

EUROPEAN UNION  
BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION  
TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2018 - 30 NOVEMBER 2019

# EUBAM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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# FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION

**Slawomir Pichor**

I am pleased to introduce 2019 Annual Report which illustrates EUBAM and its Partner Services' shared contribution to the regional security and economic development. In particular, this report presents detailed information on our main achievements, marking, in the same time, the completion of the Mission's second year of the current three-year mandate.

Throughout the reporting period, we persevered in our joint efforts, with appropriate measures, and we succeeded to move forward with our activities and even witnessed a rather dynamic development in the implementation of EUBAM's working program in both our host countries, despite their constantly changing political environment.

We witnessed with satisfaction an intensified dialogue on joint control that was promoted at a high level on the political agenda, which we definitely hope to be continued and materialized. Moreover, at the surroundings of EUBAM's Advisory Board Meeting held in Chisinau, in November 2019, the Heads of the Moldovan Border Police and Ukrainian State Border Guard Service signed a cooperation plan for 2020-2021, whose foundation was also laid in the great results delivered by the newly constructed Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne, the most modern one along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

For that project, built from the scratch with EU financial engagement, EUBAM provided assistance at all stages, turning it into a benchmark for other BCPs where the agencies from the two countries plan to work together. Subsequently, we replicated the best results and lessons learned in our support offered to other EU funded projects implemented in the region. I would refer here mainly to the project aimed at preparing Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc and Reni-Giurgiulesti border crossing points for launching full-fledged joint control, that is to be completed in 2020.



Moreover, our support to the other component of the same project was materialized with the operationalization of the Palanca Common Contact Point, launched in September 2019, for facilitating the timely information exchange between the Moldovan Border Police and the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service in relation to persons and vehicles crossing the border.

The endorsement by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management (IBM) until 2025, that followed the adoption of a similar strategy in the Republic of Moldova, met us halfway with regard to the implementation of IBM principles at the common border and makes us look to the future with confidence and hope.

I need to also highlight the continuous assistance delivered by the Mission to the implementation of the EU-MD DCFTA in Transnistria both by scrutinizing, identifying gaps and providing recommendations on the current customs and trade related standards and procedures and by organizing workshops in different areas of interests such as IPR protection, market surveillance and inward and outward processing procedures. In the same context, EUBAM, as a part of the EU Delegation to Moldova team, participated in the Bavaria conference on confidence building measures in the Transnistrian settlement process organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova in November 2019 where we supported discussions at the thematic sessions on economy and trade, as well as on freedom of movement.

However, there is still a strong need to continue the result-oriented settlement process and move forward with the outstanding priorities from the "Berlin-plus" package and beyond.

As regards the Mission's efforts in combating cross-border crime on the Moldova – Ukraine border, we intensified our work on addressing the threats related to smuggling tobacco products and weapons trafficking. In this vein, two joint operations, covering the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine were successfully implemented together with the border and customs agencies from both countries, and supported by EUROPOL, OLAF and Frontex, resulting in significant number of detentions of cigarettes, small arms, light weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Over the year, EUBAM also continued to advocate for the introduction of measures aimed at stopping the misuse of the Duty Free Shops and our efforts appeared to be yielding results with the changes operated into the Moldovan legislation in this regard. The amendments introduced in July and September 2019 did not only put EUBAM's earlier recommendations into practice but also enforced the commitments set by the EU-MD Association Agreement.

Moreover, we launched a series of new initiatives. Among them, the Inter-agency Regional Analytical Group aimed at regular assessment of risks and threats in Odesa region materialized our common efforts in preventing and combating cross-border crime, offering a platform for profiled law enforcement operations and strengthening cooperation for the regular risks and threats assessments. On the same subject, the Mission continued the assistance to Moldovan Customs Service and Ukrainian State Border Guard Service in rolling out new risk analysis methodologies for an effective border and customs control.

Recalling the activities of EUBAM and its Partners during the past year, this is also an occasion to warmly thank and to also express my sincere gratitude to our Moldovan and Ukrainian strategic Partners for an excellent cooperation, hard work and commitment during 2019. Together we advanced the work on confidence building measures, integrated border management and cross-border crime, and we will definitely persevere in our joint efforts until we succeed in all the activities planned till November 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Slawomir Pichor'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Slawomir Pichor**  
*Head of Mission*



# THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

December 2018 - November 2019

## Objective 1

### Confidence building measures

» In February, rapprochement of Chisinau and Tiraspol in the phytosanitary sphere continued and the first visit of Transnistrian specialists to the Central Diagnostic Laboratory of the Moldovan National Food Safety Agency in Chisinau was facilitated.

» In March, a joint assistance exercise targeting trafficking of counterfeit goods via the administrative boundary line was successfully completed.

» In July and September, the legislative amendments introduced to Moldovan Customs Code and Fiscal Code aligned Duty Free Shops operations with EU standards, thus enforcing the commitments set by the EU-MD Association Agreement.

» In September and October workshops on inward and outward processing customs procedures and market surveillance were organized for experts from the right and left bank of the Nistru River.

» In November, Bavaria Conference on confidence building measures in Transnistrian settlement process was held, with EUBAM participating as part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova team.

## Objective 2

### Integrated border management

» In December 2018 and February 2019, Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point, built from the scratch with EU funds, was opened for travellers and cargo traffic respectively.

» In February, a reviewing exercise on optimizing the status of border crossing points at the Moldova-Ukraine border was completed, its insights contributing to the draft of the new agreement on the border crossing points.

» In April, a joint assistance exercise focused on the evaluation of border checks and customs controls on travelers performed by Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies was implemented.

» In July, the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management until 2025, designed to implement the IBM principles, as foreseen by the EU-UA Association Agreement, was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

» In September, the Palanca Common Contact Point, set up as a part of an EU-funded project, was officially opened, facilitating timely information exchange on persons and vehicles between the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova.

## Objective 3

### Cross-border crime

» In January, Joint Operation 'ORION' focused on counteracting the illicit trafficking of small arms, light weapons, ammunition, explosives and CBRN materials, was successfully completed.

» In February and September, six technical hands-on and theoretical mentoring sessions on persons' identification, impostor detection and second-line interviews were delivered to 120 Moldovan and Ukrainian Border Police/Border Guard officers.

» In March, a new joint initiative for counteracting cross-border crime in Odesa region setting up an Inter-agency Regional Analytical Group was launched.

» In August, Joint Border Control Operation 'SCORPION', aimed at preventing and counteracting cigarettes smuggling was soundly concluded.

» In October, EUBAM's Annual Task Force Tobacco meeting was held in Odesa addressing emerging risks in cigarette smuggling and exploring effective countermeasures for preventing and combating illegal tobacco products movement and production.

## General Border Police Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova

### **Corneliu Groza**

Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova



Border Police of the Republic of Moldova stays committed to continue its development in accordance with the EU standards and best practice in the field of IBM. In line with this commitment, during 2019 Border Police has continued to develop the institutional capabilities, as well as the cooperation with its immediate neighbours, Romania and Ukraine, as well as with other national and international partners.

The main focus of the Border Police is to develop a system of border control that will create a secure border and the most comfortable conditions for the lawful crossing of the border. With this goal in mind we continue to further strengthen institutional capabilities in various fields such as border control and surveillance, combating cross border crime, risk analysis, documents expertise and other relevant areas. Additionally, in order to strengthening its operational capabilities, Border Police launched a comprehensive review of the activity and use of mobile units in order to ensure that they use all their potential and perform at highest standards.

Also during 2019, a number of notable achievements took place in the development of the international cooperation, such as the entry into force of the Agreement with Romania on joint patrolling that will further strengthens the joint effort for securing the common border and the operationalization of the Common Contact Point 'Palanca' between Republic of Moldova and Ukraine that is meant to further strengthen the exchange of information and facilitate the cooperation between the border authorities of the two nations. Additionally, during 2019 Moldovan Border Police continued to promote the development of joint border control at the Moldova-Ukraine border including the Transnistrian segment.

In the context of strengthening the partnership between the border authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine is important to mention the continuous support and expertise provided by EUBAM in the field of developing the IBM system, combating cross-border crime, risk analysis and joint operations. EUBAM experts are involved in various activities targeting both institutional development and bilateral cooperation to ensure the translation into practice of the European border management principles.

For 2020 the goals of the Moldovan Border Police remain at the same level of ambition and are focused on further strengthening the institutional capabilities through a reorganization of the Border Police for better reflecting the new realities and challenges. Another priority is the implementation of a modern and efficient quality management system.

In the field of international cooperation a priority for 2020 is launching the automatic exchange of information in real time on persons and vehicles crossing the Moldova-Ukraine border, full implementation of joint border control in Pervomaisc-Cuciurgan border crossing point (BCP) and the signing of the updated protocols for the existing joint BCPs as well as on establishing new ones. We are looking forward to strengthen our cooperation with international partners such as FRONTEX, OSCE, INTERPOL, UNHCR, IOM and EUBAM.

As usual, we count on the support of EUBAM to provide as always the best expertise in the IBM related fields and facilitate a closer cooperation at the Moldova-Ukraine border.



