

Progress report
for the period January 2021 - June, 2021

Project: *“Consolidating Moldova’s Migration and Development Institutional Framework”, phase II*

Implementation period: *January 2019 – December 2022*

Financing agency: *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation*

Implementing agency: *State Chancellery (Diaspora Relations Bureau)*

Output 1. District authorities have the capacity to ensure coherence between national and local DMD policies.

The output comprises two major actions, focused on ensuring coherence between national and local Diaspora, Migration and Development (DMD) policies.

Action 1.1 - Development of a comprehensive toolkit on mainstreaming DMD policy at district/ municipality level following national framework.

Goal: The activities will focus on development of a comprehensive toolkit on ensuring coherence between national and local DMD policies, which will be disseminated and applied during capacity development sessions for district public authorities as well as setting up the M&E mechanism for DMD policies implementation at district level.

Developing and applying the toolkit on mainstreaming DMD policy at district/municipality level following national framework.

The elaboration of respective toolkit is a continuing activity on implementation of Governmental Decision No.725 of September 8, 2017 *“Mechanism for the coordination and implementation of the state policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development (DMD) by the central and local public authorities”*. According to the p.6 of the GD 725/2017, the Coordinating Local Committees were established in all District Councils, the designated persons are responsible for integration of migration issues into local development strategies and plans, other issues related to DMD.

The toolkit on mainstreaming DMD policy at district/municipality level comes to provide support for Coordinating Local Committees in evaluation of the implementation of DMD concept into local development strategies, plans and programs. The toolkit includes (i) Analysis of existing policy framework at district level, (ii) Monitoring and evaluation framework for DMD policy integration at rayon/ municipality level (matrix of indicators), (iii) The methodical instruction on the application of the Monitoring&Evaluation framework for DMD policy integration at rayon / municipality level.

In order to achieve the goal of this activity, by a national consultant, (selected by a project evaluation committee) the analysis of existing policy framework at district level was carried out, the *Monitoring and evaluation framework for DMD policy integration at rayon/ municipality level* (matrix of indicators) and *The Methodological instruction on the application of the Monitoring and evaluation framework for DMD policy integration at rayon / municipality level* was developed, consulted with Local Coordinating Committees of DMD policy integration at rayon/ municipality level, the final version of Methodological instruction was approved by BRD.

The documents come to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of the DMD Concept at the rayon/municipality level.

According to the project budget, in 2021 it is planned to carry out the activity "Evaluation of the implementation process and the elaboration of the report on the implementation of the DMD M & E system at district / municipal level". A national consultant was selected, currently in the contracting process.

In order to prepare the evaluation process, BRD requested the updating of the list of persons from the districts, responsible for the DMD field at coordinating and technical level. All districts have designated responsible persons; the updated list was prepared by BRD. The consultant will work with these persons to collect the necessary information and to prepare the report on the analysis of the level of DMD policy integration at district / municipal level, in accordance with the national framework.

The report is to provide an analysis of the situation regarding the implementation of the DMD concept at district / municipality level.

Analysis of the legislative-normative framework regarding the establishment of Placement Centers for the elderly (for-profit enterprises)¹.

The action was completed in 2020. The activity is in the context of GD 724 Nr. 724 of 08.09.2017 regarding the approval of the Action Plan for the years 2017-2020 regarding the (re)integration of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova returned from abroad, Action 2.3.4. Initiation of the process of analysis and revision of the legal framework regarding the simplification of the procedures for registering/setting up of for-profit enterprises, in accordance with Article 7 of Law no.123 of June 18, 2010 on social services. According to the ToR by a diaspora consultant (selected by a project evaluation committee) the following documents were developed; (i) Carer's manual, (ii) Carer's curriculum, (iii) Recommendations for revision of the Government Decision no. 323 of May 30, 2013 - MINIMUM STANDARDS of quality of social services provided within the Placement Center for the elderly.

The documents are meant to contribute to the revision of the legal framework in this area.

Action 1.2 Strengthening the capacities of the District level committees in the field of DMD national policy to develop policy documents/ local development strategies that integrate the DMD policies.

