



## General information and results of the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia

2015–2022



### General information:

- ✓ **The Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia (PWG)** was established by the decision of the speaker of the Parliament, No. 206 of November 20, 2015<sup>1</sup>, and the decision of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia no. 270 -X1X/Y of March 11, 2014<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ **The group consists of an equal number of members of the Parliament** (representing all the parliamentary factions) and members of **the People's Assembly**, and its composition is approved by a decision of the speaker of the Parliament and the decision of the president of the People's Assembly, each of them appointing a co-chairperson of the Working group. When the PWG was initially established, it consisted of 5 representatives from each side, but from 2017 this was increased to 7 representatives from each side.
- ✓ A **regulation**<sup>3</sup> was introduced to increase the efficiency of PWG activities.

✓ **The key objectives of the PWG**, as stipulated in Decision no. 206 of November 20, 2015, are the following:

- Establishment of a permanent dialogue between the Parliament and the People's Assembly to ensure, within the constitutional framework, the functioning of the ATU Gagauzia and of the implementation of Moldovan Legislation;
- Analysis of the conformity of the provisions from the Law on special legal status of Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri) no. 344-XIII of December 23, 1994 with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, and the proposal of amendments to exclude inconsistencies;
- Development of an Action Plan on ensuring the functionality of the special legal status of ATU Gagauzia and Moldovan legislation in line with the provisions from the Constitution and Law on special legal status of ATU Gagauzia (Gagauz Eri) no. 344-XIII of December 23, 1994;
- Improvement of national legislation in line with the provisions of the Law on special legal status of ATU Gagauzia and delimitation of competences of the central authorities and of the Autonomy authorities through analysis of national legislation and legislation of the Autonomy and preparing drafts for their amendment and completion.
- Development of recommendations for the improvement of interaction between the national authorities and ATU Gagauzia in compliance with good European practice;
- Establishment of a permanent mechanism for consultation and conflict resolution between the central authorities and ATU Gagauzia.

<sup>1</sup> Decision no. 206 of November 20, 2015 on the creation of the Working Group to ensure within the constitutionality norms the functionality of the autonomous territorial unit Gagauzia and of the Moldovan legislation regarding the special legal status of Gagauzia.

<sup>2</sup> Decision of People's Assembly of Gagauzia no. 270 -X1X/Y of March 11, 2014 on the establishment of a special Commission of People's Assembly MPs for joint activity with members of the Parliament of Moldova to bring Moldovan legislation in compliance with the Law on the special legal status of Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation on the activity of the Working Group to ensure, within the constitutional norms, the functionality of ATU Gagauzia and of the Moldovan legal provisions related to the special legal status of ATU Gagauzia.





## Key results of the PWG activity

- ✓ The Group has agreed approximately **60 joint decisions**.
- ✓ The Group carried out **51 informal meetings** and **25 formal meetings**.
- ✓ On the initiative of the PWG, **analysis of legislation in the areas of culture, public health, economy and environment** at the national and regional levels was carried out to identify legislative gaps and to determine normative acts requiring modification. **More than 600 laws** were analysed and legislative amendments were drafted for the improvement of provisions in these areas for ATU Gagauzia in order for consistency with the general normative framework in the area of culture, public health, economy and environment. As a result, approximately **30 draft laws were developed**, 4 of which were approved in the Parliament with the relevant amendments. There have been amendments to 4 national laws in the area of culture (Law on libraries; Law on museums; Law on military burial grounds and military memorial sites; Law on public monuments).
- ✓ The PWG also examined an proposed amendments to the Law on administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova; the Law on administrative decentralization and the Law on local public administration, which provide for a special administrative level for ATU Gagauzia and assign a **special level to the public authorities of the autonomy** (the People's Assembly of Gagauzia, the Bashkan and the Executive Committee). These amendments were voted on by the Moldovan Parliament in 2020. The Parliament also voted in the first reading amendments to the Law on the special legal status of Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri).
- ✓ On the recommendation of the PWG, the People's Assembly of Gagauzia proposed the creation of a **mechanism for the monitoring of draft legislation**, examined by the Parliament.
- ✓ In the framework of the PWG initiatives were developed on the creation of a package of modifications for national and regional laws, to create a **mechanism for mutual consultations** (asymmetric consultations). The goal of the initiatives is to ensure that the opinion of the People's Assembly is requested while draft of the national legislation modifications are being analysed, if they are related to Gagauzia. Similar changes were proposed for the improvement of the ATU Gagauzia legal framework so that the official authorities from Chisinau could also be consulted during the adoption of local legislation. This result was reflected in the Report of the European Commission on the progress of Moldova towards accession negotiations to the European Union. The Report was published on November 8, 2023
- ✓ A PWG initiative to **open the Agency for regional development** made it possible to include Gagauzia on the regional development projects' map. This allowed the implementation of important infrastructure projects from the state budget with effect from January 1, 2017. Among the key elements are: increasing tourist activity through the reconstruction of the "Ferapontievca – Avdarma – Chiriet-Lunga" road. This amounted to expenditure of 29 964.9 MDL; a complex of measures for the increase in energy efficiency of the Health Centre in Comrat municipium, in a total amount of 11 950.6 MDL; landscaping and connection to public amenities of the Comrat industrial park, in the amount of 30 010.3 MDL.



