



## **FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**Grant: "Financial support to the participation of the  
Republic of Moldova in the EU Programme Horizon  
2020 for the years 2016-2017"**

**Coordinator of the grant contract: Ministry of Education,  
Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova**

**ENI 2017/ 386-980**

**August 2020**

*Project funded by:*  
The European Union







MINISTERUL  
EDUCAȚIEI, CULTURII  
ȘI CERCETĂRII



Approved

**Mr. Igor ȘAROV**

**Minister,**

Ministry of Education, Culture and Research  
of the Republic of Moldova

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August 20, 2020

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***List of acronyms used in the report:***

ASM – Academy of Sciences of Moldova

CIP - Centre of International Projects, Academy of Sciences of Moldova

Code S&I - Code on Science and Innovation of the Republic of Moldova

EC – European Commission

ERA – European Research Area

EU – European Union

ERC – European Research Council

EaP - Eastern Partnership countries

EOSC – European Open Science Cloud

H2020 – EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020

HE - EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON EUROPE 2027

GC – Grant Contract ENI/2017/3846-980

JRC – Joint Research Centre

MECR - Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova

MOST – Moldovan Office for Science and Technology

MSCA - Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions

NARD – National Agency for Research and Development

NCP – National Contact Points

NE – National Expert

OR – Official Representative

PC – H2020 Programme Committees

R&D – Research and Development

R&I - Research and Innovation

RM – Republic of Moldova

WG – Working Group

## 1. Description

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- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova**
- 1.2. Name and title of the contact person: **Ms. Aliona ONOFREI, Head of Research and Innovation Policy Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova**
- 1.3. Name of beneficiary and affiliated entity in the Action: **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova**
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **"Financial support to the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the EU Programme Horizon 2020 for the years 2016-2017"**
- 1.5. Contract number: **ENI 2017/ 386-980**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **23 August 2017 – 23 August 2020**
- 1.7. Target country: **Republic of Moldova**
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries & target groups<sup>1</sup> (if different) (including numbers of women and men): **Public Authorities and Institutions, Scientific Community & Civil Society of the Republic of Moldova (Research Institutions, Higher Education Institutions, SMEs, NGOs, etc.**
- 1.9. Country in which the activities take place: **Republic of Moldova**

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<sup>1</sup> "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.



## Assessment of implementation of Action's activities

### *2.1. Executive summary of the Action that achieved the Overall Objective*

The overall objective of the GC is **to support the process of strengthening the fields of research and innovation in the Republic of Moldova, to promote national participation in the H2020 EU Programme and to increase the competitiveness and the quality of R&I fields.**

In 2015-2016, the research and innovation system in the Republic of Moldova was assessed by means of a group of international experts under the EU H2020 Policy Support Facility. This resulted in seven political messages, supported by twenty four detailed recommendations. These messages mainly refer to the proposals to strengthen the research and innovation system in the Republic of Moldova by addressing a set of structural deficiencies and enhancing the existing strengths. The Peer Review provided external advice and operational recommendations to the Moldovan authorities on possible reform to undertake in the following focus areas: increasing the efficiency of public R&I funding and the quality of the R&I performing bodies and instruments, improving the policies for human resources and mobility of researchers, boosting business innovativeness and science-business links and increasing R&I impact by properly defining the policy instruments.

As a result of the recommendations, the Code on S&I, as well as normative acts in the fields of research and innovation and strategic document adjustments were performed. The reform foreseen the distribution of roles between the main actors responsible for the management of the R&I fields in the country, distribution of research funding in basic and competitive way; enlargement of entities participation in R&I competitions, development of instruments for R&I infrastructures, and promotion of support actions for increasing the participation in R&I programs.

Thus, the Government of the Republic of Moldova empowered the **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR)** to develop and establish public policies in the fields of research and innovation and to coordinate and finance the Research and Higher Education Institutions. At the same time, the Ministry became the founder of 19 research institutes.

Furthermore, the Government established the **National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)**, which implements the state policy according to the Action Plan approved by the Government to implement the National Program and sectorial strategies. NARD also organizes competition of projects in the field of research and innovation and manages the budget approved for funding the projects, in line with the regulatory framework.

Also, the Government established the **National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (NAQAER)** which implements state policies and contributes to the development oriented towards the best international standards in the areas of competence assigned: quality assessment in general, technical and higher professional education; external evaluation of continuous professional training programs; external evaluation of organizations in the fields of



research and innovation; evaluation of the scientific and scientific-didactic staff and control over the quality of general, vocational and continuing education, compliance with the accreditation and authorization requirements of entities offering educational programs and services.

Moreover, the **Academy of Sciences of Moldova** provides scientific support and opinion for the strategic planning of the fields of research and innovation and is the strategic consultant of the Government in the fields of research and innovation.

**The good cooperation between the above entities** will contribute to the sustainable development and strengthening the fields of research and innovation that will have a positive public perception of R&I as a driving force of socio-economic progress, as well as becoming more attractive for the young scientists and career development.

**The series of supporting activities were performed in accordance with the GC Special and General Conditions** which led to the strengthening of R&I fields, the facilitation of integration into ERA, and participation in H2020. These activities include: organising the specific Calls for proposals to facilitate the participation in H2020, organising trainings to upgrade the skills in the proposals' writing and grants' administration, organizing the promotional and informative campaigns regarding the integration into ERA, coordinating the activity of National Contact Points Network, Official Representatives and National Experts in the H2020 PC, coordinating the activity of Moldovan Office for Science and Technology, supporting researchers from the Republic of Moldova in their integration in ERA infrastructures, joining the specific instruments (e.g. ERA-Nets, Joint Programming Initiatives, etc.) and other activities to develop opportunities for participation in H2020 with acknowledgements of the EU support and contribution.

An important moment to be mentioned is that the National Program for Research and Innovation (NPRI) for the years 2020-2023 and the Action Plan for its implementation (GD No.381/2019) will support further participation in H2020 and prepare to the forthcoming EU Framework Programme – Horizon Europe 2021-2027.

Also, the National Agency for Research and Development, which was created for financing the research and innovation, is staffed and became operational as per EU recommendations. The National Contact Points Network moved under coordination of NARD from April 2018 and covers all sectors according to the configuration, established by EC for H2020 Programme.

Up to day, according to the official information reflected on the EU portal E-CORDA, the Republic of Moldova submitted 393 eligible proposals with the 470 applications to H2020. Out of them the European Commission has awarded 57 H2020 projects with 75 participation of Moldovan Institutions with the H2020 EU contribution of 6,48 M EUR.

**According to statistics on R&I fields, the Republic of Moldova takes the first place between Eastern Partnership countries**, reported per 1 million of population by projects funded under H2020 EU Programme. Moldova entities have established collaborative links with the EU Member States, Associate-Candidate and Associated countries to H2020 EU Programme.



Moldova registered a stable range of funded projects under umbrella of H2020 EU Programme in period of reform with a higher EU contribution before reform in R&I area.

## *2.2. Executive summary of the Action that achieved the Specific Objectives*

The GC is focused to **support the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme**, in the fields of Research and Innovation that will lead to the achievement of the objectives contained in Europe 2020 strategy.

Research and innovation have been placed at the centre of the Europe 2020 strategy to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The Innovation Union flagship initiative provides a comprehensive set of actions for stepping up research and innovation performance.

**In this respect, the participation of the scientific community from the Republic of Moldova in H2020 EU Programme is an important way of internationalizing the national R&I system, as well as of ensuring the process of integration in the European Research Area.** The association to the H2020 EU Programme ensured favourable conditions for representing the Republic of Moldova in the EU R&I structures, and promoted the positive image of national science for attracting young and talented people as well as experienced researchers, investors and business representatives to the national R&I system, and facilitating their access to sales markets.

Besides, Horizon 2020 provides a lot of opportunities to increase the national contribution and involvement for implementation the ERA priorities. Under the MECR initiative, **the Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted the National Roadmap for the Integration of the Republic of Moldova into the ERA and its implementation Action Plan in 2018** with the aim to increase national contribution and involvement for implementation the ERA priorities. The document entails building a genuine single market for knowledge, R&I, enabling researchers, research institutions and businesses to circulate, compete and co-operate across borders. In order to achieve the ERA principles (5+1 priorities), aimed at transposing of sustainable changes, the Republic of Moldova looks to reach the level of performance and effectiveness of European research by ascending evolution of national research system, optimal transnational cooperation and competition, an open labour market for researcher, gender equality in research and promotion of youth, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge and increase of international cooperation. In order to achieve these aims, the full range of support is integrated across the research and innovation cycle within the H2020 Programme. The specific actions are available for spreading excellence and widening participation that permit Moldova to accumulate experience of the EU Member States in development of R&I activities. Within the Eastern Partnership Moldova was a single country which succeeded to obtain a high number of projects within the H2020-Twinning Calls and Sustainable Calls for Joint Programmes Initiatives.

