

# The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova

## PRESENTATION

The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in Moldova (IDC on NATO) is a noncommercial, autonomous organization set up on September 15, 2006, in a form of private institution, to promote the Euro-Atlantic values and principles, to support cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the North Atlantic Alliance and to implement the objectives and activities established by the Republic of Moldova – NATO cooperation tools. IDC on NATO supports the implementation of Individual Partnership Action Plan Republic of Moldova-NATO (IPAP).

## MISSION

The IDC on NATO has as a main goal the promotion of Euro-Atlantic values and principles in the Republic of Moldova and the development of its cooperation with NATO.

## OBJECTIVES

- To enhance public awareness on security and defence issues, NATO and the cooperation of the Republic of Moldova with NATO;
- To inform the Moldovan society about the multiple aspects of security and to raise awareness and the interest in this topic through the organization of public diplomacy activities;
- To promote the NATO SPS projects in the Republic of Moldova;
- To support governmental institutions in security and defence sector reform;
- To promote Women, Peace and Security Agenda through: a) cooperation with state institutions involved in the implementation of National Program on implementing UNSCR 1325; b) sensibilization of population on Women, Peace and Security Agenda; c) support of implementation of actions from National Program on implementing UNSCR 1325;
- To promote strategic communication within security and defence sector and to contribute to the familiarization with the StratCom concept and sensibilization of the governmental and civil society institutions;
- To counter stereotypes related NATO and Euro-Atlantic values and to offer valuable and objective informational alternatives in order to improve and deepen understanding related to security issues.

## FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

**INFORMATION:** Informing the population about NATO and Republic of Moldova – NATO Partnership via conferences, seminars, debates, public lectures, press releases,

## The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova

TV programs, radio broadcasts, and exhibitions, etc...

**EDUCATION:** Organizing lectures and courses on the following topics: NATO values, principles, objectives, role, structure, missions, transformation process, cooperation with the European countries; the strategic concept of the North-Atlantic Alliance; Republic of Moldova-NATO cooperation tools; IPAP implementation; regional, international security and other security and defense related topics.

**ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATIONS:** Studies, assessments, analysis, forecasts, polls, statistics and analytical reports in the field of international relations, security studies, defense policies, including Republic of Moldova - NATO partnership.

### PARTNERS

- The NATO member and partner states; the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova; the NATO Public Diplomacy Division; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; the Ministry of Defence; the Bureau of Reintegration; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the General Inspectorate of the Border Police; the Department of Carabineer Troops; the General Inspectorate of the Border Police; the Ministry of Justice; the Centre for Cyber Security; the Customs Service; the National Anticorruption Center; the Information and Security Service; the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection; the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research; the Parliamentary Committees.
- Moldova State University, the Armed Forces Military Academy “Alexandru cel Bun”; Free International University; International Relations Institute of Moldova; the Academy of Public Administration; “Alecu Russo” State University (Balti); “B. P. Hasdeu” University (Cahul); Comrat State University; Taraclia State University; “Perspectiva INT” University.
- Radio Moldova 1; Radio Free Europe; Moldova 1 TV; Radio Vocea Basarabiei; Publika TV; Jurnal TV; TV7; TV8; TVR Moldova; PRO TV; BTV; Bălți TV; TVN; Deschide.md; Agora; Privesc.eu; Realitatea.md; News-maker.md; Unimedia.md; Report.md; Centre for Journalistic Investigations; Center for Independent Journalism; Bloguvern; Adevărul Moldova; Ziarul de Gardă; SP Balti; Nica-press, etc.
- Institute for Public Policy; Pro-Marshall Centre; Foreign Policy Association; the Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning from Romania; IDIS Viitorul; Institute for European Policies and Reforms; Association of Independent Press; Student National Anticorruption Center; Institute for Strategic Studies; European Institute of Political Studies in Moldova; Institute for Legal, Political and Sociological Research, etc.
- UN Women Moldova, OSCE Mission to Moldova, UNDP, DCAF.

