



EUROPEAN UNION BORDER
ASSISTANCE MISSION TO
MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



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ANNUAL REPORT

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Table of Contents

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

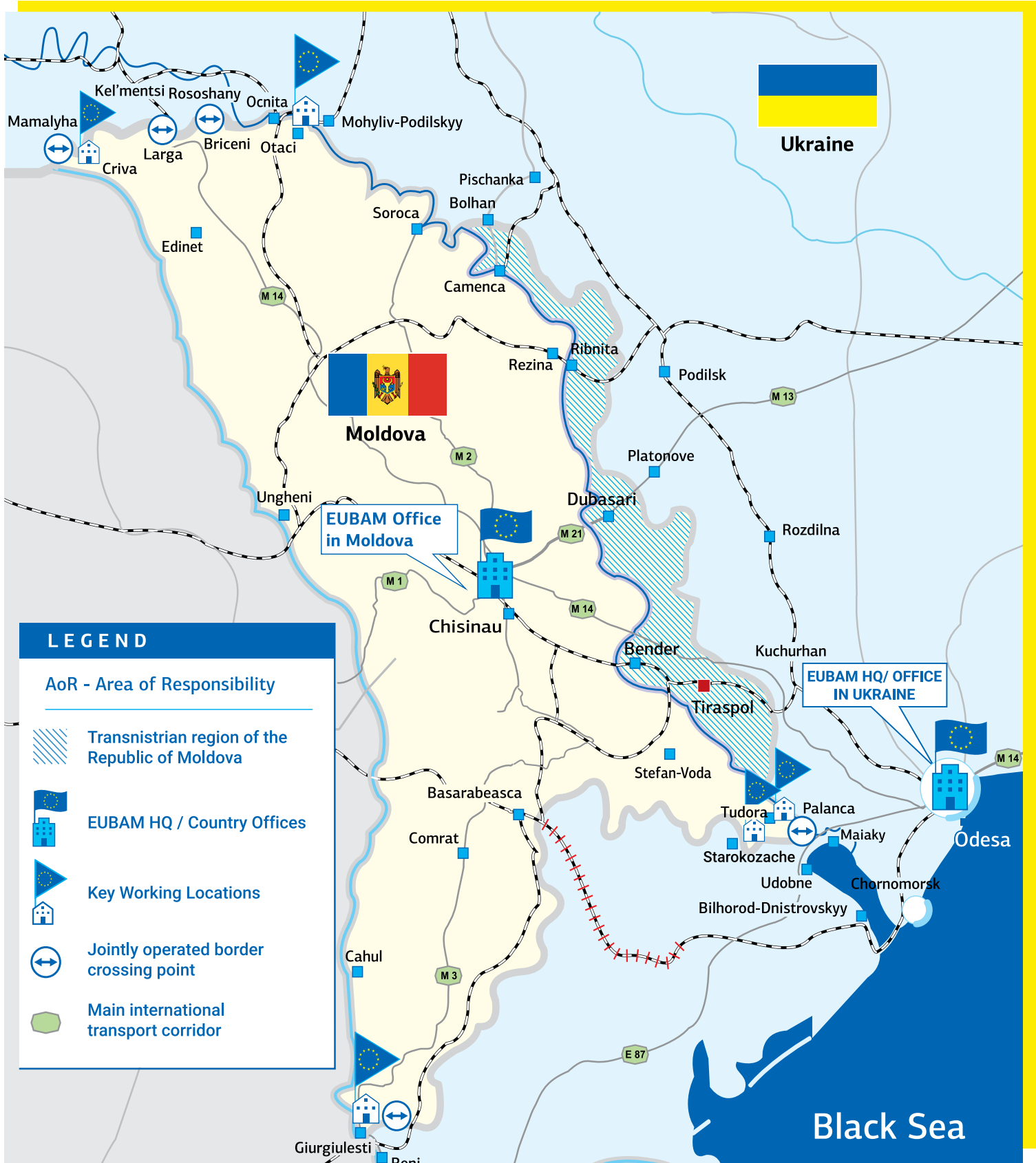
ЗВІТ УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ



RAPORTUL ÎN LIMBA ROMÂNĂ



EUBAM AREA OF OPERATION



FOREWORD FROM THE HEAD OF MISSION

Slawomir Pichor

2024 marked the third year of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, who make immense sacrifices to defend their sovereignty. As the war continues to shape every aspect of our Ukrainian partners' daily lives and activities, the Republic of Moldova has also faced intensified pressure from hybrid warfare and influence. Despite this test of history, both countries have advanced to the next phase of EU accession talks, with the Moldovan people reaffirming their European vector through a referendum in the autumn of 2024.

The EU accession process profoundly transforms candidate countries' institutions and policies, including border management and customs. Both countries have already made some progress in aligning their legislation with EU standards. Starting in 2024, the Republic of Moldova began implementing its new EU-approximate Customs Code, aimed at simplifying procedures and enhancing transparency. Meanwhile, Ukraine has continued advancing the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) to streamline and manage the transit of goods across borders, with the Republic of Moldova launching it at the national level in the summer.

The Mission has continued to support the Ukrainian trade and EU-UA Solidarity Lanes. Our third International Trade Facilitation Forum gathered decision-makers from our partner countries and the EU Commission to discuss the transformative nature of the Lanes, which have evolved from an emergency measure into a strategic tool for enhancing EU connectivity and regional cooperation. Significant progress has been made with the establishment of joint control at the Kuchurhan-Novosavitskoye rail border crossing point (BCP) and the Reni-Giurgiulesti BCP at the Moldova-Ukraine border while envisaging coordinated control at the Giurgiulesti-Galati BCP at the Moldova-Romania border will pave the way for further improvements in the region's cross-border trade.

The war in Ukraine increased pressure on illegal migration, further fuelling organised crime. To help our partners address this challenge, EUBAM organised a series of targeted training sessions on migrant smuggling, document security, and behavioural analysis, among other key areas. With Ukraine introducing criminal liability for goods smuggling, EUBAM strengthened cooperation with the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine, the agency leading the fight against economic crimes. We ramped up our support through joint operations to combat customs fraud, enhance information exchange, and



detect illicit cash flows – particularly at Chisinau Airport, which the adversary attempted to exploit as a channel for funding illegal activities.

With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine the Transnistrian conflict settlement process remained on hold and there were no prospects for the resumption of negotiations in the 5+2 format in 2024. The formal contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol became very sporadic, with the risk of being held only in online format. Urgent communications continued mainly via backchannels. Although the Mission had limited confidence-building measures at its disposal, we still made progress in several areas. Together with Moldovan law enforcement agencies, we developed a threat assessment along the Administrative Line, providing insights to enhance regional security. Moreover, we continued monitoring economic trends in the Transnistrian region, where by the end of 2024, over 80% of exports were directed towards the EU. To further strengthen consumer protection and inter-agency cooperation, we organised a study visit to Poland for customs experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol. Additionally, the Mission raised concerns regarding potential VAT fraud linked to transactions involving goods imported into the Transnistrian region and subsequently purchased by right-bank-based companies.

The Mission continued to actively support stronger and more effective border security through a series of capacity-building events, including Train the Trainer programmes to maximise outreach and long-term impact. In total, eighteen training sessions were held, engaging over 530 officers. Equally important to these capacity-building efforts, EUBAM provided essential technical equipment worth nearly EUR 600,000, responding to specific needs identified by partner services to enhance border management further.

Looking ahead, we must stand united to overcome challenges, especially with uncertainty on the horizon. The obstacles ahead are greater than ever, making every effort count and EUBAM is here to help as much as we can.

SLAWOMIR PICHOR

Head of Mission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Slawomir Pichor', written over a white background.

FOREWORDS FROM PARTNER SERVICES

GENERAL BORDER POLICE INSPECTORATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Ruslan Galușcă

Chief Commissioner,
Head of the General Border Police
Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova



For more than three years the brave men and women of Ukraine are holding the line fighting not only for their future but for the future of a safe and secure Europe.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has not only brought the worst humanitarian crisis in recent European history, with tragic loss of life and destruction on a scale unseen since World War II, but it has also fundamentally altered the security paradigm for decades to come.

Beyond the immediate consequences of the aggression, such as the refugee crisis followed by a migration one, this war is reshaping the security challenges that all of Europe will face. The conditions created by the war provide fertile ground for criminal elements—both local and international organized groups—to exploit.

All forms of criminal activity, from smuggling goods to trafficking weapons and munitions, are going to proliferate despite the best efforts of law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, scaling up law enforcement capabilities is far more difficult than the expansion of criminal networks. While technical advancements can serve as force multipliers, they cannot fully compensate for the shortage of personnel on the ground.

