

GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE

Strengthening Dialogue, Institutions, and Social Cohesion across Moldova



CMI and Ministry of Education and Research Sign Memorandum to Promote Multilingual Education and Social Cohesion

On 29 May 2026, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a framework for cooperation to support the implementation of multilingual education and strengthen social cohesion.

The Memorandum provides for cooperation in advancing the development of multilingual education, facilitating the exchange of experience and good practices, and promoting dialogue and the effective participation of national minorities and young people in public policy-making processes.

An important component of the cooperation is support for the National Centre for Multilingual Education, established in partnership with the “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University in Chisinau, with support from Sweden. The cooperation also entails activities implemented within the “Social Cohesion through Dialogue” project, funded by the European Union, aiming at strengthening intercultural dialogue, promoting inclusive participation of ethnic and linguistic minorities, and encouraging young people to engage actively in public life.

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National Network of Trainers Built to Promote Multilingual Education in Moldova

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From 22 to 25 June 2026, 37 teachers, university professors and representatives of educational institutions participated in the Training-of-Trainers Programme on Multilingual Education and the Content and Language Integrated Learning methodology (CLIL).

The programme aimed to develop a national network of trainers equipped to support the implementation of multilingual education and provide continuous professional development for teachers. It contributes directly to the National Action Plan for the Implementation of Multilingual Education 2025–2030, helping translate national policy commitments into effective classroom practice.

Over four days, participants explored the principles and models of multilingual education, combined theoretical sessions with practical exercises, case studies and collaborative work.

“We hope this initiative will also serve as a launching pad for the National Center for Multilingual Education, so that the Center can act as an umbrella organisation for schools in the Republic of Moldova and strengthen collaboration between higher education and pre-university education,” said Lucia Ceperaga, vice rector of the “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University in Chisinau.

The training program brought international expertise from Romania, Estonia and South Tyrol, Italy. Trainers shared practical approaches to multilingual education, enabling participants to develop lesson scenarios and consider how international approaches could be adapted to Moldova’s educational context.

The transition from teacher to trainer represents an important element in ensuring that knowledge and practical approaches gained through the programme can reach a wider community of educators.

“Having the opportunity to learn from trainers and their experiences allows us to bring this knowledge back to our colleagues and strengthen the teaching and learning process in our multilingual school,” said Angela Murzac, Head of Dimitrie Cantemir Theoretical High School, Balti.

The initiative builds on broader efforts to advance multilingual education in Moldova, including events held during the Education Week, where CMI shared the expertise with over 120 participants on multilingual education benefits and direct linkage to social cohesion.

News on Multilingual Education

CMI Brings Expertise from South Tyrol, Romania and Estonia to Support Multilingual Education



During the Training-of-Trainers programme organised on 22-25 June, 2026, CMI mobilized expertise from South Tyrol, Romania and Estonia to support Moldovan education professionals in developing practical approaches to multilingual education.

The programme offered participants an opportunity to examine different models of language learning and teaching, including Estonia's experience with multilingual and bilingual education, Romania's approaches to linguistic diversity, and South Tyrol's Trilingual Ladin School Model.

Particular attention was given to immersive learning environments, language input, action research, teacher cooperation and student-centred learning. The exchange of international experience was designed to help education professionals identify approaches that can be adapted to Moldova's own linguistic, educational and institutional context.

“I see enormous potential for Moldova to become an example for Europe in implementing multilingual education, just as the Ladin school model has become an important example for South Tyrol,” highlighted Renata Zanin, Professor at the Free University of Bolzano, Italy.



Ivan Duminica, representative of the Ministry of Education and Research, highlighted how international cooperation has accelerated Moldova's progress in implementing multilingual education:

“The study visit to South Tyrol, organized with CMI's support, gave the Ministry a real boost in the implementation of multilingual education in the Republic of Moldova, providing us with a clear model of European best practices.”

The programme demonstrated the value of connecting international experience with local expertise. Drawing on experience from Estonia, Romania and South Tyrol, the programme strengthened participants' understanding of multilingual education and equipped them to share relevant approaches and practices with colleagues and schools across Moldova.



News on Women Peace and Security

Women's Participation Strengthens Peace, Dialogue and Social Cohesion in Gagauzia



On 10 July 2026, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and the Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA) convened a roundtable in Chisinau to discuss the findings of the study “The Role of Women in Peace Processes: Needs and Prospects for ATU Gagauzia.”

The event brought together representatives of public authorities, international organisations, diplomatic missions, civil society and experts in peace, security and gender equality. Discussions focused on how the findings of the study can inform concrete efforts to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Gagauzia.

The study emphasises that women already play important roles in community life, education, public administration, civil society, media, yet their experience and perspectives remain insufficiently represented in formal decision-making.

“The study is relevant precisely because it is grounded in the local realities of Gagauzia. CMI’s approach is closely linked to the conviction that women should not be viewed merely as beneficiaries of peace, but as agents of peace and active participants in analysis and dialogue. A peace built without the meaningful participation of women risks being incomplete” highlighted Natalia Djandjgava, Country Manager, CMI.

The study shows that meaningful participation requires access to information, safe spaces in which women can express their views, and genuine opportunities to shape agendas and decisions. It also highlights the importance of strengthening women’s capacity to engage effectively in political dialogue and peacebuilding processes.

The roundtable provided a space to connect the study’s findings with the realities and priorities of local stakeholders. The discussion reinforced the need for continued dialogue, stronger cooperation between institutions and civil society, and practical mechanisms that can support women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding and decision-making in Gagauzia.

The study is available on gagauziadialogue.md.