## State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

### **Serhiy Deyineko**

Head of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

that suggests upgrading five BCPs and closing five BCPs which would allow to adapt border control in the region to present-day realities. With the EUBAM's support and through joint consultations with Moldovan colleagues, we look forward to concluding the new Agreement and its subsequent signing.

The cooperation on risk analysis and information exchange in 2019 materialized into regular activities on drafting common border security assessment reports and fostered the launching of inter-agency analytical group. The EUBAM experts delivered training events for the officers of information analysis units of the Southern Regional Directorate of UASBGS.

On 6 September 2019, with EUBAM's extensive support, the Palanca Common Contact Point was officially launched and, as expected, that instrument of information exchange fully justified the assigned tasks.

In the context of combating cross-border crime, a special role of EUBAM should be highlighted as a coordinator of joint border control operations. The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine along with partner agencies and services participated in such operations as 'Orion' and 'Scorpion' that ensured a high level of cooperation between the law enforcement authorities and agencies of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Following up the outcomes of mentioned operations, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine is committed to actively participate in EUBAM future initiatives on increased security and prevention of cross-border crime on the Ukraine-Moldova border.

EUBAM remains a reliable strategic partner of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and a key player for shaping a modern, strong and efficient border agency of Ukraine. In this vein, we express our gratitude to EUBAM for its comprehensive support in strengthening the Ukraine-Moldova border.



In 2019, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine proceeded with its work on ensuring surveillance of the state border, aspiring for professional development, increased security in the region and smooth border crossing for travellers. The European integration course of Ukraine has undoubtedly a positive impact on the border agency of Ukraine, reflected in strengthening friendly relations with the EU and neighbouring states alike, the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) being one of the key players in this process.

The approved National Integrated Border Management Strategy (IBM) for 2020-2025, elaborated jointly with the European high level experts and under the overall guidance of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, and its implementation Action Plan, encompasses the agency's most tangible achievements.

Pursuing its commitment to develop joint control on the Ukraine-Moldova border, as part of the IBM Strategy, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine welcomed the development of Joint control action plan for 2019, using the Roadmap as guidance, and is committed to proceed with its activities in that regard together with the Moldovan colleagues and EUBAM's support. In 2019, fact-finding visits were paid to several border crossing points (BCPs) for exploring the possibilities of implementation of joint control. Based on the findings of those visits, the State Border Guard Service, jointly with relevant Ukrainian ministries, agencies and local authorities, developed a new draft Agreement on BCPs on the Ukraine-Moldova state border

## Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

### **Sergiu Burduja**

Director of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

In 2019, the fruitful cooperation of customs and border guard agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine with EUBAM has followed its dynamic pace, contributing to trade facilitation and reinforced security at the Moldova-Ukraine border. In the process of our close cooperation we encounter new challenges where EUBAM is instrumental for finding solutions through its platform of constructive dialogue and valuable recommendations.

The operationalization of the new Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne jointly operated border crossing was praised by travellers and the EU experts alike. We decisively stay strong in the pursuit of our goals and further improvement of control procedures together with EUBAM, fostering electronic information exchange.

Within another project on infrastructure development of Pervomaisc-Kuchurhan and Giurgiulesti-Reni BCPs, funded by the EU and co-financed by the Moldovan and Ukrainian Governments, and aimed at launching the joint control on the territory of Ukraine, in 2020 two more BCPs will emerge with most advantageous conditions for border crossing.

Even though we have not succeeded yet in developing the regulatory framework for further expansion of joint control in line with the new Agreement of 6 October 2017 and the previously reached agreements, EUBAM was extensively supporting the prospects for further rolling out the joint control at other BCPs and the undertaken efforts unveiled great capacities for the development of Integrated Border Management principles.

One of the major highlights of MDCS over the previous year was its successful completion of the EU Twinning Project on implementation of the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) and the 'Single Window' Concept. Within the Project, the national regulatory basis has been harmonized with provisions of the Convention on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods and the Conventions of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure. Meanwhile, the MDCS information system is being upgraded to ensure interoperability of NCTS and Single Window modules.

The new draft Customs Code, being actively elaborated and debated over the recent years, was further reviewed by the EU experts within TAIEX instrument and aligned in accordance with given recommendations. In the near future the draft document will be submitted to the Government for further consideration.



The MDCS is forging ahead the simplified customs clearance procedures and the Concept of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO). Within the undertaken initiatives with Central Europe Free Trade Association countries, the EU experts have assessed the AEO standards in the Republic of Moldova as compliant with the EU standards. We are looking forward to forthcoming implementation of the harmonised Plan to embark on mutual recognition of AEO with the EU countries.

As for the law enforcement domain, we have pursued our joint activities on assessing current trends of illegal activities at the common border and in the region, reinforcing security of the Moldova-Ukraine border. The MDCS took part in two border control operations, supported by EUBAM, yielding significant seizures of cigarettes and goods infringing intellectual property rights. The joint operations harnessed new highly valued communication platforms for information exchange and risk analysis contributing to overall enhanced effectiveness.

We appreciate the fruitful cooperation with EUBAM and Ukrainian colleagues, which makes our joint activities with every passing year more tangible for the citizens and businesses.



## State Customs Service of Ukraine

### **Maksym Nefyodov**

Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine

In view of shaping a national policy on integrated border management (IBM) and its implementation activities, the Government of Ukraine created an Interdepartmental Working Group on IBM Coordination, adopted an IBM Strategy until 2025 and approved its implementation Action Plan for 2020-2022.

A series of laws have been also adopted during 2019 with regard to the common transit regime, introduction of a national electronic transit system, protection of intellectual property rights operation of authorised economic operators.

In the process of implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, the advisory support of EUBAM experts is highly valuable and effective and the State Customs Service of Ukraine stands ready to continue the established cooperation and relies on the Mission's support in involving international donors for further implementation of technical assistance projects aimed at furnishing the BCPs with up-to-date equipment.

The EUBAM's considerable efforts in organising joint operations on the Ukraine-Moldova border, as an efficient and preventive tool for combating cross-border crime, with involvement of international and EU law enforcement agencies is especially notable. Thus, in 2019 the State Fiscal Service (State Customs Service) participated in the successful international operation 'Scorpion' aimed at counteracting cigarettes and tobacco smuggling as well as into the Task Force Tobacco meeting. In March 2019, the control authorities of Odesa region, supported by the Mission, signed a Protocol on establishing the Regional inter-agency analytical group for tackling cross-border crime.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to EUBAM, to partner services of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and international organisations alike for their effective cooperation, encouragement, openness, commitment to dialogue and support in reinforcing security of the Ukraine-Moldova border. For its part, the State Customs Service of Ukraine has always been a reliable partner and is committed to develop cooperation and implement joint projects.



By virtue of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the State Customs Service of Ukraine is successfully implementing a number of projects aimed at simplification of customs procedures and creating comfortable business environment in Ukraine.

The Ukraine's international commitments in customs-related matters and trade facilitation are unfolding in hard and crucial period – during the overhaul of customs authorities of Ukraine.

The reforms are aimed at: creating up-to-date and revamped customs authorities for a prompt and adequate response to modern challenges in the area of customs matters; facilitating trade through simplified customs procedures with a view of creating comfortable environment for travellers and business; ensuring economic security of Ukraine; digitalization of customs clearance and launching modern IT technologies; fighting corruption by introducing automated customs clearance of goods, increasing employees' financial security, developing electronic services for businesses and citizens, introducing an all-new recruitment and performance evaluation systems; developing infrastructure of border crossing points (BCPs) and introducing up-to-date customs control technologies in line with the European and international standards.

To this date, the 'Single Window for International Trade' unified public information web portal has been launched to provide customs officers responsible for customs control and clearance of goods with electronic permits issued by governmental authorities and all electronic declaration of imported or transit goods subject to official control in Ukraine are processed through it.

# ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board is the decision-making and governing body of EUBAM which meets on a biannual basis to review and assess the progress achieved by the Mission in all its fields of activity.



Representatives of European Union Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, European External Action Service, European Commission, Foreign Ministries of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, border, customs and law enforcement agencies of both countries as well as International Organization for Migration and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe are members in the Advisory Board that is chaired by the Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

The 32th and 33rd meetings of the Board were held in Odesa and Chisinau on 27 June and 27 November respectively.



Both meetings gave the Board the opportunity to commend the recent developments at the Moldova-Ukraine state border and encourage the national authorities to continue the modernization of the border management, especially by taking advantage of the benefits brought by the mechanism of joint control and expanding it to new locations along their common border.

More precisely, the Board assessed EUBAM's and its partner services' continuous and active cooperation, the work for strengthening confidence between Chisinau and Tiraspol, the opening of the Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point "Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne" and Common Contact Point "Palanca" as well as the efforts in combating cigarette smuggling and weapons trafficking as being the most important achievements during the reporting period.

