

COUNTRY PROFILE

MOLDOVA

Last profile update: January 2015

This profile was prepared and updated by **Mr. Ghenadie SONTU (Chisinau)**.
It is based on official and non-official sources addressing current cultural policy issues.

The opinions expressed in this profile are those of the author and are not
official statements of the government or of the Compendium editors.

Additional national cultural policy profiles are available on:

<http://www.culturalpolicies.net>



If the entire profile or relevant parts of it are reproduced in print or in electronic form including in a translated version, for whatever purpose, a specific request has to be addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who may authorise the reproduction in consultation with ERICarts. Such reproduction must be accompanied by the standard reference below, as well as by the name of the author of the profile.

Standard Reference: Council of Europe/ERICarts: "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe", 16th edition 2015. Available from World Wide Web: [http:// www.culturalpolicies.net](http://www.culturalpolicies.net).
ISSN: 2222-7334.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA¹

1. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: CULTURAL POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS	2
2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF CULTURAL POLICY	4
2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model	4
2.2 National definition of culture	5
2.3 Cultural policy objectives	6
3. COMPETENCE, DECISION-MAKING AND ADMINISTRATION	8
3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)	8
3.2 Overall description of the system	8
3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation	10
3.4 International cultural co-operation	11
4. CURRENT ISSUES IN CULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DEBATE	16
4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities	16
4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates	18
4.3 Other relevant issues and debates	36
5. MAIN LEGAL PROVISIONS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD	39
5.1 General legislation	39
5.2 Legislation on culture	41
5.3 Sector specific legislation	42
6. FINANCING OF CULTURE	47
6.1 Short overview	47
6.2 Public cultural expenditure	48
6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing	49
7. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE	52
7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies	52
7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector	52
7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions	53
8. PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND PARTICIPATION	54
8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers	54
8.2 Cultural consumption and participation	55
8.3 Arts and cultural education	57
8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives	60
9. SOURCES AND LINKS	63
9.1 Key documents on cultural policy	63
9.2 Key organisations and portals	64

¹ This profile was first prepared by Valeria Grosu, Union of Writers of the Republic of Moldova in 2001 and updated until 2010. Since 2014, the profile is prepared by Ghenadie Şonţu, Cultural Policy Expert.
Last profile update: January 2015.

1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

Moldova as a country, territory or political entity has undergone great changes in the past few centuries and has a long history of foreign domination; indeed, questions of territory and cultural identity have been at the core of its development as an independent Republic.

At the dawn of the 19th century, Moldova was a province of Romania. In 1812, it was annexed by Tsarist Russia until 1917, when Moldova first declared itself a Democratic Republic. This political status was short lived as the parliament (Sfatul Țării, – the National Council) voted for unification with Romania just 4 months later – resulting in a

The country was reoccupied by Soviet forces in 1940 and remained part of the USSR until the collapse of Communism

22-year period when the Moldovan language and culture became increasingly more Romanian and Western-oriented. In 1940, Soviet forces reoccupied the Region. Moldova remained part of the USSR until the collapse of Communism in the early 1990s.

As in other USSR Republics or Eastern European countries, cultural policy was a propaganda tool of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldova. The Ministry of Culture and several arts associations were, therefore, obliged to conform to the Party's ideology and to ensure that cultural policy and activities were carried out according to the Central Committee's instructions.

Writers, artists and the cultural elite were also engaged as propaganda agents. The Committee granted them certain benefits and privileges in return for their efforts to consolidate the ideology of the system in a "credible and accessible" manner (Lenin's slogan "art belongs to the people"). The totalitarian state controlled the process of creativity by valuing and rewarding works of "socialist realism" and rejecting a diversity of artistic approaches.

Arts associations were originally set up to monitor and promote artistic uniformity. As they became increasingly disparate and the composition of their membership was questioned, authorities set up three state Committees – for Publishing, Press and Radio-Television – to strictly monitor and censor the ideological content of literary and artistic works. They were

Disappearance of national culture in the new Soviet Moldova

also given the task of suppressing any expressions of affiliation to the Romanian language or culture. During the 47 years of Soviet occupation, Moldova was denied the right to their centuries-old common language, history and culture based on

ancient, classical and contemporary Romanian traditions. The result was the disappearance of a distinct national culture during the period of Soviet Moldova. This fuelled a resistance and opposition to the ruling regime.

Independence achieved in 1991; cultural policy emphasis on promoting national identity

On August 27, 1991 the Republic of Moldova was declared an independent country. This historical event was precipitated by civil war. Public demands were made for official recognition of the Moldovan-Romanian linguistic identity, a return to the

Latin alphabet, and the re-establishment of Romanian as the official language.

During the years 1991-2006, the main objectives of Moldovan cultural policies were:

- to ensure conditions to promote creative works by preserving existing national institutions and revising procedures to remunerate artists for their work;
- to protect the cultural heritage by improving the copyright system, supporting the publishing sector and developing archives;
- to promote human potential through a reform of staff policy in the public cultural administration;

- to support diverse cultural processes by identifying priorities and attracting human and material resources to realise these priorities;
- to re-focus cultural management towards new models and mechanisms; and
- to promote culture through electronic media and to create an integrated information space in the cultural field.

The most visible signs of change during this transition period were the freedom of speech, elimination of ideological censorship and development of legislation which has been modified to correspond with the rest of Europe. There are a large number of "good intentioned laws" in the Republic of Moldova, which have not yet been implemented or made viable on a practical level. Shallow reforms (too often understood as a simple reduction of funding) and the lack of a comprehensive cultural policy have also suspended the full implementation of cultural policy objectives.

During the communist governance, between 2001 – 2009, the results (performances) achieved with such a great effort were ruined one after another. Culture became again the most marginalised sphere, and all previously initiated projects degenerated into actions with a pronounced communist ideology.

The decentralisation process was suspended. The criterion of professionalism was replaced with the degree of servitude to power. Dozens of monuments and books were manufactured and published, with no historical or literary value, except for the glorification of the communist past.

The new ruling government, established in 2009, is a coalition of four parties with different social and cultural platforms. It was known from the beginning that this government is a transitional one, and will exist no longer than a year. Thus, the new ministries have not designed policies for the long or medium term.

Their only target was reanimating the country from the economic collapse and reinstating human rights and liberties, and the supremacy of the law.

From the cultural perspective, two new television stations appeared and a significant number of cultural events took place, which shows a great openness of the Moldovan culture toward the cultures of the world.

28 November 2010 was the day of the new parliamentary elections. These elections were particularly important, because they determined the path Moldova was to follow in the future.

However, the elections did not have the expected results. Although the governing coalition remained in power, the dissensions within the coalition have deepened, generating a prolonged political crisis. And, consequently, the announced reforms have been postponed, especially those in the field of justice, which are absolutely necessary for the future of Moldova.

On 29 November 2013, in the frames of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, the Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union. This important and unprecedented agreement symbolises openness to cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union and provides formal commitments to the community forum and establishing a general framework of relations between the parties.

Subsequently, on 13 November 2014, the European Parliament ratified the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which includes a deep and comprehensive trade agreement. The Agreement is the foundation for a stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, providing free reciprocal market access.

2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy

2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model

The Moldovan cultural policy model is mostly centred on activities of the government and the Ministry of Culture as the central body which promotes state policy in the arts and culture. The government elaborates and provides funds for the state programmes on the protection and development of culture and sets directions, forms and means to implement them.

Cultural policy in the Republic of Moldova primarily focuses on preserving cultural values under threat in response to the effects caused by the difficult and dramatic circumstances prior to the transition period. The identity crisis, characteristic of all post-Communist states, is a key cultural issue to be addressed generally by the executive of the Republic of Moldova and specifically in the difficult process of developing a sustained and appropriate cultural policy.

Cultural policy in the Republic of Moldova is focused on preserving cultural values under threat

The cultural history of Moldova has, in many respects, been different from that of other countries with similar histories. Having been deprived of the natural interaction between national and universal values, Moldova is engaged in an ongoing process of overcoming its past, which has tended to polarise outlooks and to act as a barrier for advancing specific initiatives. The Republic of Moldova is a young country struggling for its identity and is attempting to create its own economic, political and cultural future. These areas tend, however, to be self-contained: it is unclear how exactly they will be integrated.

In 2012, for the first time since the proclamation of independence, the Ministry of Culture (with the support of UNDP) initiated the process of developing *"The National Strategy for the Development of Culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020"*. This document was finalised and approved by *Government Decision No. 271* of 9 April 2014.

This document is innovative as for the first time a systematic analysis of the cultural sector of the Republic of Moldova was undertaken and as a result, the general directions and objectives for developing culture for the medium and long-term period were identified. The document was developed based on analysis of the key issues facing the cultural sector in the Republic of Moldova. It comprises an action plan for each general objective, having indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, and also an estimated budget for implementation of the priority actions.

The Mission of the Strategy is to provide the cultural sector with a coherent, efficient and pragmatic policy framework, based on the priorities described in the document. The Strategy took into account cultural sector needs and has a flexible vision that will allow development of certain cultural fields over others. Policies traced in the present Strategy form the framework for developing and implementing policies without ideologies, dogmas or centralisation of the state on the cultural sector.

According to the Strategy vision, the Republic of Moldova will have a consolidated, independent and creative cultural sector, with cultural heritage that is protected and integrated in the national and regional public policies, including the sustainable development activities: educational, social, economic, tourism and environmental by 31 December 2020.

The objective of the Strategy is assuring a viable cultural environment, through creation of an adequate framework of public policies, setting up a functional system for preserving and valuing cultural heritage, promoting creativity, developing cultural industries, increasing

efficiency of the cultural management, improving the quality of life of the citizens and increasing tolerance and social cohesion.

Currently the *Strategy for the development of culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* is the basic policy document in the field of culture in the Republic of Moldova, which will allow cultural sector development.

In theory, the process of decentralisation began in 1991. In practice, the management of both funds and cultural activities has changed very little, the main reason being the lack of knowledge and experience among local authorities to set up their own budgets – a situation which still persists today.

The process of decentralisation in Moldova – as in many other post-socialist countries - is still hampered by managerial and financial problems. Cultural managers at all levels lack the experience required to redistribute functions and responsibilities among the various administrative bodies. Decentralisation and redistribution of financial and administrative responsibilities are the most difficult and complex problems that cultural policy in the Republic of Moldova is facing at present. The past decade has proven that the cultural funding system based on the former centralised model has become outdated and inadequate.

Decentralisation has been hampered by managerial and financial problems over the past decade

After the territorial-administrative reform in 2003, the local cultural institutions network in 32 districts was re-incorporated into a more centralised system, thus becoming more exposed to the interventionist policy of both central and district authorities.

As it was mentioned in the previous chapter, the decentralisation process failed during the period 2001 – 2009 and instead became a strongly pronounced centrist system, to the extent that the whole power of decision-making was concentrated in the hands of a few people who intervened in absolutely all projects.

Therefore, one of the tasks of the new interim government in 2009 was to re-establish the equilibrium between the exaggerated and bureaucratic apparatus of central and local mayoralities.

Local authorities can submit requests for funding from the state budget to the Ministry of Culture for projects presenting at least some interest at national level. The Collegiate Board of the Ministry of Culture then decides whether or not to approve the partial funding of such activities.

2.2 National definition of culture

The *Law on Culture* (1999) defines the term as "all forms of thinking, feeling and action in the material and spiritual spheres of society and enhancement thereof".

In November 2012, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the draft of the new version of the *Law on Culture*, which is structured in ten chapters and thirty-seven articles and which will replace the *Law on Culture* from 1999. Currently the draft of the *Law on Culture* is awaiting approval from the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. The new Law aims to influence the development of contemporary art, to support artistic infrastructure and education, and to improve access and encourage high citizen participation in the cultural-artistic processes. Among the basic principles of the state policy in the cultural sector, the new Law recognises the fundamental role of culture and of cultural heritage for society and the outstanding importance of culture for social cohesion and development. The draft Law also recognises culture as a strategic resource in

sustainable development of the country and society, and as an obligatory component among the policy documents aimed at sustainable development.

The *National Programme on the "Development and Protection of Culture and the Arts"* defines culture as an "ethical framework of the democratic state based on law" and as a "system of values that form the national identity".

2.3 Cultural policy objectives

The National Strategy for the development of culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020 establishes four general objectives and directions for developing cultural policy of the Republic of Moldova:

- preserving national cultural heritage;
- assuring real and virtual circulation of cultural products;
- increasing the economy of the cultural sector and creative industries; and
- enhancing the contribution of culture in developing social cohesion.

A plan of action for implementation of the *National Strategy for the development of culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* was developed to attain the established objectives, which foresee concrete actions, undertaken by the Ministry of Culture for the Strategy implementation:

- creation and facilitation of a favourable climate for artists and those employed in the cultural sector;
- decentralisation of the cultural sector by diminishing costs of financing through intensification of competition in the cultural field;
- improvement and development of the business climate in the cultural sector; and
- preservation of the national cultural heritage in all its diversity.

The Strategy identifies the following key-themes for developing the cultural sector:

- diversification of the services offered by the state and private cultural institutions;
- protecting national cultural heritage; and
- elaborating the framework for creative industries development.

These actions correspond to the *National Strategy for Moldova Development 2020*, which places the accent for changing the paradigm of the country development through attraction of local and foreign investments, development of research and innovation activities and of export industries.

Culture in the Republic of Moldova has not benefited from any significant attention and it has not been regarded as a development priority. The cultural sphere is not included among the objectives in the national strategic documents, such as *Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty (2004-2006)*, the *National Strategy for development 2008-2011*, "*Re-launching Moldova*", or "*Moldova 2020*".

