



ERASMUS+ MOLDOVA NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME MARKED 30 YEARS OF ACTIVITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

WORKSHOP FOR VET INSTITUTIONS: "EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN ERASMUS+ PROJECTS"

GET TO KNOW THE NEWLY SELECTED ERASMUS+ PROJECTS IN MOLDOVA

DESCRIPTION OF MOLDOVA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE ON THE EUROPEAN EURYDICE PLATFORM

SUPPORTING REFORM AND INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A SERIES OF ONLINE SEMINARS BY THE NATIONAL ERASMUS+ OFFICE IN MOLDOVA

VOICES OF ERASMUS: 11 UTM STUDENTS SHARED THEIR MOBILITY EXPERIENCES

GALA OF STUDENTS FROM MOLDOVA 2024: ERASMUS CATEGORY

The Erasmus+ Programme marked 30 years of activity in the Republic of Moldova

The year 2024 marked a double anniversary for two European Union programmes: 30 years of the Erasmus+ Programme in the Republic of Moldova and 30 years of the European Training Foundation (ETF). On this occasion, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova and ETF, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union, organised an anniversary event on November 19 and 20: a classical music concert by the Erasmus+ beneficiaries from the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts, organised at the Organ Hall – a symbolic celebration of the partnership between Moldova and the Union European; and an extensive seminar at the Technical University of Moldova explored key topics such as EU support for education and skills, the presentation of the preliminary conclusions of the Rapid Education Diagnosis Report (RED) and the results achieved by the Erasmus+ Programme in its 30 years of activity in the Republic of Moldova.

In three decades, the Erasmus+ Programme had a transformative impact on Moldovan education: over 5000 students and teachers benefited from international academic mobility, and numerous educational projects were implemented in universities, vocational education and training institutions, youth and sports organisations, bringing innovation and valuable resources. Until now, thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ Programme in the Republic of Moldova, the following actions have been implemented: 83 Tempus projects, 35 capacity building projects in higher education, 31 Jean Monnet projects, 11 Erasmus+ projects in the field of VET (Capacity building and Centre of excellence), 7 capacity building projects in the field of youth, 2 capacity building projects in the field of sport, 6 virtual exchange projects in the higher education and youth, etc.

This anniversary has become not only an occasion for celebration, but also an opportunity to reflect on how the support of the European Union contributed to the transformation of the educational system in Moldova.

The event brought together decision-makers, representatives of public institutions, members of civil society organisations, education experts, academics and students, to discuss the progress made and to chart future directions for collaboration.



Workshop for VET institutions: "Effective strategies for identifying international partners in Erasmus+ projects"



National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, in collaboration with the OeAD Cooperation Office in Chisinau and the Ministry of Education and Research, organised a workshop for vocational education and training institutions in Moldova, with the generic "Effective strategies for identifying international partners in Erasmus+ projects". The event took place over two days, on October 2 and 3, at the "Raisa Pacalo" Center of Excellence in Medicine and Pharmacy and was led by the international experts Dr. Georg Müllner (Austria) and Dr. Heinrich Pingel (Germany). Also, during the workshop, the local experience in the search for international partners was presented by the Erasmus+ expert in the reform of higher education from the Republic of Moldova (HERE), Valentina Pritcan, as well as by the representatives of VET institutions from Moldova who have already participated in Erasmus+ projects starting from 2022.

The workshop began with the presentation of Erasmus+ projects in which VET institutions from the Republic of Moldova can participate, with a special focus on capacity building projects in the field of vocational education and training (CBVET). Starting from 2022, 11 CBVET projects and one Erasmus+ Center of Excellence project were selected, with the participation of institutions active in the field of vocational education and training from the Republic of Moldova. Afterwards, the international experts spoke about the application procedures for Erasmus+ projects, the need to establish the institution's objectives, the SWOT analysis, the presentation of one's own institution as a project partner in an interesting and convincing way, as well as the importance of establishing a sustainable international collaboration network.

During the discussion sessions and practical workshops, the participants had the opportunity to interact directly with the experts and share their experiences regarding the implementation of international projects. The current trends in vocational education and the ways in which Moldovan institutions can attract international partners were also discussed.

The second day of the workshop was dedicated to hands-on activities, where participants worked in groups to simulate the process of identifying suitable international partners and drafting key elements of a project proposal. These sessions allowed participants to apply the theoretical knowledge gained and receive direct feedback from international experts, thus enhancing their practical skills in project planning and partnership development. Special attention was given to aligning institutional priorities with Erasmus+ objectives and ensuring that project ideas are both relevant and innovative.

