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Trends and Opportunities in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Moldova





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**United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in the Republic of Moldova
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation**

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Republic of Moldova (hereinafter “Moldova”) is a landlocked country bordered to the west by Romania and to the north, east and south by Ukraine. It is a lower-middle-income country with an economy dominated by the service sector, representing an estimated 67.8 percent of GDP in 2014, while the agricultural and industrial sectors represented an estimated 15 percent and 17.2 percent of GDP, respectively, according to the World Bank.

Since gaining independence in December 1991, Moldova has been developing its political, economic, social and cultural ties as a new member in the international community. As a result of paving its way to the European Union (EU), the country signed the Association Agreement (AA) with the EU in 2014. In carrying out the AA, the country has been cooperating with European developed countries and countries in transition. Moldova also continues to cooperate on issues of common concern with developed and developing countries that are not EU members.

In the Nairobi Outcome document, it is emphasized that developing countries tend to share common views on national development strategies and priorities when facing similar development challenges. The proximity of experience is therefore a key catalyst for promoting capacity development in developing countries and, in this regard, accentuates the principles of South-South cooperation. It is important to enhance South-South cooperation in order to achieve its full development potential.

According to the United Nations, South-South Cooperation (SSC) is defined as “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and through collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for their individual and/or mutual benefit.”

Complementing South-South cooperation initiatives is Triangular Cooperation (TC), which is defined as “collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems, as well as other form of support.”

Further clarifying Moldova’s priorities and strategic preferences vis-à-vis potential benefits that South-South cooperation (which are referred to as “East-East” in the region of Europe and CIS) can bring about, as well as the country’s level of preparedness to pursue such priorities and preferences, is an important step towards unleashing the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Moldova, the ECIS region and beyond. Therefore, a participatory stocktaking exercise and an initial policy dialogue on South-South (East-East) cooperation in Moldova have been conducted.

Objectives of Stocktaking

Stocktaking pursues the following objectives:

- Identify relevant South-South (East-East) cooperation frameworks, objectives, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of national coordination authority, individual line ministries, relevant civil society and private sector institutions, as well as UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Moldova and other triangular cooperation players;
- Analyse shared and individual strengths and challenges of various players vis-à-vis effective promotion of South-South (East-East) cooperation and identify possible synergies.

Stocktaking Process and Methodology

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the following tasks were accomplished:

- Conducted a desk review of the current national institutional and policy frameworks for SS&TC in Moldova;
- Sent out a questionnaire online through SurveyMonkey in order to collect qualitative and quantitative data and analyse trends and opportunities in SS&TC;
- Seven consultative meetings were held with relevant national stakeholders from government institutions, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, international development agencies and the UN Country Team (UNCT) in order to determine the scope and types of SS&TC activities and identify possible areas for future cooperation;
- Additionally, in order to initiate policy dialogue and explore more potential opportunities for advancing SSC in the country, individual interviews were conducted with international and local organizations with the most active agenda on SS&TC and government institutions with decision-making power in SS&TC.

The findings of the tasks are based on documentary sources collected, analysis of the survey responses, individual interviews conducted with public and private sector stakeholders and feedback received during the consultative meetings.

I. THE OVERVIEW OF SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN MOLDOVA AND ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN IT

A. MOLDOVA'S ROLE IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AS A RECIPIENT AND A PROVIDER

a) Assistance recipient

Since 2014, the State Chancellery, with the support of UNDP and the Development Gateway Company, has been running a new [Aid Management Platform \(AMP\)](#), an information portal for managing external development assistance in Moldova.

