

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE



Strengthening Dialogue, Institutions, and Social Cohesion across Moldova



CMI supports dialogue on revitalizing the Gagauz language through education

On April 29, 2026, the International Conference “Preservation, Development, and Promotion of the Gagauz Language in the Multilingual Environment of the Republic of Moldova” was held in Chişinău.

The conference aimed to create a platform for dialogue among representatives of the educational, institutional, scientific, and civil society sectors, facilitating the exchange of best practices and the formulation of strategic directions for the protection, revitalization, and promotion of the Gagauz language.

“I welcome the fact that today’s event seeks to create a platform for dialogue among representatives of the educational, institutional, scientific, and civil society sectors to identify concrete and sustainable solutions for the revitalization of the Gagauz language,” stated the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu.

The event brought together over 100 participants, including researchers, educators, language policy experts, representatives of public authorities and international organizations, as well as experts from Germany, Italy, and Kazakhstan.

(continues on page 2)

IN THIS EDITION



CMI SUPPORTS DIALOGUE ON REVITALIZING THE GAGAUZ LANGUAGE THROUGH EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE ADVANCES THE DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM THROUGH FUNCTIONAL APPROACHES

CIVIC DIALOGUE PLATFORM IN ATU GAGAUZIA ADVANCES INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

PROFESSIONALS FROM GAGAUZIA STRENGTHEN THEIR SKILLS IN USING AI TOOLS

WOMEN IN GAGAUZIA EXPLORE THEIR ROLE IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY DIALOGUE

CMI LAUNCHED A NEW ‘PRACTICAL GUIDANCE NOTE’ ON THE USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS FOR INCLUSIVE MEDIATION IN PEACE PROCESSES

News on Multilingual Education



“Our responsibility is to continue this effort—not only to preserve the Gagauz language, but to make it relevant and attractive to children and young people. A language lives when it is used daily, with confidence,” emphasized Minister of Education and Research Dan Perciun.

The conference featured thematic panels focused on education, language policies, and models of multilingual education.

Additionally, the discussions featured presentations on international experiences from South Tyrol, Italy, and the Sorbian region of Germany. Panellists presented concrete and ongoing initiatives, as well as inter-institutional cooperation, that have led to the preservation of the Ladin and Sorbian languages, respectively.

“From the perspective of the CMI, the promotion of the Gagauz language is a direct investment in social cohesion, the strengthening of dialogue, and the democratic development of the Republic of Moldova,” highlighted CMI Country Manager Natalia Djandjgava.



During the conference, preliminary findings of a sociolinguistic study on the current state of the Gagauz language were presented, along with relevant examples of how digital technologies are used to promote linguistic and cultural heritage.

The event also featured the exhibition “Gagauzia: Identity and People,” showcasing the cultural heritage and contributions of the Gagauz community.

The conference concluded with a set of recommendations aimed at developing public policies in the fields of education and the protection of minority languages. These outcomes will contribute to strengthening cooperation among institutions and developing a coherent framework of measures to support the Gagauz language, in line with European and international standards.

The Conference was transmitted online and can be watched by accessing the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/Mm803cE2BjL>.

The event was co-organized by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, in cooperation with academic institutions and authorities in Gagauzia, with support from Sweden.



News on Public Administration

School of Governance advances the discussion on public administration reform through functional approaches



On 10 February, the School of Governance of Moldova State University convened a roundtable discussion focused on advancing the local public administration reform, with particular attention to the Integrated Functional Administrative Reform (RAFI) model.

The event brought together representatives of academia, central and local public authorities, civil society, and associative structures of local public authorities, providing a platform for inclusive dialogue on strategic directions for sector reform.

Discussions focused on the RAFI model as a proposed public policy solution aimed at enhancing the functionality and performance of local administrations. The model promotes a shift from structural reorganization toward a function-based approach, supporting more efficient institutional arrangements, strengthening the sustainability of local governments, and improving the quality of public services delivered to citizens.

The inputs collected during the discussion were a valuable contribution to the finalization of the policy proposal. The roundtable underscored the importance of evidence-based policymaking and multi-stakeholder engagement in shaping

effective and sustainable reforms in local public administration, in line with broader efforts to strengthen governance and institutional capacities in the Republic of Moldova.

The activity was part of the actions planned in the partnership between CMI and USM/SPA established by the Memorandum of Understanding signed within the project “Gagauzia Dialogue”, implemented by CMI and supported by Sweden.



News on Civil Society

Civic Dialogue Platform in ATU Gagauzia advances inclusive dialogue on administrative reform



On 4 February 2026 the Civic Dialogue Platform in ATU Gagauzia marked a key milestone with the official launch of its activities.

The event brought together representatives of civil society, academia, local public authorities, the business community, media, as well as international partners, including the Embassy of Sweden in Chişinău, providing a structured space for inclusive dialogue on regional policy issues.

During the meeting, the Platform adopted its Rules of Procedure, established its coordination mechanisms through the election of a Secretariat and Coordinator, and initiated discussions on administrative-territorial reform in the Republic of Moldova.

Also in February, the members of the Platform participated in a thematic session focused on the administrative-territorial reform.

The presentation focused on the Integrated Functional Administrative Reform model drafted by Serghei Palihovici, the Head of the School of Governance of Moldova State University.

