

EUROSFAT FORUM 2023

New Horizons for European Integration

Chişinău Dialogue - 28th November 2023

The Eurosfat 2023 Forum "European Union and New Horizons" is funded by the Soros Foundation Moldova and co-funded by the European Union and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Donor:



Co-founded by:



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Organizers:



Parteners:



Context:

The EUROSFAT Forum has been, for 10 years, a successful model in connecting Romanian citizens with the European agenda, being a forum for debate between European, national and local decision makers, representatives of civil society, business and academia. The results of the Eurosfat Forum have been recognised at European level, with Europuls being awarded the national winner of the Charlemagne Young Europeans Award for the EUROSFAT Forum 2022, the best project promoting the European agenda. A model that Europuls is implementing for the first time in 2023 in the Republic of Moldova, together with the Soros Foundation Moldova, after successful editions in Romania.

Objective:

The EUROSFAT 2023 Forum proposes a unique concept for an open dialogue on the Belgium-Romania-Republic of Moldova axis, a strategic exercise for the public, private, civil society and pro-European academic sectors. The unique format allows the definition of strategic directions for the European integration of the Republic of Moldova, through debates and dialogues on key issues for achieving the necessary reforms for accession and the preservation and deepening of European values.

Innovations:

1. The EUROSFAT Forum 2023 will for the first time have a local dimension and will turn into the EUROSFAT Dialogues series in several cities in Romania: Timisoara, Craiova, Bucharest.
2. From Bucharest, the EUROSFAT Forum will for the first time go beyond the Romanian borders to Chisinau, to bring the European Union closer to Moldovan citizens.
3. Exclusively, we will not stop in Chisinau, but will continue the series of EUROSFAT Dialogues in Balti, Ungheni and Comrat, to invite European decision-makers / ambassadors / mayors from other cities of the European Union, in direct dialogue with Moldovan citizens.

Organisers:

- **Europuls - Centre of European Expertise** is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2010 in Brussels by a group of Romanian experts in European affairs. Europuls aims to promote the process of European integration in Romania and to contribute to the development of a European public space.

- **Soros Foundation Moldova** is a non-governmental, non-profit and apolitical organisation that promotes the values of open society, supports democracy, advocates innovative ideas and encourages visionaries who bring about positive changes to make Moldova a better place to live.

- **Expert-Grup** is a non-profit organisation specialising in economic and public policy research.

- **The Institute for European Policy and Reform** is an independent, non-profit research centre in the Republic of Moldova specialising in public policy and good governance.
- **Promo-LEX** is a non-governmental organisation, which aims to develop democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, by promoting and defending human rights, monitoring democratic processes and strengthening civil society.
- **Institutum Virtutes Civilis** is an independent and apolitical centre in the Republic of Moldova with expertise and experience in promoting participatory democracy, developing the rule of law, as well as social, political and economic research, promoting its recommendations through complex advocacy activities.
- **The Friedrich Ebert Foundation** in the Republic of Moldova is a German social-democratic political foundation whose aim is to promote democracy, peace, understanding and international cooperation. The FES fulfils its mandate in the spirit of social democracy and is dedicated to public debate to identify social democratic solutions to current and future problems of society.

EUROSFAT FORUM 2023: Part II - 28th November, Chisinau

Venue: Digital Park (15 Mihai Viteazul street, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova)

Live broadcast online

Working language: Romanian, with simultaneous translation into English

8.30 – 9.00	Registration of participants. Welcome coffee.
09.00-09.30	Official Opening Opening remarks: ● H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission (video message) ● H.E. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament (video message) ● Mihai Popșoi, Vicepresident of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova ● H.E. Jānis Mažeiks, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova ● Elena Vacarciuc, Executive Director, Soros Foundation Moldova
9.30 – 10.30	Plenary session. Progress made by the Republic of Moldova after becoming a candidate country for EU membership. <i>Moderator: Tana Foarfă, Executive Director, Europuls</i> Speakers: ● Andrei Spînu, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova ● Daniela Morari, the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Brussels (<i>video connection</i>) ● Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Director General for Energy in the European Commission (<i>video connection</i>) ● Iulian Groza, Executive Director, IPRE ● Primož Vehar, Team Leader of the EU-funded “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process in the Republic of Moldova” Key topics for discussion: ● Level of compliance with the 9 recommendations of the European Commission; ● Prospects for the opening of accession negotiations with the EU Regional; cooperation with Member States in view of Moldova's accession to the EU; ● Regional development projects between Moldova and Romania.