*Photo top left*  
European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Peter Michalko, chairman of the Advisory Board

*Photo top right*  
The 33rd meeting of the Advisory Board held in Chisinau on 27 November

*Photo bottom*  
The 32nd meeting of the Advisory Board held in Odesa on 27 June

# SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIA-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

In 2019, EUBAM continued its advisory support to Transnistria settlement process and confidence building through technical solutions provided to specialists from Chisinau and Tiraspol or presented during the eleven meetings of the thematic Expert (Working) Groups in which Mission's experts participated, as a part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova's team.

Moreover, EUBAM continued to support the implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) requirements in Transnistria as it contributed towards stimulating trade and economic development.

Therefore the Mission continued the work on creating conditions for facilitating interaction between Chisinau and Tiraspol specialists in the phytosanitary sphere which materialized into the first visit of Transnistrian specialists to the Central Diagnostic Laboratory of the Moldovan National Food Safety Agency in Chisinau.

And another important development was represented by the adoption of legislative amendments in the Republic of Moldova aimed at stopping the misuse of the Duty Free Shops, that not only put EUBAM's earlier recommendations into practice but also enforced the commitments set by the EU-MD Association Agreement.

## Supporting the implementation of EU-MD DCFTA in Transnistria

EUBAM continued to support the implementation of the DCFTA requirements in Transnistria focusing both on theoretical and practical issues.

Therefore, the Mission researched relevant areas of interest, and hence organized three workshops on IPR protection, market surveillance and inward and outward processing procedures, in December 2018, September and October 2019 respectively, engaging professionals from Chisinau and Tiraspol. The events aimed at facilitating trade in the region and gave participants the opportunity to exchange experience, deepen knowledge and forge partnership.

As a follow-up, the Mission shared with Chisinau and Tiraspol customs structures situational reports with gaps and recommendations, Q&A documents, as well as EU and WCO relevant guidelines.

Additionally, in order to transpose knowledge into practice and strengthen the IPR enforcement in the region, EUBAM conducted together with Moldovan Customs Service an exercise targeting trafficking of counterfeit goods via the administrative boundary line. The surveillance activities and risk-based checks of persons, vehicles and consignments resulted in numerous seizures of counterfeit goods and disclosure of their supply chain.



## Aligning duty free shops legislation with EU standards

In order to eliminate the risks of abusing the Duty Free Shops procedures for diverting excisable goods into smuggling, EUBAM continued to advocate for tightening the legal framework of duty-free operations and their licensing requirements together with their effective customs surveillance in the Republic of Moldova.

In that regard, the Government of the Republic of Moldova took concrete legislative steps in July when decided on amending the Moldovan Customs Code, thereby terminating the activity of Duty Free Shops located in Transnistria.

Further on, in September, the Parliament adopted amendments to the Customs Code and Fiscal Code terminating duty-free petrol stations, as well as gradually removing duty-free shops at land BCPs until September 2023.

## Fostering dialog between Chisinau and Tiraspol on phytosanitary issues

In February, EUBAM moved on with the rapprochement of Chisinau and Tiraspol specialists, this time in the phytosanitary sphere. Mission's efforts were pointed at intensifying the interaction between phytosanitary laboratories from Chisinau and Tiraspol with the view to facilitate further confidence and capacity building activities for upholding regional consumer safety.

In this regard, EUBAM facilitated two technical meetings in Chisinau and Tiraspol respectively and the first ever visit of Transnistrian specialists to the Central Diagnostic Laboratory of the Moldovan National Food Safety Agency in Chisinau (ANSA) where their questions related to the functioning and organization of phytosanitary laboratories, application of international diagnostic protocols and rules of accreditation were answered.

## Revitalizing the international transit corridors

Taking into account the need of revitalizing the transit through Transnistria and enhancing the transit potential of the Pan-European Corridor IX and the two important highways crossing the region, EUBAM facilitated the dialogue between the Customs Services of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on this matter, involving as well as Associations of International Road Carriers from both countries.

Therefore, together they made a diagnosis of the situation and identified the sticking points.

Subsequently, the Mission put forward possible technical solutions for overcoming the impediments obstructing the revitalization of transit across Transnistria and presented them to the customs experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol.

## Bavaria conference on confidence building measures

On 4-5 November, EUBAM, as a part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova team, participated in the eighth informal Bavaria Conference on Confidence Building Measures in the Transnistrian settlement process organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, held in Murnau am Staffelsee, Germany.

EUBAM supported discussions at the thematic sessions on economy and trade, as well as on freedom of movement.

The conference offered an informal platform for exchanging views on the ways to move forward with the outstanding priorities from the "Berlin-plus" package and beyond.

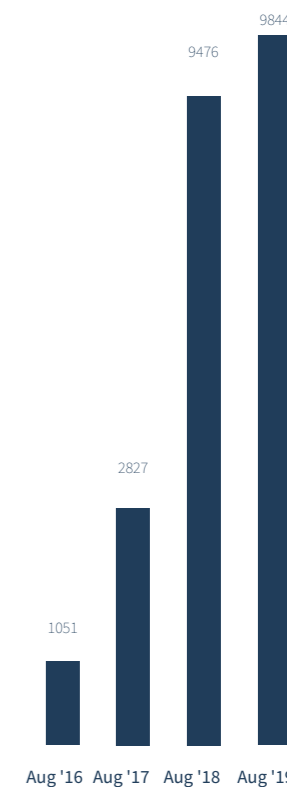
## Facilitation of freedom of movement

Launching of the modernized train Chisinau-Odesa-Chisinau in March 2018, with EUBAM's support, proved to be a real success. Scheduled to operate only three times per week, both during the summer of 2018 and 2019, the train started to run on a daily basis with a double number of seats.

The increased frequency and capacity were justified by the increase of the passenger flow due to the better travel conditions the modernized train offer as well as to the travel time and affordable price. In the same vein, for saving the time of foreigners travelling through Transnistria, EUBAM recommended to the Bureau of Migration and Asylum to open an office dedicated to their registration/deregistration on the territory of the Republic of Moldova at the railway station in Chisinau.

That materialized in August, demonstrating at the same time the commitment of Moldovan Government to facilitate the mobility and freedom of movement of people.

Sold Tickets for Chisinau - Odesa train, units



## Transnistria external trade

Between December 2018 and November 2019, Transnistrian foreign trade (goods turnover) edged down by 5% in USD monetary value compared to the precedent twelve months. The value of goods exported by Transnistrian economic operators in December 2018 - November 2019 decreased by \$96.8mln or 16%, accounting for \$512.8 mln (fig.1).

**Markets for transnistrian exporters in % of export value, USD mln**

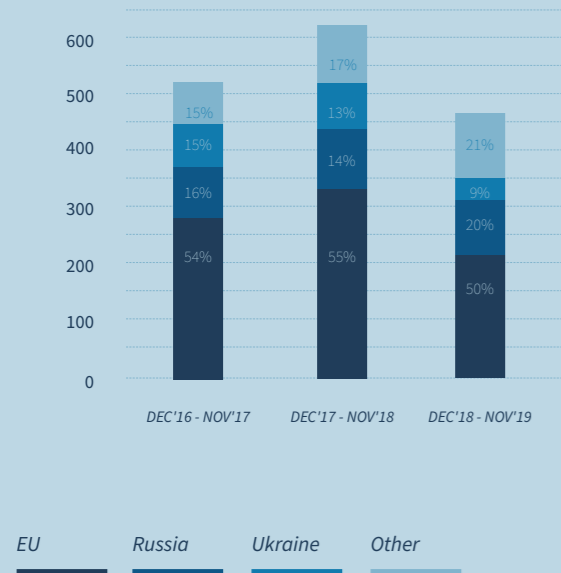


Fig. 1

**Categories of transnistrian goods exported and their share by value, Usd mln**

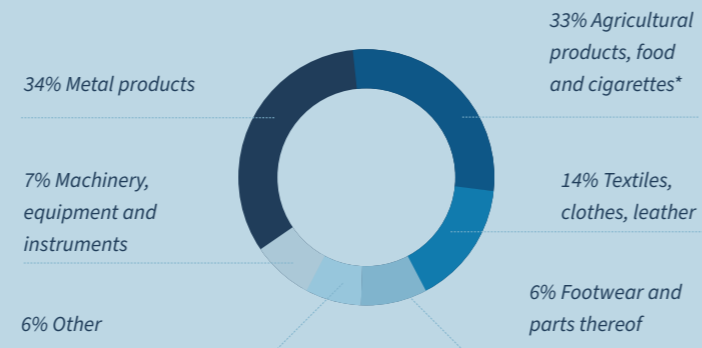


Fig. 2

\* % including reported sales of Duty Free cigarettes

**Number of travellers refused entry to Ukraine by citizenship**

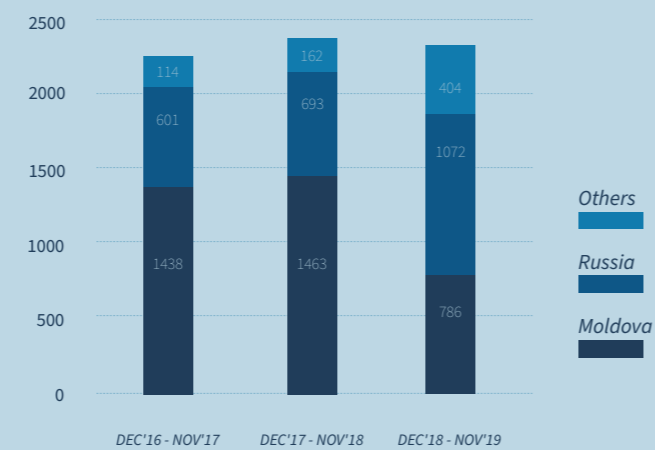


Fig. 4

## Traveller trends

Between December 2018 and November 2019, the number of travellers crossing the Transnistrian segment of Moldova-Ukraine border dropped by 2% compared to the same period in 2017-2018 (3.5 mln travellers in comparison with 3.6 mln travellers). June-August was the peak period for crossing this border segment. The number of border crossings made by Russian passport holders edged down by 3%, compared to the same period of the previous year. Refusals of entry to Ukraine decreased by 2%. The Russian passport holders accounted for 47% of all travellers refused entry, compared to 30% in the preceding twelve months (fig.4).