The cultural sphere is mentioned in the Government Programmes (2005-2014), although it is not seen as a development priority:

- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2005-2009 "Country Modernisation – Welfare of the People"*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2008-2009 "Progress and Integration"*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" for the period 2009-2013*;

- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" for the period 2011-2014.*

The *National Programme of informatisation of the cultural sphere for the period 2012-2020* foresees the following:

- creation of the infrastructure and informational cultural space necessary for providing electronic services in the cultural sphere;
- implementation of electronic governing within the central office of the Ministry of Culture and in the subordinated institutions;
- digitalisation of the cultural heritage at the rate of 75%;
- assuring digitalisation of books in public libraries;
- creation of online public cultural services; and
- creation of web pages for the cultural institutions.

The *"Long-term Strategy for Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation"*, launched by the government in September 2003, includes several provisions concerning cultural tourism as an important part of the national economy. Over the next 15 years, the state policy in the field of cultural tourism will focus on new issues.

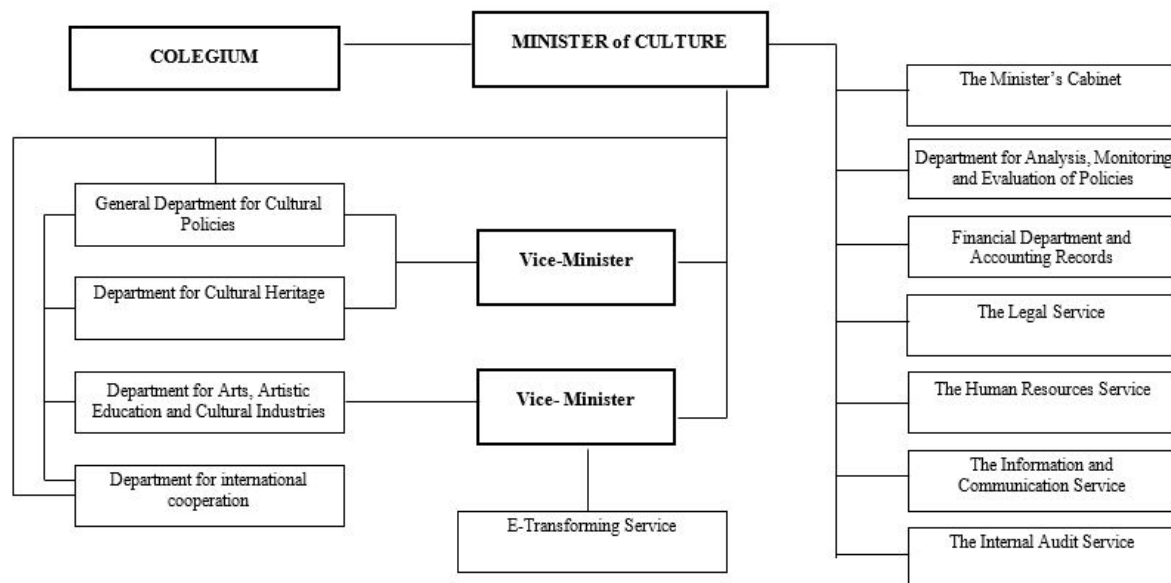
The main directions are:

- to adjust the frameworks and legal provisions concerning cultural tourism to European standards;
- to improve staff education and training in tourism institutions and develop high-level tourism management programmes; and
- to develop the cultural tourism sector as a part of national economic programmes.

Finances from the state and other sources need to be assured to build a comprehensive system of support in order to create conditions for the development and promotion of Moldovan culture during its current transition period.

3. Competence, decision-making and administration

3.1 Organisational structure (organigram)



Source: Ministry of Culture, Organisational structure of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova (*Government Decision No. 425 from 27.06.2013*).

3.2 Overall description of the system

The Parliament passes legislation drafted by the Ministry of Culture in co-ordination with the Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Public Information.

The Parliament ultimately approves the budget on culture following the submission of a bill prepared by the Ministry of Culture and in co-operation with an inter-ministerial body.

The Ministry of Culture is the central body responsible for state cultural policy

Proposals for the budget can be submitted to the Ministry of Culture by national culture and arts institutions. Key pieces of legislation must be approved by Presidential advisory bodies, and occasionally by the President him / herself.

The main authorities, institutions and public organisations in the institutional framework that manage and regulate culture are:

- The Ministry of Culture;
- Agencies, Councils and Commissions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture;
- Local Public Authorities of the second level;
- Cultural Directions / Sections of the Local Public Authorities of the second level and Balti municipality; and
- Local Public Authorities of the first level.

The Ministry of Culture is the central administrative body responsible for cultural policy in the Republic of Moldova. The mission of the Ministry of Culture² is to contribute to promotion of the national identity and country's image, assuring accessibility, preserving and valuing cultural heritage and national values, developing creativity and forming

² Programme for the Strategic Development of the Ministry of Culture for the period 2012-2014

personality, strengthening cultural dialogue in the Republic of Moldova and abroad for the balanced economic and spiritual growth of citizens and communities.

According to the legislative and normative acts, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for developing and promoting policies in the following areas: professional art (literature, theatre, music, choreography, visual arts, cinema and circus), arts education and cultural industries, cultural heritage and visual arts, folk art, artistic crafts, amateur artistic activity, and written culture.

Among the basic documents through which the Ministry of Culture assures implementation of the governing programme is the *Programme for Strategic Development of the Ministry of Culture (PSD) for the period 2012-2014*. This PSD is approved at the Ministry College meeting and represents the strategic planning document for the Ministry of Culture's activities, and is a successor to the Institutional Development Plan.

The Ministry of Culture has the following cultural policies priorities for the medium term:

- development of culture;
- preserving national heritage and assuring wide access by citizens to cultural values; and
- promoting national cultural values as a part of the European cultural heritage.

The main objectives for the activity of the Ministry of Culture are the following:

- assuring improvement of the legislative framework regarding performance-based management in the cultural sphere institutions, including standards and performance indicators;
- promoting development of contemporary art;
- assuring protection and valuing tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- coordinating supplementing book funds of the public libraries;
- assuring functioning and financing the educational process in the artistic education institutions; and
- coordinating the monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes regarding implementation of the policies in the cultural sphere.

In autumn 2009, after repeated parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova (05 April 2009 and 29 July 2009), a new, democratic government was established, after eight years of communist governance. The newly established government identified several Ministries as inefficient and decided to re-structure them, including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which is now the Ministry of Culture, as it was before 2001.

Tourism separated from the former Ministry of Culture and Tourism although there is still cooperation in the area of cultural tourism.

Existing departments / divisions / sections were changed, as shown in the organigram of the Ministry of Culture, but any new priorities have not been announced yet.

Among the newly created structures there is the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations, which is the body of the central public authorities responsible for implementing the national policy in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations and language functioning. The Department for International Relations, European integration and the Diaspora is specialised in policies regarding multicultural inter-ethnic relations. At the same time, on 19 October 2012, the Diaspora Relations Bureau was created within the State Chancellery, with the mission to assure the coherent and comprehensive policy framework for Moldova's diaspora, through coordination of the state policy in this sphere, consulting the diaspora associations on government policies, consolidation of Moldova's diaspora, developing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes oriented towards the diaspora, providing necessary assistance for the Prime-ministry regarding policies oriented

towards Moldova's diaspora. In this regard for the first time during the independence of the Republic of Moldova, the diaspora is approached transversally and horizontally by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which will allow for developing coherent policies, addressing all citizens of the Republic of Moldova, regardless of their place of residence.

After the territorial-administrative reform in 2003, 32 District Offices, the municipal Department of Culture Chisinau and the municipal Directorate of Culture Balti were set up to manage all local cultural institutions. Their main goals are:

- to ensure conditions necessary for the development of folk art and traditional handicrafts, as well as for entertainment and other cultural activities;
- to carry out programmes on conservation and promotion of culture and art in the districts / municipalities by organising various cultural events: festivals, competitions, activities aimed at conserving and promoting folk art, reviews of amateur groups, fine arts and handicraft exhibitions; and
- to submit to the Ministry of Culture and the district / municipal Council an annual report on its activity and on the operation of the institutions under their control.

The network of the cultural institutions in the territory includes 1 232 Houses of Culture, 1 368 public libraries, 109 schools of art, music and painting and 119 museums.

In conclusion, one can affirm that the structure of cultural public institutions and organisations is over dimensioned, which does not favour the development of the private sector. This creates conditions for inefficient and non-transparent utilisation of the public heritage, because institutions responsible for governing culture have incoherent functions and competences, and there is inadequate administration and public control. Impediments of the institutional framework are determined by the inefficient administration of the cultural sector, having at its core the centralised management of the soviet type, which hinders implementation of reforms in the cultural sphere. The institutional and regulatory framework of cultural sphere does not correspond to the actual economic and social realities.

3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation

The Ministry of Culture co-operates with the Ministries of the Economy, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Education, Labour and Justice along with the Department of Ethnic Relations, via inter-ministerial joint committees. It is responsible for raising cultural issues in committees whose activities are of an economic or commercial nature.

The Ministry of Culture also provides support for committees, which undertake cultural co-operation with other countries such as Italy or France.

Recently, a Board was created with representatives of ethnic minority associations, within the Department of Inter-Ethnic Relations, with the role of debating the most important issues of this institution, including those concerning intercultural dialogue.

3.4 International cultural co-operation

3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends

During the last years, international cultural co-operation has been entrusted to the Directorate of International Relations and European Harmonisation of the Ministry of Culture, which has focused its activity on three main areas: bilateral co-operation, multilateral projects and the promotion of the country's cultural image. After the Ministry's reorganisation in November 2009, these activities were transferred to the Section for European Integration, Relations and International Projects.

Moldova has ratified important international treaties and conventions related to culture. It joined UNESCO in 1993 and became part to the European Cultural Convention in 1994. It is also a full member of l'Agence de la Francophonie.

The main priorities in the field of international co-operation, in recent years, have been:

- developing Moldovan involvement in international projects, initiated by the Council of Europe, European Union and UNESCO;
- promoting the cultural image of the country through participation of artistic groups at cultural events abroad; and
- promoting the national cultural tourism at international level.

3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy

The main instruments of international co-operation are bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements and cultural co-operation programmes. However, the Ministry concludes more detailed protocols with some countries, e.g. the annual protocol of co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs of Romania.

To date, the Republic of Moldova has concluded agreements and detailed programmes on cultural co-operation and cultural tourism development with 35 countries.

The three institutions most involved in this process are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates and negotiates all the agreements on international cultural co-operation and has a key role in international cultural affairs that may have wider political implications. The Ministry of Culture usually drafts the international inter-ministerial agreements and cultural co-operation programmes and is responsible for its administration.

The Ministry of Education is responsible for cross-border co-operation in education and science, and for exchanges in the field of art, music and literature with countries such as Italy, France, Russia and Romania. One example in this field is the co-operation protocols between the Moldovan and Romanian Ministries of Education, whereby over 1 000 Moldovans study in different institutions in Romania each year, including art universities and research cultural centres. In 2014 this number increased to 7 840 young people. These programmes are carried out and funded by the Romanian Government.

On 26 August 2010, a protocol of cooperation was signed between the Romanian and Moldovan Ministries of Education on mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates of studies awarded in Moldova or Romania, and thus in the EU. The document stipulates that the university curricula in both countries will be unified in the near future, along with the mutual recognition of scientific titles.

The Romanian Cultural Institute, Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Denominations and the Department for Relations with the Romanian Diaspora are also very active in supporting cultural projects in the Republic of Moldova (e.g. fellowships,

research projects, summer schools for artists, publishing of writers' works and other cultural publications etc).

In September 2010, the Romanian Cultural Institute "Mihai Eminescu" was opened in Chisinau. The Romanian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova commented that this event was an instrument of modern cultural diplomacy.

According to *Government Decision No. 610* of 19 August 2013, an Agreement for collaboration between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, was signed in Chisinau on 11 July 2013. According to *Government Decision No. 677* of 2 September 2013, an Agreement for collaboration in the cultural sphere was approved between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Turkmenistan, signed in Chisinau on 24 July 2013.

In the last years a number of foreign film festivals were organised, with the financial support of the embassies based in Moldova, such as the Film Festival of the Francophone Countries, Great Britain, Japan, USA, Israel, Poland, Spain and Sweden. In the period October-November 2013, the Days of Spanish culture in the Republic of Moldova were organised, which took place on the National Day of Spain, and Days of Polish Films and Festival of Sweden films were held in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

The cultural agenda in 2013 was overloaded with cultural events, both national and international. Among them are the following cultural actions: International Festival of Theatre and Film schools "ClassFest", Festival "Days of New Music", XII edition, International Saxophone Festival "Sax Story", International Piano Festival "Pianistic Nights from Moldova – Black Sea", XII edition, Ethno-Jazz Festival, International Festival of violin music "The Queen Violin", II edition, International Competition of symphonic conducting, XIX edition, International Festival of Opera and Ballet Stars "Maria Biesu invites", International Painting Biennale Chisinau – 2013, etc..

More sporadically, training, language courses, and research grants are implemented and partially financed by such organisations as the Romanian Cultural Institute, Swiss Development Cooperation, Goethe-Institute, the British Council, and the Alliance Française.

Special articles of the concluded agreements regulate financial conditions for participation at international cultural events listed in co-operation programmes, as well as guarantees for international exhibitions. The Ministry of Culture funds only part of certain international events (festivals, fairs, exhibitions) organised in Moldova. Other international cultural activities and travel expenses for participation at events abroad are funded from other sources (local budgets, sponsorship, grants, etc.).

3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes

In recent years, Moldova has participated in projects run by several international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the Central European Initiative, the European Union (RAPHAEL and PHARE projects as a non-member state), and UNESCO, the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme. Moldova was the most active participant in the Council of Europe's MOSAIC project. Within this framework, Moldovan cultural policy-makers and administrators took part in multilateral seminars on the funding and sponsorship of culture, working conditions for artists and cultural diversity. As a result of these activities, the National Report on Cultural Policy in the Republic of Moldova was prepared. In September 2001, in Chisinau, National Debates were organised relating to this document, with the participation of the Culture Committee of the Council of Europe.

The Ministry of Culture has also co-operated with international organisations that have representations in Moldova: UNDP, TACIS, Latin Union, and the Alliance Française. For

example, in 2000, the National Strategy on cultural tourism was elaborated by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.

