



Funded by  
the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION BORDER  
ASSISTANCE MISSION TO  
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2020 -  
30 NOVEMBER 2021



# EUBAM AREA OF OPERATION



## Table of Contents

<b>4</b>	<b>FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>FOREWORDS FROM PARTNER SERVICES</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>ADVISORY BOARD</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>EUBAM TODAY</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>EUBAM 12 ACTION PLAN</b>

## FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION

Even though the everyday work of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine is focused on its current and future priorities, it is always of a great importance for me to reflect on the achievements of the past year. Therefore, I am honoured to present you the 2021 EUBAM Annual Report, which showcases accomplishments we achieved together with our Partner Services throughout December 2020 - November 2021.

During the twelve-month time span the Mission, as the entire world, had to operate again under COVID-19 constraints. Although the percentage of the offline activities increased compared with the previous year, we still had most of our interaction with Partners in an online mode while on-the-ground activities were limited to a certain degree by preventive measures. Except for the pandemic that, unfortunately, continued to stay with us, the dynamic political situation and the budgetary constraints connected to the process of adopting the new financing instruments at the EU level, together have put to the test the implementation of our activities during the reporting period. However, despite all those difficulties, I'm glad to state that the Mission has successfully passed it, and the overall situation is gradually improving.

During the past year EUBAM continued to contribute to technical confidence-building measures between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The activity of the Expert (Working) Group on road transportation, rail transportation and customs was notably intensified and yielded the results. Now, residents of the Transnistrian region can have neutral number plates for their trailers as well. Additionally, after a long break, the Odesa-Chisinau-Odesa train, which not only connects people from two countries, but also brings closer the two banks of the Nistru River, resumed its operation in September. When it comes to implementation of DCFTA between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, on the left bank of the Nistru River, in 2021, 54% of all Transnistrian region's export went to the EU.

To foster Integrated Border Management (IBM), EUBAM carried on its advisory support and shared the best European practices. With the help of the Mission's assistance, the Moldovan authorities drafted, and afterwards adopted, two important documents, namely a new Customs Code and a 2021-2023 Moldovan Integrated Border Management (IBM) Action Plan for the implementation of the National IBM Strategy. In November, Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies resumed joint patrols alongside common border. It's important to highlight that five border crossing points along the Moldova-Ukraine border were included in the big modernization plan introduced by the Ukrainian Government in March. We witnessed a gradual increase in passenger traffic between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which we hope soon will steadily return to the pre-pandemic indicators. However, as regards the implementation of the joint control, we did not reach tangible progress on, despite of some agreements reached earlier. Some positive political developments in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova give hope for a new impetus that will enable the full-fledged joint control along the common border. And I do hope that we will manage to advance this issue in the near future.

Yet the most tangible results the Mission achieved were in the pursuit against cross border crime. For instance, EUBAM facilitated an international investigation that led to Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcers seizing 235 kg of heroin bound for the EU. In the forefront of fight against illegal tobacco movement the Mission successfully coordinated Joint Border Control Operation codenamed "Scorpion II" that led to Moldovan, Ukrainian and Romanian law enforcers seizing more than eight million cigarettes. At the same time, EUBAM kept its grip on enhancing our Partners' capabilities to target cross-border crime in a course of numerous high-level meetings and capacity-building events focused on strategic intelligence analysis, cyber

”

*The pandemic, dynamic political situation and budgetary constraints have put the implementation of our activities to the test. However, despite all those difficulties, I'm glad to state that the Mission has successfully passed it.*



investigation and information exchange. In the same vein, the Mission supported the Moldovan Customs Service in developing a new Risk Management Strategy for 2021-2025, that was also approved during the reporting period, laying the foundation for a more effective customs risk management.

As Phase 12 of this Mission is approaching its end soon, we've had to reshape both ourselves and the Mission; however, we retain the manpower that will allow us to focus on fulfilling our mandate at the central segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border. Finally, I would like to seize this opportunity and express my gratitude to

our national and international Partners for the outstanding cooperation. Everything that is highlighted on the pages of this report is our common achievement and would be impossible without their dedication, professionalism, and active involvement. I encourage you to read on this report and see with your own eyes the work our Mission is doing to enhance economic prosperity and to step up security alongside the Moldova-Ukraine border.

**SLAWOMIR PICHOR**

Head of Mission

# THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

DECEMBER 2020 - NOVEMBER 2021

## CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

### DEMAND FOR NEUTRAL-DESIGN NUMBER PLATES INCREASED

/ The number of neutral-design number plates issued in Vehicle Registration Offices in Tiraspol and Ribnita increased significantly.

### TRAILERS REGISTERED WITH NEUTRAL-DESIGN NUMBER PLATES

/ Interaction within the Expert (Working) Groups on Road Transportation, Rail Transportation and Customs produced results, registration of trailers and drafting a Protocol Decision on cargo transit via the Transnistrian region being vivid examples of them.

### 54% OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION EXPORT WENT TO THE EU

/ EU-Moldova AA/DCFTA implementation in the Transnistrian region was constantly monitored and reported to the EU; 54% of all export went to the EU.

### ODESA - CHISINAU - ODESA PASSENGER TRAIN RESUMED

/ Odesa - Chisinau - Odesa passenger train, revitalized with EUBAM's support in 2018, resumed its daily operation after a long break imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Crossing the Transnistrian region with two stops there, it widens the range of available transport means especially for the residents of the left bank.



## INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

### JOINT ASSISTANCE EXERCISE "STRONGER TOGETHER" COMPLETED

/ Joint Assistance Exercise "Stronger together" designed to verify the level of implementation of key principles of joint control at the six jointly operated border crossing points was completed. Findings will contribute to strengthen the effectiveness of joint control.

### MOLDOVAN NEW CUSTOMS CODE ADOPTED

/ Republic of Moldova's new Customs Code, elaborated with the EUBAM's assistance and called to simplify the regulation and interpretation of the rules concerned by uniting several profiled laws into one Code, was adopted by the Parliament.

### MODERNIZATION PLAN FOR BORDER CROSSING POINTS APPROVED

/ Modernization plan for priority border crossing points (BCPs) at Moldova-Ukraine border, among which: Mamalyha, Mohylev-Podilsk, Platonove, Starokozache, and Reni was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for the period 2021-2023.

### MOLDOVAN IBM ACTION PLAN ADOPTED

/ 2021-2023 Moldovan Integrated Border Management (IBM) Action Plan for the implementation of the National IBM Strategy was adopted reflecting majority of the EUBAM's proposals submitted earlier to the Moldovan authorities.

## CROSS-BORDER CRIME

### 235 KG OF HEROIN BOUND FOR THE EU SEIZED

/ 235 kg of heroin bound for the EU were seized and five drug traffickers arrested by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) of the Republic of Moldova, together with their Ukrainian counterparts, as a result of a large-scale international investigation facilitated by EUBAM.

### NEW RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OF MOLDOVAN CUSTOMS SERVICE APPROVED

/ New Risk Management Strategy of Moldovan Customs Service for 2021-2025, developed with EUBAM support, was approved, laying the foundation for a more effective customs risk management.

### OVER 8 MIL PIECES OF CIGARETTES SEIZED

/ More than eight million pieces of cigarettes were seized by the Moldovan, Ukrainian, and Romanian LEAs as a result of a Joint Border Control Operation codenamed "SCORPION II", coordinated by EUBAM, in cooperation with the European Anti-Fraud Office(OLAF).

### LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CAPACITY ENHANCED

/ Strategic intelligence analysis, cyber investigation and information exchange capacities of the law-enforcement agencies from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were enhanced by organizing a wide range of high-level meetings, lectures and workshops.

# FOREWORDS FROM PARTNER SERVICES

GENERAL BORDER POLICE  
INSPECTORATE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

## Rosian Vasiloï

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

*Over the years, the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova has enjoyed the rewarding cooperation with EUBAM through its support and assistance since its very inception in strengthening state border security of the Republic of Moldova.*

Although 2021 was quite a challenging year, marked as the year of COVID-19 pandemic, we succeeded to fully benefit from our cooperation and invigorate our efforts in ensuring effective border management. The Border Police of the Republic of Moldova continued to pursue the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Concept. Thus, the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted Decree No. 227 of 6 October 2021 on approval of the Action Plan for 2021-2023 for implementation of the National Strategy for Integrated State Border Management for 2018-2023.

As part of the joint activities on combating cross-border organized crime, the border agency of the Republic of Moldova took an active role in successful joint international operations such as 'Scorpion II' on counteracting cigarettes smuggling. Engagement in this activity was extremely beneficial as it helped us to better respond and counteract cross-border crime, and we commend the Mission for organizing such an operation.



I would like to highlight and express gratitude to EUBAM for support in enhancing the operation of Palanca Common Contact Point by providing an opportunity to familiarize with the Europol Secure Information Exchange Network (SIENA).

Regretfully, in 2021, no progress was achieved in rolling out the joint control at border crossing points on the Moldova-Ukraine state border. I would like to underline our intention and readiness for launching the full-fledged joint control at Pervomaisc-Kuchurhan border crossing point (BCP). I am convinced that the establishment of full-fledged joint control at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc BCP will enable the implementation and extension of joint control concept on the Moldova-Ukraine border. We believe that our Partners will exert every effort to achieve this common goal for the benefit of both states.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to EUBAM, the Partner Services of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and international organisations for their effective cooperation, encouragement, openness, commitment to dialogue and support in reinforcing security on the Ukraine-Moldova border.