Participants exchanged views on the potential risks and opportunities of the reform for ATU Gagauzia, emphasising the need to align reform efforts with local realities and ensure that proposed solutions respond to the specific administrative and institutional context of the autonomy. Particular attention was given to how civil society in Gagauzia can contribute to ongoing reform debates and help ensure that policy solutions reflect local needs and realities.

The meeting reaffirmed the role of the Civic Dialogue Platform as a trusted and inclusive mechanism for consultation and cooperation, enabling stakeholders to translate expertise and dialogue into concrete policy recommendations.



The Platform was established within the framework of the “Gagauzia Dialogue” project implemented by CMI with the support of Sweden, and serves as a non-formal, apolitical, and open space designed to strengthen civic participation and support more inclusive and accountable regional policymaking processes.

News on Civil Society

Professionals from Gagauzia strengthen their skills in using AI tools



On 12 March, more than 25 professionals from Gagauzia participated in a training session in Comrat dedicated to the use of artificial intelligence tools in analytics, research, and project development.

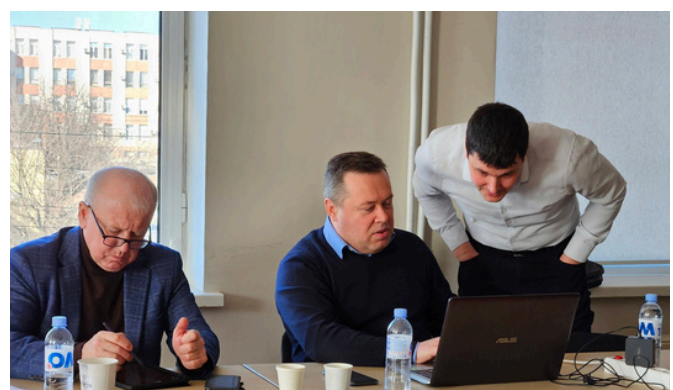
The event was held in a hybrid format, enabling participants to explore practical applications of AI technologies and understand how these tools can enhance professional performance, support data analysis, and improve the design and implementation of projects.

The training brought together members of the Civic Dialogue Platform, representatives of civil society organizations, public authorities, and media professionals, creating a collaborative space for learning and exchange on the role of emerging technologies in supporting professional activities and civic initiatives.

The session also engaged active women from the region involved in initiatives related to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, contributing to more inclusive participation in capacity-building efforts.

This activity formed part of a broader series of capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening the competencies of Civic Dialogue Platform members.

Through such efforts, the Platform continues to promote the use of innovative tools and approaches that support informed dialogue, enhance professional skills, and foster active civic participation in the region.



News on Women Peace and Security

Women in Gagauzia explore their role in strengthening peace and security dialogue



and civil society explored practical ways to strengthen dialogue and ensure tangible outcomes, including increased participation through training opportunities, cultural initiatives, formal representation, and awareness-raising efforts.

Overall, the two-day programme reaffirmed the potential of women’s voices in Gagauzia to contribute to building a more secure, inclusive, and cooperative society.

During 19-20 February, 2026, a two-day training on “Women in Peace Processes: Needs and Perspectives for Gagauzia” brought together women from the region to explore their role in advancing peace, security, and inclusive decision-making at the local level.

Discussions addressed the importance of strategic communication in strengthening women’s influence in decision-making processes. Through sessions on human security, participants examined real community-level challenges and applied practical tools to identify needs, risks, and potential solutions relevant to the region.

Sessions on cooperation between authorities

Participants emphasized both the societal relevance and personal impact of the training. As highlighted during the discussions, “safety begins at home, and the challenges women face are directly linked to the well-being of the entire community.” Reflecting on the experience, one participant noted: “I started to see my role differently and understood that my voice matters.”

The initiative was implemented by PISA in partnership with CMI. It contributes to advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda by strengthening local capacities, fostering inclusive dialogue, and supporting women’s active participation in shaping sustainable peace and security processes in the region.



News on CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

CMI launched a new 'Practical Guidance Note' on the use of digital tools for inclusive mediation in peace processes



Digital technologies are reshaping conflict and peace processes, with significant implications for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Against this backdrop, CMI convened a webinar bringing together experts to discuss whether AI can make peace mediation more inclusive and to explore the opportunities and risks of digital technologies for the WPS agenda, and what this means in practice for how mediation processes are designed and facilitated.

The webinar also marked the launch of the new [Practical Guidance Note for Mediators on Digital Inclusion](#).

The practical guidance outlines the key principles and functions of digital inclusion, with a focus on how mediators can apply these in real process design. The publication also outlines risks and ways to mitigate them, together with examples of use cases.

Drawing on extensive experience across regions, the panelists shared practical insights and examples from Afghanistan, Armenia, and Sudan.

The webinar discussions highlighted that digital approaches are a valuable addition to other forms of engagement in peace processes. When applied appropriately, they can help broaden participation by bringing in a wider range of stakeholders, either through digital engagement or the use of digital data.

A key takeaway from the discussion was that digital approaches are most effective when they complement – not replace – face-to-face engagement and are embedded in broader political strategies.

The webinar also underscored that each context requires deliberate and tailored process design, alongside a clear assessment of challenges and risks, such as political and security concerns, ethical considerations, and the threats posed by mis and disinformation, which can directly shape trust and legitimacy in peace processes.

Gagauzia Dialogue



"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.gagauzialogue.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.