

Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova

NATO's essential purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

- **POLITICAL** - NATO promotes democratic values and encourages consultation and cooperation on defence and security issues to build trust and, in the long-run, prevent conflict.
- **MILITARY** - NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty - NATO's founding treaty - or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

NATO has very few permanent military forces of its own. Once members agree, by consensus, to engage in an operation, they contribute forces on a voluntary basis.

NATO provides a unique opportunity for member countries to consult and take decisions on security issues at all levels and in a variety of fields. A "NATO decision" is the expression of the collective will of all 29 member countries since all decisions are taken by consensus.

Each day, hundreds of civilian and military experts and officials come to NATO Headquarters to exchange information, share ideas and help prepare decisions when needed, in cooperation with national delegations and the staff at NATO Headquarters.



The Republic of Moldova participated in the NATO summit in Warsaw in July 2016.



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Core Tasks

Strategic Concepts lay down the Alliance's core tasks and principles, its values, the evolving security environment and the Alliance's strategic objectives for the next decade. The 2010 Strategic Concept defines NATO's core tasks as: collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security.

Cooperative Security & Partnerships

Dialogue and cooperation with partners can make a concrete contribution to enhance international security, strengthen partners' capacity to deal with security challenges, and defend the values on which the Alliance is based.

In both regional frameworks and on a bilateral level, NATO develops relations based on common values, reciprocity, mutual benefit, and mutual respect.

Around 40 non-member countries work with NATO on a wide range of political and security-related issues. These countries pursue dialogue and practical cooperation with the Alliance and many contribute to NATO-led operations and missions. NATO is also cooperating with a wide network of international organisations. In the Euro-Atlantic area, the 29 Allies engage in cooperation with 21 partner countries through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace – a major programme of bilateral engagement.

Partnership for Peace

The essence of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014, is the partnership formed between each individual partner country and NATO. Cooperation is tailored according to the country's ambitions, needs, and abilities; each programme of cooperation is jointly implemented with the partner government. Moldova joined PfP at the time of its creation in 1994.

Partners choose from an extensive menu of activities to draw up programmes of cooperation. Activities on offer touch on virtually every field of NATO expertise and experience, including good governance, defence reform, defence policy and planning, civil-military relations, education and training, military-to-military cooperation and exercises, civil emergency planning and disaster response, and cooperation in the scientific sphere.

Each of NATO's partners has a jointly agreed programme of cooperation that clearly sets out cooperation objectives and priorities. Each partner's programme is unique and is tailored specifically to the needs and requirements of the partner. In the case of Moldova, that programme of cooperation is called the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP).



Meeting of the 50-nation Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)

Moldova's first IPAP with NATO was agreed in 2006 and has been subsequently updated every few years to remain current and responsive to Moldova's needs. The IPAP allows Moldova to identify areas in which it wishes to cooperate with NATO. It also allows NATO to provide focused country-specific advice on defence and security-related reforms. Political dialogue on relevant security issues is an integral part of the IPAP process and contributes to NATO's desire to increase transparency and build trust with its partners. IPAPs also facilitate the provision of bilateral assistance by individual Allies and partner countries and help coordinate efforts with other relevant international institutions.

Partnership values

Partnership is about more than practical cooperation – it is also about values. When partner countries join the Partnership for Peace, they sign the PfP Framework Document. In doing so, partners commit to respect international law, the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, and international disarmament and arms control agreements; to refrain from the threat or use of force against other states; to respect existing borders; and to settle disputes peacefully.



Members of NATO's Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee (PCSC) visited Chisinau in June 2015 to discuss Moldova-NATO cooperation and its development perspectives

Neutrality

NATO respects the sovereignty of all nations and believes that every nation has the right to set its own course. NATO unequivocally respects Moldova's constitutional neutrality and Moldova's choice not to seek membership in the Alliance. NATO has a long and productive history of engagement and cooperation with partners who are neutral or who do not aspire to membership.