STATE BORDER GUARD  
SERVICE OF UKRAINE

## Serhiy Deyineko

Head of the State Border Guard  
Service of Ukraine

We appreciate EUBAM for joint activities undertaken in 2021 in strengthening cooperation on the Ukraine-Moldova border, and strategic collaboration throughout the years. I am confident that our cooperation will continue in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly outline the current operational development and achievements. Thus, the major threats at the state border pertain to: the hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation; transit illegal migration from Asia and Africa to the EU; illegal movement of goods, especially cigarettes, to the EU countries. To counteract those factors, we apply effective pre-emptive and operational measures, allowing to control the situation.

The agency pursues the integration processes, particularly the roll-out of Integrated Border Management Strategy (IBM) until 2025 according to the Action Plan on IBM implementation. The IBM is one of the key priorities of governmental policy in the border security dimension. To coordinate the process, a high level interagency working group was established.

The bodies of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine are mandated to carry out operational and search activities. To that end, the agency's operational and search structure was optimized. To effectively counteract violations related to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), special training curriculum for UAV operators has been developed and introduced at the Main Personnel Training Center of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine named after Major General Ihor Momot.

We invest considerable efforts to provide comfortable conditions for border crossing and ensure border security. The biometric control system we have created operates continuously at all international and interstate border crossing points and allows to automatically check all types of biometric documents.

To date, 157 state border crossing points have been equipped on the first and second lines of control. This aspect is also reinforced by the connection of our border crossing points to Interpol databases with a direct access channel at the organization's headquarters in Lyon (France). Thereby, in 2021 we tackled 2,033 cases based on Interpol database alerts. The service actively contributes to operation of the National system of biometric verification and identification of citizens.

The State Border Guard Service participates in international exercises involving NATO countries and delivers joint



border operations on counteracting illegal activities on common borders with the EU. Implementation of tasks on preventing the spread of coronavirus respiratory disease COVID-19 in Ukraine has been ensured. In line with the governmental decision, certain restrictions have been established on entry to Ukraine for foreigners and stateless persons, as well as for compliance of persons subject to self-isolation with the relevant regulations.

I strongly believe that the approval of the Plan for implementation of agreements reached during the visit of the President of the Republic of Moldova to Ukraine on 12 January 2021 is a positive element for the development of bilateral cooperation. Among other things, the plan includes: amending the intergovernmental Agreement on Border Crossing Points across the Ukraine-Moldova State Border due to construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Dniester river on the Ukraine-Moldova state border in the area of Yampil (Ukraine) – Cosauti (the Republic of Moldova); negotiating with the Moldovan side a draft Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on visa-free travel using ID cards. This Activity Plan will undeniably lead to a new round of development and enforcement of good-neighbourly relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that EUBAM remains a reliable strategic partner of the Ukrainian border agency and contributes to its development.



## CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

# Igor Talmazan

Director of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Our cooperation with EUBAM and Ukrainian colleagues in 2021 continued evolving amid ongoing strenuous circumstances in fight against the W. The Mission provided support in fostering the dialogue between the Partner Services in the key areas of joint activities at the border. Undoubtedly, one of the major achievements of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova in 2021 has been the adoption by the Moldovan Parliament of the new Customs Code developed with the support of EUBAM, EUHLAM and TAIEX of the European Commission. This document has been fully streamlined with the Union Customs Code and will come into effect on 1 January 2023. The development of Integrated Border Management Concept (IBM) on the Moldova-Ukraine border remains one of the major priorities, triggering joint activities on advancing multiple IBM aspects such as joint control, automated information exchange, enforcement of modern trade facilitation instruments. The rolling out of joint control is pivotal for our cooperation on the Moldova-Ukraine border. There is a need to complete activities on launching the full-fledged joint control at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc BCP on the Ukrainian territory and redeployment of Moldovan control agencies to the territory of Ukraine at Giurgiulesti - Reni BCP which have been painstakingly and unceasingly performed over the past years by Partner Services, Missions of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine and Moldova, as well as EUBAM. Launching the joint control at two, earlier agreed BCPs on the Transnistrian segment of the joint border, is our core priority. In 2021, the EU4 Border Security Project ramped up its activities on implementation of video control system at Criva-Mamalyha and Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne BCPs along with development of IT systems at the central level of the Customs Services of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. We deem it necessary to advance electronic data exchange as the main element of joint control (digital joint control concept) at two other BCPs, previously approved by the EU - Otach-Mohyliv-Podilskyi and Tudora-Starokozache with the largest flow of goods and means of transport. The upgraded algorithm of information exchange within the VICOS system will speed up border crossing at those BCPs given their excessive workload.

We appreciate EUBAM, IOM in the Republic of Moldova and



Ukraine for their active cooperation in elaborating new mechanisms of information interaction. Last year, we made notable progress in the process of mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) between the Republic of Moldova and EU. As a follow-up of the visit to the Republic of Moldova in November 2021, the EU Validation Mission concluded on compatibility of AEO administration processes in the Republic of Moldova and EU. In the near future, an information exchange system between the Republic of Moldova and EU will be implemented, a draft agreement and monitoring mechanisms will be developed in the framework of mutual recognition of AEO between the Republic of Moldova and EU. In the law enforcement domain, ample joint activities have been fulfilled under the auspices of EUBAM, yielding positive results in combating cross-border crime. We commend the Mission and Ukrainian colleagues for cooperation and confirm our readiness to further enhance our interaction to ensure stability and security at the common border.



## STATE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF UKRAINE

# Vyacheslav Demchenko

Acting Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine

Implementation of the Association Agreement, in particular in the customs domain, is one of the key priorities of the State Customs Service of Ukraine. Customs Service is one of the most important governmental agencies in the EU Customs Union countries. Our goal is to reform our Customs into a flagship of sustainable transformations in Ukraine on the way to the EU. Approximation to the EU customs standards is vitally important for us. It becomes the blueprint for comprehensive overhaul of the State Customs Service, which is underway.

Almost all the management of the State Customs Service was appointed based on the results of a competitive selection. The competence and integrity checks of customs officials were completed. From 1 July 2021, the State Customs Service operates as a single legal entity.

The draft law on criminalization of smuggling of goods was adopted in the first reading. This year, the first authorized economic operator (AEO) was established, and relevant AEO bylaws were adopted. The paramount domain of customs cooperation spans accession to the Common Transit System. Next year we expect to join the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure and Convention on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods. Our next task includes implementation of the Union Customs Code. We expect to finalize all technical aspects in the nearest future. In summer, we have been honoured to welcome in Ukraine Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization. Among other things, we discussed the exchange of customs information, the reform of the State Customs Service and customs cooperation with the EU. The main challenges for the European and Ukrainian customs authorities are basically the same – countering customs fraud, control over e-commerce, enhancing customs management, etc. Therefore, we believe we have a single vector of development.

In 2022, the State Customs Service of Ukraine will pursue the initiated policy on reforming the customs authorities and fulfilling the commitments under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.



*In the context of further cooperation with EUBAM and Partner Services, the State Customs Service of Ukraine gives priority to advancing efforts on joint control implementation at BCPs, ensuring security on the Ukraine-Moldova border, engagement of international Partners on international technical assistance projects for infrastructure development at border crossing points.*

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to EUBAM, the 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 on the Ukraine-Moldova border.



# ADVISORY BOARD



37th Advisory Board Meeting held on 30 November 2021

The Advisory Board is a decision-making and governing body of EUBAM which meets 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 Organisation 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.

Throughout the reporting period, the Board met three times in an online format on 28 January, 25 June and 30 November 2021 respectively. Each time its members had an opportunity to get acquainted with an overview of activities performed by the Mission and acknowledged the progress in the implementation of EUBAM 12 Action Plan as well as the achievements EUBAM and its partner services made at the backdrop of still-developing COVID-19 pandemic.



36th Advisory Board Meeting held on 25 June 2021

The Board commended EUBAM's contribution to enhance partner services' operational capabilities through expertise, mentoring, and various capacity building events. At the same time, the participants gave valuable insights on how the Mission could further contribute to an inclusive dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol, supporting the expansion of joint control along Moldova-Ukraine state border, and preventing, detecting and investigating cross-border crimes.

The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to modernize priority border crossing points, as well as the agreement between the presidents of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on the creation of a new transport corridor between Kyiv and Chisinau were welcomed by the Board. During the latest meeting, the Advisory Board also warmly welcomed its new chairman, His Excellency, Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks.

# SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES



*In 2021, EUBAM continued its advisory support to Transnistrian region-related confidence-building measures, working out technical solutions to topical issues on the settlement process agenda. That was beneficial especially in the context of the intensified activities of the Sectorial Working Groups where they were discussed.*

The work towards cigarettes trade compliance moved forward as well, special consumption labels shall be now affixed to tobacco products intended for the Transnistrian region. Another important development was the facilitation of trade through digitalization continued by the Moldovan Customs Service with launching "e-Transportation Bordereau" that streamlined the movement of goods within the territory of the Republic of Moldova, especially

for economic operators from the Transnistrian region. When it comes to implementation of DCFTA between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, on the left bank of the Nistru River, in 2021, 54% of all Transnistrian region's export went to the EU. Additionally, after a long break, the Odesa-Chisinau-Odesa train, which not only connects people from two countries, but also brings closer the two banks of the Nistru River, resumed its operation.