As the fields of research and innovation are vital to people's futures, it is important to bring the research and innovation activities funded through Horizon 2020 to the attention of the general public, showing in particular the added value of Union level action. This will generate better public understanding, engagement and debate. Information and communication measures are therefore an integral part of Horizon 2020 implementation. These measures will also focus on communicating the outcomes of research to policy makers, companies, innovators and other



researchers, including by promoting Open Access. In this sense, at the national level, MECR coordinates the policies on access to the scientific information that constitutes an objective within the ERA. At the same time, NARD takes part in all the working groups of H2020 programs, including at the establishment of European Open Science Cloud and other H2020 EU Programme instruments.

**Also, MECR jointly with NARD promote specific activities to increase the interest towards open opportunities of the H2020 EU Programme and to accelerate the integration into the ERA.** The national support instruments are being established, taking into account the experience of EU states and EU Guideline on H2020 Programme. The reinforced NCP Network, Official Representatives and National Experts entities allow strengthening the professional capacity in H2020 EU Programme participations. There were performed a series of flashmobs, brokerage events, winter and summer schools, webinars, on-site trainings and consultancies for interested entities in EU Programme, drafted a series of dissemination actions regarding the opportunities offered by the programme and obtained results by the scientific community, encouraged the women in R&I fields, and ensured the visibility of the programme and other support actions.

**In addition, the Republic of Moldova joined different Working Groups established in H2020 EU Programme** in order to contribute to policymaking decisions in implementing the EU Programme (EOSC, PC, JRC, ERC etc.), gained and developed knowledge in managing H2020 mechanism, and respectively, improved the national framework on R&I system.

Besides, the EU R&I infrastructure was analysed and the connection to COST, ERA.NETs and Joint Programme Initiatives of H2020 was established, and also, transnational calls were organized with EU support (Water JPI, ERA.NET.RUS.PLUS, AMR JPI, Biodiversa JPI, Aquatic Pollutants, etc.). As well the Republic of Moldova has signed bilateral agreements with EU Member States and Associated Countries to H2020 EU Programme (Turkey, Belorussia, Romania etc.) for development of cooperation in the R&I system, exchange of experience and improvement of participation in H2020.

The Ministry of the Education, Culture and Research, as the central public authority responsible for developing state policies in the fields of research and innovation, assumes the responsibility to promote research and innovation principles in the Republic of Moldova, keeping under special attention and control the integration to the European Research Area and further achievement of the Europe 2020 goals.

This approach is very important for completing the participation in H2020 and preparing for the next EU framework programme - Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2027 in order to maximize the impact in the context of the evolving nature of research and innovation, with an architecture designed for enhanced coherence and performance. Horizon Europe will incorporate policy missions to ensure the effectiveness of research and innovation funding by pursuing clearly defined targets.



Implementing the GC, MECR introduced the wide range of activities for the scientific community, promoting the integration into the ERA, facilitated participation in H2020 and underlined the most important issues related to the next programme which are already incorporated in the current H2020 open calls.

Horizon Europe will significantly strengthen international **cooperation** which is crucial to ensure access to talent, knowledge, know-how, facilities and markets worldwide, to effectively tackle global challenges and to implement global commitments. In this regard, MECR as the responsible authority for developing the state policy and governance in the R&I fields will assure all needed steps for preparing the association to the next EU Framework Programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027). In this context, we would like to mention that the intention for association to the new European Union Framework Program for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2027 has been elaborated. (letter no. 04 / 2-09 / 1587 of 09.03.2020)

At the same time, the draft decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova on the initiation of negotiations on the draft Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the European Union Framework Program for Research and Innovation "Horizon Europe" for 2021-2027 was elaborated, consulted with the interested ministries and sent to the Parliamentary Committee "the Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration" for approval.

### **2.3. Results and Activities**

#### **2.3.1 The entry fees are paid timely to DG RTD – EC Commission**

**The membership fees to H2020 are paid on time** according to the requirements stated in the "AGREEMENT between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Union programme Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)".

For the period of 2014 to 2017 year, the membership fees to H2020 were paid by the ASM; and starting with 2018 to 2020 the membership fees are paid by MECR, as follows:

<b>H2020 Work Programmes</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount paid, EUR</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>
<b>H2020 Work Programme (2014-2015)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>888.873,85</b>	<b>ASM</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>938.454,68</b>	<b>ASM</b>
<b>H2020 Work Programme (2016-2017)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>945,236,24</b>	<b>ASM (ANNEX no.2)</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>1.025.150,55</b>	<b>ASM (ANNEX no.3)</b>
<b>H2020 Work Programme (2018-2020)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>1.113.708,07</b>	<b>MECR (ANNEX no.4)</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>1.211.237,38</b>	<b>MECR (ANNEX no.5)</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>1.331.670,45</b>	<b>MECR (ANNEX no.6)</b>



In 2018 two instalments in a total amount of 1.113.708, 07 EUR for the participation of the Republic of Moldova in H2020 were paid on March 06, 2018 and June 21, 2018 correspondingly.

In 2019 two instalments in a total amount of 1.211.237, 38 EUR were paid by MECR on March 12, 2019 and July 24, 2019.

In 2020 MECR paid the total amount of 1.331.670, 45 EUR on February 27, 2020 and July 21, 2020 to the EU budget for Moldova's participation in H2020.

### ***2.3.2 The network of National Contact Points is functional and covers all sectors.***

***The network of National Contact Points was created and it covers all sectors prescribed by H2020,*** according to provisions stated by EU "A short guide for Horizon 2020 National Contact Points in EU partner countries". The NCPs Network is functional and is fulfilled by the representatives of research institutions, high education institutions, public bodies, and NGOs, according to the work area. All members are contracted on part-time basis.

Just after the establishment of NARD, starting with April 2018 **the coordination of the NCPs Network was under the responsibility of the National Agency for Research and Development, an implementing public authority of R&I policy** (successor of rights and obligations of CIP (ANNEX no. 7) from July, 2018). In regard of harmonizing the activity of NCPs Network in RM to the EU Standards, NARD approved "Rules on organization of the support Network" (2018) that states their duties and responsibilities. NCPs are selected through a public competition, and correspondingly the EU Directorate General for Research Technology and Development is informed systematically about the changes. NARD completed all NCPs positions and the list of NCPs Network is published on national and European websites<sup>2</sup>.

**The NCPs are actively trained to improve professional skills and** they are involved in cross-cutting issues of research projects management, and use of good practices, workshops and trainings. The NCPs attended 79 trainings and workshops provided by international mentors in the configuration area. With this purpose, NARD joined to "NCP Academy" project funded by EU H2020 Programme and follows to improve the NCPs Network knowledge for the next EU Programme under the "Bridge2HE" project.

**At the same time, the NCPs duties are provided in close cooperation with other support national network** as Moldovan Office for Science and Technology, RO, EN, Representatives of Working Groups etc. The main duties of NCPs Network are to provide support to interested entities in H2020 EU Programme, to disseminate the opportunities of the Programme and to

<sup>2</sup> (<https://ancd.gov.md/ro/content/puncte-nationale-de-contact>, <http://h2020.md/en/npc>, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp:sortQuery=country>).



ensure its visibility. In addition, NCPs Network contributes to national adjustment of R&I system.

Due to the NCPs Network cooperation with national entities, the research community got knowledge of EU research infrastructures, keys of success in competition, use of EU platform and best practices and stories. NCPs Network elaborated diverse promotional materials (booklets, video spots, flyers etc.) regarding the H2020 Programme used at the organized workshops, flashmobs, summers schools, and other interactive events dedicated for public and private organizations, in particular for research community, entrepreneurs and students.

### *2.3.2.1 Number of NCPs covers all sectors: at least 22 NCPs remain appointed.*

**The NCPs Network in the Republic of Moldova is composed by 22 NCPs and 1 National Coordinator (ANNEX no. 8).** The network is recognized as the main structure that provides guidance, practical information and assistance to all interested entities. The structure of Network is typical, and involves cross-cutting and thematic NCPs. The cross-cutting NCPs are: NCP coordinator and Legal and Financial Aspects NCP. Moldovan NCP coordinator is responsible for development and improvement of the NCPs system. The Legal and Financial Aspects NCP provides assistance on financial rules of H2020 for community, including for NCPs Network. Thematic NCPs covers 20 sectors of the programme that is adopted at national requirements for providing the assistance of interested stakeholders.

A part of thematic NCPs are involved in the operation of H2020 thematic priority area in the aim of providing the professional services to potential applicants of H2020, offering partner search/liaison services, consortium building, including training and mentoring activities (e.g. are: Bio horizon, Idealist, Access4SMEs, Net4Society, NCP Academy, Net4Mobility, etc.).