NATO is responding to Moldova's request to assist it in drawing closer to Euro-Atlantic standards and in strengthening its institutions. The Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) recognises that Moldova is constitutionally neutral and does not wish to join the NATO Alliance. The IPAP is agreed jointly by the North Atlantic Council, the key decision-making body of the Alliance, and the government of the Republic of Moldova. The IPAP is also approved by a government decree.



Prime Minister Pavel Filip and Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in 2016 at NATO HQ announce the agreement to establish the NATO Liaison Office in Chisinau.

NATO Liaison Office in Moldova

In 2017, in response to a request from the government of the Republic of Moldova, NATO opened a NATO Liaison Office (NLO) in Chisinau. The NLO is a small diplomatic mission, staffed by civilians, and focused on strengthening practical cooperation, supporting reforms, and enhancing transparency and dialogue. The NLO in Chisinau follows NATO's experience in establishing similar offices in Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia, and the United Nations in New York, USA.

Key Areas of Cooperation: Building Integrity (BI) Programme

The Moldovan Ministry of Defence is participating in the NATO Building Integrity (BI) Programme to strengthen good governance and reduce corruption risks. Following the completion of the NATO BI Self-Assessment and Peer Review Process in January 2016, the Ministry developed an Integrity Plan to implement NATO BI recommendations. This completed Process is the foundation of NATO BI tailored assistance to build individual and institutional capacities (with practical tools and strategic advice) to help Moldova strengthen integrity, transparency, and accountability in its defence and security sector.

Did You Know?

- NATO has spent €4,5 million to improve the lives of Moldovan people by destroying harmful pesticides and dangerous and unstable stockpiles of anti-personnel mines, surplus munitions, and rocket fuel.
- NATO has destroyed a stockpile of 11,872 anti-personnel mines and 300 tonnes of surplus ammunition to help Moldova meet its obligations as a signatory to the Ottawa Convention.
- NATO has destroyed more than 300 tonnes of rocket fuel from damaged and corroding storage facilities close to Chisinau.
- NATO helped build a cyber defence laboratory at the Technical University of Moldova. The laboratory serves as a research and training center for civil servants of Moldovan government institutions, as well as for young scientists and students of the university.
- More than 1,300 Moldovan civilian and military personnel have attended NATO courses on such topics as logistics, border security, and civil emergency planning.

Key Areas of Cooperation: Support to Civil Authorities

Trust Fund for the Destruction of Pesticides

In the 1970s, large quantities of fertilizers, pesticides, and dangerous chemicals were used on Moldovan soil to maximize crop yields. Although their use is now prohibited, thousands of these pesticides are buried or stored around the country in poorly equipped or unfit facilities, which lack proper monitoring and security. These surplus stocks of pesticides and dangerous chemicals have left a damaging legacy in the Republic of Moldova.

A three-phase NATO/PfP Trust Fund mechanism was set up in 2007 to channel funding and support to a project aimed at the destruction and proper storage of these chemicals. In Phase I, the Trust Fund focused on consolidating and securing pesticides and chemicals at regional storage centers. During Phase II, an analytical lab was set up to provide a comprehensive database on pesticides and chemicals. Phase III, which is currently in progress, will dispose of 1,269 tonnes of pesticides and dangerous chemicals stored at 15 Regional Central Storages. The total cost of the project is estimated at €2,2 million; the project is expected to be completed in 2018.

Civil Preparedness

Civil preparedness is an important area of NATO-Moldova cooperation because it prepares the authorities to deal with man-made and natural disasters and benefits the people of Moldova. With support from Allies, Moldova has worked to enhance the legal framework for coping with such emergencies and to establish a civil crisis information system to coordinate activities in the event of an emergency.

Through participation in activities organized by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), Moldova is developing its national civil emergency and disaster management capabilities. Moldova hosted the EADRCC consequence management field exercise "CODRII 2011", which helped Moldovan authorities, NATO, and partner countries to practice disaster response procedures and to enhance cooperation in emergency situations.