## BOLSTERING ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTORIAL WORKING GROUPS

During the reporting period, EUBAM, as part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova team, attended altogether 14 meetings of five Sectorial Working Groups on Road Transportation (7), Economy, Commerce and External Trade (3), Customs (2), Railroad Transportation (1) and Healthcare (1). The meetings of the Working Groups focused on topical issues, the one dedicated to Road Transportation succeeding in registration of trailers and resumption of the Odesa - Chisinau - Odesa passenger train daily operation. Another result that needs to be highlighted was within the Customs Working Group where a Protocol Decision on cargo transit via the Transnistrian region was drafted and is still debated upon.

## TOWARDS CIGARETTE TRADE COMPLIANCE

In March, to foster the enforcement of tobacco control legislation through cooperation among national agencies, EUBAM organised an online workshop for the Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) and the National Public Health Agency (MDNPHA). As a result, the participants formulated the conclusions that would lay down the foundation for an agreement between MDCS and MDNPHA. And, more importantly, as of 1 May 2021, tobacco products intended for the Transnistrian region should be affixed with special consumption labels. This requirement together with the strict enforcement of the national health standards will contribute to cigarette trade compliance.

Fig. 1 NUMBER OF NEUTRAL-DESIGN NUMBER PLATES ISSUED IN VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES



## FACILITATING TRADE THROUGH DIGITALISATION

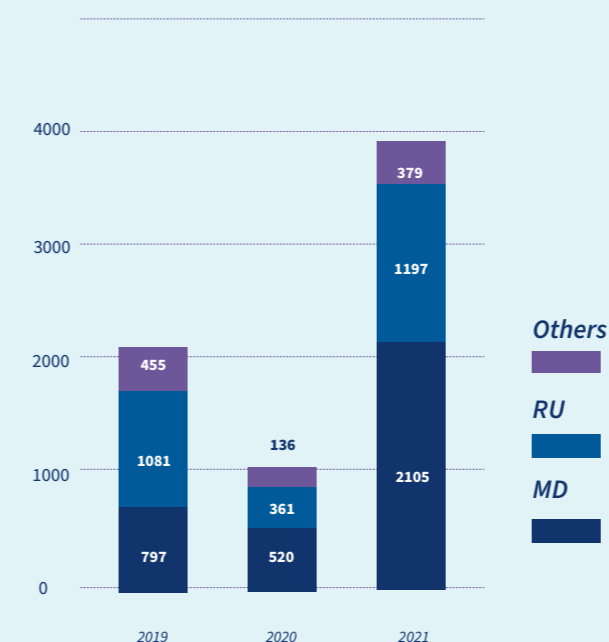
In April-May, EUBAM monitored the implementation of a new electronic module "e-Transportation Bordereau" launched on 6 April by Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS). In previous years, the Mission strongly advocated for the digitalisation of the paper format Bordereau introduced in 2014 to simplify the movement of goods and transport which are under customs supervision within the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The electronic module reduces the time required to fill in the paper-based documentation, as well as lowered associated costs, consequently streamlining traffic of goods especially for economic operators from the Transnistrian region. It aims also at ensuring the efficient customs supervision with a possibility of immediate reaction in case of potential risks or frauds.

## INCREASED NUMBER OF NEUTRAL-DESIGN NUMBER PLATES ISSUED

In early September, EUBAM conducted Targeted Monitoring Action "AUTUMN" aimed at examining border procedures related to the implementation of the Ukrainian decision on non-admission of all Transnistrian-plated vehicles that entered into force on 1 September. Apparently, the Ukraine's decision stimulated a demand for obtaining neutral-design number plates. Since the decision was announced by Ukrainian authorities in August, we witnessed substantial growth in demand in the following months. Therefore, although neutral-design number plates have been issued for 40 months, between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2021, 40% of them (3,653 out of 9,092) were issued in the last six months only, after Ukrainian authorities' decision on non-admission of all Transnistrian-plated vehicles (fig.1).

## TRAVELLER TRENDS

Fig. 2 NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS REFUSED ENTRY TO UKRAINE BY CITIZENSHIP



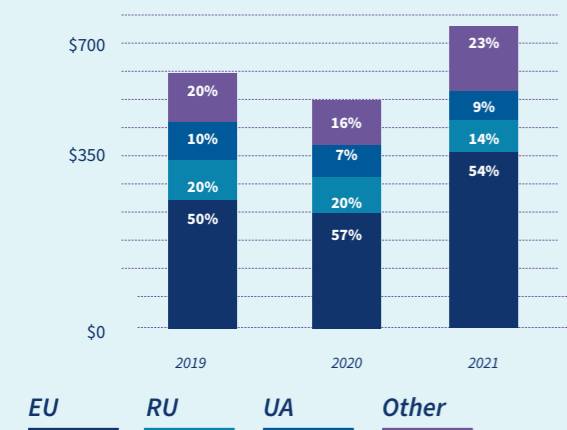
As part of border measures intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the year, the Governments of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were adjusting their restrictive measures proportionally to the epidemiological intensity and considering destinations with high risk for COVID-19, among which were a mandatory negative result of the COVID-19 test, fulfilled by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method, certified full vaccination, self-isolation. The clear and uniform acceptance rules for vaccination certificates and PCR tests, set by both countries, guaranteed that travel measures continued to be coordinated, which, thereafter, positively influenced the border flows, including at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine state border. Amidst the stable border security situation and coordinated anti-COVID-19 measures, the border traffic at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine state border saw a steep growth between May and December 2021. Thus, in 2021, the number of travellers crossing the Transnistrian segment of Moldova-Ukraine border grew by 39% compared to 2020 (0.94mln travellers in comparison with 0.67mln travellers). The refusal in border crossings saw a 2.5-fold increase being proportional to the grown border flow and current restrictions. The number of border crossings made by the Russian passport holders grew by 44%, compared to the previous year. The Russian passport holders accounted for one third of all travellers refused entry in the reporting twelve months (fig.2).

## EXTERNAL TRADE OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, Transnistrian region's foreign trade (goods turnover) grew by 47% in USD monetary value compared to 2020. The value of goods exported by Transnistrian region's economic operators in 2021 increased by \$266mln or 62%, accounting for \$698mln (fig.3), while the value of goods imported by Transnistrian region's economic operators grew by 38% year-on-year to \$875.6mln.

### MARKETS FOR TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S EXPORTS IN % OF EXPORT VALUE (USD mln)

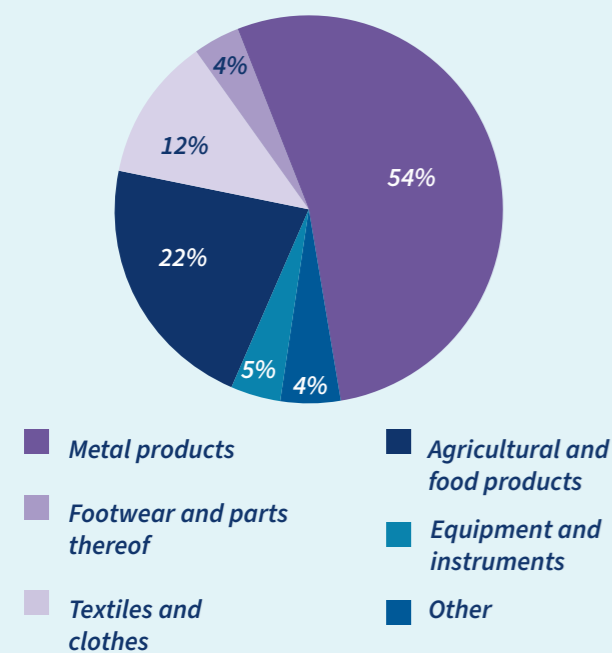
Fig. 3



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

### CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S GOODS EXPORTED IN 2021 AND THEIR SHARES BY VALUE (USD mln)

Fig. 4



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Despite the steep increase in annual export, the balance of Transnistrian region's foreign trade in goods maintained negative, posting trade deficit at \$178mln. Major trade deficits were recorded with Ukraine (\$93mln), the Russian Federation (\$34.3), and the European Union (\$18mln).

Mainly, metal products (54%), agricultural and food products (22%), textiles and clothes (12%), equipment and instruments (5%), footwear (4%) built up the pattern of Transnistrian merchandise exports in 2021. (fig. 4)

Mostly processed goods of steelmaking, light industries and commodities of agriculture represent a large share of exports from the Transnistrian region, while imports are focused on raw materials for metallurgy and textile, as well as processed goods, in particular, machinery, equipment, fuels, chemicals, medicaments, food products etc. Both commodity and resources markets of Transnistrian industrial sectors are outside the region. The EU remained a primary consumer of Transnistrian region's products, while a leading supplier of steel scrap, petroleum fuels, leather, and textile fabrics. Thus, in the reporting period, in USD value, 54% of Transnistrian region's exports, while 45% of its imports, were traded with the EU. Having increased by 54% year-on-year, Transnistrian region's exports to the EU reached \$379mln. The Russian Federation (14%), Ukraine (9%) and Serbia (3%) ranked second, third and fourth, accordingly, while Indonesia (2.5%) rounded out the top five key markets for the Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.3) Those top five markets claimed around 83% of overall Transnistrian region's exports in USD value in 2021.