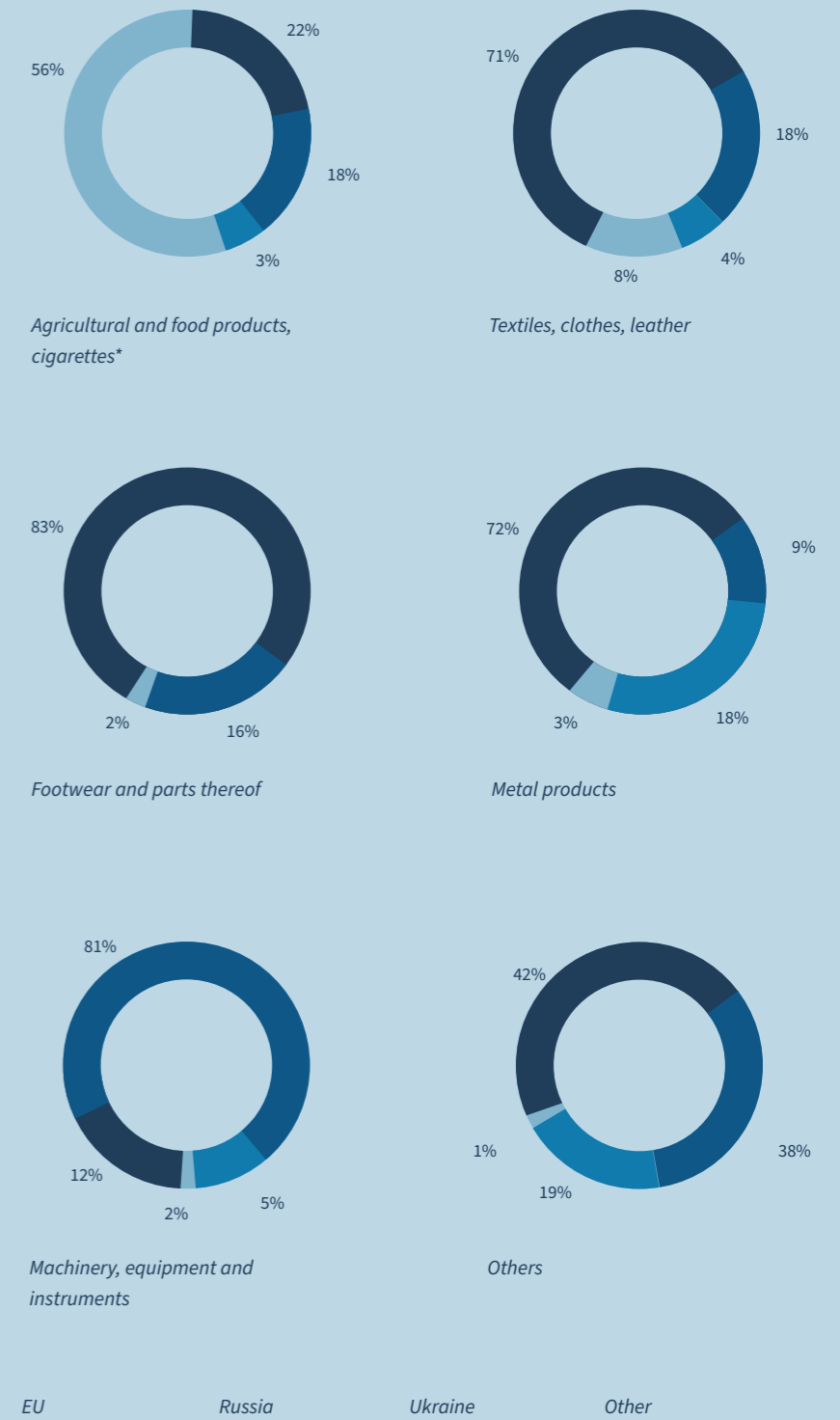
Regardless of its 25%-decrease year-on-year, exports to the EU stood at 50% of overall Transnistrian export, accounting for \$254mln in December 2018 - November 2019. Thus, Transnistria's external trade continued to demonstrate solid reliance on the EU markets. The Russian Federation (20%), Ukraine (9%) and Switzerland (3%) ranked second, third and fourth, accordingly, while Indonesia (2%) rounded out the top five key markets for Transnistrian exports (fig.1). These top five markets claimed around 85% of total Transnistrian exports in USD value.

A decrease in overall exports largely resulted from dipped steel products exports to the EU and Ukraine and of footwear to all key trading destinations. The Transnistrian steelmaker steeply reduced its exports to Ukraine and the EU - by 48% and 42%, accordingly, and ceased imports of steel scrap from Ukraine. Partially, export performance of the Transnistrian steelmaking sector was compounded by Ukraine's almost year-long restrictive sanctions, though lifted in spring 2019, and high exports duty on Ukraine's scrap metal. Despite slumped exports, the metal products continued as the largest share (34%) in the Transnistrian overall export structure (fig.2). In the reporting period, the EU remained a pivotal destination for Transnistrian metal products and a major supplier of steel scrap, claiming 70% of Transnistrian metal products exports and 80% of imports of scrap metal.

Transnistria's exports of agricultural and food products - a second largest category (33%) - showed a 14%-increase in December 2018 - November 2019 (fig.3). In USD value, 65% of this export category attributed to fruit, cereals and oil seeds, which cumulative exports grew by 45% year-on-year. The EU was the first largest destination for Transnistrian sunflower seeds and rapeseeds, Switzerland - for maize, Indonesia led as an importer of wheat, while the Russian Federation ranked first largely importing vegetable and fruit. Transnistrian exports to the Russian Federation increased by 23% with a growth having spanned all key categories of exports, but footwear. The Russian Federation claimed 80% of exports of equipment and instruments. Transnistria's export of all major goods to Ukraine was at downtrend in the reporting period, posting an overall decrease - by 42%. Yet, Ukraine retained its ranking as a second biggest importer of Transnistrian metal products (fig. 3).

**Key categories of exported goods and their markets, % of USD export value**

Fig. 3



\* including reported sales of Duty Free previously imported cigarettes

# IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT



In 2019, EUBAM persevered in supporting the border and customs agencies from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to establish joint control at other border crossing points along the common border, due to the benefits this mechanism offers to travellers, traders and border security. Moreover, the adoption in July of the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management (IBM) until 2025 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine accommodated the Mission's aim to implement the IBM principles at the common MD-UA border, being designed in line with the EU-UA Association Agreement.

The finalization of construction works of Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point and its opening for travellers and cargo traffic in December 2018 and February 2019 respectively, together with the operationalization of the Palanca Common Contact Point in September 2019 are among the most important achievements reached under this objective.

Efforts were also invested in optimizing the status of border crossing points at the Moldova-Ukraine border by adjusting them to the traffic flow and simplifying the border crossing for the residents of the border area. In this regard, a reviewing exercise was implemented, providing an overview of 35 interstate and local border crossing points and contributing to the draft of the new agreement on the border crossing points.

## Setting a benchmark for border management modernization

In December 2018, the most modern jointly operated border crossing point (JOBBCP) in the region – Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne – was opened for the passenger traffic, marking a qualitative change in border management. Later on, in February 2019, the JOBBCP was opened also for cargo traffic, ensuring the full operation of the new facilities. Being an EU funded project, implemented by UNDP, JOBBCP Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne significantly simplified the procedure of crossing the border for citizens of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and became a benchmark for other JOBBCPs where the agencies from the two countries plan to work together. EUBAM had supported Palanca project in all aspects, from helping to apply for the EU funding on initial stage to advising on the design and technical requirements related to the control procedures of the JOBBCP later on. The European Union contributed to this project with 4.5 mil EUR and the Moldovan Government with 1.7 mil EUR.

## Advancing IBM concept

In September, the Palanca Common Contact Point (CCP) established at the jointly operated border crossing point Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne started to be operational, facilitating timely information exchange between the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova (MDBP) and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) related to persons and vehicles crossing the border.

For familiarizing the partners with the operations of such establishments in the EU, EUBAM, in cooperation with Polish Border Guard, organized a workshop for officers from MDBP and UASBGS, sharing the EU best practices related to the legal framework, scope and source of information exchange, data protection and day-to-day management of the CCPs.

