 39.3 | 39.7 | 40.3 |
| 1.5.2.2. Employment rate of population aged 15–64 years (international definition) | 43.0 | 43.8 | 42.7 | 43.6 | 43.8 | 44.5 |
| 1.5.3. Unemployment rate | 7.4 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.9 |
| 1.5.4. Youth unemployment rate | 17.8 | 14.9 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 9.8 | 12.8 |
| 1.5.5. Female unemployment rate | 5.7 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| 1.5.6. Unemployment gender gap | -3.4 | -2.1 | -2.5 | -1.8 | -1.5 | -2.5 |

Source: NBS.

Table 49: Number of children left behind in the Republic of Moldova by parents who went abroad to look for a job, 2010–2015*

| | 2010 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total children | 54,176 | 42,886 | 41,976 | 40,960 | 40,010 |
| <i>Including with:</i> | | | | | |
| One parent abroad | 33,696 | 32,258 | 31,482 | 30,720 | 30,008 |
| Both parents abroad | 20,480 | 10,628 | 10,494 | 10,240 | 10,002 |

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: *Data is from the school census.

Table 50: Number of children left behind in the Republic of Moldova, including by parents who went abroad to look for a job, 2010–2015*

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012** | 2013** | 2014** | 2015*** |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Total left-behind children, including with one or both parents abroad | 16,441 | 15,157 | 7,235 | 5,803 | 5,926 | 38,921 |

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family.

Notes: *Data provided by the territorial social assistance units.

**Only children left by parents who went abroad.

***Stock by the end of 2015.

Table 51: Gross enrolment rate for compulsory general education, 2010–2015 (%)

| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Primary education | Total | 93.6 | 93.8 | 93.8 | 93.1 | 92.4 | 91.8 |
| | Urban | 104.0 | 105.0 | 107.4 | 107.2 | 109.3 | 112.7 |
| | Rural | 88.0 | 87.5 | 86.1 | 84.8 | 82.5 | 79.6 |
| Gymnasium | Total | 88.1 | 87.5 | 86.7 | 87.0 | 86.8 | 86.7 |
| | Urban | 95.6 | 96.0 | 96.2 | 97.7 | 98.7 | 100.7 |
| | Rural | 84.3 | 83.2 | 81.8 | 81.4 | 80.4 | 79.0 |

Source: NBS.

Table 52: Medical staff in the health-care system, 2010–2015*

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Doctors (total persons) | 10,619 | 10,657 | 10,570 | 10,560 | 10,424 | 10,397 |
| Medical personnel with secondary education (total persons) | 23,003 | 22,885 | 22,788 | 22,608 | 21,995 | 21,527 |
| Staffing rate – with doctors per 10,000 population | 29.8 | 29.9 | 29.7 | 29.7 | 29.3 | 29.3 |
| Urban | 63.7 | 63.8 | 63.0 | 62.4 | 61.3 | 61.0 |
| Rural | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Staffing rate – with medical personnel with secondary education per 10,000 population | 64.6 | 64.2 | 64.0 | 63.5 | 61.9 | 60.6 |
| Urban | 125.6 | 119.3 | 119.0 | 118.5 | 115.3 | 113.8 |
| Rural | 24.7 | 24.7 | 24.3 | 23.4 | 22.5 | 21.7 |

Source: Ministry of Health.

Note: *Data is from the Ministry of Health only. Data from other ministries is not included.

Annex 3. Statistical tables: Migration trends for 2005–2015

I. International migration of Moldovan population

I.1. Annual flow of authorized emigration

Table 53: Annual number of authorized emigrations, by area of residence prior to departure, sex, age and country of destination, 2005–2015 (persons)*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total emigrated | 6,828 | 6,685 | 7,172 | 6,988 | 6,663 | 4,714 | 4,039 | 3,129 | 2,585 | 2,374 | 2,284 |
| Men | 3,093 | 3,011 | 3,276 | 3,237 | 3,138 | 2,193 | 1,813 | 1,425 | 1,201 | 1,119 | 1,066 |
| Women | 3,735 | 3,674 | 3,896 | 3,751 | 3,525 | 2,521 | 2,226 | 1,704 | 1,384 | 1,255 | 1,218 |
| <i>Including from:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban areas | – | – | 4,402 | 4,195 | 3,955 | 3,139 | 2,722 | 2,152 | 1,923 | 1,789 | 1,652 |
| Rural areas | – | – | 2,770 | 2,793 | 2,708 | 1,575 | 1,317 | 977 | 662 | 585 | 632 |
| Relative proportion of authorized emigrants from rural areas to urban areas (%) | – | – | 62.9 | 66.6 | 68.5 | 50.2 | 48.4 | 45.4 | 34.4 | 32.4 | 32.3 |
| Country of destination | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | 2,057 | 2,350 | 2,663 | 3,163 | 2,952 | 2,227 | 1,827 | 1,360 | 1,054 | 602 | 312 |
| Russian Federation | 3,310 | 2,890 | 3,110 | 2,663 | 1,866 | 1,162 | 858 | 772 | 684 | 788 | 961 |
| United States | 568 | 612 | 695 | 588 | 899 | 523 | 538 | 245 | 160 | 285 | 287 |
| Israel | 220 | 201 | 140 | 137 | 278 | 232 | 204 | 198 | 199 | 220 | 174 |
| Germany | 373 | 253 | 253 | 195 | 264 | 220 | 179 | 218 | 253 | 223 | 253 |
| Belarus | 184 | 222 | 187 | 122 | 125 | 100 | 74 | 48 | 72 | 82 | 64 |
| Czech Republic | 9 | 27 | 24 | 40 | 77 | 57 | 43 | 56 | 48 | 6 | 3 |
| Kazakhstan | 19 | 22 | 20 | 14 | 31 | 33 | 27 | 29 | 17 | 28 | 28 |
| Italy | – | – | 1 | 1 | 23 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 16 |
| Bulgaria | 5 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 26 | 19 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Other countries | 83 | 106 | 75 | 51 | 122 | 114 | 280 | 195 | 86 | 124 | 184 |

Source: NBS.