Focused on enhancing its export potential, the Transnistrian region's metallurgy sector managed to almost double its exports, year-on-year, whereby redounding to the growth in the overall merchandise export in USD value. Thus, metal products built up a half (54%) of the Transnistrian region's export structure. Yet, in USD value, 92% of all Transnistrian region's metal product exports were linked to steel products. In 2021, the EU continued as a central destination for Transnistrian metal products and a major supplier of ferrous scrap, claiming 72% of Transnistrian region's steel products exports (fig.5) and 99% of ferrous scrap imports. However, no scrap metal was imported by the Transnistrian region in December 2021 from the EU, being an outcome of the enforced in November 2021 European Commission Regulation<sup>2</sup> concerning the export for recovery of certain waste, whereby ferrous and non-ferrous scrap exports from the EU to non-OECD<sup>3</sup> countries, that do not meet EU waste processing standards, were prohibited. Additionally, the Transnistrian region largely traded in metal products to Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Serbia, Mali, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana, Tunisia, and Benin.

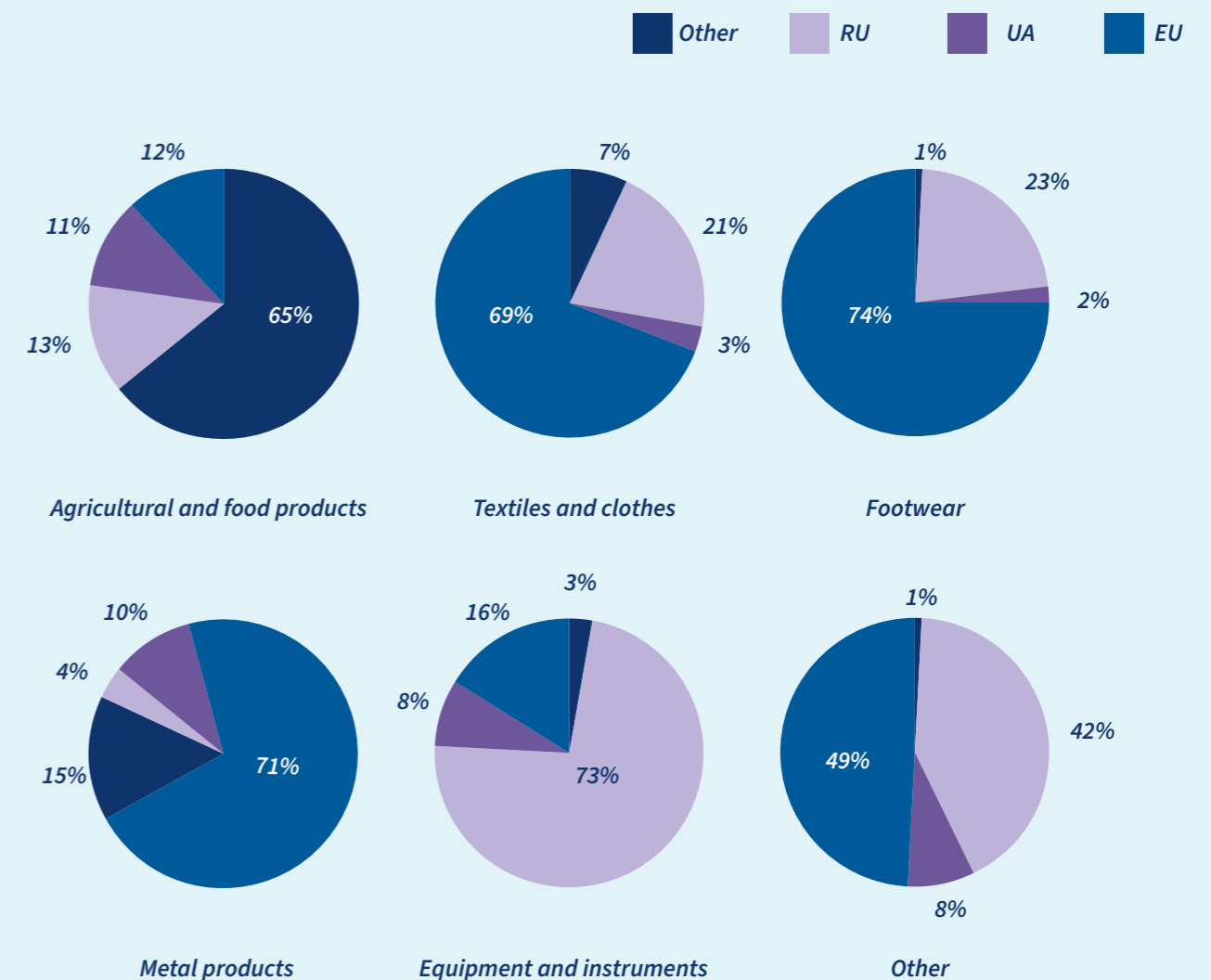
Lifted in April 2021 a year-long COVID-19 pandemic restriction on export of wheat, barley, and maize from the Transnistrian region invigorated exports of such products in the second half of 2021. Thus, year-on-year, exports of agricultural and food products almost doubled in USD value, being the second biggest export category. A major increase spanned the Transnistrian region's export of agricultural products to Ukraine, Indonesia, Bangladesh,

the UK, and Turkey. In USD value, 96% of this Transnistrian region's export category was collectively attributed to wheat, sunflower seeds and rapeseeds, barley and maize, ethyl alcohol and wines, vegetables, and fruit. Exports of wheat and barley grew manifold, having reached a one third of all agricultural and food products traded in 2021, in USD value, while exports of rapeseeds nearly trebled, exports of maize nearly doubled and exports of sunflower seeds grew by 48%, year-on-year. Indonesia and Ukraine were the principal destinations for the Transnistrian region's wheat, Bangladesh and Nepal – for rapeseeds, the UK – for maize, Turkey, the UAE, and the EU – for sunflower seeds, while the UAE was vastly buying barley. Additionally, the Russian Federation was the top consumer of Transnistrian region's vegetables and fruit.

The Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation grew by 13%, being extended to nearly all key categories of exports. The Russian Federation claimed around 73% of Transnistrian region's exports of equipment and instruments, being mainly electric motors and generators, spare parts to aircrafts and insulated wire. Following the EU, the Russian Federation was the second biggest consumer of Transnistrian region's textile exports. The Transnistrian region nearly doubled its exports to Ukraine, which was propelled mainly by resumed exports of wheat, manifold growth in exports of barley, nearly doubled exports of maize and by a 64%-increase in exports of steel products. Yet, Ukraine retained its ranking as a second biggest importer of Transnistrian region's metal products.

### KEY CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S EXPORTS AND THEIR MARKETS, % OF EXPORT VALUE (USD)

Fig. 5



<sup>1</sup> Explanatory note: the figures are provided by Moldovan Customs Service in MDL (Moldovan Lei) and do not include internal trade operations between the two banks of the Nistru River. All conversions into USD currency are calculated based on the average monthly exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova. All computations are based exclusively on the USD value of exports and imports.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1840>

<sup>3</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

# IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

*In 2021, EUBAM continued its multifaceted support to the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept along the Moldova-Ukraine border. Even though there were no major breakthroughs regarding IBM implementation due to the dynamic political and epidemiological situation in both countries, the work experienced some tangible developments having in mind especially the agreement on creation of the road transport corridor Chisinau-Soroca-Yampil-Kyiv connecting both capitals.*



Throughout the reporting period, EUBAM continued to do its best to sustain already achieved progress and provide partner services with advisory support on the establishment of full-fledged joint control. The Mission supported the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities in developing mechanisms for the operationalization of the 2017 Agreement on Joint Control. The Mission worked closely with the EU for Border Security Project, providing the Mission's expertise to ensure its synergy with the best practices of IBM. Within the reporting period the Mission completed the evaluation of functioning of the Common Contact Point (CCP) "Palanca" and, in the same connection, it invested efforts in implementing there the Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA). At the same time, EUBAM through various capacity-building events continued to foster better coordination within and between border services, which in the end will spill over into secure borders with as little inconvenience to travelers and cross-border trade as possible.

## ASSISTING IN IMPLEMENTATION OF "EU4BS" PROJECT

During the reporting period EUBAM actively supported the implementation of the "EU for Border Security - EU4BS" project aiming to enhance the Integrated Border Management (IBM) between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Among others, the project aims to install 24/7 hours video control surveillance and Automated Number Plates Recognition (ANPR) systems at four busiest road border crossing points (BCPs) at the Moldova-Ukraine border. Within the project, EUBAM supported the IBM collaborative principles by encouraging inter-agency cooperation through joint control at one single facility at the Moldova-Ukraine border including at its Transnistrian segment and real-time information sharing between Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities. The Mission participated in five technical meetings, including two Projects' Steering Committees where it advocated for ensuring the synergy between the EU-funded project and Integrated Border Management principles.