Since 2002, Moldova participates in the Community of Independent States' (CIS) cultural programme - Delphi's Games for Youth, a contest for young artists organised each year in different countries of the CIS. In 2005, this cultural event took place in Moldova.

The Republic of Moldova has ratified all UNESCO Conventions on cultural issues.

The agencies charged with implementing and monitoring the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* are the Moldovan National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Youth, the State Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations and some of the most important centres and associations for Human Rights and for Minority Issues.

In the frames of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme, cultural institutions from the Republic of Moldova participated in 4 projects: 1. Say Cheese: Eastern Family Album. Capacity Building, Networking and Promotion of Thematic Eastern Partnership Photography; 2. "Sharing History, Cultural Dialogues"; 3. Sustainable Public Areas for Culture in Eastern Countries (SPACES); 4. Valorisation and Improvement of Management of Small Historic Centres in the Eastern Partnership Region (VIVA EAST). Also, on 17 April 2013, in the frames of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme, the Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit (RMCBU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, organised the round table "Strategies for culture development: a national approach". It also involved a number of training activities, which included experts from the cultural sphere from 6 countries - members of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), and experts from the RMCBU and international experts.

The European Commission, Directorate General for Culture and Education, commonly with the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia, organised the first Ministerial Conference on the Eastern Partnership for Culture from 27-29 June 2013 in Tbilisi. The Conference had the objective of exploring how the cultural sphere can contribute to achieving sustainable development in the following fields: a) political reforms, democratisation, civil society development; b) economic development and creation of jobs; and c) social cohesion. Conference participants approved a Declaration in which are stipulated priority fields for cultural cooperation in the frames of the Eastern Partnership.

In the frames of the 4th Platform of the Eastern Partnership "Inter-human Contacts", the Republic of Moldova proposed the following collaboration priorities for the next 3 years: cultural cooperation and exchanges, art and artists mobility; cooperation in the field of protection and preserving cultural heritage; cooperation in the field of informatisation of the cultural sphere and digitisation of cultural heritage; cooperation in the field of development of cultural industries; cooperation in the frames of the international platforms such as UNESCO and the Council of Europe, with regard to developing cultural diversity, and preserving and valuing cultural and historic heritage.

Among the projects supported financially by the European Commission there is also the Pilot Project "Rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the historical centres".

3.4.4 Direct professional co-operation

Due to the centuries-old common language, history and cultural traditions, Moldova has close cultural links with Romania, developed at both institutional and individual levels. The festivals of Romance and folk Music, theatre festivals, individual exhibitions, film and theatre co-productions, training courses and workshops on different cultural sectors are only a few examples of direct professional co-operation between these two countries.

The Moldovan Opera and Ballet Theatre and the National Philharmonic co-operate directly with western musical impresario agencies and have regular tours in Europe (e.g. the United Kingdom).

The "Eugene Ionesco" Theatre co-operates with theatrical companies (including co-productions) from Romania, Russia, Italy, France and Japan. It is also the initiator and organiser of the Biennial International Festival, which includes organised public debates and workshops on the most important issues in the theatre sector.

3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation

To date, there are no government programmes to support trans-national intercultural dialogue in Moldova.

Until 2001, the former Ministry of Culture supported artistic productions (literature, artistic performances and poetry recitals) in the Ukrainian regions of Odessa and Cernauti, which are mainly populated by Romanian speakers. It has also offered assistance to cultural associations of Moldovans in the Russian Federation.

The Diaspora Relations Bureau (DRB) launched or supported financially cultural programmes in 9 cycles of cultural and artistic events, both in the Diaspora and in the Republic of Moldova, in about 40 cities in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. The events involved around 30 000 people, with 7 000 books and other information materials being dispersed. For developing dialogue with the Diaspora and in order to consolidate the capacities of the associations of Moldovans who live abroad, the DRB maintains relations with 200 Diaspora associations in 30 countries. The DRB distributed over 500 books to the cultural centres in 10 countries and assured logistic support for transporting 4 000 books from the Diaspora to the Republic of Moldova.

There are no funds and programmes available for specific trans-national activities for young people in the Republic of Moldova. On the other hand, there are many non-governmental organisations, foundations and associations which have specialised programmes contributing to the development of young people, including artists: the Centre for Cultural Policies, the Centre for Contemporary Art KSA:K, "Contact" Centre (with branches in Balti, Cahul, Comrat and Soroca), Soros Foundation, Centre for Youth Development, NGO Junior Achievement, International Centre of Modern Languages, Association ARS DOR, "Oberliht", German Cultural Centre AKZENTE, Theatre "Spălătorie", "Unlimited music" associations etc.

The Centre for Contemporary Art KSA:K, in partnership with Cathedra UNESCO of the South-East European Studies of the Moldova State University, organised a workshop on creative writing for artists – "Continuities of the Socialist Modernity", while from 24-26 April 2013 a Workshop "Mapping of Mobility: Nodes of Transitions and Meetings" was also organised.

ARS DOR is an Arts and Professional Development Centre that provides consulting, training and capacity building programmes for the cultural sector of the Republic of Moldova. In this respect, ARS DOR Association contributes to developing and

implementing cultural policies, by initiation of advocacy campaigns and lobbying, and by carrying out research and developing analytical studies in the cultural field. At the same time, ARS DOR consults institutions from the cultural field in developing strategic development plans, providing trainings in cultural management and marketing, cultural mapping, project management, fundraising, etc.

The Soros Foundation Moldova has supported a large number of trans-national projects in theatre, visual arts, contemporary music, dance, choreography and literature over recent decades. The Soros Foundation Moldova played a key role in the implementation of the three-year Pilot-Project "*Reinforcing Moldova's Development Capacities by Strengthening its Cultural Sector*", acting as the partner of the European Cultural Foundation (see chapter 4.3).

3.4.6 Other relevant issues

In the period 1-3 September 2014, the VI Congress of Moldovan Diaspora was held in Chisinau, which was attended by 145 participants, representatives from more than 28 countries. The Congress offered a good opportunity for dialogue and for preparing new projects for diaspora organisations which promote the cultural image of the Republic of Moldova. In the frames of the Congress the *Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the Diaspora - "Diaspora 2025"* - was presented.

In the period 2009-2013, the Ministry of Culture partially supported several large international cultural events: the International Festival of Music "Martisor", the International Opera Festival "Maria Biesu Invites", the International Biennial of "Eugene Ionesco" Theatre, the "Days of New Music", International Festival of Documentary Film "CRONOGRAF", two international festivals (for children's folk-dance groups and pop music formations) organised in Cahul, as well as other international festivals held annually. Artists from 30 countries in Europe and CIS participated in these events.

The International Festival of Theatre and Film Schools "ClassFest" is a unique international artistic action for students and youth from the Republic of Moldova, which was held in the period 11-16 April 2014. The aim of the Festival is to promote values of contemporary art and to develop intercultural dialogue and exchanges between the theatre and film schools in the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Germany and Poland.

4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate

4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities

Cultural policy priorities are outlined in the national programme: "Development and Protection of Culture and the Arts in the Republic of Moldova, 1997-1998" (extended to 2000-2005). Among the programme's short-term and long-term goals are:

- to develop an ethical framework for the rule of law which respects freedom of creation and thought, promoting a sense of citizenship and patriotism;
- to ensure appropriate conditions for the development and perpetuation of the creative potential in society; and
- to preserve national and ethnic cultural traditions.

Until 2001, former governments adopted a "short-term solution" strategy when implementing state policy in the field of culture. Thus, the main strategy of the Ministry of Culture during this period was to avoid any arbitrary reductions in activity and to protect the cultural institutions and networks from the worsening effects of the economic crisis and the consequent severity of cuts in state expenditure.

In April 2004, the Moldovan government excluded a very important cultural chapter from the new "Long-term Strategy for Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation", which could have provided new, more adequate policies and models for the revitalisation and promotion of national arts and culture. In this regard, culture was excluded from the national development strategies.

Over the years, culture has remained a sphere which has not been given proper attention in the Republic of Moldova. The culture sphere was omitted completely or it benefitted from only marginal attention in the strategic documents such as: *Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (2004-2006)*, *National Development Strategy for the period 2008–2011*, *"Re-launching Moldova"*, and *"Moldova 2020"*. Culture in the Republic of Moldova is perceived as a domain consuming public resources, not as a fundamental field that contributes to the progress of the state.

In the governing programmes (2005-2014) culture was mentioned with different levels of detail, but nevertheless was not seen as a development priority. During this period, there were five Government Programmes, namely:

- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2005-2009 "Country Modernisation – Welfare of the People"*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the period 2008-2009 "Progress and Integration"*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" for the period 2009-2013*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" for the period 2011-2014*;
- *Activity Programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" 2013-2014*.

The main governing objectives in the cultural sphere established in the activity programme of the Government of the Republic of Moldova: "European Integration: Liberty, Democracy, Welfare" 2013-2014 are the following:

- Development of contemporary art as a tool for promotion and affirmation of the national culture both on the national and international arena.
- Re-establishing of cultural activity and infrastructure, especially in the rural zones.

- Financing of cultural activities according to the established priorities and being project based.
- Promotion of culture as a primary factor of preserving and developing national identity.
- Promotion of the national cultural values as a part of the European cultural heritage.

In general, it is possible to affirm that regarding the culture sphere these Programmes had general objectives that migrated from one document into another without essential modifications, while many of the priority actions remained as statements without having clear endings, including: ensuring rehabilitation and maintenance of cultural and historical objects based on public-private partnerships; digitisation of cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova; modernisation and diversification of services offered by the cultural institutions; development; reforming the financing system of culture by ensuring transparency in the development, management and distribution of the culture budget, etc.

These objectives do not express the final and impact results, being geared to achieving results that do not assure enhancing performances in the cultural sphere, which increases the risk for non-transparent and inefficient use of funds.

The key document on which the Ministry of Culture bases the implementation of the Government Programme is the Strategic Development Programme (SDP) for 2012-2014. The SDP is approved on the Ministry College meeting; it is a strategic planning document for the authority activity and is the successor to the Institutional Development Plan.

The document "*National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020*" was completed in 2014 and approved by *Government Decision No. 271* of 9 April 2014. This document is innovative in that a systematic analysis of the cultural sphere of the Republic of Moldova is available for the first time, from which general directions and objectives of the culture development for the medium and long term were identified.

The mission of the Strategy is to provide the cultural sphere with a coherent, efficient and pragmatic policy framework, based on the priorities defined in the document. The strategy took into account the needs of the sector and human capital required; it has a flexible vision that will allow different levels of development for each field. According to the strategy vision, by 31 December 2020, the Republic of Moldova will have a consolidated, independent and creative cultural sector, and a protected cultural heritage, which is integrated into national and regional policies, including sustainable development activities: educational, social, economic, tourism and the environment.

The aim of the Strategy is to ensure a viable cultural environment by creating an appropriate public policy framework, the formation of a functional system of preserving and valuing cultural heritage, promotion of creativity, development of cultural industries, enhancing cultural management efficiency, enhancing citizens' quality of life, and developing a spirit of tolerance and social cohesion. Currently the *National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* is the main policy document in the cultural sphere in the Republic of Moldova.

In order to implement the government programmes, during the years 2013-2014 the Ministry of Culture initiated changes in a number of legislative and regulatory acts: *Museums Law* No. 1596-XV as of 27.12.2002, the *Law on Historical Monuments*, the *Law on Libraries*, the *Law on theatres, circuses and concert organisations*, etc. (author: what is the purpose of these changes?) On 03 July 2014 the *Law on Cinematography* was also approved. The following acts were also developed and approved: one Decision of the Parliament; twenty normative, organisational and financial *Government Decisions*; five normative acts approved by the Minister's order, which govern activities on archaeological heritage, museums and on immovable and intangible heritage.

Also, over the years a number of sectoral strategic planning documents have been developed such as: the National Programme of informatisation of the cultural sphere for the period 2012-2020; Public policy proposal "Improving the management of concert and theatre institutions"; Public policy proposal "Enhancing the activity efficiency of museums"; Strategy for development of vocational-technical education for the years 2013-2020; Medium-term budgetary framework (2012-2014).

For example, the *National Strategy on the Information Society E-Moldova, 2005-2015*, approved by the government on 25 March 2005, contains a chapter on E-Culture dealing with new forms of promoting culture through electronic media. Later on, the *National Programme on Informatisation of the cultural sector for 2012-2020 was launched*, which envisages "creating infrastructure and cultural informational space necessary for the provision of electronic services in the field of culture" through (I) implementation of e-government in the central office of the Ministry of Culture and its subordinated institutions, (II) digitisation of cultural heritage at the rate of 75%, (III) ensuring digitisation of books in public libraries, (IV) creating online public cultural services, and (V) creating web pages for cultural institutions. During recent years, resources to achieve the objectives of the Programme on Information were not allocated, thus digitisation of museum pieces and books were being carried out using the resources of the subordinate institutions. Due to a lack of funding, the objectives set out in these programmes were not achieved.

The state *Programme on the development of the regions, 2005-2015* entitled "*Moldovan Village*" includes tasks such as: protection of the local cultural heritage; promotion of cultural policies on Youth; restoration and development of the regional Houses of Culture, libraries and museums; and implementation of some European models of development of rural localities.

Cultural development policies for cultural sphere management have not been adapted to the new conditions of the market economy and have been poorly integrated into the policies of other sectors and fields of development, such as: the economy, education, the environment, youth and sport, social assistance, etc. As a consequence, the cultural sphere is not listed among the priorities of the government programmes, nor among the public policy documents, while financial resources allocated to culture, measured as a share of GDP or total expenditure from the national public budget are insufficient to meet the challenges of this sector. Inadequate funding and inefficient and opaque use of resources allocated to culture make achievement of the objectives of the *National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* practically impossible, while many problems faced by the sector will remain unsolved.