The CCP was set up at Palanca as a part of the EU-funded project on “Enhancing Integrated Border Management along the Ukraine-Moldova Border”, implemented by IOM with EUBAM’s support.

## Supporting EU border modernization infrastructural projects

During the reporting period, EUBAM continued to support the implementation of the EU funded project on “Enhanced Integrated Border Management through joint border control and exchange of information along the Moldova-Ukraine border”.

After the successful implementation of one of its components i.e. the operationalization of the Palanca Common Contact Point in September, the Mission further rendered necessary technical assistance for the modernization of the Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc and Reni-Giurgiulesti jointly operated border crossing points, as well as for the establishment and the Automated Information Exchange between Moldovan Border Police and Ukrainian State Border Guard Service. The completion of the project is expected in August 2020.

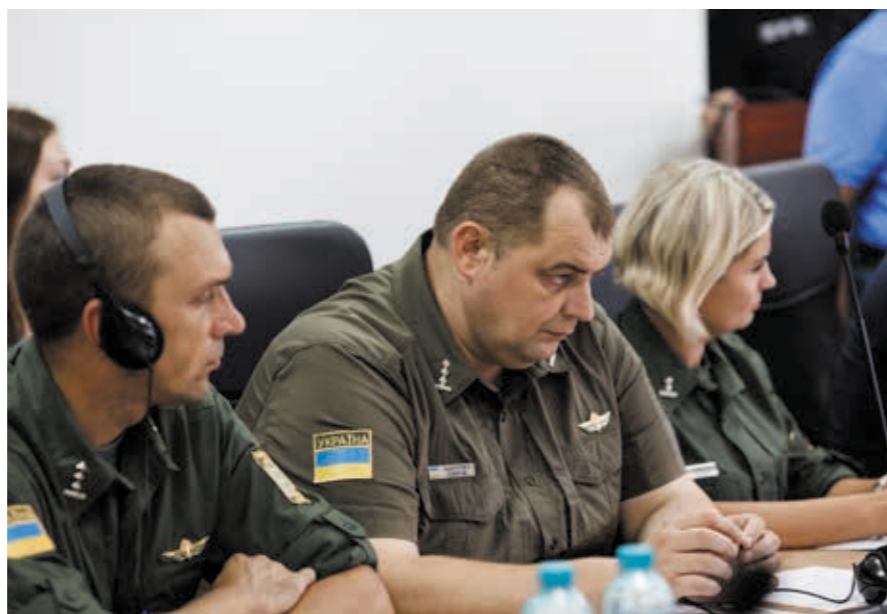


## Further efforts towards full-fledged joint control

The issue of expanding joint control was several times on the high political agenda, the sides showing also strong commitment by including the topic in the Action Plans of the IBM Strategies in both countries. As the joint control offers many benefits to travellers, traders and border security, EUBAM took further the work performed during the previous year when it supported Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies in developing a Road Map for expanding such mechanism at other border crossing points. Therefore, together with partner services, the Mission invested efforts in preparatory work towards full-fledged joint control at the UA-MD border. To this end, EUBAM conducted a series of fact-finding visits to eight border crossing points for exploring the possibility of introducing joint control, considering the existing infrastructure and border traffic volume and moderated ten technical meetings during which the outcomes of those fact-finding visits were debated and agreed.

## Streamlining border crossing points

In February, EUBAM completed a reviewing exercise on optimizing the status of 35 interstate and local border crossing points (BCPs) at the Moldova-Ukraine border. The Mission together with partner services conducted site visits and examination of the current performance and capacities of those BCPs with the purpose of their rationalization. Consequently, an overview report was shared with partner services, suggesting changes in the status of some of them in consistency with the traffic flow and impact on travelers' mobility and proposing simplifications for crossing the border for local residents. That report laid the basis for the draft of the new agreement on the border crossing points.



## Enhancing border checks and customs control procedures

EUBAM in liaison with the four main partners in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine completed an exercise aimed at verification of border checks and customs controls of travellers and passenger vehicles performed at ten border crossing points at the Ukraine-Moldova border. The exercise focused on the mobility of travellers as derived from the principles of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan, human rights and dignity in line with the EU standards.

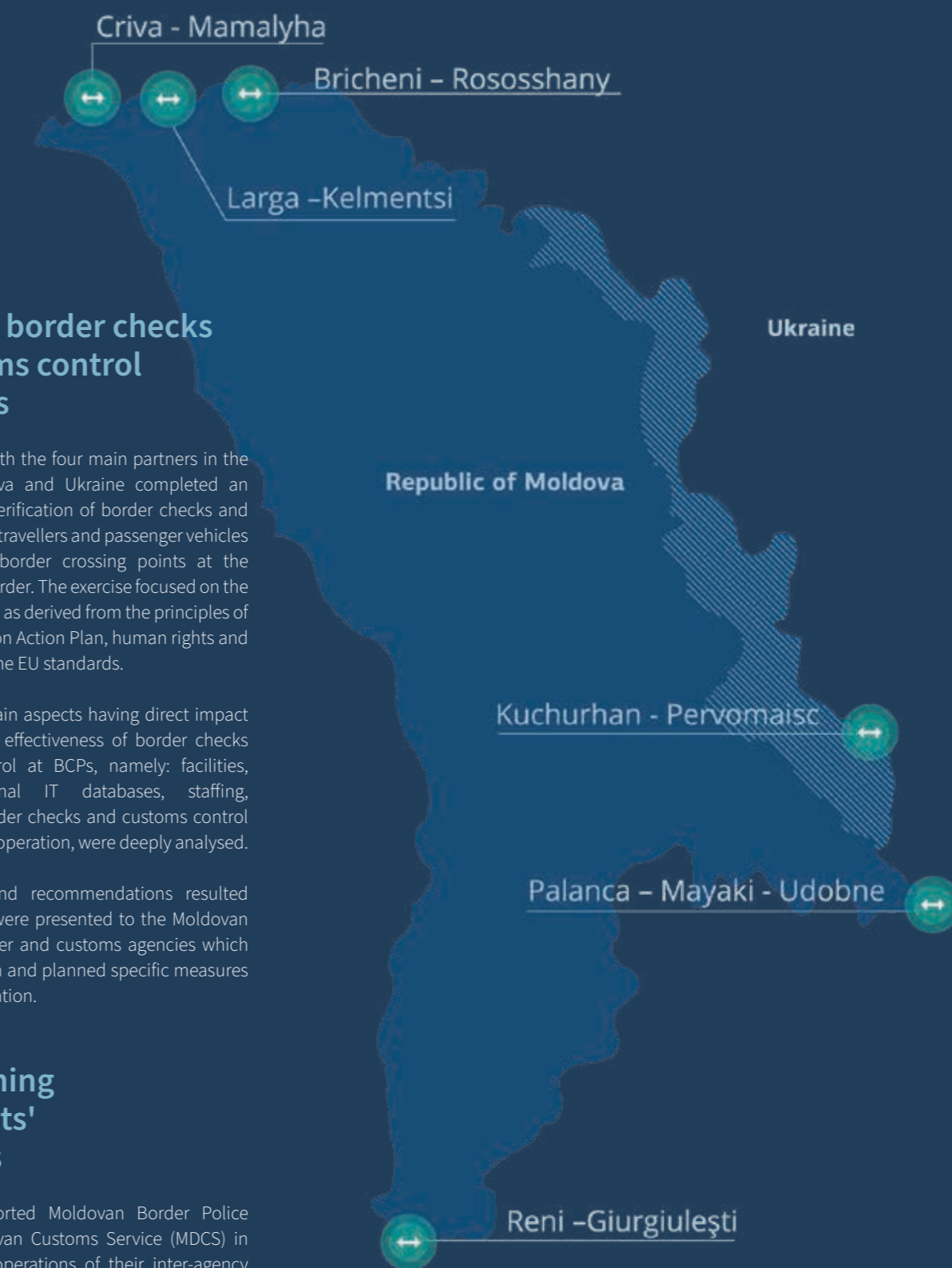
Therefore, seven main aspects having direct impact on the quality and effectiveness of border checks and customs control at BCPs, namely: facilities, equipment, national IT databases, staffing, performance of border checks and customs control and inter-agency cooperation, were deeply analysed.

All the findings and recommendations resulted from that exercise were presented to the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies which acknowledged them and planned specific measures for their implementation.

## Strengthening mobile units' operations

The Mission supported Moldovan Border Police (MDBP) and Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) in strengthening the operations of their inter-agency mobile units and identifying areas of priority according to their competencies.

For a more effective planning of the inter-agency mobile units' operational activities and to ensure their better coordination, EUBAM assisted MDBP and MDCS in developing a new cooperation plan setting clear cooperative, operational and management methods agreed for that purpose as well as procedures for conducting intelligence-led joint activities.



Map of JOBCPs located at the Moldova - Ukraine border

# FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

In 2019, EUBAM pursued its efforts in addressing the threats related to smuggling tobacco products and weapons trafficking. In this connection, Joint Operation 'ORION' on counteracting the illicit trafficking of small arms, light weapons, ammunition, explosives and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials that covered the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine was successfully completed.