All NCPs are supplied with adequate technical equipment, office and common work platform of communication. In addition, a special web gate of correspondence, webpage: [www. h2020.md](http://www.h2020.md), and social profiles has been developed.

**Besides, NCPs are guided by OR, EN and MOST in performing their duties.** RM is represented within the Strategic Configurations of Committee Programme of H2020, according to EU Standards. The Republic of Moldova has nominated 14 OR assisted by NE as follows: ERC, FET, MSCA, Research Infrastructures, ICT, Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy, SMEs and Access to Risk Finance, Space, Europe and a changing World – Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies (ANNEX no. 9), etc. MOST OR is promoting the participation of Moldovan R&D organizations, as well as SMEs and relevant NGOs within European R&D programs, promoting research results of Moldovan scientists and innovation within the ERA, disseminating relevant information through the national NCPs network, about open calls of proposals, rules of participation and submission guidelines, promoting the participation of Moldovan R&D organizations and individual researchers within other initiatives launched under ERA, among others.

**2.3.2.2 NCPs are actively promoting H2020 possibilities for projects under H2020 umbrella: NCPs perform activities promoting H2020 in their sectors.**

The NCP Network promotional activities were developed under supervision of the supporting organizations: CIP: January 2014-February 2018, MECC&CIP: January-March 2018 and NARD: April 2018–till present.

**The Republic of Moldova respected the EU rules in organising the promotion actions** set by “Europe Aid Communication and Visibility Manual for External Actions” and “Communication and Visibility Requirements”. In this regard, at national level “Communication and visibility Plan (ANNEX no. 10) of GC no.2017/386-380 for External Action of EU” and in the reporting period ensured following promotional actions has been drafted:

No.	Type of action	No.	Host institution	Participants
<b>Main events</b>				
1.	Consultations	1057	NCPs	Researchers, public servants, creative industries and NGOs
2.	Info days/sessions	94	NCPs	University “Alecus Russo” State University of Balti, Comrat State University, Pedagogical State University “Ion Creanga” of Chisinau, University “B.P. Hasdeu” (Cahul), Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery “Domid Gherman”, National Botanical Garden “Alexandru Ciubotaru” (Institute), Agrarian Stat University of Moldova, Institute of Physics Applied, International Exhibition MOLDEXPO, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of RM, etc.
3.	Trainings and workshops	93	NCPs, NARD	Researchers, public servants, creative industries and NGOs
4.	Webinars	78	NCPs	Researchers
5.	Science Day	10	NCPs, MECR (3), NARD (5), ASM (2)	Public
6.	Info week	6	NCPs, NARD	Public
7.	Researcher’s Night	1	CIP/ASM	Public
8.	Europe Day	5	NCPs, NARD	Public



			(Chisinau, Ungheni, Cahul, online)	
9.	Winter school	1	NCPs NARD,	Researchers
10.	Summer school	1	NCPs, NARD	Researchers, representatives of NGOs, SMEs
11.	Flashmob	1	NCPs, NARD	Public
12.	Roadshow	1	NCPs, NARD	Researchers, representatives of NGOs, SMEs
<b>Promotion through Mass-Media, Internet and social networks</b>				
13.	Interview on TV	4	NCPs, NARD	Public
14.	Interview on Radio	3	NCPs, NARD	Public
15.	Publications/press-releases	212	NCPs, NARD	Public
16.	Announcements	347	NCPs, MOST, NARD	Public

Other specific actions are described below (see paragraph 4).

### **2.3.3 Moldova is actively involved in H2020.**

According to the CG conditions, the level of participation of the Republic of Moldova to the call for proposals under H2020 should not decrease but remain stable or, if possible, increase.

**Therefore, the participation of the Republic of Moldova in H2020 EU Programme remain increased in the reported period,** in compliance with the interactive reporting provided by Horizon Dashboard and eCORDA portal.

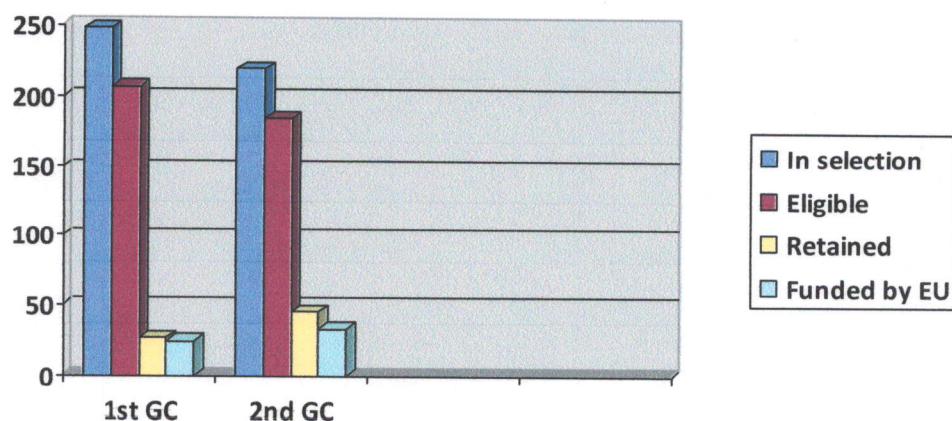
#### **2.3.3.1 "Number of proposals sent": number in the reporting period is equal or superior to the average of the previous 2 years.**

In period of 2014-2020 the total number of 470 applications were sent to H2020 EU Programme Calls, out of them 392 proposals were considered eligible. From this number of proposals were signed 57 grants with 75 participations (**ANNEX no. 12**).

The number of proposals sent to H2020 Calls, is the following:

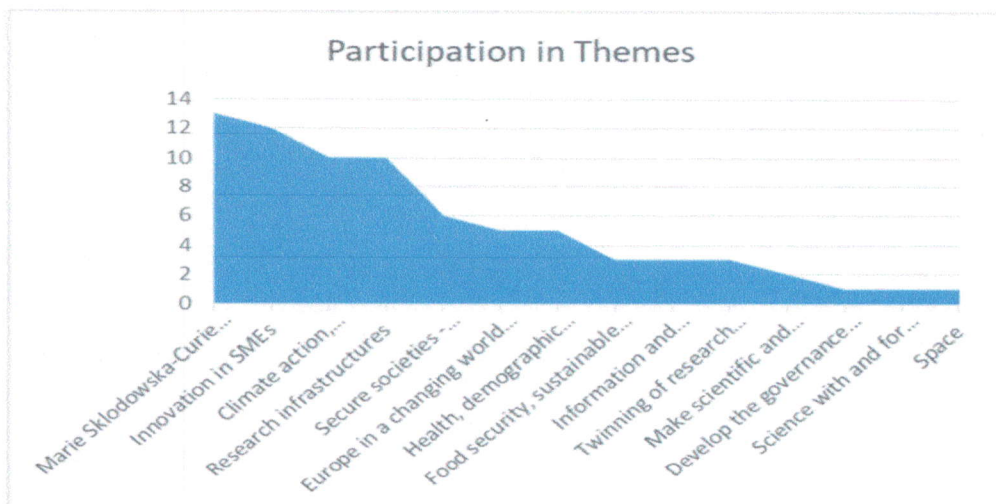
<b>Comparing Participation in the H2020 Calls</b>			
<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Period: 2014 - 2017</b>	<b>Period 2018 - 2020</b>	<b>Total Participations</b>
Proposals submitted	308	162	470
Retained projects for funding	38	19	57

According to the EU Data of H2020, the interactive statistics is presented below:



Comparing Awarded Projects in the H2020 Calls			
Period	2014 - 2017	2018- 2020	Total
Funded projects	38	19	57
Participations in the Projects	44	31	75