News on Civic Dialogue Platform ATU Gagauzia

Public Discussion Explores Local Public Administration Reform in the context of ATU Gagauzia



On 28 May 2026, a public expert-level discussion on local public administration reform in the Republic of Moldova was held in Comrat. The event was organised by the Civic Dialogue Platform in ATU Gagauzia, in partnership with the Centre for Regional Policy and Reforms and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. It brought together representatives of the People's Assembly of Gagauzia, local public authorities, academia, civil society, the Regional Development Agency of Gagauzia and public policy experts.

Participants discussed the ongoing reform process, focusing on its potential implications for ATU Gagauzia, including challenges, risks and opportunities for the autonomy. Discussions also addressed the need for Gagauzia to be actively involved in the reform process and to identify viable solutions and scenarios reflecting its specific institutional context.

Two analytical studies developed by the members of the Civic Dialogue Platform were presented and discussed. The studies provide an evidence base for assessing the potential effects of administrative and territorial reform on Gagauzia and offer recommendations for strengthening the institutional capacity of the autonomy's public authorities.

The first study, **“Analytical Review: Local Public Administration Reform in the Republic of Moldova – Prospects for ATU Gagauzia”** assesses the anticipated reform and its potential impact on the autonomy, outlining possible scenarios and recommendations for institutional strengthening.

The second, **“Administrative-Territorial Reform in the Context of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia”** examines the potential implications, challenges, risks and opportunities associated with administrative-territorial reform for the autonomy.

Representatives of CMI and the Platform's partners reiterated CMI's role as a facilitator of dialogue, providing a neutral space for open, transparent and expert-based discussions. The analytical work contributes to informed consultation among national and regional stakeholders on public administration reform and its implications for Gagauzia.

Both studies can be found on www.gagauziadialogue.md under the Reports and documents section and are available in the Romanian language and in the Russian languages.

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 Public Administration

Academic Expertise Drives New Thinking on Local Administration Reform



On 30 June 2026, the School of Governance launched the analytical study **“Local Public Administration Reform: From Structure to Functions – the Integrated Functional Administrative Reform (RAFI) Model”**. The study proposes a new approach to local public administration reform, shifting the focus from the administrative reorganisation to institutional capacity, effective public services and functional cooperation.

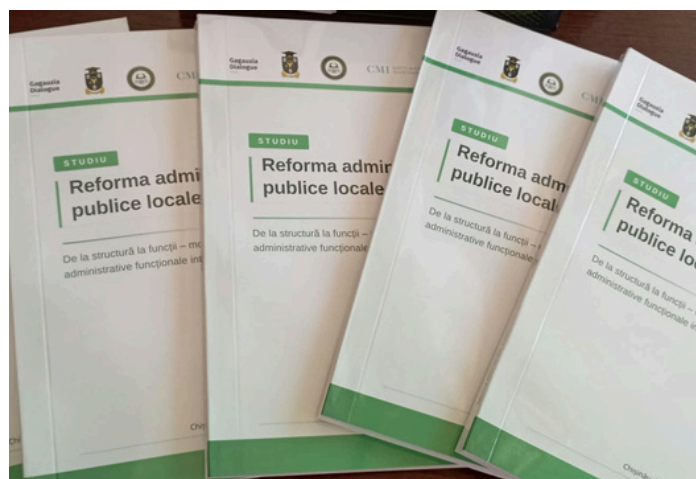
An important aspect of the study is its consideration of Moldova’s territorial diversity. The model proposes that ATU Gagauzia be treated as an asymmetric form of the intermediate level, integrated functionally while preserving its specific status and avoiding a uniform approach to territorial reform. This perspective provides an opportunity to consider how broader administrative reforms can respond to different territorial contexts.

The study also stresses that reform should be based on functionality, subsidiarity, gradual implementation and social legitimacy. Public consultation and meaningful participation are therefore considered essential for building trust and ensuring that structural changes respond to the needs of communities.



The launch event brought together representatives of public administration, academia, civil society policy experts and representatives of CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. The discussions provided an opportunity to examine the challenges and opportunities of reform in the context of Moldova’s European integration and to consider how stronger administrative capacity can contribute to effective and responsive local governance.

The study is entirely available in Romanian, alongside an English-language synthesis at http://sap.usm.md/?page_id=44.



News on CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

CMI Annual Report 2025: Advancing Peace in a Changing World

In 2025, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation continued to support inclusive and sustainable peace processes in a rapidly changing international environment. Through its work across different regions and conflict contexts, CMI brought together stakeholders, strengthened dialogue and supported locally owned approaches to peacebuilding.

The **CMI Annual Report 2025** highlights the organisation's continued commitment to its core mission: preventing and resolving conflicts through dialogue, mediation and peacebuilding. The report provides an overview of CMI's global work and the partnerships developed with local, national and international actors.

The year 2025 also demonstrated the importance of combining international expertise with strong local ownership. Across its programmes, CMI continued to support dialogue processes, build capacities and facilitate exchanges of experience between different contexts.

These approaches are also reflected in the organisation's work in Moldova, where the Gagauzia Dialogue project brings together stakeholders from Chisinau and Comrat to support constructive dialogue and develop sustainable mechanisms for centre–autonomy relations.

The Annual Report underlines the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable peace. Cooperation with national authorities, civil society, international organisations and other peacebuilding actors remains central to CMI's work and to its ability to respond to changing conflict dynamics.

CMI ANNUAL REPORT 2025

KEY NUMBERS



Building on the legacy of Martti Ahtisaari, CMI continues to promote dialogue as a practical means of addressing differences, strengthening trust and creating conditions for lasting peace.

The experience gained through its global engagement also contributes to the organisation's work in Moldova, where dialogue, inclusion and informed cooperation remain at the heart of efforts to support sustainable and constructive relations.

Gagauzia Dialogue



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"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.

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