✓ In the framework of a meeting in Gagauzia, based on the PWG action plan on the priority socio-economic issues, the Government approved the **Action plan on the socio-economic development of Gagauzia 2016-2019**. Progress was achieved in the following areas:

- **Modification of the legal framework regarding the distribution of financing from national funds** - annual distribution of the Road Fund directed for the reconstruction of roads in ATU Gagauzia, following the principle of proportionality.
- **Implementation of a State programme for the studying of Romanian language** - opening groups with simultaneous education in both Romanian and Gagauzian languages in kindergartens.
- **Development of the area of education in ATU Gagauzia** - offering transportation, if necessary to ATU Gagauzia for pre-university education institutions; finalization of the construction and the commissioning of the kindergarten in Cismichioi village, with financial support from the President of Turkmenistan, as well as the construction of access to the kindergarten.
- **Development of the medical sector in ATU Gagauzia** - determining sources of financing for the equipping of the surgery facility of the Comrat district hospital with medical equipment and furniture.
- **Development of the culture and sports sectors in ATU Gagauzia** - construction of the Creation house in Comrat municipality.
- **Development and rehabilitation in the area of infrastructure and environment protection in ATU Gagauzia** - construction of a water supply network in the village Chiriet-Lunga; construction of a sewerage water collector in Comrat; construction of a waste-water treatment installation with bio-cleaning technology for the kindergarten-gymnasium in Ferapontievca village; technical-economical inspection of the pesticide-storage area in Cismichioi village to determine the amount and nature of obsolete pesticide and drafting recommendations on their disposal and further management of the area.
- **Development and implementation of the regional development strategy of ATU Gagauzia** - development of the Regional Development Strategy for ATU Gagauzia; Government Decision approving the single programme document for 2017-2020; project implementation: construction of a sewerage system in the commune Svetlyi, Comrat district; optimisation of the solid waste management system in Vulcanesti district; development of infrastructure and access roads to the business park in Ciadar-Lunga; landscaping and connection to public amenities and access roads for the industrial park in Comrat municipality; increasing the energy efficiency of the Health Centre of Comrat municipality building; reconstruction of the road Ferapontievca – Avdarma.
- **Development of strategic documents for the development of tourism in ATU Gagauzia** - development and approval of the Tourism Development Strategy for ATU Gagauzia.
- **Public property management** - beginning of the construction process of high-voltage electricity line (HVL) of 330/400 KW Vulcanesti-Chisinau, crossing the territory of Comrat, which is reflected on the balance of the state enterprise “Mold-electrica”.

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- ✓ As the result of a PWG initiative and recommendations **a new formula for calculating the distribution of resources from the National Road Fund** was adopted. The Gagauzian proposal has been accepted to take into account the principle of proportionality in length of local roads in ATU Gagauzia versus the general indicator in the Republic of Moldova. Investments started being directed annually for the development of road infrastructure in Gagauzia from the state budget. This initiative fits into the general context at the national level, since with effect from January 1, 2017 the finance reform of the Road Fund has impacted all local public administration authorities in the Republic of Moldova. The changes in legislation made it possible for ATU Gagauzia to attract approximately 239 717.1 MDL from the state budget between 2017-2022.
- ✓ An important step in ensuring **transparency of public money distribution** was the inclusion of the governor of Gagauzia into the structure of the administrative funds: both **Road Fund and Regional Development Fund**.

- ✓ With regard to the process of clarification of competences in specific areas (education, culture and tourism), with the support from international experts, the Autonomy authorities developed a **process of policy development** with multilateral participation by all interested stakeholders in comprehensive consultations, which helped the Autonomy authorities develop three strategic policy documents:

- Strategic Programme for the development of education in ATU Gagauzia (2022-2030)
- Strategic Programme for the development of culture in ATU Gagauzia (2022-2030)
- Strategic Programme for the development of tourism in ATU Gagauzia (2021-2025)

These documents reflect the vision of the Autonomy on the further strategic development in the area of education, culture and tourism, which will serve as a basis for further delineation of competences.

- ✓ The study **“The centre-autonomy institutional arrangements and relationships of the Gagauz Autonomy”** was developed at the request of the PWG. This focused on examination of procedures and mechanisms governing institutional relations between the centre and the Autonomy. The report provides a set of important recommendations on modernisation and improvement of mechanisms between the centre and the autonomy, regarding the representation of the autonomy at the central level, mutual coordination and conflict resolution between the central authorities and the leadership from the autonomy. The recommendations were developed for both central and autonomy authorities, representing a comprehensive document that may be useful both for civil society and for the state administration for a better awareness on the autonomy and its position in the legislative system of the Republic of Moldova.



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