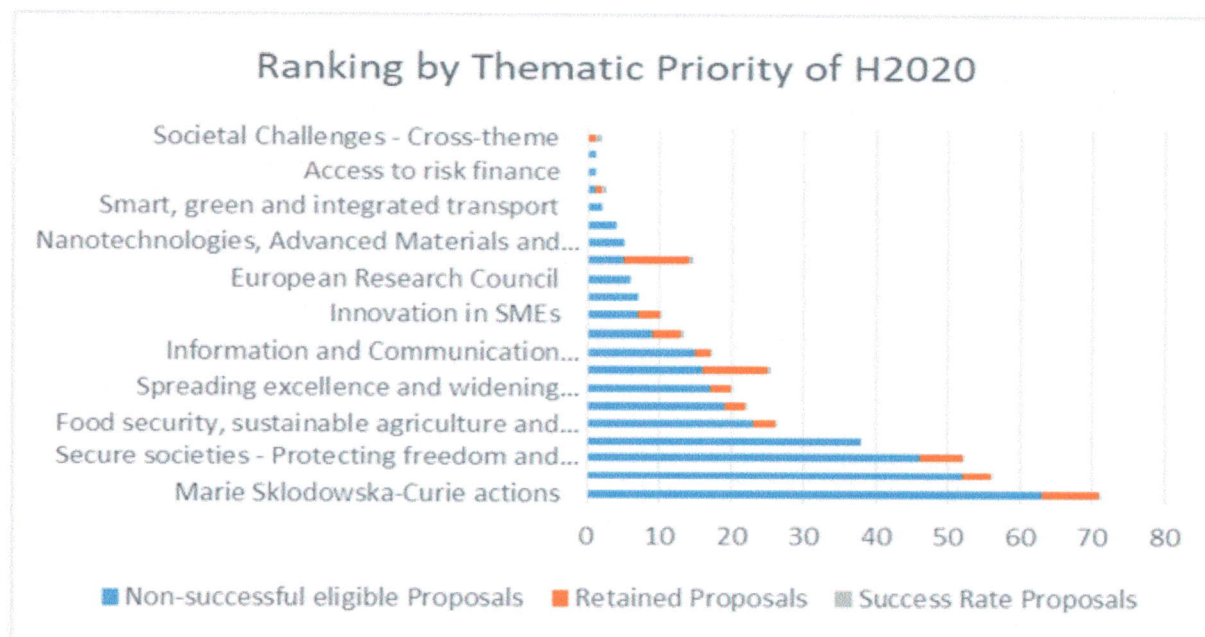
A higher interest of organizations by proposals sent is in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, there are registered 63 proposals. However 8 proposals are retained for funding. The success rate in the MSCA is 13%.



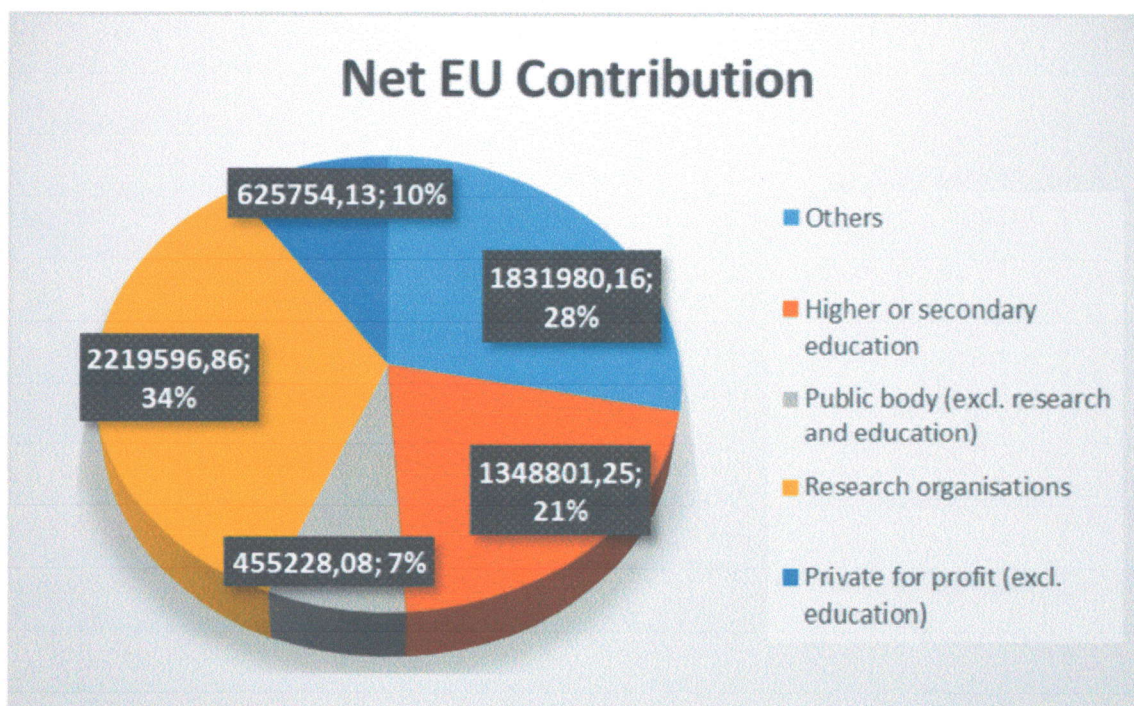
However, the highest success rate of proposals retained is registered in Research and Innovation theme where 14 proposals are submitted in selection, 9 proposals are retained for evaluation and 5 are non-successful. The success rate in R&I theme is 64%.



The chart bellow presents the comparative overview on proposals sent to retained proposals in the H2020 Call:

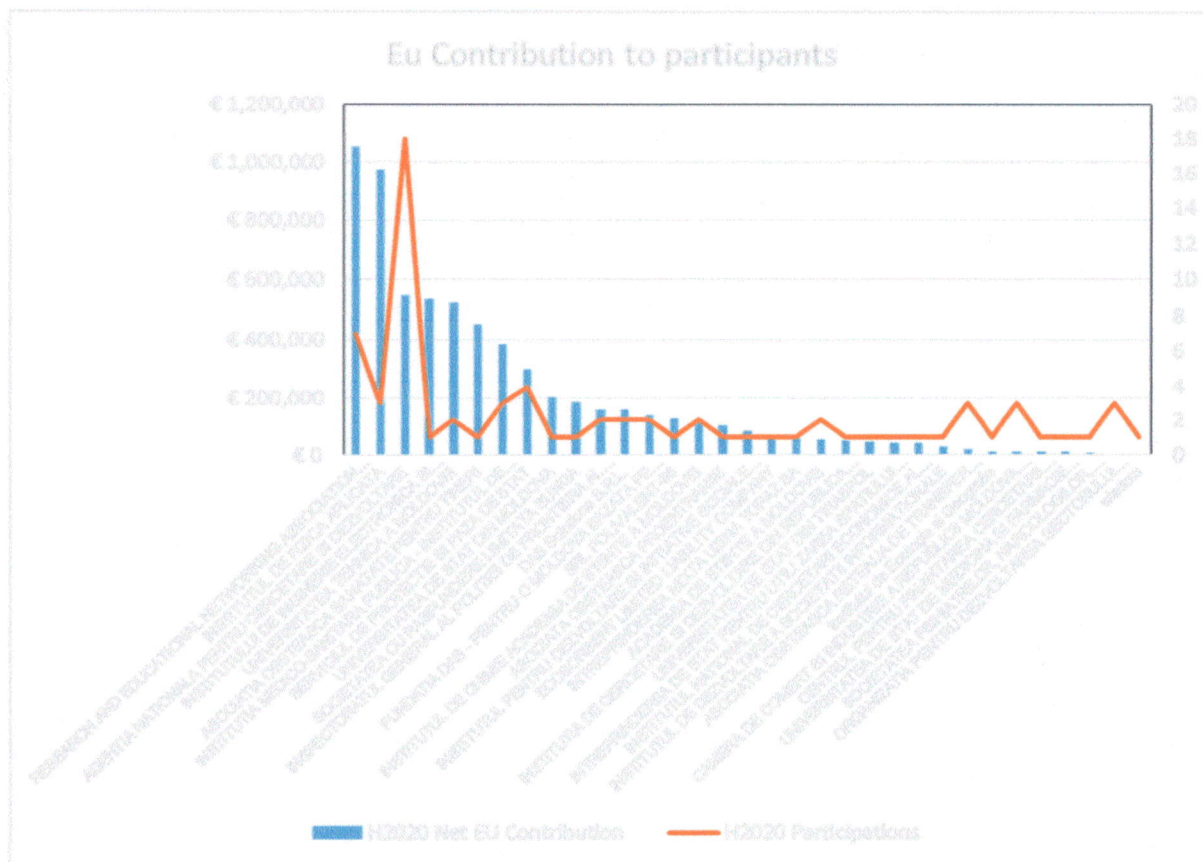


**The Republic of Moldova counts 470 of organisations that applied in H2020 Calls.** Top organisations that participated in the H2020 Programme remains Research and Innovation organisation with 34,2% rate, followed by Other organisations – 28,3%, Higher education organisations – 20,8%, Private organisations – 9,7%, and Public bodies – 7%.