Note: *Data up to 2008 does not include the number of children emigrated together with parents.

I.2. Stock of Moldovan citizens living abroad

Table 54: Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad (authorized emigration), by sex, 2007–2015 (persons)

| | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of Moldovan citizens living abroad (authorized emigration – stock) | Total | 73,431 | 82,337 | 87,933 | 92,184 | 96,223 | 99,352 | 101,937 | 104,311 | 106,595 |
| | Men | 32,959 | 37,268 | 39,888 | 41,829 | 43,642 | 45,067 | 46,268 | 47,378 | 48,453 |
| | Women | 40,472 | 45,069 | 48,045 | 50,355 | 52,581 | 54,285 | 55,669 | 56,887 | 58,142 |

Sources: MITC/SE SIRC “Registru” and MIA/BPD.

Table 55: Distribution of Moldovan citizens who went abroad to get settled permanently (authorized emigration), by sex and country of destination (stock by the end of the year), 2007–2015 (persons)

| Country of destination | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 73,431 | 82,337 | 87,933 | 92,184 | 92,184 | 96,223 | 99,352 | 101,937 | 104,311 | 106,595 |
| Russian Federation | 25,167 | 28,811 | 30,236 | 31,038 | 31,038 | 31,896 | 32,668 | 33,352 | 34,140 | 35,101 |
| Ukraine | 16,352 | 20,236 | 22,730 | 24,601 | 24,601 | 26,428 | 27,788 | 28,842 | 29,444 | 29,756 |
| United States | 11,815 | 12,543 | 13,391 | 14,034 | 14,034 | 14,572 | 14,817 | 14,977 | 15,262 | 15,549 |
| Germany | 10,403 | 10,453 | 10,711 | 11,036 | 11,036 | 11,215 | 11,433 | 11,689 | 11,912 | 12,165 |
| Israel | 5,981 | 6,214 | 6,411 | 6,677 | 6,677 | 6,881 | 7,079 | 7,248 | 7,468 | 7,642 |
| Belarus | 1,728 | 1,891 | 2,008 | 2,101 | 2,101 | 2,175 | 2,223 | 2,295 | 2,377 | 2,441 |
| Canada | 559 | 566 | 576 | 582 | 582 | 588 | 594 | 598 | 603 | 612 |
| Czech Republic | 101 | 160 | 234 | 290 | 290 | 333 | 389 | 437 | 443 | 446 |
| Italy | 159 | 182 | 205 | 236 | 236 | 255 | 255 | 259 | 269 | 285 |
| Other countries | 1,166 | 1,281 | 1,431 | 1,589 | 1,589 | 1,880 | 2,106 | 2,240 | 2,393 | 2,598 |
| Men | 32,959 | 37,268 | 39,888 | 41,829 | 41,829 | 43,642 | 45,067 | 46,268 | 47,387 | 48,453 |
| Russian Federation | 11,336 | 13,139 | 13,810 | 14,119 | 14,119 | 14,498 | 14,833 | 15,157 | 15,539 | 16,001 |
| Ukraine | 6,834 | 8,667 | 9,857 | 10,753 | 10,753 | 11,573 | 12,191 | 12,691 | 12,992 | 13,156 |
| United States | 5,786 | 6,129 | 6,551 | 6,869 | 6,869 | 7,147 | 7,272 | 7,351 | 7,496 | 7,631 |
| Germany | 4,666 | 4,688 | 4,762 | 4,891 | 4,891 | 4,953 | 5,045 | 5,147 | 5,236 | 5,332 |
| Israel | 2,782 | 2,916 | 3,002 | 3,120 | 3,120 | 3,211 | 3,306 | 3,394 | 3,494 | 3,574 |
| Belarus | 816 | 903 | 944 | 986 | 986 | 1,021 | 1,045 | 1,074 | 1,107 | 1,139 |
| Canada | 249 | 250 | 253 | 257 | 257 | 260 | 263 | 265 | 267 | 272 |
| Czech Republic | 50 | 79 | 118 | 144 | 144 | 162 | 191 | 213 | 215 | 217 |

| Country of destination | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Italy | 83 | 93 | 108 | 132 | 132 | 143 | 143 | 145 | 150 | 151 |
| Other countries | 374 | 426 | 504 | 560 | 560 | 674 | 778 | 831 | 891 | 980 |
| Women | 40,472 | 45,069 | 48,045 | 50,355 | 50,355 | 52,581 | 54,285 | 55,669 | 56,924 | 58,142 |
| Russian Federation | 13,831 | 15,672 | 16,426 | 16,919 | 16,919 | 17,398 | 17,835 | 18,195 | 18,601 | 19,100 |
| Ukraine | 9,518 | 11,569 | 12,873 | 13,848 | 13,848 | 14,855 | 15,597 | 16,151 | 16,452 | 16,600 |
| United States | 6,029 | 6,414 | 6840 | 7,165 | 7,165 | 7,425 | 7,545 | 7,626 | 7,766 | 7,918 |
| Germany | 5,737 | 5,765 | 5949 | 6,145 | 6,145 | 6,262 | 6,388 | 6,542 | 6,676 | 6,833 |
| Israel | 3,199 | 3,298 | 3409 | 3,557 | 3,557 | 3,670 | 3,773 | 3,854 | 3,964 | 4,058 |
| Belarus | 912 | 988 | 1064 | 1,115 | 1,115 | 1,154 | 1,178 | 1,221 | 1,270 | 1,302 |
| Canada | 310 | 316 | 323 | 325 | 325 | 328 | 331 | 333 | 336 | 340 |
| Czech Republic | 51 | 81 | 116 | 146 | 146 | 171 | 198 | 224 | 228 | 229 |
| Italy | 76 | 89 | 97 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 112 | 114 | 119 | 134 |
| Other countries | 792 | 855 | 927 | 1,029 | 1,029 | 1,214 | 1,328 | 1,409 | 1,512 | 1,628 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 56: Emigration of Moldovan citizens according to the international definition (persons staying abroad for a period of 12 months and more), by sex and age, 2008–2015 (persons)