4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates

4.2.1 Conceptual issues of policies for the arts

In the context of making theatre and concert institutions more efficient, in 2011 the Ministry of Culture developed the *Public Policy "Enhancing performance based efficiency of theatre and concert institutions"*. After analyzing the activity of theatre and concert institutions it was concluded that the main issue faced by these institutions is inefficient mechanisms of theatre management, reflected in low audience numbers, the low number of performances and new productions and a precarious financial situation. The causes of the problem are of the administrative nature at all levels, lack of strategic vision for the development of theatrical art, lack of managers with entrepreneurial skills, lack of a unified

mechanism for financing, an inability to generate income, massive and expensive infrastructure, scarcity of qualitative human resources and lack of theatre marketing.

To ensure an efficient management system for museums and in order to promote the national heritage, on 1 July 2014, the Public Policy on *Increasing efficiency and modernizing museum activity* was developed and approved.

4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies

The Parliament draws up state policy on the protection of monuments, creates the legal framework to ensure efficient protection of cultural heritage, approves the register of state-protected monuments and state cultural programmes and funds such programmes.

The government compiles the register of state-protected monuments, implements the conservation, restoration and enhancement of such monuments and funds such programmes out of the state budget and with outside sources of funding.

Local authorities are responsible for maintaining the inventory of monuments of county and local significance and for funding activities relating to the protection of such monuments.

To prevent the deterioration of monuments, the state bodies responsible for their protection are required to designate protection zones to be included in the register, and any work carried out in such protected zones must comply with the regulations governing those zones.

The Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Visual Art is a structure that ensures and promotes strategies and policies, draft laws, regulations and public policies in the field of cultural heritage and visual arts of the Republic of Moldova. They are also responsible for historical remains, architectural heritage, the protection of national movable and immovable cultural heritage, compliance with relevant legislation, and the maintenance of archives and registers relating to the protection of monuments. In addition, these Directorates put the finishing touches to state programmes on monument protection, co-ordinate studies on the impact of urban and regional development upon archaeological monuments, and supervise archaeological excavations. Specialists working in the Directorates provide advice and guidance on cultural heritage issues to officials of central and local governments, professionals, researchers, students, etc.

The Ministry of Culture, through inter-ministerial committees, collaborates with the following Ministries: Construction and Regional Development, The Environment, The Economy, Finance, Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Education, Labour, Social Protection and Families, and Justice. The Ministry of Culture has the following committees and councils with advisory functions:

- National Archaeological Commission;
- National Commission for Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- National Commission for Museums and Collections;
- Art Acquisition Committee for the National collections;
- National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO;
- National Council of Historical Monuments;
- National Council of Public Forum Monuments;
- National Council for Monumental and Decorative Art; and
- Council of Experts for estimating and purchase of art works.

The Agency of Inspection and Restoration of Monuments (AIRM) is an executive body subordinated to the Ministry of Culture which has the function of control regarding law observance in the field of protection, preservation and restoration of monuments, historical ensembles and sites and their protection areas. The function of AIRM is to coordinate and

enforce the laws of the Republic of Moldova, documents of UNESCO and the Council of Europe on protection, preserving and promoting historical monuments.

The National Archaeological Agency is a specialised public institution subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, with the mission to implement state policy in the field of the protection and promoting archaeological heritage, to organise and exercise control and supervision on behalf of the state of compliance with the legislation, to enforce law in the field of protection of archaeological heritage.

The National Centre for Preserving and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage is the institution that ensures enforcement of protection policies in the regions, especially in the communities possessing heritage, sustains the viability of the intangible cultural heritage especially to the younger generation, and makes inventory elements of intangible cultural heritage, preserving information on various modern media.

Although there is an exaggerated number of institutions responsible and involved in management of cultural heritage, there is still a lack of effective management and low capacity to exploit the cultural heritage. Ineffective management of public heritage is caused by poor management both at the central and local level, and also because of the lack of collaboration among the ministries, local public authorities, cadastral bodies and civil society. In the near future, the Ministry of Culture intends to transform the Agency of Inspection and Restoration of Monuments into the State Inspectorate of Monuments and to create the National Institute of Historical Monuments to cover the gap in institutional capacities of the state and will strengthen institutional capacities in the field of cultural heritage protection.

Cultural policies in the field of cultural heritage were promoted by the state through various programmes: *State Programme "Development and protection of culture and art in the Republic of Moldova for 1997-1998"*, *Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Republic of Moldova* (2003-2015) and indirectly promoted by the *National Programme "Moldovan Village"* (2005-2015); *National Strategy for Information Society "E-Moldova"*; *Government Activity Programme "European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare"* which provided the government policy framework of the Republic of Moldova for 2011-2014; *Strategic Development Plan of the Ministry of Culture for 2012-2014*, and the *Medium Term Budgetary Framework for 2013-2015*.

As for the legal framework in the field of cultural heritage protection, it has been significantly improved in recent years, by adoption of the *Law on protection of archaeological heritage*, the *Law on Public Forum Monuments*, the *Law on the protection of movable national cultural heritage* and the *Law on the protection of intangible cultural heritage*. In the process of major changes is the *Law on protection of historical monuments*, which will replace the existing law, in existence since 1993. In the same context, the Republic of Moldova has signed and ratified ten international conventions on cultural heritage.

An exceptional achievement in 2013 is the enrolment into the Representative List of the Humanity Intangible Cultural Heritage of the traditional winter practice "Male group singing carols", this being the first element of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova accepted into UNESCO World Heritage List. In 2013, in cooperation with other countries from the Southeast Europe, the feast of "Saint Gheorghe-Hiderliz" was proposed for inclusion on the UNESCO list. Another element of the national cultural heritage – "Martisor" is in the final stage of nomination, in the frames of a transnational project, for the Representative List of the UNESCO Humanity Intangible Cultural Heritage. A candidate file on the list of UNESCO protected areas is the Old Orhei reservation, which was submitted in 2005, but which was since withdrawn since the objective did not meet the requirements.

Among the projects that deserve special attention is restoration of the historical and architectural complex "Manuc Bey mansion – park" in Hâncești, which is being developed with national and European funding and reaches a budget of about EUR 2 million. Most of the finance, EUR 1.82 million, is granted by the European Union in the frames of the project "Development of cross-border tourism by promoting Manuc Bey Mansion, mortuary complex Elena Ioan Cuza and Blesciunov Mansion" by the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova. Another 23 million MDL will be allocated by the Agency for Regional Development. The work envisages restoration and reconstruction of the Mansion, a watchtower, a hunter's Castle, Manuc Bey House, bailiff house and barn. The project initiators aim to furnish the mansion interior with furniture corresponding to the mansion's epoch and to restore its former splendour. According to the technical specifications, rehabilitation of the mansion is planned to be completed by 31 August 2015.

Success stories in the field of cultural heritage rehabilitation include the reconstruction project of Soroca Fortress, which is carried out within the European Programme "Medieval Jewellery", which also includes Hotin and Suceava fortresses in Romania. The first phase of the project amounted to EUR 2 million and was financed from the European financial resources, with the project expected to be completed in May 2015.

Another architectural jewel to be renovated in the near future is the church Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Causeni. The Ministry of Culture has developed a renovation project for the monument, and is now looking for 20 million MDL needed for the project works.

4.2.3 Cultural / creative industries: policies and programmes

Policies in the field of cultural industries in the Ministry of Culture are developed by the Directorate of Professional Arts, Arts Education and Cultural Industries. The respective Directorate provides the legal and regulatory framework for development in the professional arts; promotes and develops the professional contemporary arts; supports creative activity in concert, theatre and cinema institutions, in order to create qualitative cultural products for the larger public; preserves and perpetuates cultural values by promoting cultural projects within the professional artists' unions and specialised NGOs in the field.

In November 2014 the first proposal of public policy was drafted on "Increasing the economic capacity of the cultural sector", with the objective to foster the economic growth capacity of the sector through the development of cultural industries. The beneficiaries of this policy document will be service providers and creators of cultural products, the business sector in the Republic of Moldova, local public authorities, local communities and foreign investors. The document is at the stage of public debate and promotion. Adopting this policy document would guarantee creation of a platform for sustainable development of cultural industries.

A specific objective of the *"National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020"* is: creating conditions for entrepreneurial development of culture and cultural industries, so that the share of culture will constitute 3% of GDP in 2020.

The priority actions in the Strategy relating to the cultural industries are:

development of a legislative and regulatory framework in the field of creative and cultural industries;

- creation of a database of institutions with economic potential;
- development of a study on the cultural market in the country;

- promotion of cultural goods and services for export;
- facilitating private business in the cultural field by developing partnerships with the Ministry of the Economy;
- creation of conditions for the development of the film industry;
- identification of potential products to become country brands by creating partnerships with authorities, artists and design companies; and
- identification of support mechanisms to promote excellence in crafts.

At the moment, due to the lack of market research and statistical data, it is impossible to calculate the turnover of cultural industries in the Republic of Moldova and therefore an accurate contribution of this sector to the national economy. It is obvious that the cultural industries market is at an early stage of development and requires ambitious public policies, with realistic and achievable goals, significant investment and tax incentives, a legal framework reform regarding sponsorship and philanthropy to stimulate the private sector to invest or lend to this field in view of generating new jobs, motivating creation of start-ups and incubators and bringing added value to the national economy.

In recent years, film, publishing, radio and television were among the areas most affected by replacing programmes for social and cultural development with the political strategies of the ruling parties. Due to the lack of vision for the development of these fields and because of the slow development of policies, cultural industries from the Republic of Moldova remain in continuous stagnation.

In the period 2001 - 2005 in Moldova, coordination of cinema activities was carried out by the Cinematography Department within the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova. The purpose of the Department was promotion of state policy in the sphere of cinematography production, cinematography activities' regulation in the private sector, and creating conditions necessary for production, distribution, operation, restoration and preserving cinematographic works of high artistic value. In 2005 the Department was transformed into the Cinematography Department within the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In 2006 the Department was liquidated.

On 3 July 2014, the Parliament passed a new *Law on Cinematography*, which updates the legislative norms and includes new provisions which harmonise with the new policies in the field and substitute ambiguous and outdated notions. A primary purpose of the *Law* is liquidation of tax evasion and piracy in cinematography, which currently leads to losses of money by the state by not paying taxes and which seriously impacts on the image of the Republic of Moldova on the international arena. Also, this *Law* proposes to create the a National Cinematography Centre – an authority empowered to operate the National Film Archive, with the objective to promote and preserve the national cinematography heritage, which is in real danger because of the administrative shortcomings and Cinematography Register, with functions of control over film production and distribution in the Republic of Moldova. The new *Law* foresees control over film distribution and better control over the management of state funds invested in cinematography. Funding in phases of cinematographic projects allows both quality control and control over the terms of fulfilment of works for which the funding was solicited.

In recent years a number of important normative documents have been developed:

- *Regulation on the National Cinematography Fund;*
- *Regulation on state funding in the field of cinematography;*
- *Regulation on state competitions for cinematographic projects;*
- *Regulation on supporting the state enterprise "Cinematographic Register";* and
- *Regulation on classification, distribution and public demonstration of cinematography production.*

At the same time, the lack of several normative documents and regulations in the field of cinematography stalls systemic modernisation of this area.

The *National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* foresees the following in the field of cinematography: modifying the relevant legal framework before 2020, preparing a strategy of national cinematography development, changing tax policy in the field, strengthening the process of preparing professional staff in the cinematography field and stimulating investment in cinematography and film screening.

As for supporting film in 2009, 2.45 million MDL were provided in the state budget for the production of films with state level status, out of which 164 000 MDL were allocated to "Moldova-Film". In 2010 and 2011, the budget of the Ministry of Culture did not include allowances for cinematographic production. In the situation, when in 2010 and 2011 there was no the state grant, the studio "Moldova-Film" produced documentary films and as a result achieved revenues of 4.1 million MDL and 2.8 million MDL respectively. Although income from the rental of space unused in the technologic process is greater than income from producing films, the company "Moldova-Film" registered financial losses. Another institution that permanently registers losses is the Joint Stock Company "Moldcinema" whose main activity is the distribution of cinematographic production. In 2009-2011 the main income of the institution was made up of the lease of premises, with revenues from this activity being 70-140 times higher than income from the core business.

Based on audit reports on the 2012 budget year and public asset management by the central cabinet of the Ministry of Culture, undertaken by the Court of Auditors, it is possible to conclude the following: there was inefficient public heritage management, unused budgetary allocations, and numerous cases of the risk of sale of state heritage property as a result of accumulating significant debt to personal and other creditors, etc.

Recently the Joint Stock Company "Moldova-Film" launched an international project to produce feature films with the support of the Italian producer Angelo Iacono. A comprehensive project for a serial of 12 episodes was also developed, as well as a TV project and a feature film with the participation of 17-18 year olds from all over the country.

Among the recent achievements of the company "Moldova – Film" are: documentaries to promote Moldova at the World Expo in Shaanghai, China: "Bucuroși de oaspeți" (Happy for guests); "Lăcașuri sfinte" (Holy places); "Moldova azi" (Moldova today); "Vinul patriei mele" (The wine of my country); video clips message – invitation and congratulatory messages. These documentaries and clips were viewed by circa one million visitors.

Also, during 2010 the following documentaries were completed: "Eu am mers dupa soare" (I went for the sun), and "Golgota Basarabiei" (The Bessarabia's Golgotha), the premiere of which was organised at the Cultural Centre "Odeon". Also, at "Odeon" there were many other significant cultural events, such as the Festival of Francophone Film, with the support of the Alliance Francaise de Moldavie; the German Film Festival, with the support of the German Cultural Centre; the Russian Film Festival, with the support of the Russian Embassy; and the International Festival of Very Short Films, with the support of the Alliance Francaise.

In 2014 the debut feature film of director Anatol Durbala "What a wonderful world" was realised, which won the prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI PRIZE) at the Film Festival in Warsaw. The film is based on real events of violent protests in the Republic of Moldova on 7-8 April 2009.

