

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE

Strengthening Dialogue, Institutions, and Social Cohesion across Moldova



National Center for Multilingual Education launched to promote diversity and inclusive learning in Moldova

On 26 December, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, in partnership with the “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University in Chisinau and with the support of Sweden, launched the National Centre for Multilingual Education. The Centre serves as a national platform for training, research, and innovation in multilingual education.

The initiative directly supports the implementation of the Action Plan on multilingual education in allophone schools for 2025–2030, approved by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

The launch event brought together over 100 participants, including representatives of central public authorities, academia, international organizations, civil society, as well as teachers, school principals, and students.

By establishing the National Centre for Multilingual Education, the Republic of Moldova takes an important step toward strengthening a modern and inclusive education system. Multilingual education is promoted not only as an educational approach but as a model that values diversity, fosters mutual respect, and supports the personal and academic development of every learner.

(continues on page 2)

IN THIS EDITION

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MULTILINGUAL
EDUCATION LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING IN
MOLDOVA

MOLDOVA APPROVES MULTILINGUAL
EDUCATION FRAMEWORK AND LAUNCHES
PILOT PHASE

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE
CAPACITIES ACROSS MOLDOVA’S REGIONS

CIVIC DIALOGUE PLATFORM LAUNCHED IN
ATU GAGAUZIA TO ENHANCE COOPERATION
BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

WOMEN’S ROLE IN PEACE PROCESSES
EXPLORED AT DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLE IN
GAGAUZIA

MOLDOVAN DELEGATION STUDIES
AUTONOMY AND GOVERNANCE MODELS IN
FINLAND: LESSONS FROM ÅLAND ISLANDS

News on Multilingual Education



Following the approval of the Concept and National Action Plan on Multilingual Education (2025–2030), the Republic of Moldova has entered a new phase in advancing inclusive and quality education for all learners, regardless of their linguistic background.

“The launch of the Center marks a defining moment in the modernization of the education system in the Republic of Moldova. It reflects the transition from vision to action and from strategic commitments to concrete mechanisms for implementation,” stated **Valentina Olaru**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Research.

Alexandra Barbaneagra, Rector of the “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University, highlighted the broader significance of the initiative: “This project is an important milestone for the entire education system. It contributes to the development of an inclusive, modern, and future-oriented educational process.”

The Center will provide teachers and future educators with specialised training, mentoring, and modern teaching resources. Schools and educational institutions will receive guidance to align their programmes with national and European standards. The initiative also encourages collaboration with civil society and local communities, supporting intercultural education and fostering social cohesion.

For a teacher in an allophone school, the Center represents continuous access to adapted teaching methodologies and long-term professional support.



During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CMI and the “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University, reinforcing cooperation in training and research related to multilingual education.



“**Natalia Djandjgava**, Country Manager of CMI, emphasized the broader role of multilingual education: “For CMI, multilingual education is a tool for building trust, stimulating dialogue, and strengthening social cohesion between communities.”

Through this initiative, CMI contributes to the development of open, modern, and inclusive education that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Republic of Moldova and promotes a society in which linguistic diversity becomes a resource for social inclusion and cohesion.

More information about the Centre and its activities can be found on the following link: <https://upsc.md/en/national-center-for-multilingual-education/>.

News on Multilingual Education



Moldova Approves Multilingual Education Framework and Launches Pilot Phase



Gagauzia
Dialogue
...

On 18 September, the Ministry of Education and Research approved the regulatory framework for the implementation of multilingual education in allophone schools in the Republic of Moldova.

Under the new framework, pupils will study in Romanian, their mother tongue, and foreign languages, helping them build strong language skills and intercultural understanding.

The document also highlights the importance of schools working closely with families and communities, while supporting teachers with modern training and practical methods. It includes the Action Plan for 2025–2030, applicable models of multilingual education, and clear regulations for organizing and monitoring the multilingual education process in general education institutions.

The development of the framework benefited from technical expertise and methodological support provided by CMI, at the request of the Ministry. In partnership with the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), CMI supported the creation of the Ministry's Working Group for the development of the Action Plan.

CMI also, in partnership with Eurac Research, facilitated the exchange of international good practices on the implementation of multilingual education based on the example of South Tyrol, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy, enabling the adaptation of European experience to the Moldovan context.