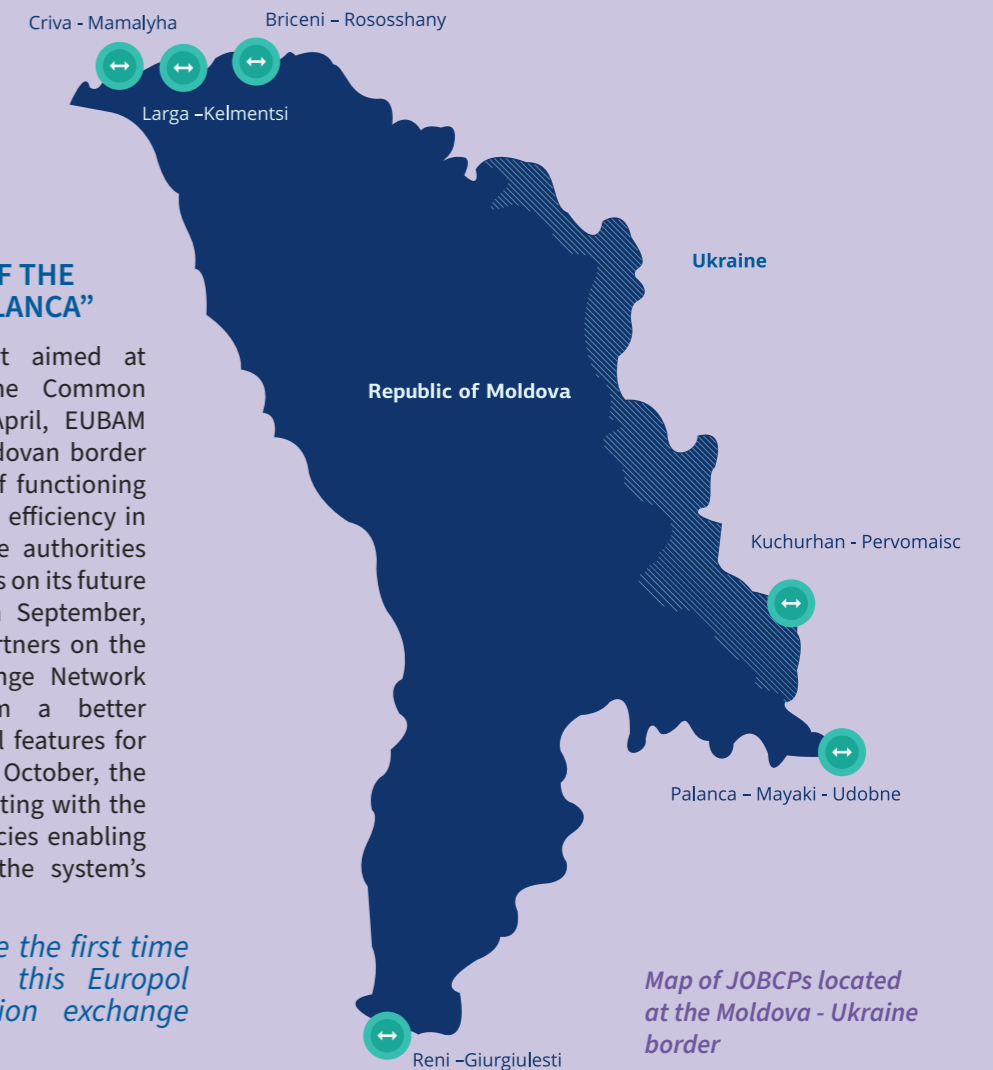




### ENHANCING FUNCTIONALITY OF THE COMMON CONTACT POINT “PALANCA”

The Mission continued its support aimed at enhancing the functionality of the Common Contact Point (CCP) “Palanca”. In April, EUBAM together with the Ukrainian and Moldovan border agencies completed the evaluation of functioning of the CCP “Palanca” that outlined its efficiency in the information exchange among the authorities involved and offered recommendations on its future development. In that connection, in September, EUBAM hosted a workshop for its partners on the Europol’s Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), offering them a better understanding of SIENA and its useful features for a secure data transfer. Further on, in October, the Mission facilitated a coordination meeting with the Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies enabling them to discuss the feasibility of the system’s operation.

*When implemented, it could be the first time when non-EU countries use this Europol system for secure information exchange between each other.*



Map of JOBBCPs located at the Moldova - Ukraine border

### FACILITATING COOPERATION AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO JOINT CONTROL

Over the reporting period, the Mission continued to support the partner agencies in identifying the most cautious solution for removal of seized vehicles, goods, and items from JOBBCPs through the territory of Ukraine under the 2017 Agreement on Joint Control. In July, EUBAM took an initiative and developed a briefing paper describing core principles of joint control, considering their importance for operation of the JOBBCPs as well as for the expansion of joint control to other BCPs. In the same vein, in September, the Mission developed and shared with all four partner agencies the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the Access of the Customs and Border Authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the CCTV system intended for surveillance, vigilance and monitoring of JOBBCPs. All those initiatives would contribute to the further operationalization of the 2017 Agreement on Joint Control and enforcement of all core principles of joint control at JOBBCPs along the Moldova - Ukraine border.



### 2021-2023 MOLDOVAN INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN APPROVED

On 6 October, the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted a decision approving the 2021-2023 Integrated Border Management (IBM) Action Plan for the National IBM Strategy implementation. The newly approved Action Plan reflected the majority of EUBAM proposals submitted in May 2020 upon the request of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Among the key recommendations included in the plan are establishment of the Advanced Passenger Information exchange system, border checks relaxation procedure, expansion of joint control along the Moldova - Ukraine border, optimization of the existing border crossing points network, and enhancement of certain tools for combatting cross-border crime.

### JOINT ASSISTANCE EXERCISE “STRONGER TOGETHER”

In July-August, EUBAM carried out the Joint Assistance Exercise (JAE) “Stronger together” on verification of control procedures on passenger and cargo traffic at six jointly operated border crossing points (JOBBCPs). JAE was intended to verify the level of implementation of the key principles of joint control, as well as to measure the border crossing time of passenger vehicles, buses and loaded trucks. EUBAM teams in cooperation with the partner services assessed control procedures at JOBBCPs against the existing Technological Schemes and the 2017 Agreement on Joint Control. The information gathered in the course of the exercise and the recommendations resulted and shared with partners will contribute to the more effective implementation of the joint control principles.

# FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME

*In 2021, COVID-19 brought new challenges to the Mission's partner services as firearms and drug traffickers, smugglers and organized crime groups continuously developed their modi operandi, trying to take advantage of the pandemic.*



Considering these threats, building up the strategic and operational capacity of partner services was the Mission's top priority. In this regard, the EUBAM-led Interagency Regional Analytical Group proved itself instrumental in delivering an innovative analytical approach for the assessment of risks and threats in the Odesa region. The Mission facilitated a large-scale international investigation on drug trafficking which resulted in 235 kg of heroin seized by the law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova, together with their Ukrainian counterparts. At the same time, EUBAM contributed to the fight against illicit tobacco trade, both through operational activities, such as Joint Border Control Operation "SCORPION II" and cooperation platforms, like Task Force Tobacco. With the help of versatile workshops and mentoring sessions, the Mission's experts advanced the capacities of Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcers to counteract illegal firearms, carry out cyber investigations and conduct strategic intelligence analysis. All in all, the work of EUBAM aimed at combating cross-border crime was the most intensive and yet the most productive throughout the year 2021.

## BOLSTERING COOPERATION BETWEEN MOLDOVAN AND UKRAINIAN SECURITY SERVICES

In June, in Odesa, EUBAM held a trilateral meeting with high-level representatives of Moldovan Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) and Security Service of Ukraine (SSU). Ukrainian and Moldovan high-level security officials discussed counteracting illicit firearms trafficking, smuggling of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. At the same time, the issue of trafficking in human beings was scrutinized by the participants who highlighted vulnerable areas and possible mitigating measures, as well as prospects for future joint activities. The parties mapped out priorities and established good foundations for enhancing cooperation towards combating criminal activities.

## EUBAM ASSISTANCE IN CROSS-BORDER INVESTIGATIONS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

In June-July, EUBAM facilitated a large-scale international investigation that involved about one hundred law enforcement officers from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine arrested five drug traffickers and seized 235 kg of heroin. The perpetrators were smuggling heroin from Iran through the territory of Ukraine to Moldova and then further to the EU. According to experts' estimations the black-market worth of the sized drugs is more than EUR 10 million. In October, the Mission hosted a two-day operational meeting with law enforcers from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova for exchanging information on the activity of the organized crime group involved in international drug trafficking on route Asia - the EU transiting the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. As a result of the meeting, a joint investigation team was established.