Goal: *The action will contribute to the capacity building of district public authorities in order to ensure effective DMD policy implementation at rayon/ municipality level following national framework, which is coming to increase positive impacts and reduce the negative effects of the migration phenomenon.*

The action was completed in 2019. Within the given sub-action the planned 8 events for strengthening the capacity of District level committees in the field of DMD are planned to be provided, in two rounds by regions: North, Centre, South, UTAG. Four trainings were provided by the consultant contracted for development of Toolkit on mainstreaming DMD policy at district/ municipality level. The events were organized as follow: 31 July – Centre (Chisinau), 2 Aug. – North (Falesti), 5 Aug. – South (Cahul), 7 Aug. – UTAG (Comrat). Cumulatively 141 representatives of LPA of level I and II, designated persons as focal points for the DMD field, have been trained on the monitoring and evaluation of mainstreaming of DMD concept in the local policy documents. Is expected the implementation of the DMD concept at local level according to the Governmental Decision No.725 of September 8, 2017, the evaluation of the results will be done in 2021 from the project resources (Action 1.1, p. 2,3).

¹ Activity replaced the action "*Developing of specifications on Creating a mechanism for data collection and cooperation between the specialized institutions to develop the information on the vacant positions in the Rep. of Moldova*", approved at the Meeting of the Steering Committee, Minutes from 17.12.2019.

Output 2. Instruments and tools are in place for BRD to effectively coordinate the DMD whole of a Government approach

The output includes four actions, especially focusing on development of necessary tools for efficient DMD policies implementation through capacity development, methodological support, consultations and coordination mechanisms for evidence-based and efficient decision making on DMD policy.

To be noted that, due to the fact that a series of activities were provided online, without financial resources for printed materials, transport, etc., a series of reallocation of resources were made and approved by Coordinating Committee of the SDC Program "Making the Most of Migration in Moldova" (02.02.2021) <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-consiliului-de-coordonare-al-programului-sdc-valorificarea-potentialului-migratiei> . Reallocations are described below in the context of the progress by activity.

Action 2.1 Fully functional DMD Interministerial Committee

Goal: *the action will contribute to the creation of the coordination mechanism to ensure effective DMD policy implementation at central level.*

In the context of the implementation of the action, the meeting of the DMD Interministerial Committee was held on 4 April 2019, the concept of the project was presented, the Activity plan was discussed and approved. It should be noted, that the Committee was established in the context of the implementation of GD no. 725 of 8 September 2017 on the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism of the DMD State Policy.

There were no activities delivered in 2020.

In 2021 one meeting of DMD Interministerial Committee were provided on 27 April 2021. The agenda of the meeting included the following: (i) Presentation of the Implementation Report of the Program "Diaspora Home Succeeds (DAR 1 + 3), (ii) Presentation of the draft National Program to stimulate returns and facilitate the (re) integration of Moldovan citizens involved in the process of migration (iii) Presentation of the Communication Platform in the field of Diaspora, Migration and Development (elaboration at design level) <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-comitetului-interministerial-domeniul-diaspora-migratie-si-dezvoltare-cidmd-0> .

The meetings come to contribute to an efficient collaboration and a synergy to ministerial activities in the field of DMD. Activities discussed during the meeting require the accumulation of efforts and the provision of contributions in the implementation process.

A new activity was proposed by BRD and approved by Coordinating Committee named "Analysis of the level of efficiency of DMD policies and the impact of their implementation on the Diaspora". The financial recourses were reallocated from the Action 2.3 (the activities are provided online, without expenses). In order to carry out the activity, by the national consultant (selected by a project evaluation committee) the following documents were developed: Research methodology, Request for statistical data on the effectiveness of DMD policies, Outline of the report.

Action 2.2 Create a platform for national-district coordination institutionalized and operational

Goal: *the activity will lead to a deeper understanding of the DMD field at central and local level through creating of the coordination national - district platform for implementation of DMD concept.*

In order to achieve the goal of this activity, one extended DMD meeting of national and district/local level focal points was organized on 17 May 2019 in Rîșcani. The meeting was attended by APC and APL I and II representatives, responsible for the implementation of point 2.3.4 of GD no. 724/2017 "Initiating the process of analyzing and reviewing the legal framework for the simplification of the registration / creation procedure for profit-making

enterprises, in accordance with Article 7 of Law no. 123/2010 on social services ", as well as representatives of development partners. The major conclusion of the event was the need to identify the resources for hiring a consultant who will analyze the existing policy framework in this area and will come up with the necessary adjustments and recommendations. Action is approved at the Meeting of the Steering Committee, Minutes from 17.12.2019 (see Activity 1.1.).

