MINISTERUL MUNCII
ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
Republic of Moldova

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER

Moldova (MLSP) – Switzerland (EAER): MoU Implementation Roadmap

1 Context

In 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) of the Republic of Moldova and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) of the Swiss Confederation signed on 18 October 2023 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Regarding Cooperation on Labour and Employment issues.

The MoU is implemented via a high-level labour dialogue and expert meetings. The previous exchange highlighted the mutual interest and future benefits of in-depth discussions on the topics of social dialogue, productivity and decent work, future of work as well as economic cooperation and development.

Switzerland finances economic development cooperation programmes fostering more and better jobs in Moldova. Experiences and results of the programmes shall be discussed and visited during tripartite missions and labour dialogues.

Additionally, Moldova and the EFTA states signed the Free Trade Agreement in 2023. Representing a milestone in bilateral economic relations, the Free Trade Agreement contains a comprehensive chapter on trade and sustainable development, including references to the ILO fundamental principles and rights at work, ratified ILO conventions, as well as bilateral economic development cooperation.

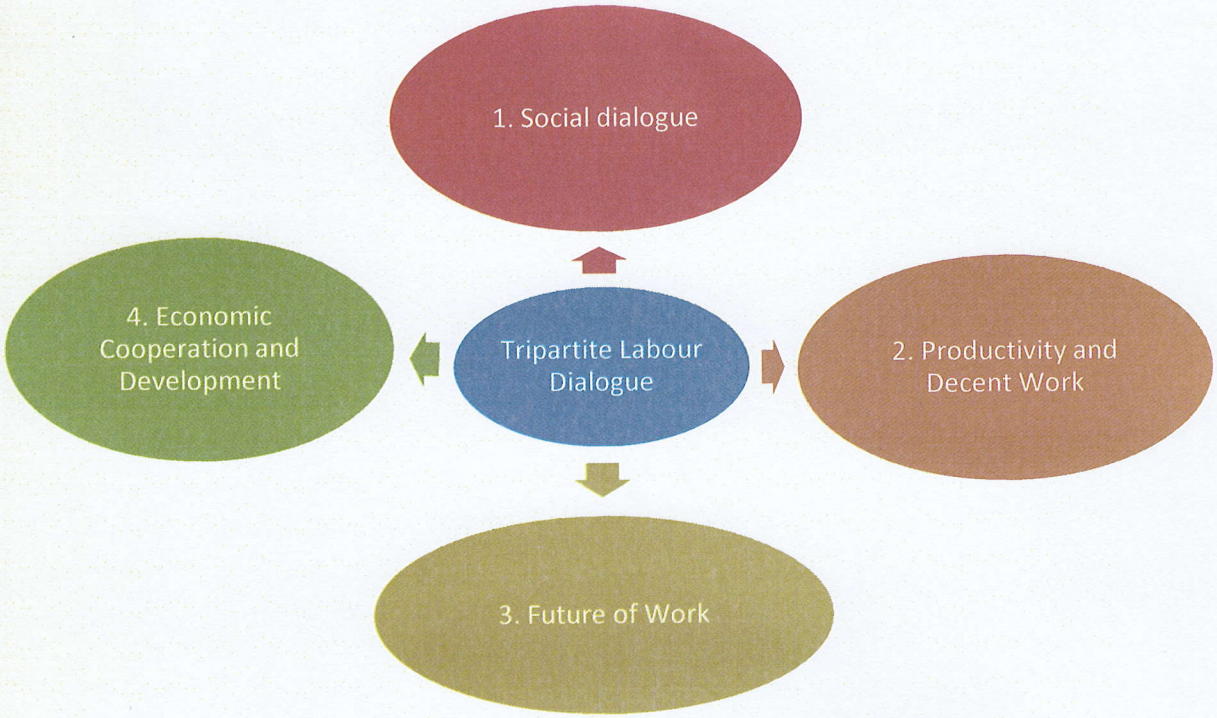
2 Goals

Based on the priorities articulated by both countries, MLSP and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) of the Swiss Confederation, represented by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), jointly defined a roadmap for the collaboration in the coming years (2026-2029). The roadmap will allow to plan coherent and effective activities of mutual benefit for both parties and contribute to the future of the collaboration between our two countries in a spirit of friendship and respect.

The present roadmap may serve as a basis for discussion on the topics, goals and timeframes of the collaboration. Its aim is to synthesize the priorities articulated by MLSP and SECO and it proposes possible objectives and indicators, which have been discussed and jointly agreed by both parties.

3 Topics and priorities

The priorities articulated by MLSP and SECO can be synthesized around the topics “Social Dialogue”, “Productivity and Decent Work”, “Future of Work” and “Economic Cooperation and Development”, which may include the following sub-topics:



1. **Social dialogue**
   - Role of social partners in labour and employment policies, organisation and representation of social partners;
   - Collective bargaining agreements: Bargaining and negotiation skills of social partners, mediation and conciliation procedures.

2. **Productivity and Decent Work**
   - Promotion of a productive and sustainable private sector with decent working conditions;
   - Framework conditions for a well-functioning labour market, including modernization of public employment services, labour market integration, skills development, employability, labour inspection, unemployment insurance, and occupational safety and health.
   - Formalization and undeclared work: strengthening the capacity of the State Labour Inspectorate to detect and prevent undeclared work and advancing sector-specific formalisation initiatives.

3. **Future of Work**
   - Impact of digital technology, artificial intelligence, online connectivity and other transformative developments on decent work, economic growth and new jobs;
   - Policy implications and adaptation measures in face of structural change.

4. **Economic Cooperation and Development**
   - Labour and employment related cooperation programmes: creating more and better jobs; enhancing decent working conditions and productivity;
   - Sustainable value chains: fostering competitiveness and access to international markets, including through implementation of the Free Trade Agreement chapter on trade and sustainable development.

Economic Cooperation and Development is at the same time a topic of discussion and a means of implementing above-mentioned topics.

On the above-mentioned topics, SECO and MLSP may wish to collaborate on the ratification of relevant ILO conventions and their implementation in national law and practice.

4 Objectives and indicators for 2026-2029

Objective 1: Regular high-level bilateral labour dialogue on issues of common interest
Output 1.1: Labour dialogue is organized regularly
Indicators: a) 1 meeting per year. b) The dialogues will be hosted by Moldova and by Switzerland alternately. c) High-level representation from both MLSP and SECO. d) Moldovan and Swiss social partners actively participate.
Output 1.2: During the labour dialogue, Moldova and Switzerland exchange on labour and employment issues of common interest
Indicators: a) The dialogues include topics defined in the roadmap. b) MLSP and SECO have jointly identified up to 2 common challenges on the topics discussed. c) MLSP and SECO have identified up to 2 areas for further exchange.
Output 1.3: Moldova and Switzerland conduct additional expert level meetings on specific topics, based on interest and available resources
Indicators: a) MLSP and SECO organize expert level meetings or seminars, based on interest and available resources. b) Relevant experts are invited, including from social partners if necessary. c) Lessons learnt from expert meetings are fed back into the labour dialogue.
Output 1.4: Moldova and Switzerland agree on the continuation of the Labour Dialogue and the MoU Implementation Roadmap beyond 2029
Indicators: a) MLSP and SECO evaluate the results from the roadmap 2026-2029. b) MLSP and SECO jointly agree on the future collaboration, including a new roadmap, if appropriate.
Objective 2: Awareness, promotion and outreach of Swiss programmes in Moldova are increased
Output 2.1: Moldova and Switzerland integrate lessons learnt of relevant Swiss programmes in the tripartite labour dialogue
Indicator: a) Tripartite labour dialogues include key messages from the implementation of relevant Swiss programmes, if appropriate.
Output 2.2: Moldova and Switzerland jointly organise and participate in relevant events
Indicators: a) MLSP and SECO organise joint events on results and lessons learnt from Swiss programmes and the tripartite labour dialogue. b) MLSP and SECO jointly participate in events and conferences, based on interest and available resources.

Signed in Geneva on June 8, 2026, in English.

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