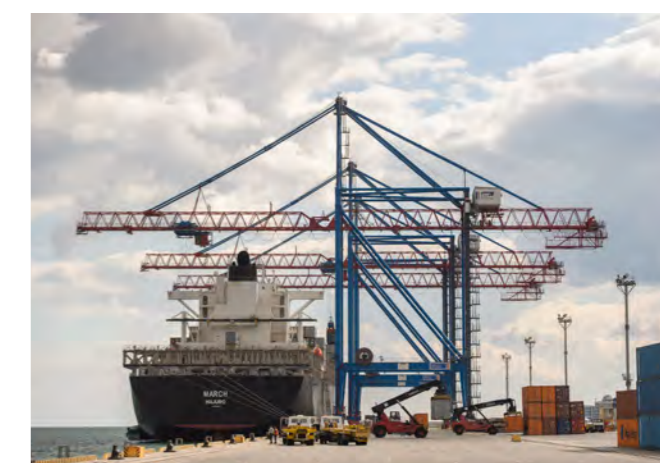
## STRENGTHENING INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

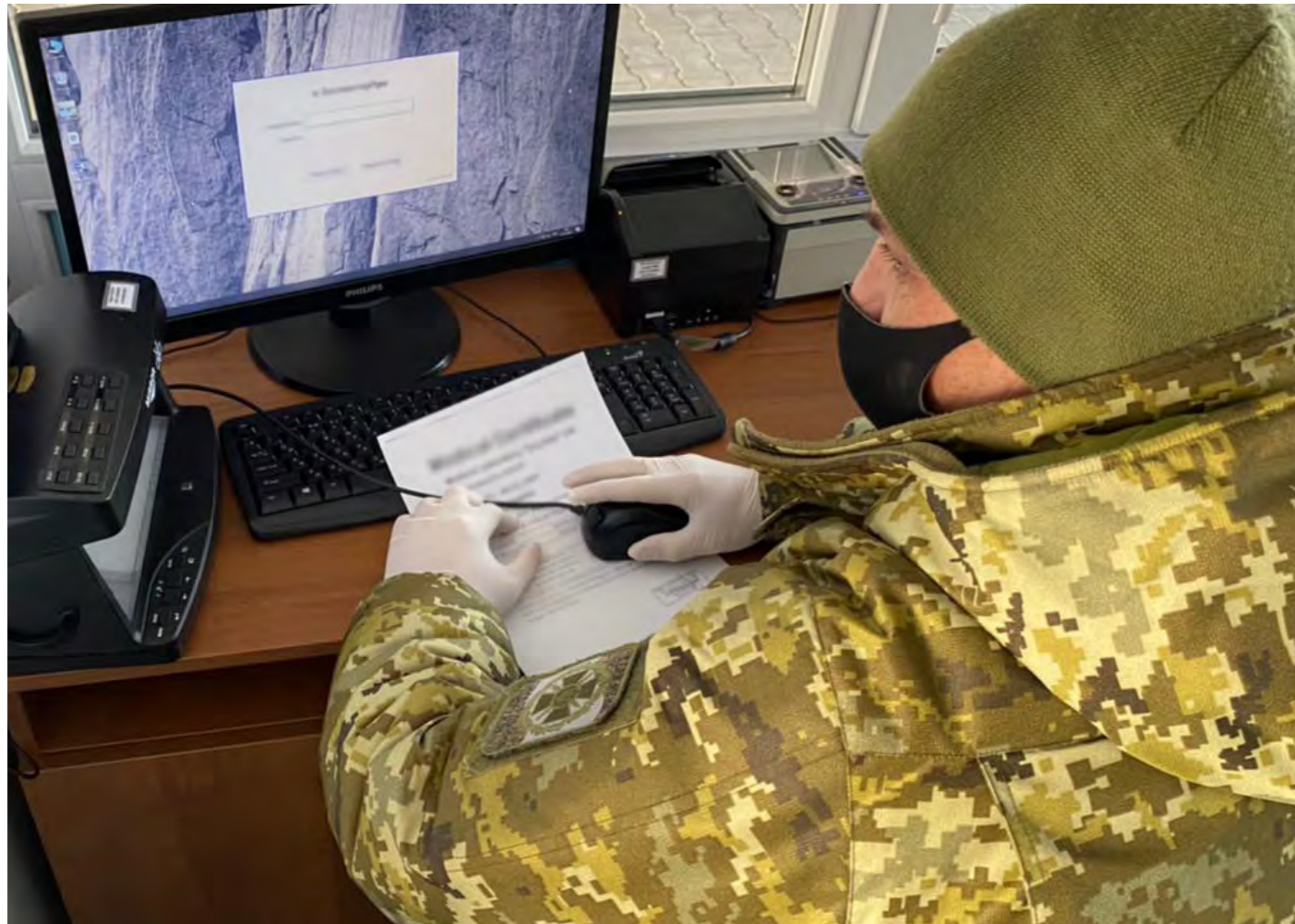
In August, EUBAM, the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova, Security Service of Ukraine, Moldovan General Police Inspectorate, and Prosecutor General's Offices of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine carried out a practical exercise on controlled delivery of illicit cocaine aimed at verifying the implementation of full chain of actions required for carrying out such procedure. Furthermore, EUBAM also developed the Guidebook on Controlled Delivery in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine that would contribute to a more effective use of that method for combatting cross-border crime both in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

## FACILITATING THE ASSESSMENT OF RISKS AND THREATS IN ODESA REGION

Interagency Regional Analytical Group (IRAG), having met four times during the reporting period, proved itself as a good platform for development of in-depth analytics. The group members elaborated the Analytical Review of Arms Trafficking in the Odesa Region, and advanced the IRAG 2021 Action Plan. Further on, within IRAG, the Report on the Cigarette Smuggling from Asia through the Odesa region ports was drafted and shared with major stakeholders of Task Force Tobacco. Moreover, IRAG broaden the scope of its work by adding drugs and precursors trafficking into analytical work. To contribute to the group's new endeavour, EUBAM briefed its members on drug trafficking schemes connected to Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Romania.

*At the online international conference "Enhancing Interagency Cooperation among the National IBM Agencies of Ukraine" held in April and organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) within the EU Support for Integrated Border Management in Ukraine project (EU4IBM), EUBAM presented Interagency Regional Analytical Group, and advocated for the project replication at the national level to increase the effectiveness of the fight against cross-border crime which was supported by the conference participants.*





### STRENGTHENING EFFORTS IN COUNTERACTING ILLICIT FIREARMS

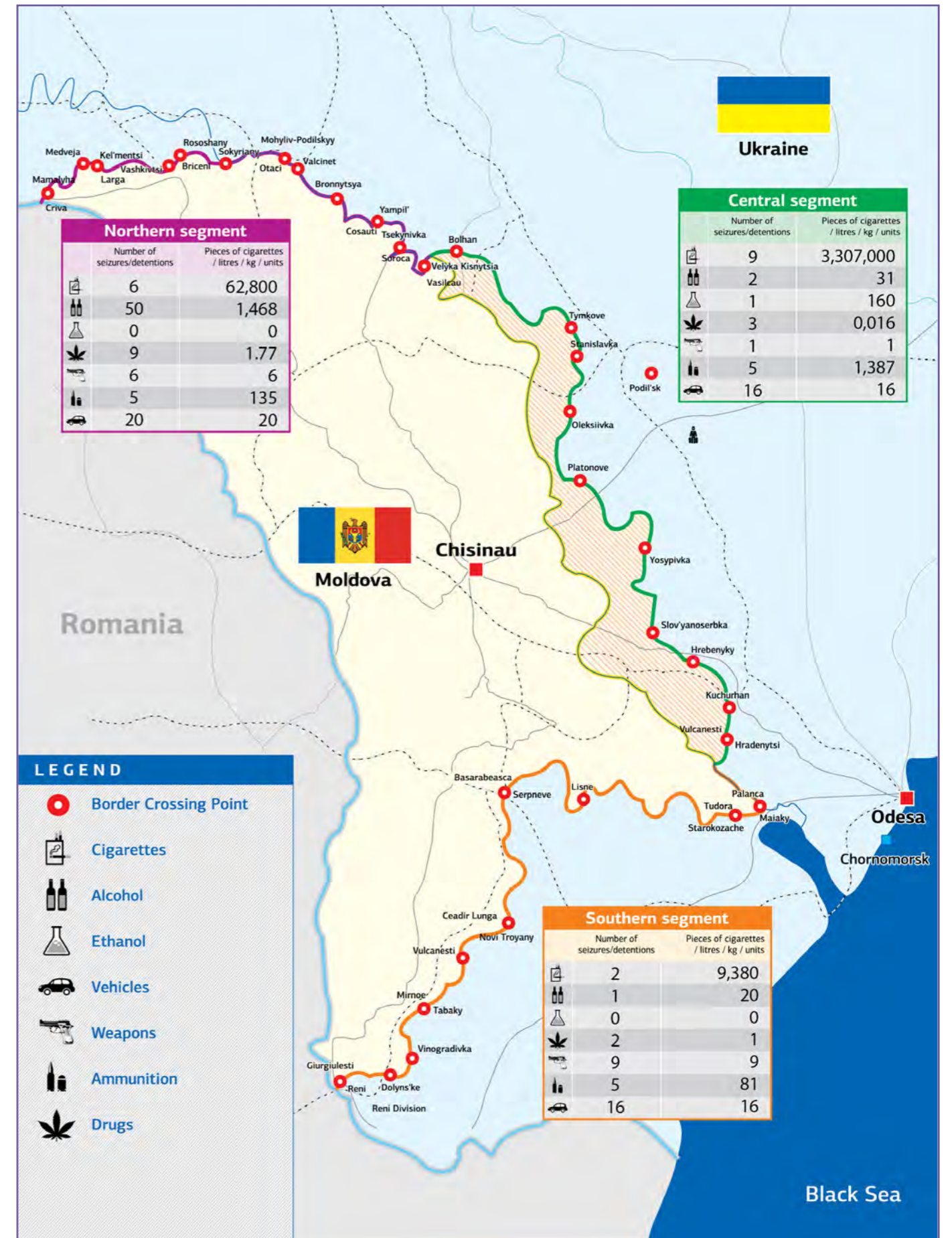
EUBAM facilitated regular work of the Arms Working Group. Several important events in the area of counteracting illicit firearms were delivered i.e. Webinar on Illicit Firearms in Dark Web held in cooperation with UNODC, Mentoring Session on Strategic Intelligence Analysis delivered with Europol's support and Workshop on radiological emergency response. EUBAM also provided assistance to the Moldovan law enforcement agencies in initiating and developing investigation on an alleged illicit scheme of circumvention of EU restrictive measures to the export of firearms and ammunition.

