

# Republic of Moldova

Migration Profile Light

2015



# PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND DISCLAIMER

After the adoption of the Building Migration Partnerships Joint Declaration in Prague in April 2009, the Building Migration Partnerships initiative (BMP) started to work on establishing the BMP Knowledge Base. The Knowledge Base, nowadays known as the Prague Process Knowledge Base, consists of a set of Extended Migration Profiles<sup>1</sup> elaborated and endorsed in 2010-2011 and the interactive online map (i-Map), which visualizes the available information.

The Prague Process Targeted Initiative (PP TI) is an EU-funded project, which builds upon the BMP initiative and implements selected priorities identified in the Prague Process Action Plan endorsed in Poznan in November 2011. One of the objectives of PP TI is to maintain the Knowledge Base, keep it up-to-date and develop it further.

While continuous attention to updating and developing Extended Migration Profiles remains, the PP TI has taken into account the feedback received from the Prague Process participating states and has proposed the concept of the Migration Profile Light. In comparison to the Extended Migration Profile, which from its name indicates that the information should be of thorough and detailed nature, the Migration Profile Light should be a handy tool with a limited number of pages clearly indicating the areas of interest. The Migration Profile Light should aim at key priorities and problems, easy annual updatability and standardized data for all countries involved.

The proposed Migration Profile Light (MPL) concept has been well received by the Prague Process participating states and Germany volunteered in testing the concept by filling in the template. The MPL on Germany has been developed and the process of its establishment has led to identification of gaps in the first template, which have been covered in cooperation with the PP TI Support Team at ICMPD.

The aim of the PP TI is to establish the Knowledge Base as a useful tool consisting of state-owned migration profiles with standard and comparable data categories. While aiming at the seven leading states of PP TI and the PP TI non-EU participating states, the interest of the Prague Process is to collect national MPLs for all 50 Prague Process participating states.

The MPL is an exercise, which targets all states, believing that this will lead to mutual understanding of the migration situation in partner states, existing migratory flows, priorities, problems and interests. The MPL should serve as an informative but also policy making tool. In case of need, methodological and expert support is planned to contribute to the development of MPL in states with limited experience with such exercise.

Ownership and responsibility of the content in terms of data provided in this Migration Profile resides solely with the country elaborating the report.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania (endorsed 2010), Armenia (2011), Azerbaijan (2010), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2010), Czech Republic (2010), Georgia (2011), Hungary (2011), Kazakhstan (2010), Kyrgyzstan (2011), Poland (2010), Romania (2010), Slovakia (2010), Tajikistan (2010), Ukraine (2011). Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan continue working on their Extended Migration Profiles.

This particular MPL was endorsed by the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova in November 2016 at a joint working meeting with the representatives of ministries and agencies competent in the field of migration.

The PP TI Support Team within the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is ready to help and can be contacted at [ppti@icmpd.org](mailto:ppti@icmpd.org). The Knowledge Base of the Prague Process is accessible at [www.pragueprocess.eu](http://www.pragueprocess.eu) and [www.imap-migration.org](http://www.imap-migration.org), section Prague Process.

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# 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNTRY

## 1.1. Size, Population, Bordering Countries and Length of Borders

<b>Official name</b>	Republic of Moldova
<b>Capital</b>	Chisinau
<b>Size</b>	33,800 sq. km
<b>Population</b>	3,553,056 (as of January 1, 2016)
<b>Bordering countries</b>	Romania to the south-west, Ukraine to the north-east
<b>Length of borders</b>	1,906 km (684 km with Romania, 1,222 km with Ukraine)

### Map<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Map: The World Factbook, CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/md.html>

## 1.2. Short characteristics of the country

Upon gaining its independence on August 27, 1991 the Republic of Moldova (RM) joined international migration mainly as a sending country. External migration processes were characterized by the predominance of emigration, especially the outflow of the Russian-speaking and other non-indigenous population. In 1991-1997 the largest flow of migrants (97% of the total) was directed to non-CIS countries, such as Israel (41.7%), Germany (29.9%) and the USA (25.4%). Since 1999, the intensity of departure for permanent residence in non-CIS countries decreased (in 2009, these accounted for 21.6% of total departures), while the intensity of migration flows to the CIS countries increased from 20.9% in 1998 to 80.4% in 2009 (of which 45.3% left for Ukraine and 38.1% for Russia). As of 2015, the country's migratory exchange occurs mainly with the states of the former Soviet Union.

The National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020," adopted on 11 July, 2012, states that the consistency of policies in the field of education and in the area of migration and employment should be one of its highest priorities.

In 2011 the "National Action Plan for implementation of the National Strategy in the field of migration and asylum for 2011-2015" and the "National Strategy in the field of migration and asylum for 2011-2020" were adopted.

In view of the relevance of migration issues, a number of migration laws establishing the rules of entry, stay, documenting and departure from the Republic of Moldova of the citizens of RM, foreign nationals and stateless persons, as well as laws defining the legal relations in the sphere of migration processes and the competence of the state authorities in regulating migration processes, were adopted.

## 2. MIGRATION FLOWS AND STOCKS OF IMMIGRANTS AND EMIGRANTS

### 2.1. Migration flows

As of 2015, migration in the Republic of Moldova is characterized mainly by the emigration of Moldovan citizens abroad for employment, and to a lesser extent by the immigration of the citizens of other countries into RM.

#### Emigration<sup>3</sup>

Urban population constitutes the main flow of emigration. In 2015 2.6 times as many people (1,652 persons) emigrated from the urban settlements than from rural (632 pers.). According to the data on the annual flow of documented (authorized) emigration, there emigrated 15.9% more women than men in 2008-2015. According to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, the apex of emigration activity was registered in 2008 (6,988 pers.), followed by a gradual decrease up to 3,129 persons in 2012 and 2,284

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<sup>3</sup> The analysis of the situation regarding emigration from Moldova is mainly based on data on annual flows of persons who left the country and was registered via administrative sources. Given that a large part of the population has dual citizenship, immigration analysis is based on the data on the population of the country and does not take into account existing citizenship or citizenships applied for while participating in migratory processes. The definition of "citizens of Moldova" in the context of this profile applies to the entire population, except when a different definition is given.

in 2015. The total number of sanctioned emigrations dropped by 67% (almost three times) in 2015 as compared to 2008.

In 2015, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were the main host countries having received approximately 56% of the sanctioned emigrations. In 2015 the Russian Federation accepted 42.1% of emigrants, Ukraine 13.7% and the United States of America 12.6%. The emigration to Germany (11% in 2015 and 2.8% in 2008) and Israel (7.6% in 2015 and 2% in 2008) increased as compared to 2008.

### The stocks of Moldovan citizens residing abroad

According to the estimates of regular migration by the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (MITC), the number of Moldovan citizens residing abroad as of the end of 2015 amounted to 106,549 people. According to other estimates, the number of Moldovan citizens who can be considered immigrants according to an international definition is higher: according to the data of the Border Police Department (DPP) on the border crossing and the duration of absence from the country, 282,127 people were staying abroad for more than 12 months at the close of 2015 - an increase by 44,477 (18.7%) as compared to 2008 and by 10,516 persons (3.9%) as compared to 2014.

As concerns authorized emigration, in 2008-2015 the total number of women living abroad exceeded the number of men by almost 20%. The number of departures from the Republic of Moldova for over 12 months increased, while the percentage ratio of women to men decreased and in 2008-2015 fluctuated between 15% and 11.8%. According to the State Register of Population, women accounted for nearly 55% of authorized emigrants and about 53% of the total number of Moldovan citizens living abroad for more than one year at the end of 2015.

On average, two-thirds of emigrants have specialized secondary education, with almost 50% having incomplete or complete higher education. The level of education is higher with women than with men.

In 2015, the largest share of authorized emigrants was composed of two age groups: those aged 30-44 (27.2%) and 15-29 (26.5%), which together amounted to approximately 54% of all authorized emigrations. According to the data on border crossings, the annual share of people aged 15-29 and 30-44 makes up approximately 67% of the total number of persons living abroad for 12 months or more. A group of persons aged 45-59 is approximately 18% of all emigrants. These data support the assumption that the working-age population is leaving the country.

According to the data of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI), obtained from diplomatic missions and consulates, the estimated number of Moldovan citizens living abroad by the end of 2015, regardless of the length of stay, was about 805.5 thousand. The analysis of the distribution of the host countries shows that about 76% of Moldovan citizens living abroad are registered in the Russian Federation and Italy.

**Emigration for the purpose of education.** The number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad on the basis of international agreements in the field of education was 5,485 in 2015, which is 2.3 times higher than their number compared to 2008. In 2015 approximately 91% of Moldovans were studying in Romania, 6.0% in Russia, 2.4% in Bulgaria and 0, 6% in other countries.

According to statistics from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service on the number of foreigners staying in the country, there were 32,030 citizens of the Republic of Moldova staying in Russia as of December 2014.