A success of 2013 was the feature film of the filmmaker Igor Cobileanski "At the bottom of the sky", a co-production which had its world premiere at the International Film Festival

in Karlovy Vary, in the competition East of the West. "At the bottom of the sky" received funding in the amount of 1 282 395 RON from the National Centre for Cinematography. The script was developed with the support of a residence at the workshop, a project of the Cannes Festival. In 2014 this film was submitted for Oscar nomination for the best foreign film in 2015, this being the second proposal that was sent to the American Academy by the Republic of Moldova. In 2013, the Republic of Moldova participated for the first time at the Academy Awards, with the film proposed for nomination for the category "best foreign film" being "All God's children", a co-production with Romania / Italy, directed by Adrian Popovici.

A successful collaboration between Moldova (OWH Studio), Romania and Luxembourg was the feature film "Wedding in Bessarabia". The film, with a strong regionalist accent, was a real success both in Moldova and Romania. The film was specially mentioned at the "Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival" in December 2009, receiving the special award of the jury. In September 2010, the film was screened in both Romania and Moldova.

Another project in production is the feature film "2 438 km or All roads lead to Rome", with a budget of EUR 500 000. This fiction film with a social theme reflects the phenomenon of mass migration of the labour force from the Republic of Moldova, emphasizing the problem of abandoned children and violence against women. The film will be screened in all countries where Moldovans are established.

In 2010, the Moldovan animation studio *Simpals* received financing in the amount of 5 million EUR for the full-length animation – Gypsy, 3D cartoon about a joyous story of gypsy life. The production of the cartoon is funded by the Russian TV company STV Film and will provide work for at least 100 persons for the next years. *Simpals'* team undertook a visit to the USA, where they discussed opportunities for collaboration with famous Pixar-Disney studios.

Film-makers from Moldova participated at the International Festival of Cinema and Art in Italy; the International Festival of Baltic and CIS countries "Novoie Kino, XX vek" in the Russian Federation; and the International Festival of the independent film-makers in Romania. Weeks of film from Spain, Poland, Germany, USA, Belarus, India, Israel, France and Romania were organised in Chisinau.

Moldova ratified the European Convention on cinematographic co-productions, adopted in Strasbourg on 02.10.1992. The Convention allows the Republic of Moldova access to international cultural practices, inclusion in European structures and access to finance.

In 2013, OWH Studio held its eleventh edition of the International Documentary Film Festival "CRONOGRAF 2013" which included 39 competing films from 25 countries. The Festival comprised three sections, two international and one national: the main section, section cadRO, and a local production section.

Recently, the fourth edition of the International Animation Film Festival "Anim'est" was held, organised by the Cultural Association Este'n'est and ALTFilm, which saw presentations of the best animated films from the international competition of Stuttgart Film Festival in 2014 and as well the best animations from Baden - Württemberg, from the period 2012-2014.

The number of rural and municipal cinemas and cinema installations is steadily falling: from 77 in 2004 to only 18 cinemas and cinema installations in 2012. At the same time the number of spectators increased from 466 000 spectators in 2011 to 598 000 spectators in 2012. The private cinemas in Chisinau and Balti continue their activity, largely due to substantial ticket prices, with various shows, product presentations, lotteries, etc.

Legal and organisational reform of the cinematographic state institutions and the legal framework approved so far have not changed for the better situation in the field of cinematographic art. In recent years there has been no investment in equipping studios and cinemas with modern equipment, and they have been no tax incentives for the development of the cinematographic field. Consequently, cinematography is underdeveloped, although there is a human potential in this field.

In addition to the company "Teleradio-Moldova" in the Republic of Moldova there are several private TV companies: Jurnal TV, Public TV, Pro TV, Euro TV, Reality TV, etc. They transmit 24 hours per day, keeping the population up to date with all news and also broadcast special editions with debates on various issues of importance to the country. According to the "Public Opinion Barometer - April 2014", the most important source of public information continues to be television (82%), which is also the source of information in which 35% of the population have the highest confidence. The second place is occupied by the internet with 35%, followed by radio (30%) and newspapers (14%). Among the most popular TV stations are: Prime TV (47%) and Moldova 1 (46%). Almost every fourth adult watches Jurnal TV (24%) and Publika (23%), ranking No. 3rd and 4th respectively among the main TV information channels. Pro TV (21%) constitutes a source of information 20% of the population.

Two new projects on the online media market deserve special attention, namely: Privesc.Eu and CanalRegional.md. Privesc.Eu is the largest project of live broadcasts from the Republic of Moldova and Romania, transmitting events from both countries: sittings of the Parliament and Government, press conferences, summits, congresses, meetings, sports games, festivals, etc. In the frames of the programme "Strengthening the network of the regional broadcasters for an Informed Society, Participatory and Responsible Governance", with the support of the Swedish Government, Soros Foundation, Free Press Unlimited and Media Programme of the Soros-Foundation Moldova, a network of regional broadcasters comprising 14 TV stations in different regions of the country was established, including Gagauzia and Transnistria. Under this programme the platform CanalRegional.md was created to strengthen the regional television network as an alternative source of current, truthful and fair information for audiences in rural areas.

In the publishing-printing field in the Republic of Moldova there are 2 state publishing houses, one magazine and two polygraphy companies managed by the Ministry of Culture, in which the state owns more than 60% of the share capital. Currently in Moldova there are 24 private publishers. The largest publishing company in the field is the *Poligraphy Combinate* in Chisinau. State publishing houses *Cartea Moldovei* and *Lumina* implement the state policy by publishing national literature according to the priorities established by the Ministry of Culture. Although the mission of the state publishers is to support national book production, inefficient management of resources available to the state publishers leads to a small number of titles published in comparison to private publishers. For example: out of the total number of books and booklets (2 470) published in 2011, only 319 (13%) were from state publishing houses. In 2010, state publishers - where the state owned more than 60% of the share capital - printed 2 366 books, which constitutes 0.08% of the total volume issued in the country. In 2010 the publishing house *Cartea Moldovei* did not publish anything, while in 2011 it published only three titles. In the same period *Cartier* published 61 titles with a total circulation of 195 980 copies. The majority of the state publishing houses are not able to pay their own expenses from their own incomes. Only the Polygraphy Combinate and Central Printing House record profits. On 31 December 2011, net assets of the mentioned state enterprises was 87 796 770 MDL, more than 6 586 920 MDL than at the beginning of 2011.

In 2013, out of a state budget of 2.23 million MDL, there were 44 titles published, with 55 000 copies, to be distributed free to public libraries in the regions. In 2013, public

libraries were furnished with 403 000 units of literature, including 350 100 units in Romanian.

Because of the small and poor local book market, publishing houses export about 80% of their production to Romania. This difficult situation in the book market is caused by the destruction of the former soviet network of book distribution through specialised shops and a lack of alternative solutions, as well as the reduced possibilities of the population to pay high prices for books. So far the state does not have a public policy for development and support of the poligraphy-editorial branch.

Moldova's entertainment business remains far behind neighboring countries, especially Russia and Romania, and it is influenced by their entertainment market.

The advertising market in the Republic of Moldova is developing at a dynamic pace, increasing each year by 25-40%. In 2013, according to studies of the organisations that monitor the advertising market in the Republic of Moldova, the volume of the advertising business constituted 45-50 million USD. TV advertising has a share of 65-70% of the market, which constitutes approx. 20 million USD. Television is the most popular with the consumers of information (70%), followed by outdoor advertising, radio advertising, print and online advertising, which had a rise of 100% in the last 2-3 years, up from 200 000 USD to 2 million USD.

However, the *Law on Advertising* (1997) does not ensure proper development of the advertising market and does not protect the monopolisation danger. Currently, advertising budgets are concentrated excessively in the country's capital, which forces the local / regional media into a precarious existence. Private advertising media operates in the advertising market under the same conditions as publicly funded mass-media institutions, which creates asymmetric competition and hinders the development of private mass-media.

There is a non-governmental organisation, OWH TV Studio, which organises workshops for young professionals in the cinema sector, international documentary film festivals, summer schools on film production etc. with the participation of international experts. It also has extensive experience in working with international organisations, such as UN agencies, the Alliance Francaise, USAID etc.

There is currently no explicit definition of the term "cultural industries" in the Republic of Moldova.

4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

According to the 2004 census, Moldovans represent 78.2% of the total of population of 3.39 million. The census indicates a dramatic decrease of population numbers in Moldova - from 4.5 million in 1989 to 3.39 million in 2004. This is mainly due to the fact that the separatist region of Transnistria did not participate in the latest census. Furthermore, official statistics show that over 600 000 citizens left the country to seek employment abroad.

In the period 12-25 May 2014, the population census was conducted in the Republic of Moldova. The National Bureau of Statistics was due to announce preliminary results of population census in December 2014. Final figures will be known in 2015, 27 months after conducting the census.

There are 18 minority groups in the country. The four largest are Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians and Gagauz.

Table 1: Largest minority groups in Moldova, 1989 and 2004 census figures

Groups	Number of persons		% share of total population	
	1989	2004	1989	2004
Ukrainians	600 000	283 367	13.8	8.4
Russians	562 000	198 144	13.0	5.8
Gagauz	157 500	147 661	3.5	4.4
Bulgarians	90 000	65 072	2.0	1.9
Other	121 500	44 350	2.7	1.3

Source: National Bureau of Statistic, 2007

Note: The category "other" comprises Jews, Belarusians, Poles, Germans, Roma, Greeks, Lithuanians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Tatars, Chuvash, Italians, Koreans, Uzbeks and Georgians. They have a variety of institutions operating as communities (11), societies (14), unions (2), centres (4), associations (4) and foundations (4).

There are 78 ethnical-cultural groups in the regions and towns of Chisinau, Soroca, Bălți, Orhei, Cahul, Comrat, Bender, Ceadir-Lunga, Vulcanesti, Ocnita, Taraclia and Tiraspol which play a part in preserving and developing national traditions as well as the mother tongue and cultural traditions of their respective minority communities. In recent years, representatives of Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians, Belarusians, Germans, Azerbaijanis, Armenians and Georgians have set up national communities, representing organisations of a social, cultural and humanitarian nature. These communities do not limit themselves to purely cultural activities. They protect the civil, economic, social and religious rights of their members. They also play a co-ordinating role, among all the public organisations, for their respective minorities and have been empowered to speak on their behalf and represent their interests. The status of these communities allows them to raise money to fund their statutory activities, and offer financial support to their members.

In accordance with the principle of equality and universality enshrined in legislation, ethnic minorities are able to pursue their own culture and practice traditional arts.

In the 1990s, a sub-system of cultural institutions for ethnic minorities was set up, based in the state library, museum and theatre network. In Chisinau (the capital city of Moldova), there are 6 libraries for ethnic minorities and also the Russian State Theatre Company "A. P. Cehov". The first Gagauz theatre company was created in Comrat and the first Bulgarian theatre company now operates in Taraclia.

In Moldova, there are special training programmes for teachers in schools and kindergartens in the languages spoken by ethnic minorities. During the last decade, the Comrat State University and the Comrat Pedagogical College, the Pedagogical College in Taraclia and the Subsidiary of the Music College "Stefan Neaga" in Tvardita were established. In addition to the large network of schools with teaching in Russian, Ukrainian is taught in 71 schools, Gagauz in 49 schools and Bulgarian in 27 schools. Belorussian, Lithuanian, Greek, Georgian, Armenian, and German children learn their mother tongue and culture in Sunday schools set up by ethno-cultural societies.

Within the "Teleradio-Moldova" company, two special departments were set up to broadcast in minority languages – "Comunitate" and "Radio-Moldova International". Their programmes make up about 40% of all programmes (24.9% in Russian; 14.8% in Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Polish, Yiddish, and Romaic). In Balti, Edinet, Ceadir Lunga, Vulcanesti, Ocnita, Briceni, Soroca and Comrat, TV and radio stations regularly broadcast programmes in Gagauz, Bulgarian and Ukrainian.

Almost half of the total production (according to 2005 statistics – 44.7%) of the publishing sector in Moldova - books, newspapers, magazines – is in Russian.

The main instruments regulating the status of ethnic minorities are:

- the *Constitution of the Republic of Moldova*, adopted on July 29, 1994;
- the *Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Moldova* of August 27, 1991;
- the *Law of the Republic of Moldova on the functioning of the languages spoken in the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic* of August 31, 1989;
- the *Decisions of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on application of the language legislation* (September 1, 1989);
- the *Declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the legal status of individuals belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, in the context of the armed conflict in Transnistria* (May 26, 1992);
- the *Law on Citizenship modified by the Law on Multiple Citizenship* in June 2003;
- the *Law on Religions* of March 24, 1992;
- the series of *Laws and Decisions on the Legal Status of the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia*;
- the *Law on Education* of March 9, 1995;
- the *Concept of Educational Development in the Republic of Moldova* (February 1996);
- the *Law on Public Associations* of January 10, 1997;
- the *Law on the Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Moldova*, No. 191-XIV of 12 November 1998 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, 1998, No. 116-118, Article 705). In May 2003 10 counties that were set up in application of this law were changed with the same 32 former districts; and
- the *Law on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and the Legal Status of their Organisations* of August 19, 2001

The Moldovan Parliament ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities on October 22, 1996.

In 1991, the State Department for National Issues of the Republic of Moldova was created, a body of the central public authority responsible for implementing national policy on inter-ethnic relations and language functioning. On 14 November 1990, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Decision on the establishment of the Department and on 25 April 1991 the government adopted the Decision, at the same time determining Department objectives and staff. As a result of Department reorganisation, the name of the Department was amended from Department for National Relations and Languages Functioning (1998) to the Inter-ethnic Relations Department (2001), while later it became the Bureau of Inter-ethnic Relations (2005), (2010).

The structure of the Bureau has a Division for ethnic and national minority relations, a Division for External relations and the diaspora, a Division for promoting the official language and control over compliance of linguistic legislation. The National Centre of Terminology and the House of Nationalities are subordinated to the Bureau, which sustains and develops the ethnic cultures of all nationalities living in Moldova. It co-ordinates and organises national cultural and educational programmes.