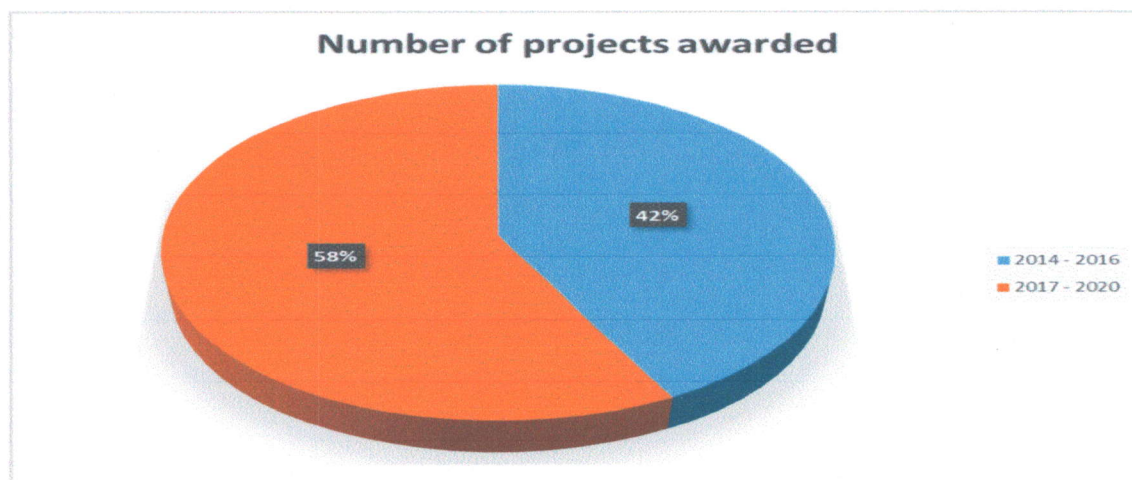




According to the EU Data of H2020, the interactive statistic of EU contribution for participants is presented below:



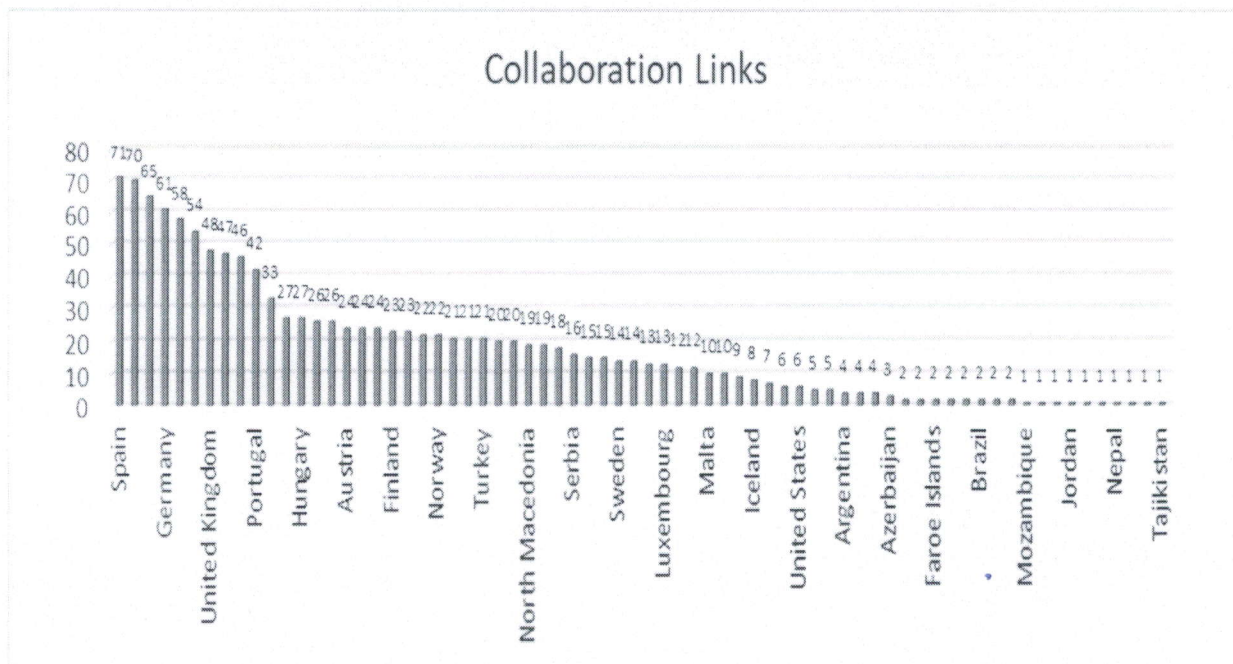
**2.3.3.2 "Number of projects awarded to Moldovan institutions": number in the reporting period is superior to the average of the previous 2 years corrected by the overall success rate of the respective calls or awarded budget in the reporting period is equal or superior to the average of the previous 2 years corrected by the overall success rate of the respective calls.**





Data on the signed grant agreements by Moldovan organisations in 2014 – 2016 counted 24 awarded projects and for the period of 2017 – 2020 is counted 33 awarded projects.

**Within the proposals submitted to the Horizon 2020, the Moldovan institutions developed the collaborative links** with the EU Member States, Associate-Candidate, associated to H2020, EaP countries and many others:



### Participation of the Republic of Moldova in the regional context (EaP)

The Republic of Moldova still could be considered as a very active country in the regional context. In comparison with the Eastern Partnership countries, the number of the projects with participation of the Republic of Moldova per 1 million of population is much higher, as it is presented below:

Country	Population, m	No. of awarded projects	No. of Projects per 1 m of Population	How much time Moldova is more active than EaP countries	EU Financial Contribution to the awarded projects, m EUR	EU Financial Contribution per 1 m population, m EUR
<b>Moldova</b>	2,657.64	<b>57</b>	<b>21,6</b>		6,481,360.00	2,438,765.22
<b>Georgia</b>	3,720.38	<b>42</b>	<b>11,29</b>	1.96	5,470,522.00	1,470,420.23
<b>Armenia</b>	2,957.73	<b>33</b>	<b>11,11</b>	1.96	3,317,049.00	1,121,484.72
<b>Ukraine</b>	44,385.15	<b>194</b>	<b>4,37</b>	5.40	33,147,618.00	746,817.75
<b>Belarus</b>	9,466.86	<b>50</b>	<b>5,29</b>	4.32	2,895,810.00	305,889.18
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	10,023.32	<b>12</b>	<b>1,2</b>	21.60	518,319.00	51,711.31

Source: Population- [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.pop.totl?name\\_desc=false](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/sp.pop.totl?name_desc=false)

Statistics: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eCORDA>



Out of all entities participations in all H2020 calls, 57 grants are signed with 75 Moldovan participations with the total of EU Contribution of 6481 360 M EUR.

#### ***2.3.4 The EU visibility is properly ensured according to EU Visibility Guidelines.***

Under this result, the EU visibility was ensured properly for two reasons: first, because of the need to acknowledge the source of funding, and second for raising awareness inside the researchers' community from the Republic of Moldova regarding the ERA. Therefore, the following indicator was applied:

##### ***2.3.4.1 "Number of visibility events strengthening the acknowledgment of funds", at least one event per reporting period was ensured.***

In order to ensure the EU visibility to acknowledge the source of funding and for raising awareness inside the scientific community of the Republic of Moldova regarding the European Research Area the Communication and Visibility Plan was elaborated and coordinated with the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova. According to the Communication and Visibility Plan approved by EU Delegation to the RM, for reporting period the main events were organised, as follows.

**Researchers Night** (09/2017) was organized by CIP in the front of the building of the ASM. It was an interactive event for all researchers and society, including diaspora. Research institutions presented the innovative equipment, materials and solutions. NCPs presented the opportunities in the H2020 and disseminated promotional materials. The researchers were awarded with diplomas and certificates of appreciations.

**Europe Day** (05/2017, 2018, 2019) organized in Chişinău, Ungheni, Cahul city following the EU Delegation Program by NARD. Visibility of H2020 was promoted by NCPs and NARD employees offering consultations, booklets, flayers and other promotional materials to civil society interested in EU Programme.

**INFO WEEK H2020** (06/2018, 03/2019). The events are on its IV<sup>th</sup> and V<sup>th</sup> edition with the aim to popularize the EU H2020 Programme, as well as to present the open calls within this Programme. InfoWeek events come to provide a platform for the scientific-academic and didactic environment to strengthen research teams for joint participation in open calls within the Horizon 2020 Program, to address the challenges in the field of Research-Development-Innovation area. The NCPs presented the opportunities of H2020 Programme, examples and application models, as well as examples of success stories within the programme.

**National Science Day** (11/ 2018) was an important event split in two days: the official ceremony offering MECR's and Government diplomas to researchers with outstanding performance. The first part of the event took place at the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu". The second part of the event included workshops, presentations and master classes organized within the National History Museum. All R&I Institutions participated in the event and informed the wide audience



about the research results and experience of participation in H2020 projects. The civil society had an open access and actively participated in these events (more than 1500 visitors were attended). Also, NARD organized info sessions in the ASM and National Library informing interested people in the H2020 opportunities. ASM organized a conference dedicated to the Science day opened for public with the implication of NCPs, where was distributed promotional materials of H2020.