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 237,650 | 272,479 | 284,304 | 307,479 | 330,167 | 358,882 | 271,611 | 282,127 |
| Men | 110,470 | 128,443 | 135,690 | 145,021 | 154,282 | 167,902 | 126,728 | 133,186 |
| Women | 127,180 | 144,036 | 148,614 | 162,458 | 175,885 | 190,980 | 144,883 | 148,941 |
| <i>Including by age</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 0–4 | 767 | 976 | 1,399 | 1,664 | 2,728 | 4,027 | 5,989 | 6,109 |
| 5–9 | 2,181 | 3,030 | 4,091 | 4,908 | 6,084 | 7,799 | 9,518 | 11,645 |
| 10–14 | 4,045 | 5,252 | 6,209 | 7,106 | 8,245 | 9,565 | 9,544 | 10,312 |
| 15–19 | 9,354 | 11,331 | 11,656 | 12,671 | 13,383 | 14,421 | 13,145 | 12,731 |
| 20–24 | 30,191 | 32,543 | 29,288 | 27,834 | 27,083 | 27,229 | 25,323 | 24,822 |
| 25–29 | 41,419 | 46,696 | 46,643 | 48,254 | 49,294 | 49,494 | 41,214 | 41,069 |
| 30–34 | 36,283 | 42,268 | 44,135 | 48,162 | 51,620 | 55,902 | 43,318 | 45,980 |
| 35–39 | 26,530 | 31,252 | 34,805 | 39,103 | 43,087 | 48,009 | 34,285 | 36,399 |
| 40–44 | 21,590 | 24,497 | 25,563 | 28,108 | 31,028 | 34,833 | 24,668 | 26,909 |
| 45–49 | 21,770 | 23,463 | 23,159 | 24,578 | 25,446 | 27,073 | 17,987 | 18,777 |
| 50–54 | 17,203 | 20,024 | 21,480 | 23,773 | 25,177 | 26,845 | 17,132 | 16,869 |
| 55–59 | 11,982 | 13,621 | 14,587 | 16,110 | 17,915 | 20,218 | 13,030 | 13,757 |
| 60–64 | 4,841 | 6,414 | 8,588 | 10,576 | 12,326 | 14,000 | 7,674 | 7,697 |

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 65–69 | 3,787 | 4,009 | 4,090 | 4,381 | 4,881 | 6,044 | 3,656 | 4,112 |
| 70–74 | 2,916 | 3,536 | 4,089 | 4,675 | 4,943 | 5,146 | 1,988 | 1,817 |
| 75–79 | 1,515 | 1,851 | 2,258 | 2,717 | 3,411 | 4,146 | 1,723 | 1,656 |
| 80–84 | 900 | 1,156 | 1,496 | 1,763 | 2,046 | 2,239 | 835 | 843 |
| 85 and over | 376 | 560 | 768 | 1,096 | 1,470 | 1,892 | 582 | 623 |

Source: BPD under MIA.

1.3. Emigration for studies

Table 57: Distribution of Moldovan citizens who are abroad for studies based on international treaties in education area, by country of destination, 2005–2015 (persons)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total who left for studies* | 2,154 | 2,131 | 2,341 | 2,371 | 2,408 | 4,009 | 4,270 | 5,356 | 5,891 | 5,469 | 5,485 |
| <i>Of whom in:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | 1,800 | 1,800 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,600 | 3,800 | 5,000 | 5,500 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Ukraine | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | - | - |
| Russian Federation | 150 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 160 | 110 | 110 | 97 | 105 | 328 | 328 |
| Bulgaria | 60 | 65 | 70 | 90 | 95 | 110 | 194 | 131 | 140 | 114 | 130 |
| Turkey | 30 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 40 | - | - | - | - |
| China | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Czech Republic | 7 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Sweden | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Greece | - | - | 5 | 10 | 2 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Slovakia | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Estonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| Latvia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - |

Source: Ministry of Education.

Note: *Data does not include the persons who went abroad based on individual contracts.