# The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The IDC on NATO is:

- A communication platform for the representatives of NATO member and partner countries, the governmental, associative and academic sectors. The IDC on NATO actively promotes the cooperation between Moldova and NATO, supporting Moldova's participation in NATO's projects, activities and missions. Through its projects, the IDC has expanded the level of awareness among the media representatives on the Republic of Moldova's security issues and on the significance of the Republic of Moldova – NATO partnership. The most important thing is that the IDC on NATO provides the opportunity to better understand the current process of practical cooperation between NATO and Moldova, being a tool for promoting dialogue and constructive debates on the need for cooperation between Moldova and NATO. During this year, the number of informative materials related to NATO, security and defense topics has increased, only over this year were published more than 110 informative materials, and the curiosity about the activity of the Center and NATO in Moldova was expanded;
- The IDC is a trustworthy organization that brings together a big number of stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- It is a reunion for public hearings and debates, especially on communication and information issues;
- The IDC on NATO has succeeded in becoming an active promoter of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Moldova, being the co-director and the leading organization of the Science for Peace Program funded project "*National Action Plan of the Republic of Moldova for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325*". The project aims to coordinate the activities of the Republic of Moldova to facilitate the design of the National Action Plan in co-operation with the Ministry of Defense and the financial support of the NATO SPS Program. The IDC on NATO has actively cooperated with the Ministry of Defense, the Bureau for Reintegration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Intelligence and Security Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and UN WOMEN. The IDC promoted and obtained political commitment on the need to develop a National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the importance of promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; the IDC is a member of NATO's Civil Society Advisory Panel on Women, Peace and Security Agenda;
- The IDC is a member of National Committee on the implementation of Individual Partnership Action Plan RM-NATO, presidential decree No. 2278-VII from 18.08.2016 (responsible for communication, information and engagement of different target group audiences); a member of Working Group for the elaboration of National Defence

## **The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova**

Strategy, National Security Strategy as well as delivering recommendations on developing and institutionalization of communication strategies, educational programmes on enhancing security culture and Euro-Atlantic values; a member of the National Committee on the implementation of Communication Strategy in Defence and Security Sectors (more than 100 activities per year for delivering information, enhancing the level of education and developing critical thinking); a former member of Military College of Ministry of Defence (Advisory Body); a Member of the Parliament working group on developing the media legislation, including National Audio-Visual Code, Information Security Concept, Digital media legislation, Mass-media Concept, Law on fiscal facilities.

The IDC on NATO has managed to specialize in the field of communication development, with a strong emphasis on developing strategic communication.

Our events are based on different aspects of security: environmental (quality of soil, water and the importance of pesticide elimination), social security (e.g. gender based projects), military (importance of defence capacity building), energy and economic security, also we promote resilient and accountable institutions, inclusive security, peaceful society, social cohesion, building integrity and identify the impact of the risks and vulnerabilities of national, regional and international environment. Through our activities, we attracted support of international community for capacity building of governmental representatives, mass-media, academia, young researchers, international community by sharing knowledge and expertise. This also facilitated membership in different national and international committees.

The IDC on NATO provides recommendations on the development and institutionalization of communication strategies and educational programs aimed at enhancing the security culture and promoting Euro-Atlantic values.

During this year were organized more than 100 public diplomacy activities, information campaigns, international conferences (more than 100 participants per event), meetings, regional and national workshops. IDC managed to establish contacts and deepen its collaboration with high-level Moldovan officials, representatives of different Ministries, academia, national and international media platforms and different international organizations (NATO, OSCE, UN Women, UNDP etc.).

The IDC continued to mainstream the development communication issues by integrating communication component in key strategic frameworks, such as the Individual Partnership Action Plan Republic of Moldova - NATO, and the National Security and National Defense Strategies. In our capacity of member in a range of profile committees, we were also able to integrate communication aspects in various decision-making processes. Thus, the communication component became part of the agreed security sector reform.

## **The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova**

To expand the reach of communication initiatives developed at the working groups level, we have led the effort to integrate communication and information on different security aspects in various projects funded by national and international partners. As a member of international forums, we promoted Euro-Atlantic values and advocate for Republic of Moldova-NATO partnership.

The IDC on NATO has an intense and diverse activity, being part of civil society in the security sector, the main task is to continue debates on topics related to the RM and NATO Partnership, the security and defense sector, Euro-Atlantic security, etc. In this regard, the IDC on NATP has become a platform for communication and expertise on security, defense, NATO-Moldova partnership, hybrid warfare and misinformation for civil society, state institutions, international organizations and embassies accredited in the Republic of Moldova.