**Table 1. Arrivals to the Russian Federation from the CIS countries and the Republic of Moldova**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total arrivals to Russian Federation	281,614	279,907	191,656	356,535	417,681	482,241	578,511
From CIS countries	261,170	261,495	171,940	310,549	363,955	422,738	517,480
From RM	15,519	16,433	11,814	19,578	23,594	28,666	32,030

Source: Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation

**Table 2. Departures from the Russian Federation to the CIS countries and the Republic of Moldova**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total departures from Russian Federation	39,508	32,458	33,578	36,774	122,751	186,382	308,475
To CIS countries	25,542	20,326	21,206	22,568	95,572	147,853	257,324
To RM	551	648	617	771	4,949	8,038	14,532

Source: Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation

Outside of the CIS the main destinations for Moldovan citizens for work and permanent residence are Italy and Romania, which are attractive due to relative ease in learning languages as compared to other national languages of the EU.

**Table 3. Migration of Moldovan citizens outside of CIS in 2008-2014, (flows)**

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Belgium	:	:	182	282	201	138	139
Bulgaria	7	:	:	:	127	215	153
Czech republic	2,648	2,438	393	160	259	193	170
Denmark	56	41	30	50	39	21	23
Germany	699	:	:	:	:	:	:
Estonia	14	12	4	13	8	10	3
Ireland	83	38	48	51	70	107	:
Spain	2,297	1,280	876	799	572	486	698
Croatia	13	:	:	6	11	5	2
Italy	22,007	16,812	26,591	14,956	8,813	8,064	3,759



Lithuania	123	45	16	11	14	18	12
Luxemburg	8	9	9	6	10	8	11
Hungary	140	59	54	34	64	36	44
Netherlands	90	52	47	49	54	50	54
Austria	130	:	:	91	94	:	:
Romania	2,947	3,260	3,810	2,015	1,919	2,083	:
Slovenia	83	90	52	34	30	21	:
Slovakia	44	22	11	1	1	4	:
Finland	18	10	12	9	11	13	18
Sweden	40	54	39	25	54	45	31
Norway	30	34	34	38	34	28	25
Switzerland	147	141	129	65	66	79	50
Turkey	630	498	575	481	:	:	:

Source: EUROSTAT database, Immigration by five year age group, sex and citizenship[migr\_imm1ctz]

## Immigration

Since 2008, there was a rising trend in the number of immigrants from 2,049 in 2008 to 4,210 in 2015, which can be accounted both by the installation of borders with the European Union after its enlargement and by changes in national legislation. The major share of immigrants is made up by the immigrants from the CIS countries, Asia and the third world countries, and the EU countries.

**Table 4. Migration to the Republic of Moldova in 2008-2015.**

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total arrivals</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>3,349</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>4,210</b>
<i>including</i>								
Belgium	5	9	3	12	10	1	6	6
Romania	353	186	309	360	445	600	852	646
Italy	97	93	82	129	129	117	206	180
France	32	29	32	51	41	29	42	43
Germany	53	35	51	41	68	55	59	40
Spain	6	7	10	13	10	25	21	37
Bulgaria	45	28	43	21	25	18	37	23
Poland	19	18	24	38	30	20	27	22
Sweden	3	7	4	6	8	15	16	21
Greece	18	7	12	19	28	26	26	20
United Kingdom	18	13	18	16	33	27	19	19
Austria	11	11	15	14	13	21	15	18
Netherland	7	10	7	15	16	10	9	14
Portugal	1	-	2	12	41	3	4	12
Croatia	1	2	-	2	5	4	6	12
Lithuania	5	8	4	7	5	9	14	9
Latvia	5	9	11	10	7	8	11	7
Cyprus	4	6	4	3	6	5	6	6
Finland	-	9	4	3	2	13	22	6

Denmark	-	4	8	6	7	4	3	5
Estonia	2	9	6	4	6	1	3	4
Ireland	6	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Slovakia	1	2	3	1	3	16	3	4
Czech Republic	2	1	6	10	4	8	10	3
Hungary	-	3	4	5	4	2	4	3
Slovenia	-	3	4	4	6	1	-	1
Malta	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Luxemburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,165</b>
Ukraine	579	436	375	384	403	394	534	754
Russia	300	230	294	240	305	335	516	565
Azerbaijan	72	41	33	43	30	33	37	65
Belarus	36	16	24	27	17	39	33	45
Uzbekistan	35	17	10	18	22	32	22	37
Georgia	23	16	28	26	31	31	23	31
Armenia	29	33	35	21	29	21	29	29
Kazakhstan	21	14	17	18	9	18	17	25
Kyrgyzstan	9	10	7	16	16	16	18	23
Tajikistan	12	14	10	11	10	8	16	16
<b>Total CIS:</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>1,590</b>
Israel	183	278	482	455	407	463	525	548
Turkey	514	224	287	266	337	445	421	347
USA	56	39	59	75	176	129	202	209
India	9	2	11	13	14	6	40	37
Syria	36	34	34	34	65	64	34	33
China	16	8	23	21	23	38	26	28
Lebanon	7	4	3	14	11	15	13	23
Jordan	13	7	3	8	6	8	16	12
Macedonia	12	1	2	5	5	3	1	6
Other countries	83	70	102	193	201	196	222	195

Source: BMA database

## 2.2. Migrant stocks

### Annual immigration

The major share of immigrants is made up by the immigrants from the CIS countries (38%), most of them from Ukraine (47%) and Russia (36%). The share of Azerbaijan, Belarus and Uzbekistan is 4.1%, 2.8% and 2.3% respectively. Second come immigrants from the European countries (28%), with migrants from Romania amounting to 56.7%, from Italy to 15.2%, France - 3.6%, Germany - 3.3% and Spain 3.1%. Immigration from the countries of the European Union is accounted by kinship with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova (Romania, France and Bulgaria) as well as economic activities (Germany and Italy). Third come the natives of Asian countries and third world countries (25%). These principally come from Israel (52.8%), Turkey (33.4%), India (3.6%) and Syria (3.2%). The figures of migration to Moldova from these countries are due to the simplification of foreigners' admission to higher education institutions in Moldova, which has strengthened the trend of labour immigration and immigration for family reunification.

The immigration from other countries of the world accounts for 9%; the majority of these are US citizens (52%).

One of the characteristics of immigrants is relatively high educational level, with the share of immigrants with higher education having risen from 17.4% of the total in 1997 to 38.1% in 2015. This category also includes immigrants who were educated in the universities of the Republic of Moldova.

**Accumulations of the foreigners on the territory of RM.** By the end of 2015 the total number of foreigners, including stateless persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Moldova, was 21,876 people, which is 0.6% of the population and increase of 8.8% as compared to 2010 and 29% to 2008. Of all foreigners, including stateless persons residing in the territory of the Republic of Moldova, 74.9% settle in the cities.

The distribution of foreigners by the countries of previous stay shows that 55.1% of registered immigrants arrived from Ukraine and the Russian Federation (32.4% and 22.7%, respectively), from Israel - 8.7%, Romania 5.2% and Turkey 4.1%. Other countries are represented by less than 2% each; 8.3% are stateless persons and persons with undetermined citizenship.

## 3. LEGAL MIGRATION WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON LABOUR MIGRATION

### 3.1. Responsible state authorities

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI)**, being in charge of foreign policy, visa policy, holds extended meeting of the Local Platform Mobility Partnership of the Republic of Moldova and the EU and monitors the process of implementation of the Agreement on Moldova's association with the European Union and the liberalization of visa regime with the EU countries.

**The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)** develops public policies and monitors their implementation in the field of migration and asylum, as well as coordinates the process of integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova.

**Bureau for Migration and Asylum** is an administrative body within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (having the status of a Department within the Ministry) and was created in order to implement the policies related to migration and asylum, manage migration by receiving and documenting foreigners with identity documents, recognize the refugee status, grant humanitarian protection, coordinate the process of integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, to control the legality of stay of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova, to grant state funding and take appropriate measures for removal and restraint.

**The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF)** develops policy and regulates the processes in the field of labour migration. MLSPF has taken steps to negotiate and conclude bilateral agreements to regulate the flow of labour migration and their protection, as well as for the prevention of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Policies in the field of labour migration aim at:

- Creating economic opportunities in Moldova to attract foreign investments and remittances, promote investment in the development of business;

- Further development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the countries of destination for labour migrants;
- Developing effective mechanisms for the management and control of migration flows.

**State Chancellery (Bureau for Relations with the Diaspora)** coordinates state policy in the sphere of relations with the Diaspora.

**The National Employment Agency (NEA) of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family** and its regional divisions - performs four basic functions that are broadly aimed at preventing migration abroad and employing citizens in the Republic of Moldova: informs population about the situation in the labour market, announces the availability of vacancies, provides brokerage services for employment and introduces active and passive social protection measures, such as job fairs, information campaigns aimed at informing the citizens about the services of the National Employment Agency, arranges meetings with potential employers and negotiations with economic agents on the issue of employment, promotes enterprises, the selects labour force, etc.

NEA also decides on granting / extending / refusing of the right to employment to foreigners on the basis of the availability of vacancies on the labour market, informs the population on employment opportunities abroad, organizes recruitment and employment of Moldovan citizens abroad in accordance with signed bilateral intergovernmental agreements in the field of labour migration, as well as keeps records of labour migrants according to the established procedures.

**National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** conducts a quarterly labour force surveys and household budget surveys. These databases allow for the estimation of the volume of labour migration and the proportion of households receiving remittances.

### 3.2. Policy and policy documents

The legal framework regulating migration is made up by the relevant articles of the Constitution and the Law on the regime of stay of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, the Law on Labour Migration, as well as the provisions contained in bilateral and multilateral inter-state agreements. To the sphere of migration are also applicable normative legal acts contained in administrative, customs, tax, investment, banking legislation of Moldova.

