

“Capacity for a Rights-Based Reception System for Moldova” (CareFor)

Project Description

Background

In 2021, Moldova announced the reorganisation of its migration and asylum system, as well as analysed the needs related to this reform, which were later communicated to the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)¹. Based on that, the Bureau for Migration and Asylum (now, Inspectorate-General for Migration) and ICMPD jointly developed the concept for the CareFor project. However, at the beginning of the project implementation, the nature of support was revised in light of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. In spite of crisis, Moldova stays committed to its European integration and reform agenda, and obtained the candidate status in June 2022. Also, the country approved a sectoral *Programme on management of migration flows, asylum, and integration of foreigners* in November 2022. As part of the Programme, the Inspectorate-General for Migration (IGM) – a key beneficiary and partner in the project – is expected to go through an ample reorganisation.

ICMPD has been present in Moldova since 2000 supporting actions in the sector on various aspects of migration and border management, and has been acting as both a grant-provider², as well as projects implementer on the spot. The project “Capacity for a Rights-Based Reception System for Moldova” (CareFor) builds upon earlier projects, especially the recent “Development of a Forced-Return Monitoring System in the Republic of Moldova” (FRéMM) project³. It continues strengthening the human rights compliance and monitoring capacities, with particular attention to the well-being of foreign residents at the IGM’s Migrant Accommodation Centre and Refugee Reception Centre. At the same time, this action addresses some of the more immediate needs at IGM as a front-line response agency to the unprecedented inflow of displaced people from Ukraine. These include risk analysis and evaluation, ongoing external communication, adapting in-house IT systems, and targeted assistance to displaced people.

Duration and Budget

21 months (December 2021 – September 2023)

228 000 EUR, funded by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland

Beneficiaries

The project targets the key migration management authority in Moldova, namely the Inspectorate-General for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Moreover, the project targets the bodies that have the mandate to monitor human rights compliance such as the People’s Advocates Office (Ombudsman) and the NGO Law Centre of Advocates. Last but not least, the SKUMO⁴ consortium of Ukrainian volunteer organizations in

¹ See the September 2021 news report on ICMPD country mission to Moldova: <https://www.icmpd.org/news/icmpd-regional-office-meets-the-new-migration-management-of-moldova>.

² See the ICMPD Global Initiatives Programme at: <https://www.migrationpartnershipfacility.eu/>, <https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/>, and <https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/>.

³ Funded by the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland and implemented from December 2020 to February 2022.

⁴ World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (SKUMO/ СКУМО – Світовий Конгрес Українських Молодіжних Організацій).

Moldova benefit as part of their assistance to displaced persons through this project. The final beneficiaries are migrants, including displaced people and potential returnees, as well as the society at large.

Overall objective

The overall objective is to contribute to a functioning migration management system in Moldova and compliant to the human rights as enshrined in relevant international, regional, and national legislation.

Specific objectives

- 1) Strengthen IGM's analytical, Communication and Operational capacities
- 2) Improve the compliance with human rights standards and capacities of relevant institutions
- 3) Contribute to the provision of support to displaced people from Ukraine in Moldova

Components and Activities

0) Project Management

ICMPD is responsible for the overall management of the project, including regular coordination with the stakeholders, work planning, budget expenditure, visibility and external communication, and donor reporting.

1) Analytical, Communication and Operational Capacities

- Support with continuous risk analysis and evaluation
- Help with updating the country's migration and asylum data indicators
- Assistance with ongoing external communication and training for relevant staff
- Help developing the IT module on "Foreigners' Integration"
- Carry out an *ex-post* evaluation of the mechanism for combatting irregular stay

2) Human Rights Compliance

- Facilitate amendment proposals to public custody (migrant detention) legislation
- Rendering psychological, medical, and interpretation services to migrants and refugees
- Deliver basic psychology training for relevant staff
- Piloting forced-return monitoring missions and training for relevant staff

3) Support to Displaced People

- Provide assistance to displaced persons from Ukraine in Moldova

Expected Results

At the end of the project, it is expected that Inspectorate-General for Migration will have enhanced its analytical, communication, and technical capacities relevant to the humanitarian crisis, while having improved human rights compliance in handling the inflow of displaced people. At the same time, the other project beneficiaries – the People's Advocates Office (Ombudsman) and the NGO Law Centre of Advocates – will have increased their human rights monitoring capacity.

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