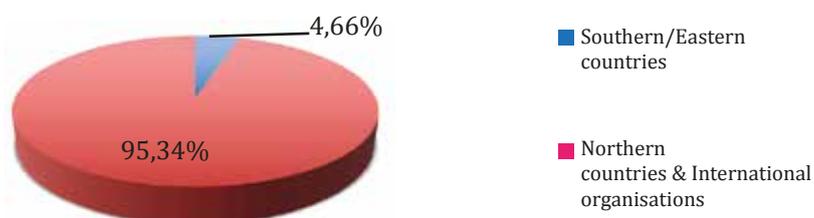


Figure 1. Structure of general external assistance in Moldova in 1994-2015

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of assistance provided to Moldova by Northern and Southern/Eastern countries since 1994. In 1994-2011, the total assistance amount actually disbursed was estimated at 2,242,966.611 Euro, with the contribution of Southern/Eastern countries worth \$91,594,372 Euro, or 4 percent.

Table 1 below summarizes the direct assistance provided by Southern/Eastern countries to Moldova in 1994-2015, based on the information extracted from the AMP.

| Southern/Eastern countries-assistance providers | Euro | % |
|---|-------------|--------|
| Romania | 53,983,370 | 51.60% |
| Turkey | 18,817,612 | 18.0% |
| Poland | 15,616,546 | 14.93% |
| China | 11,247,024 | 10.7% |
| Czech Republic | 3,659,530 | 3.50% |
| Slovakia | 726,489 | 0.7% |
| Kuwait | 474,000 | 0.45% |
| Hungary | 92,610 | 0.1% |
| Latvia | 7,995 | 0.01% |
| Total | 104,625,176 | 100% |

Table 1. Assistance provided by Southern/Eastern countries to Moldova in 1994-2015

Direct SSC occurs mostly with the European neighbourhood, while out-of-region cooperation entails Kuwait, China and Turkey.

Figure 2 below shows the breakdown of total assistance from Southern countries in 1994-2015. Romania made up the largest share of assistance disbursed in the indicated period (51.6%), followed by Turkey (18%) and Poland.

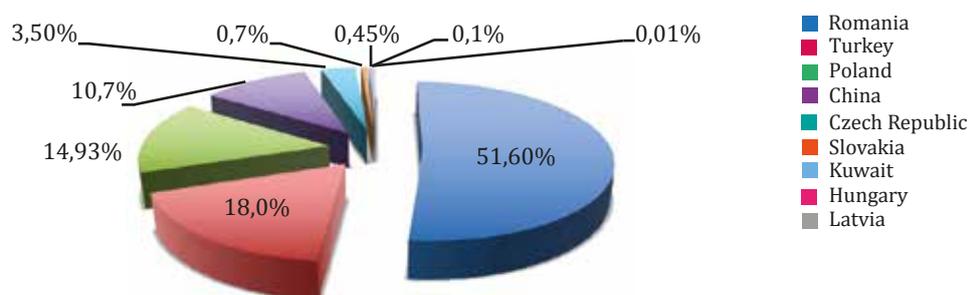


Figure 2. Breakdown of development assistance provided by Southern/Eastern countries in Moldova in 1994-2015

Sectorial allocation of external resources

In the given period, the highest share of external financial resources was spent in education, which accounted for 35,277,777 Euro, or 38.99 percent of the total assistance, while the Government and civil society sector and water and sanitation rank second and third with 22.8 percent and 18 percent accordingly. For the development of transport, health and other social infrastructure and services, the Southern/Eastern countries provided funding of 7.5 percent, 5.3 percent and 3.4 percent of total Southern/Eastern assistance, while the industry, communication and energy sectors were allotted less than 1 percent of total Southern/Eastern assistance.

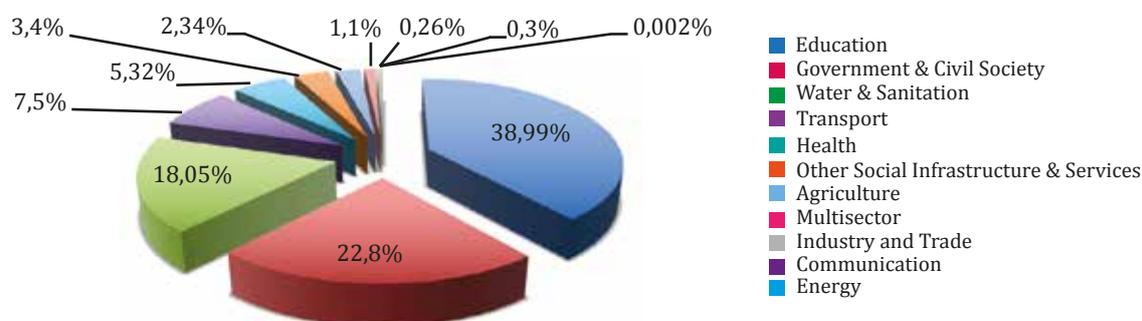


Figure 3. Sectorial allocation of development assistance provided by Southern/Eastern countries in Moldova in 1994-2015