**"National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011-2020)"** approved by the governmental decree Nr.655 / 08.09.2011 is a national document, intended to ensure the regulation of the movement and mobility of citizens in order to promote their welfare, social-economic development of the country, ensure human rights and social protection of labour migrants.

The strategy is a uniform tool for the integration of existing strategic framework and unification of migration and asylum management policies in accordance with the processes of planning of various strategic activities in the Republic of Moldova.

- Action Plan for 2011-2015 on implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011-2020);
- Action Plan for 2016-2020 on the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and Asylum (2011-2020).

**"National Employment Strategy for 2007- 2015"** defines the priorities related to the regulation of labour migration relying on the principles of return and prevention of youth migration. Since this strategy expired in 2015, a new project of employment strategy was being developed in 2016 for the period of 2017-2021. This

is currently at the approval stage and one of its key priorities is the capitalization of the migration potential for the development of the country.

**"The National Action Plan to support the reintegration of citizens returning home for 2014-2016"** provides for the creation of optimal conditions for the return of citizens, especially of highly skilled professionals and for the creation of opportunities of their employment in the country.

**National Strategy "Diaspora - 2025" and the Action Plan for its implementation for 2016-2018<sup>4</sup>** define a common framework to ensure consistency of the state policy towards the Diaspora and the introduction of a common governmental vision of the issues pertaining to the Diaspora, migration and development.

**The main legislative acts regulating the sphere of migration are:**

- **Law** № 200 of 16.07.2010 on the regime of stay of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova,
- **Law** on Labour migration (of 10.07.2008)<sup>5</sup>
- **Law** on the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova (of 02.06.2000)
- **Law** on exit from RM and entry to RM (of 09.11.94) ensuring the freedom of movement.

In accordance with the provisions of the **Law on labour migration** the labour immigration to the Republic of Moldova of foreign citizens and / or stateless persons is possible if vacant jobs can not be filled by Republic's own human resources in accordance with the provisions of the Law and other normative regulations and international treaties of the Republic of Moldova. The State shall ensure, in accordance with the existing legislation, protection of immigrant workers without any discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political affiliation, wealth or social background.

Foreign nationals and stateless persons arriving for the purpose of employment on the basis of individual employment contracts can only be employed with the single employer and may occupy only vacancies registered by the employer with the territorial employment agency. Employment priority is given to highly qualified specialists and / or professionals invited by the Government on the proposals of specialized central and local public administration authorities. Foreign nationals and stateless persons engaged in labour activity on the territory of the Republic of Moldova must obtain **temporary residence and employment permits**.

**The right of temporary stay for labour purposes** (hereafter – the right) is given by the decision issued by the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of the Interior. The decision granting the right is the basis for issuing a decision on granting the right of temporary stay for labour purposes. The right can be granted to the following categories of persons: a) immigrant workers; b) workers on business trips; c) seasonal workers; g) border workers; e) other categories stipulated by bilateral agreements in this area signed by the Republic of Moldova with other states.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Governmental decree № 200 of 26.02.2016  
<http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=363576&lang=2>

<sup>5</sup> The law regulates immigration procedures and temporary employment of Moldovan citizens abroad, in particular, the implementation of temporary employment by immigrant workers, the conditions for granting, extending and withdrawing the right to work and the right to temporary stay for employment and conditions of temporary employment of Moldovan citizens abroad, the rules of labour immigration, rights and duties of foreign workers, the conditions of employment of foreign citizens and stateless persons, temporary employment of Moldovan citizens abroad, the rules regulating the activities of private employment agencies abroad. In addition the law lists the minimum standards that must be included into an individual employment contract of a labour migrant.

<sup>6</sup> The right is not available to minors and immigrants enrolled in educational institutions of Moldova for the period of studies.

The right ceases: a) since the moment of publication of the decision to revoke, b) upon the expiration of the residence permit, c) upon cancellation of a temporary residence and employment permit. Before the expiry of a temporary residence and employment permit a foreign citizen and / or a stateless person may apply for the right to work and right of temporary stay for employment purposes to get employed by another employer on common grounds.

Within the **Mobility Partnership** between Moldova and the EU 15 EU member states on 5 June 2008 signed Common Declaration on the Mobility Partnership with the Republic of Moldova as a pilot project and are country's partners in its implementation. Priorities of the partnership include: consolidation of the system of international protection of migrants, legal support for resettlement of citizens, consolidation of relations with the Diaspora, promotion of labour migrants' return home and reintegration of returned migrants. Through the partnership, careful attention is paid to the development of national border management systems and security documents and cooperation in the international fight against human trafficking. Mobility Partnership with the Republic of Moldova within the EU encompasses (under different migration projects) Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus and France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Portugal, as well as Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Hungary. The European Commission, FRONTEX and the European Training Foundation are parts of this cooperation format.

**Eastern Partnership** (EaP) was launched within the framework of the Prague Summit in May 2009 and is an EU initiative aimed at strengthening relations between the **European Union** and **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine** and helping to achieve necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration. The partnership provides for closer cooperation with the EU, namely:

- The prospect of closer political relations under new association agreements;
- Closer economic integration with the EU with the help of extended free trade agreements;
- Facilitation of travelling to the EU through gradual visa liberalization, along with carrying out measures to combat irregular immigration;
- Expansion of interpersonal contacts and greater involvement of civil society.

**Entry of foreign citizens to the Republic of Moldova.** Citizens of Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan do not need visas to visit Moldova. Entry to the territory of Moldova is possible only with a valid international passport. By the decision of Moldova's Parliament since 2007 visas were abolished for the citizens of the European Union member states, the United States, Canada, the Swiss Confederation, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Iceland and Japan, and from June 1, 2010 for the citizens of the Principality of Andorra, the State of Israel, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Principality of Monaco and the Vatican,<sup>7</sup> and from June 1, 2014 for the citizens of Turkey.

To obtain a **residence permit** in the Republic of Moldova, a foreign citizen or stateless person must contact the Bureau for Migration and Asylum with a request to obtain the **right of temporary stay**, which is the basis for issuing a residence permit. The right to temporary stay must be obtained a month before the end of the authorized period of stay in the Republic of Moldova (90 days).

On the territory of the Republic of Moldova foreigners can engage in labour activities only on the basis of a temporary residence and employment permits.

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<sup>7</sup> Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=316512&lang=2>, accessed on 29.08.2016.

### **The right of temporary stay may be granted:**

- for immigration for employment purposes
- to study
- for the purpose of family reunification
- to implement humanitarian, volunteer or religious activities
- for long-term treatment in a medical facility, for sanatorium or rehabilitation treatment
- for the protection of victims of trafficking
- to foreign investors
- for other purposes

To obtain the right to stay in the country and prolong it, foreign citizens or stateless persons shall apply to BMA within 30 calendar days prior to the expiry of the permission to stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. If a foreigner is a citizen of a country with which Moldova has visa regime, he/she must be in a possession of a visa for long-term stay. The decision on granting the right to stay or refusal thereof is made by the competent authorities within no more than 30 calendar days from the date of submission of the application. Depending on the purpose of stay the right to temporary residence may be granted for a period of up to 5 years. In cases stipulated by law a permit may be issued for a different period of duration. As a rule, foreign nationals are granted the right to reside for one year with the possibility of subsequent annual renewal.

### **The right of permanent stay is granted in case an applicant:**

- is married to a citizen of the Republic of Moldova for at least 3 years (on the basis of permanent and legal residence)
- had the right to legal temporary and continuous stay in the Republic of Moldova for at least 5 years
- confirms the presence of sufficient livelihood means
- has accommodation
- speaks the state language at a satisfactory level
- has not had a criminal record for the past 3 years

## **3.3. Statistics**

Due to its latent component labour migration is an economic phenomenon difficult to account for. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), labour migration has been and remains a stable trend in Moldova for two decades, with about the same number of people (around 340,000) employed abroad for a particular period of time between 2008 and 2015. The largest number of Moldovan migrants work in Russia, Italy, Israel, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Portugal and Greece.

According to data provided by the National Agency for Employment, the number of persons working in the host countries with employment contracts concluded through specialized agencies is very small. Although their number increased 2.2 times in 2015 as compared to 2014 and reached 2,010 people, in all probability, it is underestimated, because no information on employment on the basis of employment contracts is available from those countries in which Moldovan citizens seek jobs on their own. The data available on the employment on the basis of employment contracts concluded via agencies show that the largest number of immigrants are registered in Israel (84.5%) and Poland (10.0%).



During the period of 2008-2015 economically active population was declining continuously and dropped by 37,000 (2.8%) - from 1,303,000 to 1,266,000 people. In 2015 the number of citizens living abroad dropped to 325,400 people (210,800 men and 114,600 women). In 2014, their number amounted to 341,900 (219,000 males and 122,900 females). The distribution by sex shows the differences by host countries. So, of all those who went to Russia, men account for 77% and women for 23%, to Ukraine, respectively, 72% and 28%, and of those who left for Israel and Italy men were, respectively, 26% and 27%, and women - 74% and 73%.

