

AGENDA

08:30 Registration, welcome coffee

09:00 Opening. Welcome address on behalf of the organizers
Matthias JOBELIUS, Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Moldova and Romania

09:10 Key messages of the State of the Country Report 2014
Adrian LUPUȘOR, Executive Director, Independent Think-Tank EXPERT-GRUP

09:40 **PANEL 1: Key social and economic implications of the Association Agreement with the EU**

Moderator: George TEODORESCU, Managing Attorney, Vernon and David

Tatiana MOLCEAN, Head of Economic Cooperation and Sectoral Coordination Unit, General Directorate for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

What are the real benefits of the Association Agreement with EU? The reality of the first days of implementation

Cristian GHINEA, Director, Romanian Centre for European Policies

Export of Moldova's agricultural products to the EU – the need for real policies for rural development

Dona ȘCOLA, Executive Director, Moldovan Investment and Export Promotion Organization (MIEPO)

DCFTA opportunities: how can we benefit?

David DALTON, Macro-economist on Eastern Europe, The Economist Intelligence Unit

What can Moldova learn from EU integration so far?

 *Key questions:*

- In what key areas should Republic of Moldova register progress for the implementation of the Association Agreement with EU?
- How can Moldova reap the benefits of trade liberalization with EU, despite poor international competitiveness?
- What is the estimated economic and social impact of the Association Agreement with EU?
- Who are going to be the key winners and losers in the process of implementing the Association Agreement with EU?
- Finding the right place in the regional context: what could be the potential sectors and niches where Moldova could win the international competition?

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 **PANEL 2: Political economy of reforms: how to make long-term strategies work?**

Moderator: **Natalia MORARI**, Journalist, Founder, Media Sapens

Constanța POPESCU, Program Director, Independent Think-Tank EXPERT-GRUP

Reforms in electoral cycles: moving beyond the Association Agreement

Valeriu LAZĂR, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Moldova

Moldova in the new geo-economic reality. Perspectives of DCFTA with the EU and Turkey

Mircea GEOANĂ, President, Aspen Institute Romania

A 360° analysis of Moldova's economy

Victor LUTENCO, Director, Bureau for Diaspora Relations

The largest unexplored development opportunity for Moldova



Key questions:

- How to move from political commitment to action under the Association Agreement with the EU?
- What is the impact of the electoral cycles on the activity of public institutions and the entire economy?
- How to achieve political accountability for the policy actions and reforms?
- How transparent are the public institutions and what is the quality of public debates over the key reforms?
- What is needed in order to achieve political commitment for a sustainable development agenda?

12:35 **Break for buffet lunch**

13:30 **Panel 3: The pension system of the Republic of Moldova: who will pay the bills for the lack of reforms?**

Moderator: **Vasile BOTNARU**, Director, Radio Free Europe

Adrian LUPUȘOR, Executive Director, EXPERT-GRUP

New solutions to an old problem: how can we reform Moldova's pension system?

Laura GRECU, Head of Department, Policies and Social Insurance Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

Social insurance system in the Republic of Moldova: challenges and ways to overcome them

Oleg VEREJAN, President, Association of Actuaries of Moldova

The future of pensions in Moldova: realities and perspectives

Jörg RADEKE, Consultant, German Economic Team Moldova

Proposal for Reforming the Pension System



Key questions:

- The pension systems are under pressure all over the world. Why is the situation much more critical in Moldova?
- How to consolidate the sustainability of the pension system, given the issues of population ageing, migration and informal employment?
- What are the challenges for implementing a functional multi-pillar pension system, based on the international experience?
- What is the cost of the pension system reform compared to the cost for mainlining the current system?

14:50 **Roadmap for next steps to be taken**

Adrian LUPUȘOR, Executive Director, Independent Think-Tank EXPERT-GRUP

15:10 **Concluding remarks**

Ana MIHAILOV, Programme Coordinator, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Moldova

15:30 **Reception**