



# OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN MOLDOVA INITIATIVE

Combating organized crime, terrorism and firearms trafficking  
in the Republic of Moldova

## THE SITUATION

Moldova faces serious security challenges ranging from travel document fraud and crimes against children, through human and firearms trafficking, to smuggling of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) materials. The country has also served as a transit corridor for foreign fighters. Located on the very edge of the European Union, Moldova's geographical location is attractive to international organized crime groups wishing to smuggle illicit goods between Europe and Asia.

Among the emerging threats due to the conflict in Ukraine, we are seeing human traffickers and smugglers taking advantage

of vulnerable populations at various border control checkpoints. Human trafficking in Moldova encompasses both domestic and crossborder trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. Children and unaccompanied minors are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by smugglers and traffickers.

Organized crime has a negative impact on entire regions and produces significant amounts of illicit revenue and proceeds. Illicit financial flows have caused significant damage to the economy, society, and development in Moldova. Organized crime groups often use illicitly obtained revenue generated from one crime to fund and sponsor other serious crimes.



# OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN MOLDOVA

## PROJECT AIMS

The project supports law enforcement agencies in tackling organized crime and emerging threats. It also helps in developing long-term cooperation in the region.

As part of this, the project:

1. Provides operational assistance and strengthens national efforts to combat transnational organized crime, with a specific focus on migrant smuggling, human trafficking, protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), terrorism and firearms trafficking;
2. Enhances national and transborder cooperation between law enforcement agencies, international organizations and the aid sector/non-governmental organizations. Improved international police cooperation also ensures the effective exchange of information in the region.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Operational and analytical support to identify and investigate organized crime groups related to human and firearms trafficking, terrorism and violent extremism. This includes an exchange of operational data and best practices aimed at dismantling specific criminal groups. INTERPOL officials also help enhance law enforcement agencies in Moldova with operational and analytical skills to conduct effective investigations;
- Detection of suspected individuals at control points – This includes crosschecking biometrics from suspected individuals against INTERPOL databases during HOTSPOT operations;
- Assessing Moldova's ability to detect and interdict CBRNE material at border crossing points, and response mechanisms;
- On-the job support and mentorship programmes – This helps integrate best practices, increase alertness and immediate response to firearms trafficking. These programmes also assist national authorities in conducting criminal intelligence analysis as well as identifying and tracing firearms;
- Assisting law enforcement agencies in accessing INTERPOL databases and supporting deployment of INTERPOL's Operational Support Teams (OST) for transnational cases.

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