To ensure safe transport of the hazardous waste, Pesticides and Dangerous Chemicals containers are packed, palletised and properly labelled before being shipped to an incineration facility in Poland



Fire demonstration during "Codrii" Exercise hosted by Republic of Moldova and organized by the EADRCC in 2011

SPS

The SPS Programme helps to promote regional security through scientific cooperation between NATO and partner countries. Current SPS Key Priorities include: Counter-Terrorism; Energy Security; Cyber Defence; Defence against CBRN Agents; Environmental Security; Security-related Advanced Technology; Border and Port Security; Mine and Unexploded Ordnance Detection and Clearance, and Human and Social Aspects of Security.



A group of Moldovan administrators took part in a two-week training course in Turkey to build expertise and improve the ability to strengthening the defence of critical infrastructure.

Key Areas of Cooperation: Science for Peace and Security (SPS)

Through the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, the Alliance is engaging Moldovan scientists and experts in practical cooperation focused on civil science, technology and innovation, forging research networks, and sharing expertise in a common purpose to strengthen European security.

These networks also help to build understanding and trust between diverse communities. Another important objective of the SPS Programme is to build capacity and help partner countries address their particular priorities through concrete cooperation activities and to promote the development and sharing of technology. The Programme puts a particular emphasis on supporting young scientists through training and stipends. All SPS activities have a clear link to security and NATO's strategic objectives and can take the form of multi-year research projects, workshops, and training courses. Moldova has been actively engaged in the SPS Programme since 2012.

Cyber Defence

Cyber threats and attacks are becoming more common, sophisticated and damaging. The Alliance and our partners are faced with an evolving complex threat environment. State and non-state actors can use cyber attacks in a variety of settings, including in the context of military operations.

Because cyber threats defy state borders and organisational boundaries, NATO engages with partners and organisations to enhance international security. Engagement with partner countries is based on shared values and common approaches to cyber defence. NATO also works with, among others, the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

To address the challenges posed by cyber security incidents and based on Moldova's request, NATO is providing support through the SPS programme. A new e-Research and Education Laboratory for Cyber Defence has been established at the Moldova Technical University. The laboratory will serve the cyber training needs of all national defence and security institutions, as well as the students of the university. The project will also enhance Moldovan national cyber defence capabilities and the expertise of the Moldovan specialists by providing specially tailored training in cyber incident management to government experts.

The SPS programme is also providing assistance in the establishment of the Moldovan Armed Forces Cyber Incident Response Capability (MAFCIRC) within the Ministry of Defence. Once implemented, the project will increase the human, technical, and procedural cyber capabilities to enable the countering of sophisticated and emerging cyber threats.

Telemedicine

The NATO SPS Programme has supported the development of a multinational telemedicine system, enabling medical specialists to provide real-time recommendations to first responders at emergency scenes or in combat zones. Experts from Moldova worked together with colleagues from Romania, the United States, Finland, and Ukraine on this project.

A great advantage of the telemedicine system is that it can be used both by the military and civilian paramedics. Portable medical kits allow first responders at the scene to connect to the system, receiving expert advice from medical specialists. Thanks to telemedicine, medical specialists located in different parts of the world are able to assess patients, diagnose them, and provide real-time recommendations. This allows the right aid and care to reach those who need it most quickly, with the potential to save many lives in disasters.



The telemedicine system developed under NATO coordination was successfully live tested during a field exercise in Lviv, Ukraine in September 2015

Women, Peace, and Security

Moldova is working with NATO to promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which recognises the disproportionate impact that war and conflicts have on women and children. UNSCR 1325 calls for full and equal participation of women at all levels in issues ranging from early conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction, peace, and security. The SPS Programme is supporting a project to assist Moldova in the development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Launched in October 2016, the project supports the Moldovan government and civil society in creating a multi-agency national strategy to implement UNSCR 1325.