Participants expressed a high level of interest and engagement throughout the event, underlining the growing motivation among VET institutions in Moldova to expand their international dimension. The event reinforced the commitment of the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova and its partners to support the internationalisation of vocational education through Erasmus+ and to build a strong foundation for successful participation in upcoming calls.

Around 50 representatives of 20 VET institutions from all over the country participated in the event, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration for the development of vocational education in Moldova.



Get to know the newly selected Erasmus+ projects in Moldova



The National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Moldova organised a series of events meant to present the newly selected in 2024 Erasmus+ capacity building projects in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, youth and sports. The meetings brought together the local teams involved in the projects.

Therefore, the following events were organised:

- The reunion of **4 CBVET projects** (1. Laying the Foundations: A Holistic Intervention for an Upgraded VET Students Performance – **Foundations**; 2. Innovation in Smart and Digital VET Skills for Advanced Textile Industry – **InnovaTe**; 3. Technicien contrôle de la qualité des produits de santé en Azerbaïdjan et en République de Moldova - **Qualite PHARMA**; 4. Capacity

Building Program for Sustainable Reconstruction – **REBUILD**).

- The reunion of **5 CBHE projects** (1. Critical role of PUBLIC employees in CIRcular ECONomy implementation: Embedding circular economy thinking in HEIs – **PubCirEco**; 2. Modernization and digital transformation for International Relations Offices in HEI's – **IROconnect**; 3. Joint societal challenge driven circular economy energy education between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece, Moldova and Romania - **EU-AGM**; 4. Implementation of Sustainable Urban Development Goals in Transport Bachelor Degree - **ISDEGO**; Strengthening digital skills in the water sector higher education – **DIGISKILLS**).

- The reunion of **6 CBYouth projects** (1. **Countryside Studio** - rural youth empowerment and heritage promotion; 2. **DP5YOU** - Digital Platform of Knowledge and Skills Development for Youth Working with Child Migrants and Refugees at European Level; 3. **EmpowerYouth**: Enabling Youth Organizations to Shape Decision-Making on Issues that Matter Most to Young People; 4. **ITG - InTechGrowth**: Nowe Pomysly, Nowe Technologie, Nowe Pokolenie; 5. **PACT** - Psychological First Aid & Creative Techniques; 6. **ST-SYWOR** - Stronger Together: Strengthening Youth Workers and Organizations for Displaced Youth Integration and Resilience).

- The launch of the **CB Sport project ACT Rise Romania–Moldova ACT!**

Erasmus+ Capacity-building projects are transnational cooperation projects, based on multilateral partnerships. These partnerships are primarily between institutions from EU Member states or countries associated to the Programme and third countries not associated to the Programme, such as the Republic of Moldova. The aim of these projects is to support eligible third countries not associated to the Programme to modernise, internationalise the beneficiary institutions, increase cooperation with the EU, promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness, and understanding etc.

The purpose of the meetings was to facilitate the exchange of experience, the presentation of new projects and the strengthening of collaboration between the participating teams from the Republic of Moldova. They also included short presentations from each project, highlighting the opportunities and challenges encountered during the stage of the grant agreement preparation (GAP), as well as in the management and organisation of the projects.

Moreover, the reunions offered project teams the opportunity to get better acquainted with the technical and financial aspects of implementation, including monitoring tools and communication strategies. This exchange is essential to ensuring the successful delivery of project results and to amplifying the contribution of Moldovan institutions to the Erasmus+ Programme across Europe and beyond.





Description of Moldova’s Education System Available on the European Eurydice Platform



Starting from the beginning of 2025, a detailed description and an overview of the national education system of the Republic of Moldova are available on the online platform of the Eurydice Network – [Eurypedia](#). This initiative marks an important step in Moldova’s integration into the European Education Area and facilitates access to updated information on the structure and functioning of the national education system.

Since 2024, Moldova, alongside Ukraine and Georgia, has joined this network, contributing to a better mutual understanding of education systems across Europe.

The Eurydice Network was established in 1980 by the European Commission and the Member States to support European cooperation in the field of education. All EU member states are part of Eurydice, along with some non-EU countries. The network helps improve education systems in Europe through providing high quality information on a wide range of aspects of education policy and practice. Eurydice provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. Eurydice reports show

how countries tackle challenges at all education levels: early childhood education and care, primary and secondary education, higher education and adult learning.

The description of Moldova’s education system on the Eurypedia platform includes detailed information on the structure of the education system, fundamental principles, national policies, and the organisation and governance of education at central and regional levels. Users can access data on educational levels and cycles according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-2011), the principles underlying education in the country, and the legislative framework regulating the functioning and development of the education system.