**Information session on COST** (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) organized by MECR (05/2018) it was attended by representatives of research institutes and universities. The event discussed the conditions and opportunities for joining the COST Association. As a result, the Republic of Moldova became full member of COST Association on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. Starting with 2021, COST will be incorporated in the configuration of the Horizon Europe – EU Framework Programme for R&I.

**Information session for EUREKA** (reputable network of pan-European innovation co-operation) organized by MERC (10/2018) focused to the entrepreneurial environment in addition to the research community and academia.

**Informative Flashmob** (07/2019) dedicated to the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RM association to the EU H2020 Programme. It was organized in open air with the support of NCPs for civil society, informing them about the EU H2020 Programme and the achieved results.

**ROADSHOW "Supporting Innovative Small and Medium Enterprises. New instruments for SMEs"** (07/2019) was hosted by NARD in collaboration with the Technology Transfer Network of Moldova (RTTM), Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and the PRAXI Network of Greece. The Roadshow was attended by representatives of SMEs, innovation and technology incubators, research and higher education institutions, NGOs, as well as NCPs in the H2020 Programme.

**EU Sustainable Energy Week. Supporting EaP cluster and EU cluster organization** (07/2019), the event was dedicated to Sustainable Energy Week in the European Union and was hosted by NARD with the support of the Eastern Partnership Cluster and the EU, which was organized in partnership with the Public Bioenergy Association of Moldova and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The aim of this event was to bring together representatives from different fields of activity of public authorities, non-governmental organizations, researchers, NCPs, business people to promote energy saving initiatives and to move towards cleaner, more safe and effective and of course to inform them about the opportunities offered by EU H2020 Programme in this field.

**Summer school "Discover EU Programme Horizon 2020" (20-21 August 2019).** The event aimed to contribute to the training and capacity building of participation in the H2020 Programme. Summer School training focuses on the following topics: registration, navigation of



the submission portal, selection of Calls and partners to participate in Horizon 2020; Writing project proposals and essential elements; Phases of the project proposal after closing the Call. The role of the Coordinator and partners at the negotiation stage of the Grant Agreement; Project excellence and implementation; Project execution reporting; Success stories, exchange of experience; Instruments related to the EU H2020 Programme.

On September 20, 2019, in collaboration with the COST Association (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), an information session "**COST Info Day**" was organized. The objective of the event was to inform the scientific community of the Republic of Moldova about the COST cooperation framework, the activity of the program, how researchers can participate in existing COST actions, how to launch their own actions, but also about preparing/writing and submitting project proposals successfully.

**The Eastern Partnership Annual Conference on EU – EaP Research&Innovation Co-operation beyond 2020 was organized on October 21 in Chişinău.** The event was attended by about 100 people, representatives of national authorities from Eastern Partnership countries, especially those responsible for research and innovation policies, representatives of research and innovation agencies, researchers, as well as representatives of the business environment and civil society in order to present good practices as well as recent developments in research and innovation.

#### **National Science Day (11/2019).**

The ministry, with the support of the European Union, through the Framework Program for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020" organized the ninth edition of the "Science Day"(November 9, 9<sup>th</sup> edition). The event took place inside the National Museum of History of Moldova, where 40 research institutions in the country organized educational activities with adults and children.

Also, NARD organized a series of events: informational and interactive visit to the Botanical Garden "Alexandru Ciubotaru" (Institute) for a group of pupils, the Round table "The story of my research" and Open doors Day. In this way, NARD was visited by a group of students and representatives of R&I Institutions. During the events all the participants were informed about H2020 Programme, offered opportunities and obtained results. NCPs disseminated promotional materials and offered consultations. In addition, the published Brochure entitled "Horizon 2020 Success Stories of Moldova" was presented by NARD.

On November 29, 2019, in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, an information session on the work of **the European Innovation Council** was organized in Chişinău. The aim of the event was to present the mission of the European Innovation Council in the next Framework Program for Research and Innovation Horizon - Europe, for the period 2021-2027, as well as funding programs and instruments, as a solution to the challenges facing European countries in the development of innovation, the application procedure to the financing projects, the expertise criteria, etc.



**ENRICH Information Day & Training** (11/ 2019) was organized during the International Specialized Exhibition - INFOINVENT 2019 - 16th edition. The event aimed to facilitate cooperation for the development of multinational projects between entrepreneurs with innovation potential and researchers. The experience of Hungarian specialists in the European Network of Research & Innovation Centers and Hubs - Béla KARDON and Ildikó DOROGI was shared. In this sense, the event served as an ideal platform for business meetings, the creation of new perspective collaborations and the development of partnerships for new projects.

**The training campaign on writing project proposals and consulting international experts to assist public and private sector researchers in the process of preparing project proposals in the H2020 Programme** was organized (3-5 December 2019). In this respect, the European Commission in cooperation with NARD, as coordinator of the Network of NCPs in the H2020 Programme, organized this event with the participation of representatives of the public and private sectors from the Republic of Moldova. The goal of the event was to support and increase the participation rate of the Republic of Moldova in the EU Framework Programme H2020, as well as the integration of researchers in the ERA.

**Researcher's Night** – (2020, last Friday of September, in parallel with the EU member States), organized by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Technical University of Moldova and Information Society Development Institute, a project supported by EU.

**National Science Day** – (November, 2020), organized by MECR. This year, MECR proposes another concept of the event. During the event the results of the CG implementation will be presented.

***2.3.5 The law to modify and complete the Code of Sciences and Innovation no. 259-XV of 15/07/2004 entered into force and into implementation process.***

The Law no. 190 of September 21, 2017 on modification of the Code on Science and Innovation modified Law no. 259 of July 15, 2004 and entered into force on February 28, 2018 (**ANNEX no. 17**).

***2.3.5.1. Functioning necessary secondary legislation it is operational and is adopted at the latest 1 year of entry into force of the modified Law.***

Following to the recommended PSF measures the Government of the Republic of Moldova started structural optimization of the National R&I System. On **July 30, 2017** by the Government Decision no. 691 was approved the reorganization and mode of functioning of the new **Ministry of Education, Culture and Research**, with delegation of the competences to develop research and innovation policies and assure the overall governing of R&I System in the Republic of Moldova. Besides, one the main task of MECR was/is related to developing the National



Research and Innovation Program and to incorporate both peer review recommendations and solutions to the challenges faced by both the research community and society as a whole.

**Under Government Decision no. 196 from February 28, 2018** NARD was established (**ANNEX no.19**), a fully operational administrative authority as per EU recommendations. Three public institutions under the Academy of Sciences of Moldova: the Centre of International Projects, the Agency for Research and Development and the Agency for Innovation and Transfer Technology have been reorganized into NARD, their successor of rights and obligations.

Also, under **Government Decision no. 201 of February 28, 2018**, the Government established the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (NAQAER) (**ANNEX no.20**) which implements state policies and contributes to the development oriented towards the best international standards in the areas of competence assigned. Three national entities were reorganized: the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education, National School Inspectorate and the National Council for Accreditation and Attestation.

In regard of development of innovation field, **there was adopted the Law no. 226 of November 01, 2018** on scientific-technology parks and innovative incubators. The law regulates the process of establishment and organization of parks and incubators, participation in research and transfer technology projects and provided state facilities.

On **January 19, 2018**, by Government Decision no. 50, MECR became the **founder of 19 Research Institutes**, which previously pursued their activity within the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The necessary adjustments of their statutory normative acts and related documents, as well as the process of changing the founder were carried out.

**As well, by Government Decision no. 350 of April 18, 2018 the priorities of sectorial policy on middle term (2019 - 2021) were established.** The document provides that one of Government priority is R&I fields that shall be implemented by the responsible administrative body.

Moreover, **Government Decision no. 499/2018 regarding the Rules of organizing and operation of postdoctorate programme** changed the framework of postdoctorate studies into research projects. NARD is responsible for organizing the competition of research projects, funding and monitoring of postdoctorate programme. Annually, the Government approves the number of the post-doctorate programmes according to strategic priorities in R&I fields (e.g. Governmental Decision no. 460/2019, Government Decision no.572/2020).

In the sense of well-functioning of ASM, **under Government Decision no. 896 of September 12, 2018** regarding the Rules on election of researchers of science units of Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the rules of competition for research position in the units of ASM were provided. All positions of ASM members are fulfilled and all ASM research units are operational.

Furthermore, **by Government Decision no. 1081 of November 8, 2018** was approved “**The National Roadmap for Integration into the European Research Area for 2019-2021 and its**



**Implementation Plan” (ANNEX no. 21).** The document provides a number of actions aimed at implementing those 5+1 priorities of the ERA at the national level.

**Under Government Decision no. 1176 of 28.11.2018 are coordinated the activities of Moldovan Office for Science and Technology (MOST).** In this respect, NARD approved the Rules on organizing MOST activities and the office is fully operational in Brussels. In February 2019, MOST fulfilled the required arrangements and was re-established as a member of the IGLO Network.