CBRN Defence

The potential use of biological agents by terrorists poses a significant security risk to local populations. Agents such as anthrax can survive extended periods and can spread independently with ease. Therefore, a SPS project aims to build the capacity of the Moldovan Ministry of Health to better counter threats posed by infectious biological agents, including



Experts from several countries attended in May 2017 the Workshop on best practices for developing a national action plan on women, peace, and security

anthrax, by setting up a mobile biological laboratory and training experts to enhance surveillance capability, early detection, and rapid response. Once trained, these experts will be able to conduct statistical sampling and mapping, leading to the remediation of a selected contaminated pilot area. Young researchers involved in the project will also receive training and acquire the necessary skills to monitor and limit the spread of biological agents.

Did You Know?

- NATO helps Moldova's defence sector implement good governance practices to ensure transparent and accountable use of resources.
- Since 2008, NATO has provided expert support to the Alexandru cel Bun Military Academy to develop Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes and professional courses. 350 Moldovans have graduated from these degree programmes and 275 are currently enrolled. More than 150 Moldovan students and experts have visited Allied defence institutions for peer exchanges in education organization, training, and curriculum development.
- Moldova is participating in a Programme for Advanced Nanotechnologies for Detection and Defence Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) agents that will bring together experts from NATO and partner countries to build expertise and increase capacity.
- Moldova was one of the beneficiary nations in a NATO project to develop a multinational telemedicine system, allowing military and civilian medical specialists located in different parts of the world to assess patients, diagnose them, and provide real-time recommendations.
- Moldova is working with NATO to promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for full and equal participation of women at all levels in defence and security sector.

Key Areas of Cooperation: Public Diplomacy

Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova in the area of public diplomacy aims to build transparency, understanding, and dialogue. NATO's communication efforts focus on raising awareness of the Alliance and partnership with NATO by engaging with academia, civil society, and the media. Activities, such as seminars, conferences, summer schools and workshops, are organized by local non-governmental organizations or institutions with the support of NATO and in cooperation with the government. Press tours and briefing programs are also organized at NATO HQ in Brussels on a regular basis.

NATO's Public Diplomacy Division supports the activities of the Information and Documentation Centre (IDC) on NATO, which is a local civil society organization dedicated to fostering discussion and dialogue on NATO and defence and security issues.



Journalists and opinion formers from Moldova meet NATO's Spokesperson Oana Lungescu during a visit to NATO HQ in February 2017

Key Areas of Cooperation: Defence and Security Sector

NATO and individual Allies have extensive expertise in the area of defence and security sector reform. Many partners have taken advantage of this knowledge and experience to broaden and increase their defence capabilities. NATO does not provide military equipment or arms. Instead, NATO is focused on helping build strong, accountable, and civilian-controlled institutions. Following a request from the government of the Republic of Moldova, NATO is supporting defence reform efforts through several initiatives.

Defence Capacity Building

The Defence and Related Security Capacity Building (DCB) support was offered to Moldova at the Wales Summit in 2014. The DCB package responds to a request by the government for support with the defence transformation process, the strengthening and modernising of Moldova's armed forces, and the reform of its national security structures. The first phase of the initiative offers a programme of advice and assistance in support of Moldova's defence reforms, including the development of strategic level documents and the identification of the most appropriate force structures and capabilities. The second phase will focus on providing assistance and technical advice in the development of Moldova's armed forces (force structures, capabilities and infrastructure, doctrine, education). The DCB package also provides assistance across a number of other areas, including defence education, cyber security, good governance and corruption prevention, and the role of women in peace and security.

Interoperability

NATO makes available to the Republic of Moldova many programmes aimed at developing interoperability with the forces of NATO Allies and building capabilities needed for participation in UN-led peacekeeping operations. Learning to speak a common language and developing interoperability in terms of standard procedures are essential. Multinational exercises, visiting expert teams, and training courses are available to Moldova to help develop the capacity of its forces to work alongside NATO forces. Through its participation in Partnership for Peace (PfP) training and exercises, Moldova is developing the ability of the 22nd Peacekeeping Battalion's forces to work together with forces from other countries, especially in crisis management and peacekeeping operations.