I.4. Labour migrants

Table 58: Temporary/circular labour migrants,* by sex and country of destination, 2006–2015 (thousand persons)

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total left | 310.1 | 335.6 | 309.7 | 294.9 | 311 | 316.9 | 328.3 | 332.5 | 341.9 | 325.4 |
| Urban | 92.7 | 103.0 | 97.1 | 89.5 | 90.6 | 92.7 | 90.2 | 92.1 | 96.7 | 101.6 |
| Rural | 217.4 | 232.6 | 212.6 | 205.4 | 220.5 | 224.2 | 238.1 | 238.1 | 245.2 | 223.9 |
| <i>Of whom in:</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greece | 6.1 | 5.2 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.4 |
| Israel | 3.4 | 4.9 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 6.4 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 9.2 |
| Italy | 54.7 | 62.4 | 55.4 | 54.8 | 58.6 | 58.4 | 54.8 | 50.7 | 49.6 | 49.2 |
| Portugal | 9.6 | 7.4 | 5.6 | 6.4 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 2.0 | 2.4 |
| Romania | 4.5 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.7 |
| Russian Federation | 192.5 | 210.8 | 191.1 | 177.2 | 191.9 | 204.8 | 223.4 | 223.6 | 232.8 | 206.2 |
| Turkey | 12.4 | 10.7 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 7.4 | 5.8 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 11.0 |
| Ukraine | 8.3 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 8.6 | 6.5 | 5.1 | 3.9 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 4.6 |
| Other countries | 18.6 | 20.3 | 26.3 | 25.6 | 26.9 | 25.6 | 24.1 | 28.9 | 31.4 | 38.7 |
| Men, total left | 197.8 | 219.3 | 201.5 | 185.8 | 198 | 204.4 | 218.6 | 216.9 | 219 | 210.8 |
| Greece | 2.6 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Israel | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 2.4 |
| Italy | 16.4 | 19.2 | 17.2 | 17.5 | 18.5 | 17.2 | 15.6 | 12.2 | 11.5 | 13.5 |
| Portugal | 7.4 | 5.8 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Romania | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.1 |
| Russian Federation | 145.1 | 161.8 | 147.5 | 133.8 | 147.2 | 158.0 | 175.0 | 170.7 | 173.9 | 157.8 |
| Turkey | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| Ukraine | 6.7 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 6.7 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Other countries | 12.8 | 15.4 | 19.0 | 18.4 | 18.4 | 16.6 | 16.4 | 19.9 | 22.8 | 27.8 |
| Women, total left | 112.3 | 116.3 | 108.3 | 109.1 | 113 | 112.5 | 109.7 | 115.6 | 122.8 | 114.6 |
| Greece | 3.5 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Israel | 2.9 | 4.1 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 5.7 | 7.3 | 6.8 |
| Italy | 38.3 | 43.2 | 38.2 | 37.4 | 40.1 | 41.2 | 39.3 | 38.6 | 38.1 | 35.7 |
| Portugal | 2.2 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Romania | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Russian Federation | 47.3 | 49.0 | 43.6 | 43.4 | 44.7 | 46.8 | 48.4 | 52.8 | 58.9 | 48.4 |
| Turkey | 9.2 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 8.2 |
| Ukraine | 1.7 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Other countries | 5.8 | 4.9 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 9.0 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 8.6 | 10.9 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

Note: *Population aged 15 years and over, working abroad or looking for a job abroad.

Table 59: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by age group, 2006–2015 (thousand persons)

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 310.1 | 335.6 | 309.7 | 294.9 | 311 | 316.9 | 328.3 | 332.5 | 341.9 | 325.4 |
| 15–24 | 87.2 | 82.6 | 75.9 | 69.9 | 69.7 | 71.2 | 72.1 | 69.1 | 72.3 | 60.6 |
| 25–34 | 89.8 | 99.2 | 85.8 | 84.1 | 102.2 | 105.9 | 111.3 | 111.7 | 121.2 | 125.8 |
| 35–44 | 72.7 | 82.8 | 79.6 | 69.4 | 68.6 | 65.8 | 72.5 | 74.6 | 71.6 | 70.3 |
| 45–54 | 55.2 | 63.7 | 60.1 | 60.6 | 58.3 | 58.7 | 59.4 | 61.3 | 59.0 | 50.6 |
| 55–64 | 5.2 | 7.3 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 12.2 | 15.1 | 12.9 | 15.5 | 17.2 | 17.4 |
| 65 and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

Table 60: Distribution of temporary/circular migrants, by level of education, 2006–2015 (thousand persons)

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 310.1 | 335.8 | 309.8 | 294.9 | 311.0 | 316.9 | 328.3 | 332.5 | 341.9 | 325.5 |
| University | 26.5 | 28.0 | 29.4 | 31.5 | 33.3 | 33.6 | 34.8 | 36.1 | 37.7 | 42.9 |
| Secondary professional | 42.9 | 46.0 | 38.4 | 39.3 | 40.7 | 40.3 | 39.8 | 39.1 | 40.8 | 35.1 |
| Secondary vocational | 80.6 | 92.3 | 89.1 | 83.6 | 79.5 | 78.3 | 86.8 | 88.9 | 90.9 | 84.6 |
| Lyceum secondary general | 84.6 | 93.8 | 85.1 | 73.7 | 79.4 | 82.2 | 79.7 | 82.8 | 80.8 | 78.9 |
| Gymnasium | 73.7 | 74.0 | 66.1 | 65.0 | 76.2 | 80.9 | 85.5 | 83.6 | 90.3 | 83.5 |
| Primary or no school | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.5 |

Source: NBS/LFS.

Table 61: Number of Moldovan citizens working abroad with legal work contracts, 2007–2015

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of persons working abroad with legal contracts (persons) | 390 | 281 | 236 | 332 | 297 | 603 | 793 | 924 | 2010 |
| Growth rate of the number of persons working abroad with legal contracts (%) | – | 72.1 | 84.0 | 140.7 | 89.5 | 203.0 | 131.5 | 116.5 | 217.5 |

Source: MLSPF/NEA.