In 2012, the Diaspora Relations Office was created within the State Chancellery, with the mission to ensure a coherent and comprehensive policy framework for the Moldovan diaspora through coordination of state policy in the field, consultation on government policies with diaspora associations, strengthening the Moldovan diaspora, development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes dedicated for the diaspora, and providing necessary assistance to the Prime- Minister on policies for Moldovan Diaspora.

4.2.5 Language issues and policies

Romanian is the language spoken by the majority of the indigenous population; however this is not reflected clearly by its status as "official language". The status of the "official language" in the Republic of Moldova is critical to national cultural policy development.

Two years before the collapse of the USSR, the Supreme Soviet of the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic passed three language laws: *Law on the Official Language*, *Law on the Functioning of the Languages Spoken in the Republic*, and *Law on the Re-introduction of the Latin Script*. These laws were followed by the government's State Programme Ensuring the Functioning of Languages Spoken in the MSSR, designed to open the way for the Romanian language to become the main means of communication in all areas of society.

The *Law on the Official Language* assigned the Romanian (state) language the same status as Russian. However, no less than 20 of the 32 sections of the law make reference to the Russian language. As a result, Russian has remained the language used in official documents in all structures of the central and local public administration. In addition, the mother tongue of the native population is not yet "a language of inter-ethnic communication".

The language laws introduced by the Soviet regime contained a non-scientific concept "the Moldovan language" (Moldovan is one of the numerous dialects of the Romanian language) that has not been corrected in the 1994 *Constitution of the Republic of Moldova*. Despite the amendments of the General Assembly of the Academy of Science and other linguistic local and international forums, the state authorities name the official language as "Moldovan", while the schools, universities, mass-media, intellectuals and public administration use the term "Romanian language".

All of these laws and state acts were adopted in 1989 when the Republic of Moldova was still part of the USSR and did not correspond to the radically changed circumstances in 1991, when Moldova declared its independence. Despite this, the legislation on language have not been edited or amended for 22 years. On 5 December 2013, the Constitutional Court examined two complaints concerning the interpretation of art. 13 of the Constitution, which were joined into a single file at the initiative of the Constitutional Court. As a consequence, the Constitutional Court decided that the text of the *Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Moldova* shall prevail the texts from the *Constitution*. Thus, the Romanian language is the state language of the Republic of Moldova, since it is the term stated in the *Declaration of Independence* of the country. The text of the decision brings the arguments: being the preamble to the *Constitution*, the *Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Moldova* is integral to the *Constitution*. In the case of divergence between the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution's* text, the primary text of the *Declaration of Independence* should prevail. The present decision is definitive and cannot be subjected to appeal.

4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity

Although the number of independent media companies is sufficiently large, only 20% of weeklies, daily newspapers, magazines and broadcastings are indeed independent. The rest (about 40%) belong to different individuals or groups of journalists who promote the policy of diverse parties, companies etc. In 2012, statistics recorded 232 magazines and other periodicals and 166 newspapers in the Republic of Moldova.

Due to pressures from the government and the Ministry of Finance, cultural reviews stopped receiving public funding as of 1995. As a result, two magazines ("Columna" and "Codru") folded. Another 8 have managed to survive thanks to sponsorship from different private companies, non-governmental organisations and foundations: the weekly

"Literatura și Arta", the monthlies "Basarabia", "Contrafort", "Semn", "Atelier", "Viata Basarabiei", "Limba Română", and the quarterly "Sud-Est". The Romanian Cultural Institute and Romanian Cultural Foundation also provide assistance. Although these cultural reviews have all managed to maintain a steady level of readership, sporadic funding has led to infrequent publication and reduced print-runs.

Apart from cultural magazines, 8 weekly and 12 daily newspapers periodically deal with cultural topics. In 2012, the annual circulation of magazines and periodicals was 2.9 million copies, which is 1.3 million less than in 2011. The share of magazines in Romanian was 46% in 2012. More difficult is the situation concerning the publication of newspapers, whose combined circulation is declining in recent years: from 1.5 million copies in 2009 to 0.9 million copies in 2012, while the annual circulation fell from 54 million (2009) to 40 million copies (2012). According to sociological data, for 82% of Moldova's population television is the main source of information, while only 14% of the population receives information from the printed media. The difficult social and economic period determines the attitude of Moldova's population towards the printed mass media.

There are 190 TV stations and 42 radio stations covering the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova. All these stations work on the basis of licenses issued by the Audiovisual Co-ordination Board. According to the *Law on the Audiovisual Sector* and the guidelines issued by the Board, each channel should broadcast 65% of its programmes in the official language, the share of indigenous music should not be less than 20%, and over 30% of all broadcast programmes should deal with cultural and educational issues.

However, most of these stations are re-transmitting Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian and other TV and radio programmes, with their own cultural programmes added. This is the reason why the statistical data on this issue refers only to the programmes broadcast by "Teleradio-Moldova" Company - the share of cultural programmes within the company is: Radio-Moldova – 34.5%; TV-Moldova 1 – 23% in Romanian and 3% in the languages of ethnic minorities.

TV Moldova 1, restructured after the parliamentary elections held on July 29, 2009, has diversified its transmissions on cultural issues. It transmits live concerts and performances, important cultural events that take place in various cultural institutions, and programmes that include prominent cultural personalities etc.

The share of domestic programmes (within the same company) is 91.4% and of foreign ones – 8.6%.

Jurnal TV is the media partner of most international festivals. It also organises TV debates about the events. Additionally, twice a week there are interactive debates with the participation of the audience on cultural issues. From its inception, Jurnal TV has literally impeded the demolition of several monuments of cultural and historic value, by informing the public and drawing local authorities' attention to the subject.

The Moldovan Union of Journalists, the non-governmental Independent Journalism Centre and several other Clubs in the field include, in their activities, debates on professional ethics and, on the other hand, support local media in denouncing pressure and censorship by public authorities and various business and political groups of interests.

4.2.7 Intercultural dialogue: actors, strategies, programmes

In 2014 the Government of Moldova has proposed developing the *National Strategy "Diaspora – 2025"*. This document will set the general framework for ensuring coherence of state policy on the diaspora and implementing a shared vision of the government in this field. For the first time in the history of independency of the Republic of Moldova, the diaspora component is approached horizontally by the Government of the Republic of

Moldova. The body responsible for developing the National Strategy "Diaspora – 2025" is the Diaspora Relations Bureau of the State Chancellery, which has the task of ensuring a coherent and comprehensive policy for the Moldovan diaspora through coordination of state policy in the field, consultation over government policies with diaspora associations, Moldovan diaspora consolidation, development, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes for the diaspora, and providing necessary assistance to the Prime-Minister on policies for Moldovan Diaspora.

The Interethnic Relations Bureau is another body of the central public authority responsible for implementing the national policy in the field of inter-ethnic relations and language functioning. The Department of International Relations, European Integration and the Diaspora specialises in policies on multicultural inter-ethnic relations.

The Interethnic Relations Bureau co-operates with the Ministry of Culture (on intercultural issues) and the Ministry of Education (on inter-linguistic activities). The House of Nationalities co-ordinates the organisation of different national inter-cultural events and programmes: exhibitions, contests, festivals. It reports to the Department's cultural and documentation centre for public inter-cultural organisations.

Over 78 inter-cultural and inter-educational NGOs that represent Moldova's ethnic groups are associated with the Department for Ethnic Relations. They make a significant contribution to the preservation, development and expression of their respective cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic identity. These associations usually organise local (municipal) intercultural events.

The Centre for Minority Issues brings a significant contribution to inter-educational policy, with its bilingual (Russian and Romanian) informational publication "EtnoDialog". The magazine is edited in the framework of the project "The Prevention of Inter-ethnic conflicts through educational integration policies" and with the support of the international organisation CORDAID.

On May 17-21 2013, a national team from the Republic of Moldova participated in the Youth Delphic Games of the CIS member states, which were held in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation.

Over 80 ethno-cultural organisations representing 30 ethnic groups from the Republic of Moldova presented their culture and traditions in the frames of the 14th edition of the Ethnic Festival held on 21 September 2014 in the public Garden Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt in Chisinau. The event is organised annually by the Bureau of Inter-ethnic Relations in collaboration with the Mayor Hall of Chisinau Municipality.

The VI Congress of the Moldovan Diaspora was held on 1-3 September 2014 in Chisinau, attended by 145 delegates from over 28 countries. The congress was a good opportunity to dialogue, and to establish new projects for diaspora organisations that promote the cultural image of the Republic of Moldova. The *Government Strategy on diaspora – "Diaspora 2025"* was presented in the frames of the congress. The event aimed to strengthen relations between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and migrants from Moldova abroad through dialogue on the most pressing issues of common interest and also mechanisms of involvement and contribution of migrants to their country of origin, applying the experience gained abroad.

It is estimated that up to 600 000 Moldovans are living abroad. According to the data for the years 2005-2012 analysed in the Report on Extended Migration Profile, there is a steady annual emigration of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, indicating involvement in migration processes by about a quarter/up to a third of the working population.

According to the same Report, remittances made by individuals through banks during 2012 constituted 1.494 billion USD, which represents an increase by 2.2 times compared to 2005 and attained in 2008 the maximum rate of 1.66 billion USD, representing 27.4% of GDP. According to the World Bank estimates, the flow of remittances achieved historical peak in 2007 with a remarkable share of 36% of GDP. Most migrants leave the country for economic reasons as the Republic of Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and is ranked 113 out of 187 countries in the world, included in the 2013 Human Development Index.

The International Organisation for Migration launched a Call for Proposals for Diaspora Associations and initiative groups under the Diaspora Small Grants Mechanism, in order to support the communication between Diaspora associations and migrants in their host countries, to develop existing or create new ways of communication between the Republic of Moldova and migrants abroad, to create service platforms for migrants in host countries and to strengthen the institutional capacities of Diaspora associations and initiative groups. The total amount of support will be EUR 50 000 or a maximum of EUR 5 000 per project.

4.2.8 Social cohesion and cultural policies

Social cohesion is not provided for directly in the cultural policies of the Republic of Moldova, while being a basic aim in all state programmes and strategies launched over the years. On the other hand, the considerable number of social and cultural events and cultural activities, and expansion of audience and participation in them, shows that social cohesion is already a subject of cultural policy.

The term "social cohesion" can be found both in the purpose and objectives of the *"National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020"*. In this regard, the objective to "Increase of the contribution of the cultural sector in developing social cohesion" aims at a progressive increase of participation in cultural activities of citizens, so that, by 2020, the participation rate will constitute at least 40% of the population, while cultural consumption should increase by 1% annually.

In July 2002, the Republic of Moldova signed the European Charter on Regional or Minorities Languages. In order to prepare the ratification of this important document by the Moldovan Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Centre for Minority Issues organised a series of activities: 3 informational seminars in Comrat, Taraclia and Briceni and a national conference in Chisinau. On 27 September, 2007 in Comrat, a seminar was held on "The European Charter on Regional or Minorities Languages – an instrument for promotion of cultural diversity and mutual concord between the groups speaking different languages in a multicultural society. The role of local and regional public authorities in the promotion and implementation of the Charter in Moldova".

Over the last 10 years, Moldova has accumulated a lot of experience in organising special events around national, religious and other holidays. These events are attended by thousands of people from different nationalities, ages and social conditions and have a proven to be effective for promoting social cohesion and understanding. Many of them are organised and financed by different private companies.

4.2.9 Employment policies for the cultural sector

According to the latest data of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in 2011 there were 7 746 employed (besides craftworkers, artistic formations of amateurs and freelancers) in the cultural sector (budgetary institutions). The share of employment in the cultural sector in 2012 was 2.6% of total employed persons. In the Republic of Moldova there is no statistical data on self-employed persons, while the notion of self-employed worker is

missing in the classified list of occupations. According to the NBS, the gross nominal average earnings survey in 2014 in the economy, the salary of an employee in the cultural field is about 2 577 MDL, the smallest salary paid compared to other economic activities. For comparison, in 2013 the size of the subsistence minimum on average constituted 1 612.3 MDL per month per person; with the monthly cost of the minimum consumption basket was 1 710 MDL. The lowest salaries are for employees in the houses of culture - 900 MDL / month, librarians – 1 590 MDL / month and museum curators – 1 584 MDL / month. Thus salaries of employees in the state cultural institutions are placed below the minimum subsistence basket, which contributes to massive migration of professionals in the field and prevents the development of the sector.

The Government approved normative acts on establishing certain bonuses and supplements for employees from the branch "Culture, art, sports and youth activities", which will result in the increase of the average salary by 17.6%, and respectively from the branch "Insurance and social assistance" – with an increase of 23.8%. The cost of this measure for 2014 is about 24 million MDL.

In the Republic of Moldova there is no concept or institution responsible for developing capacities of specialists in the cultural field. This fact has a direct impact on the administration of culture at all levels. As for human resources, there is a need to reform and modernise the whole system of artistic education and to create conditions for continuous learning of managerial staff and employees in the culture sector, in order to develop a viable cultural field.

The Law on Artists and Artists' Unions No. 21 as of 03.01.2013 (No. 1263-VII, July 28, 2014) foresees repealing the norms on the taxation of artists and artists' unions. The purpose of this law is to create legal safeguards for ensuring social rights of artists in the field of literature, art and journalism, and as well to regulate legal relations arising from particularities of founding and activities of the artists' unions: Union of Artists, Architects' Union, Film-Makers' Union, Composers' and Musicologists' Union, Designers' Union, Union of Journalists, Craftworkers Union, Musicians' Union, Theatre Union, and the Writers' Union in order to preserve and develop the traditions of literature, art and journalism.

A problem in the area of employment in the state institutions and agencies in the field of culture is the lack of transparency on employment procedures. For example, the law does not set a specific mode of employment of Directors of the agencies subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, museums, theatre and concert institutions, with or without competition, which creates the possibility of subjective interpretation of the law's provisions. Often candidates are appointed directly by the Ministry of Culture without any public competition, without taking into consideration managerial competencies of the candidates, without presenting management projects, and without clearly defined contracts terms, etc.