KFOR



Visit of Moldovan journalists to their troops deployed in Kosovo

Since March 2014, over 40 Moldovan troops are deployed in support of the NATO-led peace-support operation in Kosovo (KFOR), comprising an infantry manoeuvre platoon and an explosive ordnance disposal team. The sovereign decision by the government of Moldova to deploy a military contingent to Kosovo was approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on November 1, 2013. The Peacekeeping mission in Kosovo is based on the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. Together with NATO and other partner nations, including Switzerland, Austria, and Sweden, Moldova contributes to peace and stability in the Balkan region.



Members of the Moldovan contingent in KFOR



A NATO-led team of experts visited Chisinau to conduct a review of the Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP).



Graduation of the first class of officers in June 2015 from the Moldovan Military Academy's new four-year degree programme developed under the Defence Education Enhancement Programme.

Planning and Review Process (PARP)

A key instrument for helping partners with specific and technical reforms is the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP). It helps identify, develop and evaluate forces and capabilities that may be made available for peace support operations. It also provides a framework for partners to develop effective, affordable and sustainable armed forces, as well as promoting wider defence reform efforts. Under PARP, Partnership Goals are agreed with each participating country and extensive reviews measure progress annually. Key reform projects include improving command and control structures, military logistics, personnel management, training, and strengthening Moldova's border patrol capabilities. Moldova has participated in PARP since 2007.

Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP)

Moldova has received advice on how to build, develop, and reform educational institutions in the security sector through NATO's Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP); support in this area was requested by the President of the Republic of Moldova in 2008. DEEP is a tailor-made programme supporting the development of Moldova's professional military education in full compliance with international standards and processes. NATO has assisted the Alexandru cel Bun Military Academy in building a strong professional military education system, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as well as professional courses for civilians. Work is currently under way to build a PhD Programme and assist with the development of Non-Commissioned Officer education.

Defence Institution Building

Another priority for cooperation with partners in the area of defence and security sector reform is to promote the effective and efficient management of defence institutions, as well as civilian and democratic control of the armed forces. This is accomplished through the hundreds of expert training courses and activities available to the Republic of Moldova through the NATO Partnership Cooperation Menu.

what is NATO

29 States: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 29 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members. The latest Member is Montenegro since June 2017.

Collective defence: The Alliance is founded on the principle of 'collective defence,' meaning that if one NATO Ally is attacked, then all NATO Allies are attacked. This principle is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. So far, Article 5 has been invoked once, in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

Managing crises around the world: Promoting stability in our neighbourhood and protecting our people at home can sometimes mean taking action further afield. In the 1990s, NATO stopped further bloodshed from occurring in Bosnia and Kosovo. Currently, NATO is operating in Afghanistan, Kosovo and the Mediterranean.

Fighting Terrorism: NATO plays an important role in fighting terrorism, contributing approximately 16,000 NATO troops to train local forces in Afghanistan. NATO is also a full member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIL and is training Iraqi forces to better fight ISIL.

A decision making body: Beyond operations and missions, NATO is a decision making body. Each member country has a permanent delegation at NATO's political headquarters in Brussels to represents their government in the Alliance's decision-making process.

NATO funding: Every NATO country contributes to the costs of running the Alliance. By far the Allies' biggest contribution comes in the form of taking part in NATO-led missions and operations. NATO Allies also provide direct funding to NATO to cover the costs of NATO staff and facilities.

Troops and Equipment: Whenever NATO carries out a mission, individual Allies commit troops and equipment to be placed under a unified NATO command. These become known as "NATO forces." The only military equipment that NATO owns is a fleet of AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control) surveillance aircraft

Working with our partners: Because threats like terrorism, piracy and cyber warfare know no borders, NATO is committed to cooperation with its global partners. That's why we work with over 40 partner countries around the world, as well as organisations such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union, to spread stability and security.

