

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE

Finding joint solutions to common issues



30 years of Gagauzia Autonomy celebrated at the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova

On 20 December 2024, the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova organised an event dedicated to the celebration of 30th anniversary of the autonomy. President Maia Sandu together with Speaker Igor Grosu and Prime Minister Dorin Recean discussed with members of the Gagauz community emphasizing the essence of the autonomy, created to protect and promote the Gagauz language, culture, and traditions, and the need for renewed efforts to ensure that these goals are truly achieved.

The participants also discussed the need for reestablishment of constructive dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat to support sustainable development, community welfare and better mutual understanding.

During the event a documentary film and a book entitled "Gagauzia - 30 years of Autonomy" were presented to the audience. The materials were elaborated in the framework of the national communication campaign implemented throughout 2024 year by Gagauzia Dialogue. The campaign was designed to raise awareness on Gagauz history, culture and traditions and thus to contribute to social cohesion and inter-ethnic unity in the country.

IN THIS EDITION

30 YEARS OF GAGAUZIA AUTONOMY CELEBRATED AT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

A DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA VISITED SOUTH TYROL TO LEARN THE GOOD PRACTICES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED A NEW COURSE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH CMI SUPPORT

CMI MOLDOVA AWARDED FOR PROMOTING INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL COHESION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

News on Gagauzia Dialogue

A delegation from the Republic of Moldova visited South Tyrol to learn the good practices of the implementation of multilingual education



From 10 to 14 November 2024, an official delegation of the Republic of Moldova, consisting of representatives of the Government: Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Finance, Agency for Interethnic Relations and educational institutions from Chisinau and the Gagauz autonomy, conducted a study visit to South Tyrol (Italy) to have an overview of the progress and understand good practices in the development and implementation of multilingual education.

The study visit is part of the education dialogue process of CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, which supports the efforts of the Ministry of Education and Research to implement the Concept of Multilingual Education in the Republic of Moldova.

The delegation was welcomed by officials from the South Tyrol Government. They emphasised the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingual education, encouraging the exchange of good practices between South Tyrol and the Republic of Moldova.

During the visit, the Moldovan delegation had the opportunity to be familiarised with various innovative educational models and to participate in discussions on topics such as language rights, their integration in the educational process and teacher training strategies. During the meetings, organised at Eurac Research, the delegation delved into topics related to multilingual competences, benefiting from the expertise of researchers with extensive experience in the field of multilingual education.

“This visit was an excellent opportunity to learn from South Tyrol’s experience in the field of multilingual education. The successful models we found here are very relevant to the educational process in the Republic of Moldova, and the exchange of good practices will help us to develop better solutions in key areas such as education and language integration of ethnic minorities.”

- Mrs. Valentina Olaru, State Secretary for General Education, Lifelong Learning and Inter-Ethnic Relations at the Ministry of Education and Research, said.

News on Gagauzia Dialogue



Another purpose of the visit was to study the parity teaching model in the Ladin Valley, which promotes integrated language teaching and respect for the cultural identity of the Ladin community. The delegation visited a school and kindergarten in the region to analyse how innovative educational methods are being introduced and how minority languages are protected and promoted.

The visit also included meetings at the Faculty of Education of the University of Bolzano/Bozen (Ladin Department), where a concrete example of the implementation of multilingual education, from teacher training to the development of teaching materials, was presented.

Following the study visit a meeting to discuss the visits' findings and next steps was organised at the Sweden Embassy to Chisinau. The Ambassador, H.E. Katarina Fried highlighted the importance of multilingual education that will foster social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova. During the meeting the delegation stated that valuable information was acquired, which will help them to develop and implement their own model of multilingual education, reflecting the realities and specificities of the Republic of Moldova.

As a result of the study visit a Joint Coordination Group to work on implementation of a general system of multilingual education in Moldova was established that had the first working meeting on December 5.



News on Gagauzia Dialogue

Institute of Public Administration launched a new course for professional development with CMI support



On November 27, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) with the support of CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, launched a professional development course “Administrative-territorial organization and multi-level governance – theory, comparative international practice and the context of the Republic of Moldova”. The event took place at the Institute’s premises with the attendance of members of academia, local and international expert community, and local public authorities.

In the opening remarks Mr. Serghei Palihovici, Director of the Institute of Public Administration, said that this initiative contributes to capacity building of public administration in the Republic of Moldova as well as strengthen the knowledge of public officials in the field of multilevel governance.