I.5. Involuntary emigration

Table 62: Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers and recognized as refugees abroad, 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad (persons) | 4,852 | 1,278 | 909 | 888 | 739 | 633 | 460 | 441 | 878 | 1,449 | 3,402 |
| Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad (%) | – | -73.7 | -28.9 | -2.3 | -16.8 | -14.3 | -27.3 | -4.1 | 99.1 | 65.0 | 134.8 |
| Number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad (persons) | 12,064 | 11,680 | 4,918 | 5,555 | 5,929 | 6,200 | 6,264 | 6,148 | 2,207 | 2,242 | 2,264 |
| Growth rate of the number of Moldovan citizens registered and recognized as refugees abroad (%) | – | -3.2 | -57.9 | 13 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 1.0 | -1.9 | -64.1 | 1.6 | 1.0 |

Source: UNHCR.

I.6. Repatriation, readmission and reintegration of victims of trafficking

Table 63: Repatriation and readmission, 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Annual number of repatriated persons (persons) | 0 | 1,491 | 1,764 | 2,023 | 2,152 | 1,679 | 1,730 | 1,488 | 1,585 | 2,211 | 2,406 |
| Growth rate of the number of repatriated persons (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 18.3 | 14.7 | 6.4 | -22.0 | 3.0 | -14.0 | 6.5 | 39.5 | 8.8 |
| Proportion of children among repatriated persons (%) | 0.0 | 9.3 | 10.3 | 6.4 | 1.1 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 11.3 | 8.7 |
| Number of Moldovan citizens readmitted based on the Readmission Agreement (persons) | 0 | 18 | 44 | 14 | 88 | 110 | 126 | 54 | 88 | 69 | 139 |

Sources: MIA/BMA and MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 64: Victims of trafficking in human beings, 2005–2015 (persons)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Number of Moldovan citizens who are victims of trafficking in human beings, identified and assisted through the National Referral System (NRS) | 0 | 41 | 34 | 84 | 131 | 132 | 109 | 189 | 131 | 80 | 132 |
| Number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings assisted through the NRS | 0 | 19 | 52 | 203 | 308 | 328 | 651 | 1,214 | 1,403 | 854 | 298 |

Source: MLSPF.

2. Population with foreign background, immigration

2.1. Stock of population with foreign background

Table 65: Number of foreigners who live in Moldova, 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total number of foreigners living in the Republic of Moldova (persons) | 11,743 | 12,863 | 14,853 | 16,955 | 18,563 | 20,099 | 19,678 | 20,191 | 21,092 | 21,685 | 21,876 |
| Growth rate of the number of foreigners (%) | 113.8 | 109.5 | 115.5 | 114.2 | 109.5 | 108.3 | 104 | 102.6 | 104.5 | 102.8 | 100.9 |
| Foreigners' share of the total population (%) | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Proportion of foreigners who are stateless (%) | 10.0 | 14.7 | 12.6 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 10.3 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 8.7 |
| Proportion of foreigners living in urban areas (%) | 83.4 | 82.5 | 81.4 | 79.8 | 78.2 | 78.5 | 78.5 | 77.9 | 76.7 | 76.0 | 74.9 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 66: Number of foreigners residing in the Republic of Moldova, by country of previous citizenship, 2005–2015 (persons)

| Country of destination | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 11,743 | 12,863 | 14,853 | 16,955 | 18,563 | 20,099 | 19,678 | 20,191 | 21,092 | 21,685 | 21,876 |
| <i>Including from:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | 3,004 | 3,606 | 4,669 | 5,630 | 6,552 | 7,114 | 7,392 | 7,171 | 7,005 | 6,953 | 7,092 |
| Russian Federation | 2,529 | 2,842 | 3,246 | 3,854 | 4,430 | 5,001 | 5,032 | 4,736 | 4,815 | 4,812 | 4,973 |
| Israel | 248 | 272 | 300 | 420 | 637 | 957 | 1,096 | 1,527 | 1,694 | 1,925 | 1,908 |
| Stateless persons (Article 1, 1954 UN Convention) | 963 | 1,042 | 1,065 | 1,180 | 1,350 | 1,360 | 1,312 | 1,262 | 1,526 | 1,524 | 1,513 |
| Romania | 277 | 359 | 460 | 595 | 557 | 691 | 714 | 865 | 1,072 | 1,275 | 1,138 |
| Turkey | 811 | 885 | 1,005 | 941 | 779 | 792 | 711 | 810 | 929 | 920 | 890 |
| Italy | 94 | 124 | 181 | 221 | 233 | 250 | 273 | 328 | 339 | 429 | 480 |
| United States | 206 | 217 | 223 | 139 | 143 | 164 | 175 | 326 | 387 | 442 | 450 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Belarus | 144 | 179 | 226 | 265 | 270 | 296 | 299 | 300 | 322 | 318 | 310 |
| Persons with undetermined citizenship | 277 | 359 | 460 | 595 | 557 | 357 | 352 | 331 | 327 | 317 | 305 |
| Azerbaijan | 101 | 136 | 223 | 234 | 196 | 201 | 216 | 223 | 239 | 252 | 276 |
| Armenia | – | – | – | – | – | – | 177 | 179 | 322 | 196 | 204 |
| Kazakhstan | – | – | – | – | – | – | 178 | 176 | 178 | 184 | 190 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 423 | 363 | 305 | 262 | 214 | 177 | 167 | 199 | 208 | 181 | 165 |
| Uzbekistan | – | – | – | – | – | – | 74 | 93 | 121 | 141 | 138 |
| Germany | 63 | 70 | 74 | 100 | 106 | 121 | 107 | 123 | 137 | 136 | 115 |
| Other countries | 2,408 | 2,285 | 2,408 | 2,664 | 2,693 | 1,814 | 1,403 | 1,542 | 1,471 | 2,201 | 1,729 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