Since 2009, the gender distribution reflects a trend of increase of males in the stock of migrant workers. In 2015, the distribution was 65% men and 35% women, as compared to 63% men and 37% women in 2009. About 69% of those residing abroad in 2015 came from rural areas, which represents a decrease as compared to previous years (this share was 71.6% in 2013, and 71.7% in 2014).

The distribution of migrants by type of economic activity prior to departure shows that 43.3% were employed in agriculture, hunting and forestry business, 13.1% in construction and 11.6% in trade. Abroad, more than a half of workers (56.5%) are employed in construction. Household assistance provided 18.7% of migrants from the Republic of Moldova, and 9.7% engaged in trade.<sup>8</sup>

In 2015, the distribution by age groups was as follows: 62% - persons aged 15-44, of whom 39% were aged 25-34; 22% were 35-44 and 19% - 15-24 years. Migrants aged 45-54 accounted for about 15% and 6% over 55 years. Mostly young population leaves the countryside: those aged 15-34 account for 59% of all immigrants in comparison to 54% of the same age group in urban areas. There are variations in the number of males and females in the age groups: the younger the group, the more men it contains. The older the group, the lesser the difference. Thus, in 2015 men accounted for 74% of 15-24 age group and 47% of 45-54 group (27% difference).

Statistical data show that the level of education, which affects the ability to integrate on the labour market abroad, plays a particular role in shaping the migration flow. In 2015, 50% of the total number of migrants had secondary education (high school, gymnasium, etc.), 37% had specialized secondary or vocational education. Persons with higher education accounted for 13% of those who left the country.

**Table 5. The number of first residence permits issued to Moldovan citizens for carrying out labour activities in the EU countries in 2008-2015**

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United Kingdom	214	69	42	40	29	88	46	0
Austria	16	13	9	9	7	9	7	7
Belgium	6	33	14	14	11	11	12	4
Bulgaria	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Czech Republic	3,178	1,021	673	83	494	330	194	354
Denmark	26	60	30	50	16	18	12	3
Germany	81	62	73	49	64	73	54	13
Estonia	13	10	5	3	5	5	4	2
Ireland	19	52	22	11	3	4	8	6
Greece	12	13	8	3	0	2	10	0
Spain	568	481	276	355	202	157	92	127

<sup>8</sup> Labour force migration survey, 2012. Available at: [http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii\\_electronice/migratia/Sinteza\\_MFM\\_2012.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/migratia/Sinteza_MFM_2012.pdf), accessed on 15.03.2016.



France	234	169	123	73	51	35	21	18
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	0	1	1
Italy	29,122	17,846	29,955	7,151	3,331	2,840	1,164	374
Cyprus	719	791	540	500	274	153	144	131
Latvia	335	11	1	0	3	1	31	15
Lithuania	222	41	6	18	17	17	15	36
Luxemburg	:	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Hungary	139	51	33	9	18	9	13	21
Malta	20	16	2	2	0	1	2	6
Netherlands	36	29	26	37	26	16	5	:
Poland	354	280	2,366	5,960	4,311	6,288	5,698	7,658
Portugal	646	457	231	147	54	51	32	37
Romania	620	341	99	79	50	27	20	53
Slovenia	75	59	28	33	20	14	7	13
Slovakia	35	1	0	0	1	1	4	8
Finland	12	22	19	27	14	10	9	20
Sweden	59	57	52	51	29	39	22	22
<b>EU 28</b>	<b>36,766</b>	<b>21,985</b>	<b>34,633</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>9,030</b>	<b>10,199</b>	<b>7,632</b>	<b>8,934</b>

Source: EUROSTAT database, table: First permits issued for remunerated activities by reason, length of validity and citizenship [migr\_resocc]

**Table 6. The number of residence permits issued to Moldovan citizens for carrying out labour activities in the EU countries in 2008-2015**

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>European Union (28 countries)</b>	<b>96,787</b>	<b>116,339</b>	<b>108,687</b>	<b>118,640</b>	<b>112,208</b>	<b>96,583</b>	<b>90,241</b>	<b>88,583</b>
Belgium	:	:	66	67	63	48	44	37
Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Czech Republic	8,282	7,174	3,804	3,790	2,057	1,614	1,479	1,356
Germany	169	164	178	135	145	164	177	189
Estonia	15	17	20	17	18	19	17	13
Ireland	955	692	552	424	163	105	61	53
Greece	5,696	5,568	4,200	4,459	2,409	1,912	:	968
Spain	5,970	6,351	3,400	2,907	2,178	1,387	951	743
France	403	466	482	520	481	396	315	246
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	1	1	1
Italy	66,080	89,513	91,273	100,663	99,780	85,457	82,167	77,837
Cyprus	3,988	3,157	2,919	2,398	1,527	518	200	182
Latvia	198	67	44	13	9	7	35	23
Lithuania	222	92	52	20	64	78	66	89
Luxemburg	:	4	3	3	4	3	5	6
Hungary	150	92	75	63	85	30	0	0
Malta	30	18	16	9	7	6	7	12

Netherlands	22	21	25	27	29	37	32	29
Austria	:	22	18	22	16	17	11	5
Poland	:	:	432	2,359	2,437	3,729	3,536	5,754
Portugal	3,165	1,870	465	351	390	688	876	768
Romania	1,193	835	502	258	127	98	86	103
Slovenia	137	119	95	76	61	30	18	17
Slovakia	52	35	29	29	21	29	31	37
Finland	29	25	17	5	4	20	22	20
Sweden	28	35	20	25	27	43	26	33
United Kingdom	:	:	:	:	105	146	78	56
Iceland	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0

Source: EUROSTAT database, table: All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year [migr\_resvalid]

## 4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE COUNTRY

### 4.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Ministry of the Interior** (Department of Border Police, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum, and the Center for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the General Police Inspectorate) is the key authority in the field of prevention of irregular migration. Within the measures to prevent irregular migration MIA promotes a network of posts of immigration control at checkpoints across the state border of the Republic of Moldova.

In order to prevent irregular migration, the Ministry of **Internal Affairs** and its **dependencies** carry out special operations to prevent, combat and revert irregular migration, aimed at identifying persons staying on the territory of the Republic of Moldova illegally.

### 4.2. Policy and policy documents

To implement the policy for the fight against irregular migration and stay of foreign nationals the **Center for temporary detention of foreign nationals** under the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, updated under the IOM project "Strengthening migration management in the Republic of Moldova - MIGRAMOL" in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova with the financial support of the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland was opened on the 1 of April 2008. The opening of the Center is a step forward in the better regulation of migration processes and the protection of migrants. The center can simultaneously accommodate up to 200 foreigners who can take advantage of the human rights protection system at the level of European and international standards, as well as be provided them with adequate living conditions.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Available at <http://www.e-cis.info/page.php?id=13734>, accessed on 14.05.2016.

The main legislation acts regulating this sphere are:

- Law № 200 of 16.07.2010 on the regime of stay of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (Chapter VII - Procedure for the removal of foreigners from the territory of the Republic of Moldova).
- Law № 270 of 18.12. 2008 on asylum in the Republic of Moldova (the person filing the application for asylum shall enjoy the right of not being the subject to return or expulsion from the country until a decision concerning his / her application is made).
- Government Resolution № 492 of 07.12.2011 approving the Regulation on the procedure of return, expulsion and readmission of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova.
- Government Decision №493 of 07.07.2011 on the approval of the Regulations on the Centre for temporary accommodation of foreigners.

### 4.3. Statistics

Irregular migration is characterized mainly by legal entry and illegal employment without permits. As a result of the liberalization of visa regime between Moldova and the EU, external relations have expanded and flow of foreigners arriving in the country increased, including those entering without registration and residing illegally, as well as potential asylum seekers.<sup>10</sup> Irregular migrants arrive from the CIS countries, in particular, from the Caucasus region, as well as from China, India, Bangladesh, Middle East, etc.

In 2015, the number of irregular migrants was 4,417 and increased 2.3 times as compared to 2009, and as compared to 2013 by half. In 2015, 415 decisions on the cancellation of the right of residence in Moldova were taken. In relation to 622 foreigners a decision to return from the territory of the Republic of Moldova was taken, and three foreigners were subjects to the application of the rules of readmission agreements. In 2015 there were 142 instances of return of foreigners to their homeland under the escort (in 2013 - 80 cases). 120 foreigners were detained and 110 were declared undesirable aliens in the Republic of Moldova (for comparison, in 2013 their number was 8) due the fact that their presence was a danger to public order and national security of the country in accordance with documentation from relevant authorities. In 2015, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs imposed a ban on the entry of 282 foreigners into for a period of 1 to 5 years (232 such cases in 2014).

**Table 7. Instances of irregular stay of foreigners in RM in 2009-2015\***

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
The number of irregular migrants	1,961	2,298	1,711	1,452*	2,917*	3,991*	4,417*
The number of expulsions of foreigners	83	58	70	101	-	-	-

<sup>10</sup> Factors contributing to the influx of illegal immigrants into the country are: 1) conflicts, including armed, in various regions of the world; 2) the geographical position of Moldova, whose territory is used as a springboard for irregular migrants' movement into the EU.

