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EUROPEAN UNION BORDER  
ASSISTANCE MISSION TO  
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2021 - 30 NOVEMBER 2022





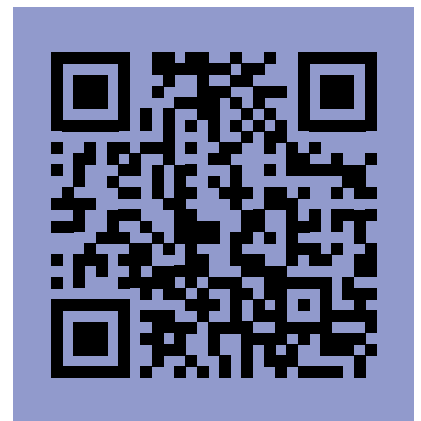
## Table of Contents

4	FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION
6	THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS
8	FOREWORDS FROM PARTNER SERVICES
12	ADVISORY BOARD
14	SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
18	IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT
22	FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME
26	COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS
30	EUBAM TODAY
32	EUBAM 13 ACTION PLAN

ЗВІТ УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ



RAPORTUL ÎN LIMBA ROMÂNĂ



# FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION



*Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine has changed the security landscape in Europe for years to come. Everything that happened since 24 February has inevitably left its mark on our reporting period. The year covered by this report cannot but be divided between before and after that sinister date.*

Even before 24 February, EUBAM's activity was nothing but challenging. The Mission was still operating under the COVID pandemic and budgetary constraints, and the political environment was tense; the war was already in the air. Nevertheless, EUBAM was working with its Partners towards progress on the three objectives. However, everything changed on 24 February, and EUBAM is no exception. To respond to the arising challenges, the Mission had to reshape itself. Working at the border from the first day of the war, the Mission's experts assisted border and customs authorities in managing the refugee flow. EUBAM staff was always there to support refugees, most of whom were crossing the border for the first time. In response to the Partners' needs, EUBAM provided humanitarian aid to Ukrainian border guards, including three of our vehicles.

Today, our Ukrainian partners make tremendous efforts to ensure the border and economic security at this critical time. Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports and destruction of railway connections in the Odesa region disrupted the usual trade routes for Ukrainian grain and other agricultural goods, threatening global food security. Thus, since the beginning of the war, it was a top priority for EUBAM to support Ukrainian trade and contribute to implementing the European Commission's Action plan for EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes. For that, EUBAM identified factors causing bottlenecks at the Moldova-Ukraine border and, subsequently, acted as a catalyst bringing the key stakeholders together to find solutions for ensuring the cargo traffic fluidity.

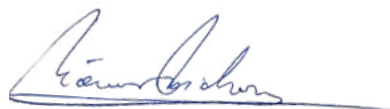
At this point, I would like to highlight the high-level International Trade Facilitation Forum, EUBAM, organized with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova in September. The event helped coordinate trade facilitation efforts of EU institutions and missions, the Customs Authorities of the neighbouring EU Member States, the Ukrainian and Moldovan governments, and the public and private sectors.

To cope better with the changed security situation and increased risks at the Moldova-Ukraine border, EUBAM organized numerous training events for officers serving in law enforcement agencies in both countries, covering topical threats to border security. Qualified EU Member States' external trainers from Border Guard, Customs and Police, as well as from academia, delivered the training events. Against the backdrop of the worsening security situation in the region, EUBAM-led initiatives such as Arms Working Group and Task Force Tobacco proved themselves as important and effective cooperation platforms, targeting cross-border crime. Both initiatives facilitated information exchange, boosting the fight against illicit tobacco and arms smuggling.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also left its mark

on the Mission's activities related to the Transnistrian region. Now, with the two key mediators at war, 5+2 negotiations are on pause, and the overall political atmosphere remains tense. Russia's war and blockade of Ukrainian ports have disrupted supply chains all around the world and the Transnistrian region was no exception. EUBAM continued to monitor and advise on the movement of people and commodities across the Administrative Line and customs clearances of goods for the Nistru's left bank at inland customs posts. In 2022, 64% of the left bank's export went to the EU, which is 10 % more than the last year and can serve as an indicative of Russia's war impact on the region.

*In the end, I want to pay tribute to the Ukrainian and Moldovan border agencies for their outstanding service at the border despite the most challenging circumstances. I would like to express solidarity with the people of Ukraine and respect for those who defend their Motherland's sovereignty and independence. I encourage you to read this report and see with your own eyes a year full of challenges but also full of hope.*



**SLAWOMIR PICHOR**

*Head of Mission*

# THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

DECEMBER 2021 - NOVEMBER 2022

## CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

### Cooperation on products safety reinforced

EUBAM findings regarding the consolidated cargo intended for the Transnistrian region triggered the Mission's initiative to enhance the inter-agency cooperation between the Moldovan agency responsible for market surveillance and customs authority on non-food products safety.

### Transnistrian region export to the EU increased to 64%\*

EU-Moldova AA/DCFTA implementation in the Transnistrian region was constantly monitored and reported to the EU. In 2022, 64% of the left bank's export went to the EU, which is 10% more than in 2021.

### Trade compliance on both banks of the Nistru enhanced

Following EUBAM advocacy efforts, a procedure for processing Tiraspol's requests for verification of proofs of origin for goods imported from the EU to the left bank was instituted.

## INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

### Smooth border crossing of Ukrainian refugees facilitated

Since the very first days of the Russian war of aggression, EUBAM's experts were facilitating the smooth movement of people fleeing from Ukraine towards Moldova.

\*Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova



## CROSS-BORDER CRIME

### Emerging cross-border crime trends mapped out

Flagship cooperation platforms the Task Force Tobacco and the Arms Working Group helped amplify the partners' operational picture of cross-border crime threats. EUBAM experts also provided their know-how numerous times within other formats.

### Response to border security threats coming from Russia's war enhanced

To better cope with the changed security situation and increased risks at the Moldova-Ukraine border, EUBAM organized 18 training events for 351 officers serving in law enforcement agencies in both countries. EUBAM experts also offered building capacity through 142 on-the-job practical mentoring sessions for 247 officers from its four main partner services.

### Ukrainian agricultural export via the Republic of Moldova streamlined

EUBAM acted as a catalyst bringing together key stakeholders to ensure cargo traffic fluidity and seek innovative solutions to facilitate further agricultural exports from Ukraine via all feasible transport corridors.

### Capacity for emergency response increased

To better support Moldovan and Ukrainian partners in crisis situations caused by the Russia's war, the Mission received a new mandate enhanced with executive powers for border control in case of emergency and possibilities for technical assistance and capacity building.

### Tobacco control in the Republic of Moldova tightened

Following EUBAM's recommendations, the Republic of Moldova acceded the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Protocol's implementation will ensure more secure supply chain of tobacco products, including their tracking and tracing.

# 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



Dear colleagues and partners!

24th of February 2022 changed the security landscape on the eastern flank of the EU, including the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, for decades to come.

The unprovoked war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has created immediate and long-term challenges that will affect the approach to border management in the region, including the border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

We have seen this aggression's immediate consequences manifesting through the millions of Ukrainian refugees seeking shelter in neighbouring countries, including the Republic of Moldova. The refugee crisis was followed by the crisis of export and import of goods from and to Ukraine, resulting from shifting a big part of cargo from sea routes to land ones.

The refugee crisis required the total mobilization of the Moldovan authorities, civil society and international partners, as no one anticipated a crisis of such magnitude could occur in our region.

We faced the most significant challenge that any authority faces during times of crisis – how to ensure the balance between the humanitarian and the security aspects of our actions.

Changes had to be made on the go to ensure that all the refugees could cross the border and stay in the Republic of Moldova or could travel to their final destination legally and as safely as possible.

It taught us some valuable lessons. Most importantly, operating with peacetime staff in a crisis requires compensation mechanisms through increased mobility and greater interconnectivity; situational awareness through technical means for border surveillance such as drones, various sensors, and portable devices; and mobile and stationary thermo vision systems.

Another lesson learned is that interoperability between national law enforcement institutions is critical, or crises are multidimensional and require a similar approach from the authorities.

Last but not least, good, well-developed cooperation with neighbouring partners is also quintessential, or without coordination, helping and covering each other's capability gaps, managing such a crisis becomes impossible.

These lessons apply to the management of the Moldova-Ukraine and Moldova-Romania borders.

Although looking brighter than it looked in February 2022, the future still holds many challenges for us for the decades to come. We are just estimating the challenges that we will face due to the brutal destruction of critical civilian infrastructure, economic downfall, a stockpile of weapons left behind by the retreating Russian forces, and the fertile conditions created by war for criminal activities.

Examining the experience from other war-torn regions, weapons, munitions, drugs and goods smuggling, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings are among the main phenomena that will affect border security in the medium and long term.

To tackle this challenge, we must work together with Ukraine and the European community because these threats are common and affect all of us; at the same time, we must prepare and adjust our security sector accordingly.

## STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE OF UKRAINE

# Serhii Deineko

### Head of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

2022 became a real challenge for Ukraine and its people that still drags on. Despite all the absurdity and unprecedented violation of all possible norms of international and humanitarian law, which the terrorist state brought to the Ukrainian land, we stand. The entire civilized world helps us to defend freedom and territorial integrity. We are fighting to retain our statehood and nation. On 24 February 2022, border guards were the first to confront the enemy on the state border with Russia and Belarus and repel the enemy attacks launched from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

The State Border Guard Service is rebuffing the armed aggression of Russia under the general plan of the General Staff. Three territorial administration bodies, fourteen Border Guard Detachments, two Detachments and a Maritime Sea Guard Training Center perform combat missions within the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Personnel of the First Border Guard Detachment and the 23rd Sea Guard Detachment took part in defence of Mariupol city.

At the initiative of the State Border Guard Service, the Government of Ukraine terminated the operation of the border crossing points at the border with Russia, Belarus and at the central segment with the Republic of Moldova. Thus, the main threats at the state border remain as follows: the armed aggression of Russia's occupation forces; possible scenarios of escalation at the Ukraine-Belarus segment of the state border; illegal movement of goods, especially cigarettes, to the EU countries. To fend off these factors, we take effective preventive and operational measures to keep the situation under control and, consequently, strengthen the rapid response to the changing environment with greater efficiency and fewer losses of time and relevant resources.

To tighten border security, the quality of control procedures was improved, and joint control of persons, goods and vehicles was implemented at ten border crossing points across the state border on the Ukraine-Moldova and Ukraine-Poland segments; contact (consultation) points; risk analysis is functioning and cross-border crime counteraction is ensured. Currently, efforts are being made in cooperation with the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova



to launch joint control procedures at Serpneve 1–Basarabeasca railroad border crossing point for speeding up and streamlining cargo traffic across the Ukraine-Moldova state border.

Effective cooperation has been established with the neighbouring states' border and law enforcement agencies, Frontex, the European Commission Support Group for Ukraine, and EUAM. In 2022, over four million people crossed the Ukraine-Moldova border, making a 1.6-fold increase compared to 2021. The analysis of border crossing operations demonstrates an upward trend (with the peak month in September, when 0.49 million people crossed the border) because the territory of the Republic of Moldova was used both for refugees' temporary shelter and transit to the EU countries.

Notably, the number of detected weapons, ammunition and drugs has increased: weapons by 4% (2022 – 48 pcs, 2021 – 46 pcs); ammunition 1.7-fold (2022 – 2,783 pcs, 2021 – 1,608 pcs); drugs 2.5-fold (2022 – 39.97 kg, 2021 – 16.22 kg). Joint patrolling of the common border was suspended with the outbreak of hostilities yet resumed on 1 October 2022.

We commend EUBAM for strengthening cooperation on the Ukraine-Moldova border, contributing to the development of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, and for its strategic partnership in providing logistical assistance. I want to thank the Moldovan side, the Mission and other partners for the already provided support and their intention to stay with us and continue the fight.

Your support allows us to defend our territorial integrity and democratic foundations of modern statehood in the 21st century. I am confident that our cooperation will follow in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect.

## CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Igor  
Talmazan**

**Director of the Customs Service of the  
Republic of Moldova**



The year 2022 has passed in the unprecedentedly difficult conditions of war in Ukraine that led to unimaginable earlier realities around the world and changed the focus areas in our cooperation at the border with EUBAM and Ukrainian colleagues.

Refugees, humanitarian aid, long queues at border crossing points, blocked goods and vehicles, simplified border crossing and customs clearance procedures and security issues were the key elements of our attention.

The blockade of Ukrainian ports has significantly changed the nature of trade and economic relations. The flow of goods (import and export of the Republic of Moldova, as well as transit through Ukraine) was redirected through road freight transport, which led to about a three-fold increase in the export of goods from the Republic of Moldova.

The Moldovan economic operators, who previously exported goods to Ukraine, have reoriented to the EU market. At the same time, exporters from Ukraine, especially of grain, also redirected their transit routes through the Republic of Moldova. For this reason, customs posts on the Moldovan-Romanian border have become over-demanded.

Obviously, the infrastructure of border customs posts and access roads was not prepared for such an increased flow of vehicles, and all customs authorities in Eastern Europe had to deal with queues at the border (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and other European countries, including Turkey).

The Moldovan Customs Service, along with other national authorities and colleagues from Ukraine and Romania, acted promptly, worked at the limit, and took the maximum possible measures to streamline cross-border traffic.

Based on the decisions of the Commission for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova, various simplified mechanisms for the movement and customs control of persons, goods and vehicles were implemented.

Appropriate measures to speed up border crossing were discussed at the International Trade Facilitation Forum – Response to Blockade of Transport Corridors from Ukraine, organized by EUBAM and Moldovan Customs on 29 September 2022 in Chisinau and at different bilateral and trilateral meetings of customs and border authorities

of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, as well with the participation of other competent national authorities and partners from the EU.

Last year, an important decision of the Republic of Moldova-EU Customs Subcommittee on mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) was adopted, aimed at further facilitating and ensuring the security of bilateral trade and economic relations.

The development of joint control remains a priority for our cross-border cooperation. Unfortunately, due to the hostilities in Ukraine, we were unable to complete the work on implementing fully-fledged joint control at Pervomaisc-Kuchurhan BCP on the territory of Ukraine and the redeployment of Moldovan control agencies to the territory of Ukraine at Giurgiulesti-Reni BCP.

Work is underway to resume the operation of the Basarabeasca-Serpnevo-1 railway BCP with the organization of joint control on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

*To better respond to heightened risks and challenges at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, with EUBAM assistance, various training activities have been carried out to strengthen the capacity of customs officers.*

*We express our gratitude to EUBAM and all partners for effective cooperation and wish our Ukrainian colleagues to remain strong during these difficult times and peace will return to Ukraine.*

## STATE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF UKRAINE

# Vyacheslav Demchenko

Acting Head of the State  
Customs Service of Ukraine

The State Customs Service of Ukraine (UASCS), as one of the partner services of EUBAM and Ukraine, shares European values, responsibly fulfils its international commitments, and remains open to constructive dialogue with the domestic and global community. UASCS seeks to convey our vision to the EU, all partner services, and organizations on the response to current challenges in daily activities provoked not by a crisis in the country but by the full-scale russian invasion of Ukraine.

In 2022, UASCS and the entire system of Ukrainian customs authorities were operating under extreme pressure and tough conditions. The full-scale military aggression unleashed by russia with belarusian involvement against Ukraine triggered an unprecedented situation with the blockade of seaports, the main gates for international trade. Meanwhile, road border crossing points on the border of Ukraine and Republic of Poland, Republic of Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova took over the entire volume of the foreign trade flow. They became transport arteries connecting Ukraine with others. Despite long queues at the border crossing points for apparent reasons, the Ukrainian side makes exhaustive efforts to ensure their adequate functioning on the border of Ukraine with the specified countries. It allows partial support for the economic balance in our country and to receive humanitarian aid for the affected population. Also, it provides grain and other agricultural products to European countries and worldwide, preventing a food crisis.

The Service is actively engaged in implementing the EU Solidarity Lanes Initiative and participates in the dialogue between the EU and relevant authorities of Ukraine centred around the issues of customs, cargo transportation and logistics. Particular attention is paid to implementing the Black Sea Grain Initiative and accelerating the export of Ukrainian agricultural products through the land border crossing points. The EUBAM-led 'International Trade Facilitation Forum – Response to the Blockade of Transport Corridors from Ukraine', which brought together a wide range of stakeholders, was a step of friendly support of partner services and international trade in the region.

In the effort to respond to economic challenges posed by the armed aggression of russia, relevant amendments have been made to the national legislation in customs and other areas. On 1 October 2022, Ukraine joined the Convention on the Common Transit Procedure and launched the international application of the National Computerized Transit System (NCTS). Ukraine became the 36th country to join



the Convention, and it became part of the national legislation regulating the application of the common transit procedure. To bolster further development of joint transit, we are actively cooperating with businesses, providing through seminars clarifications on the specifics of the NCTS system application, simplifications offered by the Convention, etc.

The unprovoked war unleashed by russia has changed the global supply chains of goods and activities of Ukrainian foreign economic operators and their counterparts. Realizing that such changes could spike international criminal groups' activities dealing with trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors to Ukraine and EU countries, UASCS enhanced its anti-smuggling actions. The effectiveness of such actions is evidenced by the aborted attempts to illegally move 15 kg of narcotic drug 'cocaine' in the area of responsibility of Kyiv Customs, 21 kg of hashish and 30 kg of psychotropic narcotic substance 'Ecstasy' in the area of responsibility of Volyn Customs, 100,000 tablets of 'tramadol' in Zakarpattia Customs area, 21.4 tonnes of 'Hydrochloric acid' precursor in the area of responsibility of Lviv Customs.

UASCS keeps high performance in identifying and eliminating attempts of export-import operations in violation of the law. Regular measures are taken to counter the movement of goods across the customs border with concealment from customs control, focusing on detecting offences committed by submitting documents containing false information about the value of goods. The Service actively targets cases of non-declaration of goods, including those that reduce customs payment amounts. Since the beginning of the year, the established amount of customs payments, which mala fide economic operators tried to evade, reached over 95 million hryvnias, trebling the amount as compared to 2021. I express gratitude to the EU, EUBAM, and partner services from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova for support and concerted actions on the border, facilitating the movement of persons, goods, and vehicles, preserving trade and economic ties in the region, and averting the global food crisis.

# ADVISORY BOARD



EUBAM Advisory Board acknowledged the Mission's active role in supporting Ukrainian and Moldovan Border and Customs authorities in trying times.

The EUBAM Advisory Board is a decision-making and governing body to review and assess the Mission's progress in all its activities. During the reporting period, the Advisory Board met twice online – on the 30th of June and the 24th of November.

The Advisory Board expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine and respect for those defending Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence from Russia's unjustified military aggression. It also paid tribute to the Ukrainian and Moldovan border agencies for their outstanding response to those fleeing the war and effective control measures for ensuring border security. The participants welcomed the inception of the EUBAM Phase 13 with an enhanced mandate envisaging executive powers for border control and new activities on technical assistance and capacity building, expressing their satisfaction with the continuous and active cooperation among the Mission and its partner services.

The Head of Mission, Slawomir Pichor, presented EUBAM's latest results and advancement in its action plan despite the inauspicious backdrop. The Mission had adjusted its activities to align them to the changed situation and to the repercussions of this war which redesigned security and economic landscape. The Advisory Board acknowledged the Mission's active role in the smooth running of the EU Solidarity Lanes Initiative in response to the blockade of the transport corridors from Ukraine, as well as delivering a series of profiled training events on topical cross-border crime threats.

The EUBAM Advisory Board brings together representatives from the Foreign Ministries, border, customs and law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the European Union Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the European Commission, the EU High-Level Advisory Mission, the EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine, the International Organization for Migration, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. It is chaired by the Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

Working at the border from the first day of the war, our experts have operated in the most critical locations, assisting with streamlining the heavy flow of people and trucks.



MAX. GROSS	32.500 KG
	71.650 LB
TARE	3.700 KG
	8.160 LB
MAX. CARGO	28.800 KG
	63.490 LB
CU. CAP.	76.4 CU.M.
	2.700 CU.FT.

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# SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES



Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine affected the Mission's activities connected to the Transnistrian region. With two key mediators at war, 5+2 negotiations were stalled, and the overall political atmosphere remained tense. The closure of the Ukrainian border with the Russian Federation and Belarus, the blockage of Ukrainian seaports and the temporary suspension of the activity of border crossing points (BCPs) at the central segment of the Moldova–Ukraine border had impact on the supply chain of goods from/to the Transnistrian region and generated new routes and trade markets. In such challenging context, EUBAM continued to monitor and advise on the movement of people and commodities across the Administrative Line and customs clearances of goods from/to the Transnistrian region at inland posts.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THEMATIC EXPERT WORKING GROUPS

During the reporting period, EUBAM, as part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova team, attended five meetings of five sectorial Expert Working Groups (WG) on Road Transportation, Economy, Railroad Transportation, Customs and Healthcare. The parties were looking for viable solutions to challenges faced by Transnistrian economic operators after the launch of Russia's military aggression in Ukraine affecting mostly the import of medicine, foodstuff, or fertilizers to the region. The Road Transportation WG focused on the need to fully resume the activity and to provide the full range of vehicle documentation services at the two Vehicle Registration Offices in the Transnistrian region. The Customs WG succeeded in reaching an agreement on the procedure for the verification of origin for goods imported from the EU to the Transnistrian region.

## TRENDS IN EXTERNAL TRADE OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION

Due to the supply chain disruption caused by the Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, all Transnistrian trade was channelled via BCPs operated by Moldovan Customs Service following the temporary closure of BCPs at the central segment of Moldova-Ukraine border as of 28 February 2022. Until then, Transnistrian economic operators could import medicine, dual-use goods, fertiliz-

ers, pesticides, foodstuff, and other commodities without applying economic policy measures, restrictions, or prohibitions in the Republic of Moldova via BCPs located at this segment. EUBAM continued to analyse the Transnistrian trade and verify customs clearances of goods imported to/exported from the Transnistrian region regarding their compliance with Moldovan regulations and assurance of fair treatment. The EU-Moldova AA/DCFTA implementation in the Transnistrian region was constantly monitored by the Mission. In 2022, the share of the EU in the region's total export reached 64%. Moreover, the EU continued as a leading supplier of goods, claiming 50% of overall Transnistrian region's imports.

### **TOWARDS PRODUCT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE**

EUBAM findings regarding the import of some categories of goods suspected of being non-compliant with Moldovan requirements (including toys and electric appliances) intended for the Transnistrian region triggered an initiative to enhance the inter-agency cooperation between the national body responsible for market surveillance and customs authority. The Mission advocated for concluding an Inter-agency Cooperation Action Plan intended to strengthen the collaboration. To that end, consultations were held with both agencies and representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova to advance the protection of the national market from hazardous and non-compliant goods that could endanger health and safety of Moldovan consumers.

### **VERIFICATION OF ORIGIN FOR GOODS IMPORTED FROM THE EU TO THE TRANSNISTRIAN REGION**

In May, following a meeting of the Customs WG, a procedure for Tiraspol's requests for verification of proofs of origin for goods imported from the EU to the Transnistrian region was instituted by the Moldovan authorities. The Mission advocated for finding a solution by Chisinau and Tiraspol on that issue after the topic had been raised during the 5th Sitting of the MD-EU Customs Sub-committee in November 2019. Thus, according to the procedure, Tiraspol's requests should be submitted to the MD Reintegration Policies Bureau (RPB) for addressing them to the relevant EU member states' customs administrations by MDCS. The result of the verification obtained by MDCS should be provided to Tiraspol to jointly deter origin frauds using the MD RPB channel.

### **MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN TRANSNISTRIAN REGION**

EUBAM scrutinized the compliance of Transnistrian regulations on approval of the so-called customs tariff for goods exported and imported from/to the Transnistrian region for 2023 with Tiraspol's commitments under the EU-MD AA/DCFTA pertinent to free trade area with the EU. The Mission also analysed the amended exhaustive list of excisable goods imported to the Transnistrian region and the rates of excise duties to which those were subject.



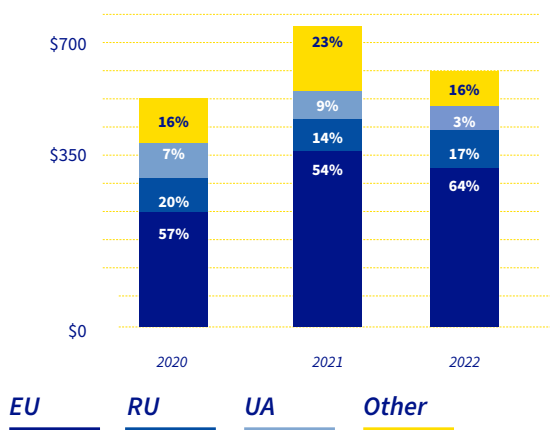
*A meeting facilitated by EUBAM brought together customs and consumer protection agencies to enhance best European practices in consumer protection.*

## EXTERNAL TRADE OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION

In 2022, amidst the recovery from adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian Federation's unjustified military aggression against Ukraine generated restrictive measures, contractor uncertainty and security concerns, blockage of Ukrainian seaports, compounded transport routes which morphed into new challenges to the foreign trade of the Transnistrian region. Thus, Transnistrian region's foreign trade (goods turnover) dropped by 20% in USD monetary value compared to 2021. The value of goods

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

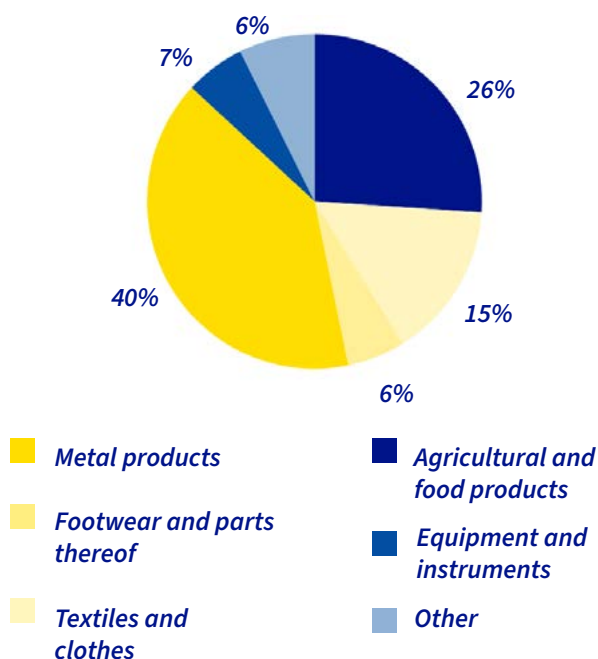
Fig. 3



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S GOODS EXPORTED IN 2022 AND THEIR SHARES BY VALUE (USD mln)

Fig. 4



Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

exported by Transnistrian region's economic operators in 2022 decreased by \$172mln or 25%, accounting for \$526mln (fig.1), while the value of goods imported by Transnistrian region's economic operators dropped by 17% year-on-year to \$727mln (fig.2). In the midst of lowered annual exports and imports, the trade deficit in Transnistrian region's foreign trade in goods grew by 13% year-on-year, having reached \$201mln. Major trade deficits were recorded with Ukraine (\$99mln), and the European Union (\$22.6mln).

Mainly, metal products (40%), agricultural and food products (26%), textiles and clothes (15%), equipment and instruments (6%), footwear (6%) and other commodities (7%) built up the pattern of Transnistrian merchandise exports in 2022. (fig. 3)

Mostly products of steelmaking, agricultural commodities, and products of the light industry built up the Transnistrian region's structure of exports in 2022. The structure of imports was diverse, with food and agricultural products, industrial and agriculture machinery, electric home appliances and instruments, fuels, steel scrap, fertilizers, medicaments, as well as ferro-alloys, and flat rolled products of iron making two thirds of overall annual imports.

The EU (64%), Russian Federation (17%), Turkey (6%), Ukraine (3%) ranked second, third and fourth, accordingly, while the UK (3%) rounded out the top five key markets for the Transnistrian region's exports. (fig.1) Those top five markets claimed around 93% of overall Transnistrian region's exports in USD value in 2022. However, the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine has brought a new negative dimension having decreased the exports from the Transnistrian region to Ukraine nearly four-fold year-on-year in USD value. Regardless of its 11%-decrease year-on-year in USD value, exports to the EU made almost two thirds of overall Transnistrian region's export, accounting for \$338mln. Thus, Transnistrian region's external trade continued to demonstrate solid reliance on the EU consumer and supplier markets. While being the first biggest consumer of footwear, agricultural, textile, and metal products from the Transnistrian region, the EU continued as a leading supplier of steel scrap, petroleum fuels, copper wire, metal structures, leather, various equipment, and machinery, thus, claiming 50% of overall Transnistrian region's imports. Despite the shockwaves, the Transnistrian region's industries experienced, exports of metal products built 40% of the Transnistrian region's export structure, yet, having decreased by 31% year-on-year in USD value. Steel products made around 90% of all Transnistrian region's metal products exports with, the EU being pivotal as the consumer of such metal products (fig 4). Additionally, the Transnistrian region largely traded in metal products to Serbia, and Ukraine, as well as copper foil to the Russian Federation. In 2022, the EU was the only supplier of ferrous scrap to the Transnistrian region. The Transnistrian region's exports of agricultural and food products - the second largest export category (26%)

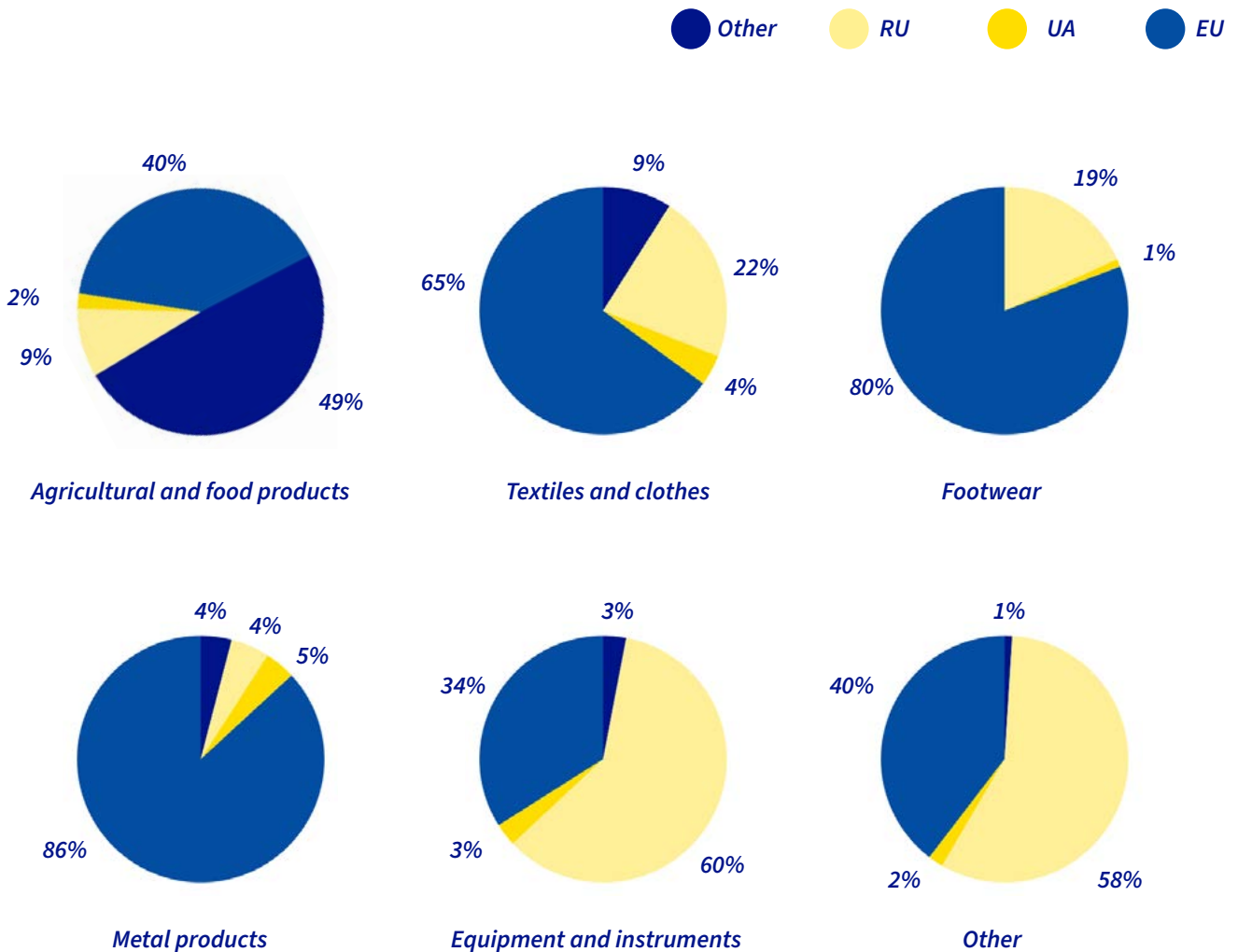
- showed an 11%-decrease in 2022. While exports of agricultural and food products from the Transnistrian region to the EU trebled, such exports to Ukraine dropped manifold in USD value. Wheat, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds, barley and maize, vegetables, and fruit collectively reached 90% of the Transnistrian region's exports of agricultural products. Turkey, the EU, and the UK were the principal destinations for the Transnistrian region's sunflower seeds and maize, the EU, Indonesia, and Malaysia – for wheat, while the EU and Turkey were vastly importing rapeseeds. Additionally, the EU, the Russian Federation, and Kazakh-

stan were the top consumers of Transnistrian region's vegetables and fruit.

The Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation dropped by 7%. Following the EU, the Russian Federation continued as the second biggest consumer of Transnistrian region's textile exports. The Russian Federation claimed around 60% of Transnistrian region's exports of equipment and instruments, being mainly electric motors and generators, and insulated wire. Exports of plastic film from the Transnistrian region made 20% of the overall Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation in USD value.

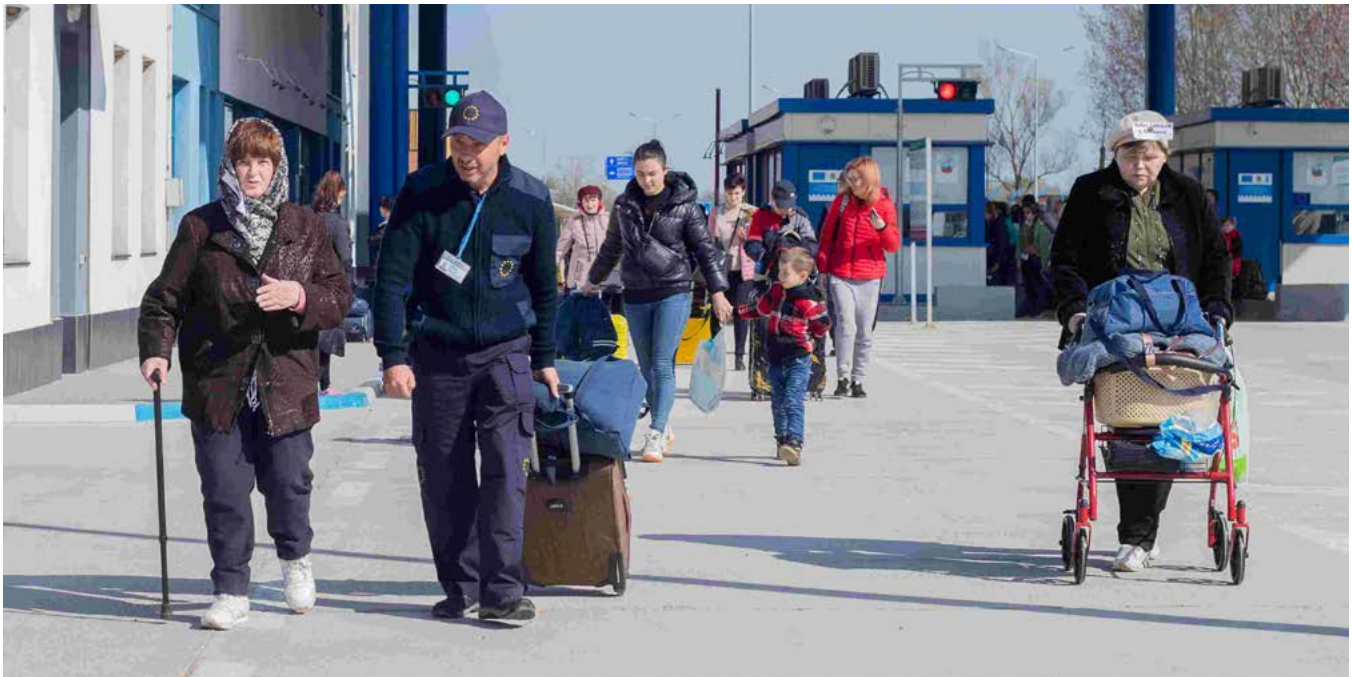
KEY CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S EXPORTS AND THEIR MARKETS, % OF EXPORT VALUE (USD)

Fig. 5



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.

# IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT



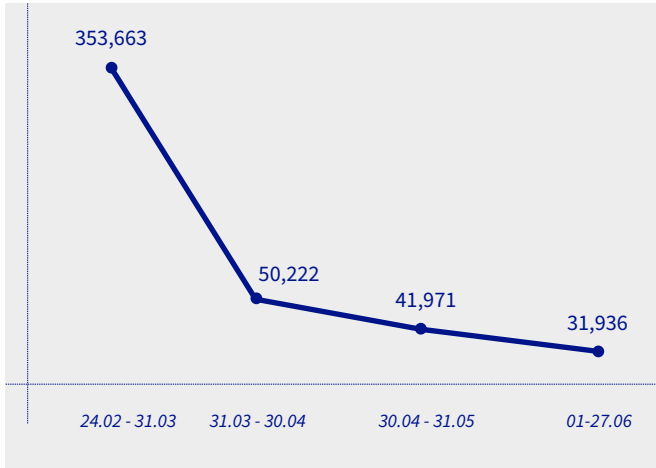
In 2022, the management of Moldova-Ukraine border became a test for EUBAM's partner services. Peacetime border crossing infrastructure came under immense pressure from hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing from war as well as increased cargo traffic caused by blockade of Ukrainian maritime trade. Being already present on the ground, EUBAM was assisting refugees as well as border and customs authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. During the reporting period among the Mission's top priorities was to facilitate the implementation of European Commission's Solidarity Lanes initiative streamlining Ukrainian export of agricultural goods and import of so much needed fuel and humanitarian aid.

## CONTRIBUTING TO REFUGEE CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Starting from the first days of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Mission's experts supported Ukrainians fleeing from war and the border control agencies in managing the emergency, contributing to refugee crisis management. To facilitate their work, EUBAM experts assisted in managing the refugee flow before the border crossing points and were involved in the clearance of the increasing volumes of humanitarian aid entering Ukraine. EUBAM teams provided support and helped the refugees on the spot, especially women with small children and people in need. Considering that the final destination for most refugees was the European Union, EUBAM teams were explaining entry requirements in the different EU Member States and advising on the best travel routes. To further facilitate the refugees' transfer through the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM also produced a guide with a map of transit routes to the EU and useful country-specific information, links, and resources.



**BORDER CROSSING DYNAMICS FOR CITIZENS OF UKRAINE TO MOLDOVA IN 2022**



**RESPONSE TO BLOCKADE OF TRANSPORT CORRIDORS FROM UKRAINE**

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and its blockade of Ukrainian ports disrupted the supply chains and trade routes. To tackle this, in May, the European Commission launched Solidarity Lanes initiative aiming at establishing and supporting alternative logistics routes between the EU and Ukraine. Since the initiative’s launch EUBAM has concentrated its efforts on facilitating the cargo flow management. The main Mission’s efforts were focused on managing the queues at the main border crossing points and facilitating technical dialog for implementing the Initiative. At the same time EUBAM advocated for harmonizing emergency procedures and investments for enhancing the operability of the main border crossing points along the Ukraine – Moldova border.



*The 10-day exercise reviewed the clearance of trucks exporting Ukrainian agricultural goods along the Moldova-Ukraine border.*

**TARGETED MONITORING ACTION “SOLIDARITY LANES”**

In August, to identify challenges and enhance management of the increased border traffic, EUBAM carried out the “Solidarity Lanes” exercise. During a 10-day event, EUBAM, in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, State Customs Service of Ukraine and other border agencies, monitored clearance of trucks with Ukraine’s agricultural goods transiting Moldova. Thanks to the exercise, EUBAM managed to formulate and share with partners recommendations on optimizing logistic chains, avoiding the congestion at border crossing points and, thereby better managing the increased border traffic both in the short- and long-term perspective.



Commenting on the situation at the Northern segment of Moldova-Ukraine border in the end of 2022, the acting head of Vinnytsia Customs Tetiana Dudorova said, "thanks to the joint efforts of both Ukrainian and Moldovan Services' specialists, the support and cooperation of EUBAM experts, we already observe a 20% reduction in queues at the common border compared to the third quarter of this year."



## INTERNATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION FORUM

Following up on the first months of the Mission's support for Solidarity Lanes initiative, on 29 September, EUBAM in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova organized the International Trade Facilitation Forum. The event brought together for strategic discussion EU institutions and missions, the Customs Authorities

of the neighboring EU Member States, high-level speakers from the Ukrainian and Moldovan governments, as well as public and private sector. The Forum boosted the cooperation and brought up forward looking conclusions highlighting the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes Initiative as a vital link in building the new connectivity between the EU and its two new candidate countries - Moldova and Ukraine.



Throughout the year, EUBAM was delivering much-needed material assistance to the Ukrainian partners. The Mission donated to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine 1,850 first aid kits and 1,300 meals ready to eat to support the border officers working around the clock at Moldova-Ukraine border. The Mission also donated one Volkswagen Caravelle



multivan and two Land Rover Freelander SUVs. The off-road vehicles, used in EUBAM patrolling activities, are now enhancing the capacities of Ukrainian border guards to carry out specific patrol missions in adverse weather conditions.



One of the challenges of 2022 was finding ways to alleviate the pressure on the border in the Reni-Giurgiulesti-Galati area.

### TOWARDS BORDER CONTROL MODERNIZATION

Despite security challenges in the region, EUBAM continued advocating for and facilitating the modernization of the border infrastructure. EUBAM hosted and contributed to the several rounds of technical consultations and field assessment visits under the “EU4BS” project. Over the year, the sides moved one step closer towards installing a video control and automatic number plate recognition systems at jointly operated border crossing points (JOBCPs) as well as sustainable joint blue border surveillance. As of the end of 2022, the stakeholders decided on procurement and installation of equipment in Criva-Mamalyha and Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne JOBCPs. In that connection, to facilitate the joint use of CCTV, EUBAM elaborated Standard Operating Procedure on the Access to CCTV Systems at JOBCPs.



### NEW BORDER CONTROL SEQUENCE IN CHISINAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Starting from 12 August, border control authorities at the Chisinau International Airport introduced a new control sequence adopted by the Moldovan Government Decision. Now, the new control sequence fully corresponds to the EU standards and security control goes before, border and customs control. This fully reflects the 2017 EUBAM recommendation regarding the chronological order of controls upon exiting the country. The new control sequence will enhance the safety and security at the airport, which is even more important at the backdrop of increased passenger flow.

# FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME



The war in Ukraine and sanctions against Russia caused a blockage of the seaports and the closure of the transport corridors, at the Transnistrian segment the border with Ukraine was also closed. All this had impact on cross-border crime, changing the patterns and modus operandi. Our partners were facing new challenges like the growing trend of illegal border crossings, increase on undeclared cash at the borders and trafficking of illicit drugs, and EUBAM was there to assist them.

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE FIRST UKRAINIAN CONFERENCE ON COMBATING ILLICIT FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

In February, EUBAM participated in the First National Conference on Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosives in all its Aspects organized by OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. The conference addressed a wide range of topics, focusing on legislative and operational aspects of the fight against the illicit trafficking of armaments in Ukraine. The Mission's speakers presented their insights and best European practices in risk management of illegal turnover of arms and talked about facilitating and enhancing the capabilities of the Mission's Partner Services in combating arms trafficking at the Moldova-Ukraine border.

## BOOSTING RISK MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF MOLDOVAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Risk management plays a pivotal role in handling constant and emerging threats to the safety and security of countries and their citizens, protecting and facilitating legitimate trade. In that connection in May, EUBAM held a webinar where its experts and specialists from the Finnish Customs, Romanian Customs Authority, and National Revenue Administration of Poland presented best European practices in risk management. Speakers discussed intelligence centers, advanced IT customs tools, and WCO's risk management maturity levels. The European experts also got Moldovan risk analysis officers acquainted with the critical objectives of the EU Strategy on customs risk management. In the same vein, in August - September, EUBAM conducted the joint assistance exercise "VENTURE II" together with the Moldovan Customs. As a result of the exercise the risk analysis-based customs control implementation was assessed at multiple levels and the Mission's shared its observations with the Moldovan Customs.





## TACKLING ILLICIT TOBACCO TRADE

For addressing current and future threats originating from the situation in and around Ukraine and exploring respective countermeasures, EUBAM together with Europol, OSCE, Frontex and UNODC, and law enforcement agencies from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, convened during the reporting period for two Arms Working Group meetings. In December 2021, the sides explored activities implemented over the past year in the fields of enhancement of cooperation, analytical support, operational capacity building, as well as joint operations and investigations.

The meeting held in August 2022 focused on the assessment of threats related to arms trafficking in Europe, with particular emphasis on the availability of weapons. The participants expressed an unanimous consent, that in view of the inevitable increase of arms trafficking through the Ukraine-Moldova border, it was reasonable to intensify control activities at the common border and tighten inter-agency and international cooperation through information exchange and joint preventive actions.

## PREVENTING ILLICIT FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

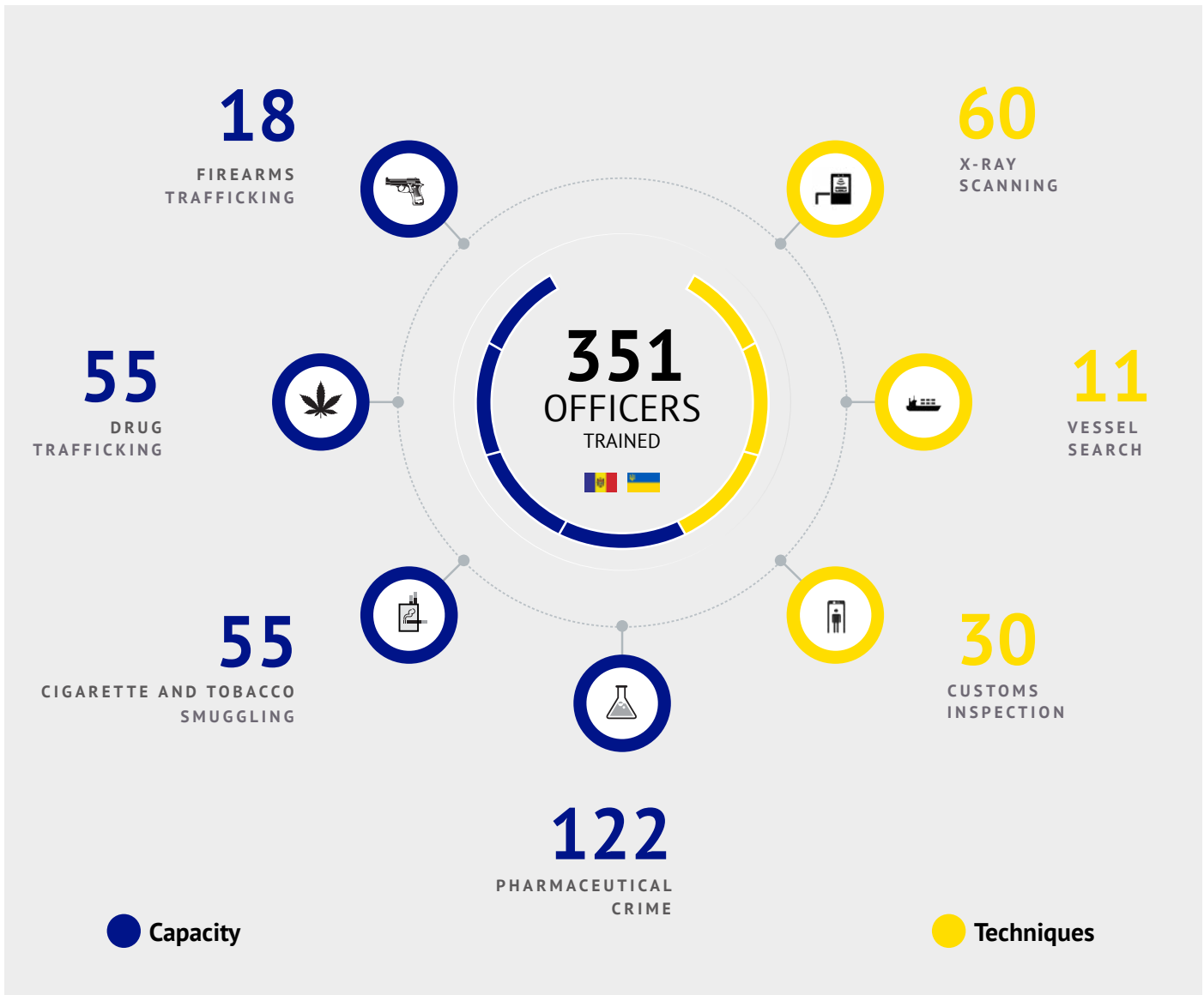
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The meeting held in August 2022 focused on the assessment of threats related to arms trafficking in Europe, with particular emphasis on the availability of weapons. After six months of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Arms Working Group experts from participating law enforcement agencies did not register any sudden increase in illegal trade in weapons, ammunition, and explosives neither on the territories of both countries and at the shared border.



*Combating weapons, ammunition and explosives smuggling training for future trainers.*



To better cope with the changed security situation and increased risks at the Moldova-Ukraine border, the Mission delivered 18 training events for 351 officers serving in the law enforcement agencies in both countries. The events were conducted at key border crossing points and training centres of the Moldovan Border Police and Customs Service in Ungheni and Chisinau.

### ASSISTING CROSS-BORDER INVESTIGATION ON ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND MIGRANT TRAFFICKING

EUBAM facilitated and participated in operational meetings related to cross-border investigations on illegal migration and migrant trafficking on the Turkey–Western Europe route, using forged Moldovan and Ukrainian passports. It brought together representatives from Moldovan and Ukrainian investigation authorities, as well as Europol specialists. The investigative activities carried out in the involved and affected countries established that the international organized crime group arranged the illegal migration and illegal border crossing of people of different nationalities from Turkey to Western Europe.



Vessel search training.

EUBAM helps partners to map out emerging cross-border crime trends.



EUBAM



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE  
MISSION TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

# COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



*From the left: Deputy Head of State Customs Service of Ukraine Vladyslav Suvorov; Director of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova (MDCS) Igor Talmazan; Head of EUBAM Slawomir Pichor; Deputy Director (MDCS) Lidia Ababii; President of the Romanian Customs Authority Bogdan Lari Mihei; Head of Division (MDCS) Igor Iurco.*

## COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERS

EUBAM closely cooperated and coordinated activities with the EU Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and the EU institutions. In March, the Head of Mission attended the EU agencies' coordination meeting on border management support to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, chaired by Mr Michael Siebert, Managing Director for Russia, Eastern Partner-

ship, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and OSCE at the European External Action Service. In the same vein, HoM briefed the Subcommittee on Security and Defense of the European Parliament on the EUBAM's activities and border challenges in the context of the refugee crisis. As a follow up, in early April, EUBAM joined the Subcommittee's delegation on its fact-finding visit to Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne jointly operated border crossing point.

In July, September, and October, EUBAM participated in three meetings of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova, co-chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova and Deputy Director General of DG HOME. Moreover, in July, the Head of EUBAM participated in the Working Group on Effective Border Management held within the framework of the 2nd Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform hosted by Romania, Germany, and France in Bucharest. The Head of Mission met with the President of the Romanian Customs Authority, Mr Bogdan-Lari Mihei and Assignee General Inspector of the Romanian Border Police, Principal Police Quaestor, Mr Liviu Bute and exchanged views on border management in the face of ongoing war in Ukraine. In Moldova, the Head of EUBAM hosted a meeting with Vice-President of Eurojust, Ms Margarita Šniu-tytė-Daugėlienė. The Head of Mission also held meetings with the Head of the European Investment Bank Representation for Moldova and the Associate Director of the



*At Palanca Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point, EUBAM team was honored to meet the President of the European Council, Charles MICHEL, who visited Odesa on Europe day.*



*Head of EUBAM Slawomir Pichor during the fact-finding visit of the European Parliament delegation to the Palanca – Udobne – Mayaki jointly operated border crossing point.*

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the Republic of Moldova.

The Mission continued to contribute with its expertise to the various EU projects active in both host countries, such as MIEUX + Action “Support for the Monitoring and Evaluation of IBM in the Republic of Moldova”, “EU for Border Security” (EU4BS), “EU for IBM” (EU4IBM), European Union Confidence



*Working meeting with Margarita Šniuitytė-Daugėlienė, Vice-President of Eurojust.*

Building Measures Programme and TOPCOP project. EUBAM participated in numerous working meetings with Europol and Frontex and discussed the refugee crisis and the operational situation at the Moldova-Ukraine border, new trends in cross border crime in the context of the war in Ukraine, future cooperation, and information exchange on trafficking in human beings.

EUBAM continued close cooperation with EU member states’ ambassadors, liaison officers and law enforcement Attachés accredited to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Mission maintained regular contacts with the EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine (EUAM), the EU High Level Advisors on Customs and Tax Policy and Confidence Building Measures, respectively.



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

EUBAM did not only enhance its support to partners in the fight against organised crime, but also provided significant support in the response to the unprecedented inflows of refugees and assisted in the establishment and smooth conduct of the EU Solidarity Lanes. I commend the exceptional efforts from Ukrainian and Moldovan partners and encourage them to make full use of EUBAM, including the possibility to request for specific capacity-building activities that could contribute further to border and customs management in the challenging operational context in which we are operating.



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

We commend the efforts of Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities to reestablish the rail freight transport corridor through Basarabeasca-Berezino rail connection. We encourage the completion of this important project contributing importantly to global food security. We acknowledge the EUBAM’s active role in facilitating the export of Ukrainian agricultural products through the EU Solidarity lanes initiative.

## WORKING TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

Against the backdrop of the unprovoked Russian war of aggression, EUBAM continued close cooperation with the key Ukrainian partners at the central and regional levels. Head of Mission maintained close contact with Mr Serhii Saienko, Deputy Director of Department for the EU and NATO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr Marko Shevchenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova, and the regional authorities of the Ukraine's southern Odesa Region. During his visit to Odesa in June, the Head of EUBAM held meetings with the Head of Odesa Regional Military Administration, Mr Maksym Marchenko, the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in Odesa, Mr Serhii Orlov and the Head of Southern Regional Directorate of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS), Major General Serhii Mul. To coordinate facilitation of Ukrainian agricultural export via Solidarity Lanes, the Head of Mission met with Mr Vladislav Suvorov, Deputy Head of the State Customs Service and Mr Mykhailo Mirosnichenko, Acting Head of the Odesa Customs House.



*Head of EUBAM and the Head of Odesa Regional Military Administration Maksym Marchenko.*

Facilitating the EU response to the impact of war in Ukraine on the Republic of Moldova, Head of Mission held meetings with H.E. Vladimir Bolea, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Ruslan Bolbocean, State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Mr Mircea Pascaluta, State Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova. In regard to the Transnistrian settlement process Head of EUBAM held meetings with Mr Oleg Serebrian, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and Mr Alin Gvidiani, Head of the Reintegration Policies Bureau of the Republic of Moldova. The Mission was in regular contact with the Moldovan Border Police and Customs Service. With the onset of the refugee crisis at the border, Head of EUBAM held meetings with Mr Igor Talmazan, Director of the Customs Service and Chief Commissioner Rosian Vasilo, Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate and Mr Alexandru Musteata, Director of the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova.



*Head of EUBAM and the Head of Southern Regional Directorate of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, Major General Serhii Mul.*



*EU Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova.*



*Discussion with Mr Oleg Serebrian, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration.*



**VICTOR LAPUSNEANU**

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

The war against Ukraine has certainly affected EUBAM’s work, requiring adaptation to the new circumstances. We are grateful to EUBAM for its prompt response to offer assistance in managing refugee flows.



**SERHII SAIENKO**

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

Russia’s illegal, brutal and unjustified aggression pose many challenges, and EUBAM has been there to meet them. We appreciate the considerable contribution of EUBAM to building capacities of Customs and Border Guards services of Ukraine and are grateful for the swift implementation of initiatives, such as the Solidarity Lanes, and are committed to creating safe and secure transit between the EU and Ukraine.



*Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat, Tuula Yrjölä.*

### INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

As EUBAM and OSCE have long-lasting cooperation and a common goal of contributing to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict then the two organizations maintained close contact. The Mission’s experts continued to take part in regular technical meetings with OSCE Mission to Moldova. In the middle of February, EUBAM participated in the first National Conference on preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons ammunition and explosives organized by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine. EUBAM shared its insights in the implementation of joint law enforcement operations with high-level representatives of the Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies, Ministry of Interior, Verkhovna Rada, Europol, Interpol, UNDP / SEESAC and UNODC.

In May, the Head of Mission met with the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat, Tuula Yrjölä. The parties discussed and

shared opinions on the Transnistria-related confidence building measures and the impact of the war in Ukraine on border management. In November, the Head of EUBAM met with the newly appointed Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, who was briefed about the EUBAM mandate, working modality and activities since the unprovoked war in Ukraine started. Being present at the Moldova-Ukraine border for 17 years, EUBAM used its vast experience to assist humanitarian NGOs, UN agencies, and other international organizations that came to help the Ukrainian refugees. EUBAM experts facilitated their interaction with Moldovan and Ukrainian border authorities on the ground and assisted in implementing their activities. In this regards, the Mission actively collaborated with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) within the framework of the Moldovan Inter-Sector Refugee Coordination Forum, as well as contributing to Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine.

# EUBAM TODAY

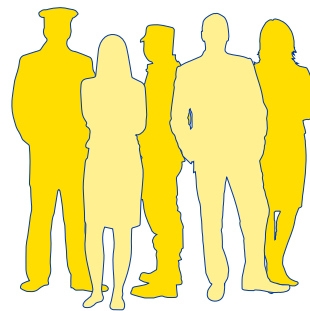
The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in November 2005 to promote border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards, and serve the needs of its two partner countries. It is an advisory, technical Mission headquartered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

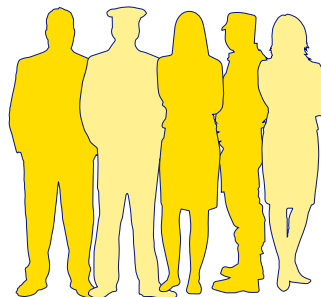
Total EUBAM staff 83, as for 30 November 2022



National staff 50  
MD, UA



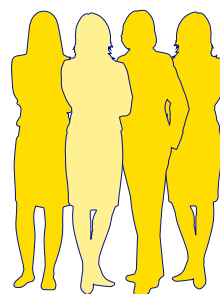
33 International staff  
from 9 EU Countries



Operational field staff 41



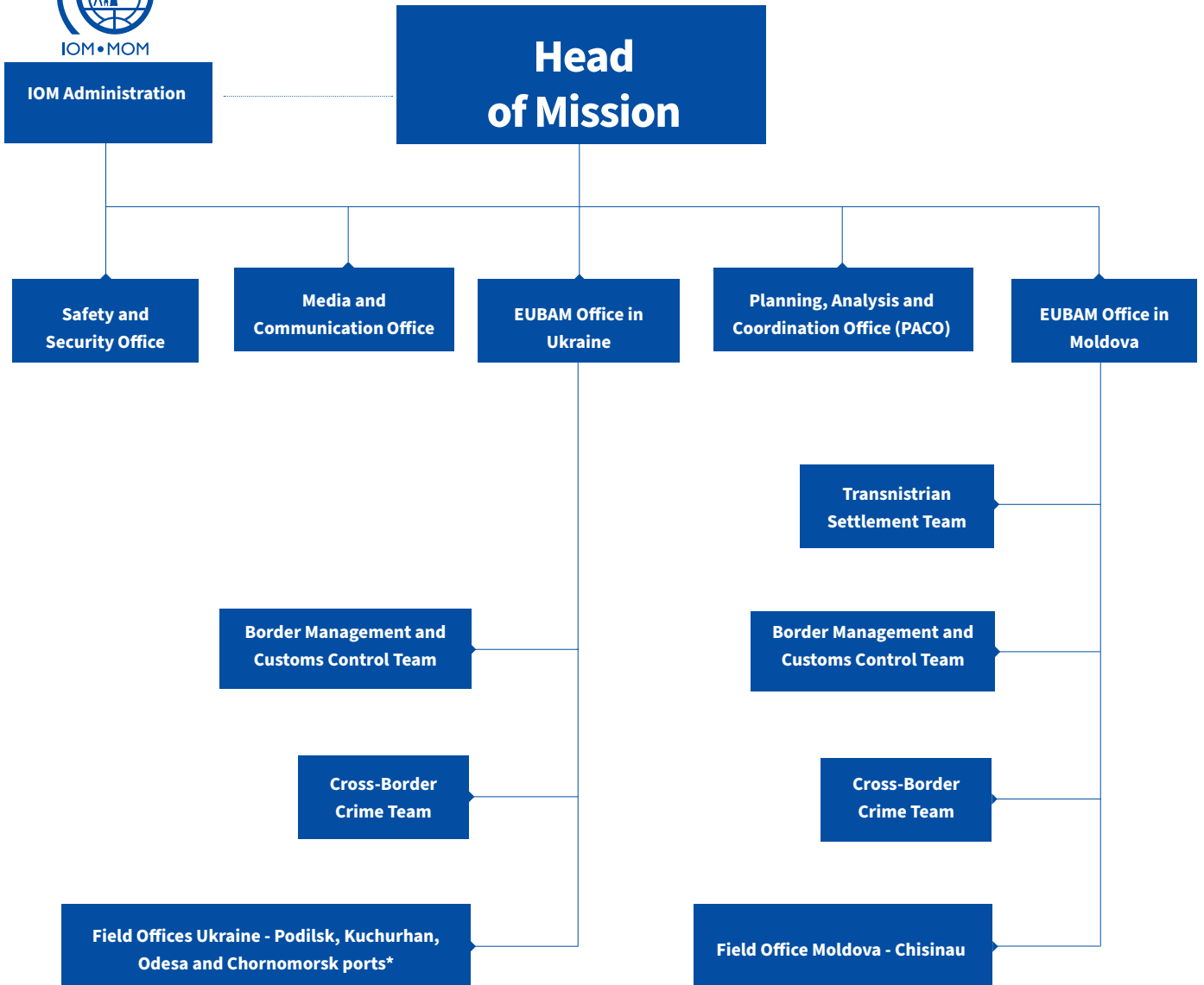
9 Operational HQ staff



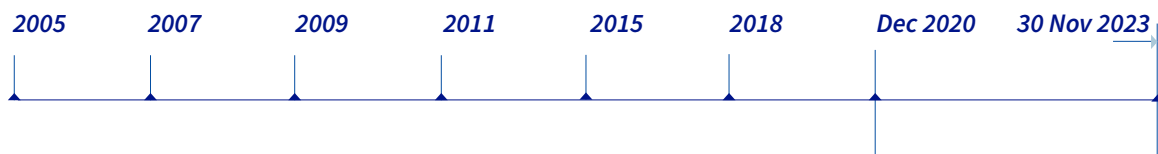
Female 41%



49% Male



THE MISSION'S MANDATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED SIX TIMES



\*Since February 24 2022 EUBAM operations in Podilsk and Kuchurhan were temporarily suspended.

# EUBAM 13 ACTION PLAN

01 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2025

<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>To support Moldova's and Ukraine's efforts to effectively manage their common border and actively support concrete measures linked to the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.</b>	
<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>To support the development of Transnistrian region-related confidence-building measures and approximation of Moldovan and EU requirements and procedures in the field of customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management.</b>	
Outcome 1	Joint Confidence Building Measures (CBM) are closely co-ordinated with Chisinau, have greater range, and impact on increasing trust and security between the sides. Legislation and procedures in the field of customs, trade, and transport are approximated.	
Output 1.1	Customs and trade related requirements and procedures on both sides of the Nistru River approximated.	
Activities	1.1.1	Support the country authorities to monitor the movement of people and goods across the administrative line and customs clearances of goods from/to Transnistrian region at inland posts.
	1.1.2	Advise on the approximation of customs duties, taxes, and fees and charges between Chisinau and Tiraspol.
	1.1.3	Advise Chisinau and Tiraspol on improving the customs framework and further simplification of formalities in trade in goods.
	1.1.4	Assist Chisinau and Tiraspol in the implementation of related trade facilitation arrangements under EU-Moldova AA/DCFTA.
Output 1.2	Increased awareness among international and national stakeholders on Transnistrian region external trade and trans-boundary commerce.	
Activities	1.2.1	Analyse Transnistrian region external trade activity, including on the implementation of the single customs regime (i.e. 2005 Moldova-Ukraine Joint Declaration).
	1.2.2.	Analyse trade in goods between economic operators from both banks of the Nistru River.
	1.2.3.	Contribute to developing an exchange of information between relevant experts from both banks of the Nistru River on the enforcement of customs and trade legislation and procedures in trans-boundary and international trade.
Output 1.3	Strengthened interaction between sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary experts on both sides of the Nistru River contributed to enhanced regional consumer safety.	
Activities	1.3.1	Promote technical interaction between Chisinau and Tiraspol to uphold regional consumer safety.
	1.3.2	Advise on practical and sustainable cooperation mechanisms between sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary experts from both river's banks.
Output 1.4	Sound technical solutions for the fully-fledged resumption of passenger and freight traffic across Transnistrian region found and implemented.	
Activities	1.4.1	Develop and sustain confidence-building measures in the field of road and rail transport.
	1.4.2	Contribute to defusing disruption of passenger and freight services across the administrative line and transit, import and export of cargo overseas by road and rail through Transnistrian region.
Output 1.5	Contribution provided to joint working groups on confidence building measures (CBM) through advice on the free movement of people and goods across Transnistrian region.	
Activities	1.5.1	Develop opinion, proposals or initiatives for joint Chisinau and/or Tiraspol projects in the field of customs, trade and transport, benefitting business and people residing in either bank of the Nistru river.
	1.5.2	Support the activity of political representatives and Expert (Working) Groups in the development and implementation of concrete measures for addressing practical issues related to the free movement of people and goods across Transnistrian region, and to the access of Transnistrian trade to DCFTA and its compliance.
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>To support the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment.</b>	
Outcome 2	The Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept at the Moldova-Ukraine border, with special attention to its Transnistrian segment, is developed, sustained, and managed by the host countries.	
Output 2.1	Extended joint control at border crossing points.	
Activities	2.1.1	Mobilise partner services for the implementation of action plan on the establishment/replication of jointly operated border crossing points (JOBBCPs) along the entire Moldova-Ukraine border.
	2.1.2	Assist partner services in assessments of needs and minimum requirements for the implementation of JOBBCPs along the Moldova-Ukraine border, in particular at its Transnistrian segment.

Output 2.2	Efficiency of border and customs controls increased as a result of simplified transparent procedures and inter-agency co-operation at the regional and local levels.	
Activities	2.2.1	Monitor and advise on the implementation of risk-based checks, simplified procedures, One-Stop-Shop (OSS) principles and data exchange mechanisms at border crossing points (BCPs) along the Moldova – Ukraine border.
	2.2.2	Assist and advise on the development of inter-agency mobile units based on intelligence-led activities.
	2.2.3	Perform a comprehensive evaluation of customs controls (at inland and border customs posts) with a focus on simplified procedures, risk-based checks, and interagency cooperation at regional/local level.
	2.2.4	Promote development of other IBM tools and good practices at border crossing points.
Output 2.3	Cross-border processes aligned with the Association Agreements, Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAPs) and Integrated Border Management provisions.	
Activities	2.3.1	Assist in the implementation of the EUBAM 12 recommendations resulted from the two verification exercises of border checks and customs control of passenger and cargo traffic.
	2.3.2	Monitor and assess the implementation of the EU Visa Post-Liberalisation Action Plan's benchmarks in both the Republic of 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	Monitor and advise on the modernisation process of BCPs along the Moldova-Ukraine border.
	2.3.4	Upon request, support the finalisation of the border demarcation process on the Moldova-Ukraine border.
	2.3.5	Support the harmonisation of border, customs, phyto-sanitary and veterinary procedures between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at the common border, in line with their AA/DCFTAs commitments with EU.
Outcome 3	Effectiveness of efforts to combat cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment, is increased.	
Output 3.1	Increased effectiveness of fighting cross-border crime at Moldova-Ukraine border and adjacent ports of entry.	
Activities	3.1.1	Assist in the prevention, detection, and investigation of cross-border crime.
	3.1.2	Perform an evaluation on institutional and operational capacity of border and customs services in the prevention of and fighting against cross-border and customs crimes such as human trafficking, smuggling of excisable goods, arms, ammunition, explosives, radiological and nuclear materials.
	3.1.3	Develop Special Reports on concrete case studies/analyses of potential crime or risk in the Mission Area of Responsibility (e.g. smuggling, etc.) with a view to facilitate knowledge sharing of trends, identified key challenges and opportunities in both countries.
Output 3.2	Threats to border security jointly assessed by the border services and other law enforcement agencies in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.	
Activities	3.2.1	Develop capacity for risk analysis, intelligence and data-flow management of the partner services and ensure their implementation at the common border.
	3.2.2	Support the development and ensure implementation of the partner services' joint risk and threat assessments on cross-border crime.
	3.2.3	Streamline the prompt information exchange among the inter-agency investigation groups on prevention and combating cross-border crime.
Output 3.3	The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are able to manage effective networks of cooperation between them and with international partners to combat transnational and cross-border crimes.	
Activities	3.3.1	Advise on the improvement of information exchange between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on preventing and combating human trafficking, smuggling of goods, including tobacco products and trafficking in drugs, arms and ammunition, explosives, radiological and nuclear materials.
	3.3.2	Upon request, review the international agreements/ protocols on law enforcement cooperation between Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies and other relevant law enforcement agencies.
	3.3.3	Support the planning, conduct and evaluation of joint border control operations by the partner services and in co-operation with relevant EU and international agencies.
Output 3.4	Enhanced inter-agency coordination in the prevention, detection and investigation of cross-border crime.	
Activities	3.4.1	Streamline joint efforts to improve prevention of and fight against cross-border crime.
	3.4.2	Conduct joint exercises with border and customs services for testing law enforcement inter-agency cooperation and identifying gaps in inter-agency agreements/ protocols in law enforcement area.





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Illegale Importatie  
van Waren uit het Vreemde



International Organisation for Migration  
is the implementing partner



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