

MACRO 2025:

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: ADDRESSING POVERTY AND ECONOMIC DIVERGENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

Date: November 28, 2025

Location: "Răut" Conference Room, Conference Centre, Radisson Blu Hotel, Chișinău

AGENDA

- 09:00-09:30** **Registration of participants, coffee and networking**
- 09:35-09:40** **Welcome remarks on behalf of organisers**
- Felix HETT**, representative of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Ukraine and Republic of Moldova
- 09:35-09:50** **Presentation of the key messages of the State of the Country Report 2025**
- Adrian LUPUȘOR**, executive director, Independent Analytical Centre "Expert-Grup"
- 09:50-11:40** **Panel 1. Economic convergence of the Republic of Moldova with the European Union: reality check and directions for action**
- Dumitru BUDIANACHI**, president, National Financial Market Commission
Doina NISTOR, economist, former deputy prime minister and minister of Economic Development and Digitalization
Eugen COZONAC, investor, founder of Endava and Beeyond Investments
Stas MADAN, programme director, Expert-Grup
- Moderator:**
Dumitru PÎNTEA, associate expert, Expert-Grup
- Key topics:
- *How did the Moldovan economy evolve in 2024–2025? Major challenges and forecasts for 2026–2027*
 - *How can economic growth be accelerated and its resilience strengthened? How can the economic convergence gap with the EU be addressed?*
 - *Is European integration feasible without adequate economic convergence with EU development levels?*
 - *What are the main vulnerabilities facing the Moldovan economy? Focus on the budgetary situation, current account, trade deficit, government debt level, etc.*

- *How can key vulnerabilities be addressed and how can the competitiveness of Moldova's economy be strengthened in the context of accession negotiations?*
- *What are the main structural barriers slowing down Moldova's convergence — productivity, governance, investment climate, or others?*
- *How can the EU's Growth Plan for Moldova and pre-accession instruments be used more effectively to accelerate convergence, not just to support stability?*
- *What would success look like in 2030 — what realistic milestones could the Republic of Moldova achieve by then?*

11:40-12:40 **Lunch break and networking**

12:40-14:30 **Panel 2. Understanding and addressing poverty in Moldova: discussions on policy options**

Marina SOLOVIOVA, programme director, Expert-Grup
Marcel SPATARI, expert, Member of Parliament
Aurelia SPĂTARU, deputy general director, National Bureau of Statistics
Federica MARZO, senior economist on poverty and equity, World Bank
George TEODORESCU, regional director, Mixbook Moldova

Moderator:

Liliana PALIHOVICI, president, Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC)

Key topics:

- *What is the extent, trends, and characteristics of poverty in the Republic of Moldova? Understanding multidimensional poverty in Moldova*
- *Who is most at risk of poverty? Which groups are most vulnerable?*
- *What are the main structural determinants of poverty in Moldova—low productivity, limited access to quality jobs, poor social services, or regional inequalities?*
- *How can the problem of poverty be addressed? What policies are currently in place?*
- *Formulating additional policy solutions to combat poverty in Moldova*
- *How can social protection policies be better targeted and more effective?*
- *What would a successful anti-poverty strategy for the Republic of Moldova look like by 2030 — and how can European integration and donor support be aligned to achieve this goal?*

14:30-14.40 **Keynote address**

Alexandru MUNTEANU, Prime Minister of Republic of Moldova

14:40-14:50 **Closing remarks**

Ana MIHAILOV, country director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Moldova
Adrian LUPUŞOR, executive director of the Independent Analytical Centre "Expert-Grup"

14:50-15:30 **Coffee and networking**