“This course is particularly important for fostering a constant inter-institutional dialogue and communication, essential for the harmonious development of society,”

- Mr. Igor Sarov, Rector of the State University of Moldova said.

“In the EU integration process is crucial to have prepared people that take responsibilities and see the future of Moldova in a family with democratic states,”

- Mrs. Larisa Voloh, Head of the Parliamentary Commission on Public Administration and Regional Development highlighted.



The course is intended for civil servants, officials, and other interested categories, including university professors and master students. It is dedicated to strengthening the capacities of public officials by providing a thorough understanding of multi-level governance adapted to the specific context of the Republic of Moldova and integrating relevant international good practices, which can be a pillar of support for the relations between the centre and autonomy.

The course is accessible in both online and offline formats and caters to a wide range of participants. The program spans 24 academic hours, which are thoughtfully divided into four well-structured modules. Each module is designed to provide in-depth knowledge and practical insights, offering a comprehensive learning experience.

- 1 Module I.** State organization and public administration - theoretical and comparative aspects.
- 2 Module II.** Conceptual and comparative aspects and approaches to of multi-level governance, territorial autonomy in the relations between levels of government.
- 3 Module III.** Special status autonomous territorial unit Gagauzia (Gagauz-Yeri) within the organization and functioning of the administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova.
- 4 Module IV.** Areas and directions for improving the efficiency of relations between the central government and Gagauz autonomy (analysis, comparison, conclusions).

News on Gagauzia Dialogue



During the launch event, Mrs. Aurelia Tepordei, the Head of the Training and Professional Development Department, presented the developed comprehensive manual designed to provide a solid theoretical foundation for the course. The manual is available for download in both Romanian and Russian on the Institute's website, further supporting participants in their learning process.

Mrs. Tepordei also introduced the newly digitised course, now accessible on IPA's website and invited interested people to follow the periods of open registrations published under the Training and Professional Development section.

Following the event, 30 civil servants and university lecturers benefited from the pilot training over three days, and a certificate ceremony was held on 29 November, where participants received diplomas of completion of the professional development course.

The course piloted in November 2024 on the IPA e-learning platform was a remarkable success. Overall 286 civil servants registered for the course during the last semester. The first graduates of the e-course appreciated the quality of the materials and the relevance of the topics to their professional work.

Participants emphasized that the course provides valuable knowledge for an in-depth understanding of territorial autonomy and inter-institutional relations.

The development of the course was made possible thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Public Administration/Moldova State University and CMI. This collaboration is part of the "Gagauzia Dialogue" project supported by Sweden, and aims to promote inclusive and effective governance in the Republic of Moldova.



News on Gagauzia Dialogue

CMI Moldova awarded for promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova

On December 3, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation was awarded for its contribution to promoting interethnic dialogue and social cohesion in the Republic of Moldova at the inaugural Ethnic Communities Gala.

The award and the diploma of gratitude and appreciation were presented by the governmental organization Agency for Interethnic Relations of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

The event held at the Palace of the Republic, under the title “Unity in Diversity” was a premiere for the Republic of Moldova. The festivity celebrated excellence in interethnic relations and the appreciation of people who promote diversity and social cohesion in the spirit of Moldova’s European aspirations.

“At this special event, we pay tribute to people who make the Republic of Moldova an example of harmonious coexistence,”

- Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova emphasised.

Handing over the trophies, Doina Gherman, Vice-President of the Parliament, expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated work, specifying that supporting social cohesion and interethnic cohesion is essential for the democracy of the Republic of Moldova and the European path.



The event was attended by high-ranking officials from central and local government, diplomatic missions, international and non-governmental organizations, as well as leaders of Moldova’s ethnocultural communities.

Gagauzia Dialogue

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MARTTI AHTISAARI
PEACE FOUNDATION



"Supporting institutionalized and sustainable dialogue on Gagauzia Autonomy" or "Gagauzia Dialogue" is a project that aims to contribute to the establishment of a constructive and sustainable dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat by strengthening institutions and capacities within the Parliamentary Working Group on Gagauzia. To support this process, the project brings together legislators, experts and stakeholders from Chisinau, Comrat and the rest of the country to find common solutions to common issues related to ATU Gagauzia. The project is implemented by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Foundation with the support of Sweden.

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