Table 67: Number of foreign-born persons (non-natives), 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of foreign-born persons (non-natives), stock | 212,284 | 222,416 | 230,096 | 235,877 | 244,530 | 253,847 | 262,572 | 268,836 | 283,674 | 288,578 | 294,419 |
| Foreign-born persons' share of the population (%) | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| Proportion of foreign-born persons living in urban areas (%) | 76.6 | 75.8 | 75.1 | 74.6 | 73.8 | 72.9 | 74.5 | 72.6 | 69.2 | 68.3 | 67.5 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

2.2. Foreigners in the education system of the Republic of Moldova

Table 68: Number of foreigners studying in the Republic of Moldova, by country of origin, 2007–2015 (persons)

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 1,383 | 1,219 | 1,300 | 1,372 | 1,632 | 2,028 | 2,138 | 2,465 | 3,480 |
| <i>Of whom arrived from:</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Israel | 207 | 300 | 525 | 764 | 1,068 | 1,384 | 1,551 | 1,726 | 2,039 |
| Romania | 100 | 78 | 48 | 36 | 80 | 155 | 108 | 158 | 791 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Turkey | 163 | 149 | 146 | 76 | 57 | 60 | 71 | 129 | 141 |
| Ukraine | 354 | 271 | 235 | 202 | 157 | 165 | 164 | 160 | 139 |
| Russian Federation | 166 | 140 | 141 | 118 | 113 | 102 | 82 | 71 | 67 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 159 | 103 | 62 | 23 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 24 | 19 |
| Jordan | 45 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Belarus | – | 15 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Sudan | 28 | 24 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | 66 | 53 | 44 | 47 | 24 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| China | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | – | – |
| Other countries | 91 | 88 | 73 | 91 | 112 | 110 | 117 | 176 | 266 |

Source: NBS.

2.3. Immigration of foreigners

Table 69: Annual immigration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Annual number of immigrations of foreigners (persons) | 2,054 | 2,057 | 2,073 | 2,744 | 2,008 | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| Gender gap for immigrations of foreigners (%) | 44.6 | 49.3 | 44.1 | 46.6 | 52.5 | 44.4 | 38.9 | 41.7 | 43.4 | 43.0 | 48.1 |
| Annual number of immigrations of foreigners with secondary professional education/ higher education/ science degrees | 935 | 1,233 | 1,280 | 1,810 | 1,186 | 1,291 | 1,750 | 2,008 | 2,259 | 2,430 | 2,694 |
| Proportion of immigrant foreigners with secondary professional education/ higher education/ science degrees (%) | 45.5 | 59.9 | 61.8 | 66.0 | 59.1 | 51.4 | 64.4 | 64.7 | 67.3 | 57.8 | 64.0 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 70: Distribution of immigrants, by country of citizenship, 2005–2015 (persons)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total arrived | 2,054 | 2,057 | 2,073 | 2,744 | 2,008 | 2,510 | 2,719 | 3,116 | 3,357 | 4,204 | 4,210 |
| <i>Of whom, citizens of:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ukraine | 393 | 370 | 396 | 576 | 435 | 375 | 384 | 403 | 396 | 537 | 754 |
| Romania | 111 | 174 | 198 | 352 | 186 | 309 | 360 | 445 | 602 | 853 | 646 |
| Russian Federation | 169 | 193 | 256 | 299 | 230 | 294 | 240 | 305 | 335 | 517 | 567 |
| Israel | 94 | 73 | 56 | 184 | 278 | 482 | 455 | 407 | 463 | 525 | 548 |
| Turkey | 462 | 462 | 462 | 512 | 224 | 287 | 266 | 337 | 446 | 421 | 373 |
| United States | 111 | 113 | 90 | 56 | 38 | 59 | 75 | 173 | 125 | 199 | 209 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 101 | 46 | 31 | 36 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 65 | 64 | 34 | 33 |
| Bulgaria | 85 | 78 | 48 | 46 | 28 | 43 | 21 | 25 | 18 | 37 | 23 |
| Other countries | 528 | 548 | 536 | 683 | 555 | 627 | 884 | 956 | 908 | 1,081 | 1,057 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

Table 71: Temporary migration of the population with foreign background, 2007–2015

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of foreigners holding a permanent residence permit | 11,387 | 13,165 | 14,781 | 15,546 | 13,342 | 12,240 | 11,775 | 11,121 | 10,661 |
| Proportion of working-age foreigners with permanent residence permits (%) | 74.1 | 75.9 | 77 | 79.2 | 62.1 | 55.5 | 55.0 | 50.3 | 47.8 |
| Proportion of foreigners living in the country for at least five years (%) | – | – | – | – | 17.9 | 19.8 | 16.3 | 18.9 | 22.3 |
| Number of foreigners who are first-time temporary residence permit holders | 2,073 | 2,743 | 2,008 | 2,232 | 1,971 | 2,490 | 2,530 | 3,065 | 3,156 |
| Number of foreigners holding valid temporary residence permits | 3,466 | 3,790 | 3,782 | 4,553 | 4,757 | 6,148 | 7,385 | 8,636 | 9,314 |
| Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for family reintegration purpose (%) | 41.0 | 39.9 | 44.9 | 36.1 | 37.8 | 38.1 | 38.9 | 37.8 | 41.7 |
| Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for work or business purpose (%) | 48.3 | 41.1 | 29.4 | 30.6 | 28.3 | 27.5 | 33.0 | 22.7 | 19.0 |

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for study or training purpose (%) | 10.7 | 19.0 | 25.7 | 33.3 | 29.3 | 19.6 | 16.3 | 18.4 | 15.7 |
| Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for humanitarian and religious activities (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Proportion of foreigners with temporary residence permits for other purposes (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 5.4 | 7.5 | 17.0 | 19.5 |

Source: MITC/SE SIRC "Registru".