b) Assistance provider

As an assistance provider, Moldova has been primarily engaged in rendering support in emergency situations and restoring peace in Southern countries.

In 2010, the Government sent humanitarian aid to Albania to victims of floods, estimated to cost 476,700 lei, and additionally provided financial assistance in the amount of 200 thousand lei. In 2015, the Ministry of Health provided humanitarian aid of about 550 kilogram of blood products (2,150 packages) to assist victims of a fire in Romania.

Since 2003, Moldova has been participating in UN peacekeeping operations by deploying military officers in vulnerable security zones in different countries and territories. Moldovan personnel were part of the UN missions in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, South Sudan, Georgia and Kosovo*.

B. NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Government

South-South cooperation in Moldova is driven by the European integration reform agenda, particularly for implementing the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA) signed in 2014 and framed under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Moldova takes part in numerous regional mechanisms. Among them is the Eastern Partnership (EaP), a joint policy initiative launched in 2009 to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

On a more expanded neighbourhood scale, Moldova is engaged in the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), which is a Balkan cooperation forum that brings together Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Greece, Croatia and Montenegro for high-level discussions and deliberations on issues of common concerns.

Most South-South interactions in Moldova occur within regional neighbours, particularly with Romania, owing to a commonality of history, language, culture, ethnicity and geographical proximity, and with countries that went through the process of accession to the EU. Romania's assistance to Moldova in 2015 amounted to \$18,447,794, representing 55.4 percent of Romania's total bilateral assistance provided in 2015.

The experience and examination of new EU member states acceding to the Union is important to Moldova.

Moldova cooperates with the ex-Soviet countries through its membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States, participation in the regional cooperation programmes like INOGATE, TRACECA, GUAM (a regional cooperation agreement made up of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) and on bilateral basis.

Once the Association Agreement was signed, and negotiations of the Single Support Framework for EU support to the Republic of Moldova (2014–2017) were underway, the Government approved Decision No. 561 of 19 August 2015. The document states that the Prime Minister is the national coordinator of the foreign assistance, and reconfirms that the State Chancellery is the national authority in charge of foreign assistance coordination mainly responsible for programming, monitoring and evaluation, operational and methodological assessment, as well as for ensuring transparency in using external assistance.

Therefore, although national policy is not yet sufficiently developed, initial steps towards establishment of an institutional framework for SS&TC have been taken, evidence of strong interest in advancing SS&TC in the country.

Civil Society

Local CSOs interact with civil society actors in Latvia and the Czech Republic on knowledge exchange in the development of anti-corruption policies and the transfer of good AC reform practices from Latvia to the Moldovan context within the framework programme Together with Civil Society against Corruption in Moldova, financed by the German Federal Foreign Office and with support of the Institut für Europäische Politik e.V. (Germany), together with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms in Moldova.

* All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Academia

The SSC in science, research and innovation is active in Moldova within the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) and Horizon 2020, a research and innovation framework programme.

Within Erasmus Mundus Partnership for Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (EMP-AIM), Moldovan undergraduate, master's degree, doctoral and post-doctoral students and university staff are cooperating with 17 universities from European countries, Belarus and Ukraine to strengthen academic, cultural and economic collaboration through study, teaching or research.

National Business

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry collaborates with international partners through its membership in the International Chamber of Commerce, World Chambers Federation, the Association of the European Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (Eurochambers), the Association of the Black Sea Zone Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Association of the Central European Initiative Chambers of Commerce.