Another anti-smuggling operation code-named 'SCORPION' aimed at preventing and counteracting cigarettes smuggling was effectively implemented together with Ukrainian and Moldovan partners. The LEAs from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania and Poland as well as EUROPOL, OLAF and Frontex also participated in those operations. In March, the Mission launched a new initiative by setting up a platform for regular assessment of risks and threats in Odesa region in the format of an Inter-agency Regional Analytical Group.

The regional heads of the State Border Guard Service, State Fiscal Service, Security Service and the National Police of Ukraine signed together a Protocol on launching that initiative aimed as well as strengthening cooperation between those agencies by pulling resources, sharing intelligence and coordinating their efforts. Furthermore, EUBAM shaped a new initiative for counteracting illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunitions and explosives and launched it in the format of Joint Cross-Border Working Group, together with the national law enforcement agencies, and supported by EUROPOL, Frontex and OSCE.



## Assisting partner services in cross-border crimes' investigations

EUBAM continued its advisory and operational support in assisting Moldovan and Ukrainian partner services in the most significant cross-border crimes' investigations for strengthening the prevention and combating of that phenomenon in the region, facilitating international cooperation and encouraging the involved parties to capitalize on possibilities to improve direct communication.

To this end, the Mission facilitated the investigations initiated by partner services by providing necessary expert support, including advising on the case development, maintaining contacts with the relevant international partners, as well as technical and logistical assistance. Therefore, several cases on illicit firearms trafficking from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova and smuggling of cigarettes to the EU were opened in both countries with EUBAM's assistance and supported by the EU Member States in 2019.

Within two of those cases, joint investigations teams led by the Prosecutor's Office were established.

**Roberto Codesal,**  
EUROPOL

*Joint Operation 'ORION' is yet another example of how international cooperation is key to fighting the cross-border trafficking in firearms and explosives. The availability of such weapons poses a clear threat to global security, while also providing a lucrative profit stream for criminals.*

**Slawomir Pichor,**  
Head of EUBAM

*Joint Operation 'ORION' proved to be a valuable tool for counteracting, testing risks and assessing the existing threats in the field of illicit weapons trafficking as well as strengthening the international cooperation. Due to the numerous seizures also the citizens' security has been improved.*

## Counteracting cross-border crime in Odesa region

On 1 March, EUBAM together with the law enforcement agencies from Odesa region launched a joint initiative for counteracting cross-border crime, by signing a Protocol on 'Inter-agency Regional Analytical Group', as part of EUBAM and its partner services' joint efforts to prevent and combat cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border. Further on, in July, EUBAM moderated a working session of the group that led to the completion of an analytical paper on risks and threats assessment in Odesa region. Afterwards, throughout September-October, under the aegis of EUBAM, the Group drafted an Analytical Report on Cigarette Smuggling in Odesa Region encompassing an assessment of the current situation, as well as a forecast of future trends.

**Slawomir Pichor,**  
Head of EUBAM

*This Protocol sets up a united front to tackle cross-border crime and bringing more security in Odesa region. One single agency cannot address these threats, that is why, pulling resources, sharing intelligence and coordinating our efforts via this newly established initiative will provide a quick and consolidated response to cross-border crime. Together we are stronger.*

**300 pieces small arms, almost 1,500 pieces of light weapons, more than 140,000 pieces ammunition and over 200 kg explosives were seized by the Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.**

## Fighting cigarettes smuggling

Considering the high risk of cigarette smuggling in the region, EUBAM facilitated an anti-smuggling operation code-named 'SCORPION' aimed at preventing and counteracting that risk with the participation of border, customs and security agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, border and customs agencies of Romania, OLAF and EUROPOL.

The operation was successfully conducted in June-September, in cooperation with OLAF using their AFIS system as the communication platform and resulted in 115 seizures of over 15 million pieces of cigarettes.



# 115 seizures of over 15 million pieces of cigarettes

## Task force tobacco fosters cooperation in fighting cigarette smuggling

In October, the EUBAM's Annual Task Force Tobacco meeting took place in Odesa, bringing together 53 delegates from law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the UK, as well as representatives from EU agencies EUROPOL, Frontex and OLAF. Ukrainian Tobacco Association "Ukrutun" and the major cigarette producers also attended.

The participants shared experience on the recent trends, new modus operandi, emerging risks and effective countermeasures against tobacco products smuggling.

In the course of the meeting, EUBAM also shared with the participants the final results of the latest joint border control operation implemented together with the Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and in cooperation with OLAF and EUROPOL.

## Building risk management capacity

In support of the implementation of the Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) Risk Management Strategy for 2018-2020, EUBAM provided assistance in developing their internal procedures regulating the risk analysis area and a risk management performance evaluation as well as in rolling out new risk analysis methodologies.

The Mission also organised mentoring sessions on safety and security, risks analysis and risk profiling, for customs officers working at the regional and local level.

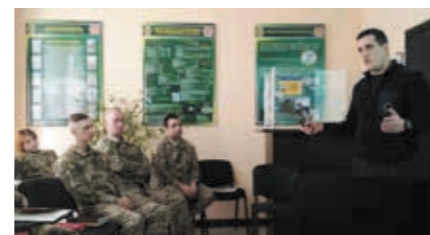
In November, EUBAM contributed to building the risk management capacity within the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine by supporting the further implementation of Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM) through delivering four practical sessions on the application of CIRAM to 35 officers within UASBGS Southern Regional Directorate.

The main purpose of those sessions was to familiarize the participants with the effective usage of that instrument for risk analysis and threats assessment in border management.

## Strengthening first and second-line border checks

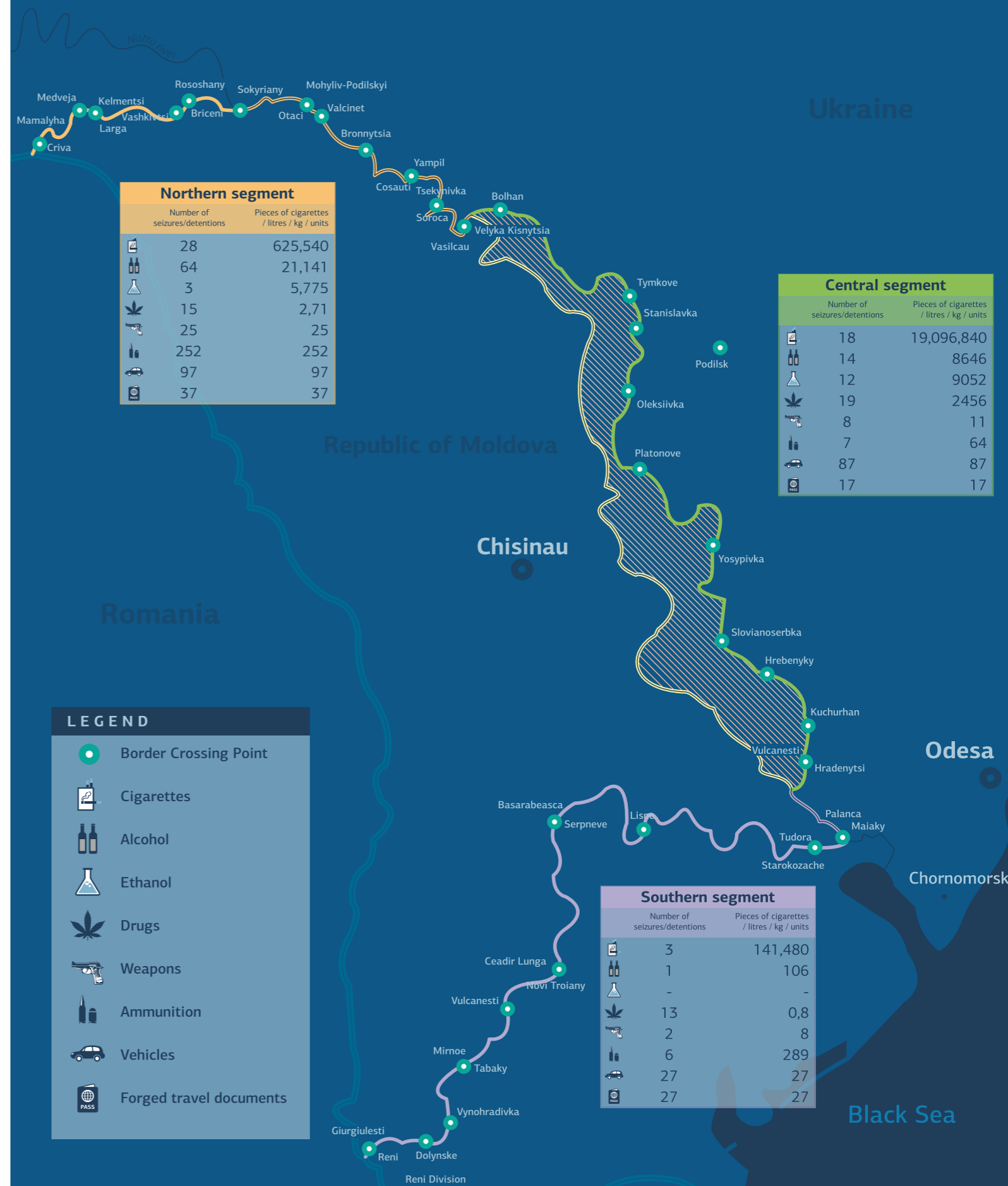
EUBAM further contributed to the development of the professional capacities of Moldovan and Ukrainian Border Police/ Border Guard performing first and second-line border checks by conducting in February and September, six on-the-job mentoring sessions for 120 officers.