### **Projects implemented by IDC on NATO in partnership with Public Diplomacy Division, NATO:**

**NATO Security School** – The annual project comprises public diplomacy events in the following formats: seminar, round tables, workshops, debates with representatives of civil society, mass-media, public administration, national and international experts, representatives of accredited Embassies of NATO member states and partners; field studies; radio broadcasts. The main topics addressed by speakers focused on benefits of NATO-Moldova partnership and Moldovan security reform in the framework of Defence Capacity Building Initiative (DCBI); NATO partnerships in general, NATO's mission and activities, general aspects related to security and defence, EU defence and security framework. At the NATO School participated young people from rural and urban areas of Moldova, from different universities from the region, in order to reach new target-groups from rural areas. NATO School represent a 3/6-day intensive course divided in the following format: workshops, seminars, debate, roundtables, study visits. The NATO School is usually comprised in 2 Modules – Security and NATO.

**NATO Days in Moldova** – The project represents a series of public events aimed at bridging the gap between NATO and the population from the Republic of Moldova. The annual series of events raise awareness about NATO mission and activities among the society, particularly among opinion formers who can act as multipliers (e.g. academia representatives, experts, journalists, etc.). The project is usually implemented during one month in Chisinau and different region of the country. During the project are organized a series of public activities as: Conferences, public lectures, photo exhibitions, photo/video/essay contests, round tables with representatives of civil society, mass-media, local public administration; radio broadcasts and seminars. The main topics addressed by speakers focused on benefits of NATO-Moldova partnership and Moldovan security reform in the framework of Security Capacity Building Initiative (DCBI); NATO partnerships in general, NATO's mission and activities, NATO public

## **The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova**

diplomacy activities, Soft power and Security sector reform. The weight factor of the project consisted of the **major international Conference** that focuses on NATO's partnership with Republic of Moldova, a political and practical. Participants are NATO officials, international and national experts, representatives of civil society, academia, mass media, state institutions.

**Understanding NATO (Media Campaign):** The project focused on raising awareness on the security issues currently faced by the Republic of Moldova, and on the way Moldova-NATO partnership could address these challenges. The project also encourages media representatives from other areas than Chisinau to reflect more often and in a more professional way NATO and security-related topics. The project targets more than 10.000 beneficiaries (through radio, TV, workshops, etc.), while strengthening and expanding the network the IDC on NATO throughout the country's regions.

**Security for You(th):** This project targets an audience formed of students, teachers, and university professor and comprised a series of 20 public lectures at universities and high schools for both Romanian and Russian-speaking groups. The information campaign covers the topics such as national security, NATO-RM partnership, cyber security, NATO-Russia relations, environmental and energy security. Usually comprises a national conference for young researchers and graduate students.

**Capacity building training for journalists: Reflecting security related issues and practical cooperation between NATO and Moldova:** IDC on NATO aims to train professional journalists who will become specialized on the topic of security and defence. The project intended to deepen our media's understanding of the security and defense issues that the R. of Moldova is currently facing the partnership between NATO and the R. of Moldova, the challenges this cooperation is trying to address, what its benefits are, and finally it aims to provide a better understanding of the actual process of this practical cooperation. The project has three stages: during the first stage the IDC organizes a series of capacity building trainings for local journalists; the journalists are visiting military training facilities, and in the second stage – the journalists pay a visit to Kosovo (KFOR), Romania, Bruxelles etc.

### **Projects funded by NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme**

**Moldova's National Plan to Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325:** This project had the objective to assist Moldovan government and civil society actors in creating a multi-agency national action plan to implement the Resolution. Over 24 months, Inclusive Security (IS) co-directed the process, providing expertise and technical assistance through a series of workshops. The Centre for Information and Documentation on NATO was the coordinator of activities from the project in Moldova. The project was composed of 4 phases divided in national and international workshops, public awareness

## **The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova**

campaigns, where implicated institutions from Government, Parliament and civil society started with prioritizing the problems from security and defence sector, continuing with analyzation of regional experiences to take over the most successful experiences and to develop the national action plan. The project has achieved its core objective when the first national program on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted. Among the activities implemented by the IDC on NATO are: the series of working sessions for the policy makers, but also workshops and informative sessions organized for state institutions on gender equality and UN Resolution 1325; and the development of an informative guide and a video spot promoting the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 in the Republic of Moldova.<sup>1</sup>