The number of revocations of the right of residence in Moldova	0	0	0	201	249	516	415
The number of refusals of the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova	...	...	49	66	39	88	118
The number of terminations of the stay on the territory of Moldova	0	0	54	380	238	474	622
The number of foreigners whose residence in the Republic of Moldova was declared undesirable	0	0	6	2	8	67	110
The number of foreigners in detention	71	80	103	88	81	104	120

Source: Bureau for Migration and Asylum of MIA (+Department of Border Police). \*Data available from 2009

**Table 8. Illegal stay of Moldovan citizens in the EU and a number of decisions prescribing to leave the host country in 2009-2015**

Country	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	person s.	decisions	p.	d	p	d	p	d	p	d	p	d	p	d
<b>EU (28 countries)</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>5,295</b>	<b>4,355</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>1,800</b>
Belgium	45	75	45	70	30	80	30	95	35	95	55	80	85	95
Bulgaria	25	25	20	20	15	15	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	140	140	95	130	85	105	85	95	60	85	50	45	50	90
Denmark	0	:	0	:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Germany	325	85	275	100	325	60	265	70	260	55	205	55	285	80
Estonia	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Ireland	180	140	100	105	55	85	45	95	10	155	5	30	40	20
Greece	140	160	90	90	60	60	70	105	35	80	60	60	115	90
Spain	225	295	140	190	135	170	110	195	95	70	0	50	90	80
France	220	640	205	645	260	630	865	1.340	435	825	575	405	435	295
Italy	1,485	1,485	1,110	1 110	645	645	670	670	500	500	370	370	365	365
Cyprus	160	60	215	20	215	20	155	25	120	40	40	25	35	20
Latvia	45	30	0	5	5	10	0	25	0	30	0	10	0	10
Lithuania	15	15	20	20	5	5	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0
Luxemburg	0	0	5	5	0	:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	210	270	230	160	305	155	255	110	285	80	425	120	2,040	60
Malta	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Netherlands	10	30	10	20	5	25	:	25	:	20	:	20	:	15
Austria	380	305	265	240	220	125	115	65	90	60	50	0	25	75
Poland	95	195	70	125	60	65	75	75	50	45	80	80	160	150
Portugal	185	170	120	110	95	90	100	85	55	50	30	25	75	75
Romania	970	830	950	755	810	630	350	375	340	275	225	215	175	160
Slovenia	0	0	25	25	20	20	0	5	0	0	5	5	5	5
Slovakia	260	180	240	145	100	65	95	60	55	50	5	5	15	15
Finland	30	5	5	10	5	5	5	10	0	5	0	75	5	20

Sweden	15	15	20	15	5	5	25	10	10	15	40	15	15	45
United Kingdom	140	140	100	100	180	180	165	165	35	35	20	20	20	20

Source: EUROSTAT database, *Third country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded) [migr\_eipre]* u *Third country nationals ordered to leave - annual data (rounded) [migr\_eiord]*

## 5. READMISSION, RETURN/ REPATRIATION, REINTEGRATION

### 5.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs** is the national authority responsible for the implementation of readmission agreements. Its responsibilities include considering and making decisions on applications for readmission or transit.

### 5.2. Policy and policy documents

Readmission of Moldovan citizens from the EU is carried out in accordance with the Agreement between Moldova and the EU on readmission of persons residing illegally, and in accordance with readmission agreements with other countries of destination for Moldovan migrants. Most Moldovans subject to readmission were returned from France and Spain.

The first agreements on readmission were signed with neighboring countries, namely Romania and Ukraine (signed on March 11, 1997; on October 7, 2003 the Additional Protocol to the Agreement was signed).

The readmission agreement with the EU in relation to Moldovan citizens illegally residing in the EU came into force on 1 January 2008 simultaneously with the Agreement on visa regime facilitation. The tools for the implementation of readmission agreements are additional protocols, which provide practical procedures for the application and implementation of the agreements, additional conditions for the readmission deadlines, indicate border crossing points for the transfer of persons and authorities responsible for readmission. Since 2009, the provisions of the implementing protocols with the EU countries are enacted (Austria, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Sweden, Estonia), as well as with countries outside the EU: Switzerland (01.06.2004), Norway (09.08.2006), Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey. The agreement on the readmission to the Republic of Moldova of the citizens of third countries was enacted in 2010.

In 2007, during the implementation of the plan on the conclusion of readmission agreements with key countries of origin of irregular migrants in the Republic of Moldova, a proposal on signing bilateral agreements were sent to the state authorities of Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Armenia,

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Syria, Bangladesh, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Jordan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and China.<sup>11</sup>

Return and reintegration of Moldovan migrants is a priority for state policies. In accordance with the National Strategy of the Republic of Moldova in the area of migration and asylum (2011-2020), an "Action Plan for 2014-2016 to support the reintegration of people returning home" provides for the creation of optimal conditions for return, especially of highly skilled persons and for their employment opportunities in the country, including development of businesses in Moldova, strengthening ties with Diaspora and improvement of the conditions for the start of their own businesses.

In the process of implementation of the Plan to support the reintegration of people returning from abroad, an interdepartmental network for assistance in accordance with the requirements and needs of the socio-economic reintegration of the citizens was created. An information and Reintegration Service was created with the territorial employment agencies. At this stage, the work of 10 offices of the Service is launched and piloted.<sup>12</sup>

During 2015, 2,606 Moldovan citizens returning from abroad were registered with the territorial employment authorities with the status of unemployed and users of employment and protection services; 606 of them got employment (23%).

In the field of **return / repatriation and reintegration** of Moldovan migrants the "PARE 1+1" Program to attract remittances into the economy for 2010-2015 is being carried out, as well as the National Program for extending economic opportunities for the Youth (PNAET), which provides entrepreneurship training and financial assistance for start-ups. Measures are also being implemented on the recognition of skills and qualifications (in accordance with the provisions of the National Concept for the recognition of non-formal and formal education, adopted in November 2011).

In the context of the Mobility Partnership of the EU-Republic of Moldova events and activities are being held on attracting immigrants to the local labour market, on informing the Moldovan citizens on the socio-economic situation at the labour market, as well as attracting remittances to Moldova's economy and developing small and medium-sized businesses, etc.

### 5.3. Statistics

#### Readmission

In the period of 2008-2011 the number of people subject to readmission was increasing steadily, and was in 2011 2.8 times higher as compared to 2008. In 2012, this number dropped sharply to 54 people, and in 2014 it was 69 people. But in 2015 the number of people subject to readmission grew as compared to 2014 (Figure 1).

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<sup>11</sup>Valeriu Mosneaga, Readmission, Return and Reintegration: Moldova. Explanatory note 13/03, 2013. KARIM-East project. EUI, RSCAS, [http://www.carim-east.eu/media/exno/Explanatory%20Notes\\_2013-03.pdf](http://www.carim-east.eu/media/exno/Explanatory%20Notes_2013-03.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=353112&lang=2>).

**Fig. 1. The annual number of Moldovan citizens returned as a result of readmission**



Source: Bureau on Migration and Asylum of MIA

The distribution in 2015 of the number of people subject to readmission by countries shows that the majority (110 persons) were returned from France and Spain (13 people), Switzerland (4 people) and other EU countries (in descending order).

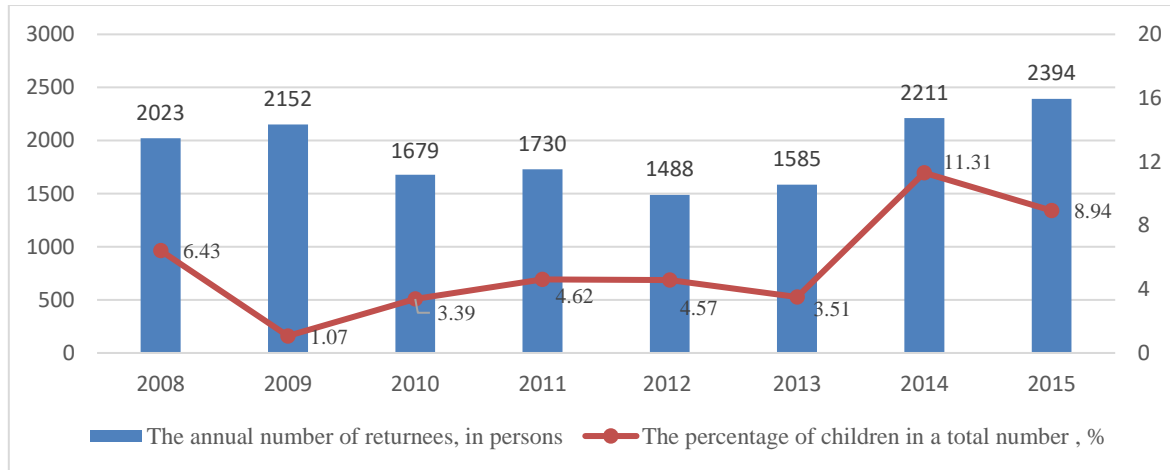
### Return / Repatriation

In the period of 2009-2015 the annual number of returned / repatriated persons fluctuated insignificantly. In 2015, the number of returnees increased by 183 as compared to 2014 and amounted to 2,394, which was an increase by half as compared to 2013. In 2015 the proportion of children among the total number of returnees was 8.94%.

Repatriation is a voluntary return home of persons born in the Republic of Moldova, as well as their descendants in accordance with the law on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=336056&lang=2>

**Fig. 2. Information on the number of repatriated in 2008-2015 (annual)**



Source: Bureau for Migration and Asylum of MIA and MITC starting from 2011.

