WORK PROGRAMME
FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2027

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Joint Declaration of Intent (hereinafter: "the JDoI") by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter: "the Sides") of 4 April 2025 on their cooperation in the field of labour market and social policies seeks to intensify their cooperation in the fields of "EU acquis and labour legislation", "tackling informal work", and "mobile workers and their social protection".

In pursuance of the aforementioned JDoI, the Sides seek to continue their cooperation on the basis of this Work Programme, which specifies cooperation activities that should be implemented in the period 2026/27 and underlines the importance of the bilateral cooperation in the process of the Republic of Moldova's (hereinafter: "Moldova") accession to the EU. The Sides concur to cooperate to support Moldova's accession process in the field of labour and social affairs and to exchange expertise on issues deemed relevant within the scope of the JDoI.

Furthermore, the Sides agree to add cooperation in the area of "employment" to their bilateral agenda, pursuant to Section I of the JDoI, focusing on labour market policies and institutions, to support ongoing national reforms and the EU accession process of Moldova.

A. Areas of cooperation

A.1. Support in the field of labour inspections

The bilateral work in the field of labour inspections aims at supporting Moldova's path, where necessary and appropriate, to implement the EU acquis with regards to occupational safety and health as well as tackling undeclared work.

Action 1: *Organising exchanges of expertise regarding methods and practises in the field of labour inspections, including digital tools (such as digital reporting tools, electronic case management systems, modern risk profiling methodologies), and the prevention of labour exploitation, where possible with other relevant actors, including the European Labour Authority (ELA).*

A.2. Social protection of mobile workers

Regarding the social protection and social security policies for Moldovan citizens working in the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter: "Germany"), the bilateral work aims at ensuring social protection for all groups of workers, in particular the most vulnerable, such as mobile workers.

Particular attention will be given to improving access to reliable and user-friendly information for Moldovan citizens working in Germany. In this context, the Sides will consider establishing joint information mechanisms, including online platforms and dedicated contact points, aimed at informing mobile workers about their labour and social rights, taking into account language diversity and dual or EU citizenship status.

Action 2: *Identifying needs of information for mobile workers from Moldova in Germany, especially in light of language plurality and potential dual / EU citizenship, and collaborating on ways of better informing mobile workers, especially the most vulnerable, about their social and labour rights.*
The Sides will further explore the organisation of targeted outreach and awareness-raising campaigns for Moldovan workers in Germany, focusing on labour rights, social protection and access to counselling services, in cooperation with relevant institutions and social partners.

A.3. Cooperation in the field of the EU acquis for labour and social policy legislation

The cooperation in the field of the EU acquis will focus on the application of the provisions of relevant EU legislation in the area of social and labour law, including the governance and management of the European Social Fund Plus and the EaSI strand, as part of Moldova's accession process.

Action 3: *Organising exchanges of expertise on EU acquis implementation in the area of EU social and labour law and the management of relevant European funds.*

A.4. Cooperation in the field of employment

Cooperation in the field of employment will focus on strengthening public employment services, improving access to quality employment and supporting inclusive labour market policies, in line with Moldova's EU accession process.

Action 4: *Organising exchanges of expertise on the implementation and operation of EURES in Germany, with the involvement of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) and relevant institutions of Moldova.*

Action 5: *Organising exchanges of expertise in the area of public employment agencies, including topics such as digital services, active labour market measures, recognition of professional qualifications, and activation measures for persons facing barriers to labour market integration.*

The implementation of Action 4 and 5 requires active support and involvement of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) and will be carried in close coordination and with respect to available resources within the BA.

B. Methodologies and overarching considerations

B.1. Methodologies

The methodologies to implement the actions defined in this Work Programme will be chosen by consensus between the Sides. They will include, but not be limited to: exchanges of targeted information, experience and good practice, workshops, conferences, videoconferences, study visits, working groups, work shadowing, trainings, strengthening of administrative cooperation, cooperation with consulting networks, expert interventions, involvement of civil society and social partners.

Particular attention will be paid to peer learning and long-term institutional partnerships between competent authorities of both Sides.

B.2. Inclusion of other partners

The Work Programme should not exclude any other joint initiatives and should, wherever decided upon by both Sides as necessary or desirable, allow for the inclusion of other countries, in particular Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as of European institutions, ELA in particular. Where European resources are available to implement actions, they should be drawn upon as far as is feasible and desirable. In particular, cooperation with EU institutions and agencies will be encouraged in order to ensure alignment with EU standards and practices.

This Work Programme is neither legally binding nor is it the basis for obligations under international law.

Signed in Berlin on 10 February 2026 in English language only in two original copies.

For the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Moldova

Natalia PLUGARU
Minister

For the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany

Bärbel BAS
Federal Minister