



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
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Country factsheet

Moldova

An initiative of the European Union





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Introduction



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Moldova. Given its importance to contextualise the cluster policies (and related) analysed in the factsheets, a comprehensive outlook of the country in socioeconomic terms can be consulted in [the World Bank Country Snapshot for Moldova 2020](#). The “Country Snapshot” is a bi-annual update, highlighting the country’s recent developments, economic outlook and major overview of the World Bank’s partnership with the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented economic shock to the European and global economy. Moreover, the energy crisis as well as the refugee crisis caused negative effects on the country too. Moldova is likely to be one of the countries most affected by the conflict not only because of its physical proximity to the war but also because of its inherent vulnerabilities as a small, landlocked economy with close linkages to both Ukraine and Russia¹. Due to less sustainable economic activities related to both the war and ongoing pandemics, the policy makers have to find ways how to tackle the threat of a prolonged downturn.

In the following, a succinct overview of the cluster policy in Moldova will be provided. The structure of this factsheet generally encompasses:

- 1) an overview of the broad policy which provides policy interventions for the development of clusters in Moldova,
- 2) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

¹ The World Bank in Moldova. 2022. Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova/overview>

01

National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives



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1. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives

In this section, we provide an overview of the existing cluster policies in Moldova. The breakdown is presented in the form of a table, with the first column showcasing information on the aspects which constitute the policy (beginning with 'Policy Objectives', following with 'Policy Focus', etc.). The second column represent the case of a broad policy in Moldova which focuses also on cluster creation and development.

Within the table the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2022), which is applied for the comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights about the cluster policy in Moldova.

Policy type:	Broad policy
Policy name:	National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova - "Moldova 2030"
POLICY OBJECTIVES 	<p>Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors</p> <p>Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale up of SMEs</p> <p>Fostering R&D activities, technology development and implementation</p> <p>Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems</p> <p>Supporting the creation of new cluster organisations</p> <p>Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs</p> <p>Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences</p> <p>The major strategic vision and objective of the strategy is focused on the quality of life, whereby the strategy is developed around 4 priorities: sustainable and inclusive economy, robust human and social capital, honest and efficient institutions, healthy environment.</p>
POLICY FOCUS 	<p>Cross-sectoral</p> <p>The policy is an "umbrella" strategy for other strategies dealing with the specific issues. National Development Strategy Moldova-2030 focuses on the following development priorities: (a) sustainable and inclusive economy (increased revenue from sustainable sources and mitigation of economic inequality; expanding people's access to utilities and living</p>



Policy type:		Broad policy
Policy name:		National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova - "Moldova 2030"
		conditions; and improving working conditions and reducing informal employment); and (b) healthy environment (ensuring the fundamental right to a healthy environment and environmental security).
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES		
		Drafting as well as Implementation The oversight of implementation
		The State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova
BENEFICIARIES		
		SMEs Cluster organisations Research organisations Academic institutions Start-ups Business associations General population Policy makers
INSTRUMENTS	Financial	N/A
	Technical assistance	Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling Support for networking and partnership building (at national and/or international level)
	Explanation	N/A



Policy type:		Broad policy
Policy name:		National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova - "Moldova 2030"
HISTORY 	Period	Limited period
	Ending year <i>(for policies with limited period)</i>	2030
	Starting year	2021
	Explanation	In December 2021, the Government has ordered the initiation of the process of updating the draft of the National Development Strategy „Moldova 2030”, which run till April 2022. The strategy focuses on the factors that have influence on country's development in the period up to 2030.
BUDGET 	Overall	N/A
	Annual	N/A
	Source of funding	N/A
POLICY EVALUATION 	Availability	No policy evaluation available
	Results	Since there is no dedicated cluster policy in Moldova, no policy evaluation has been identified.
POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU PRIORITIES 		Green transition Digital transition Resilience

02

State of play of cluster policy



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2. State of play of cluster policy

This section presents an overview on the state of play of cluster policy in the Republic of Moldova in the form of a quantitative and qualitative assessment. The data below illustrates how the country ranks in terms of **maturity of cluster policy at the national level**. The maturity assessment is based on a combination of factors presented in Chapter 1, which receive a score based on the existence or absence of a given element in the cluster policy.

Note: the maturity assessment does not reflect the performance of a country, but only the degree of development of their national cluster policy at the moment of data collection (Q3 2022). The assessment illustrates how the country scores for each of the four criteria (policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, cluster support instruments, cluster) compared to the maximum score that they can reach. Please refer to the **Annex** for the detailed overview of the categories and the scoring system.

The table below presents an overview of the **maturity assessment for Moldova** for 2022. The total score of Moldova is 1 point out of 8.