Ukraine and Russia are the main countries of origin for returnees (55% and 41% of the total respectively). In absolute terms, the number of people who returned from Russia to Moldova is 3 times less than the number of those who left the country for permanent residence there. In case of Ukraine in 2015 the number of returnees exceeded the number of those who left the country for permanent residence there for the first time (by 28.5%). This is mainly due to the ongoing military conflict in Ukraine.

Most repatriates are persons of working age (almost 80%). Children and senior citizens make up about 20% of them. The ethnic composition of repatriates is as follows: Moldovans (42%), Ukrainians (21%) and Russians (15%).

## 6. INTEGRATION

### 6.1. Responsible state authorities

The **Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs** (the competent authority for foreigners) coordinates the process of integration of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The Bureau cooperates with the central and local government authorities, as well as with non-governmental and international organizations involved in the process of integration of foreigners; provides monitoring and evaluation of the programs of integration of foreigners; registers foreigners benefited from integration programs; provides the bodies involved in the implementation of integration programs with annual estimates of the number of foreigners who can potentially benefit from integration programs for the allocation of necessary funds of budget expenses; at the end of the calendar year provides the Government with a summary report on the level of adaptation of foreigners and, as appropriate, offers solutions and the necessary intervention measures; jointly with other authorities identifies the necessary resources for the programs of integration of foreigners who received a certain form of protection or right to stay in the Republic of Moldova.



The **Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family** provides registration of foreigners seeking employment. In accordance with the law it offers accommodation in a subordinate social institutions and keeps records of foreigners included into the system of social protection.

The **Ministry of Education** is developing a methodology and program of courses on the study of the state language; advises the Ministry of Culture on developing the methods for the sessions of social and cultural adaptation; provides an estimate of the level of knowledge of the state language; recognizes, in accordance with the normative acts, the periods of study / educational certificates and qualifications obtained abroad to admit foreigners into the educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova or for their employment; provides educational and residential care of minors; keeps records of minors covered by the educational process.

The **Ministry of Culture** develops a methodology for the sessions of social and cultural adaptation, in consultation with the Ministry of Education; participates in the development of individual plans and promotes integration of the implementation of integration programs.

The **Ministry of Health** provides access to health care within the system of mandatory health insurance and provides assistance in special cases.

**Local public administration authorities** provide support in the implementation of programs and realization of projects aimed at promoting active participation of foreigners in public and cultural life of the community; take measures to raise awareness of local population on migration, asylum and social integration of foreigners, develop the spirit of tolerance and intercultural understanding; identifies the possibility of accommodation for foreigners included in integration programs.

Refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection have access to all the **integration activities** for free. The main activities are:

- Sessions of socio-cultural adaptation, including the introduction to national values and traditions, the system of political and administrative organization of the Republic of Moldova. Sessions are mandatory and are organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the competent authority on the issues of foreigners through the local public administration authorities at the place of residence at specialized institutions during the first 30 days after receipt of one kind of protection.
- Courses on the studying the state language, organized by the Ministry of Education through the subordinated institutions, as well as the local public administration authorities at the place of residence on the basis of application submitted to the authority competent on the issues of foreigners.
- Access to education (pre-school, primary and general secondary education) under the conditions established by law for the citizens of Moldova. Minors, who have received a form of protection in the Republic of Moldova, attend during the school year, a free introductory course in the state language.
- Advising on the access to labour market, health care and social protection: refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection have access to labour market, to unemployment insurance system, to measures to prevent unemployment and stimulate employment under the conditions established by law for Moldovan citizens. The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family through the Employment Agency shall take the necessary measures to adapt the services provided to the specific needs of beneficiaries of integration programs, including: a) the organization of training programs by territorial employment agencies; b) participation in the simplification of the relations between the beneficiaries of integration programs and their potential employers; c) ensuring the registration of beneficiaries of integration programs who seek jobs; c) detecting vacant jobs and providing information about these to the beneficiaries of integration programs; d) in collaboration with a competent immigration authority identification of suitable ways to communicate with foreigners who obtained a form of protection in the

Republic of Moldova and applying for the reception of integration services; e) provision of unemployment benefits under the conditions provided for in Article 30 of the Law on employment and social protection of persons seeking jobs;

- Advising on the access to health care - refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection have access to health care within the system of mandatory health insurance under conditions established by law for the citizens of Moldova. Payment for mandatory health insurance is made after the date of receiving a form of protection. For beneficiaries of a form of protection and participants of integration programs mandatory health insurance contributions for the duration of the program shall be paid by the state;
- Advising on the access to social protection measures - refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection have access to the public system of social insurance and to the national system of social assistance under the terms established by law for the citizens of Moldova;
- Accommodation benefits - the beneficiaries of integration programs having no means of livelihood at their request can use accommodation in a specially designated areas under the jurisdiction of a competent immigration authority for a period of up to six months without exceeding the duration of the integration program.

## 6.2. Policy and policy documents

The Law № 274 of 27 December 2011 on the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova regulates the process and procedure for simplification of the integration of foreigners into economic, social and cultural life of Moldova in order to prevent their social marginalization.

**Table 9. Categories of foreigners subject to the Law on the Integration of Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova and measures for their integration**

Category of a foreigner having a right to	Measure
Temporary stay for family reunion	1. <b>Sessions</b> of socio-cultural adaptation (values, traditions, political and administrative organization of RM) - organized by the Ministry of Culture. 2. Language <b>courses</b> in the state language - organized by the Ministry of Education through the subordinated institutions and local authorities at the place of residence.
Temporary stay for humanitarian or religious activities	
Permanent stay	
Persons recognized as stateless, refugees or persons enjoying humanitarian protection in RM	3. <b>Consulting</b> on access to labour market through Employment Agencies.
Temporary residence for the purpose of employment and study	1. <b>Sessions</b> of socio-cultural adaptation (values, traditions, political and administrative organization of RM) - organized by the Ministry of Culture. 2. Language <b>courses</b> in the state language - organized by the Ministry of Education through the subordinated institutions and local authorities at the place of residence.

### Access to other rights for the above-mentioned categories of persons

Right	Rule
Access to health care	Foreigners employed in RM on the basis of an individual employment contract, as well as foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in the Republic of Moldova, enjoy the same rights and obligations in relation to access to health care as citizens of the Republic of Moldova.
Access to social protection	Foreigners enjoy access to the state system of social insurance and the national system of social assistance under the conditions established by law for the citizens of Moldova.
Access to education	Foreigners enjoy access to pre-school, primary and general secondary education under the same conditions as the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.
Access to secondary vocational, special and higher education	Provided under the conditions established by law.

**The inclusion procedure for participation in activities for the integration of foreigners.** Foreigners wishing to participate in integration activities on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, may apply to the **Unified Window for documenting foreigners of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum**. The application form can be found on the Bureau's website at [www.bma.gov.md](http://www.bma.gov.md). One can also fill in this form and apply in person to Integration Department of the Bureau.

**The procedure for the inclusion of refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection into the integration program.** Application to participate in the integration program should be submitted to a competent immigration authority within 30 days after receiving a form of protection. Application for participation in the program is submitted to the Refugees Department of the Bureau for Migration and Asylum at the place of residence, as well as to the Unified Window. Refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection are included in the integration program based on individual applications and in accordance with the obligation for the integration, concluded between an applicant and an authority competent in the issues of foreigners. After submitting an application for including into the program for the integration an authority competent in the issues of foreigners develops an individual plan of integration. The period of implementation of the individual plan of integration is up to six months from the date of signing the commitment to integrate, or from the date stipulated in the obligation. Refugees and persons enjoying humanitarian protection, not participating in the integration programs, take on themselves the responsibility to integrate on their own.

The **Bureau for Migration and Asylum** in cooperation with the authorities responsible for ensuring the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the National Employment Agency) has developed information leaflets and an information guide in the following areas: social care, education, employment, pensions and social assistance, recognition of diplomas, health, Romanian language courses, sessions in the field of socio-cultural adaptation.

Naturalization in the Republic of Moldova is carried out according to the Law on Citizenship, which defines applications selection criteria for naturalization. According to the law, naturalization is defined as granting

citizenship upon request to persons lawfully and permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and under conditions stipulated in the law.<sup>14</sup>

### 6.3. Statistics

According to the MITC, as a result of naturalization, citizenship of the Republic of Moldova was acquired by 41 people in 2015 (24 people in 2014). The total number of naturalized foreign citizens by the end of 2015 amounted to 730 people, including persons without citizenship, who accounted for 61.2% of all naturalized Moldovans. They are followed by foreigners with undetermined citizenship (22.5%), and other foreigners (those who had previously had a different known nationality -16.3%)

The number of citizens born abroad (regardless of nationality) and residing in the Republic of Moldova was increasing during 2008-2015. By the end of 2015 the number of non-indigenous population reached 294,419 people, or 7.5% of the total population. From 2014 to 2015 the growth of non-indigenous population was 2.0%. Among these 76.9% were born in Russia or Ukraine (36.2% and 35.3%, respectively). The share of non-indigenous residents born in other countries ranges from 0.01% to 7%: Italy - 7%, Kazakhstan - 4.4%, Romania - 2.0%, Belarus - 1.6%, Turkey - 1.3%, and Portugal, Germany Spain and France - 1% each.