An online training session on the Impact of Migration on Development in the Republic of Moldova was organized on June 24, 2020; the training session was led by a national consultant with the support of BRD consultants by areas of responsibilities. The objectives of the session included:

- Development of capacities to assess the impact of migration policies on development,
- Knowledge of how migration and remittances influence economic and social development,
- Tools needed to design programs and policies to strengthen the positive effects of migration on development.

Other topics discussed: (i) Implementation of the DAR 1 + 3 program. (ii) Consultations of new DEH subprogram for youth.

Participants: mayors, the persons responsible for the promotion and implementation of the policy in the field of labor migration and diaspora, representatives of 20 LPA 1 and LPA 2.

Activities provided are meant to ensure the efficient coordination between central and local levels in implementation of DMD concept.

In 2021 three sessions were organized by BRD on implementation of the "DAR 1 + 3" program.

First training session was organized on 25.02.2021. The application method, the eligible fields, the selection criteria for the 2021 call for projects within the "DAR 1 + 3" was presented. The consolidation of the joint efforts of the Government, local public administrations, the diaspora and partners for the development of localities in the Republic of Moldova was discussed. A total of 69 representatives of LPA participated in the training, potential beneficiaries of the program. <https://www.facebook.com/BiroulRelatiiCuDiaspora/posts/1561394190714466>.

On March 1, 2021, BRD organized the second training session to facilitate the application to the "DAR 1 + 3" program, 51 of participants, representatives of LPA. <https://www.facebook.com/BiroulRelatiiCuDiaspora/posts/1563918107128741>

The third session started the government program "DAR 1 + 3", edition 2021. The online session took place on June 2, 2021, an informative meeting with the local public authorities, designated winners in the "DAR 1 + 3" program, 2021 edition. The meeting was attended by 52 people, representatives of local public authorities and local associations. <https://www.facebook.com/BiroulRelatiiCuDiaspora/posts/1627510837436134>

All activities were made online, without expenses. The financial resources were allocated for the new activity proposed by BRD "Elaboration of an electronic Guide for LPA / APC on the mechanisms of cooperation with Diaspora". This activity was approved by Coordinating Committee (02.02.2021).

A national consultant was selected by a project evaluation committee.

Action 2.3 Organization of consultations on new DMD sensitive policies and programs.

Goal: *the action will contribute to increasing the level of information and enhance the confidence in the efficiency of the actions taken by the authorities to implement DMD sensitive policies and programs.*

In 2020 two public consultations were conducted, as following

- The public consultation of the Draft Decision on the approval of the Action Plan for the years 2020-2021 regarding the implementation of the National Strategy “Diaspora-2025” was carried out on 05.03.2020-21.03.2020 (<http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/anunt-privind-organizarea-consultarii-publice-proiectului-de-hotarare-cu-privire-la>).
- The online consultations of new DEH subprogram for youth were done with central and local level focal points on June 24, 2020 during the online training session organized (Action 2.2.). As a result, the new DEH subprogram is accepted to be launched (see Action 3.3).

During first half of 2021 four public consultations were conducted, as following

- Elaboration of the National Program for stimulating returns and facilitating the (re) integration of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, involved in the migration process, on 10.03.2021 (<https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-de-lucru-privind-elaborarea-programului-national-de-stimulare-revenirilor-si>). The meeting was organized with the people responsible for promoting and implementing the state policy in the field of diaspora, migration and development (DMD). The participants in the meeting expressed their opinion on the level of institutional involvement, based on its functional competencies, as well as on the need for consultations focused on several areas of interest for returning citizens from abroad.
- Online public consultation on the development of the Web Communication Platform in the field of Diaspora Migration and Development, on 27.02.2021. The purpose of the event was to familiarize the members of the diaspora with the concept of operation of the future platform and to analyze the possibilities for its improvement connected to the needs of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad. Participants in discussions in the diaspora came with suggestions and recommendations to improve the functionality of the platform (topics of interest, ensuring diaspora-diaspora communication, ways to promote, sustainability, etc.). <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/consultari-cu-diaspora>
- Interactive debate on "Diaspora in state policies - needs, achievements and problems" organized by BRD in cooperation with the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (ID of the MFAEI) on 4.02.2021. The aim of this debate was to strengthen joint efforts and facilitate dialogue with the involvement of all existing structures in various activities for the diaspora. <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/dezbaterea-interactiva-diaspora-politicile-statului-necesitati-realizari-si-probleme>

The activities were carried out online, without expenses. The savings were allocated to action 2.1, to the newly activity ”Analysis of the level of efficiency of DMD policies and the impact of their implementation on the Diaspora”, approved by Coordinating Committee on 02.02.2021.