A pilot phase is planned for the 2026–2027 academic year in selected schools, prior to nationwide implementation. Throughout this process, CMI will continue to support the Ministry's efforts, with the support of Sweden, by providing local and international expertise.

To lay the groundwork for the regulatory framework on multilingual education, members of the Working Group engaged in expert discussions during a workshop held on 7 February 2025.



Gagauzia
Dialogue
...

News on Public Administration

Strengthening Local Governance Capacities Across Moldova's Regions



In December 2025, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, together with the School of Public Administration of Moldova State University, organized a series of regional trainings entitled “Administrative-territorial organization and multi-level governance in the Republic of Moldova.”

The trainings were held in Balti, Cahul, Comrat, and Chisinau, bringing together local public servants, elected representatives, and representatives of decentralized public services, as well as university teachers and postgraduate students.

The sessions aimed to strengthen the capacity of local actors to implement administrative reforms and to better understand multi-level governance in the context of decentralization and European integration. Participants explored the relationships between different levels of government, mechanisms of public administration, and possible scenarios for administrative-territorial reform.

During the final training session in Chisinau, Oxana Paierele, program coordinator at the Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau emphasized the relevance of the topics covered and the importance of an in-depth analysis of the administrative-territorial reform.

More than 100 local officials enhanced their understanding of local autonomy and governance processes and better equipped to engage constructively in ongoing reforms.

Participants highlighted the practical relevance of the trainings and their contribution to addressing concrete administrative challenges in their communities.

This activity was carried out within the partnership framework between CMI and MSU/SPA, established under the Gagauzia Dialogue project, reinforcing collaboration between academic institutions and local authorities to support effective governance reform.



News on Civil Society

Civic Dialogue Platform Launched in ATU Gagauzia to Enhance Cooperation Between Authorities and Civil Society



On 14 November 2025, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, in partnership with the Centre for Regional Policy and Reforms, organized a roundtable discussion titled “Dialogue and Participation – Civic Dialogue Platform in ATU Gagauzia.” The event marked the official launch of the Civic Dialogue Platform in the region.

The Platform aims to strengthen dialogue, participation, and trust by providing civil society, academia, the business community, media, and local authorities with a structured space for engagement in decision-making and policy monitoring.

“The Civic Dialogue Platform in ATU Gagauzia is a key initiative aimed at strengthening dialogue, participation, and trust in the region. It will provide a stronger voice for civil society and support more effective local governance,” underlined **Petra Lärke**, Ambassador of Sweden.

“This Platform offers a safe and constructive space for dialogue and expertise, marking an important step towards a more open decision-making process and stronger cooperation among regional stakeholders,” highlighted **Steve Young**, CMI Senior Advisor.

The event gathered representatives of civil society organizations, academia, the business community, as well as international partners, including representatives of the Embassy of Sweden in the Republic of Moldova. They discussed initial priorities, including the development of the Platform’s Rules of Procedure, identification of training needs, creation of thematic working groups, and definition of communication and online participation tools.

“The region needs a solid framework for dialogue, where the voices of experts, citizens, and authorities can meet regularly. The Platform will help identify practical solutions and support a more professional and transparent decision-making process,” stated **Igor Guseinov**, Director of the Centre for Regional Policy and Reforms.

By supporting the establishment of this Platform, CMI contributes to building sustainable dialogue mechanisms that promote transparency, trust, and inclusive public policies in ATU Gagauzia.

News on Women Peace and Security

Women's Role in Peace Processes Explored at Dialogue Roundtable in Gagauzia



On 5 December, a round table discussion “Women in Peacebuilding Processes: The Role of Local Dialogue” was held in Gagauzia, bringing together women from local public administration, CSOs, educational institutions, the business community, journalists, security and development experts, representatives of the Embassy of Sweden, the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA), and the CMI.

The event created a space for dialogue on integrating regional perspectives into national efforts to implement the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

“For over 10 years, CMI has been supporting the dialogue on Gagauzia. Through this initiative of promoting the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, CMI is expanding its activity because the dialogue process requires the involvement of all actors in society. By involving civil society, academia, and women in peacebuilding processes, we can ensure an inclusive approach that reflects the needs and voices of different groups in the community”, stated **Natalia Djandjgava**, Country Manager, CMI.