The Guide was developed to increase the impact and knowledge of UNSCR 1325 and to inform about the main topics in the context of gender mainstreaming in the security sector of the Republic of Moldova and the video spot comes with the aim of promoting the necessity of implementing the Resolution 1325 UNSC in Moldova.<sup>2</sup>

### **Projects implemented by the IDC on NATO with the support of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST)**

The project on "**Promoting European and Euro-Atlantic values in rural areas of Moldova through local opinion formers**" was implemented between March and August 2018. The project was divided into two stages: a) Information activities; and b) Activities in different regions of the Republic of Moldova. In the first phase, 10 beneficiaries from 10 regions of the Republic of Moldova benefited from first source information on the EU and NATO and were informed about the values promoted and the cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and these two organizations. The 10 beneficiaries had the opportunity to pay study visits both in the country and abroad. In Moldova, they had the opportunity to visit the Information and Documentation Center on NATO in Moldova, the Office of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova. Speaking about visits abroad, the participants have visited: the Mayor's Office in Lovendegen (Belgium), the European Committee of the Regions, the European External Action Service, the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Negotiation of Enlargement and NATO Headquarters. Within the second stage, the beneficiaries of the project organized activities in the localities of the Republic of Moldova to provide information on the European and Euro-Atlantic principles and values.

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<sup>1</sup> Informative guide on WPS Agenda //

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nxnNOMc3KellBq7hbLZxmmnEtW6Nqgex/view?fbclid=IwAR1SoseLBcdG7kVKUW7768cBr9JMtD59yHMQWZ\\_ycR4TQmXamZjMQu9R2po](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nxnNOMc3KellBq7hbLZxmmnEtW6Nqgex/view?fbclid=IwAR1SoseLBcdG7kVKUW7768cBr9JMtD59yHMQWZ_ycR4TQmXamZjMQu9R2po)

<sup>2</sup> Implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security //

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=8&v=kv7Mvx1v\\_Oo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=kv7Mvx1v_Oo)

## **The Information and Documentation Centre on NATO in the Republic of Moldova**

Between October 2018 and June 2019, the IDC on NATO is implementing the 2nd edition of the project "**Promoting European and Euro-Atlantic Values in Rural Areas of Moldova through local opinion formers**". The 10 selected opinion-makers benefited from: information sessions on NATO and EU (functionality and values promoted by organizations) and paid a study visit to Belgium (Brussels and Lovendegem) from 25 to 27 November, where they had the opportunity to visit the NATO Headquarters, the Mayor of Lovendegem, Directorate General of the European Commission on "European neighborhood policy and enlargement negotiations" (DG NEAR), the European Parliament, the Moldovan embassy to Belgium and the European External Action Service (EEAS). As a result of the study visit, the participants will organize local events in which they will present the best practices and the exchange of experience gained during the information sessions that took place in Chisinau and at the EU, NATO and local public administration institutions abroad.

### **Activities carried out by the IDC on NATO in cooperation with the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF)**

The Information and Documentation Center on NATO in Moldova, in cooperation with the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Bureau for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova, organized a seminar in July 2018 on the subject: "**Strategic Communication in the Perspective of Government**". The purpose of this seminar was to develop a strong conceptual basis for future uses of strategic communication from the perspective and contexts of national security and international relations. At the same time, the seminar focused directly on the application of strategic communication concepts to the professional contexts of the participants by advancing their knowledge and skills on the structural and textual elements of the strategic communication campaigns and the use of modern communication channels and techniques.

Also, the IDC on NATO, in cooperation with DCAF, has elaborated a study on *Mapping the international support for the Security Sector Reform in the Republic of Moldova*. The study provides an overview of the purpose, functions and importance of assistance provided by international organizations in the Republic of Moldova. The study provides an overview of the purpose, functions and importance of assistance offered by international organizations in the Republic of Moldova. The study presents the work and achievements of economic, political and humanitarian organizations in Moldova and show their significance for ensuring security sector reform.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Study on Mapping the international support for the Security Sector Reform in the Republic of Moldova // <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RyFgfTMGr1bov3qHlh7KEiAZuPzK-oTc/view>