The availability of Moldova’s education system description on Eurydice plays a crucial role in supporting national reforms. Policymakers and education professionals can now compare Moldova’s policies and practices against those of other European countries, gaining insights into innovative approaches and successful strategies.

The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova manages the national Eurydice Unit, with the responsibility of developing, updating, and disseminating information about Moldova’s education system. Through this platform, Moldova reaffirms its commitment to promoting transparency and cooperation in education at the European level, facilitating access to essential information for researchers, policymakers, and the general public interested in European education systems.





Supporting Reform and Innovation in Higher Education: A Series of Online Seminars by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova

At the end of the year 2024, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova organised a series of thematic online seminars dedicated to strengthening higher education systems through European collaboration. With the support of international experts and national stakeholders, these events addressed key challenges and emerging priorities in the Moldovan higher education sector: graduate employability, micro-credentials, quality assurance, and the inclusion-internationalisation connection.

This seminars were organised as part of the activities of the Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) within the Erasmus+ Programme, with the support of the SPHERE Consortium and the European University Association (EUA).

The first event, held on November 13 and 22, focused on of [inclusion and internationalisation](#) in higher education. Drawing from EU experiences, the seminar explored how universities can create inclusive environments while remaining competitive internationally. The integration of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, support for refugee learners, and international collaboration were highlighted as key factors for enhancing equity and excellence.

The second webinar, on December 12 and 13, addressed the [quality management systems in higher education](#), both at institutional and national levels. The event gathered representatives of universities, quality assurance agencies, and ministries to explore the benefits of building strong internal quality cultures. Discussions also covered how Erasmus+ projects can serve as a platform to pilot innovative quality assurance approaches and reinforce institutional capacities.

The next seminar focused on [micro-credentials](#), an increasingly relevant tool for lifelong learning and flexible pathways in higher education. It took place on December 19 and provided an overview of the European approach to micro-credentials and their integration into qualifications frameworks. Moldovan universities were encouraged to explore how short learning experiences can support upskilling and reskilling, particularly in the context of digital transformation and international cooperation

The final event in the series, held on December 20, shifted the spotlight to [graduate employability tracking](#), a priority for both universities and policymakers aiming to align academic programmes with labor market needs. Participants analysed the legislative framework and practices at the European level that support effective employability tracking systems. They also discussed how universities can play a more integrative role in supporting graduates' career development, as well as the creation of institutional ecosystems, with a particular focus on developing career centres.

Together, these seminars contributed to building a shared vision for the modernisation of higher education in Moldova. They also reinforced the value of Erasmus+ as a tool for dialogue, policy development, and institutional learning, aligning Moldova's education reform with European trends and standards.





Voices of Erasmus: 11 UTM Students Shared Their Mobility Experiences



An inspiring event entitled *Voices of Erasmus* took place on March 26, 2025, at the initiative of Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Chişinău, in cooperation with the Technical University of Moldova (UTM) and the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova.

11 UTM students took the stage to share their academic mobility experiences within the Erasmus+ programme. Each story highlighted cultural discoveries, overcoming challenges, and personal growth moments experienced across various European countries.

The event built a bridge between generations, as the participating students took on the role of informal mentors for younger peers at the beginning of their journeys, offering valuable advice and encouraging them to explore international exchange opportunities. *Voices of Erasmus* brought together diverse cultural and life experiences, showing that each mobility experience is an important step towards self-discovery.

Gala of Students from the Republic of Moldova 2024: Erasmus Category

On December 29, 2024, the 12th edition of the Gala of Students from the Republic of Moldova (GSORM) took place, an event dedicated to recognizing the academic merits of young Moldovans studying abroad.

During the event, the Erasmus Category was prominently featured, with the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova awarding exceptional students who have benefited from Erasmus+ mobilities and contributed to promoting the values of the programme.

This time Erasmus+ category winners were: **Daniela Goian** – “Nicolae Testiţişeanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (mobility to Umeå University, Sweden); **Andrei Ciursin** – State University of Moldova (mobility to Saarland University, Germany); **Camelia Cazacu-Stratu** – “Nicolae Testiţişeanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (mobility to Umeå University, Sweden); **Mihail Nesteriuc** – State University of Moldova (mobility to Institut des Hautes Études des Communications Sociales, Belgium) and **Madlen Plugaru** – Technical University of Moldova (mobility to Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania).

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of young Moldovans who spread the word about the Republic of Moldova through their academic excellence.



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