The upskilling theoretical and practical sessions, focused on persons' identification, impostor detection and conducting second-line interviews during the border checks, will strengthen the officers' skills for preventing and detecting irregular cross-border activities related to persons and documents.



# 120 officers trained

## Seizures/detentions at the Moldova-Ukraine border in December 2018 – November 2019\*



\*Seized/Detained by Moldovan Border Police, Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova and State Fiscal Service/State Customs Service of Ukraine

# COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

## Coordination with European Union Partners

During the reporting period, the Mission continued to maintain close cooperation and coordination with the EU Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and provided regular briefings on the developments in regards to the Transnistrian settlement process, the extension of the joint control to the Moldova-Ukraine border, and progress within border agencies.

In March, EUBAM attended both the Regional Seminar for Heads of Delegations/Missions in Eastern Europe and Central Asia organized by the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Warsaw and the Customs Cooperation Working Party Meeting in Brussels, where partners and Mission's efforts in combating cross-border crime were presented.

In May, in Odesa, the Mission briefed the Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors on EUBAM's contribution to the regional stability and economic development. Also in May, EUBAM offered a comprehensive presentation on the Mission's assistance programme to the State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance of Austria and Austrian ambassador to the Republic of Moldova who visited EUBAM HQ.

In September, Head of Mission visited Frontex headquarters, in Warsaw, where he met with its Executive Director and discussed EU cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries on strengthening border management in the region.

In October, in Chisinau, EUBAM introduced the Mission's key achievements and activities to the EU Eastern Partnership's ambassadors-at-large, visiting the Republic of Moldova.

In November, in Chisinau, Head of Mission met as well representatives of EC DG TRADE and EEAS.

Also in the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM coordinated the activities with the EU High Level Advisers on Customs and Tax Policy and on Confidence Building Measures. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, EUBAM held coordination meetings with the management of the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM), both in Kyiv and in Odesa.



Head of EUBAM, Mr Slawomir Pichor, meets with Executive Director of FRONTEX, Mr Fabrice Leggeri



**Mr Marco Gemmer**

Head of Operations Section, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

Over recent years, EUBAM has been instrumental in supporting the competent authorities in both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in further implementing the Integrated Border Management Concept, providing technical assistance to the Transnistrian settlement process and assisting in the fight against smuggling, among others, tobacco.



**Mr Stefan Schleuning**

Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Ukraine

EUBAM carries an important role within the EU's actions in implementing the integrated border management concept in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

## Coordination with National Authorities

The Mission coordinated closely with the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities the implementation of the EUBAM 12 Action Plan.

In the Republic of Moldova, Head of Mission held regular working meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister on Reintegration, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate and the Director of the Customs Service.

In Ukraine, Head of Mission held meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director of Directorate General for European Union and NATO, Special Representative of Ukraine for the Transnistrian Conflict Settlement, the Heads of the State Border Guard and State Customs Services, as well as the National Police and Security Service.

The senior managers discussed and coordinated developments in border management, law enforcement operations, prospects and challenges for expansion of the joint control, fight against cross-border crime as well as the ways for further cooperation.

## International Outreach

EUBAM had regular technical meetings with OSCE Mission to Moldova for coordinating the common activities related to confidence building measures between Chisinau and Tiraspol.

In April, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova visited EUBAM HQ in Odesa where Head of Mission briefed him on the Mission's ongoing support to trade, customs, road and rail transportation issues while the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova updated on the Transnistrian Settlement Process negotiations in the '5+2' format.

In May, EUBAM participated in the SELEC Interdisciplinary Regional Workshop "Links

between firearms trafficking and terrorism" in Turkey and in the 19th Anti-Fraud and Anti-Smuggling Task Force meeting in Albania. Also in May, the Mission presented its mandate and contribution to the regional security and economic development during the Europe Day public event organized by EEAS in Brussels.

In July, EUBAM also coordinated with the Conflict Prevention Centre at the Vienna-based OSCE Secretariat the initiatives on combatting illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunitions and explosives in Ukraine.

In June, in Poznan, Poland, EUBAM attended the 23rd WCO Annual Meeting of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Eastern and Central Europe/National Contact Points on information exchange on large drugs seizures, modus operandi and their recent investigations.



**Ms Tatiana Molcean**

State Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova

We reconfirm our interest in working further in order to proceed with the joint control implementation at the Moldova-Ukraine border, with a particular attention to the central part of the border - essential tool for border management and risks analysis for the benefit of both countries. We encourage EUBAM to continue the result-oriented approach in order to achieve tangible progress thus contributing to ensuring stability and security in the region.



**Mr Serhii Saienko**

Acting Director of the European Union and the NATO Directorate of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EUBAM is considerably contributing to building capacities of customs and border services of Ukraine, advocating for reforms and fulfilment of Association Agreement (AA)/DCFTA commitments.

# EUBAM TODAY

The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in November 2005 to promote border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards, and serve the needs of its two partner countries. It is an advisory, technical Mission headquartered in Odesa (Ukraine) with two country offices and six field offices in its area of operation. EUBAM activities promote economic development and enhance regional security. The Mission contributes to cross-border co-operation and confidence-building, and helps to improve efficiency, transparency and security along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

## The Mission's aims are:

- » the development of Transnistria-related confidence-building measures and approximation of legislation and procedures in customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management;
- » the implementation of the Integrated Border Management at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment; and
- » the fight against cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment.