**2.3.5.2. All necessary new secondary legislation/by-Law(s) is adopted and is entered into after 2 years of entry into force of the modified Law.**

According to the modified Code of Science and Innovation (**ANNEX no. 18**) the following normative acts were elaborated and approved by the Government of Moldova:

**The National Program in the fields of Research and Innovation for the years 2020-2023 and the Action Plan regarding its implementation was approved by Government Decision no. 381/2019 (ANNEX no.22).**

Within the National Program in the fields of research and innovation for the years 2020-2023, the priorities and objectives of development in the fields of research and innovation for a period of 4 years were established. The aim of the Program is to increase the efficiency of the national research and innovation system, to ensure the optimal conditions for generating new knowledge obtained based on fundamental and applied research and their implementation in order to increase the competitiveness of the economy.

Thus, the policy document provides a set of actions to be carried out for period of four years in order to develop the R&I system:

- Ensuring an efficient R&I system by promoting research based on excellence in strategic areas with relevance and impact on the economy and society by identifying niches of intelligent specialization of RM;
- More autonomous and responsible research and innovation organizations in the sphere open to collaboration and exchange of knowledge with the business community and society, ensuring the principle of open science;
- Increasing the number of jointly implemented projects by research groups and universities in order to redress the binaries situation of the RM research and education systems, as well as to increase the attractiveness of the research career;
- Establishment of excellence research centres and platforms for ongoing business dialogue to identify the issues and needs which can be solved by the results of R&I activities.

**The Methodology for financing projects in the fields of research and innovation was approved by Government Decision no. 382/2019 (ANNEX no. 23).** By approving this Methodology was established the normative framework regarding the procedure for organizing the competition of projects in the fields of research and innovation. The finalities pursued by the adoption of this act consist in organizing and conducting the competition for research and innovation projects, selecting and financing research and innovation projects from the state budget, as well as reporting and monitoring the implementation of research and innovation



projects. The document changed the mechanism of access to the funding of R&I subjects, types of competitions, funding rules and R&I results evidence.

**The Methodology of institutional funding of public organizations in the fields of research and innovation was approved by Government Decision no. 53 of February 5, 2020 (ANNEX no. 24).** The document sets out how to finance from the state budget the public organizations in the fields of research and innovation, including state higher education institutions for the maintenance and development of public infrastructure in the fields of research and innovation and related staff costs.

**The Methodology for the evaluation of organizations in the fields of research and innovation was elaborated and it is publicly consulted at the moment. (MECR and NAQAER)** The methodology of evaluation of organizations in the fields of research and innovation regulates the organization and development of the evaluation process of organizations in the fields of research and innovation and their classification by capacity levels.

Research and innovation organizations are evaluated in order to determine their level of capacity to act in order to fulfil the mission assumed from the point of view of research and innovation activities.

On the segment/field of **doctoral studies and post-doctoral programs**, a series of normative acts were elaborated and approved:

- The Methodology for conferring and confirming scientific titles (GD no. 497/2019).
- The Methodology for approving doctoral supervisors (GD no. 326/2019)
- The Plan for admission to doctoral studies from the state budget for the academic year 2019-2020 was elaborated. (GD no. 430/2019)

which aimed to implement the policy of the state in the field of attestation of scientific staff and increase the quality of doctoral and postdoctoral theses, following which are awarded scientific titles, and stimulate the performance of people who want to obtain the right to conduct/supervise doctorates. At the same time, approving the Plan for admission to higher doctoral studies, III cycle, the state ensures the preparation of the staff for the scientific careers, offering annual funding from the state budget in the form of doctoral grants.

At the same time, MECR intends to broaden the range of membership to other R&I European instruments. Thus, an information session on COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Program was held on May 4, 2018 and September 20, 2019 attended by representatives of research institutes and universities. The event discussed the conditions and opportunities the COST Program. In 2019, the Republic of Moldova participated in 64 Actions out of 292 Actions running at any time of the year (22%). In 2019, a total of 61 participants from the Republic of Moldova were reimbursed by COST for their participation in COST Action networking activities (meetings, Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools). In 2019, 38% of the participants in COST Action networking activities (meetings, Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools) from the Republic of Moldova were ECI (between PhD and PhD+8 years). The total amount that benefited participants from the Republic of Moldova in 2019 was EUR 75 000. This includes the financial support to meetings (travel reimbursement, organisation), Short Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, administrative support to the



Grant Holder Institution (FSAC), but not dissemination expenses. In 2019, 4 participants from the Republic of Moldova were involved in Short term Scientific Missions and 11 trainees were involved in Training schools.

***2.3.6 A new institutional framework of the Moldovan Sciences and Innovation sector as per the revised code of Sciences and Innovation was set up.***

***2.3.6.1 The members of the national council for research, development and innovation are nominated and it is operational***

Taking into consideration that the setting up the new institutional framework of the Moldovan Sciences and Innovation sector is still under development the creation of the National Council for Research, Development and Innovation is postponed.

The Government took the decision to create a Department for Research and Innovation at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in order to assure the responsibility for the design, development and implementation of State Policies of research, development and innovation, distribution of budgetary allocations for the research and innovation projects and the implementation of national action plan for a better integration in the European Research Area.

***2.3.6.2 The National Agency which will be created for financing Research, Development and Innovation is staffed and fully operational as per EU recommendations and standards.***

Following to the PSF Expert mission recommendations, the new Agency was established on the base of **Government Decision no. 196 of February 28, 2018** on the organization and functioning of the National Agency for Research and Development. Three institutions under ASM: the Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer, the Centre of International Projects and the Agency for Research and Development were reorganized into NARD.

According to the Government Decision, the main mission of NARD is the implementation of the R&I state policy, established by the Government. The main duties of NARD include the organization of competitions for proposals for R&I activities in line with the national policy and funding projects by independent experts.

Also, NARD is a central public authority under Government staffed by 34 employees in four departments: the Department of Research projects, the Department of Innovation Projects, the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, and the Department of Institutional Management. Thus, NARD is fully operational, as per EU recommendations and standards.

***2.3.6.3 The new National Agency aforementioned has fully taken over the responsibility for the operations related with H2020 in the Republic of Moldova.***

***NARD took the responsibility for the operations related with H2020 in the Republic of Moldova, as follows:***

- a) Organize the NCPs Network, OR, MOST, NE activities, nominate the representatives in EU Research Infrastructure,
- b) Ensure the participation of OR and NE in the Horizon 2020 Program Committees and Specialized Working Groups,



- c) Organize the promotional and informational events to disseminate opportunities offered within H2020,
- d) Offer the measures for stimulating participation in H2020,
- e) Support the implementation of bilateral and multilateral international projects,
- f) Organize the competitions in support of increasing the participation of the Republic of Moldova in H2020, as follows:
  - i. "European Bonus Programme", a call was organized in 2019 with the aim to encourage and appreciate the efforts of participation in H2020 (**ANNEX no. 13**).
  - ii. "Increasing participation in H2020 through mobility of Researchers" is a call organized in 2019 which offered support to the interested entities to participate at the international events related to H2020, in particular for the drafting the project proposals (**ANNEX no. 14**).
  - iii. "Connection of Moldovan Centres of Excellence to the EU Research Infrastructure", the call was organized in 2019 in the aim to connect national infrastructure to EU R&I infrastructure, including pan-European Networks (**ANNEX no. 15**).
  - iv. "Offer for R&I Solutions against and mitigation the COVID-19", the call is organized in 2020 in the aim to connect R&I entities to provide support in the fight with the pandemic and in respect of implementation of ERAvsCorona Action Plan. The plan sets out key measures the EU by activating to coordinate, share and jointly increase support for R&I, in line with the objectives and tools of the ERA (**ANNEX no. 16**).

## 2.4. Summary of the implemented Action Plan

According to the GC ENI/2017/386-980, the Contract enters into force on the date when the second of two Parties have signed it – 23.08.2017. The implementation period of the Action foreseen within the GC is 36 months. The Interim Report was submitted in the middle of implementation period in association to the second pre-financing payment request (June 25, 2019). The Action plan below reflects the distribution of activities within the implementation period divided by trimesters from the date of GC signing.