4.2.10 Gender equality and cultural policies

Promotion of the principle of equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova is at the stage of legislation harmonisation with international and European standards and at the stage of implementation of Community provisions on equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women. Although there are indexes of improvement in the legal status of women, they still fail to fully exercise their rights. The most problematic areas are: empowering women on the political, economic and social arenas, as well as violence against women. Women in the Republic of Moldova are weakly represented in politics, and in management positions in both Central and Local Public Administration.

The Moldovan Forum of Women's Organisations includes over 220 organisations aiming at the improvement of women's social status. 18 out of these represent women of various ethnical groups. The National Women's Council and the National Women's Studies and Information Centre help women to adapt to the conditions of a free market economy, they support women to achieve decision-making positions and generally promote feminine values. The Soros Foundation, in co-operation with 18 other NGOs, carries out a programme on gender equality which includes a multitude of activities to address women's specific problems. Organisations like the Women Journalists' Club "Ten Plus", the Association of Aestheticians, the Association of Virtuous Women, the Women's Politics Club 50/50, or the National Association of Women Inventors strive to support women's professional activities in arts, science and technology. They also organise different cultural activities and encourage women to participate in the cultural, social and political life of the country.

While women traditionally hold the majority of memberships in cultural organisations, they occupy only about 5% of all key positions. In the Ministry of Culture, the share of women in decision-making positions amounts to 10%.

In the period 2010-2014, the level of women's representation in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova constituted 19 seats out of 101, which is only 18.8%.

4.2.11 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

The Department of New Information Technologies in Chisinau (recently re-organised and re-named the Ministry of Information Development) is responsible for state strategies on the "Information Society".

Modernisation of cultural institutions and digitisation in the arts and culture field is one of the objectives of the *National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* which aims to ensure real and virtual circulation of the cultural product. The specific objective of the Strategy is the creation of virtual networks of cultural institutions and products, so that by 2020 all categories of cultural heritage, including collections of museums and libraries will be digitised, while the information system of the cultural field becomes operational.

The priority actions of the Strategy are:

- technical rehabilitation and modernisation of cultural institutions;
- digitisation of the cultural heritage;
- formation of a single information system in the cultural field;
- formation of the National Virtual Museum;
- digitisation of library resources and ensuring a network for digital inter-library loans;
- forming a Virtual Library;
- creation of e-services in the field of culture; and
- training of employees of cultural institutions in information technologies.

In 2012 the *National Programme for the informatisation of the sphere of culture for 2012-2020* was approved; the Programme objective being 75% digitisation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova by 2020. Another document containing provisions on culture is the *National Strategy on Information Society E-Moldova*. The *National Programme for the informatisation of the sphere of culture for 2012-2020* foresees "creating infrastructure and cultural information spaces necessary for the provision of electronic services in cultural field" by (i) implementation of e-government in the central office of the Ministry of Culture and subordinated institutions (ii) digitisation of cultural heritage at 75%, (iii) ensuring book digitisation in public

libraries, (iv) creation of online public cultural services, and (v) creating web pages for the cultural institutions. Both documents were not implemented due to lack of financial resources, lack of equipment and specialists, etc. Digitisation of cultural heritage and the information system "E-Heritage" registered modest results and basically remained only on paper. In 2012, no resources were allocated to achieve the objectives of the Informatisation Programme. In these circumstances, the digitisation of museum pieces and books is funded from the resources of the subordinated institutions, which have started implementing programmes of electronic evidence of the museum heritage and forming databases on movable cultural property owned by the national museums. In 2012, 1 000 books were digitised at the National Library (collection of "Old and Rare Books" and the collection of "Old national periodicals"); 100 000 pieces included in the electronic database of the National Museum of History and Archaeology of the Republic of Moldova; while in the electronic database of the National Museum of Art 2518 works were included; the electronic database of the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History introduced 417 analytical cards, 5 440 photo images, 52 videos, 270 recorded carols and 14 sheets of photographic negatives. The digitisation occurs in the absence of common software for all institutions, which will make it difficult to compile the materials in a single platform. 80% of the museums in the regions are not equipped with computers and technical equipment, which hinders the process of digitisation of their heritage. Currently there is no electronic archive and a unique modern programme for computerised evidence of museum heritage. Currently only 11% of museum heritage objects is digitised, while the number of online objects from the national material / immaterial, mobile / immovable heritage is very low.

As for digitizing library collections and their inclusion in the international database, 53 000 MDL were planned (159 000 MDL for 2012-2014) for the digitisation of tens of thousands of documents annually. Because libraries in the regions do not have computers or access to the Internet, the targets are unachievable. In 9 months of 2012 the National Library digitised 1 000 books, and in 2011 – 2 600 books, which were included in the database Moldavica and into the European Library, which is an integrated system of 41 European libraries.

Museums subordinated to the Ministry of Culture have their own web pages. A positive example of propagation in the field of intangible cultural heritage is the Intangible Cultural Heritage site, made by National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History. The website includes intangible cultural heritage included in UNESCO List, in the National Register of Intangible Heritage, with explanatory texts, photos and video files. In total there are over 5 000 images and photographs of different elements of intangible heritage.

An example of promoting immovable cultural heritage through information technologies is the application "E-Heritage" created by the Agency of Inspection and Restoration of Monuments on the platform <http://www.geoportal.md>, which offers online data of over 1 000 monuments from the immovable heritage of the Republic of Moldova. In the same context an invaluable contribution to research and promotion of the architectural heritage of Chisinau municipality represents the online platform <http://www.monument.sit.md>, launched by the Association "SIT".

Improving of informatics began earlier due to the initiative of the Soros Foundation in Moldova. Specific support schemes in the cultural sector are also due to the work of this foundation. Thus, the National Library, the National Children's Library, the university and scientific libraries were equipped with hardware and software (Integrated Library System TINLIB). More recently, SFM has supported special databases at the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts.

The Novateca Programme funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a successful programme that facilitates transformation of libraries in the Republic of Moldova into the vibrant community institutions. To achieve the objectives, the Programme focuses on four main areas of activity: equipping libraries with modern technologies, training librarians, collaboration with local and central public authorities to support public libraries as community development centres, cooperation with civil society and the private sector to raise awareness of the public and institutions regarding modernisation of libraries. All activities of the Novateca Programme support the development of librarians - leaders in innovation of library services and modernisation of libraries at the local, regional and national levels. Novateca will equip libraries with computers, selecting libraries on a competitive basis, will purchase equipment for libraries and will develop a sustainable system of IT support for the libraries.

In 2009 the activity of the state company Moldova-Film was re-animated, after many years of stagnation. The re-animation of the activity of Moldova-film became possible after the digitalisation of the cinematographic equipment in 2008, which also allowed the restoration of cinematographic material from the archives.

Currently, the archives of Moldova-film are used in the production of a series of documentaries about the 23 years period since the collapse of the Soviet Union, a co-production with Germany. Another project in work is the documentary about the deportations that took place in Bessarabia in mid XX, a co-production with Romania.

In June 2011 the Government of Moldova approved a draft law on bringing back to the country 30 Moldovan films, the original of which had been transferred during soviet times to Ukraine for copying. These films are Moldovan productions which, for various reasons, from the early 1990s, were sent to the Cinematographic Centre "A. Dovjenco", and so far, could not be restored to the country. Thus, that is an act of returning the national cultural heritage.

4.3 Other relevant issues and debates

From December 2006 to December 2007, the Cultural Policy Programme of the Soros Foundation-Moldova, in cooperation with the European Cultural Foundation, is implementing the Pilot-Project "*Visions on Cultural Policy for Moldova: from changes to viability*". The project represented the first phase of a three-year Pilot-Project of the European Cultural Foundation, carried out in partnership with the Soros Foundation-Moldova: "Reinforcing Moldova's Development Capacities by Strengthening its Cultural Sector".

The project aims at drafting some initial policy visions and concrete practical measures for cultural development in Moldova; setting up a task force comprising cultural managers and decision-makers who will promote the current needs and interests of the cultural sector and advocate for them at all relevant policy levels; developing training and capacity building programmes and tools / services gradually serving all relevant stakeholders in Moldova's cultural sector; building up a group of culture professionals as local trainers / consultants / experts who will develop and implement future training and consulting programmes in Moldova which, among others, shall serve the professionalisation of cultural managers dealing with strategic planning, organisational development, fundraising, etc.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Soros Foundation Moldova has organised 5 Round Tables on the main cultural sectors: Performing Arts, Literature, Visual Arts, Cultural Industries and Houses of Culture. The experts (one for each of these sectors) have elaborated specific key- subjects for debates:

- current situation in the field of (the 5 sectors);

- protection and development of national patrimony. Preservation of cultural identity;
- state versus culture;
- financing of culture. diversification of funds' sources;
- decentralisation of cultural action and ensuring equal access by the population to cultural values; and
- role of cultural action in solving community issues.

In June 21-22, 2007, an international conference was held on *"The Cultural Policy of the Republic of Moldova in the transition period: Experience, Provocation, Viability, Prospects"*. The Conference gathered together artists, managers of the main cultural institutions, decision-makers in the field of culture from all over Moldova and representatives of the European Cultural Foundation and other international organisations, as well as the cultural secretaries of foreign embassies in Moldova. The participants discussed the reports and papers prepared by Moldovan and foreign experts on issues identified during the previously organised round tables. At the end of the conference, the participants were divided into four workshops, where they discussed and drafted the main instruments, measures and strategies to be promoted within a forward-looking cultural policy for the Republic of Moldova.

In 2009, within the 3rd phase of the project, the book *"Vision on Cultural Policy of Moldova: from changes to sustainability"* was published. The book was largely inspired by the present Compendium of Cultural Policies Project (Moldova), since the author of the Moldovan profile was also a member of the group of experts. The book paves the way for the capacity building process in the cultural sector of the Republic of Moldova and reflects the results of a series of activities carried out within the multi-year project. The book was disbursed free of charge within the first Cultural Congress in the Republic of Moldova which took place in December 2009.

The Congress united most art and culture workers in Moldova, representatives of central and local authorities, and all NGOs active in the cultural sphere. It was organised by the Centre of Cultural Policies, in collaboration with the Soros Foundation Moldova, and with the financial support of the Swedish Agency for International Development (SIDA) and the European Cultural Foundation.

Starting from the premise that the cultural sphere must represent a national priority, the Congress adopted a Resolution that demands the following:

- implementing cultural policies in conformity with the cultural process from the country, as well as from the region;
- creating premises for the development of contemporary art as a means of promoting and affirming the national culture;
- supporting the artistic education infrastructure;
- ensuring transparency in the elaboration, management and distribution of the budget designed for culture;
- facilitating access to cultural and artistic goods. Encouraging citizen participation in cultural and artistic processes;
- supporting artists in implementing the Declaration on the Status of Artists;
- supporting art associations and unions. Restoring cultural activity and infrastructure in rural areas;
- creating autonomous art, theatre and concert companies; organizing fine art exhibitions, screening of high quality films of artistic value in localities, as part of an educational state programme;
- including artists and craftsmen in regional programmes of cultural, social and economic development and supporting their activity from various budgets; and

- creating a Cultural Fund that will consist of budgetary and extra-budgetary funds designed for cultural and artistic projects.

It was decided at the Congress to organise an annual meeting within the cultural sector, thus in December 2010, the 1st General Assembly of Art and Culture Professionals will be held.

In October 2011, the presidents of the artists' unions and representatives of several cultural institutions and political parties signed the *Convention on the support and development of culture in the Republic of Moldova – "Culture 2015"*.

This convention aimed at modernisation and integration of culture from the Republic of Moldova into the international circuit. The Convention foresees actions supporting employees from the cultural sphere and boosting cultural life of the country over four years, during which the future Parliament will be active.

One of the first actions to be taken under the Convention was to create an advisory board composed of renowned professionals from the cultural field. This council would be report to the Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sports and Mass-Media, with the aim of prior consultations on draft laws in the cultural field.

Convention "Culture – 2015" provides for:

- approval of laws on cultural funds, artists' unions and the status of the artist;
- developing a programme of restructuring and modernisation of cultural houses and libraries from the Republic of Moldova, which will be provided with computers and Internet access;
- launching the Centre of training for employees in the cultural sphere; and
- launching a programme on mobility support of the cultural products from the country and digitisation of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova.

An important action for implementation of the Convention is amending the legislation and setting the wage level of employees in the cultural field at the same level as those in the educational field.

Until today laws on creating the National Culture Fund were not amended, the training centre for employees has not been created, financing of culture remains similar to the centralised Soviet model, the decentralisation process runs slowly, while dialogue with civil society from the cultural field is practically missing.

5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field

5.1 General legislation

5.1.1 Constitution

According to *Article 32*, section 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova (1994):

"all citizens are guaranteed the freedom of thought, opinion, as well as freedom of expression in public by words, images or any other possible way".

Section 3 of the *Article 33* states that:

"the state contributes to the keeping, developing and promoting of achievements of culture and science, nationally and globally". The same Article also states that "the liberty of artistic and scientific creation is guaranteed".

According to *Article 33*, section 2:

"the citizens' right to intellectual property, their material and moral interests related to the various types of intellectual creation are protected by law."

The right to the preservation of cultural identity is mentioned in section 2 of *Article 10*:

"the state recognises and guarantees all its citizens the right to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity."

According to *Article 50*, section 5:

"it is the duty of the public authorities to establish the conditions enabling the young people to take part freely in the social, economic, cultural and sporting life of the country."

5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction

Apart from 2 municipalities, Chisinau and Balti, and the Territorial-Administrative Unit, *Gagauz Yeri*, which can set their own budgets and policies, local administrations apply to the Ministry of Culture for funding. In some circumstances, they can apply directly to the Parliament or President for projects presenting at least some interest at the national level. The Collegiate Board of the Ministry of Culture has the power to decide whether to approve the partial funding of such activities. Other local cultural activities such as restoration of the cultural institutions or travel expenses for participation at various national and international festivals are funded from local budgets.