10.30-10.45	Coffee break
10.45 –12.00	Panel I: Democracy, good governance and the rule of law: The reforms needed to join the European Union. Moderator: <i>Ana Mihailov</i>, Country Director, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Speakers: ● Laura Codruța Koveși, Chief Prosecutor of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (<i>video message</i>) ● Ramona Strugariu, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group ● Cristi Danileț, judge at the Cluj Court (<i>video connection</i>) ● Veronica Mihailov Moraru, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova ● Ion Manole, Executive Director, Promo-LEX ● Vladislav Gribincea, Program Director, Legal Resources Centre of Moldova Key topics for discussion: ● Justice reform and the fight against grand corruption; ● Tools for safeguarding democracy: human rights and integrity of the electoral process, including challenges related to the participation and involvement of citizens in the Transnistrian region of Moldova.
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00 –14.15	Panel II. The economy of an EU candidate country - developing entrepreneurship and financial markets. Moderator: <i>Vitalie Cojocari</i>, journalist, Euronews.ro Speakers: ● Petru Rotaru, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova ● Viorel Garaz, State Secretary , Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization of the Republic of Moldova ● Octavian Armașu, Governor, National Bank of Moldova ● Adrian Lupușor, Executive Director, Expert-Grup ● Tana Foarfă, Executive Director, Europuls-European Expertise Centre ● Alexandru Gozun, President, AmCham Key topics for discussion: ● Integration of Moldovan companies into European value chains; ● Ensuring a favourable macro-financial environment; ● Fighting informal economy ● Solutions for increasing economic potential and accelerating economic growth ● Promoting sustainable business models from the ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) perspective

14.30 –15.30	Panel III: The road to sustainability: the future of Moldova's environment and energy system. Moderator: <i>Moderator: Lilia Curchi, Executive Director, Association of Environmental Journalists</i> Speakers: ● Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova ● Constantin Borosan, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Moldova ● Jose Luis Gomez Pascual, President of Premier Energy, President of EBA Moldova ● Alexandru Săndulescu, EU High Level Adviser on Energy Policy, EU HLAs Mission to Moldova ● Denis Tumuruc, Senior Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat ● Călin Negură, Programme Director, Expert-Grup Key topics for discussion: ● The path to energy security and efficiency; ● How do we reform the environmental tax system? ● Balancing economic and environmental objectives; ● Implementing the Extended Producer Responsibility mechanism
15.30 –15.45	Coffee break
15.45 –16.45	Panel IV: New generations in Moldova: brain drain or brain gain? Moderator: <i>Diana Răilean, communication expert within the "Institutum Virtutes Civilis" AO</i> Speakers: ● Alexei Buzu, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova ● Adriana Cazacu, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova ● Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group (<i>video message</i>) ● Tudor Ogner, Romanian Entrepreneur and Executive Director of the Romanian Youth Capital ● Teodora Panuș, President of the National Youth Council of the Republic of Moldova ● Sergiu Sainciuc, Vice President, National Confederation of Trade Unions from Moldova Key topics for discussion: ● Future of work and social policies; ● Creation of the Erasmus+ agency in Moldova;

	● Combating brain drain; ● Quality education and skills training; ● Intergenerational and cross-sectoral partnerships.
16.45 -17.00	Break
17.00 –18.30	Panel V: The Republic of Moldova in times of crisis. Increasing resilience to future challenges <i>Moderator: Constantin Uzdris, TV presenter, TVR Moldova</i> Speakers: ● Ștefan Țibuleac, Head of service of the Supreme Security Council, Presidency of the Republic of Moldova ● Silke Sielaff, Head of Operations, Union Partnership Mission to Moldova (EUPM) ● Corneliu Coteț, Affiliated expert, Europol - Centre of European Expertise ● Angela Grămada, President, Experts for Security and Global Affairs ● Olga Guțuțui, Expert in legislation and media policy, International Media Support (IMS) Key topics for discussion: ● Energy security, infrastructure development and diversification of alternative resources; ● Cyber security and the fight against disinformation; ● Security policy in the current geopolitical context and the presence of Russian troops on Moldovan territory; ● Environmental security and resilience in the context of environmental cataclysms.
18.30-19.00	Final conclusions All representatives of partner organisations meeting in plenary
19.00	Closing the event ● Siegfried Mureșan, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party