In 2013-2015 127 foreigners (including 31 children) requested to join the integration program. According to their status there were 32 refugees and 80 beneficiaries of humanitarian protection. Countries of origin for these were Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. In the same period, 51 foreigners requested integration activities. Their distribution by country of origin shows that most of the foreigners came from Ukraine and Syria; they were followed by immigrants from the Russian Federation.

## 7. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### 7.1. Responsible state authorities

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova** contributes to the maintenance of relations with compatriots living abroad, inter alia through diplomatic missions.

**Bureau for the Relations with the Diaspora** within the State Chancellery for the improvement of cooperation with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova living abroad, including labour migrants and the Moldovan Diaspora, was established in November 2012.

The State Chancellery is the central authority responsible for the state policy in the field of relations with the Diaspora, who through the Bureau for the Relations with the Diaspora coordinates the implementation of state policy in the field of relations with the Diaspora, contributes to the preservation and assertion of ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of Moldovans abroad, the use of human and material potential of the Diaspora. The Bureau also coordinates cultural, educational, economic and social measures implemented by various ministries and other public authorities to support and co-operate with representatives of the Diaspora. At national level, the state policy in the field of Diaspora, migration and development is being developed and promoted by an integrated approach, as well as by performing functional duties by the ministries, central authorities and institutions.

<sup>14</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=311522&lang=2>.

## 7.2. Policy and policy documents

The main priorities of immigration policy are attracting migrants, whose qualifications and professional experience match the needs of the economy to the country, attracting foreign capital and creating new jobs on its basis, as well as preventing irregular immigration. Immigration policy strategy is based on long-term objectives of social and economic development and involves the creation of a favorable climate for employment in the country and the reduction in the migration of the population.

According to experts, prior to departure Moldovan migrants are trained little or not at all, despite the provision of vocational training for those leaving by public authorities. Training consists mainly of information support of potential migrants, organized by local branches of the National Employment Agency with the assistance of international organizations (IOM, ILO). The most useful are considered to be vocational training and language courses.

Moldovan migrants mainly go to the CIS countries and countries in the south of the EU. Knowledge of Russian language in Moldova is a major factor that facilitates the migration and integration in the CIS. Romanian language facilitates learning other Romance languages (Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French), which influences the choice of destination within the EU.

Moldovan Government signed Agreements on avoidance of double taxation with the following countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Greece, Israel, Spain, Canada, China, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Kazakhstan, Cyprus, Macedonia, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Estonia, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Oman, Ukraine, Germany, Finland, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Japan.<sup>15</sup>

National Strategy "Diaspora - 2025", which aims at developing a sustainable and comprehensive framework for cooperation between the institutions of the state and the Diaspora based on trust and common initiatives aimed at facilitating the productive return of the Diaspora, contains 4 specific objectives: 1) the development of strategic and operational framework for the Diaspora, migration and development; 2) ensuring the rights of Diaspora members and confidence-building; 3) the mobilization, use and recognition of the human potential of the Diaspora; 4) direct and indirect involvement of the Diaspora in sustainable economic development of the Republic of Moldova

Cooperation with the Diaspora and the associations of Moldovans abroad is the basis for remittance investment programs, permanent and temporary employment of migrants, their social and economic reintegration in the Republic of Moldova.

## 7.3. Statistics

The Household Budget Survey (HBS) shows that more than 25% of the households benefited from remittances in 2015. The highest rate was recorded in 2008 (26.4%). In rural areas a greater number of households were registered as benefiting from remittances than in urban areas (29.5% and 22.6%, respectively). This gap remained in 2015 with the figures of 28.5% for rural areas and 20.5% for urban.

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<sup>15</sup> Full list with the date and place of signature and the date of entry into force is available at <http://www.mf.gov.md/ru/cooperinternal/contractintern/contractantiduble/aplicate>, accessed on 18.03.2016.

According to HBS, in 2008-2015 remittances accounted for more than half (56.7%) of net income of Moldovan households (depending on the amount of transfers), with the highest figure recorded in 2012 (56.9%).

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) of the National Bureau of Statistics shows that in 2012 the majority of migrants (81.3%) sent or transferred money to their families in Moldova. Amounts of the transfers varied: 35.8% of migrants sent or transferred at least 500 USD monthly, 12.4% sent 500-800 USD, 7.2% sent more than 800 USD. Less than one-fifth of migrants (18.7%) said they did not send or transfer any money home.

The bulk of remittances is spent on daily consumption, payments of debts, expenditures on housing, education, medical care, purchase of consumer goods. No more than 5% of the funds is placed in bank accounts. The business activities consume about 7% of remittances, which is a relatively low figure.<sup>16</sup>

According to the World Bank, in 2015 more than 1.5 billion USD (23.4% of GDP) was transferred to Moldova through official channels. The highest amount was transferred by migrants in 2013 and amounted to over 2.1 billion USD.<sup>17</sup>

## 8. ASYLUM AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

### 8.1. Responsible state authorities

**Bureau for Migration and Asylum** of the Ministry of Internal Affairs represented by the Department of Asylum and Integration is responsible for the implementation of asylum policy by reviewing and making decisions on applications for asylum, the protection of persons, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, temporary protection or political asylum, in accordance with the conditions provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

### 8.2. Policy and policy documents

**The Law №270 of 18.12.2008 On the asylum in the Republic of Moldova**<sup>18</sup> grants the following rights to persons seeking asylum: 1) the right of non-refoulement or expulsion pending a decision on the asylum application; 2) the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova until the expiry of the 15-day period from the date of entry into force of the decision on the rejection of the application, except in cases where the asylum application was rejected in the accelerated procedure, which means that the foreigner must leave the Republic of Moldova on the date of entry into force of the decision on the rejection of the application; 3) when applying, the right to be informed in writing in a language that he/she understands, or in the language in respect of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that he/she understands it, of his or her rights and obligations during the asylum procedure; 4) to pass an interview, if desired, with a person of the same sex,

.....

<sup>16</sup> According to the Migration Policy Institute, remittances are a source of wellbeing for Moldovan families. Children of migrants tend to get better health care and education. UNICEF Moldova notes that remittances are the main cause for the fall of the level of poverty in Moldova.

<sup>17</sup> World Bank, [http://www.knomad.org/docs/Migration\\_Development/remittancedatainflowsoct20160.xls](http://www.knomad.org/docs/Migration_Development/remittancedatainflowsoct20160.xls) , accessed on 23.11.2016

<sup>18</sup> <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=330978&lang=2>.



except as provided by law; 5) to be provided with free interpretation services at any stage of the asylum procedure; 6) to receive legal aid at any stage of the asylum procedure in accordance with the law; 7) the right to the protection of personal data and any other information in relation to his/her application; 8) to be informed of the possibility of appeal to the UNHCR representatives; 9) to receive assistance and advice from non-governmental organizations at any stage of the asylum procedure; 10) receive free temporary identity document, the validity of which is extended by the Department for Asylum and Integration in accordance with the provisions of the law. In the absence of some of the documents that confirm the identity of an applicant, a temporary identity document shall specify the declared information about the applicant, the accuracy of which is further checked with the competent authorities; 11) to be informed about the possibility and terms of appeals to the decision on the rejection of the application; 12) the right to work; 13) to be accommodated at migrant centers for the period of application; 14) in case of persons with special needs - to adapt the conditions of accommodation and assistance in accommodation centers; 15) to get primary and emergency medical care in accordance with the current legislation; 16) to have access to mandatory education under the same conditions as the nationals of the Republic of Moldova; 17) in cases of families with children and unaccompanied minors - to all social assistance measures provided in accordance with current legislation concerning the children of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova; 18) other rights established by law.

**Responsibilities of the applicants for asylum:** An applicant must: 1) submit all the necessary elements of an asylum application: the declaration and all existing documents regarding his/her identity, nationality, previous countries and places of residence, previous asylum applications, transit routes, identity documents, travel documents, the grounds for applying for asylum; 2) tell the truth and cooperate with the advisor to fully establish all relevant circumstances of an application; 3) make an effort to confirm the testimony of any evidence that he/she has, and give explanations that justify the lack of evidence; 4) provide in detail all information related to his/her personality and experience to enable the adviser to establish relevant facts; 5) hand over all available identity documents, including travel documents; 6) inform the Department for Asylum and Integration of any change of residence, legal status, marital status, loss or damage of identity documents issued by the Department within ten days of the occurrence; 7) inform Department for Asylum and Integration on leaving the place of residence; 8) cooperate with the authorities to allow the procession of the application and reply to all the questions asked by competent authorities in the field of asylum; 9) respond to requests of the Department for Asylum and Integration and attend the Department in person if needed; 10) get photographed and pass mandatory fingerprint registration; 11) undergo a medical examination on grounds of public health; 12) observe the internal regulations of accommodation centers; 13) when placed in the center, to present all available personal belongings for their inventarisation; 14) leave the territory of the Republic of Moldova before the expiry of 15 days from the date of entry into force of decision on the rejection of the application for asylum, except in cases where the application for asylum was rejected in the accelerated procedure, which means that the foreigner should to leave the Republic of Moldova from the date of entry into force of a decision of the rejection of the an application for asylum; 15) submit, if necessary, to preliminary safety personal search and examination of available personal items; 16) appear in the Department for Asylum and Integration for the extension of the temporary identity document; 17) comply with the provisions of the current legislation; 18) asylum seekers and family members who apply for asylum are required to reside at the centers of accommodation for the period of the application procedure by the Department for Asylum and Integration. Placement of persons applying for asylum in accommodation centers is carried out according to the conditions set forth by the Government.

