**DEMOCRACY COHORT on Anti-corruption[[1]](#footnote-1)**

*Republic of Moldova proposes to be a lead country*

**Broad Topic**

*Priority Areas*

Republic of Moldova proposes to focus the cohort’s efforts on the following specific issues:

1. **International cooperation on cases of high-level corruption**. The following instruments could be analyzed:
   * Creation of Joint Investigation Teams
   * Provision of Mutual Legal Assistance
   * Exchange of investigative operational information, and information on assets held abroad for purpose of conducting integrity checks
2. **International cooperation on illicit assets recovery** based on:
   * provisions of mutual legal assistance in criminal cases;
   * setting up measures for direct recovery of property via civil procedures
3. **Enhancing justice sector integrity** via pre-vetting and vetting mechanisms for judges and prosecutors

**Cohort Objectives**

* Objectives include:
  1. **Sharing knowledge, experience, and** **best practices** on corruption prevention and investigation, illicit assets recovery, Anti-Money Laundering, bilateral and multilateral cooperation on anti-corruption and integrity.
  2. **Creating an international legal platform** for exchange of information among integrity authorities.
  3. Identify obstacles and solutions for **improving international instruments** and mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and assets recovery to make them more efficient and faster.
  4. Discus and draft recommendationson **improving international communication and cooperation on anticorruption and assets recovery**.
  5. **Increasing awareness** and engagement among S4D participating countries and other stakeholders on further actions and joint efforts beyond the second Summit for Democracy.

**Membership**

* Co-leads:
  + Champion Government or Authority Representatives (1-2):
  1. Office of the President of the Republic of Moldova supported by a Taskforce group that will include national institutions responsible for anti-corruption (Ministry of Justice, National Anticorruption Center, Ministry of Interior, National Agency on Integrity) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Integration
  + Facilitating NGOs (1-2):

1. National: Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE); Legal Resource Center of Moldova (CRJM)
2. International: Transparency International (London/Berlin); ICIJ (International consortium of investigative journalists) / OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project)

* Membership/Participants (Core Group)
  + Participating Governments and/or Authorities (co-leads): Germany.
    - Countries that expressed interest to join: Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Chile.
    - Countries invited or to be invited: USA, France, UK, Switzerland, Italy, Finland, Netherlands, Slovakia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, South Korea, Japan, South Africa, Ghana, Barbados.
  + Civil Society and Technical Experts: International Center for Assets Recovery (ICAR), (others TBD)

**Potential Outputs**

* 1. Improved international communication and collaboration among states, national and international organizations, and existing anticorruption platforms (UNODC, OECD, OSCE, Interpol, Europol, EuroJust, EGMONT, etc.).
  2. Developed concept for an international legal platform for exchange of information for integrity authorities.
  3. Improved bilateral international exchange of information and collaboration between anti-corruption institutions, law enforcement agencies, prosecutor’s offices, and other specialized anti-corruption bodies (analysis/review of existing mechanisms, obstacles and good practices, statement, list of recommendations on how to achieve this outcome...)
  4. Improved and expedited mutual legal assistance on assets recovery and restitution.
  5. Developed trans-national network of authorities on integrity.

1. ***Note****: All parties interested in joining the Cohort on Anticorruption, are asked to contact our Focal Point, Viorel Ursu, Ambassador to the U.S., at* [*viorel.ursu@mfa.gov.md*](mailto:viorel.ursu@mfa.gov.md)*.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)