In addition to that by their very nature, law enforcement agencies are bound by laws and regulations, whereas criminal groups operate without such constraints. Unlike law enforcement forces, criminal organizations are not hindered by national laws, international treaties, data protection rules, restrictions on information sharing, or other legal and ethical limitations. This inherent asymmetry makes combating these criminal elements particularly challenging.

In this context, we must accurately assess the emerging threats and begin preparing now. It is crucial to rethink security cooperation across the broader European region. We no longer have the luxury to segregate law enforcement agencies in EU and non-EU ones. We have to operate as a whole, otherwise we will not be able to efficiently tackle this challenges. EU agencies such as FRONTEX and EUROPOL have to play an active role in coordinating a common security space.

If the Russian aggression has clarified one thing, it is the border line between nations that uphold European values and see themselves as European and those willing to trample upon them.

While Moldova and Ukraine still have work to do on their path to full European Union membership, integrating them into the EU's security framework must be an immediate priority. Only by treating Moldova and Ukraine as integral parts of the EU security system can we ensure the stability of these two nations and, by extension, the broader European region.

History has shown that failing to act in time only invites greater instability. If Moldova and Ukraine remain outside the EU security architecture, they will remain vulnerable to threats that will spill over into the rest of Europe.

STATE BORDER GUARD SERVICE
OF UKRAINE

Serhii Deineko

Lieutenant General,
Head of the State Border Guard
Service of Ukraine



For Ukraine, which has been confronting a full-scale armed invasion by the Russian Federation for almost three years now, the matter of territorial integrity and border security remains the top priority.

The Border Guard Service of Ukraine, as part of the Defence Forces of Ukraine, continues to defend the Motherland from Russian aggression in all areas of the front-line and ensures border security where the situation also remains tense.

Navigating the complex landscape of cross-border challenges, we remain committed to our shared goals of ensuring security at the state border, protecting our communities and developing the integrated border management system.

The active development of cooperation with international partners is an essential aspect of this activity.

In 2024, as part of the ongoing cooperation with EUBAM since 2005, the Ukrainian Border Guard agency personnel participated in training events, workshops and meetings of the ARMS Working Group, as well as the Interagency Regional Analytical Group for development of a security assessment report on the Ukraine-Moldova border segment.

Given the intensified joint work with the Mission under the mandate extended until 2025, we hope for further development of effective bilateral cooperation on the implementation of priority tasks of the joint Memorandum of Understanding, namely:

- 1) completing the demarcation of the Ukraine-Moldova segment of the border;
- 2) ensuring joint patrolling and an appropriate level of border security of the transit section of Odesa-Reni road near Palanca settlement (Republic of Moldova);
- 3) improving joint control at international joint border crossing points across the Ukraine-Moldova state border segment;
- 4) supporting activities of the Interagency Regional Analytical Group for risk and threat assessment.

I assure you that Ukraine remains a reliable security outpost on the border with the European Union.

We share the principles of collective security and its main features—trust, mutual respect and constructive cooperation.

Your support is extremely important to us, as it brings us closer together to victory over the aggressor every day!

CUSTOMS SERVICE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Alexandru
Iacub**

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



In 2024, the joint activities of EUBAM and partner services continued within the framework of the established cooperation mechanisms.

The main objectives of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova were focused on modernizing customs administration, aligning customs procedures with EU standards and digitalizing the customs system, in order to ensure the facilitation of international trade and border security, especially in the context of the war in Ukraine with all the related challenges, threats and risks.

With the support of EUBAM, the 3rd International Trade Facilitation Forum was organized on 10 October 2024 in Chisinau, during which key actors continued the dialogue on joint actions undertaken by the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and the EU to streamline cross-border traffic, following the implementation of the Solidarity Lanes between the EU and Ukraine.

We appreciate the constant support of the EU and EUBAM, which assists us in overcoming border challenges and regional crises.

The Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova reaffirms its commitment to support the EU-UA Solidarity Lanes and to further develop regional cooperation to facilitate trade and increase the connectivity of the RM and Ukraine with the trans-european transport networks.

EUBAM also ensured the continuity of the operational cooperation mechanism in a trilateral format, within the regular meetings of the MD-RO-UA Regional Customs Coordination Group on streamlining cargo traffic flow and EU-UA Solidarity Lanes.

At the same time, at the initiative of the Customs Service, bilateral and trilateral meetings were organized between the heads of customs authorities from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, analyzing the priorities and prospects for strengthening cross-border cooperation.

Starting with 1 January 2024, the Customs Service successfully implemented the new customs legislation harmonized with the EU customs acquis, and on 1 July 2024, the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) was launched at the national level.

Within the EUBAM technical assistance, the Customs Service received a batch of IT equipment for more efficient management of customs operations and facilitating the work of customs officials.

Under the auspices of EUBAM, new working meetings were organized on various customs issues, professional development and experience exchange activities, joint customs operations and joint assistance exercises.

The Customs Service will continue its efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation in order to respond quickly to existing challenges, counting on EUBAM's assistance in strengthening the potential of the national customs system.

We express our gratitude to all partners in the framework of EUBAM activity for the fruitful cooperation and reiterate our readiness to further unify joint efforts to increase trade flows and ensure security at the borders and in the region.

STATE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF UKRAINE

**Serhii
Zviahintsev**

**Acting Head of the State Customs
Service of Ukraine**



The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine unfolding with the involvement of the Republic of Belarus has led to significant changes in operation of border crossing points at the Ukrainian state border.

Since 24 February 2022, BCPs on the state border segments of Ukraine with Moldova and EU Member States have become the main transport arteries connecting Ukraine with other countries.

Therefore, the matter of streamlining the border crossing points functioning at the backdrop of intensified passenger and freight traffic through BCPs on the UA-MD state border segment is currently important.

Together with foreign partners, the State Customs Service negotiates and formalises the opening of new border crossing points as well as streamlining of the BCP network.

It continues to be vital for Ukraine to support the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes initiative in order to facilitate export of Ukrainian agricultural products and eliminate transport delays at the borders with the EU and the Republic of Moldova.

We express gratitude to EUBAM for organising and hosting the 2024 meetings of the MD-RO-UA Regional Customs Coordination Group on Streamlining Cargo Traffic Flow and EU-UA Solidarity Lanes, International Trade Facilitation Forum “EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes: more than Anti-Crisis Measure”, Joint Customs Operation “Argos” involving customs authorities of Ukraine, Moldova and Romania, training events and workshops delivered by experts of customs and border guard agencies of European countries.

Seminars and training activities are important for raising awareness and enhancing professional skills of UASCS officials in the context of European integration, but we hope that amid the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine EUBAM activities in 2025 will be focused on provision of financial and technical support to the State Customs Service given Ukraine's preparation for EU accession.

It should be noted that thanks to fruitful cooperation between the Customs Services of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in 2024, the official opening of the renovated Reni-Giurgiulesti international road border crossing point took place, the Technological Scheme was signed, and joint control was launched on the territory of Ukraine.

In accordance with the Act of Readiness of Kuchurhan-Novosavytske joint railway BCP for joint control implementation, joint control of freight railway transport was launched on 10 January 2024.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova on implementation of the Early Warning System for Emergencies on the Ukraine-Moldova border.

The Technical specifications for the organisation of preliminary information exchange on goods and vehicles moved across the state border of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were revised with the engagement of the IOM expert.

The updated version of the Technical Specifications (version 2.0) was signed on 8 August 2024 at Palanca BCP.

Ukraine-Moldova expert meetings were held to exchange information on functioning of the Authorized Economic Operator institute in both countries and application of the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure.

In October, a trilateral management meeting of the customs services of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Romania was convened in Chisinau, where parties discussed the issues of further consolidated work on enhancing the BCPs capacity and close cooperation under the Ukraine-EU Solidarity Lanes initiative, exchanged views on current areas of cooperation aimed at simplifying the movement of goods across the border, recognized the need for further border infrastructure development and prospects for introducing the transportation of goods between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova under the eTIR procedure.

Given the high level of interaction between the partner services in cooperation with EUBAM and implementation of the aforementioned tasks, the UASCS expects to continue achieving the previously set goals in order to gain full membership in the European Community.

THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

Technical support to Working Groups ensured

EUBAM participated in eleven Expert (Working) Group meetings focused on critical sectors such as healthcare, the economy, and road transportation. These engagements facilitated discussions with key stakeholders, on the Moldovan side and representatives of the de facto structures, enabling thorough analyses of pressing challenges and progress of potential solutions.