Action 2.4 Capacity-building for State Chancellery, including BRD, to provide comprehensive evidence-based analysis of DMD policies.

Goal: *the activities will increase the capacities of BRD staff in providing of comprehensive evidence-based analysis of the DMD policy implementation. The planned trainings will also result in the development of BRD's abilities for (i) increasing the accountability of public authorities at all levels in cooperating with the diaspora and attracting its potential for development; (ii) multiplying the diaspora's initiatives and involvement in local development.*

Four trainings were provided by the consultant contracted for Capacity-building for State Chancellery/ BRD. The events were organized in Chisinau, December, 2019 with participation of CPA focal points, BRD staff. The training sessions included the following topics: (i) *Conceptual aspects regarding migration: types, economic theories of migration*, (ii) *Indicators for measuring migration and development*, (iii) *Impact of migration on social development and demographic processes*, (iv) *The impact of migration on economic development and the labor market*, (v) *Impact of migration on social development and demographic processes*, (vi) *Migration policy: conceptual aspects*, (vii) *Integration migration into development policies and strategies: benefits and challenges*.

The trainings were focused on development the institutional capacities of participants in monitoring implementation and evaluating the results, as well on the impact of the policies on migration and development, including with the use of administrative and statistical data for this purpose.

During 2020 four online training sessions were conducted by the consultant, in August, September and October, 2020 with participation of CPA focal points, BRD staff. The trainings included the following topics: (i) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the migration processes in the Republic of Moldova, (ii) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's migration processes, (iii) Migration policies promoted by countries during the COVID-19 Pandemic, (iv) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on remittances.

The main conclusions of the trainings: (i) Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, migrant workers have become the most vulnerable category of the population; (ii) The vulnerability is due to the fact that most of them work in unskilled and low-paid jobs, do not have a work permit and written work contract; (iii) The state of emergency, in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, has worsened the situation of migrant workers, increased social inequalities in employment and income; (iv) During the pandemic, the situation of migrant workers varies greatly depending on the country of origin.

The training sessions aim to provide a better understanding of the impact of the pandemic on Moldovan migrants/ diaspora, as well of the policies and programs promoted especially by country of destinations of Moldovan citizens in context to COVID-19.

The activity on Capacity-building for State Chancellery/ BRD was completed in 2020. Some of the trainings were conducted online. The remaining resources were allocated to the next activity for producing (editing, formatting, etc.) of the research mapping report (electronic version).

Elaboration of the comprehensive diaspora associations mapping.

The national consultant (selected by a project evaluation committee) developed the research tools which include the following: screening questionnaire for the migrants, questionnaire for the initiative groups / Diaspora associations, Interview Guide for the Focus Group with migrants who do not participate in the activities of Diaspora Associations / Initiative Groups, Interview Guide for the leaders of the Diaspora Associations / Initiative Groups, Interview Guide for the Focus Group with the members of the Diaspora Associations / initiative groups. The tools were discussed and approved by BRD staff. Due to the situation created by the pandemic, the consultant adjusted the methodology of survey, prepared and placed the questionnaires for data collection on the Google Forms and Survey Monkey platform (26.06.2020, <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/chestionar-pentru-membrii-diasporei-contextul-elaborarii-studiului-cartografierea>), as well conducted online interviews and discussions by Skype, Viber, Zoom, mobile phone - depending on the availability of respondents of the study.

The report includes the conclusion of assessment of the capacity of the Diaspora Associations, level of activism, the problems and challenges they face in the country of destination, as well in context with COVID-19, in order to direct BRD's efforts to develop the Diaspora Associations capacities, to strengthening GM / BRD relations with diaspora associations.

The final version of the report on the sociological study *Mapping of associations in the diaspora* is approved by BRD, it is planned to be presented and consulted during the Diaspora Days. After the consultation, the electronic version will be produced and published on the BRD WEB page.