Period of GC Implementation: 23 August 2017 – 23 August 2020													
Activities in accordance with the GC Implementation Plan (ANNEX no. 11)	Half-period 1 23.08.2017-23.02.2019 (by trimesters)						Half-period 2 24.02.2019-23.08.2020 (by trimesters)						Time, implementing body
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1. The entry Fees are paid													2017-2020, ASM, MECR
2. NCPs Network is functional													2017-2020, ASM, MECR, NARD
3. Moldova is actively involved In H2020													2017-2020, ASM MECR, NARD



3. Moldova is actively involved In H2020																		2017–2020, ASM MECR, NARD
4. The EU visibility is properly assured																		2017-2020, ASM, MECR, NARD
5. The Law to modify and complete of the Code of Sciences and Innovations																		2018, Parliament, ASM, MECR
6. Setting the new Institutional Framework																		2017- 2020, Government MECR, NARD

**The last H2020 Work Programme covers the period 2018-2020 and is considered as a transition to the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe (2021-2027).** Many H2020 Calls open as a bridge to the EU Programme HE. The Republic of Moldova launched the preparation for association to the next programme. The Government of the Republic of Moldova expressed the interest to join the next Programme for strengthening R&I fields, increasing innovation capacity, competitiveness and the number of working places, including fulfilling citizens' priorities and maintaining socioeconomic model and value. The Government will ensure all needed steps for preparing the association to the next EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme.

### **3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation**

***3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.***

Based on the modified Code of Science and Innovation and the Government Decision no. 50/2018, the 19 Research Institutes were transferred from ASM to MECR. Besides, MECR coordinates and funds the activity of 14 Higher Education Institutes/Universities. Until now, a good cooperation has been registered between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and the National Agency for Research and Development. Also, NARD and MECR elaborated a series of actions for the affiliated entities (institutes and universities) to facilitate their participation in H2020: four new Calls for proposals, promotional and visibility events, trainings and seminars (proposals writing, grants administration, legal& financial issues, etc.). As a result, the access to the different H2020 instruments is improved, and finally, the awarded projects to Moldovan scientific community increased in H2020 Programme.

In this respect, we would like to mention that the relationship between beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this GC is characterized as an approach to improve the R&I system in the Republic of Moldova. The GC provisions help the Republic of Moldova to perform R&I reform to progress in harmonization of the Republic of Moldova standards to ERA Roadmap and finally, to strengthen the opportunities of collaboration with European community in R&I fields.



### **3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?**

Concerning the collaboration with state authorities, we can mention that MECR has **a good collaboration with all central public authorities in the process of strengthening the R&I fields:** the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs;

MECR and NARD underline a close cooperation concerning the development and strengthening the R&I fields, notably, in the process of implementation of H2020 EU Programme.

*As regarding the collaboration of hierarchic superior bodies, as Government and Parliament, a good cooperation has been registered.*

In the sense of implementation of R&I reform in the Republic of Moldova, MECR and NARD collaborate with all central public authorities for the effectiveness and development of R&I system.

Besides, the experience of the RM became a point of interest within the EaP countries in implementation of the status of Associated Country to H2020. The Georgian and Armenian RTD Authorities collaborate and share their experience related to participation in H2020 and integration in ERA. Also, the RO, NE, NCPs from the Republic of Molodva, including the representatives of SMEs and NGOs are invited to build capacity events organized in EaP countries.

### **3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:**

- Associate(s) (No any)
- Contractor(s) (No any)
- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups – all Legal Entities eligible for participation in H2020, including: public authorities, state and private Agencies, organizations in the fields of research and innovation and other target groups (scientific community, etc).
- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.) – non-government organizations, small and medium enterprises and other third parties.

### **3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.**

The last H2020 Work Programme covers the period 2018-2020 and is considered as a transition to the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe (2021-2028). Thus, H2020 Calls currently opened already contain some aspects of the next EU Framework Programme for R&I Horizon Europe (2021-2027). At the National level the preparation for association to the next programme has already started. At the EC level absolutely all the meetings and events organized within H2020 Programme Committees, ERA Strategic Committees and Working Groups are focused on the main issues to be laid down in Horizon



Europe (2021-2027). In this respect, in 2019 a series of Roadshows mentored by EU experts were organized.

***3.5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).***

The Ministry of the Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova did not receive previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group. However, MECR and NARD assured continuation of all actions performed by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova within the Grant Contract: 2014/ 346-992 "Financial support to the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the EU programme Horizon 2020".

Besides, the Working Group, created within the Grant Contract: ENI 2017/ 386-980, involved in the Action implementation includes the former well-experienced staff members of the Centre of International Projects of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova.

In this respect, we would like to mention that the EU contribution for the year 2016 is EUR 469.122,97 and for 2017 is EUR 414.055,94.

## **2. Visibility**

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***How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?***

**MECR and NARD assured the visibility of the EU H2020 Programme** within the Action based on the Grant Contract: ENI 2017/ 386-980 Communication and Visibility Plan coordinated with the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

**Jointly, MECR and NARD raised awareness and visibility of the EU H2020 Programme** through a series of activities: attracting active and successful international partners, creating sustainable partnerships in the H2020 Calls and initiatives, promoting their results and success stories by publishing a numerous number of articles, brochures of success stories on Moldova's participation in H2020 Programme, TV and Radio interviews, specialised web sites, social networks, events, posters, press releases, informational campaigns, individual and public consultations, photos and videos, informative and interactive events and other promotional materials that are disseminated through the events. Also, NARD informed systematically the scientific community and citizens on open Calls in the framework of EU H2020 Programme, interested international partners which are searching partners in the Republic of Moldova for creating consortiums, amount of awarded projects by EU. In addition, NARD with the NCPs Network helped the new interested participants to create their account on European Portal, by learning them about the ways of searching open Calls and potential international partners.



Sharing the information regarding the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, NCPs Network together takes into account the EU recommendations regarding the content, style, visual aids, etc.

**In conclusion, all the activities were realized in accordance with the Visibility and Communication Plan approved by the EU Delegation to the RM.**

*The European Commission may wish to publish the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state by our objections here.*

The Ministry of the Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova **has no objections** to this report being published on the EuropeAid website.

**Name of the contact person for the Action:**

**Signature:** ..... 

**Location:** Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

**Date report due:** August 23, 2020

**Date report sent:**

**List of ANNEXES to the Final Narrative Report**

**for the implementation period: 23.08.2017-23.08.2020**

**within the Grant Contract: ENI 2017/386/980**

**"Financial support to the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the  
EU Programme Horizon 2020 for the years 2016-2017"**

1. **ANNEX no. 1.** Budget the Action
2. **ANNEX no. 2.** Proof of Payment of Entry Fee for 2016
3. **ANNEX no. 3.** Proof of Payment of Entry Fee for 2017
4. **ANNEX no. 4.** Proof of Payment of Entry Fee for 2018
5. **ANNEX no. 5.** Proof of Payment of Entry Fee for 2019
6. **ANNEX no. 6.** Proof of Payment of Entry Fee for 2020
7. **ANNEX no. 7.** The List of NCPs operated till March 2018 within CIP, ASM
8. **ANNEX no. 8.** The List of NCPs nominated by NARD, starting with 2018
9. **ANNEX no. 9.** Moldovan Official Representatives/National Experts, nominated by NARD.
10. **ANNEX no. 10.** The GC Communication and Visibility Plan
11. **ANNEX no. 10 a.** The List of realized promotion and visibility events
12. **ANNEX no. 11.** The GC Implementation Plan
13. **ANNEX no. 12.** The List of awarded projects within H2020
14. **ANNEX no. 13.** The Call for Proposals: European BONUS Programme
15. **ANNEX no. 14.** The Call for Proposals: Grants supporting mobility of researchers
16. **ANNEX no. 15.** The Call for Proposals: Connection the Moldovan Centres of Excellence to the EU Research Infrastructure
17. **ANNEX no. 16.** The Call for Proposals: Offer of research-innovation solutions on combating and mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
18. **ANNEX no. 17.** The Law no. 190/2017 on modification of the Code on Science and Innovation modified Law no. 259 of July 15, 2004 and entered into force on February 28, 2018. ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=101618&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=101618&lang=ro))
19. **ANNEX no. 18.** The new Code for Science and Innovation of the Republic of Moldova, ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=110232&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=110232&lang=ro))
20. **ANNEX no. 19.** Government Decision no. 196, 28.02.2018 on Organization and Functioning of the National Agency for Research and Development, ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=102154&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102154&lang=ro))



21. **ANNEX no. 20.** Government Decision no. 201, 28.02.2018 on Organization and Functioning of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=102159&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102159&lang=ro))
22. **ANNEX no. 21.** Government Decision no.1081/2018, the National Roadmap for the Integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Research Area and its Implementation Plan. ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=111352&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111352&lang=ro))
23. **ANNEX no. 22.** Government Decision no. 381/2019, The National Program in the fields of research and innovation for the years 2020-2023 and the Action Plan regarding its implementation ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=115747&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=115747&lang=ro))
24. **ANNEX no.23.** Government Decision no. 382/2019. The Methodology for financing projects in the fields of research and innovation  
([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=115748&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=115748&lang=ro))
25. **ANNEX no.24.** Government Decision no. 53/2020, The Methodology of institutional funding of public organizations in the fields of research and innovation ([https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=120178&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=120178&lang=ro))