MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF UKRAINE ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The National Employment Agency of the Republic of Moldova and the State Employment Service of Ukraine hereinafter individually referred to as a "Participant" and jointly as the "Participants",

HAVING REGARD TO the Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova through Parliament Decision No. 1015 of 3 December 1996, in force for the Republic of Moldova since 5 January 1997, and Law of Ukraine No. 459/96-VR of November 1, 1996, VVR, 1996, No. 50, Art. 281,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the status of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as candidate countries for accession to the European Union,

RECOGNIZING the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the competent public authorities of the Participants in areas related to European integration and employment,

DESIRING to promote the exchange experience, information and good practices in matters falling within their respective mandates,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Purpose and Nature of the Memorandum of Understanding

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum", is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Participants in the field of European integration and employment, in accordance with their respective competences.

2. This Memorandum is concluded for the purpose of implementing, at interinstitutional level, the Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and reflects the mutual intention of the Participants to strengthen practical cooperation in areas of common interest.

3. This Memorandum does not constitute an international treaty and does not create rights or obligations under international law.

Article 2

Areas of Cooperation

The Participants may cooperate, as appropriate and subject to their respective competences, in the following areas:

a) exchange of information, experience and good practices related to European integration processes relevant to labour market governance, employment services and institutional development;

b) exchange of information and experience in the field of employment promotion, labour market measures and the functioning of public employment services;

c) cooperation in the field of professional training, institutional learning and capacity-building of staff;

d) exchange of methodological materials, analytical documents and other non-confidential information of mutual interest;

e) cooperation within international events, conferences, seminars, training activities, study visits and other professional exchanges of mutual interest;

f) any other area of cooperation jointly decided by the Participants in writing, provided that it falls within their respective mandates.

Article 3

Forms of Cooperation

Cooperation under this Memorandum may be carried out through:

a) exchange of letters, information, publications and other materials;

b) bilateral meetings, consultations and working contacts, in person or online;

c) organization of joint or coordinated events, including conferences, seminars, workshops and training sessions;

d) participation in study visits, professional exchanges and peer-learning activities;

e) establishment, where necessary and by mutual consent, of working-level contact points or ad hoc coordination arrangements for the implementation of specific activities.

Article 4

Implementation Arrangements

1. Each Participant shall designate a contact point responsible for coordination of cooperation under this Memorandum.

2. The Participants shall implement this Memorandum in accordance with

their national legislation, internal procedures and respective institutional competences.

3. Specific activities under this Memorandum may be further detailed, where necessary, through mutually agreed written arrangements, work plans, minutes or records of discussion between the Participants. Such documents shall be of an implementing nature and shall not create independent legal obligations.

Article 5

Exchange and Protection of Information

1. The Participants may exchange non-confidential information necessary for the implementation of this Memorandum.

2. Any exchange of information containing personal data, restricted-access information or other protected information shall be carried out only in accordance with the applicable legislation of each Participant.

3. Nothing in this Memorandum shall be interpreted as requiring a Participant to disclose information the disclosure of which is prohibited by its national legislation or internal rules.

Article 6

Financial Provisions

Activities under this Memorandum shall be carried out subject to the availability of financial and other resources of each Participant.

Article 7

Settlement of Differences

Any differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably through consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

Article 8

Amendments

This Memorandum may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants. Such amendments shall form an integral part of this Memorandum and shall take effect in accordance with the procedure agreed by the Participants.

Article 9

Final Provisions

1. This Memorandum shall enter into effect on the date of its signature and shall remain in effect for a period of three (3) years.

2. It shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of three (3) years, unless one Participant notifies the other Participant in writing of its intention to terminate this Memorandum at least six (6) months before the expiry of the current period.

3. Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum at any time by giving written notice to the other Participant at least six (6) months in advance.

4. Termination of this Memorandum shall not affect activities already initiated by mutual consent of the Participants, unless the Participants decide otherwise in writing.

Signed at Bruxelles on 28.04.2016 in two original copies each in the Romanian, Ukrainian and English languages, all texts being authentic. In the event of any divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the National Employment Agency of the Republic of Moldova	**For the State Employment Service of Ukraine**
Raisa DOGARU	**Yuliya ZHOVTYAK**
Director	**Director**