



International Conference of the Institute of European Democrats in collaboration with Mladí Európania

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# MOLDOVA BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

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## Programme

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*Bristol Central Park Hotel, Strada Puskin 32, 2012 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova*

*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

**9:00 – 9:15**     **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

**9:15 – 9:40**     **Welcome Speeches**

- ★ **Luca BADER**, CEO of the Institute of European Democrats (IED).
- ★ **Antonio PARZIALE**, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in Slovakia.

**9:40 – 11:00**     **PANEL I.**

**Moldova between East and West from international perspective: European Union, Russia and the future of Moldova's geopolitical orientation.**

*Moderator:* **Slavomír RUDENKO**, Director for International Affairs of the Pan-European University in Bratislava, Slovakia, Member of the Board of Directors of the IED.

- ★ **Robert KIRNAG**, Slovak diplomat and Ambassador of Slovakia to the Republic of Moldova.
- ★ **Monika BEGOVIC**, Croatian political scientist, Expert on the International affairs and Project Manager for the Center for International Studies, Atlantic Council of Croatia and Empiria Magna Ltd.
- ★ **Mihai SEBE**, Romanian political scientist and Expert on the European politics of the European Institute of Romania.

*Questions & answers*

**Key questions:**

- Why is the EU-Moldovan Association Agreement a breaking point in the EU-Moldovan relationship? What commitments does the Agreement formulate? What is the relationship and current state of negotiations between the EU and Moldova?
- Reflecting the outcome of the recent presidential elections in Moldova, is there a political will in Moldova to continue in the launched negotiations with the EU *or* rather deepen the ties with Russia? Will Moldova move towards the EU *or* Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union?
- The EU as an option – is there a chance for Moldova to become an actor not just an addressee in the EU-Moldovan relations?
- What example and practices the countries which entered the EU in the last enlargement rounds in 2004, 2007 and 2013 (Slovakia, Romania, Croatia respectively) can offer to Moldova?
- How the problems the EU is facing now will influence the future of the EU-Moldovan relationship? What is the future of the European integration? Is Moldova the priority for the EU External Policy?
- What is the role of the Russian Federation in the formulation of Moldova's foreign policy orientation?

**11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break**

**11:30 –13:00 PANEL II.**

**Moldova between East and West from domestic perspective: Political, social and economic challenges of Moldova.**

*Moderator: Slavomír RUDENKO.*

- ★ **Veaceslav IONIȚĂ**, Associate Professor at the Free International University of Moldova, Expert on European Economy with the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives IDIS Viitorul and former Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova.
- ★ **Dorin CHIRTOACĂ**, Moldovan politician, jurist and the Mayor of the city of Chisinau.
- ★ **Serghei OSTAF**, Director of the Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO) and the Member of the Expert Panel of the Freedom of Assembly for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights OSCE/ODIHR.
- ★ **Serghei ANASTASOV**, Moldovan Politician and the Mayor of the city of Comrat.

*Questions & answers*

**Key questions:**

- What impact will the outcome of the recent presidential elections in Moldova have on the Association Agreement and the overall internal political situation in the country? How considerably is the Moldovan society divided in the question of a positive attitude towards the EU?
- What are the major economic, political and social challenges Moldova is facing now? Is the EU viewed as a chance how to resolve these problems? Or alternatively, does the Moldovan society perceive the Russian Federation and its economic and political assistance as more suitable options how to improve the complicated situation in the country?
- How to resolve the economic situation in the country? How to raise the employment and combat the high level of poverty in the country?
- How to tackle the high level of corruption and selective justice in Moldova? What is the role of civil society, public sector and NGOs in the process of combating corruption?
- What is the current state of affairs between Moldova and Russian Federation over Transnistria?

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 – 14:50 PANEL III. Youth in Moldova and Europe:**

**Youth Perception of the future of the EU-Moldovan relations and EU Neighbourhood Policy.**

- ★ **Natalia STERCUL**, PhD Candidate of Political Sciences and Lecturer at the Faculty of International Relations and Political and Administrative Science at the Moldova State University.
- ★ **Veronika OKATÁ**, Representative of the Slovak youth organization Mladí Európania (ME).
- ★ **Miroslava CALEGARI**, Representative of the European youth organization Young Democrats for Europe (YDE).

**Key questions:**

- What is the view of Moldovan youth on the current state of the EU-Moldovan relations? How can youth in Moldova influence the current state of affairs? Does Moldovan youth see the future of Moldova in the EU or does it favor the inclination to the Eurasian Economic Union?
- How does youth from the EU perceive the future of Moldova, the EU-Moldovan negotiations and the EU Neighborhood Policy in general?
- SHARING THE BEST PRACTICE – What is the experience of youth in Slovakia before and after the country entered the EU in 2004? What are the greatest advantages and disadvantages of being in the EU? How the youth can be influential on the European and national level and in public affairs?

**14:50 – 15:00 Closing Remarks**

- ★ **Slavomír RUDENKO.**