**The Law №270 of 18.12.2008 On the asylum in the Republic of Moldova** grants the following rights for beneficiaries of international protection: 1) the right to be informed of their rights and responsibilities in writing in a language which he/she understands or in respect of which there are reasonable grounds to believe that he/she understands it, as soon as possible after receiving a form of protection; 2) the right to

further stay in the Republic of Moldova and receive all the relevant documents and identity cards for crossing the state border; 3) the right of the choice of residence and free movement, under the conditions established by the legislation for foreigners; 4) the right to be employed by natural or legal persons carrying out business activities in accordance with applicable law; 5) receive wages and enjoy other material benefits resulting from activities performed, as well as the right to social security in accordance with the law; 6) the right to mandatory education, as well as other forms of education in accordance with the conditions established by law for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova; 7) in case of families with children and unaccompanied minors - use all means of social assistance provided in accordance with current legislation to the children of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova; 8) enjoy the same rights with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova on the freedom of religion and religious upbringing of children; 9) use the system of compulsory health insurance equally with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the applicable legislation; 10) the right to the protection of personal data and any other data; 11) free access to courts and administrative assistance; 12) non-refoulement or expulsion, except in cases stipulated by this law; 13) temporary accommodation in accommodation centers under the conditions provided by the Government; 14) seeking measures for the integration or inclusion in the program of integration in accordance with applicable law; 15) persons enjoying international protection, can apply for money assistance for six months, within the financial capacity of the state, if for objective reasons, they do not have necessary means of subsistence. The procedure and conditions for granting financial assistance is determined by the Government.

Persons enjoying international protection must: 1) know and abide by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, provisions of this Law and other regulations; 2) behave in a correct and civilized manner, observe rules set by authorities in the field of asylum and respond to their requests; 3) comply with the rules of the internal regulations of accommodation centers; 4) apply to the Department for Asylum and Integration to obtain a new identity card upon the expiration of the old one no later than 30 days before it expires, and in the case of loss or damage - within three days; 5) participate in the sessions of socio-cultural adaptation.

### 8.3. Statistics

According to the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2015 the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum-seekers and recognized as refugees abroad was 3,402 and 2,264 respectively.

**Table 10. The number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum-seekers and recognized as refugees abroad, 2008-2015**

Number, persons	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
The number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum-seekers abroad	888	739	633	460	441	878	1,449	3,402
The number of registered citizens of Moldova, recognized as refugees abroad	5 555	5 929	6 200	6 264	6 148	2 207	2 242	2 264



Growth coefficient as compared to the previous year								
Growth coefficient of the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum-seekers abroad	-2.3	-16.8	-14.3	-27.3	-4.1	99.1	65.0	1348
Growth coefficient of the number of Moldovan citizens recognized as refugees abroad	13.0	6.7	4.6	1.0	-1.9	-64.1	1.6	0.98

Source: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

On the basis of information from international databases, an increase in forced emigration is observed in 2008-2015: 888 Moldovan citizens in 2008, 1,449 in 2014 and 3,402 in 2015. At the same time, the total number of persons from the Republic of Moldova - asylum seekers and having refugee status abroad - decreased 2.5 times and the end of 2015 was 2,264, as compared to 5,555 in 2008.

**Table 11. Asylum-seekers from the Republic of Moldova applying for asylum in the EU in 2008-2015**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Austria	220	215	130	80	55	35	30	25
Belgium	15	30	15	10	20	15	20	15
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	10	5	5	0	5	5	5
Cyprus	20	25	10	10	5	5	0	0
Hungary	20	35	15	10	5	10	5	10
France	180	290	185	240	135	55	30	30
Finland	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	15
Germany	20	40	45	25	35	70	270	1,565
Greece	115	60	40	45	20	20	10	35
Italy	20	25	15	15	10	5	20	35
Ireland	140	85	55	30	15	5	5	5
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Luxemburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	15	5	5	5	5	10	0	0
Netherlands	5	5	10	5	10	5	5	10
Norway	10	10	5	5	5	10	5	5
Romania	20	145	110	60	45	15	10	15
Slovenia	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	115	75	40	40	30	5	5	5
Sweden	25	15	20	5	25	25	40	35
Switzerland	20	30	25	40	20	15	10	20
United Kingdom	:	20	10	5	5	5	0	0
Czech Republic	15	20	15	10	10	10	10	20
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total EU (27)</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1 150</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1,855</b>

Source: EUROSTAT database, database on Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) [migr\_asyappctza]

**Table 12. Forced migration of foreign-born population in the Republic of Moldova (key indicators) in 2008-2015**

Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Annual requests for asylum (first application), pers.	57	42	90	72	177	163	245	276
Share of women	23.9	68.0	32.4	28.6	29.2	28.2	40.4	31.8
The annual number of recognized refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection (pers.)	4 ref.	0 ref.	1 ref.	3 ref.	19 ref.	12 ref.	46 ref.	24 ref.
	20 h/p	12 h/p	25 h/p	20 h/p	48 h/p	83 h/p	63 h/p	150 h/p
The number of rejections in providing humanitarian protection	53	34	35	74	55	36	35	36
Seekers (pending application)	33	52	81	49	79	87	149	110
The number of stateless persons - recipients of the status, pers.	0	0	0	0	6	95	89	66
Stateless persons granted the right to stay in the Republic of Moldova	...	...	...	4	15	65	59	...
Growth coefficient of the number of asylum-seekers (pending application,%)	41.8	157.6	155.8	60.5	161.2	110.1	151.7	73.8
The number of refugees	84	80	70	56	72	78	124	144
Growth coefficient of the number of refugees (%)	94.4	95.2	87.5	80.0	128.6	108.3	159.0	116.1

Source: BMA

As of January 1, 2016 in the national system of asylum Moldova there were registered 556 people - nearly 15 % more compared to January 1, 2015 (484). Among these: asylum seekers - 110, refugees – 144, recipients of humanitarian protection - 302.

Of the total number of the registered on 1 January 2016:

Women 35%

Men 65%

Age groups:

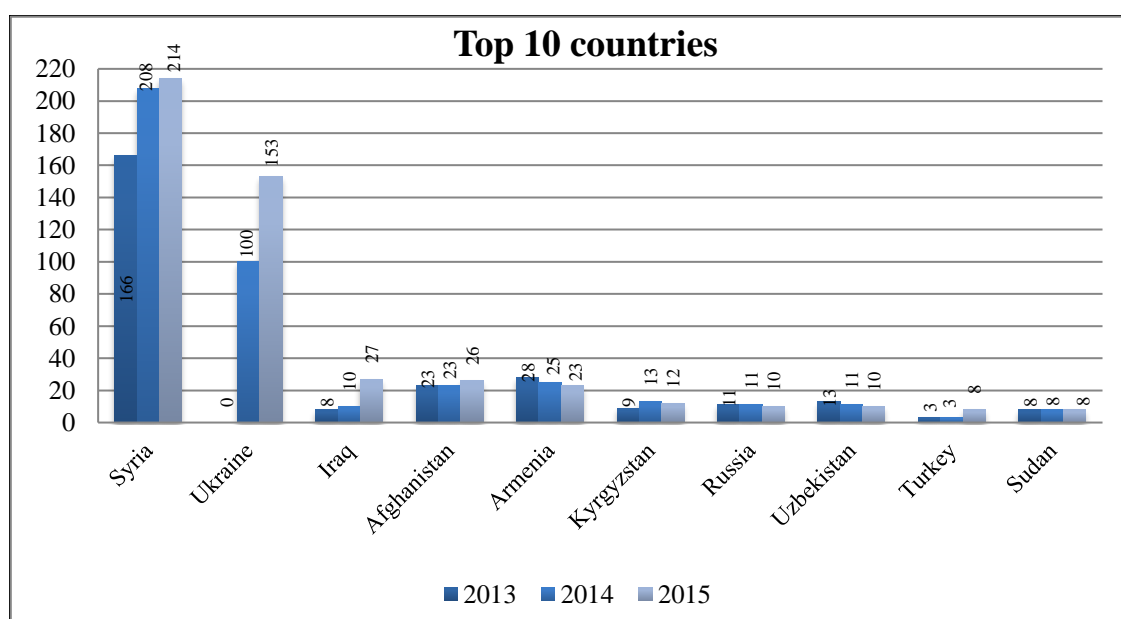
0-17 - 17%

18-59 - 73%

60 and older – 10%

Data on the number of persons in the national asylum system by countries of origin in 2015 as compared to 2014 indicates an increase in the number of immigrants from Ukraine (+53), Iraq (+17), Syria (+6) and Turkey (+ 5 ), while the number of immigrants from Afghanistan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan remains at the level of previous years, but remains high as compared to arrivals from other countries.

**Fig. 3. Registered in the Moldovan national asylum system, by country of origin, 2013-2015**



Source: BMA



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This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union and with the Support of the Prague Process Targeted Initiative. The ownership of the content in terms of data provided in this Migration Profile rests with the Republic of Moldova. The text of this Migration Profile can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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