Moldova is a party to the amended and enlarged Central European Free Trade Agreement. The country has concluded 16 agreements for market access within the CIS and the Pact on Stability in South-Eastern Europe. Along with expanding Moldovan exports to European markets, the issue of access to new markets is of high priority for national business and utilization of SSC tools.



C. INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

According to AMP data, the EU is the biggest contributor to TC in Moldova, mainly through regional and sectoral programmes such as the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea and the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova.

Among TC contributors, Hungary and Poland are two Southern/Eastern countries that support regional cooperation.

| TC Contributor | Number of Projects | Euro |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| EU | 87 | 26,949,047 |
| UN | 8 | 1,630,300 |
| USA | 1 | 450,000 |
| Italy | 1 | 400,000 |
| UK | 2 | 330,612 |
| Austrian Delegation | 3 | 249,415 |
| Hungary | 1 | 92,610 |
| Poland | 1 | 36,761 |

In the framework of SSC, the activities supported by UN agencies include regional workshops, training sessions, short internships at peer institutions, and outward and inward visits by practitioners with the Romanian Centre for European Policies under the social policy section on a comparative analysis of the organizational structure and HR management of social assistance in Moldova, Lithuania and Romania.

Table 2. TC contributors in Moldova in 1994-2015

II. TRENDS AND PRACTICES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Education

In 2013-2014, the World Bank supported the request of the Government of Moldova in knowledge exchanging with Romanian counterparts for nearly 25 officials and experts from the Moldova Quality Assurance Agency at the South-South Experience Exchange Facility. Through study visits and training, the Moldovan officials learned from Romania's experience and expertise in how to reform the national examination system by using video monitoring during exams, elaborating and implementing a personal data protection policy, organizing the test (item) bank and using ICT in disseminating the exams. As a result, the Ministry of Education in Moldova modernised its national assessment system, including adjustments in organizing the bacalaureate process and test-evaluation methodology; improving assessments in primary education through new methodology, the development of descriptors and strengthening criteria assessments; and applying the Programme for International Student Assessment.



Romania offered 5,000 scholarships in 2010 and 5,500 scholarships in 2013 for Moldovan students, valued at about 8 million Euro and 13 million Euro, accordingly.

There is evidence of SSC on education with Brazil, and the Ministry of Education of Moldova is very interested in continuing such knowledge exchange on inclusive education.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Moldova has comparatively advanced in promoting gender equality and equity. Among home-grown good practices is a new concept of service provision based on a “one-stop-shop,” or “one window” approach. It was introduced on the local level with support from UN Women and funded by the Government of Sweden in order to improve access to quality information and services by rural women and vulnerable populations. By bringing different service providers in employment, social protection, small- and medium-enterprise development, land cadastre, agriculture and other fields to one place at one time, the Joint Information and Services Bureaus (JIBS), under the leadership of the local administration, were established in municipalities.

Youth Empowerment

Since August 2015, the National Youth Council of Moldova, in cooperation with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has been implementing the youth index. It is a tool that calculates the ratio between the rate of youth and adult in different areas (such as unemployment, health, risky behaviour and violence) to identify and assess gaps and disparities in policies. In this way, the youth index has identified priority areas for young people and raised awareness of central public authorities about youth needs. The Ministry of Youth and Sport has adopted a new approach for the evaluation methodology of the National Strategy of Development of Youth Sector, and the National Statistical Bureau introduced the youth age limit into the data collection system that now allows to see age disaggregated indicators.



Having shared knowledge on youth issues in Georgia and Azerbaijan, Moldova's methodology on developing the youth index could be of potential interest to other CIS countries and Arab States, given the evolving and active youth movements in the latter.

Water and Sanitation



Moldova advanced community mobilization for influencing policymaking and governance from the bottom-up to claim the right to clean water and sustainable sanitation. The outcomes of the Safe Water and Sanitation for all in the Republic of Moldova initiative, a project initiated by the nongovernmental organization Ormax to improve the situation in rural areas was acknowledged by the “Water for Life” UN-Water Best Practices Award in 2013.