Output 3. National Government Programs for diaspora engagement are effectively implemented.

The output encloses two actions, especially focusing on successful implementation of targeted programs for diaspora engagement.

Action 3.1 Capacity development of the SC/BRD on the issue of Program Implementation Unit for DAR 1+3 (Diaspora Succeeds at Home).

Goal: *the action will contribute to the capacity building of SC/BRD staff through training session and on-job activities related to the issues of DAR 1+3 program implementations.*

The action was completed in 2020. In order to achieve the goal of this activity, the contracted national consultant, (selected by a project evaluation committee) supported SC/ BRD in the direct implementation, monitoring and evaluation of DAR 1+3 Program.

During 2019 the training activities for BRD as well for the applicants to DAR 1+3 program were provided in December 2019, by regions (Center, Chisinau – 16 Dec. 53 participants, South, Cimislia – 17 Dec. 40 participants, TAUG, Comrat – 19 Dec. 41 participants, North, Edineț – 20 Dec. 41 participants). During training sessions, the consultant presented the Implementation Guide of DAR 1+3 program, trained the potential beneficiaries from APL 1 and APL2 in completing the application form for the program, the envisaged fundraising modalities for the subproject's implementation, the monitoring of the subproject's implementation, the drafting of the progress and financial reports. During the trainings, the participants acquired practical skills to complete the funding applications and the annexes necessary to access funds within the Program.

In 2020, a series of training sessions were conducted by the consultant. The consultant continued to provide on-job support to SC/BRD in all activities related to the DAR 1 + 3 program: examination and evaluation of the files, support of mayors in the application process, participated in the selection process of subproject proposals, at the meetings on March 6, 2020 of the Evaluation Commission, participated in the online meeting on June 18, 2020 with representatives of local public authorities, whose projects were declared winners in the DAR 1+3 program. As well, the consultant offers continuous support to BRD staff in monitoring of the implementation of the DAR 1+3 projects. During the activities, according to the ToR, the consultant provided 3 sets of deliverables, contributing to a number of documents, templates of reports, questionnaires, guidelines, as follows: (i) The implementation procedure has been revised, the format of the estimated budget has been redone, the templates for the economic and financial substantiation of the project has been elaborated, the detailed work plan has been elaborated, the guide with reporting compartments has been supplemented, the models of the progress report and the final narrative report have been elaborated, completing the section on visibility, monitoring and evaluation of projects; (ii) model of declaration of impartiality has been completed, grant agreement has been drafted, interim narrative report form, final narrative report form on project implementation has been elaborated, elements of visibility has been developed; (iii) Evaluation questionnaire of the beneficiaries of the DAR 1 + 3 Program has been elaborated, Analysis of the questionnaires has been carried out, Applicant's Guide has been modified and completed.

The total numbers of applicants was 67, from them 42 projects were approved and implemented. The DAR 1+3 projects are supported financially from the State Budget with financial contribution from diaspora, local authorities and donors/development partners.

Action 3.2 Strengthening the cooperation of the Moldovan Government with the diplomatic missions/embassies.

Goal: *this sub-action will contribute to protecting the rights and interests of migrants, both in Moldova and in the destination countries.*

There were no activities delivered in 2020.

In the context of the given action, on 04.02.2021, by BRD / ID of MFAEI was held the interactive debate "Diaspora in state policies - needs, achievements and problems". The event was attended by representatives of BRD, officials of the state administration in the field of public diplomacy within the MFAEI, representatives of the Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices of the Republic of Moldova abroad.

The purpose of this debate was to strengthen joint efforts and facilitate dialogue with the involvement of all existing structures in various activities for the diaspora. The BRD presented the results of the implementation of DMD policy documents at national and local level, as well as the ways to communicate with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad. <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/dezbaterea-interactiva-diaspora-politicile-statului-necesitati-realizari-si-probleme>

The financial resources were allocated to Action 3.3, activity p.7 "Development of the Communication and Information Platform in the field of Diaspora, Migration and Development".

Action 3.3 Supporting, launching and implementing of targeted diaspora engagement initiatives/programs.