“Strengthening women’s participation in dialogue processes contributes to a better understanding of local challenges and the identification of sustainable solutions. Women make an impressive contribution to society, and together we are learning how we can change the community we live in,” said **Elena Marzac**, director of PISA.

The round table aimed to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and create a common space for dialogue between local authorities, civil society, and experts in order to identify existing challenges, map ongoing initiatives, and define coherent directions of action.

The participants shared common conclusions and recommendations on how women can contribute more effectively to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region. These include the need to increase local capacities, improve institutional coordination, and create clear mechanisms for women’s participation in decision-making processes.

The round table was organized as part of the project “The role of women in peace processes: needs and perspectives for Gagauzia,” implemented by PISA in partnership with CMI.



News on Dialogue process

Moldovan Delegation Studies Autonomy and Governance Models in Finland: Lessons from Åland Islands



Gagauzia
Dialogue
...

Between 4 and 9 May 2025, a high-level study visit to Finland was organised, with meetings held in Helsinki and Mariehamn, Åland Islands. The visit focused on analysing practical models of institutional cooperation between Finland's central authorities and the autonomous region of Åland, with particular attention to governance arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

The delegation comprised representatives of national authorities, the Gagauz autonomy, civil society, as well as national and international experts, ensuring a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder exchange of experience.

During the visit, the participants learnt about Finland's experience of the European Union accession process and analysed Åland's relations with the EU and the region's participation in international cooperation through Nordic and EU mechanisms.

They also met with H.E. Elisabeth Naucler, Honorary Consul in Finland, who shared her longstanding experience in diplomacy and in fostering regional dialogue and cooperation across diverse contexts.

The meetings at different institutions offered concrete examples of how inclusive governance and institutional cooperation work in practice, helping the delegation reflect on how similar approaches could strengthen decision-making in Moldova and better respond to citizens' needs.



The visit was organised by the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation in cooperation with the Åland Islands Peace Institute with support from Sweden, within the “Gagauzia Dialogue” project.

News on CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

25 Years of CMI: A quarter of a century of Martti Ahtisaari's legacy on peacebuilding

Marking the years of CMI 25

2025 marked CMI's 25-year journey. Founded in 2000 by Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, CMI has since grown to be a leader in the field of international peacemaking. CMI's enduring vision is that all conflicts can be resolved.

Through a series of Martti Ahtisaari Legacy Seminars and milestone events held in different regions, mediators, policymakers, and partners reflected on lessons learned from past dialogue processes and assessed how mediation and dialogue must adapt to today's continuing changing environments.

The anniversary reaffirmed CMI's commitment to practical, inclusive, and sustained dialogue.

These principles have guided CMI's long-term engagement in Moldova. Since 2011, the Gagauzia Dialogue process has provided a structured and trusted space for engagement between central authorities, regional institutions, civil society, and academia.



Gagauzia
Dialogue
...

For its long-term work in Moldova, CMI was recognised for its tangible contribution to promoting interethnic dialogue and strengthening social cohesion in the country.

Beyond commemoration, the anniversary reaffirmed CMI's commitment to practical, dialogue-based engagement at national and local levels. It demonstrated that sustained, inclusive dialogue remains a critical investment in stability, trust, and cooperation—in Moldova and in other complex governance contexts where dialogue continues to matter.

Gagauzia Dialogue

● ● ●
CMI
MARTTI AHTISAARI
PEACE FOUNDATION



"Supporting institutionalized and Sustainable Dialogue on Gagauzia Autonomy" or "Gagauzia Dialogue" is a project that aims to contribute to establishing a constructive and sustainable dialogue between national and local authorities by strengthening institutions and capacities and bringing together experts, representatives of academia, and stakeholders. The project is implemented by CMI–Martti Ahtisaari Foundation with the support of Sweden.

Contacts:

131 Columna Street, Chisinau, Moldova
CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation Office to Moldova
email: cmi.chisinau@cmi.fi; web: www.gagauziadialogue.md

This newsletter was elaborated within the project "Supporting institutionalized and sustainable dialogue on Gagauzia Autonomy" implemented by CMI–Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and funded by Sweden. The opinions provided in the newsletter belong to the authors and do not represent the positions of CMI or Sweden.