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), in cooperation with local NGOs, raised awareness and demonstrated the feasibility of the urine diverting dry toilet (UDDT) via trainings, site visits to existing UDDT in other countries and pilot plants. As a result in 2014, the Ministry of Health facilitated the use of the UDDT by

adopting requirements on the use of human waste (urine and feces) in agriculture. This successful experience was shared with NGOs and local stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through a site visit in 2015.

Health

For regional cooperation on health, health systems and public health, Moldova participates in South-Eastern Europe Health Network, a multigovernmental forum comprised of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Israel, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

Moldova is among the few countries in the world that met the target of the “Child Survival Call to Action: A Promise Renewed,” a global UNICEF initiative to reduce the mortality rate of infants and children under age five. As of 2014 Moldova reduced child mortality, having registered a mortality rate of 11.9 in 1,000 live births in children under five (compared to 23.3 in 2000). The country is in a good position to share its approaches with other countries, including many with similar/higher-income levels that have yet to meet the target.

Children Protection

With UNICEF’s support, the Government of Moldova has been involved in horizontal knowledge exchange with several countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region (CEE/CIS) on child-rights issues. Among them is social protection in Lithuania; integrating Roma children into mainstream schools in Bulgaria and Serbia; and flour fortification in Kazakhstan.

In partnership with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe (DPPI), UNICEF organized a knowledge management exchange to facilitate cooperation among government officials and experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova to share knowledge, exchange experience and discuss practices in disaster risk reduction focused on children at the national and community level.

Moldova has been engaged in developing a regional comparative policy tool, organized and implemented by local and national level civil society organizations, which measures a country’s child protection system against common indicators. The index is based on the aggregated results of more than 600 qualitative indicators and has been developed by teams of qualified experts based on the countries covered by the index (Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia and Georgia). It is a SSC-resulted tool developed to provide targeted policy recommendations for national governments and international stakeholders.

One of the achievements that can be marketed for SSC is a local initiative on helping parents to adopt better child-rearing practices via mobile messages on health issues, child development and nonviolent parenting. It was implemented in partnership with Moldcell, a national mobile network with more than one million users, and support from UNICEF.

Agriculture and Rural Development

This sector has experienced adverse consequences from the global economic crisis through external economic influences; in particular, the recession in Russia, which caused a slowdown in remittances from Moldovans working abroad; these were around 26.2 percent of GDP as of 2014. In addition, sanctions on Moldovan agricultural exports to Russia, after the signing of Moldova's AA, contributed considerably to the downturn.

In this sense, diversification of Moldovan agro exports and attraction of foreign direct investment in agriculture and trade is of great importance for the country, and SSC could be an effective tool for linking the country's agricultural and other businesses to new markets; in particular the Arab

States. In this regard, SSC expos can serve as a bridge for building new partnerships and matchmaking the further demand of the Arab region and beyond with a supply of Moldovan products.

The country needs to develop the capacity of small- and medium-scale farmers and improve its agriculture knowledge system, which is comprised of research and education institutions that are largely outdated. In this regard, the experience and expertise of Turkey in value-added chains and farming cooperatives could be of particular interest for Moldova.



III. CHALLENGES AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

As a result of the survey and the consultative meeting, the following challenges for SS&TC were identified:

- Awareness of the stakeholders about the SSC concept and its opportunities and benefits is not common, which according to the stakeholders was attributed to limited access to relevant information, including knowledge about regional/subregional SSC information platforms and resources (22% of the 20 respondents);
- A need for policy frameworks, coordination, structures and mechanisms for SS&TC in the country to provide support to stakeholders wishing to engage in SS&TC activities. This challenge affects efficiency and overall sustainability of these activities (44%);
- Commitment of the Government in financial or in-kind contributions as a prerequisite for engagement in SS&TC and funding opportunities (67%);
- A language barrier (27%): English proficiency of local experts is a problem, although young professionals are in a better position to interact with partners at the global level, while middle-aged professionals can communicate with partners from CIS countries in Russian.

