



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Country factsheet

Moldova

An initiative of the European Union





Content

1. Introduction and economic policy context	4
2. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives	6
3. State of cluster policy	10
References	13
Annex.....	14

01

Introduction and economic policy context



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1. Introduction and economic policy context



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Moldova. Given the 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 Moldova 2023 Report](#).

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. 2023.



02

National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives







2. 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 2023), 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.

Table 1 - Existing cluster policies 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</p>



Policy type:		Broad policy
Policy name:		National Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova - "Moldova 2030"
		from sustainable sources and mitigation of economic inequality; expanding people's access to utilities and living 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

Source: ECCP (2023).



03

State of cluster policy





3. State of cluster policy

This section presents an overview on the state of cluster policy in the Republic of Moldova in the form of a qualitative assessment across four categories of analysis – policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, and the range of cluster support instruments. Please refer to the **Annex** for the detailed overview of the categories and the scoring system. The table below presents an overview of the state of play for Moldova for 2023.

Table 2 - State of cluster policy in Moldova

Moldova	State of play
POLICY SCOPE	Absence of cluster policy
	Broad policy
	Sectoral policy
	National and/or regional cluster policy
CONTINUITY	No cluster policy available
	Cluster policy established recently
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago
EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE	No evaluation and / or monitoring available
	Existence of evaluations of past policies
	Existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation
CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS	No instruments for cluster development
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy

Source: ECCP (2023).

The text below provides a **qualitative description** of the state of play of cluster policy in Moldova.

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 – European 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. United Nations Development Programme (with the financial assistance of the Swiss Government) launched a new project to support micro-clusters (PRIM – Resilient and Inclusive Markets in Moldova) with a duration of 10 years. In the first phase (pilot) in 2022-2023, 3 micro-clusters were selected for the development.

In addition, the National Program for promoting entrepreneurship and increasing competitiveness in the years 2023-2027 (PACC Program 2027) was approved. This document contains the cluster development objective, including the allocation of modest resources.

Moreover, the National Industrialization Program is currently being developed, which will include the objective of supporting clusters in the industrial field. Currently, UNDP-Moldova is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy in the development of the chapter on clusters. The document should be approved by the end of 2023.

Cross-regional / international cooperation

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

References



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Annex

Table 3 - Criterion description

Criterion	Description	Categorical variables
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	absence of cluster policy existence of broader policies existence of specific sectoral policies existence of targeted cluster policies
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	absence of policies supporting cluster development cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years cluster policy established over 10 years ago
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	no evaluation and / or monitoring available existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation
Cluster Support Instruments	assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	no instruments for cluster development financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy

Source: ECCP (2023).