

Supporting Inclusive Dialogue and Strengthening Capacities for a Better Functioning Gagauz Autonomy in Moldova

“Supporting Inclusive Dialogue and Strengthening Capacities for a Better Functioning Gagauz Autonomy in Moldova” is a three-year project bringing together legislators, experts and interested parties from Chisinau, Comrat and across Moldova to find joint solutions to common issues related to the Gagauzia autonomy. The project will run from 2019-2021, facilitated by CMI and funded by Sweden.

This work builds on the results of three years of dialogue between legislators from the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauz People’s Assembly within the Gagauzia Working Group (GWG), a parliamentary dialogue platform facilitated by a previous CMI [project](#).¹

Creating Joint Solutions to Common Problems

The project works to create a positive political environment for dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat, and to enhance the capacities of all parties to address institutional disputes between the centre and the autonomy and legislative contradictions.

To support this process, the project will **increase knowledge and understanding of autonomy issues** in Chisinau and Comrat, **increase institutional capacities for dialogue** about them, and **increase trust** between all interested parties to support the development of joint solutions.



With this foundation, the project will work with key stakeholders in both Chisinau and Comrat to:

- Develop a vision for policies in specific areas within the Gagauzia Autonomy (culture, education and tourism), and address the laws governing these policies in line with the 1994 Law on the Special Legal Status of Gagauzia,
- Increase cooperation and coordination between Chisinau and Comrat to develop joint solutions to shared problems, and establish potential methods and institutional mechanisms to clarify autonomy competences and resolve disputes.



¹ “Supporting the Efficient Exercise of Gagauzia’s Autonomous Powers within Moldova’s Constitutional Framework” ran from 2015-2018, facilitated by CMI and funded by Sweden. For more information about the impact and results of the dialogue process, visit gagauziadialogue.md

Implementing an Inclusive Process

The project has partnered with Moldovan organisation CONTACT Centre to deliver inclusive participatory processes with civil society, academia, subject matter experts, and interested parties in Chisinau and Comrat. This engagement focuses on the priorities of the Gagauzia autonomy in the areas of education, culture and tourism, and will inform the work of the project Task Force, ensuring that all perspectives contribute to the agenda, substance and objectives of the parliamentary dialogue process and policy development activities.

Restarting the Parliamentary Dialogue Process

The project will restart the activities of the Gagauzia Working Group (GWG), continuing the parliamentary dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat that began in 2015. The GWG is the only institutional political dialogue platform dedicated to the effective functioning of the Gagauz autonomy in the Republic of Moldova, and is made up of representatives from all parties of the Moldovan Parliament and all interest groups and stakeholders in the People's Assembly. The Group is intended to create an informal and formal dialogue process to enable the development of joint solutions to common problems, based on the interests of its members and input from experts and interested parties.

Working with the Gagauzia Autonomy and Government in Chisinau to Build Capacities and Develop Solutions

The project will work with key stakeholders and institutions in Chisinau and Comrat to broaden their dialogue capacities and improve their technical knowledge about how autonomies function, with support and input from European autonomy experts Eurac Research. Improved understanding of these issues at the executive level has the potential to stimulate substantive discussions, support the joint search for solutions, and develop broader, sustainable support for the solutions that are found. The project will also convene a number of dedicated thematic groups, made up of international and Moldovan experts, to inform the discussions of the GWG. The Working Group will work closely with each thematic group to determine the agenda of issues to be worked on, and the research results will be returned to the GWG for discussion and endorsement.

Expected Project Outcomes

3 Gagauzia Policy Documents	Institutional Capacities	Sustainable Dialogue Platform	Proposed Draft Laws and Mechanisms
 <p>Education Culture Tourism</p>	 <p>Dialogue Skills and Autonomy Function</p>	 <p>Gagauzia Working Group</p>	 <p>Improved Legal Framework and Dispute Resolution Mechanism</p>



About CMI: CMI is an independent Finnish organization that works to prevent and resolve conflicts through informal dialogue and mediation. Nobel Peace laureate and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari founded CMI in 2000. Since then, the organization has grown to become one of the leaders in its field.



About Sweden: Sweden has a long-term commitment for continued support to Eastern Partnership countries through its Results Strategy 2014-2020. Key priority areas include strengthened democracy, greater respect for human rights, a more fully developed state under the rule of law, and gender inclusion.