There are opportunities to address these challenges and enhance SS&TC by employing SSC approaches and services.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To address the funding challenge there is a number of potential funding sources, non-conventional for the country, like IBSA Fund, as well as new development banks and emerging economies.

The [IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation](#) (IBSA Fund) established by India, Brazil and South Africa, supports other developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) countries around the world in partnership with the UN in the fight against poverty and hunger through identifying replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries.

[The New Development Bank BRICS](#) (NDB BRICS), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) that focuses on lending money to developing countries to help finance infrastructure projects.

Out of 10 major global bilateral SSC contributors (Brazil, China, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela), as mentioned earlier, Moldova benefits from cooperation with China, Kuwait and Turkey. There is also room for expanding collaboration with Arab funds such as [the OPEC Fund for International Development \(OFID\)](#), in particular, for SSC projects in agriculture.

Moldova enjoys support from the Romanian Mobility Fund for Government Experts, a rapid-reaction tool that facilitates the quick transfer of Romanian experts and expertise to ODA-priority countries in order to meet their ad hoc needs in sectors. The funds are provided by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from its ODA budget. More than 30 missions have been supported so far for Romania-Moldova experience-sharing in such various sectors as electoral assistance, anti-corruption and integrity, food safety and phytosanitary.

The successful resource mobilization can be achieved through strong commitment of the Government towards SSC, i.e. establishing national SSC funding facility to contribute into SSC initiatives.

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDINGS

The first reported record of the country's cooperation within the framework of SS&TC was done with the Ministry of Education and Romanian counterparts, although Moldova has a long history of cooperation with developing countries, but is not formulated as SSC. In general, the notion of South-South cooperation is new for the country and the region, so there is a need to introduce policy framework and strengthen national level coordination mechanisms on SSC, as well as to dedicate the relevant resources to take full advantage of SS&TC.

There is vast potential for strengthening the country's engagement in South-South dialogue through international and regional cooperation platforms and mechanisms.

The country is in a good position to share its good practices and approaches in youth and women empowerment and perinatal care with other Southern/Eastern countries. The comparative advantage of the country in these areas can be marketed in the Global South through [the Global South-South Development Expo \(GSSD Expo\)](#), the next one to be held in October 2016, and in Arab States and CIS countries through current and new SSC initiatives.

In regard to Moldova's demand for good practices, the Briefing Book from Development Partners of Moldova of 2015 identifies the sectors to be addressed. Among them are strengthening public administration management, anti-corruption and e-Governance with commitments to simplify and digitize all public services by 2020; and in midterm, to develop the model and action plan for implementing service delivery centres, based on a one-stop shop approach, for public services at all levels of the government.

The above-mentioned three sectors can be one main area of cooperation with Southern countries, such as Azerbaijan, which is advanced in effective and efficient public service delivery, as represented by the ASAN model.

Moldova can also benefit from addressing these issues through a knowledge exchange with Arab states and ECIS within the SSC Initiative on Anti-Corruption and Governance Integrity, developed by the UNDP Regional Hubs in the Arab States and Eastern Europe and the CIS regions with the support of the UNOSSC.

As to a competitiveness enhancement focused on food safety governance, access to inputs and markets, institutions and human capital, resource depletion and adaptation to climate change, Moldova can benefit from cooperation with Southern/Eastern countries and participants of the joint UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia. This initiative supports knowledge exchange on, among other areas, biotechnology, management of farmer-based organizations and sustainable water resources that correspond to prioritized midterm reforms that are needed in Moldova on the dissemination of new climate resilient agronomic techniques and technologies and educating self-employed farming entrepreneurs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Country recommendations:

- i. Leverage the commitment of the Government to SSC initiatives through development and adoption of strategy on SS&TC and institutionalizing country policies, further development of national-level coordination mechanisms and allocation resources for SSC, including some funding to support exchange with other Southern countries. The latter two elements are of particular importance for sustainable and strategy-based efforts to build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with Southern partners;
- ii. Develop institutional and human capacities in SS&TC at the level of the Government, civil society, private sector and academia through trainings and knowledge exchange with Southern countries with support of UNCT and UNOSSC;
- iii. Integrate SSC components in new government agreements with neighbouring countries, other developing countries and regional groupings and advocate to ensure that SS&TC are adequately featured in the discussions with international organizations and regional groupings;
- iv. In expression of the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” sought by SDG 17 and in cooperation with UNCT and UNOSSC, facilitate systematization of information on proven locally developed best practices to offer to Southern countries and on the local demand in development solutions;
- v. Market or share best practices and home-grown solutions in mainstreaming MDGs and SDGs in national strategies and plans in addressing poverty and environment issues and gender equality with Southern countries;
- vi. Consider an opportunity to join the UNOSSC and IFAD initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia;
- vii. Capitalize on the funding opportunities arising from the new emerging donors and partnerships in the region and beyond, like IBSA Fund and national development aid agencies in Kazakhstan (KazAid) and Azerbaijan (AIDA). The latter can potentially support adaptation and replication of Azerbaijan's ASAN model in Moldova;
- viii. Collaborate and cooperate with other landlocked countries outside the region in sharing of knowledge and experience, technology transfer, capacity development and peer-to-peer learning within the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDC.

II. Recommendations to UN CT:

Increase the role of the UN Country Team in supporting Moldova's South-South Cooperation agenda:

- i. Support a policy dialogue initiated by UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNOSSC on mainstreaming SS&TC in the development process;
- ii. Promote information-sharing and monitoring of SS&TC activities, and raise awareness of the benefits of such cooperation;
- iii. Provide support to the Government for its efforts to build a national level coordination mechanism responsible for the coordination of SS&TC, based on existing institutional arrangements through awareness-raising and capacity-building;
- iv. Provide assistance to the Government for identifying priorities for SSC, aligned to the priorities specified in national strategic documents;
- v. Provide assistance to the Government in ensuring that UNDAF identifies opportunities for accessing Southern development assistance, technology transfer and capacity development;
- vi. Provide support to national partners in sharing local expertise and knowledge by:
 - Identifying and documenting Moldovan development solutions on [UNOSSC Online Solutions Mapping Portal](#);
 - Showcasing them on [the Global South-South Development Expo \(GSSD Expo\)](#);
 - Addressing other UN agencies in the region and beyond and UNOSSC to raise awareness of local capacities and proven locally developed best practices and facilitate designing new SSC initiatives that match the Moldova-grown solutions to the demand of Southern countries and vice versa;
 - Considering an opportunity to join the SSC Initiative on Anti-Corruption and Governance Integrity developed by the UNDP Regional Hubs in the Arab States and Eastern Europe and the CIS regions with the support of the UNOSSC.
- vii. Provide assistance to the Government on access to [the Web Information for Development \(WIDE\)](#) and other development-oriented information networks and platforms.
- viii. Provide support to national partners in sharing local expertise and knowledge on innovative SS&TC projects by documenting Southern development solutions on UNOSSC Online Mapping Portal.
- ix. Provide dedicated training on SSC to COs staff and national partners in coordination and cooperation with the Regional Division of UNOSSC for the Arab States, Europe and CIS.
- x. Provide advice to the Government on existing South-South exchange platforms such as WIDE Expert Roster and facilitate engagement of national practitioners in such exchanges by developing roster of experts to be shared.
- xi. Familiarize UNCT with the main South-South cooperation funding mechanisms such as South-South Cooperation Fund and South-South Grants Facility, and render assistance to the Government of Moldova to gain access to these sources and utilize new funding opportunities like IBSA Fund and OPEC Fund for International Development to launch SSC initiatives.
- xii. Establish a multiagency trust fund in order to channel and leverage resources in effective and coordinated way for support of joint SSC initiatives.
- xiii. Regularly identify and document Southern development solutions on [UNOSSC Online Mapping Portal](#).
- xiv. Promote awareness of the benefits of South-South and triangular cooperation on the Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, celebrated 12 September.