Goal: *in order to support the Moldovan citizens living abroad in implementing their ideas in the Republic of Moldova, as well as to capitalize on the diaspora's human capital for the country's socio-economic development, the extension of the Diaspora Engagement Hub (DEH) program has been identified as rather necessary, focusing on 2 sub-programs: (i) Professional Diaspora Return and (ii) Diaspora Innovative Projects.*

The action represents an extension of the activities carried out in phase I of the project (implemented by the IOM), as well as in the first step of the second phase of the project, implemented during the year 2018 by the BRD / SC. The implementation of these projects is intended to ensure their sustainability by institutionalizing them for subsequent implementation by the Government. In order to facilitate the application to the program, the *Regulation of application to the diaspora engagement hub (DEH) program* was elaborated which included: the objectives, the fields of application, the eligibility criteria, the list of requested documents, the project selection procedures, the implementation procedures, the reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation of DEH Program

In 2019 two calls for proposals were published (17 April - 25 may and 29 august -15 September). The announcement has been placed on the official BRD website <http://www.brd.gov.md/ro/content/o-noua-runda-de-granturi-cadrul-programului-diaspora-engagement-hub-deh>, as well as undertaken by media companies, it has also been promoted via BRD social networks. As a result of evaluation, 9 qualitative applications that have accumulated more than 70% of the maximum score have been proposed for funding.

In 2019, 9 subprojects were implemented (2 subprojects more as planned), including 3 subprojects - Professional Diaspora Return, 6 subprojects - Diaspora Innovative Projects.

In 2020 the call for proposals for the DEH grants was published (15.01.2020). There were implemented 10 DEH subprojects, including: 2 subprojects - Professional Diaspora Return, 3 subprojects - Diaspora Innovative Projects, 5 subprojects - DEH for youth (from them 2 were financed from State Budget).

The implementation of the DEH subprojects in their initial form was partly compromised by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the context of the realities caused by COVID-19 and following the dialogue with beneficiaries selected by the Evaluation Committee on 11.03.2020, BRD considered opportune to offer the possibility, including to beneficiaries who cannot physically come to the Republic of Moldova, to organize the projects remotely.

The proposals were submitted to the Evaluation Committee to amend the procedures for implementing of the DEH program in 2020.

DEH for youth. At the Gala of Original Students from the Republic of Moldova “Academic Excellence for Moldova”, 2019 edition, the idea of a Diaspora Engagement Hub Program for young people was launched. The purpose of the subprogram is to support the implementation and promotion of the initiatives and ideas of young people in the diaspora in order to capitalize on the human capital of the diaspora for the economic, social and cultural development of the country. The Regulation for application to the program DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HUB (DEH), including necessary annexes for applicants were developed by a national consultant (selected by a project evaluation committee). All documents were consulted and approved by BRD.

In 2021 the implementation of the DEH Program continued. By the deadline for submission of applications, April 18, 2021, were approved for funding 6 subprojects (3 from SDC resources, 3 from State Budget), from them: Professional Diaspora Return (1 subproject from SDC), Diaspora Innovative Projects (2 subprojects from SDC, 1 subproject from State Budget), DEH for youth (2 subprojects from State Budget). The subprojects are in implementation stage.

Within the program **Government comes closer to you** the online session was organized in cooperation with the National Social Insurance House (23.06.2020). The issues of interest regarding the International Agreements in the field of social security concluded by the Republic of Moldova with other states, their implementation and the perspectives that it offers for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova working abroad were addressed. The session was attended by representatives of the Moldovan diaspora from Turkey, Italy, the Russian Federation, Israel, Germany, Belgium, Cyprus, Poland, Austria, Kazakhstan, and United Kingdom <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/sesiunea-line-cu-diaspora-republicii-moldova-cadrul-programului-guvernul-mai-aproape-de-tine>

For a wider communication with the diaspora, BRD continued the activity regarding the publication of materials in Russian language, action initiated with the support of SDC within the project, the phase ended in 2018. Also, the materials translated into Russian language are disseminated on Odnoklassnici.ru, popular platform among the eastern diaspora.

There were no activities delivered in 2021.

Another activity is **Development of the portal/platform with the diaspora pool of experts.** The national consultant (selected by the project evaluation committee) elaborated and presented: (i) The Concept of the Communication and information platform in the field of Diaspora, Migration and

Development, (ii) Specifications for the development of the Communication and Information Platform in the field of Diaspora, Migration and Development. The documents were consulted, adjusted according to the comments received and approved by BRD.

During Diaspora's Days 2020, the necessity of the communication platform between the Government and the representatives of the diaspora was confirmed. The resources for development were identified in the project from the savings due to activities provided online (*Output 3. National Government Programs for diaspora engagement are effectively implemented*). The reallocation of resources were approved, call for proposals were launched (<https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/termen-extins-brd-anunta-concurs-de-selectare-unei-companii-pentru-elaborarea-platfomei-de>).

The IT company (selected by the project evaluation committee) will provide the following services: (i) Programming the Communication and Information Platform in the field of Diaspora, Migration and Development in accordance with the concept and specifications below; (ii) Carrying out the following training sessions for the subsequent administrators of the Platform: training of BRD staff regarding the structure of the platform and placement of the content within it, training of delegates from other institutions who will have the opportunity to upload materials in certain sections but without their direct publication on the site, training of the person in charge of the technical part, regarding the management of the existing platform and functionalities. (iii) Providing maintenance and support services for 12 months, after the warranty period, during which it will be obliged to correct without payment any deficiency and error detected in the operation of the page; (iv) Elaboration and presentation to the beneficiary (BRD) of the User Manual of the administration module.

The company developed the Platform during the period 2020-2021. In December 2020 the first deliverable *Services for the elaboration of the technical specification of the Platform* was provided. It includes the technical parameters and description of the modules: Introduction to the technical specification; Terms and abbreviations; Legislation; System architecture; Information system components; SIA information security.

Currently, the development of the platform is in the process of completion. BRD has sent a request to the DMD focal points and is in the process of collecting the relevant information to complete the platform domains. The platform is expected to be launched on Diaspora Days in August.

In order to support the implementation of ongoing diaspora initiatives/programs a number of procurement of goods and services have been carried out. Contract to organize an online training program during the Diaspora Days for teachers from Diaspora Educational Centers. The program will offer to the beneficiaries the opportunity to organize linguistic and cultural immersions, competitions for children, various activities to promote the Republic of Moldova through customs, language and traditions.

Action 3.4 Conducting activities of M&E system on Diaspora engagement policies and programs.

The action was completed in 2020. The national consultant contracted for the *Coordination of the implementation process and development of the report on the implementation of the M&E system of DMD*, according to the GoM Decision no. 725, led the activities on evaluation of implementation of DMD concept at APC level. With support of the APC focal points on DMD, the data collection exercise for the matrix of indicators for the evaluation of M&E was done. By the consultant was elaborated the consolidated data matrix which was consulted and approved by BRD in 2020. The online workshop held (02.06.2020, <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/atelier-de-lucru-online-privind-analiza-rezultatelor-exercitiului-de-colectare-datelor>) on the analysis of the results of the data collection exercise for the Participatory Assessment of the Matrix for the implementation of policies in the field of M&E DMD, with participation of 17 representatives from APC. Additionally, a series of online on-job meetings took place with

data holders (MSMPS, ANOFM, ASP, IGPF / MAI, BMA / MAI, CNAS, BRD), as well online consultations with APC focal points on DMD. By the consultant was developed the first *Report on the implementation of the M&E system of DMD*, which was consulted with BRD, APC focal points on DMD. The online session of the focal points for validation of the report were conducted (August 5, 2020), report approved and published on BRD web page https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport_m_e_dmd_29.07.2020_def.pdf.

The report includes the evaluation of the implementation of DMD concept at central level, the recommendations of improvement of M&E matrix, as well as of the entire M&E process, the most important: (i) most sectorial strategies expire in 2020. It is recommended to carry out the exercise of re-evaluating indicators under the M&E DMD matrix and data sources in order to update and improve their quality and relevance, including addressing the challenges and deficiencies identified in the collection and analysis process, (ii) elaboration of the Monitoring Report with periodicity every 3 years taking into account the fact that the policy implications are not so visible from year to year, as well as considerable efforts involving the participatory M&E exercise, (iii) for the provision of the up-to-date comprehensive statistical information, which is necessary for the record keeping and continuous monitoring, it is recommended to perform the annual data collection process for the indicators from the DMD M&E matrix, (iv) in order to increase the quality of the information to be presented, it is recommended to further strengthen the capacities of the BRD team to provide methodological and, if necessary, operational support to partner institutions in the process of completing the indicators within the DMD M&E matrix.