### BOOSTING PARTNERS' CAPACITY IN STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

In March, EUBAM, in cooperation with Europol, organized online mentoring sessions on strategic intelligence analysis. High-level representatives of nine different law enforcement agencies (LEAs) of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova participated in the joint lectures and workshops aimed at enhancing their strategic planning capabilities. The experts showcased the best and state-of-the-art practices from across EU member states as an enhanced expertise in strategic intelligence analysis would facilitate prevention and investigation of cross-border crimes, as well as contribute to safety and security not only across the Moldova-Ukraine border, but in the entire region.

*In May, EUBAM in cooperation with UNODC conducted a webinar on Illicit Firearms in Dark Web for 30 representatives of the Moldovan and Ukrainian partner services. The event aimed at raising the awareness in cyber investigations. Presenters from Austria, Spain and Thailand introduced the basic knowledge on investigations in the Dark Web covering such issues as exploring the Dark Web; payment method (crypto currency); best practices for conducting Dark Web investigations; real case scenarios etc.*

### SEIZURES/DETENTIONS AT THE MOLDOVA-UKRAINE BORDER IN JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021\*



\*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



### EUBAM ANNUAL TASK FORCE TOBACCO

In November, EUBAM held the Annual Task Force Tobacco meeting in an online mode. Representatives of the EU agencies shared the most effective methods and ways of combatting illicit cigarette production with their Ukrainian and Moldovan counterparts. At the same time, Ukrainian and Moldovan law enforcers shared insights from their national perspective. The business sector also presented its overview of the illicit cigarette markets in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, showcasing the way they influenced the European market of illegal tobacco products. Mr Vadym Melnyk, the Director of Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine, a keynote speaker of the event, acquainted the participants with a role of the newly created Bureau in combatting cigarette-related frauds, raising acute problems and putting forward proposals to limit the illicit tobacco trade.

### ASSISTING PARTNER SERVICES IN DEVELOPING RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

As a result of EUBAM continued assistance to Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) with developing its risk management function, in June, the new 2021-2025 Customs Risk Management Strategy (RMS) was approved by the MDCS. It encompasses a series of actions and key priorities to achieve a more efficient customs risk management. The Action Plan for the RMS implementation includes 22 activities and 78 sub-activities to support and develop international norms and standards.

In Ukraine, EUBAM prepared the Status Report on the State Customs Service of Ukraine (UASCS) risk management system at BCPS, presenting an assessment and recommendations concerning the application of random control by Ukrainian customs officers. Following up, EUBAM organized an online workshop on the application of random control in the risk analysis system for UASCS top management and officers. Experts of the National Revenue Administration of the Republic of Poland shared their experience in the implementation of random control into the risk analysis system and its effective usage in countering smuggling.



**8,544,780**  
cigarettes seized



### ANTI-SMUGGLING JOINT BORDER CONTROL OPERATION "SCORPION II"

From August till October 2021, EUBAM in cooperation with OLAF coordinated an anti-smuggling Joint Border Control Operation "SCORPION II" on combatting cigarette smuggling. In total, 8,544,780 pieces of cigarettes were seized by the Moldovan, Ukrainian and Romanian law enforcement agencies during the operation. Overall, 3,231,400 pcs of cigarettes were seized near the Transnistrian region, which remained a hot spot for cigarette smuggling. Another trend observed was a significant share of seized cigarettes with duty-free inscriptions (3,864,920 pcs), most of them detected and seized at the Romania-Ukraine border. Within the framework of the operation, in September, EUBAM conducted jointly with the Ukrainian border and customs services the Joint Assistance Exercise (JAE) "Iron Track" on combatting goods smuggling in freight trains. JAE "Iron Track" focused on identified threats pertinent to the specifics of cargo flow through Slobidka international railway BCP and aimed at improving partners' skills in fighting against smuggling in rail freight.



# COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



## COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERS

During the reporting period, EUBAM maintained close contacts with the EU Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the implementation of the EUBAM working programme.

In this regard, Head of Mission (HoM) held consultations with the leaving Ambassador Peter Michalko, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova as well as with the coming Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador Janis Mazeiks. In June, Deputy Director-General at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Ms Katarína Mathernová, together with H.E. Peter Michalko, paid a visit to the EUBAM headquarters in Odesa, giving an

excellent opportunity to introduce the enforcement of the priorities and objectives of the Mission's working program. In July, at EUBAM HQ, the Mission hosted a visit of the Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Moldova, Ms Stella Avallone. In August, in Warsaw, HoM held a working meeting with Ms Magdalena Rzeczkowska, Secretary of State, Head of the National Revenue Administration, Ministry of Finance of Poland. In September - October, the Mission hosted visits of the Deputy Ambassador of Hungary to the Republic of Moldova, Mr Sándor Hódi and of H.E. Stanislav Kazecký, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Republic of Moldova. In the area of the customs and trade related matters linked to the Transnistrian region, in November, EUBAM participated in the 7th EU-Moldova Customs Sub-Committee meeting, established in the framework of the Association Agreement between the European



**H.E. JĀNIS MAŽEIKS**  
*European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova*

EUBAM continues to play a key role in promoting Integrated Border Management and in fighting organized crime, and we would like to encourage all parties to continue their efforts for tangible results to be achieved in the coming months.



**H.E. MATTI MAASILIKAS**  
*European Union Ambassador to Ukraine*

I would like to congratulate all partners on the successful implementation of EUBAM 12 phase and to express our gratitude for their efforts, despite the challenges faced during this period of implementation.



Union and the Republic of Moldova. In this vein, HoM attended a webinar on the economic situation in the Transnistrian region organised by the Berlin Economics, as well an online meeting of the Steering Committee of the EU Confidence Building Measures Programme, administrated by the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova. As regards to the border management modernisation, EUBAM cooperated and contributed to the EU - funded projects, such as "EU 4 Border Security" (EU4BS) in the Republic of Moldova and "EU for Integrated Border Management" (EU4IBM), implemented by IOM Moldova and

ICMPD, respectively. The Mission took also part in the 3rd Steering Committee of the EU Support to Strengthening IBM in Ukraine Project, dedicated to approximation of the Ukrainian national border management system to the standards and best practices of the EU Integrated Border Management (IBM). HoM held coordination meetings with the senior management of the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine (EUAM). EUBAM also took part in the TOPCOP project dedicated to the Eastern Partnership countries and implemented by CEPOL.

## COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



In the Republic of Moldova, the Mission maintained regular contacts with the Border Police (MDBP) and the Customs Service (MDCS) at the central and regional levels regarding the implementation of the EUBAM 12 Action Plan.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, HoM held consultations with the State Secretary, Gheorghe Leuca. In April, EUBAM held a meeting with Ms Ana Revenco, the Adviser to the President of the Republic of Moldova on Defense and National Security / Secretary of the Supreme Security Council. In August, HoM met with the newly appointed Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate, Mr. Rosian Vasilo, and in September, with the Director of the Customs Service Mr Igor Talmazan and the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova Mr Dumitru Budianschi.

On matters related to the Transnistrian settlement process, the Mission kept close cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and with the Reintegration Policies Bureau. Against that backdrop, in March, HoM met with Ms Olga Cebotari, the Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova and in August, HoM met with Mr Vladislav Kulminski, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, in October, EUBAM hosted a high-level visit of Mr Vladislav Kulminski accompanied by Mr Alin Gvidiani, the Head of the Bureau for Reintegration Policies, and Mr Ion Ciorniy, the General



Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Odesa, offering an excellent opportunity for discussing solutions to topical issues on the settlement process agenda.

In Ukraine, EUBAM closely coordinated with the central and regional management of the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service (UASBGS) and State Customs Service (UASCS) key projects intended to support the border management at the common Moldova - Ukraine border and strengthen interagency cooperation in combatting cross-border crime in the Odesa region. In that connection, HoM held in-person meetings with Major General Serhii Deineko, Head of UASBGS, during the official launching of the Border Guard Inspectors Unit 'Udobne' and in the UASBGS Headquarter in Kyiv.

HoM also coordinated the issues related to the EUBAM mandate with Mr Serhii Saienko, Deputy Director of Directorate General for the European Union and NATO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Furthermore, in September, in Uzhgorod, EUBAM participated in the field meeting of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, during which the EUBAM paper on Core Principles of Joint Control was shared with the committee members for their further consideration. In Odesa, HoM met with Mr Serhii Hrynevetskyi, newly appointed Head of the Odesa State Regional Administration.



**Mr ANDREI POPOV**

*Head of Multilateral Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova*

We would like to highlight the valuable contribution that the EUBAM has brought during these years to the implementation of the Integrated Border Management, strengthening of the institutional capacity, staff training and combating cross border crime. We are convinced that we should continuously work together in order to achieve tangible results.