Trade compliance with EU regulatory standards supported

EUBAM closely examined regulatory amendments on both banks of the Nistru River, aiming to align these changes with EU standards, particularly in consumer protection, trade facilitation, and customs procedures. Through surveys, stakeholder engagement, and an analysis of the Transnistrian region's internal and external trade trends, the Mission supported businesses in adapting to the new requirements and promoted proactive policymaking. In 2024, the EU remained the Transnistrian region's largest trade partner, accounting for 82% of total exports and 55% of imports. *

Key threats and financial risks at the Administrative Line addressed

EUBAM helped establish a joint analytical group for the Administrative Line, comprising the Moldovan Customs and General Police Inspectorate. The Group produced a comprehensive threat assessment, including the movement of illicit goods, illegal migration, and potential VAT fraud involving undervalued imports. To mitigate these risks, EUBAM provided recommendations for policymakers, extensive on-the-job mentoring and dedicated training to Moldovan customs and police officers stationed at the Administrative Line.

*Source: Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

Operability of the Lower Danube transport corridor facilitated

EUBAM was a key facilitator of the efforts of the customs authorities from the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine in the Lower Danube region to enhance border management and cross-border trade. The collective efforts led to improved cargo distribution across BCPs, more collaborative border management and tailoring investments in border infrastructure. These actions were crucial in supporting the smooth flow of Ukrainian exports and strengthening regional connectivity and economic resilience.



DECEMBER 2023- NOVEMBER 2024

CROSS-BORDER CRIME

Response to customs fraud and cash smuggling enhanced

EUBAM brought together customs officials from the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, setting the stage for the Joint Customs Operation "ARGOS" in July. Applying risk-based controls and real-time information sharing, the customs authorities intercepted undeclared cash and goods worth over EUR 350,000 during a two-week operational phase. In the same vein, during a 10-day phase in October, EUBAM, alongside the Moldovan Customs Service, conducted the Joint Assistance Exercise "OCTOPUS" at Chisinau International Airport that led to the detection of over EUR 120,000 in undeclared cash.

Resilience to border security threats further enhanced

The Mission actively supported stronger border security through a series of capacity-building events. Both EUBAM and EU outsourced experts were engaged to train as many as 533 officers from partner agencies across 18 training events. EUBAM also provided essential technical equipment for a total value of over EUR 600,000. Those donations enhanced the control capabilities and improved control measures at border checkpoints and green border.

Cross-border crime trends mapped out

EUBAM was a key facilitator in mapping cross-border crime trends through specialized mechanisms. By convening the Arms Working Group, Task Force Tobacco, and the EUBAM-led Interagency Regional Analytical Group in the Odesa region, EUBAM engaged the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, neighbouring EU Member States, and international partners to assess threats and counter illicit activities at the border. Furthermore, EUBAM supported the release of the Common Border Security Assessment Report (CBSAR) at the Ukraine-Moldova border since its resumption, improving situational awareness. These efforts reinforce inter-agency collaboration, bolster regional security, and enhance coordinated responses to evolving cross-border crime threats.

Joint control and coordinated control advanced

EUBAM, alongside the EU Commission, played a fortifying role in establishing joint control at Reni-Giurgiulesti BCP at the Moldova-Ukraine border and advocating for coordinated control at Giurgiulesti-Galati BCP at the Moldova-Romania border to facilitate trade from Ukraine to the EU and beyond, and cooperation on border management. Ukraine and Moldova also launched joint control at Kuchurhan-Novosavitskoye Rail BCP, opening the rail corridor for Ukrainian exports through the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border.

Seamless Airport transfers with the Odesa-Chisinau shuttle bus facilitated

As Ukraine airspace has been closed to all civil flights (since February 2022) due to the Russian invasion and ongoing war, EUBAM supported the Odesa Military Administration in launching a vital shuttle bus service linking Odesa to Chisinau Airport via the Jointly Operated Border Crossing Point (JOBSCP) Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne. This initiative was designed to streamline cross-border travel while ensuring robust security.

SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES



The conflict settlement process remained on hold. With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, 2024 did not bring any prospects for the resumption of negotiations in the 5+2 format. The formal contacts between the Sides became in 2024 very sporadic. Geopolitical instabilities and the disruption of traditional trade routes have severely impacted the region's economy. The economic challenges are evident in the region's trade figures. In 2021, the Transnistrian region's exports totalled \$698 million, while imports amounted to \$875.6 million. In contrast, throughout 2024, the region experienced a sharp economic decline. Exports plummeted by 51%, falling to \$341 million – a loss of \$357 million compared to 2021. Imports also decreased, though more modestly, by 17%. The Transnistrian region has sought to diversify its markets, with the EU becoming an increasingly important trade partner, accounting for over 80% of its exports.

COORDINATION WITH POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

During the reporting period, the Head of Mission engaged in separate dialogues with the Political Representatives in the negotiation process for the Transnistrian settlement. Consultations in March and July with Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Oleg Serebrian focused on EUBAM's role in analysing and monitoring trade and economic trends and its support in harmonising customs and trade-related requirements between the two banks of the Nistru River. In February, the Mission management held discussions with the Transnistrian region's Political Representative Vitaliy Ignatiev concentrating on capacity-building events to strengthen the settlement process through targeted initiatives for the Transnistrian region. Enhancing confidence-building measures and providing tangible professional support to both Chisinau and Tiraspol remain key objectives within the EUBAM Action Plan.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO EXPERT (WORKING) GROUPS

In 2024, the pace of activity within the Expert (Working) Groups accelerated compared to 2023. EUBAM, as part of the EU Delegation to Moldova, participated in a 1+1 meeting in January and attended 11 Working Group sessions covering healthcare (3), road transportation (3), economy (2), phytosanitary and veterinary issues (1), civil status (1), and social protection (1). Progress was limited across most areas, with road transportation being the notable exception. Intensive lobbying by the Road Transportation Working Group led to Chisinau passing a law extending the neutral registration mechanism until 2026. This allowed the resumption of Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) activities for cars introduced before April 2018 or those with completed customs formalities. Following a meeting in August, Tiraspol announced the restart of issuing neutral-design number plates (suspended since September 2022).

ENHANCING SECURITY AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LINE

EUBAM intensified its efforts to bolster security along the Administrative Line, focusing on enhancing the capacity of customs and police authorities of the Republic of Moldova. Following consultations with the management of the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate and Customs Service, the need to address risks emanating from the Administrative Line and the Transnistrian region was identified. This collaboration resulted in an assessment of key threats and vulnerabilities.

To mitigate the threats, EUBAM partnered with the Moldovan Police Academy and the Romanian Border Police to deliver specialized training for 20 regional police officers. The training sessions included document security, vehicle inspections, and X-ray scanning techniques, contributing to operational capabilities along the Administrative Line.

The Mission also provided on-the-job training to 120 officers at key locations throughout the year. The mentoring covered cargo and vehicle checks, customs documents checks and inspection of personal belongings.

SUPPORTING TRADE COMPLIANCE WITH THE EU

Throughout 2024, EUBAM closely monitored regulatory changes in the Transnistrian region, assessing their alignment with Moldova's commitments under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). The annual review of Transnistrian import/export tariffs revealed that Tiraspol maintained export duties on certain commodities that did not comply with AA provisions while abolishing import duties on EU goods.

In the same vein, EUBAM examined Tiraspol's customs duty exemption procedures for goods originating from the EU, identifying that the process was generally compliant with EU practices with minor exceptions.

The Mission also assessed excise duties in Chisinau and Tiraspol as part of the AA's gradual approach to harmonising excise rates. The analysis confirmed that tobacco products in Transnistria remain minimally taxed and highlighted strong smuggling incentives due to low excise rates.

The Head of EUBAM discussing technical assistance for the Transnistrian settlement process with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Oleg Serebrian, in July 2024.



STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

In June, the Mission organised a productive study visit to Gdansk, Poland, for customs experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol. The primary focus of the visit was to observe and gain insights into the collaboration between Polish customs authorities and market surveillance agencies. It provided an invaluable opportunity for the participants to explore how these entities work together seamlessly to enhance border control processes and improve product safety standards. The experts learned firsthand about the practices and systems in place to ensure efficient customs operations and adequate product conformity checks. The event also sought to enhance the implementation of European consumer protection practices in the region.

This study visit followed a similar event held the year before, when a delegation of Moldovan officials visited the Market Surveillance Department in Tübingen, Germany.

Furthermore, EUBAM facilitated a series of inter-agency meetings between the Moldovan Customs Service and the State Inspectorate for the Surveillance of Non-Food Products and Consumer Protection. These discussions paved the way for adopting a Government Decision that formalized the cooperation between market surveillance authorities and customs officials, explicitly focusing on product safety and conformity.

As a result of these efforts, market surveillance authorities have been granted new powers, allowing them to initiate control procedures and make decisions regarding the safety of imported goods. This shift in authority represents a significant step forward in enhancing the efficiency of the customs system and ensuring that only safe, compliant products enter the market.



Customs experts from Chisinau and Tiraspol on a study visit to Poland.

Administrative Line

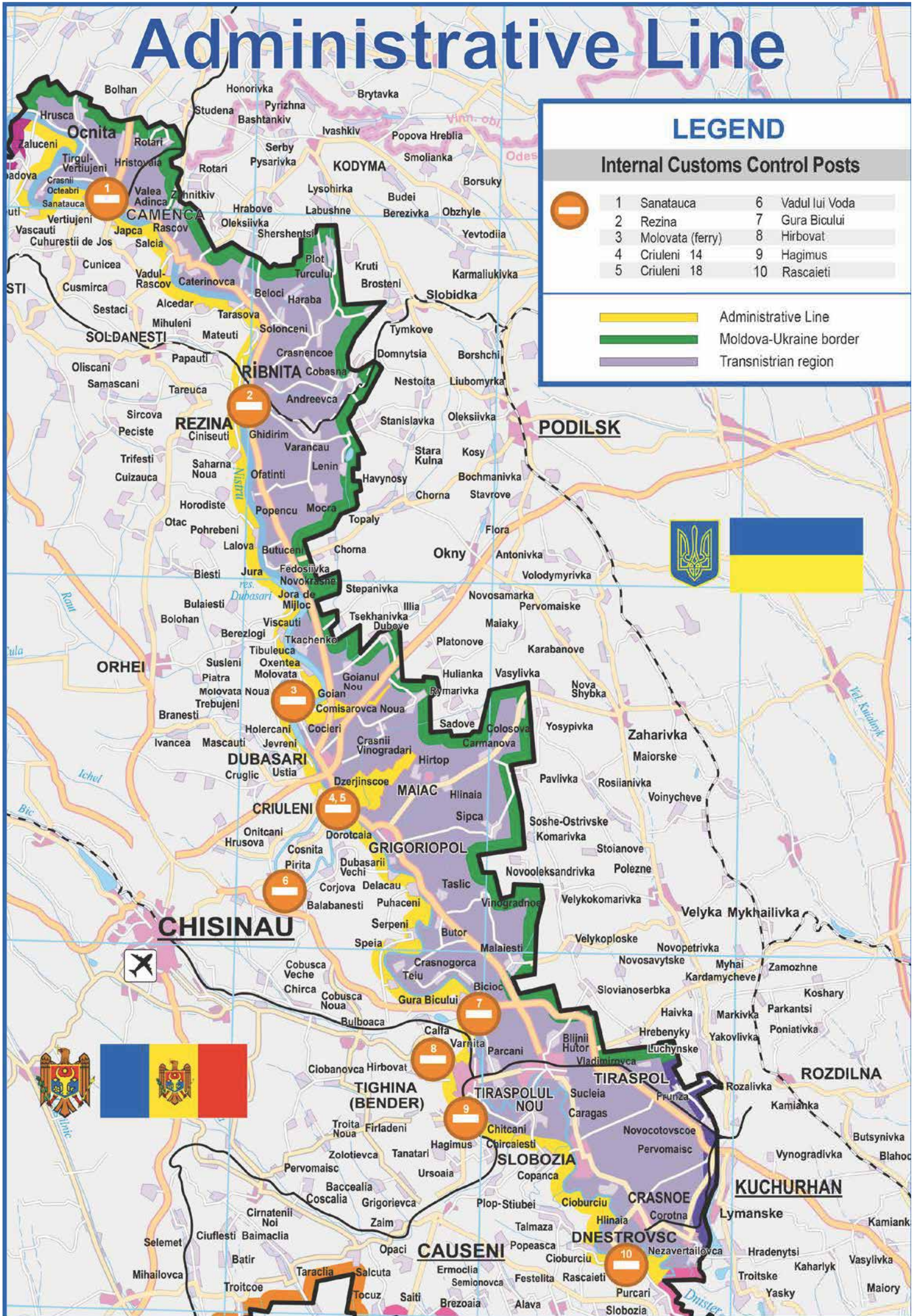
LEGEND

Internal Customs Control Posts



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Sanatauca | 6 Vadul lui Voda |
| 2 Rezina | 7 Gura Bicului |
| 3 Molovata (ferry) | 8 Hirbovat |
| 4 Criuleni 14 | 9 Hagimus |
| 5 Criuleni 18 | 10 Rascaieti |

-  Administrative Line
-  Moldova-Ukraine border
-  Transnistrian region



EXTERNAL TRADE OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION

In 2024, the Transnistrian region experienced a decline in its foreign trade, with the overall goods turnover dropping by 8% in monetary value compared to 2023. Exports fell significantly by 18% (\$73 million), totaling \$341 million, while imports decreased modestly by 2% (\$14 million) to \$730 million. As a result, the trade deficit widened by 18%, reaching \$389 million, with major deficits recorded in trade with the European Union and Ukraine, both amounting to \$118 million.

EXPORTS: A DECLINING AND SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

Despite a sharp overall decline, certain trends emerged. The EU remained the largest export market, reaching a record of 82% of total exports, followed by the Russian Federation (7%), Ukraine (3%), Serbia (2%), and Turkey (1%). These markets collectively represented 96% of the region's exports. The export structure in 2024 was dominated by metal products (52%), followed by agricultural and food products (17%), textiles and clothing (17%), footwear (7%), and other commodities (7%).

Exports to the EU saw a slight decrease of 2%, while exports to Ukraine increased significantly by 32%, showcasing a slight shift in the region's dependencies.

Metal product exports grew by 7%, with 95% directed to the EU, reinforcing it as the primary market. The Transnistrian region's dependence on metal exports leaves its economy highly sensitive to global commodity price fluctuations and demand. Exports of agricultural and food products plummeted by 44%, reflecting challenges in the sector. Wheat, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds, vegetables, and fruit collectively reached 79% of the Transnistrian region's exports of agricultural products. The EU, Turkey and Iraq were the principal destinations for the Transnistrian region's sunflower seeds; the EU, Ukraine, Indonesia and Malaysia – for wheat; while the EU, and the United States were vastly importing rapeseeds. The decrease points to deeper structural challenges, including supply disruptions, shifting demand, and possible climate-related issues.

Exports to the Russian Federation dropped sharply by 58%, particularly in equipment and instruments, agricultural and food products, metal products and textiles. Following the EU, the Russian Federation continued as the second biggest consumer of Transnistrian region's textile exports. Exports of woven fabrics of cotton and overcoats made 58% of the overall Transnistrian region's export to the Russian Federation in USD value. As traditional markets in the Russian Federation and Ukraine became less accessible, the EU emerged as a key partner, with the Transnistrian region increasingly integrated into European supply chains.

IMPORTS: STABLE BUT REGIONALLY REALIGNED

Imports remained relatively steady and diversified. The main categories of imports included: agricultural and food products (18%), machinery, equipment, and instruments (17%), chemicals, plastics and rubber (15%), ferrous scrap (14%). The EU retained its role as the leading supplier, accounting for 55% of total imports. Ukraine also played a critical role, accounting for 18% of the total imports, especially in supplying metal articles.

The variety of imports highlights reliance on essential commodities for domestic consumption and industrial inputs. These trends underline a growing dependence on European suppliers while imports from the Russian Federation declined from 13% in 2022 to 6% in 2024 due to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and disruptions in trade routes. Trade routes, infrastructure, and demand patterns have been severely impacted, making traditional markets less accessible.

Overall, the Transnistrian region's heavy dependence on imported petroleum products, chemicals, and machinery underscores a lack of domestic production capacity, making the region vulnerable to external supply chain disruptions.

FIG. 1: MARKETS FOR TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S EXPORTS, IN % OF EXPORT VALUE (USD MLN)

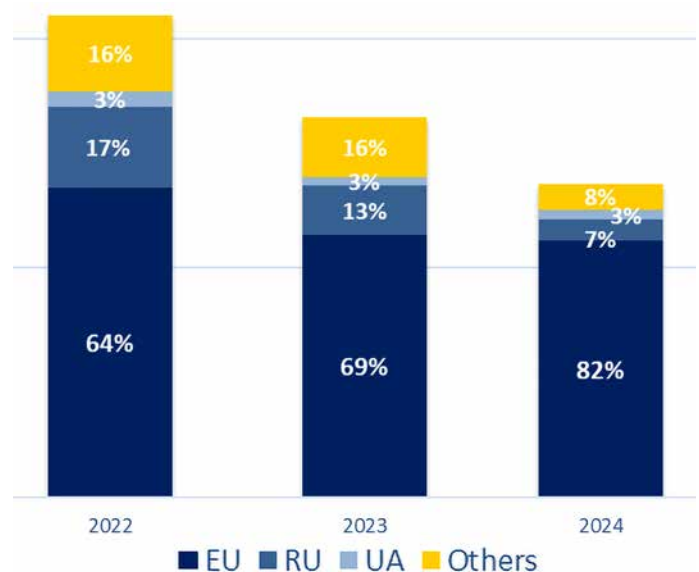


FIG. 2: CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S GOODS EXPORTED IN 2024 AND THEIR SHARES BY VALUE (USD MLN)

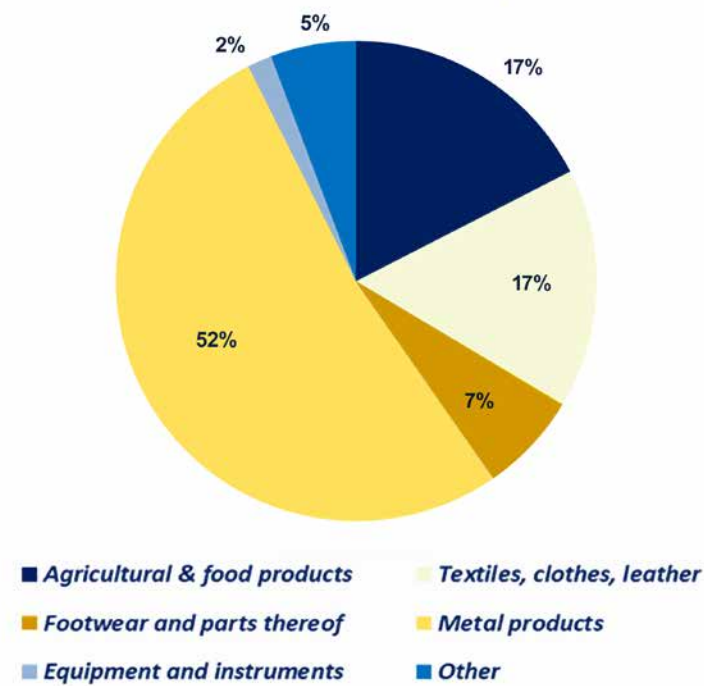


FIG. 3: MARKETS OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S IMPORTS, IN % OF EXPORT VALUE (USD MLN)

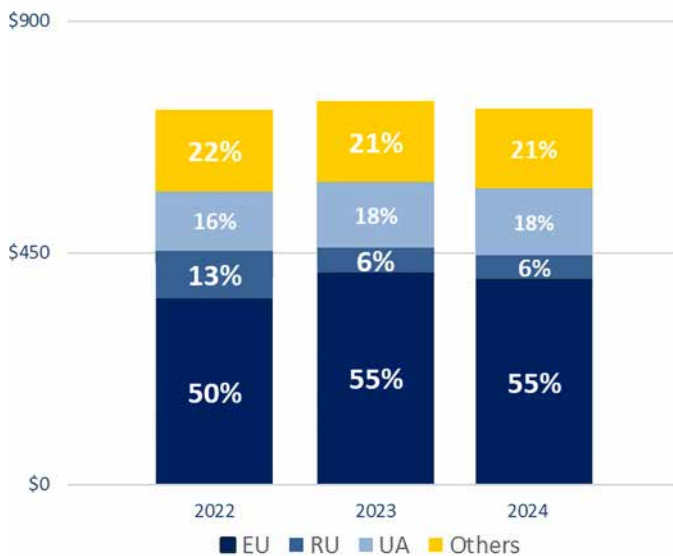
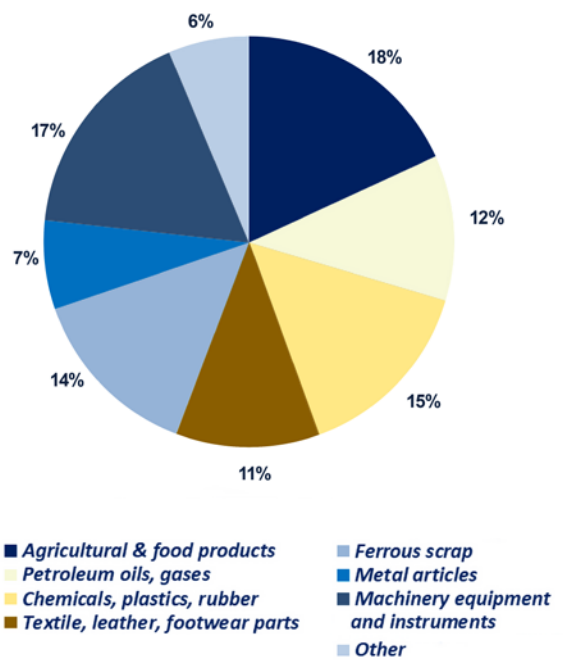


FIG. 4: CATEGORIES OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION'S GOODS IMPORTED IN 2024 AND THEIR SHARES BY VALUE (USD MLN)



Explanatory note: the figures are provided by the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova 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 2024, Ukraine displayed remarkable resilience amid Russia's unjustified and unrelenting war of aggression, which continued to target critical infrastructure. After months of disruption, Odesa's seaports resumed operations, marking a key turning point in restoring maritime export routes. While the reopening alleviated pressure on overburdened land transport networks, it also bolstered Ukraine's export capacity. Despite this progress, Russia persisted in its strategy of striking Ukraine's trade infrastructure, aiming to undermine both its economy and global food security. Although the reopening of Odesa ports offered a glimmer of hope, land corridors, particularly those facilitating trade through the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, remained crucial for import.

STREAMLINING CARGO TRAFFIC FLOW ON EU-UA SOLIDARITY LANES

During the reporting period, the EUBAM-led Moldova-Romania-Ukraine Regional Customs Coordination Group convened four times to improve border management and facilitate cross-border trade in the strategically significant Lower Danube region. The collaborative efforts brought several achievements, including improved coordination, optimized utilisation of existing border infrastructure and increased the efficiency of customs control, simplified sanitary and phytosanitary control procedures on agricultural goods from Ukraine and better distribution of cargo traffic among BCPs. Those actions were significant in supporting the smooth movement of Ukrainian trade, contributing to regional stability and economic resilience.

WEBINAR ON SYNCHRONIZED CONTROLS AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS

In October, EUBAM, in partnership with Estonia, Finland, and Georgia, hosted a webinar on synchronized checks at BCPs. Expert speakers discussed legal frameworks, inter-agency cooperation, synchronized checks, shared database access, and delegation of competencies. The event engaged 40 officers from Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs authorities, focusing on developing regulatory frameworks and technological schemes. Key lessons from the webinar will help the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine advance their integrated border management programmes.

ADVANCING JOINT CONTROL AT THE MOLDOVA-UKRAINE BORDER

Over the reporting period, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine strengthened their border cooperation with key agreements to improve border management. In December 2023, border and customs agencies signed seven protocols standardizing joint control procedures at six active border crossing points and setting the stage for future joint control at the Platonove-Goianul Nou BCP on the Transnistrian segment, contingent on favourable conditions.

The launch of joint control at the Kuchurhan-Novosavitskoye Rail BCP in January and opening that rail corridor to Ukrainian export marked the first milestone. Notable progress was made in enhancing the Reni-Giurgiulesti-Galati transport corridor, where the Mission, together with the EU Commission, contributed to the establishment of joint control at the Reni-Giurgiulesti BCP in May 2024 and has been advocating for coordinated control between Moldova and Romania at the Giurgiulesti-Galati BCP. EUBAM played an important role in pushing for those joint control measures, emphasizing their significance in enhancing border security and optimising cross-border trade.

In May, EUBAM Head Slawomir Pichor participated in the launch of the Reni-Giurgiulesti JOBCP, following its renovation by Ukrainian authorities.



3RD INTERNATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION FORUM

In October, the "3rd International Trade Facilitation Forum EU-Ukraine 'Solidarity Lanes': More Than Anti-Crisis Measure" was held in Chisinau, bringing together high-level representatives from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, the European Commission, EU Delegations, and the Customs Authorities of neighbouring EU Member States. Organised by the EUBAM in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, the Forum examined the Solidarity Lanes initiative's impact on regional connectivity, trade facilitation, and the broader EU integration of both countries. Originally introduced as an emergency measure in response to the blockade of Ukrainian ports, the Solidarity Lanes have since transformed into a strategic framework for enhancing EU connectivity and regional collaboration.

FACILITATING SEAMLESS AIRPORT TRANSFERS WITH THE ODESA-CHISINAU SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

In 2024, EUBAM, in partnership with the Odesa Military Administration, successfully launched the "Aerotransfer project", a new shuttle bus service designed to connect Odesa with Chisinau Airport through the Palanca-Maiaky-Udobne JOBCP. This initiative aimed to streamline cross-border travel, providing a more efficient and convenient option for travellers while ensuring the highest security standards. To address the operational challenges associated with the service, EUBAM facilitated productive meetings with Ukraine and Moldovan customs and border authorities. These discussions focused on finding practical solutions to optimise the border crossing procedures, enhance overall efficiency, and monitor the project's progress.



In October, the 3rd International Trade Facilitation Forum gathered high-level officials to discuss the Solidarity Lanes' evolution from crisis response to a cornerstone of EU connectivity and regional cooperation.

FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME



Cross-border crime along the Ukraine-Moldova border escalated due to Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine. Border agencies reported the sharp increase in illegal migration. The war heightened the risk of trafficking dangerous synthetic substances, including psychotropic drugs, in passenger vehicles and postal shipments. The threat of weapon trafficking from Ukraine persisted, exacerbating security concerns.

Against this backdrop EUBAM stepped up its operational support and capacity-building efforts for border and customs authorities in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, focusing on strengthening their ability to combat cross-border crime more effectively.

OPERATIONS TARGETING SMUGGLING AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

In February, EUBAM brought together customs officials from the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine to address shifting smuggling routes and diversified organised crime. This laid the groundwork for the Joint Customs Operation “ARGOS,” launched in July. This operation used risk-based controls and tools to intercept undeclared cash and goods worth over EUR 350,000. The operation also identified gaps in information exchange, prompting recommendations for improvement.

With the Moldovan Customs Service, EUBAM conducted the Joint Assistance Exercise “OCTOPUS” at Chisinau International Airport in October, focusing on cash flow controls. The operation enforced risk-based cash controls throughout a two-week operational phase, detecting an undeclared EUR 120,000. The reinforced customs control measures positively impacted cash flow compliance, prompting more travellers to submit cash declarations.

ENHANCING BORDER SECURITY THROUGH JOINT THREAT ASSESSMENT

EUBAM-led Interagency Regional Analytical Group (IRAG), a collaborative effort targeting organized crime and security threats in the Odesa region, convened four times during the reporting period. Bringing together representatives from Ukraine's border, customs, and security agencies, IRAG focused on enhancing interagency cooperation and strengthening analytical capacity,

assessed guiding strategies to address vulnerabilities and tackle regional crime. Throughout the year, the group reviewed trends in smuggling and economic offences, refining strategy with crime fighting. The Mission also facilitated the release of the first Common Border Security Assessment Report (CBSAR) since its resumption, analyzing threats along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

PROFILED TASK FORCES ON FIREARMS AND TOBACCO

In 2024, EUBAM profiled task forces on combating cross-border crimes continued bolstering security along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

A specialised Arms Working Group addressed the rising threat of firearms trafficking due to the war in Ukraine. The group, including agencies from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, and Romania, Europol, Frontex and other partners, reviewed emerging trends and challenges in detecting illegal weapons, stressing the need for strengthened international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and preventive actions to combat weapons smuggling.

Another tailored working group led by EUBAM – Task Force Tobacco (TFT) – tackling the illicit tobacco trade, met in October, bringing together representatives from law enforcement agencies in the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania, as well as Europol, OLAF, and the private sector. TFT focused on addressing the shifting dynamics of the illegal tobacco trade, a challenge intensified by the geopolitical landscape and Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.



EUBAM and the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in combating customs fraud and enhancing economic security.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ESBU ON COMBATING CUSTOMS FRAUD

EUBAM and the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine (ESBU) strengthened their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in September, reinforcing their commitment to closer cooperation.

This agreement establishes a strategic framework to address current and emerging challenges, focusing on combating customs fraud that undermines national revenues.

By laying down foundation for collaboration on identifying evolving threats, analyzing crime trends, and supporting targeted investigations, the Memorandum paves the way for more effective joint efforts.

BOOSTING PARTNERS' CAPACITY WITH TECHNICAL DONATIONS AND TRAINING

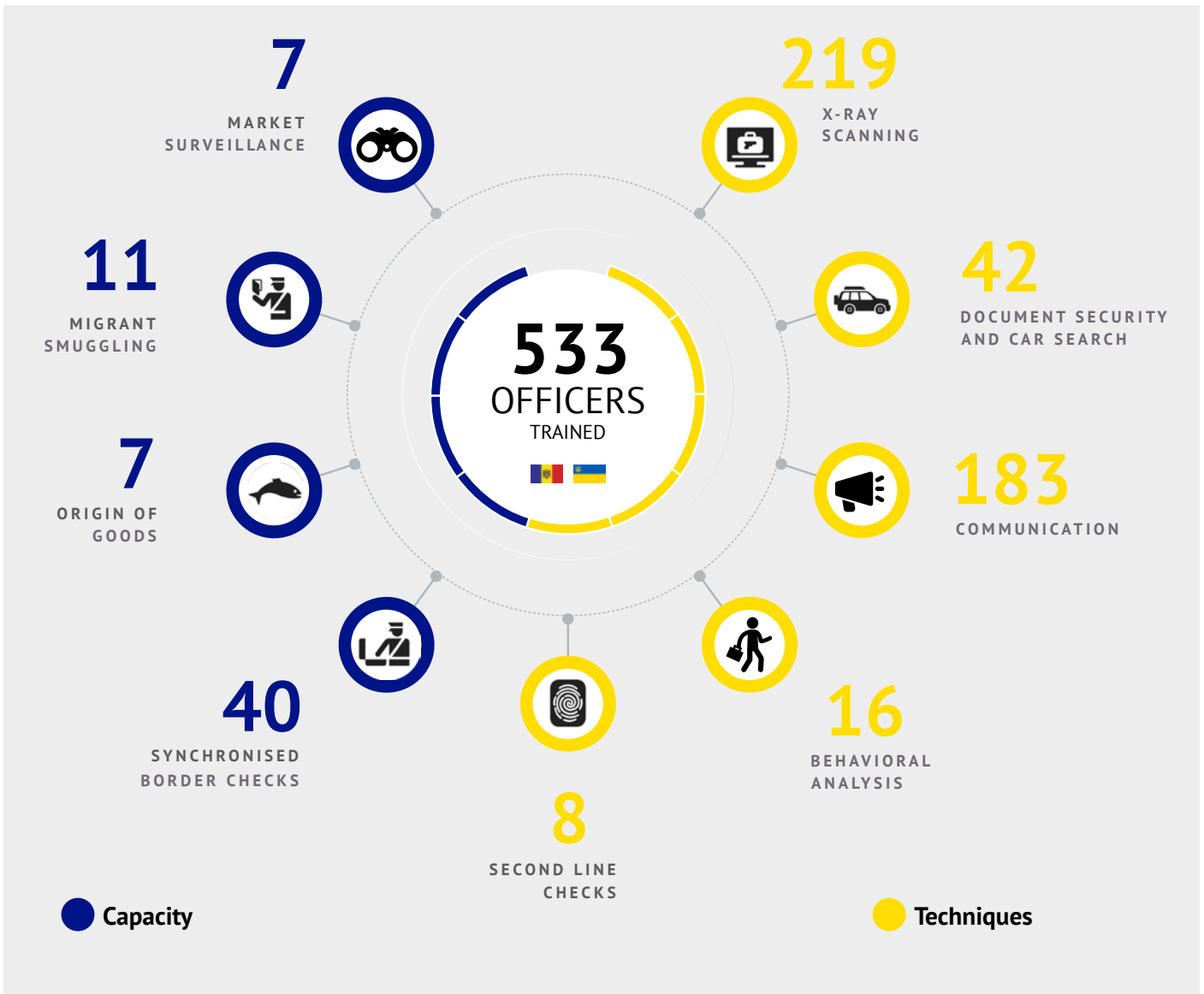
In 2024, the Mission intensified efforts to border security and management, providing its partners with targeted support and technical equipment. These enhancements improved control capabilities at border checkpoints and along the green border, reinforcing operational capacity.

Moldova's Customs Service received substantial assistance to enhance the performance and data integrity of its New Computerized Transit System.

At the same time, the Border Police acquired equipment to streamline communication and coordination, enabling swifter responses.



In 2024, EUBAM led IRAG to strengthen cooperation and analysis in addressing organized crime and security threats in the Odesa region.



EUBAM trained 533 officers in 18 training events, enhancing border security through practical, immediately applicable skills. The Mission intensified capacity-building by delivering Train-the-Trainer events, equipping key people with advanced techniques to foster a culture of continuous learning and improve overall security operations. Likewise, the Mission’s field teams engaged in On-the-Job mentoring with over 700 sessions taking place and over 1,700 officers trained.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s Southern Regional Directorate of the State Border Guard Service gained tools like explosive disposal kits and autonomous video surveillance cameras to strengthen security and operational resilience.

The Mission also facilitated study visits. Ukrainian and Moldovan customs officials travelled to Poland’s X-ray Centre in Gdansk to refine non-intrusive inspection techniques, advancing risk analysis and X-ray image interpretation – improvements now integrated into training in Khmelnytskyi. Separately, Moldovan Border Police communications officers visited Estonia’s Police and Border Guard Board, exploring crisis communication, countering disinformation, and public trust-building strategies.

Supported by EUBAM and Estonian Centre for International Development, the visit provided insights into enhanced strategic communication practices.



In September 2024, EUBAM donated over EUR 125,000 worth of equipment to Ukraine’s Southern Regional Border Guard, enhancing safety and operational capacity.

EUBAM supported stronger and more effective border security through capacity-building events, including Train the Trainer programmes to maximise outreach and long-term impact.



ADVISORY BOARD



The EUBAM Advisory Board welcomed the Mission's mandate extension until 30 November 2025 to further strengthen border security and cooperation in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

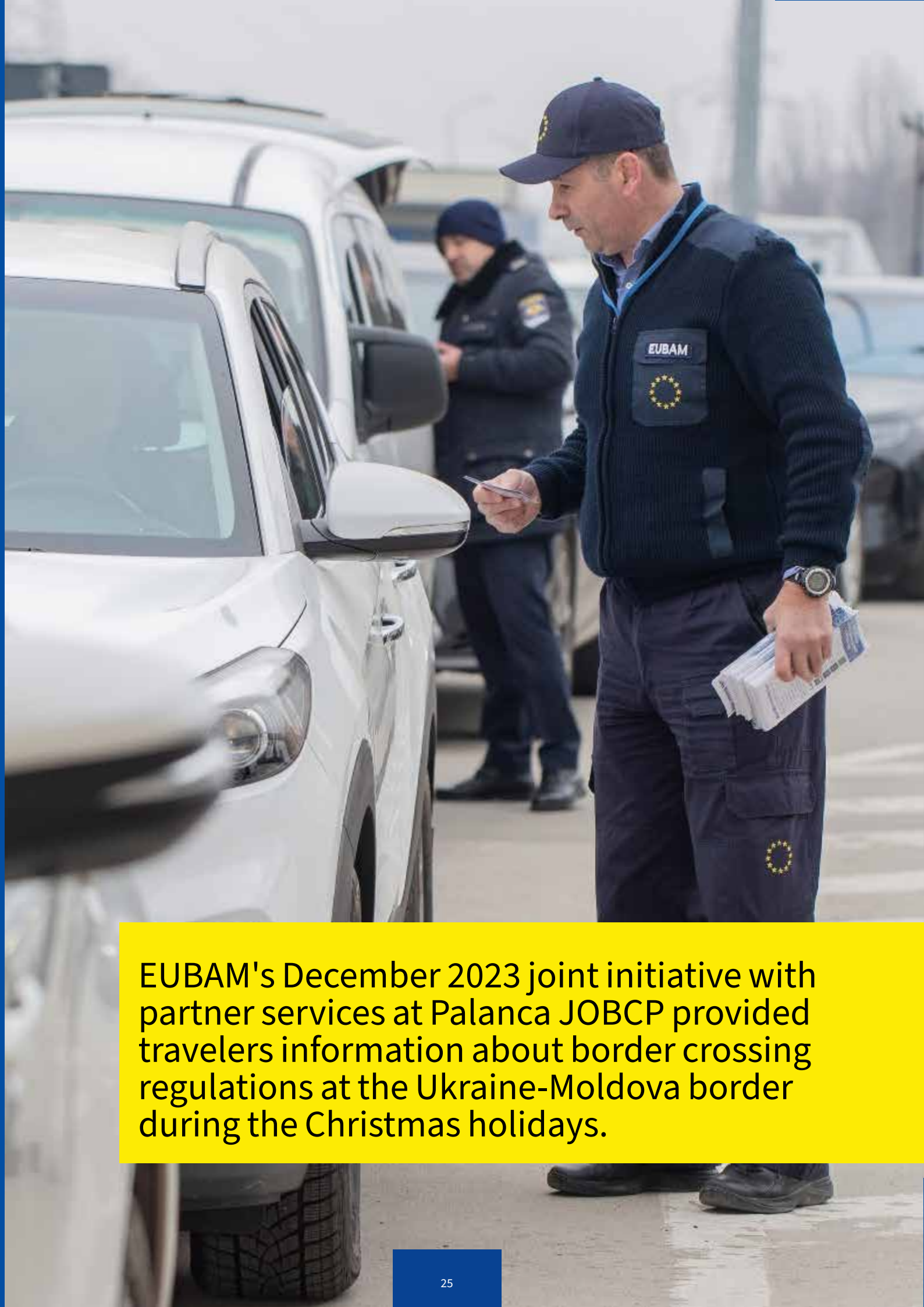
At the 40th EUBAM Advisory Board meeting on 6 March (held online), Head of Mission Slawomir Pichor reviewed the past year's achievements, emphasizing alignment with national partners as priorities shifted to emergency border management. He highlighted efforts to streamline regulatory and border control procedures with Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities.

The Board acknowledged EUBAM's contributions, including easing pressure on transport corridors under the EU-UA Solidarity Lanes initiative and training over 400 officers to enhance border resilience.

Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities were also commended for advancing joint border control, facilitating smoother crossings, and establishing alternative trade routes during emergencies.

EUBAM's extended mandate will focus on harmonizing procedures with EU standards, addressing the Transnistrian issue, and combating cross-border crime. The Mission will continue providing advisory support, capacity building, equipment, and mentoring to tackle emerging regional challenges.

The Board comprises representatives from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the European Commission, EEAS, EU Delegations, and OSCE, with EU Ambassador to Moldova Jānis Mažeiks serving as Chair.



EUBAM's December 2023 joint initiative with partner services at Palanca JOBCP provided travelers information about border crossing regulations at the Ukraine-Moldova border during the Christmas holidays.

COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



In March, at Palanca JOBCP, EUBAM facilitated talks between the European Commission with Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border authorities on future joint border control.

COORDINATION WITH VARIOUS EUROPEAN UNION ENTITIES

During the reporting period, EUBAM cooperated closely with stakeholders, maintaining strong coordination with the EU Delegations in Moldova and Ukraine, as well as with various EU institutions.

Throughout 2024, EUBAM collaborated with the **European Commission** to enhance the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, focusing on strengthening the Lower Danube transport corridor, advancing joint border control, improving infrastructure, and supporting Ukrainian exports. These ongoing engagements included numerous technical meetings.



In April the Head of EUBAM discussed with the Head of Eurojust growing challenges of cross-border crime.

In March, in Palanca JOBCP, EUBAM facilitated discussions between the European Commission, Moldovan, and Ukrainian customs and border authorities on future joint border control at Reni-Giurgiulesti BCP. This was followed by a multilateral Quint meeting on Ukrainian transit in Chisinau in May, where the Republic of Moldova and Romania set a shared agenda to introduce coordinated control at Giurgiulesti-Galati BCP, streamlining trade routes to the EU and beyond.

In April, the Head of EUBAM met with **Eurojust** President Ladislav Hamran to talk about the growing challenge of cross-border crime generated by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The discussion explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation to strengthen regional security and justice.

Later in April, the Head of EUBAM met with Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga, the **EU Special Representative for the Transnistrian settlement process**, to discuss the Mission's recent activities in the region and its role in fostering confidence-building measures.

In September, the Head of Mission conducted a series of high-level meetings in Brussels to explore the potential extension of EUBAM's mandate beyond 2025. He engaged with senior **European Commission** officials, including Director General Magda Kopczynska (DG MOVE), Deputy Director General Olivier Onidi (DG HOME), Matthias Petschke, Director for Customs (DG TAXUD), Adrienn Kiraly, Director of NEAR.C, and Marco Dueerkop, Deputy Head of Unit for Moldova at the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE). He also met with key representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS), including Petra Gombalova Kysligerova, Head of the Ukraine Division (EURCA.EER.1), and Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga, Head of the Eastern Europe Division (EURCA.EER.3).

Furthermore, the Head of Mission held talks with H.E. Vsevolod Chentsov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and **Head of the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union**, and H.E. Ms. Daniela Morari, **Head of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union**.

EUBAM actively collaborated with key EU entities and missions operating in the region, including Frontex, CEPOL, CELBET, EUPM, and EUAM. Mission experts contributed to various EU-led initiatives and events, strengthening regional security efforts. Notably, the Mission participated in three strategic dialogues of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management of the Republic of Moldova, focusing on border management, large-scale justice and home affairs IT systems, and countering foreign information manipulation and interference. Additionally, in October, EUBAM representatives joined the virtual Regional Coordination Meeting on INTERPOL's I-FORCE Law Enforcement Project to enhance cooperation among regional and international stakeholders to promote peace and stability.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

EUBAM actively engaged in high-level coordination sessions on regional security threats. In February, the Mission participated in the 4th coordination meeting of international partners supporting Ukraine's small arms and light weapons (SALW) control efforts, organized online by the OSCE.

In June, EUBAM hosted a crucial discussion with a high-level OSCE delegation led by Catherine Fearon, Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, and Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, Head of the OSCE Mission. The conversation focused on the evolving situation in the Transnistrian region in the wake of Russia's unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, with an emphasis on regional security and stability.

In September, EUBAM experts contributed to the Dual-Use Commodities Roundtable in Chisinau, hosted by the **U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency**, strengthening cooperation on security risks.

In October, also in Chisinau, EUBAM took part in the 27th Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of the **World Customs Organization's (WCO) Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) for Eastern and Central Europe**.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

EUBAM continued productive collaboration on shared priorities with key national stakeholders. The Mission engaged in regular consultations and joint initiatives with governmental institutions and law enforcement agencies, ensuring a unified approach to border security, trade facilitation, and regional stability.

Through these efforts, EUBAM solidified its role as a trusted partner for the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, supporting their European integration journey and driving institutional capacity-building to tackle the region's evolving challenges.

In June, EUBAM representatives met with the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center to discuss the evolving situation in the Transnistrian region.



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

EUBAM's leadership engaged directly with key Moldovan officials to coordinate the working program and Mission's support in border management and security, focusing on strengthening cooperation, aligning technical support with national strategies and combating cross-border crime. The Mission remained an active participant in a wide range of security discussions, and efforts reinforced EUBAM's ongoing collaboration with the Moldovan border, customs and internal security authorities, addressing critical challenges in the region.



In February, the Head of EUBAM met with Chief Commissioner Ruslan Galușca, the newly appointed Head of the General Inspectorate for Border Police, to discuss key strategic priorities for the year ahead and beyond.

In April, the EUBAM delegation met with the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova Adrian Efros to discuss EUBAM's strengthened support under its extended mandate, focusing on combating cross-border crime and mitigating internal security threats.



In July, the Head of EUBAM Slawomir Pichor and Acting Head of Moldovan Customs, Viorel Doaga, held discussions on the e-queue system, NCTS, and coordinated control to enhance border management efficiency.

UKRAINE

EUBAM reinforced its support to Ukrainian counterparts to ensure stronger and more effective border security and border management in response to challenges posed by the destructive effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. A series of high-level discussions throughout the year highlighted the Mission's expanded role, focusing on enhancing border management capabilities, promoting cross-border cooperation, and addressing emerging security challenges. EUBAM remained committed to assisting Ukraine in the context of the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes through numerous engagements with key Ukrainian authorities in Kyiv and Odesa. The Mission's collaboration with Ukraine strengthened through its participation in border infrastructure projects and efforts to improve IBM practices. Similarly, EUBAM forged closer ties with Ukrainian institutions like the Economic Security Bureau to combat customs fraud and other financial crimes.

In December 2023 in Kyiv, EUBAM engaged in a pivotal discussion with General Volodymyr Nikiforenko, First Deputy Head of the State Border Guard Service, focusing on strengthening border management capabilities through targeted technical assistance and collaborative efforts.



In April, the EUBAM delegation teamed up with Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada EU Integration Committee for a regional visit along the Ukraine-Romania border in the Chernivtsi region, exploring cross-border dynamics and opportunities for further collaboration between two neighbouring countries.

In October, in Odesa, the Head of Mission met with Andrii Koliver, the newly appointed acting Head of Odesa Customs. The discussion centred on the dynamic challenges at Odesa's Black Sea Ports and key border crossing points, delving into Ukrainian exports' hurdles and exploring solutions to improve operations.



EUBAM TODAY

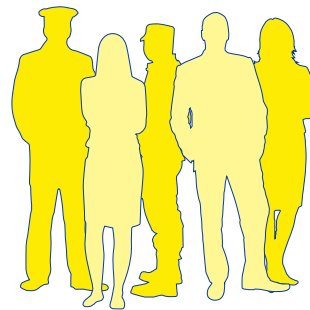
The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in November 2005 to promote border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards, and serve the needs of its two partner countries. It is an advisory, technical Mission headquartered 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;
- » the fight against cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment.

EUBAM IN NUMBERS

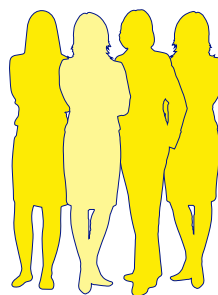
Total EUBAM staff 82, as for 30 November 2024



National staff 47
MD, UA



35 International staff
from 9 EU Countries



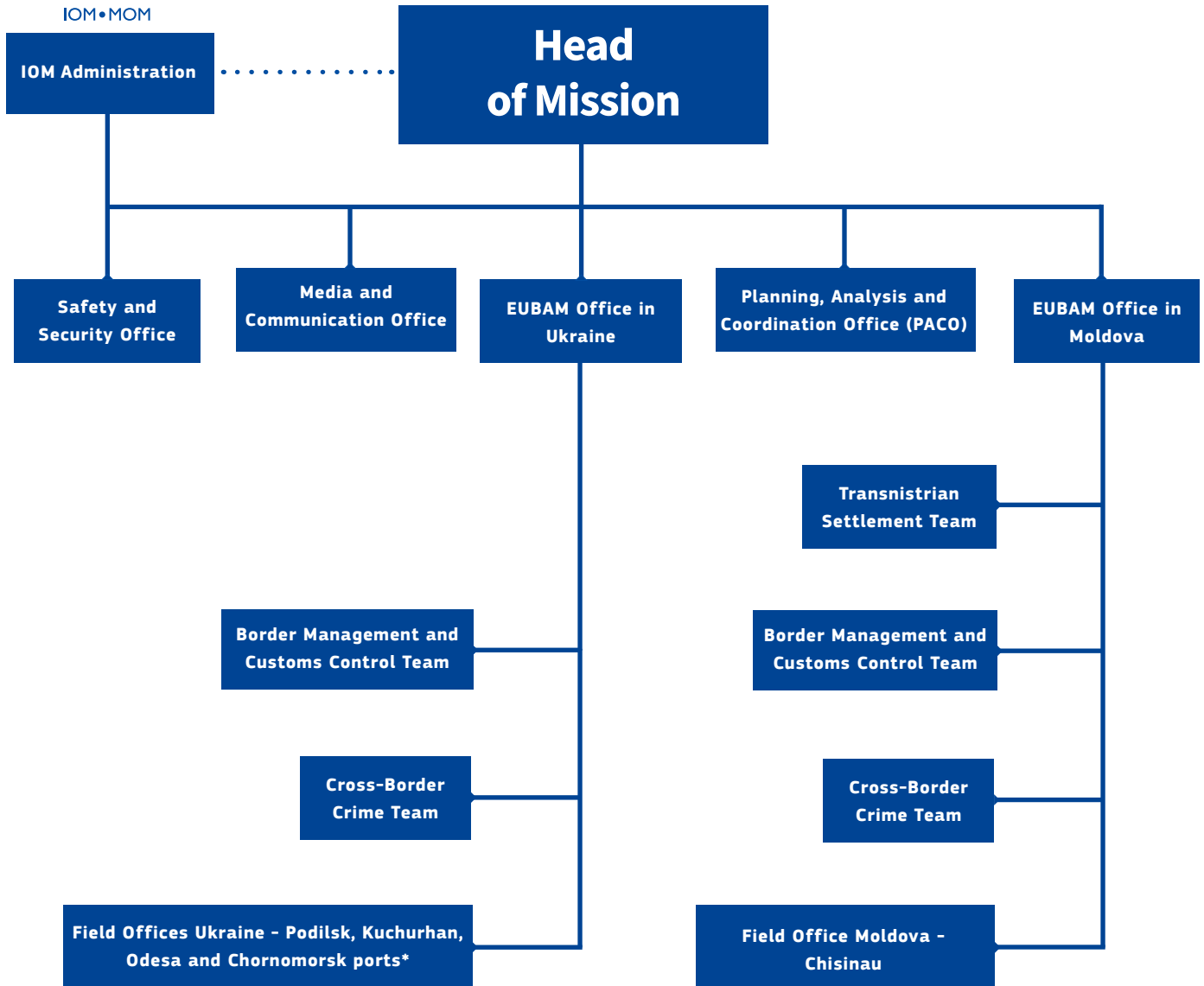
Female 39.8%



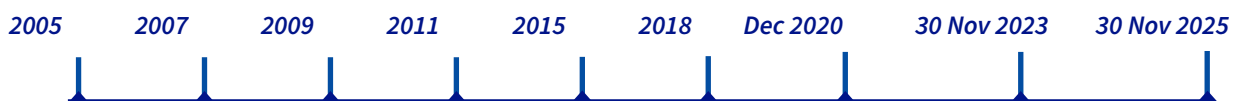
60.2% Male



IOM•MOM



THE MISSION'S MANDATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED EIGHT TIMES



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

EUBAM 13 ACTION PLAN

01 APRIL 2022 – 31 MARCH 2025

Overall objective		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.
Specific objective 1		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.
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.
Specific objective 2		To support the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment.
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 (JOBCEPs) along the entire Moldova-Ukraine border.
	2.1.2	Assist partner services in assessments of needs and minimum requirements for the implementation of JOBCEPs 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.







International Organisation for Migration
is the implementing partner



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