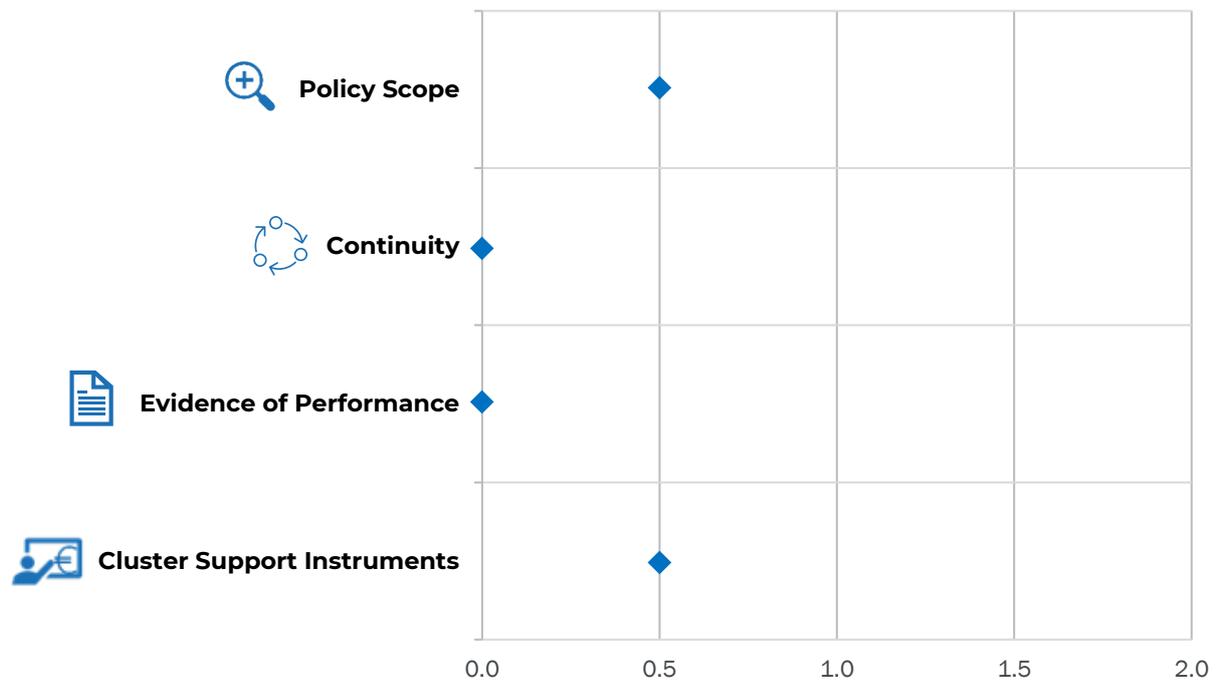
Moldova	MATURITY ASSESSMENT	Max score	Actual score
POLICY SCOPE	Absence of cluster policy	0	
	Broad policy	0,5	0,5
	Sectoral policy	1	
	National and/or regional cluster policy	2	
CONTINUITY	No cluster policy available	0	0
	Cluster policy established recently	0,5	
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years	1	
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago	2	
EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE	No evaluation and / or monitoring available	0	0
	Existence of evaluations of past policies	0,5	
	Existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation	1	
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation	2	
CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS	No instruments for cluster development	0	
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy	0,5	0,5
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	1	
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	2	
TOTAL (8)			1

Source: ECCP (2022)



Drawing from the table above that showcases the scored points in Moldova's cluster policy, the Figure below portrays the **degree of maturity** across four categories related to the national level cluster policy.

Figure 1: Maturity of cluster policy - Moldova



Source: ECCP (2022)

The text below provides a **qualitative description** of the state of play of the cluster policy in Moldova, which is complementary to the maturity assessment presented above.

Policy scope

There are currently no policies targeting the development of clusters in Moldova, but only broad policies which acknowledge the benefits of cluster creation, such as the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova - Moldova 2030.

Continuity

The Republic of Moldova does not have any policy targeting cluster creation or development, but the importance of this phenomenon is acknowledged by several broad policies (including the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector Development Strategy for 2012-2020). Other examples of broad policies are: The concept of cluster development of the industrial sector of the Republic of Moldova (GD no. 614 of 20.08.2013); The innovation strategy of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2013-2020 „Innovations for competitiveness ”(GD no. 952 of 27.11.2013); Roadmap for improving the competitiveness of the Republic of Moldova (GD no. 4 from 14.01.2014). The importance and necessity of cluster development is also discussed in other national publications, such as Policies for development clusters in Moldova (Politici pentru dezvoltarea clusterelor în Moldova, 2016) or the Methodological Guide on the creation and organisation of clusters in the Republic of Moldova (Ghid metodic: crearea și organizarea clusterelor în Republica Moldova, 2018).



The Republic of Moldova does not have any cluster policy in place and the concept is briefly discussed in a number of broad policies.

Evidence of performance

Since there is no dedicated cluster policy in Moldova, no policy evaluation has been identified.

Cluster support instruments

Among Moldova's broad policies support instruments are technical support instruments for creation and further development of clusters, e.g. support for networking and soft skills development.

Cross-regional / international cooperation

The clusters in Moldova are not part of the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships nor INNOSUP-1 projects.

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Annex

Criterion of maturity assessment	Description	Scoring (points between 0 and 2)
Policy scope	assessment whether the country has a dedicated cluster policy, or cluster creation and/or development is targeted through broader policies, e.g. foreign trade policies, labour and social policies or specific sectoral policies, e.g. industrial policy tourism policies, agriculture policies	<p>absence of cluster policy = 0</p> <p>existence of broader policies = 0,5</p> <p>existence of specific sectoral policies = 1</p> <p>existence of targeted cluster policies = 2</p>
Continuity of cluster policies	assessment of the duration and experience of the country in carrying out cluster policies. This criterion assesses only existence of targeted cluster policies and not broader policies or sectoral policies	<p>absence of policies supporting cluster development = 0</p> <p>cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) = 0,5</p> <p>cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years = 1</p> <p>cluster policy established over 10 years ago = 2</p>
Evidence of performance	assessment whether there are evaluations of past and ongoing policies and a monitoring system in place. The existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms determines the degree of policy development in the country	<p>no evaluation and / or monitoring available = 0</p> <p>existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante = 0,5</p> <p>existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation =1</p> <p>existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation =2</p>
Cluster Support Instruments	assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	<p>no instruments for cluster development =0</p> <p>financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy = 0,5</p> <p>financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 1</p> <p>financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 2</p>

Source: ECCP (2022)