**Mr SERHII SAIENKO**

*Deputy Director General of the Directorate for the European Union and NATO of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

The EUBAM assisted Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in developing a government-led approach with a strategic vision to address and prevent drug and illicit firearms trafficking, which became potential threats and challenges nowadays. I would like to re-iterate the commitment of Ukraine to continue diligently implementing in full the Integrated Border Management concept in partnership with EUBAM and our partners from the Republic of Moldova.

## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Over the reporting period, EUBAM attended regular technical meetings with the OSCE Mission to Moldova to coordinate activities related to confidence building measures between Chisinau and Tiraspol. In May, EUBAM welcomed Dr. Claus Neukirch, Head of OSCE Mission to Moldova, and discussed the topical issues of the Transnistrian settlement process. In early June, EUBAM attended the 24th RILO ECE/NCPs Annual Meeting along with representatives of 17 Member States and international organizations.

In mid-June, EUBAM participated in the 21st Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons online side-event on "Confronting Demand - Tackling a root cause of trafficking in human beings", organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. EUBAM actively collaborated with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine on supporting law-enforcement agencies in preventing and combatting illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives.

With a view of contributing to the thematic Arms Working Group, in March, the Mission held consultations with the HALO Trust Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project Development Manager. Regarding the trade facilitation, in March, EUBAM contributed to the



e-TRADECON international video conference organized by MDCS, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, American Chamber of Commerce in the Republic of Moldova (AmCham Moldova), and the US Agency on the International Development Mission in the Republic of Moldova (USAID Moldova). In late October, EUBAM attended online the meeting with the Sub-regional Representative (Ukraine) of the USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth in Europe and Eurasia (EDGE), and the online Anti-drug Trafficking Conference organised by SELEC. EUBAM also provided briefings on its activities in the field of border security to law-enforcement representatives of the US Embassies in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

# EUBAM TODAY

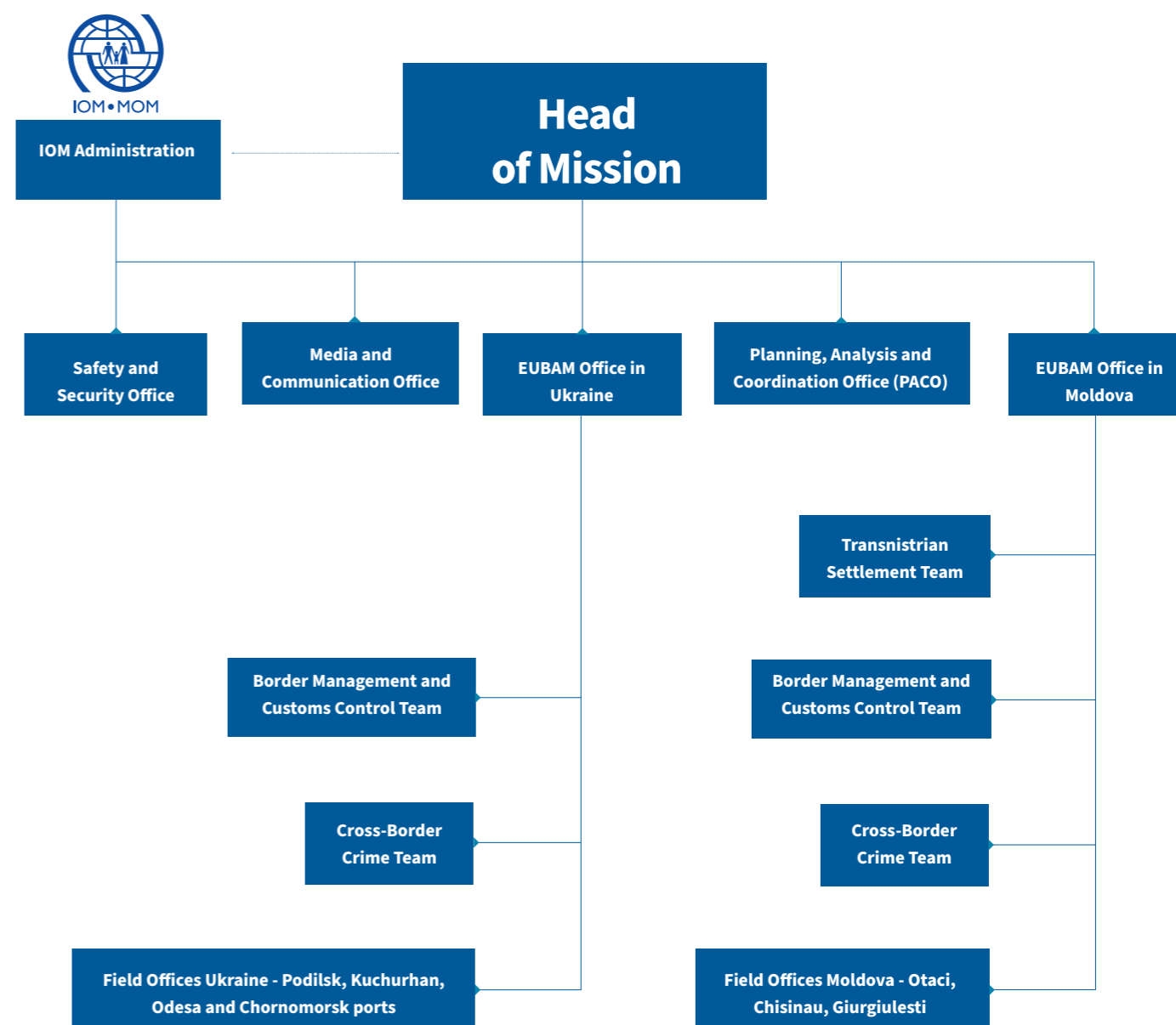
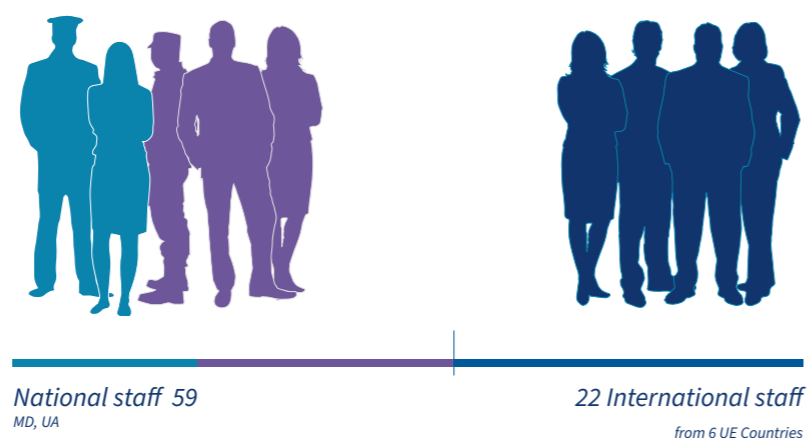
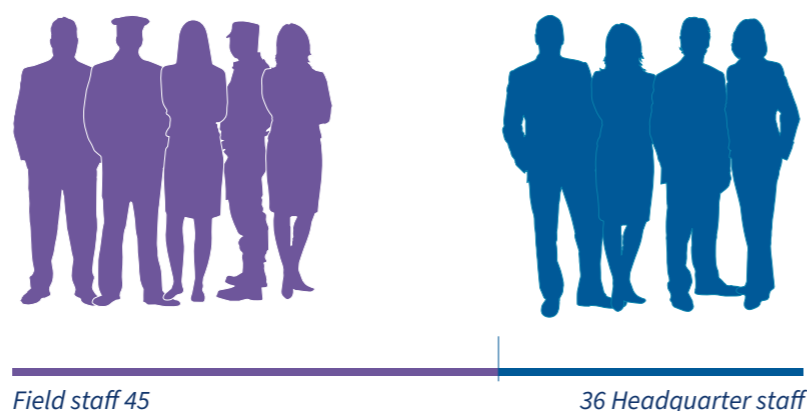
The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in November 2005 to promote border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards, and serve the needs of its two partner countries. It is an advisory, technical Mission headquartered 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

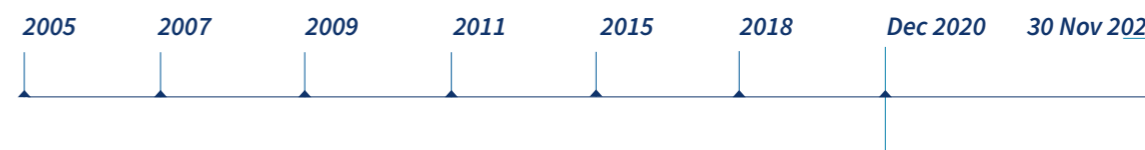
- » the development of Transnistria-related confidence-building measures and approximation of legislation and procedures in customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management;
- » the implementation of the Integrated Border Management at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its 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 81, as for 1 December 2021



## THE MISSION'S MANDATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED SIX TIMES



# EUBAM 12 ACTION PLAN

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>To support the development of Transnistrian region-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>	
	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>	
	3.4.1	Enhance harmonised measures and joint efforts to improve enforcement procedures to prevent and combat cross-border crime.



International Organisation for Migration  
is the implementing partner



[www.eubam.org](http://www.eubam.org)  
13 Uytyna str., Odesa, 65012, Ukraine  
[press@eubam.org](mailto:press@eubam.org)

Disclaimer: This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of EUBAM and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.  
© 2022, IOM. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions.