

Moldova



In his speech to parliament after being elected President in 2012, the 63-year-old Nicolae Timofti promised to maintain Moldova's pro-European Union (EU) outlook and to try to convince Moldova's EU opponents that EU membership offered the only realistic prospect to bring prosperity to what was still 'the poorest country in Europe'. President Timofti also promised good relations with neighbouring Romania and Ukraine and what he described as a 'strategic partnership' with Russia. He did not mince his words for those Communist deputies who had chosen pro-Russian allegiances. The President reminded deputies that 'The EU integration process cannot be countered with any other political or geopolitical projects. It is too complex and important for the future of our country. And, more importantly, it is irreversible.' Mr Timofti had won the support of 62 deputies in Moldova's 101-seat parliament. Curiously, his supporters included three defectors from the Communist opposition, which had systematically boycotted previous presidential votes.

Corruption?

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union (31 December 1991) not too much has gone right for Moldova. Were a census of

European parliamentarians to be carried out, not many could locate it on the map with any precision, even fewer estimate the size of its population (3.56 million).

On the 2012 Transparency International *Corruption Perceptions Index*, Moldova ranked a lowly 94 out of the 177 countries surveyed, level with Colombia and Mongolia. According to the EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS), one area where fears of corruption continued to be raised, was that of the often high profile behaviour of senior politicians. In December 2012, a man was shot and killed during a hunting party attended by senior members of Moldova's elite, a number of whom were alleged to have close links to the ruling coalition member, Partidul Democrat din Moldova (PDM) (Democratic Party of Moldova). It later emerged that there had been an attempt to cover up the incident by Moldova's general prosecutor, a PDM appointee who had been at the hunt. This led to his resignation at the insistence of Prime Minister Filat of the other coalition party, the Liberal Democrat din Moldova (PLDM) (Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova). Events somehow seemed to mushroom, leading to a series of investigations and accusations against the government by Moldova's National Anti-Corruption Centre. In the view of the ISS the latter body has close links to the PDM, so much so that three EU foreign ministers, after visiting Moldova in early 2013, raised concerns over the application of 'selective justice'.

The poorest country in Europe

Since 2010, poverty stricken Moldova has been receiving International Monetary Fund (IMF) and EU financial assistance to cover its budgetary needs. The economy grew by about 7 per cent in 2011 but economic and judicial reforms, which had been overseen by Mr Timofti in his role as chairman of a senior magistrates' body, had been slow. This was partly because of the political gridlock, but Moldova's was also down to Moldova's endemic corruption problem. Of European countries, only Albania, Kosovo, Belarus and Armenia rank lower in the *Corruption Perceptions Index* than Moldova.

KEY FACTS

Official name: Republica Moldoveneasca (Republic of Moldova)

Head of State: President Nicolae Timofti (from 16 Mar 2012)

Head of government: Prime Minister Vladimir (Vlad) Filat (PLDM) (from 2009; re-appointed 31 Dec 2010)

Ruling party: Coalition: Alliance for European Integration (AEI), led by Liberal Democrat din Moldova (PLDM) (Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova), with Partidul Democrat din Moldova (PDM) (Democratic Party of Moldova) and Partidul Liberal (PL) (Liberal Party) (from 2009; re-elected 28 Nov 2010)

Area: 33,700 square km

Population: 3.56 million (2011)*

Capital: Chisinau (Kishinev)

Official language: Moldovan (in latin script)

Currency: Leu (L) = 100 bani

Exchange rate: L12.32 per US\$ (Dec 2012)

GDP per capita: US\$1,969 (2011)*

GDP real growth: 6.40% (2011)*

GDP: US\$7.00 billion (2011)*

Labour force: 1.14 million (2011)

Unemployment: 9.40% (2011)*

Inflation: 7.70% (2011)*

Balance of trade: -US\$2.97 billion (2011)

* estimated figure

Moldova is negotiating an undefined special agreement with the EU, which might one day provide the basis for accession discussions. For the time being though, this can only be a pipe-dream. Even without the problems that go with corruption and poverty, the Transdniester logjam is not going to go away in a hurry.

EU Accession?

The election of Nicolae Timofti as President 2012 had ended a long period of political and constitutional deadlock, paving the way for political stabilisation and an acceleration of large-scale reforms. Against a difficult economic backdrop, Moldova has achieved cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 15 per cent during the period 2010–12. The government has launched significant reforms in areas that include democratisation and freedom of the media, the economy, the police and education. It has also invested significantly in infrastructure. In just over a year, Moldova has also moved within reach of completing negotiations with the EU on an Association Agreement and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) and it has proved effective in implementing a series of reforms – including on border management – which stem from the continuing visa dialogue with the EU.

Transdniester

The so-called Republic of Transdniester came into existence in 1990, following a

war of secession with Moldova, and has been holding talks on its legal status since the 1992 cease-fire. The region proclaimed itself a new republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on 2 September 1990, taking exception to what it described as the ‘nationalistic’ policies of the authorities in Moldova’s capital, Chisinau.

Although Moldova had achieved *de facto* independence from the former Soviet Union in 1989, the Independent Republic of Moldova was not proclaimed until 1991 and Chisinau sent troops to Transdniester in the summer of 1992. Russian troops, deployed in the region since the times of the USSR (which had ceased to exist at the end of 1991), intervened and prevented a large-scale armed conflict. The current peacekeeping forces include Russian and Moldovan troops, as well as observers from Ukraine and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Negotiations on resolving the conflict are currently being held in what is known as the ‘5+2’ format, an unwieldy (and no doubt expensive) process involving the participation of Transdniester, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, OSCE, the US and the EU. With so many actors on the stage, the process is inevitably complicated and has stalled several times over political tensions between Transdniester and Moldova.

Three ethnic groups representing the three major nationalities of the breakaway Republic of Transdniester (population

around 518,000) have issued a plea to Russian President Vladimir Putin to oppose a mooted merger with Moldova. The Union of Russian Communities, the Union of Moldavians and the Union of Ukrainians sent a joint letter claiming that the absolute majority of the people of Transdniester were pleased with Mr Putin’s remarks that the fate of the republic must be decided by its people. The people of the region had long ago chosen in favour of close historic and spiritual ties with Russia, the letter read. In a 2006 referendum, 97 per cent of the republic’s population supported integration with the Russian Federation, the letter said, adding that an estimated 170,000 Transdniestrian residents had applied for and received Russian citizenship, even though they were not only ethnic Russians but also ethnic Ukrainians and Moldavians.

The representatives of the ethnic unions claimed that the region was under considerable pressure from the United States and the European Union, which they saw as attempting to ‘squeeze us into the pro-Western and pro-Romanian Republic of Moldova.’ The letter then rather lost the plot, expressing the rather exaggerated claim that the people Transdniester, were likely to face ‘ethnic, spiritual, cultural, language and political terror and genocide.’ Weakening their case even further, the letter’s authors also complained that some Russian officials had previously supported the move for unification with Moldova.

The economy

After growing rapidly in 2011, the Moldovan economy slowed down in 2012. Gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 6.4 per cent in 2011 as manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade benefited from the favourable external environment and the agricultural sector recovered from the 2010 drought. However, the pace of output growth declined to 0.8 per cent in the first half of 2012 as industrial output suffered from the contracting external demand and lower agricultural production following a harsh winter. Remittances had also fallen although they remained significantly higher than during the 2008–09 crisis. Consumer price inflation had peaked at 9.2 per cent in August 2011, declining to below 4 per cent in June 2012 as global food prices decelerated and base effects of last year’s large increase wore off. After tightening monetary policy in 2011 to contain inflation, the Banca Nationala a Moldovei (BNM) (National Bank of Moldova) (

KEY INDICATORS		Moldova				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	3.57	3.57	*4.89	3.56	*3.56
Gross domestic minus gold	US\$bn	6.10	5.40	5.80	*7.00	*7.25
GDP per capita	US\$	1,693	1,514	1,635	*1,969	*2,037
GDP real growth	%	7.8	-6.0	7.1	*6.4	*-0.8
Inflation	%	12.7	*0.0	7.4	*7.7	*4.7
Unemployment	%	4.0	6.4	7.5	*9.4	*5.5
Industrial output	% change	0.5	-17.5	9.5	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	35.0	-16.9	7.2	–	–
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,646.7	1,329.2	1,590.4	1,749.0	*1,697.2
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	4,870.0	3,272.7	3,810.0	4,715.4	*4,738.2
Balance of trade	US\$m	-3,223.4	-1,943.6	-2,219.5	-2,966.4	*-3,041.0
Current account	US\$m	-1,071.0	-508.6	-631.0	-868.9	*-682.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	1,672.4	1,480.3	1,717.7	1,988.1	*2,511.1
Foreign exchange	US\$m	1,672.3	1,476.7	1,717.3	1,987.3	*2,509.4
Exchange rate	per US\$	10.39	11.11	12.37	11.80	12.26
* estimated figure						

central bank) reduced policy interest rates significantly as inflation subsided. The authorities' reform programme continues to benefit from significant international assistance. The fiscal adjustment programme was progressing, although corrective measures were needed in early 2012 to address revenue shortfall, unbudgeted revenue commitments and external assistance delays. The central bank continues to pursue inflation targeting. The banking sector remains generally stable and the risk of knock-on effects from the euro-zone crisis appear to be limited. However, in February 2012 the central bank put a small bank into liquidation. This measure had only a limited impact on the stability of the overall banking system. However, the state-owned Banca de Economii had seen its financial situation deteriorate further. The current account deficit widened in 2011 to around 12 per cent of GDP. Moldova's longer term prospects will depend on the government's ability to create a conducive environment for private sector development. In the immediate future, the economy will inevitably continue to be affected by developments in the EU and Russia.

With output per capita very low, Moldova has strong potential to increase labour productivity and maintain a fast pace of growth over time. However, as the public sector balance sheet is relatively stretched and the country requires fiscal adjustment to be able to graduate from dependence on international financial support, growth will have to come from the private sector. Reforms to improve the functioning of the judiciary, reduce public sector corruption and strengthen tax administration and customs and gain greater access to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and EU markets should help attract significant foreign and domestic investment in the export-oriented sectors.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1940 The Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) was established within the Soviet Union. The Moldovan SSR included land annexed from Romania and the Ukraine, providing much of the basis for the inter-communal strife.

1989 Achieved *de facto* independence from the former Soviet Union.

1990 Moldova's attempts to become an independent republic were hindered by the country's economic weaknesses and its strained relations with Russia. Ethnic Russians proclaimed the Transdnestr Republic on the left bank of the Dniestr River.

1991 Civil war erupted between the Transdnestr separatists and Moldova. Russian troops were deployed in Moldova to oversee a cease-fire agreed between the warring factions. Moldova formally declared its independence, with Mercea Snegur as the country's first president; it joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

1992 Moldova was recognised by the UN. The Partidul Popular Crestin-Democrat (PPCD) (Christian-Democrat People's Party) resigned in favour of a new coalition government.

1994 Moldova pursued a pro-Western policy and joined NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. The extreme left Partidul Democrat Agrar din Moldova (PDAM) (Agrarian-Democratic Party of Moldova) won elections. A new constitution was introduced.

1996 Petru Lucinschi won the presidential elections.

1998 The Partidul Comunistilor din Moldova (PCM) (Communist Party of Moldova) won the biggest share of the vote in the parliamentary elections, but was unable to form a government as it was short of an absolute majority in the Parlamentul (Parliament). Right-wing parties, which had finished behind the PCM in the elections, joined together and formed a coalition government, led by Ion Ciubuc.

1999 There were three governments in one year as coalitions collapsed. A non-affiliated government emerged, led by Dumitru Braghis.

2000 Against President Lucinschi's wishes, Moldova was transformed into a parliamentary republic – giving the parliament the opportunity to elect the president instead of election by popular vote. Parliament failed to elect a new president when neither candidate received the 61 votes required for outright victory.

2001 The PCM won elections and Vasile Tarlev was appointed prime minister. Vladimir Voronin, leader of the PCM, was elected president by parliament. An Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) sponsored agreement committed Russia to removing troops from Moldova by 2002. Moldova joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Igor Smirnov was re-elected as self-styled president of the breakaway Transdnestr region.

2002 The announcement of plans to make Russian an official language and

compulsory in schools sparked months of mass protests which ended only when the scheme was shelved. The OSCE deadline for Russian troops to withdraw from Transdnestr was extended until the end of 2003, then 2004.

2004 Moldova imposed economic sanctions on Transdnestr (the Russian and Ukrainian-speaking autonomous territory) after it closed several schools using the Moldovan language and Latin instead of Cyrillic script

2005 Vasile Tarlev's ruling PCM and President Voronin were re-elected. During the winter Gazprom doubled the price of gas and temporarily cut off supplies when Moldova refused to pay.

2006 The halted gas supplies also affected the flow through Moldova to Germany. An agreement was reached with phased price increases. Transdnestr reacted badly to a new law that all goods entering Ukraine through Transdnestr must have Moldovan custom stamps, to foil smuggling. In reprisal, Russia suspended imports of Moldovan meat and wine, claiming a lack of quality, but lifted the ban after Moldova threatened to block Russia's bid for membership of the WTO. A referendum in Transdnestr voted for independence from Moldova and eventually to become a region of Russia.

2008 Vasile Tarlev resigned as prime minister; Zinaida Greceanii, became the first Moldovan woman prime minister.

2009 PCM won parliamentary elections; it nominated Zinaida Greceanii as president but parliament twice failed to give her the minimum 61 votes necessary to take office. This automatically triggered a rerun of parliamentary elections, which were won by a coalition, called the Alianta Pentru Integrare Europeana (APIE) (Alliance for European Integration) (comprising Partidul Liberal Democrat din Moldova (PLDM) (Liberal Democrats (of Moldova)), Partidul Liberal (PL) (Liberal Party) and Partidul Alianta Moldova Noastra (PAMN) (Our Moldova Alliance)) with a combined 53 seats (out of 101), which outnumbered the PCM's 48 seats.

President Vladimir Voronin resigned and Mihai Ghimpu became acting president; he nominated and parliament endorsed, Vlad Filat (PLDM) as prime minister. Parliament failed to elect Filat's nomination of Marian Lupu as president and a new presidential election was postponed until 2010.

2010 There was overwhelming support in a referendum to amend the constitution and return presidents to being directly elected by popular vote (87.83 per cent favour of the proposals). However, there was an insufficient turnout of just 30.29 per cent so the motion failed. After months of legal wrangling and the failure

of parliament to elect a new president, the Constitutional Court ordered fresh parliamentary elections. The APIE won 59 seats (out of 101) and the PCM 42. The result was once again a stalemate with neither side winning the required 61 votes necessary to elect their candidate as president. Parliament appointed Marian Lupu (PLDM) as acting president, who in turn re-appointed Vlad Filat (PLDM) as prime minister.

2011 In January, Prime Minister Filat offered two cabinet posts to the opposition PCM in return for two votes to break the political deadlock and formally accept Marian Lupu as president. In February, the Constitutional Court ruled that only parliament could decide when new presidential elections should take place. The current government could therefore prolong its sitting by not setting a date for presidential elections. In July the EU agreed to provide around €200 million (US\$281 million) in financial assistance, to be used in the energy sector, strengthening institutional capacities, measures to mitigate conflict in Transdniestr, legal reforms and support for the government's budget. In December, the national parliament held elections for a new president. However, the result was disputed and the Constitutional Court later ruled it was invalid due to violations in secret voting procedures. In Transdniestr presidential elections were held: Yevgeny Shevchuk (independent) won 38.6 per cent of the vote, Anatoly Kaminsky (Obnovleniye (Renewal)) 26.3 per cent, and incumbent Igor Smirnov (independent) 24.7 per cent; three other candidates each won less than 6 per cent. Turnout was 60 per cent. As no candidate won over 50 per cent, a runoff was held on 25 December, in which Shevchuk won 73.88 per cent of the vote; Kaminski 19.67 per cent.

2012 On 12 January, the Constitutional Court cancelled the presidential election scheduled for 15 January. In Transdniestr, President Shevchuk nominated Pyotr Stepanov as the first occupant of the new post of prime minister; the nomination was endorsed by the Transdniestr parliament on 18 January. On 16 March parliament voted by 62 votes out of 101 for Nicolae Timofti (independent) as president; he took office on 23 March. 2013 The government lost a vote of no-confidence on 5 March after the PDM voted with the Communists. Prime Minister Filat refused to resign. elections are due in 2014.

Political structure

Constitution

The 1977 constitution was replaced in August 1994, establishing the country as a 'presidential, parliamentary republic'

based on political pluralism and 'the preservation, development and expression of ethnic and linguistic identity'. The constitution enforces the separation of judicial, legislative and executive powers. Moldova's independence and neutrality are enshrined in the constitution, as are the rights of all ethnic minorities. For administrative purposes Moldova is divided into 40 districts (*raioane*) and 10 cities. Gagauz-Yeri and Transdniestr are guaranteed autonomous status, although the unrecognised separatist government of Transdniestr also claims outright independence.

Independence date

27 August 1991

Form of state

Parliamentary democratic republic

The executive

Executive power is held by the president of the republic, who must approve legislation and may also propose it. The president nominates the prime minister and government.

Candidates for the presidency must be over 35 years of age, resident in the country for at least 10 years and speakers of the national language. The president is elected for a term of four years by the parliament. The president is limited to two consecutive terms of office.

National legislature

The unicameral Parlamentul (parliament) has 101-members elected by proportional representation for a term of four years. The legislative body appoints the president. It can also approve or reject presidential nominations for the prime minister and government. The government must be appointed within 30 days of parliamentary elections or fresh elections must be called.

Legal system

The legal system is based on civil law. The Constitutional Court is the highest legal authority. It reviews the legality of legislative acts and must validate the election of the president and all members of parliament. Its independence is guaranteed by the constitution and judges, once selected, cannot be removed without their consent. The Constitutional Court consists of six judges, two each appointed by the president, parliament and Higher Council of Magistrates, all for a six-year term. The rest of the justice system is administered by the Supreme Court, Appeals Court and lesser courts. Following recommendation by the Higher Council of Justice, the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by parliament, and those of all lesser courts by the president of the republic, all for a renewable term of five years.

The Higher Council of Magistrates consists of 11 members, of which five (the

minister of justice, the president of the Supreme Court, the president of the Court of Appeal, the president of the Court of Business Audit and the prosecutor general) are automatic members, a further three are judges appointed by the Supreme Court and three are academic lawyers appointed by parliament.

Last elections

28 November 2010 ((early) parliamentary); 16 March 2012 (presidential, indirect)

Results: Parliamentary (early): Partidul Comunistilor din Moldova (PCM) (Communist Party of Moldova) won 39.29 per cent of the vote (42 seats out of 101), Partidul Liberal Democrat din Moldova (PLDM) (Liberal Democrats of Moldova) 29.38 per cent (32), Partidul Democrat din Moldova (PDM) (Democratic Party of Moldova) 12.72 per cent (15), Partidul Liberal (PL) (Liberal Party) 9.96 per cent (12); 16 other political parties and various independents failed to win the threshold percentage of the votes necessary to gain parliamentary seats. Turnout was 59.1 per cent.

Presidential: Nicolae Timofti won 61.4 per cent of the vote.

Next elections

2014 (presidential and parliamentary).

Political parties

Ruling party

Coalition: Alliance for European Integration (AEI), led by Liberal Democrat din Moldova (PLDM) (Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova), with Partidul Democrat din Moldova (PDM) (Democratic Party of Moldova) and Partidul Liberal (PL) (Liberal Party) (from 2009; re-elected 28 Nov 2010)

Main opposition party

Partidul Comunistilor din Moldova (PCM) (Communist Party of Moldova)

Population

3.56 million (2012)

The population is declining owing to low birth rates, low life expectancy and high emigration.

Last census: October 2004: 3,388,071 (provisional)

Population density: At 132 people per square km. Urban population 47 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: -1.0 per cent, 1990-2010 (Unicef).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) 1,000 (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

The high number of ethnic Ukrainians and Russians in Moldova stems from the former Soviet Union's forced emigration policies in an attempt to dilute the ethnic Moldovan population. There are internal disputes with ethnic Russians and

Ukrainians in the separatist Transdnestr region and with Gagauz Turks in the south.

Ethnic groups in Moldova include: Moldovan/Romanian (64.5 per cent); Ukrainian (13.8 per cent); Russian (13 per cent); Gagauz (3.5 per cent); Bulgarian (2 per cent); and others (3.2 per cent).

Religions

Christianity is the majority religion in Moldova, the principal denomination being the Eastern Orthodox Church (98.5 per cent). The Gagauz also adhere to Orthodox Christianity despite their Turkic roots. There are Romanian and Turkish liturgies in Moldova, but the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchy) has jurisdiction.

Although there are an estimated 20,000 Roman Catholics in Moldova, the Moldovan branch of the Roman Catholic Church, founded in 1848, has few active congregations. Approximately 1.5 per cent of the population is Jewish.

Education

Primary education lasts for four years, at aged 10 students move on to secondary school for seven or eight years. This is divided into five years of lower secondary school and may be followed by two or three years of upper secondary school, following either technical or academic programmes, leading to either higher education or further training. Lessons may be given in either Romanian or Russian. There are several private higher education institutions.

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Moldova's education system was completely integrated into the Soviet system. This meant that most teaching was in the Russian language. Since independence, the curriculum has become much more focussed on Moldovan history and culture. The Moldovan government has restored the Romanian language in schools and added courses in Romanian literature and history to the curriculum. The governments of Romania and Moldova established strong ties between their education systems. Several thousand Moldovan students have attended school in Romania, and the Romanian government has donated textbooks to replace Soviet-era books.

The government's decision to introduce Russian in primary schools as a mandatory subject in 2002 was a cause of much controversy, later however, the government announced that the Russian language lessons would be optional.

Literacy rate: 99 per cent adult rate; 100 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: 6 to 15.

Enrolment rate: 97 per cent total primary enrolment of the relevant age group (including repetition rates); 81 per cent secondary enrolment (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 23 in primary schools.

Health

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.2 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 67 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.5 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

Birth rate/Death rate: 15.27 births and 12.79 deaths per 1,000 people (2005 estimates)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 18 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 2.64 physicians per 1,000 people, 2003 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

A social insurance system covers old age pensions, worker's disability, survivors, sickness and maternity benefit and family allowance, plus unemployment payments. Contributions are obtained from workers at 1 per cent of earnings (23 per cent for self-employed); 29–30 per cent employer's payroll, dependent on industry or enterprise; central government pays *ad hoc* flat-rate payments; regional (Republics), local authorities and employers can also provide supplementary benefits, from their own budgets, for specific needs. Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in the region and pensioners remain particularly disadvantaged, accounting for 20 per cent of the population. The government intends to introduce private pensions to supplement the current state pension system. In 1999, legislation on private pensions allowed for the establishment of both open and closed pension funds based on voluntary contributions.

Pensions

The minimum retirement age is 62 years with a full pension dependent on 32 years of insurance cover.

Main cities

Chisinau (Kishinev) (capital, estimated population 554,585 in 2012), Tiraspol (132,105), Balti (97,237), Tighina (90,627), Rybnica (46,997).

Languages spoken

The 1994 constitution states that Moldovan is the country's official language, although it allows for the use of other languages in the country's ethnic minority areas. Officially known as 'limba moldoveneasca' (language of Moldova), Moldovan is a dialect of Romanian. Russian is the first language of about

one-third of the population, and is more universally spoken than Moldovan. Most people are bilingual.

The government attempted to introduce a language law in 1989 which would force government officials to speak both Moldovan and Russian. Since many Russian-speakers could not speak Moldovan and needed time to learn the language, the parliament decided in 1994 to postpone the law indefinitely. The law was a major factor in accelerating the separatist movements of the Russian-speaking Transdnestr region and of the Gagauz-Yeri minority who speak Gagauz (a Turkish dialect). Other minority languages include Ukrainian and Bulgarian. The government's decision, although later annulled, to introduce Russian in primary schools as a mandatory subject in 2002 was the cause of much controversy.

Official language/s

Moldovan (in latin script)

Media

Despite freedom of the press guaranteed under the constitution, press laws and a penal code can be used by the state to curb the reporting powers of the press. There is little real independence, particularly within the state-owned media. Editorial interference in privately or publicly owned media by political and business interests is commonplace.

Press

Dailies: In Moldovan Romanian, top newspapers include *Timpul* (www.timpul.md), *Moldova Suverana* (www.moldova-suverana.md) and *Jurnal de Chisinau* (www.jurnal.md), while *Flux* (www.flux.md) is an influential publication. In Russian, *Nezavisimaya Moldova* (www.nm.md) is a government publication, *Moldavskie Vedomosti* (www.vedomosti.md) is a conservative newspaper.

In Transdnestr, in Moldovan Romanian *Ziarul de Garda*, with an online English edition (<http://garda.com.md/english/>), is funded by the US government.

Weeklies: In Moldovan Romanian, *Saptamina* is a centrist publication. In Transdnestr, in English, *The Tiraspol Times* (www.tiraspoltimes.com) is a news review magazine.

Business: In Russian, publications include *Delovaya Gazeta* and *Ekonomicheskoe Obozrenie* (<http://logos.press.md>) and in Romanian *Observator Economic*.

Periodicals: In Moldovan Romanian, the arts magazine *Sud-Est* (www.sud-est.md) is published monthly.

Broadcasting

Teleradio Moldova (TRM) (www.trm.md) is the national broadcaster.

Radio: TRM (www.trm.md) operates Radio Moldova, which includes an international

station. Other, private stations include Fresh FM (www.freshfm.md), which is a national network, Radio Noroc (www.radionoroc.md), Radio 7 (www.radio7.md), Russkoye Radio (www.rusradio.md) in Russian and Vocea Basarabiei (www.voceabasarabiei.net) a Christian content station.

Television: TRM (www.trm.md) operates Moldova One and TV Moldova International. Other, private digital channels include Pro TV (www.protv.md), TV7 (www.tv7.md) and Perviy Kanal Moldova (www.prime.md) which re-broadcasts the Russian federal channel from Moscow.

Other news agencies: Basa-press: www.basa.md

Infotag: www.infotag.md

Interlic: <http://en.interlic.md>

Moldpres: www.moldpres.md

Economy

Agriculture still plays a large role in the economy, although its importance has decreased from 17 per cent in 2005–06 to 14.3 per cent of GDP by 2010.

Moldova's long established viniculture sector typically provides 30 per cent of all exports. Now that foreign direct investment (FDI) and international economic aid is being applied, Moldova has embraced a free market economy. In 2011, Moldova increased its ranking from 99 to 81 (out of 183) on the World Bank's *Ease of Doing Business* survey. FDI was US\$712.7 million in 2008 which plummeted to US\$127.8 million in 2009, before increasing to a modest US\$194.3 million in 2010.

GDP growth has fallen from a steady 7.5 in 2004–05 to an average 3.9 per cent in 2006–07 as first a year-long ban was imposed by Russia on Moldovan wine imports and then a major drought in 2007 severely reduced agricultural production. Despite a recovery of GDP growth in 2008 to 7.8 per cent, the economy fell into recession of -6.0 per cent in 2009 as Moldova was affected by the global economic recession, as remittances declined and FDI dropped off sharply. GDP growth rebounded to a rate of 7.1 per cent in 2010, which weakened to an estimated 6.4 per cent in 2011.

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe, with an economy that was under-developed during the period of the Soviet Union's centrally planned economic control. In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Moldova 111 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. Since 2000, Moldova's progress has strengthened but has not matched the improvement of other countries in Europe and Central Asia. In 2010, 36.7 per cent of the population experienced at least one

indicator of poverty, while the headcount poverty rate was 1.9 per cent of the population (2000–10).

Emigration is around 14 per cent per annum, with over 85 per cent of migrants working in Europe. Remittances from migrant workers amounted to US\$1.4 billion (23.2 per cent of GDP) in 2010 and was estimated to have reached US\$1.6 billion in 2011.

Inflation had been in double digits since before 2004, averaging 12 per cent, but in 2009 a sharp increase in imported natural gas and higher food prices cut domestic spending so that inflation fell to 0.0 per cent; it rose to 7.4 per cent as world trade began to pick up in 2010.

External trade

Moldova has a free trade agreement with the Central European Free Trade Agreement (Cefta). It has traditional ties with Russia which were, following the break-up of the Soviet Union, formalised through the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

On 19 October 2011, a free trade agreement (FTA) was signed by Russia with seven of its former Soviet republics: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan. The FTA must be ratified by all relevant parliaments before its instigation in 2012.

Imports

Natural gas and petroleum, machinery and equipment, chemicals, textiles and consumer goods.

Main sources: Russia (15.7 per cent of total in 2012), Romania (11.9 per cent), Ukraine (11.4 per cent).

Exports

Romania (typically 21 per cent of total), Russian Federation (20 per cent), Ukraine (11 per cent).

Main destinations: Russia (30.3 per cent of total in 2012), Romania (16.5 per cent), Italy (9.4 per cent).

Agriculture

Agriculture remains a key sector of the national economy. The sector contributes around a fifth of GDP and is a considerable source of export revenue. It employs over 40 per cent of the working population. Moldova's main resources are its climate and the rich black *chernozem* soil covering 75 per cent of the land, making it ideal for growing wine grapes, tobacco, sugar beet and for raising dairy cattle. Grains, vegetables and fruits are also important. The animal husbandry sector specialises in the breeding of livestock, pigs and poultry.

The majority of production continues to be from state farms and co-operatives, although as the land reform programme progresses this is expected to change. Agro-industrial complexes are dominant

in meat and dairy production. Pork is the main domestic protein source. A quarter of total meat production is exported. There are around 150 wineries in Moldova and 170,000 hectares (ha) of vineyards. The wine making industry has attracted foreign investment and is dependent upon markets in the CIS. The majority of annual sugar exports go to former Soviet republics. Moldova is also a major tobacco producer.

Only 20 fish species, including crucian carp, perch, bream and soodak, are of any commercial importance. Most of the fish resources are concentrated in natural and artificial lakes devoted to fish breeding.

Forest and wooded land account for about one-tenth of the land area, with forest cover estimated at 325,000 hectares (ha). All forests in Moldova are state-owned. About two-thirds of the forest is available for wood supply, while the rest is protected and conserved. Timber includes oak, beech and ash.

Production is mostly for domestic consumption. More than half of all wood consumed is used as fuel or processed into charcoal. The forestry industry faces a shortage of raw materials and is not sufficient to meet the domestic markets.

Moldova imports sawnwood and paper. Wood and wood products account for around four per cent of annual GDP. Moldova typically produces approximately 500,000 cubic metres of timber per annum.

Industry and manufacturing

Industry accounts for around 25 per cent of GDP. A large proportion of industrial production is concentrated in the break-away Transdnestr region, where most of Moldova's electricity, metallurgy and metallurgical equipment are produced. The agro-industrial complex is at the heart of the economy, carrying out the production, transportation, processing, storage and sale of agricultural products. Other industries include electronics, machine tools, tractors, agricultural engineering, building materials, chemicals and furniture manufacture.

Tourism

Moldova has a rich and diverse tradition in wine making and attracts many visitors to experience its viniculture. Visitors have also been drawn to its rural villages, remote monasteries and natural landscapes.

Tourism in Moldova is an underdeveloped industry which has suffered from a lack of tourist infrastructure, as well as an economy that has struggled since the global economic crisis struck in 2008, which pushed up prices and cut visitor numbers. In 2007, 14,722 foreign visitors arrived,

the majority of which were from Romania (2,787 visitors), Turkey (1,687), Ukraine (1,472) and Russia (1,353), but by 2010 the total number of foreign visitors had fallen to 8,956. Visitor numbers from Romania had fallen by 60 per cent and those from Turkey and Ukraine halved, while Russian numbers remained constant.

Travel and tourism contributed 4.7 per cent of GDP in 2007, falling to 3.2 per cent in 2010 and further still to 3.1 per cent in 2011. Likewise, employment in the industry fell from 4.1 per cent of total employment (66,800 jobs) in 2007 to 2.8 per cent (32,300 jobs) in 2010. Capital investment in tourism was 2.2 per cent (US\$40,000) of total investment in Moldova, but this fell to 1.4 per cent (US\$30,000) of total investment in 2011.

Hydrocarbons

The potential for oil and gas is high, as Moldova has contiguous geology with known deposits of oil in neighbouring Ukraine. However, exploration is still hampered by limited foreign investment. The Valenskoye field has reserves of around 73 million barrels, with potential production estimated at 732,000 barrels per year.

A new, US\$38 million, oil terminal was opened in 2007 in the south of Moldova at Giurgiulesti, on the Danube, reducing Moldova's overall reliance on Russian oil. Natural gas imports were 2.4 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2008, all of which was imported from Russia. Although break-away Transdnestr has only 15 per cent of Moldova's population it consumes around 50 per cent of total natural gas imports for industrial production. The monopoly domestic gas distributor Moldovagaz, is heavily indebted to Russian gas monopoly Gazprom, amounting to in total US1.8 billion in 2008. Following the loss of a court case in Russia in 2008, it was decided that Moldovagaz was responsible for debts accrued by the Transdnestr's gas distributor Tiraspoltransgaz, which owes US\$1.46 billion of the total debt. A major pipeline, the Moldova-Balkans Gas Transit Pipeline (MBGTP) runs through Moldova and the break-away Transdnestr region. In April 2009 the MBGTP was crushed by a landslide, in the Transdnestr region, cutting supplies by around 50 per cent and affecting customers in Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece and the European part of Turkey. Exploration for natural gas reserves is ongoing, with Gazprom leading the way. There are an estimated 10 million tonnes of bituminous coal; however production is only around 100,000 tonnes per annum.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 1,029MW in 2007, producing over 3.8 billion kilowatt hours. The majority of energy is produced in three power stations. However, most capacity is produced in the disputed province of Transdnestr. Hydropower produced around 60MW of energy. Moldova is trying to conserve energy and to develop alternative power sources – solar, wind and geothermal.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Bursei de Valori a Moldaviei (Moldova Stock Exchange) (MSE)

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Banca Nationala a Moldovei (BNM) (National Bank of Moldova)

Time

GMT plus two hours (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus three hours)

Geography

Moldova is a landlocked country in south-eastern Europe, bordered to the north, east and south by Ukraine and to the west by Romania. Most of the country consists of flat plains with low hills. Approximately 11 per cent of Moldova is forested.

Moldova is a fertile plain with small areas of hill country in the centre and north. The main rivers are the Dniestr, which flows through the eastern regions and on into the Black Sea, and the Prut, which marks the western border with Romania and which joins the Danube at the southern tip of Moldova.

The separatist Republic of Transdnestr (not officially recognised) lies between the eastern Ukrainian border and the Dniestr River.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

With a temperate, continental climate Moldova has long hot summers and chilly winters. Average temperatures vary between minus 2 degrees Celsius (C) and 22 degrees C. Extremes of temperature can reach 35 degrees C during summer and minus 25 degrees C (with a good deal of ice and snow) in the winter. Average annual rainfall is 500–550mm in the northern and central areas and 450mm in the south.

Dress codes

Business dress is usually quite conservative, but not excessively formal.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the date of departure.

Visa

Required by all except CIS nationals. Visit www.consularassistance.com/consular.html for the requirements and a visa application form, to be submitted to the nearest consulate for processing. Limited stay visas can be obtained at Chisinau airport and some major road crossings from Romania; however, these cost more than those organised in advance. Arrival by train requires a visa before travelling.

Currency advice/regulations

The import and export of local currency is unlimited; the import of foreign currency is unlimited but the amount must be declared and export is limited to the amount declared.

Travellers cheques are not in general use, although some banks may exchange them.

Customs

A small amount of personal goods are allowed in duty-free. On arrival declare all valuable items such as jewellery, cameras, computers and musical instruments.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Vaccination certificates for cholera and yellow fever are mandatory if travelling from an infected area. Any person applying for a visa for a stay of more than three months must present a certificate showing that the individual is HIV negative. Only tests performed at clinics approved by the Moldovan government are accepted.

Advisable precautions

It is advisable to be in date for the following immunisations: diphtheria, polio and tetanus (within 10 years), typhoid fever, hepatitis A (moderate risk only), hepatitis B, tuberculosis and tick-borne encephalitis. Healthcare is free in Moldova (although medicines must be purchased). There are chemists where you can buy basic drugs (aspirin, etc), but it is wise to take a supply of frequently used medicines with you, including precautionary antibiotics if travelling outside main urban areas. A travel kit, including disposable syringes, is a reasonable precaution. There is a rabies risk. Water precautions are recommended and water purification tablets may be useful.

Credit cards

Credit cards are not in general use, some banks may accept them.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 8 Mar (Women's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 9 May (Victory

Day), 27 Aug (Independence Day), 31 Aug (Limba Noastra/National Language Day), 14 Oct (Chisinau City Day).

Variable dates

Religious holidays are celebrated by adherents (Orthodox Christmas and Easter).

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Sat: 0930–1730 for banks; 0900–1800 for *bureau de change*.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0900–1800.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0900–1800.

Shops

Mon: 0800–1700, Tue–Sat: 0800–2100.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 services available throughout most of the country.

Electricity supply

220V AC 50 Hz.

Weights and measures

Metric system

Social customs/useful tips

Business appointments are essential and punctuality appreciated. Business cards are usually exchanged. There are many customs and traditions to be understood. Gratuities are becoming more customary, particularly in international hotels. Take flowers if invited to someone's home and leave shoes at the door.

Security

Although safer than many Western cities, the streets of Chisinau have become more dangerous since independence, particularly after dark. Care should be taken to avoid unlit areas, even in the city centre. There are few embassies in Chisinau (no British Embassy, for instance). Before departure to Moldova, visitors are advised to check with their own ministry of foreign affairs for information on who to contact in the case of an emergency. The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), for example, advises its nationals to contact the British Embassy in Bucharest in Romania.

Avoid all travel in the eastern region of Transdnestr.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Air Moldova; services are not extensive with international flights to Europe only.

International airport/s: Chisinau International (KIV), 13km south-east of the city with duty-free and bank. Taxis and a regular bus service are available to the city (travel time 15–25 minutes).

Airport tax: Departure tax: US\$12.

Surface

Road: The principal route runs from Odessa in the Crimea into Moldova through Tiraspol, north to Chisinau, Bel'tsy and then back into Ukraine. Buses run to Chisinau from Bucharest, Romania.

Rail: The Moldovan rail network is connected to that of Ukraine, Romania and Russia. The principal rail routes connect Chisinau with Tiraspol and Ukraine to the east, and Lasi in Romania to the west. The journey time to Bucharest is approximately 11.5 hours, to Moscow 22 hours and Sofia 23 hours. First-class sleeping carriages, booked in advance from Chisinau station, are recommended.

Water: The Dniestr River flows into the Black Sea in Ukraine, near the port of Odessa. It is used more for industrial transportation than for passengers.

Getting about

National transport

Road: The road network, although extensive, is in need of significant investment and repair. The main routes run from Kagul to Chisinau via Komrat and from Chisinau to Lipkany via Bel'tsy. Roads from Tiraspol in Transdnestr to Chisinau and other destinations in the rest of Moldova may be subject to closure due to conflict in the breakaway region.

Buses: There are buses between larger towns.

Taxis: Can be hired by the hour, prices should be negotiated before travelling.

Rail: Most larger towns are connected by rail. Lines run north-south from Kagul and the southern border with Ukraine to Lipkany and the northern border with Ukraine. Owing to the Transdnestr conflict, routes from Chisinau and Kagul to Tiraspol and Bendery are liable to disruption.

Water: The Dniestr River runs parallel to Moldova's eastern border, and is extensively used, although mostly for industrial rather than passenger transport.

City transport

The names of streets are in both Moldovan and Russian.

Taxis: Taxis are widely available and can be picked up at stands or hailed anywhere in the city.

Car hire

Vehicles with a driver or for self-drive are readily available; an international driving permit is required.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially

to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Moldova is +373, followed by the area code and subscriber's number:

Chisinau	22	Bendery	282
Bel'tsy	231	Tiraspol	284

Useful telephone numbers

Ambulance: 903

Fire: 901

Police: 902

Operator assistance for international telephone calls: 071

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova, Joly Alon Hotel, 37 Maria Cebotari Street, Chisinau 2012.

Moldova Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 151 Stefan cel Mare Street, Chisinau 2004 (tel: 221-552; fax: 234-425; e-mail: president@chamber.md).

Banking

Banca Comerciala Romana SA Sucursala, 32A Tricolorului Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 220-549; fax: 223-509; email: bcr@cni.md).

Banca Sociala, 61 Banulescu-Bodoni Street, Chisinau 2006 (tel: 221-481; fax: 224-230).

BTR Moldova, 18 Renasterii Street, Chisinau 2005 (tel: 201-100; fax: 201-101; e-mail: office@btr.md).

Businessbanca, 9 Alexandru cel Bun Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 223-338; fax: 222-370).

Chisinau Municipal Bank, 83 Stefan cel Mare Avenue, Chisinau 2012 (tel/fax: 228-090).

Comertbank, 63 Columna Street, Chisinau 2001 (tel: 541-356; fax: 543-151; e-mail: combank@chmoldpac.md).

Energbank, 78 Vasile Alexandri Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 544-377; fax: 253-409).

Export - Import, 6 Stefan cel Mare Avenue, Chisinau 2001 (tel: 272-583; fax: 546-234; e-mail: exim@eximbank.com).

Finance and Trade Bank, 26 Pushkin Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 227-435; fax: 228-253; e-mail: fincom@fcb.mldnet.com).

International Commercial Bank (Moldova), 108 Mitropolit Dosoftei Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 226-025; fax: 225-053; e-mail: info@icbsb.md).

Investprivatbank, 34 Sciusev Street, Chisinau 2001 (tel: 274-386; fax: 540-510; email: bnc@ipb.mldnet.com).

Mobiasbanca, 65 Tighina Street, Chisinau 2001 (tel/fax: 541-974; email: info@bcmobias.moldova.su).

Moldindconbank, 38 Armeneasca Street, Chisinau 2012. (tel: 225-521; fax: 279-195; email: computer@micb.net.md).

Moldova - Agroindbank, 9 Cosmonautilor Street, Chisinau 2006 (tel: 222-770; fax: 242-454).

PetrolBANK, 33 Ismail Street, Chisinau 2001 (tel: 500-101; fax: 548-827; email: juri@petrolbank.com).

Savings Bank, 115 Columna Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 244-722; fax: 244-731; email: bem@cni.md).

Unibank, 26 Pushkin Street, Chisinau 2012 (tel: 225-586; fax: 220-530).

Universalbank, 180 Stefan cel Mare Avenue, Chisinau 2004 (tel: 246-406; fax: 246-489; email: stabil@mail.universalbank.md).

Victoriabank, 141 August 31 Street, Chisinau 2004 (tel: 233-065; fax: 233-933; email: mail@victoriabank.md).

Central bank

Banca Nationala a Moldovei, 7 Renasterii Avenue, Chisinau 2006 (tel: 221-679; fax: 220-591; e-mail: webmaster@bnm.org).

Stock exchange

Bursei de Valori a Moldavie (Moldova Stock Exchange) (MSE), www.moldse.md

Travel information

Air Moldova, Aeroportul Chisinau, MD 2026, Chisinau (tel: 529-356; fax: 525-064; internet: www.mdv.md).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Piata Marii Adunari 1, MD-2033, Chisinau (tel: 227-620; fax: 232-388).

National tourist organisation offices

National Tourism Agency, 180 Stefan cel Mare Street, Office 901 Chisinau MD 2004, (tel: 210 774; internet www.turism.md).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, 162 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 233-427; fax: 232-368).

Ministry of Culture, 1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale, Chisinau (tel: 227-620; fax: 232-388).

Ministry of Defence, 84 Vasile Alexandri Street, Chisinau (tel: 781-156; fax: 233-507).

Ministry of Economy and Reforms, Piata Marii Adunari Nationale 1, 277033 Chisinau (tel: 221-133; fax: 234-064).

Ministry of Education, 1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale (tel: 233-151; fax: 233-474).

Ministry of Finance, Cosmonautilor Street, 277012 Chisinau (tel: 233-575; fax: 228-610).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1 Piata Marii Adunari Nationale, Chisinau (tel: 233-940; fax: 232-302).

Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Piata Marii Adunari Nationale 1, Chisinau 277033 (tel/fax: 234-628).

Ministry of Health, 1 Vasile Alexandri Street, Chisinau (tel: 721-010; fax: 738-781).

Ministry of Industry and Trade, 69 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 233-556; fax: 227-346).

Ministry of Internal Affairs, 75 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 221-201; fax: 222-723).

Ministry of Justice, 82, 31 August Street, Chisinau (tel: 233-340; fax: 234-797).

Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, 1 Vasile Alexandri Street, Chisinau (tel: 737-572; fax: 723-000).

Ministry of National Security, 166 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 239-454; fax: 242-018).

Ministry of Privatisation and State Property Administration, 26 Puskin Street, Chisinau (tel: 234-350; fax: 234-336; internet site: http://privatization.md).

Ministry of Territorial Development, Public Utilities and Construction, 3 Gheorghe Tudor Street, Chisinau (tel: 259-111; fax: 259-499).

Ministry of Telecommunications and Informatics, 134 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 221-001; fax: 241-553).

Ministry of Transport and Road Construction, 12/A Bucuriei Street, Chisinau (tel: 629-450; fax: 624-875).

Other useful addresses

British Embassy (there is no British representative in Moldova but the British Embassy in Moscow has some responsibility), Commercial Department, Kutuzovsky Prospekt 7/4, Moscow 121248 (tel: 956-7477; fax: 956-7480).

Business Centre of Moldova Ltd., Stefan cel Mare 180, Room 303, 277004 Chisinau (tel: 247-914; fax: 247-915).

Department of Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations, 69 Cheorghe Asachi Street, Chisinau (tel: 233-430; fax: 233-430).

Department of Customs Control, 65 Columna Street, Chisinau (tel: 549-460; fax: 263-061).

Department of Energy Resources and Fuel, 50 Eminescu Street, Chisinau (tel: 221-010; fax: 222-264).

Department of Environmental Protection, 73 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 226-161; fax: 233-806).

Department of National Relations, 109/1, Alexei Mateevici Street, Chisinau (tel: 240-292; fax: 243-610).

Department of Publishing, Polygraphy and Trade of Books, 180 Stefan cel Mare Boulevard, Chisinau (tel: 246-525).

Department of Standards, Metrology and Technical Control, 48 Serghei Lazo Street, Chisinau (tel: 247-991; fax: 222-321).

Department of Statistics, 124 Stefan cel Mare Avenue, Chisinau 227001 (tel: 233-549; fax: 545-162).

MoldEnerg, 78 Vasile Alexandri Str, 277012 Chisinau (tel: 221-065; fax: 253-142).

Moldexpo International Exhibition Centre, 1 Ghiocilor, 277008 Chisinau (tel: 627-416; fax: 627-420).

Moldovan Foreign Trade Organisation, ul Sadovaya 65, 277018 Chisinau (tel: 244-436; fax: 223-226).

Moldova-Gaz, 38 Albisoara Str, 277005 Chisinau (tel: 256-778; fax: 240-014).

Moldova Stock Exchange, 73 Stefan cel Mare, 277001 Chisinau (tel: 265-554; fax: 228-969).

Moldovan Embassy (USA), 2101 S Street, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 667-1130; fax: (+1-202) 667-120-4; e-mail: moldova@dgs.dgsys.com).

Moldsilva (Forestry Association), 124 Stefan cel Mare Blvd, 277012 Chisinau (tel: 262-256; fax: 223-251).

National Association of Banks, 7 Renasterii Str, 277006 Chisinau (tel: 225-177; fax: 229-382).

National Foreign Trade Company (Moldova-EXIM), 65 Mateevici Str, 277012 Chisinau (tel: 223-226; fax: 244-436).

National Fuel Association, 90 Columna Str, 277001 Chisinau (tel: 223-078; fax: 240-509).

State Company Teleradio Moldova National TV and Radio, 64 Hincesti Highway, 277028 Chisinau (tel: 721-077, 721-863).

Other news agencies: Basa-press: www.basa.md

Infotag: www.infotag.md

Interlic: http://en.interlic.md

Moldpres: www.moldpres.md