2.4. International protection

Table 72: Involuntary migration of population with foreign background, 2007–2015

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Annual number of asylum applications (first request) (persons) | 75 | 57 | 42 | 90 | 72 | 177 | 163 | 245 | 276 |
| Femininity ratio among asylum seekers (%) | 23.0 | 23.9 | 68 | 32.4 | 28.6 | 29.2 | 28.2 | 40.4 | 31.8 |
| Annual number of humanitarian protection beneficiaries, including stateless persons | 20 | 20 | 12 | 25 | 20 | 45 | 83 | 63 | 150 |
| Number of persons who were refused humanitarian protection | 41 | 53 | 34 | 35 | 74 | 55 | 36 | 35 | 36 |
| Number of asylum seekers with pending applications (units) | 79 | 33 | 52 | 81 | 49 | 79 | 87 | 149 | 110 |
| Number of persons granted the stateless status | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 95 | 89 | 66 |
| Number of stateless persons granted the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 65 | 59 | 5 |
| Number of refugees in the Republic of Moldova | 89 | 84 | 80 | 70 | 56 | 72 | 78 | 124 | 144 |

Source: MIA/BMA.

3. Migration and development

3.1. Sociodemographic data

Table 73: General demographic indicators, 2005–2015

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total population by the end of the year (thousand persons) | 3,589.9 | 3,581.1 | 3,572.7 | 3,567.5 | 3,563.6 | 3,560.4 | 3,559.5 | 3,559.5 | 3,557.6 | 3,555.2 | 3,553.1 |
| Population growth rate (%) | -0.29 | -0.25 | -0.24 | -0.15 | -0.11 | -0.09 | -0.03 | 0.0 | -0.05 | -0.07 | -0.06 |
| Birth rate (‰) | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 10.9 |
| Death rate (‰) | 12.4 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 12.3 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.2 |
| Natural growth (‰) | -1.92 | -1.55 | -1.42 | -0.82 | -0.38 | -0.89 | -0.02 | -0.03 | -0.06 | -0.25 | -0.37 |
| Gross immigration rate (%) | 0.9 | 1.00 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Gross emigration rate (%) | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| Net migration rate (percentage points) | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.2 | -0.4 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Ageing coefficient of population – total | 13.6 | 13.2 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 14 | 14.4 | 14.8 | 15.3 | 15.7 | 16.2 | 16.7 |
| <i>Of which, for:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 11.0 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.5 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 13.4 | 13.8 |
| Women | 15.9 | 15.6 | 16 | 16 | 16.4 | 16.8 | 17.3 | 17.8 | 18.3 | 18.8 | 19.3 |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) – total | 67.9 | 68.4 | 68.8 | 69.4 | 69.3 | 69.1 | 70.9 | 71.1 | 71.9 | 71.5 | 71.6 |
| <i>Of which for:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 63.8 | 64.6 | 65 | 65.5 | 65.3 | 65.0 | 66.8 | 67.2 | 68.1 | 67.5 | 67.5 |
| Women | 71.7 | 72.2 | 72.6 | 73.2 | 73.4 | 73.4 | 74.9 | 75.0 | 75.6 | 75.4 | 75.6 |
| Economically active population (thousand persons) | 1,422 | 1,357 | 1,314 | 1,303 | 1,265 | 1,235 | 1,258 | 1,215 | 1,236 | 1,232 | 1,266 |
| Activity rate (%) | 49.0 | 46.3 | 44.8 | 44.3 | 42.8 | 41.6 | 42.3 | 40.7 | 41.4 | 41.2 | 42.4 |
| Share of migrants in the total economically active population (%) | – | 22.9 | 25.5 | 23.8 | 23.3 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 27.0 | 26.9 | 27.8 | 25.7 |

Source: NBS.

Table 74: Dynamics of labour force indicators, 2005–2017 (%)

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Labour force participation rate (national definition) | 56.2 | 53.4 | 52.2 | 51.7 | 50.3 | 49.0 | 49.7 | 47.0 | 48.9 | 48.4 | 49.7 |
| Labour force participation rate (international definition) | 53.8 | 50.9 | 49.7 | 49.4 | 47.6 | 46.5 | 47.0 | 40.7 | 46.0 | 45.6 | 46.9 |
| Employment rate of population aged 15 years and over (national definition) | 45.4 | 42.9 | 42.5 | 42.5 | 40.0 | 38.5 | 39.4 | 38.4 | 39.3 | 39.7 | 40.3 |
| Employment rate of population aged 15–64 years (international definition) | 49.7 | 47.1 | 47.1 | 47.3 | 44.5 | 43.0 | 43.8 | 42.7 | 43.6 | 43.8 | 44.5 |
| Unemployment rate | 7.3 | 7.4 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 6.4 | 7.4 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.9 |
| Youth unemployment rate | 18.7 | 17.1 | 14.4 | 11.2 | 15.4 | 17.8 | 14.9 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 9.8 | 12.8 |
| Female unemployment rate | 6.0 | 5.7 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Unemployment gender gap | -2.7 | -3.2 | -2.4 | -1.2 | -2.9 | -3.4 | -2.1 | -2.5 | -1.8 | -1.5 | -2.5 |

Source: NBS.

Table 75: Dynamics of poverty indicators, 2007–2015 (%)

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Share of population under the absolute poverty line, total | 25.8 | 26.4 | 26.3 | 21.9 | 17.5 | 16.6 | 12.7 | 11.4 | 9.6 |
| Proportion of children under 18 years old living in households under the poverty line | 27.3 | 27.2 | 28.2 | 24.2 | 19.8 | 18.9 | 15.0 | 13.0 | 11.5 |
| Share of population under the relative poverty line | 31.2 | 32.1 | 32.9 | 30.4 | 20.2 | 18.2 | 18.8 | 18.2 | 18.8 |

Source: NBS.