### EUBAM in numbers

Total EUBAM staff 120, as for 1 December 2019



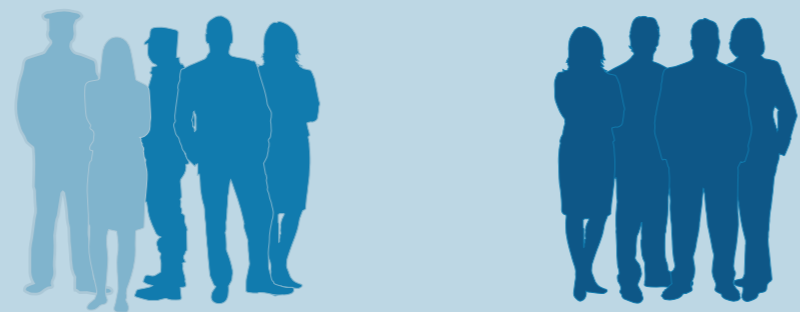
Female 46

74 Male



Field staff 72

48 Headquarter staff

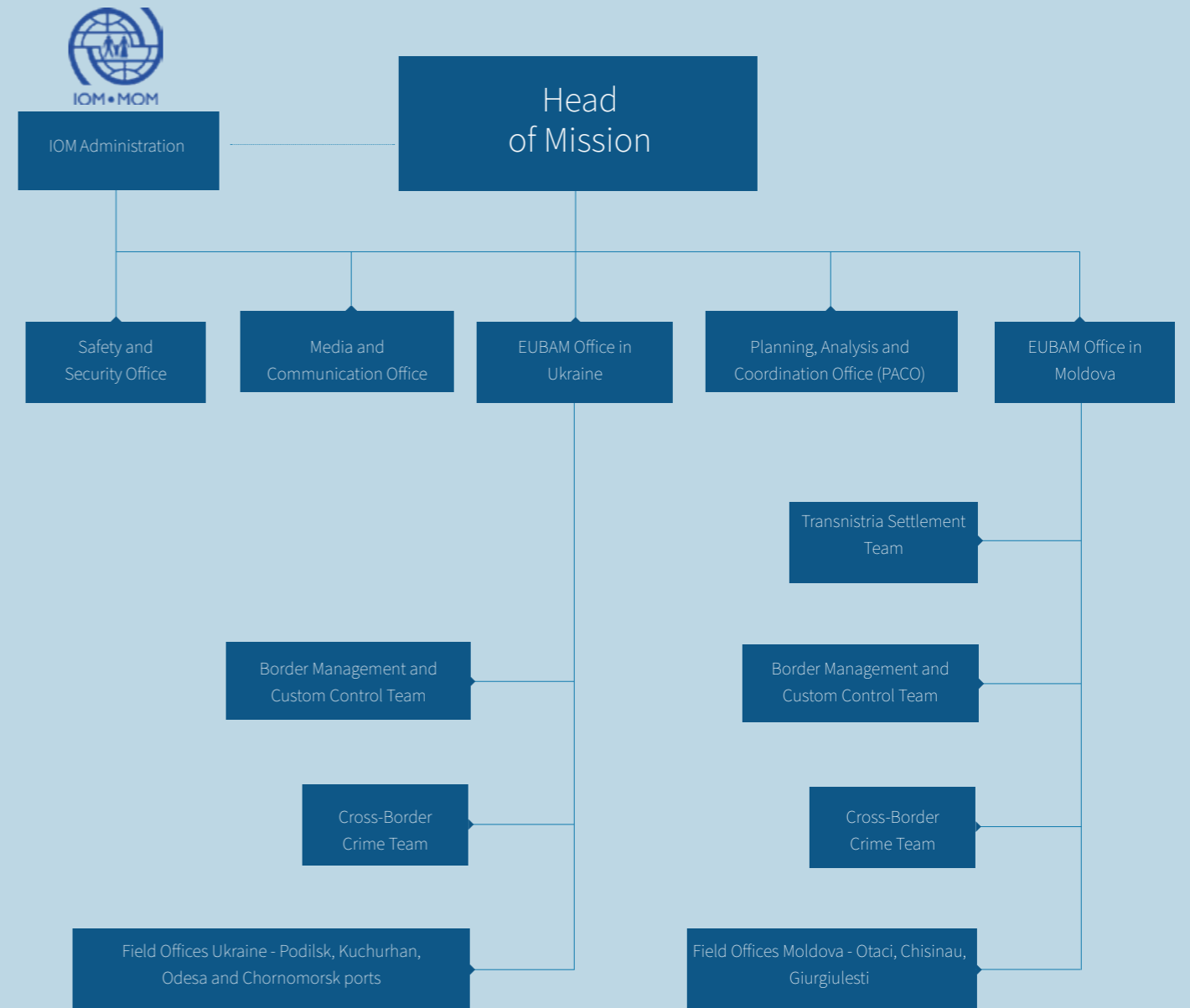


National staff 74

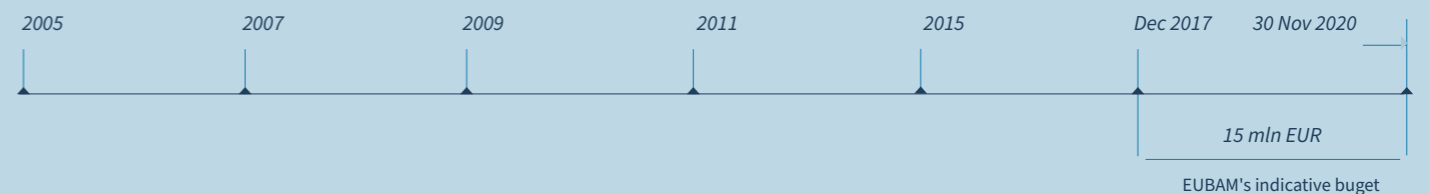
46 International staff

MD, UA

11 UE Countries



### The Mission's mandate has been extended five times



# EUBAM 12 ACTION PLAN

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>To support the development of Transnistria-related confidence-building measures and approximation of legislation and procedures in customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management.</b>
<b>Output 1.1</b>	<b>Customs and trade related legislation and procedures on both sides of the Dniester River approximated.</b>
Activities	1.1.1 Advise on the approximation of customs duties, VAT and excise between Chisinau and Tiraspol.
	1.1.2 Advise on the approximation of regulations and procedures on customs valuation and the alignment of regulations on fees and charges to the provisions of Articles VII and VIII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between Chisinau and Tiraspol.
	1.1.3 Advise Transnistria on the implementation of Articles 2, 4-6 of the World Trade Organisation's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.
	1.1.4 Advise Transnistria on the implementation of the World Trade Organisation's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection standards and market surveillance.
	1.1.5 Advise Chisinau and Tiraspol in improving the customs framework and further simplification of formalities in trade in goods.
<b>Output 1.2</b>	<b>Co-operation among responsible authorities on the enforcement of customs and trade legislation and procedures on both sides of the Dniester River enhanced.</b>
Activities	1.2.1 Arrange joint anti-smuggling operations between Chisinau and Tiraspol customs structures.
	1.2.2 Seek agreement and develop an automated exchange of customs data and information on registration of juridical persons involved in trans-boundary and international trade.
	1.2.3 Profile and analyse Transnistrian external trade activity, including on the implementation of the single customs regime (i.e. 2005 Moldova-Ukraine Joint Declaration).
	1.2.4 Verify clearance of goods imported or exported by Transnistrian economic operators is performed in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.
<b>Output 1.3</b>	<b>Sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary practices on both sides of the Dniester River aligned with international standards to mitigate human, animal or plant health risks in trade.</b>
	1.3.1 Promote co-operation between Chisinau and Tiraspol to uphold regional consumer safety.
<b>Output 1.4</b>	<b>Practical solutions for the fully-fledged resumption of passenger and freight traffic across Transnistria adopted by the responsible authorities.</b>
Activities	1.4.1 Develop and sustain transport related confidence-building measures in co-operation with the OSCE.
	1.4.2 Contribute to defusing disruption of passenger and freight services across the administrative boundary line and transit, import and export of cargo overseas by road and rail through Transnistria, in co-operation with the OSCE.
<b>Output 1.5</b>	<b>Trans-boundary crisis management co-operation enhanced.</b>
Activities	1.5.1 Encourage establishment of contact points and information exchange mechanisms to respond to any type of incidents (flooding, serious incidents in either bank of the Dniester River, etc.) that may affect the movement of people and goods across Transnistria.
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Full implementation of the Integrated Border Management at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment.</b>
<b>Output 2.1</b>	<b>Joint control at border crossing points and automated exchange of border crossing data established.</b>
Activities	2.1.1 Ensure the implementation plan of the partner services to establish jointly operated border crossing points along the entire Moldovan-Ukrainian border.
	2.1.2 Confirm the full implementation of the automated exchange of border crossing data on persons and vehicles crossing the Moldovan-Ukrainian border including the Transnistrian segment.

<b>Output 2.2</b>	<b>Efficiency of border and customs controls increased through inter-agency co-operation at the regional and local levels.</b>
Activities	2.2.1 Ensure on the full implementation of One-Stop-Shop (OSS) concept including on the implementation of data sharing mechanisms at Border Crossing Points for clearance purposes.
	2.2.2 Draft assessment and proposal regarding intelligence led border management on Moldova-Ukraine border segment. Support inter-agency mobile groups based on intelligence-led activities in close co-operation with Frontex.
<b>Output 2.3</b>	<b>Cross-border processes aligned with the Association Agreements, VLAPs and Integrated Border Management provisions.</b>
Activities	2.3.1 Evaluate border and customs systems at all road, rail, air and sea Border Crossing Points and Customs Posts within EUBAM's area of operations jointly with partner services.
	2.3.2 Monitor the implementation of the EU Visa post-Liberalisation Action Plans benchmarks in both Moldova and Ukraine in the following areas: border management, migration management, combatting cross-border organised crime and freedom of movement of citizens of both countries, upon the request of the EU and/or partner services.
	2.3.3 Review all Border Crossing Points along the Moldova-Ukraine border with a view to optimizing their status.
	2.3.4 Support the finalisation of the border demarcation process on the Moldova-Ukraine border. Upon request of the partner services, advise on the technical aspects outstanding for the full demarcation of the common border.
<b>Specific objective 3</b>	<b>Greater effectiveness of efforts to combat cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment.</b>
<b>Output 3.1</b>	<b>The transparency in fighting cross border crime of the common border and adjacent ports of entry in fighting cross-border crime increased.</b>
Activities	3.1.1 Assist in the prevention, detection and investigation of cross-border crime.
	3.1.2 Develop the assessment, prevention, detection and investigation capabilities of partner services on the illegal trafficking of arms, ammunition, radiological and nuclear materials.
<b>Output 3.2</b>	<b>Joint assessment of threats to border security jointly assessed by the border services and other law enforcement agencies in Moldova and Ukraine developed.</b>
Activities	3.2.1 Develop updated assessment of risk analysis, intelligence and data-flow management of the partner services on the concerned border segments, and ensure implementation of assessment.
	3.2.2 Develop and ensure implementation of the partner services' joint risk and threat assessments on cross-border crime.
	3.2.3 Ensure a sustainable alert mechanism at tactical and operational levels for prompt response border-related crime threats.
<b>Output 3.3</b>	<b>Increased operational co-operation between Ukraine and Moldova in preventing smuggling of goods, including in tobacco products, arms, ammunition and nuclear materials.</b>
Activities	3.3.1 Develop updated assessment of information exchange between Moldova and Ukraine on preventing and combating smuggling of goods, including in tobacco products, arms and ammunition, explosives and nuclear materials.
	3.3.2 Ensure the planning, conduct and evaluation of joint border control operations with the partner services and in co-operation with Frontex, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and South European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC).
	3.3.3 Ensure the implementation of border and customs control measures in Moldova and Ukraine with particular attention to the Transnistrian segment of the common border.
<b>Output 3.4</b>	<b>Better inter-agency coordination in the detection, investigation and enforcement of cross-border crime.</b>
Activities	3.4.1 Enhance harmonised measures and joint efforts to improve enforcement procedures to prevent and combat cross-border crime.



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International Organisation for Migration is the implementing partner



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