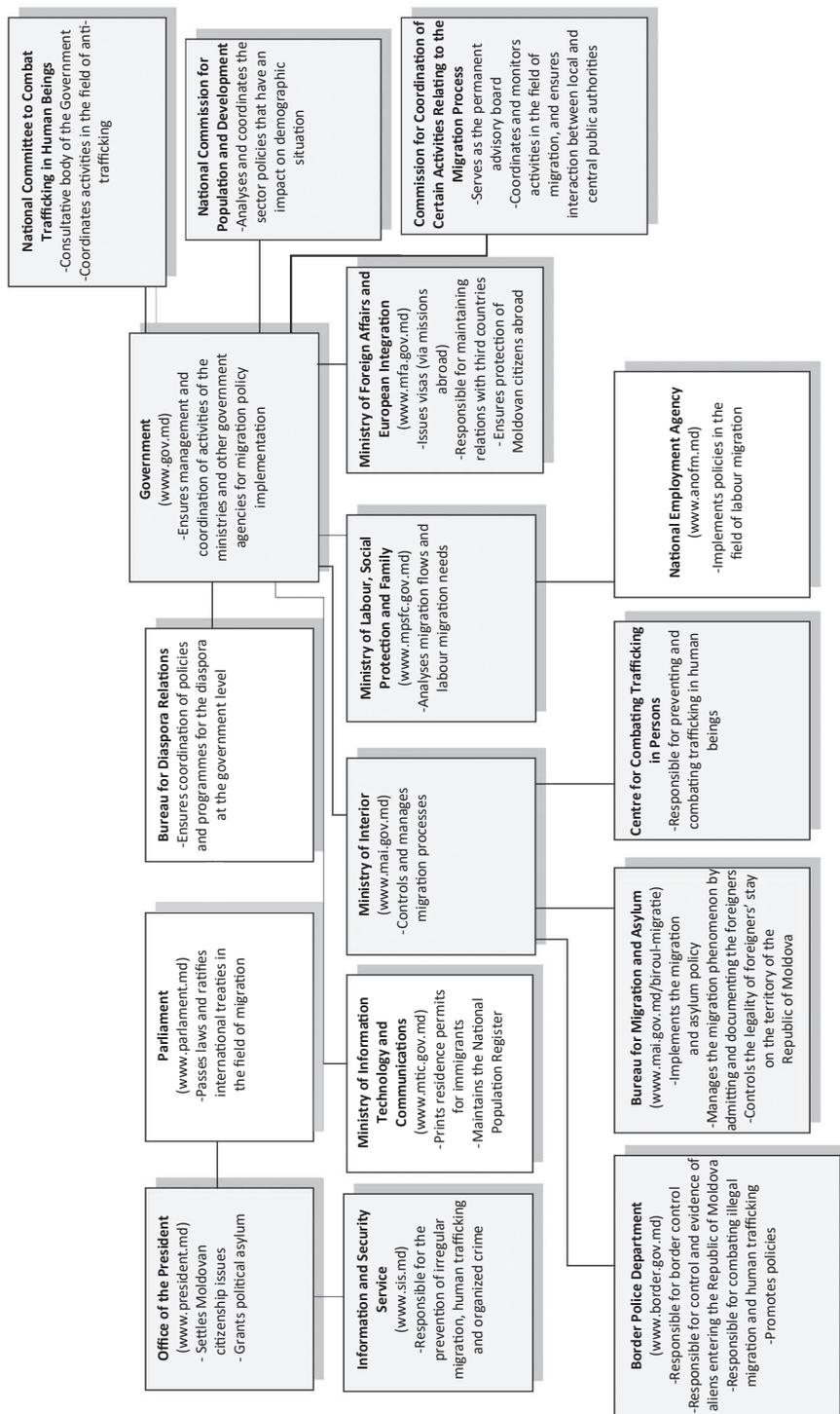
3.2. Households and remittances

Table 76: Impact of remittances on the welfare of households, 2007–2015 (%)

| | | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Share of households receiving remittances | Total | 23.1 | 26.4 | 23.1 | 24.5 | 23.1 | 22.4 | 22.7 | 23.8 | 25.0 |
| | Urban | 19.9 | 22.6 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.0 | 19.2 | 20.6 | 20.5 |
| | Rural | 25.6 | 29.5 | 25.1 | 27.6 | 25.2 | 24.4 | 25.6 | 26.4 | 28.5 |
| Share of remittances in the disposable income of the households depending on remittances | Total | 55.2 | 55.7 | 55.2 | 54.3 | 52.9 | 56.9 | 58.0 | 57.1 | 56.7 |
| | Urban | 52.2 | 48.4 | 49.4 | 47.7 | 49.1 | 52.1 | 52.5 | 50.2 | 52.0 |
| | Rural | 57.1 | 60.7 | 59.8 | 58.7 | 55.7 | 60.4 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 59.7 |
| Share of households that would have been under the poverty line if not for remittances | Total | 11.3 | 14 | 11.6 | 12.9 | 30.9 | 27.6 | 23.6 | 25.3 | 23.4 |
| | Urban | 8.2 | 10.4 | 8.6 | 8.9 | 18.5 | 18.2 | 14.1 | 16.1 | 14.4 |
| | Rural | 13.5 | 16.7 | 13.8 | 15.7 | 40.8 | 35.3 | 31.5 | 32.8 | 30.5 |

Source: NBS.

Annex 4: Institutional framework for policies on migration and asylum





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Bureau for Migration and Asylum



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