The main laws regulating the cultural competence divided between central and local / municipal levels of government clarified above are:

- the *Law on Local Public Administration no. 186 - XIV* of November 6, 1998, modified on June 20, 2002;
- the series of *Laws and Decisions on the Legal Status of the Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauz Yeri*; and
- the *Law on the status of municipality Chisinau no. 431 - XIV* of April 19, 1995.

5.1.3 Allocation of public funds

Every decision of the government on the distribution of public funds in the Republic of Moldova should be debated in the Parliamentary Committees, and then legalised by Parliament with a law. The *Decision on the Distribution of Local / Municipal Public Funds* belongs ultimately to the local / municipal Councils.

5.1.4 Social security frameworks

Except for general stipulations of the Constitution and the general envisions of the *Law on Culture*, there are no special laws on social security pertaining to the cultural field in Moldova.

5.1.5 Tax laws

The *Law on Philanthropy and Sponsorship*, (no. 1420 – XV) of October 31st 2002, stipulates some tax deductions and state support for over 80% of the activities of philanthropical bodies, but without clear conditions.

Since 2002, VAT at 20% was introduced on the extra-budgetary incomes of the cultural institutions, obtained by leasing their premises and other services. Books, publishing, cultural publications, films, ticket prices, cultural events, art works, etc. are VAT exempt in the Republic of Moldova.

5.1.6 Labour laws

The *Labour Code* provides the basis for general labour legislation which is also applicable to those working in the field of culture.

5.1.7 Copyright provisions

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, artists' copyrights were protected by the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic Section of the Soviet Copyright Agency. In 1991, this became the State Copyright Agency of the Republic of Moldova.

The legislative body of the Republic of Moldova has passed a number of laws including:

- the *Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights No. 293-XIII* of 23 November 1994;
- the *Law on Patents No. 461-XIII* of 18 May 1995; and
- the *Law on the Protection of Industrial Design No. 991-XIII* of 15 October 1996.

The State Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) was created Under the Code on Science and Innovation and *Government Decision No. 1016* of 13 September 2004, by the merger of the State Agency on the Protection of Industrial Property and the State Agency for Copyright. This agency is a specialised governmental body, invested with the right to grant protection for intellectual property objects. AGEPI operates on self-financed and self-governed principles and is subordinated to the government. The Agency represents Moldova in the World Intellectual Property Organisation and with other international and intergovernmental organisations for the protection of intellectual property, maintains and develops collaboration and cooperation with them, as well as with other specialised institutions from other states.

AGEPI has the following main functions:

- elaborates proposals on state policy and the legal regulatory intellectual property protection framework;

- organises and manages the national intellectual property protection system; and
- develops proposals on the development of the national intellectual property protection system and supervises the execution and enforcement of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and of the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is party.

The modified *Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights* No. 18-19 of 8 February 2003 protects a maximum range of copyright and neighbouring rights and includes databases, performers, phonogram producers, software, broadcasting and lending of works of art.

Blank tape levies are regulated by *Article 19* of the modified *Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights*. According to *Article 19(2)*, writers and authors shall have the right to receive a levy from the sale of blank tapes.

Articles 20 and 21 of the same Law provides for fees for the private loan or lease of art works and reduces the number of free copies for libraries, archives and for educational institutions.

5.1.8 Data protection laws

The modified *Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights* of 8 February 2003 stipulates for the protection of databases.

5.1.9 Language laws

See chapter 4.2.5.

5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation

Information is currently not available.

5.2 Legislation on culture

The *Law on Culture* (no. 413 - XIV of May 27 1999) sets out the constitutional principles governing culture. According to *Article 19*, cultural institutions can be set up and run by the state, municipalities, public associations, religious organisations, arts organisations, international organisations, foreign countries, legal entities and individuals, including foreigners.

Under section 21 of the Law ("Financing of Culture"), cultural institutions cover their costs from their own resources, from income generated by their activities, as well as from other sources and revenues, as permitted under the legislation in force.

The following laws establish the scope, operations, governing structure and general procedures for funding cultural specific sectors:

- *Law on Monument Protection* no. 1530 - XII of June 22, 1993;
- *Law on Archives* no. 880 - XII of January 22, 1992;
- *Law on Libraries* no. 286 - XIII of November 6, 1994; amended on July 29, 2005;
- *Law on Publishing* no. 939 - IV of April 20, 2000; modified on August 17, 2001;
- *Law on Theatres, Circus and Performing Art Organisations* no 1421 - XV of October 31, 2002; modified on October 31 2003; modified on May 17, 2012;
- *Law on the Audiovisual Sector*, no. 603 - XIII of October 3, 1995;
- *Law on Museums* no. 1596 - XV of December 12, 2002; amended on July 30, 2010;
- *Law on Architecture* no. 1350 – XIV of February 27, 2001;
- *Law on Cinematography* no. 386 of November 25, 2004;

- *Law on Archaeological Heritage* of 17 September 2010;
- *Law on Formation of Cultural and Natural Reservations "Orheiul Vechi" no. 251* of December 4, 2008;
- *Law on Copyright and Related Rights no. 139* of July 2, 2010;
- *Law on Protection of Archaeological Heritage no. 218* of September 17, 2010;
- *Law on Public Forum Monuments No. 192* of September 30, 2011;
- *Law on Protection of National Movable Cultural Heritage no. 280* of December 27, 2011;
- *Law on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage no. 58* of March 29, 2012;
- *Law on Artists and Artists' Unions No. 21* of March 1, 2013 (no. 1263-VII, July 28, 2014); and
- *Law on Cinematography no. 116* of July 3, 2014.

None of the laws listed above include definite mechanisms for concrete support and financing, this being a very significant and common gap between legislation and practice in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, actual legislation doesn't stimulate the act of creation, does not support artists and does not create equal and diverse possibilities to develop creativity and business in the arts sector.

5.3 Sector specific legislation

5.3.1 Visual and applied arts

Besides the general *Law on Culture* (see chapter 5.2) and some provisions of the *Laws on Museums, Monument Protection and Archives*, there are no specific laws on the visual arts sector in the Republic of Moldova. However, it should be mentioned that artists and writers, being almost entirely freelance, need special laws or legal frameworks for self-employment, that still do not exist in the Republic of Moldova.

5.3.2 Performing arts and music

The aims and tasks of the *Law on Theatres, Circuses and Performing Arts*, modified in 2003, are an integral part of state cultural policy. The strategy in this sector is based on the acknowledgement of the importance of these sectors as the main elements of culture, as a means of preservation of the national consciousness and of the languages of minorities. They are regarded as the most important state institutions, with the role of supporting, edifying and developing the moral and spiritual life of society.

Articles 7 and 8 guarantee that the state creates the economic and legal conditions for performing artists, guarantees their legal rights and interests, contributes to the development of free competition, encourages intellectual and artistic potential, and the use of technical material, natural, labour, financial and informational resources.

According to *Articles 10 and 11 of the Law*, performing arts organisations have more rights than before regarding their creative and economic activity. They can now decide on their own repertoire, can create artistic subdivisions and studios for the training of actors.

The Law also allows for more diversity in spending of extra-budgetary income sources.

5.3.3 Cultural heritage

The current legal and organisational framework of the historical and cultural heritage of Moldova is based on the *Law on Historical Monument Protection* (1993) and the *Law on Museums* (2002).

The *Law on Historical Monument Protection* protects monuments via a State-Protected Monuments Register. The concept of "monument" includes both immovable and movable cultural assets. Applications must be filed and approved by the government and the Parliament before monuments can be officially registered.

In accordance with the legislation in force, decisions of state bodies responsible for the protection of monuments are binding on all individuals and legal entities. Conditions for the exercise of property rights on monuments apply to all property right holders, irrespective of the type of ownership and legal status of the owner.

The right to use state monuments as immovable assets is, in accordance with the legislation, within the power of the parliament, and county, city, town or municipal councils, depending on the status of the protected monument.

The right to use monuments as movable assets is, consequently, allocated by the government, prefect's offices and municipal administrations.

The *Law on Museums* establishes the general legal framework for the organisation and functioning of the museums in the Republic of Moldova. According to *Article 2* of the Law, the state grants equal opportunities to all museums, irrespective of their specialisation and form of ownership.

Museums are non-profit institutions. Their responsibility is to safeguard and develop the country's cultural heritage in accordance with their special profile, to do research, to design and implement cultural and scientific projects aiming at the development of the community, to publish catalogues of the museums' collections and other relevant materials, and to initiate exchange programmes and co-operation with other national and international museums (*Article 5 and 6*).

Article 16 specifies the organisation of museums, their rights and obligations.

The public museums are funded via the state budget and other sources. Museums are funded by the state budget and local budgets through approved projects and programmes or co-financed by other public or private funds, regardless of their form of ownership (*Article 28 (1), (2)*).

On September 17, 2010, the Parliament adopted the *Law on Archaeological Heritage*. This new law includes mechanisms for fighting the black market in the archaeological field. The law was drafted over a five year period and the working group in charge consulted experts from the U.S., Germany, Ukraine and Romania. Up to now, the legislation did not guarantee the protection of monuments, whereas the new legal framework creates real preconditions for safeguarding archaeological heritage.

As for the legal framework in the field of cultural heritage protection in recent years it has been significantly improved, with the following legal documents being adopted: *Law on the protection of the archaeological heritage* No. 218 of September 17, 2010; *Law on Public Forum Monuments* No. 192 of September 30, 2011; *Law on protection of the national mobile cultural heritage* No. 280 of December 27, 2011; *Law on protection of intangible cultural heritage* No. 58 of March 29, 2012 and several amendments were made in the laws on the national heritage. In the process of major changes, there is the *Law on protection of historical monuments*, which will replace the existing law in operation since 1993. In the same context, the Republic of Moldova has signed and ratified ten international conventions on cultural heritage.

"The Black Book of Chisinau Cultural Patrimony" contains information about buildings that are under threat. This book warns local and central public authorities and civil society about the necessity of taking immediate measures to protect the cultural heritage. In the last years, 76 of the 977 archaeological buildings were demolished, while 155 monuments

were modified without authorisation. The phenomenon of black market archaeology is widely spread throughout Moldova. There are about 150 treasure hunters who use metal detectors illegally.

5.3.4 Literature and libraries

Except for general provisions of the *Law on Culture*, there are no specific laws on literature in the Republic of Moldova.

The *Law on Libraries* (1994) specifies the legal status of libraries and how they should operate. According to *Article 9*, the national library network comprises libraries and biblioteconomic centres (territorial library associations within districts and municipalities that are involved in managing public libraries at the local level), organised by region and branch, set up and funded by the state. They are aimed at meeting the interests and needs for public information, training and culture, and are co-ordinated by a single body.

Depending on the customer, libraries in Moldova are: specialised, educational or public. Libraries can be state-owned, public and private.

The law includes detailed provisions on library collections, on the economic basis of libraries and international collaboration between libraries.

The *Law on Publishing* (2000, modified in 2001) sets out the legal framework for publishing and the state policy on book publishing. These provisions are designed to prevent monopolies, uphold freedom of expression and ensure the consolidation and modernisation of the available technical, organisational, legal and scientific facilities in this sector.

The following rights are accorded under Section 4 of this law: the right to set up publishing houses; the right to publish; and the publisher's intellectual property rights for works published, which guarantee publishing rights in the Republic of Moldova and abroad.

The *Law on Publishing* also contains provisions on publishing contracts, the organisational aspects of publishing, the distribution of published materials, state guarantees in the field of publishing, and international co-operation.

5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning

The *Law on Architecture* provides an overall legal framework for all architectural activities, it determines the responsibilities of central and local administrative bodies regarding architecture and town planning, guarantees architects' author's rights, and stipulates their main tasks, rights and obligations.

According to *Article 3*, the state supports scientific research in the field of architecture, attracts investments in town planning; organises the training of architects, and ensures the freedom of architectural creation. The state also promotes national and international contests and encourages the creation of outstanding architectural objects.

Article 9 and 10 of the Law state that local and foreign architects working in the Republic of Moldova have the same rights and responsibilities.

5.3.6 Film, video and photography

Except for the general stipulations in the *Law on Culture*, there are no laws on photography in the Republic of Moldova.

The *Law on Cinematography* No. 116 of July 3, 2014 governs the conduct of activities in the field of cinematography (creation, production, financing, distribution and promotion of

films), support for the development of the film industry and also management of the national cinematography heritage.

This Law aims at: developing the cinematography field as part of the national culture by providing financial, technical and legal support from the state; supporting the development of the film industry in the Republic of Moldova through training and retraining of specialists in the field; defining formation and use of financial resources necessary for the production, distribution, exploitation and archiving of national films; organizing and functioning of the National Cinematography Centre as a public institution with responsibilities in the field; affirming the national cultural identity and that of the national minorities in the Republic of Moldova through film production and their promotion in the world-wide values circuit; protection, development and promoting the national cinematographic heritage; promotion of a fair and transparent competitive system of access to public financial resources envisaged for cinematography; encouraging private initiatives in the field of cinematography; regulating the activity of the economic agents in the field of cinematography; fostering cinematographic cooperation at European and international level.

Article 3 of the Law defines state policy in the field of cinematography and the principles of its implementation by the National Centre of Cinematography, as a public institution empowered to implement state policies in the field of cinematography.

Articles 10-17 of the Law refer to the financing of cinematographic activities from the state budget and also from the activities of the National Centre of Cinematography. As for the financing of cinematographic production, the share of the state in national film production may not exceed 50% of the film's production estimate. Financial support for the international co-productions is at least 20% from the Moldovan side for bilateral co-productions and at least 10% for multilateral productions, complying with the conditions stipulated in the Regulation on financing cinematography.

The new Law on Cinematography aimed at updating legislative norms, introducing certain provisions that harmonise with the new policies in the field, substituting ambiguous, outdated notions and formulations, liquidation of tax evasion and piracy in cinematography. At the same time, the *Law* also changes the system of financing and management of cinematography from the state command model (full funding from the budget) to partial financing at the maximum rate of 50% from the budget, which lays the foundation for a self-sufficient cinematographic industry, as compared to cinematography 100% subsidised by the state.

5.3.7 Mass media

The *Audiovisual Broadcasting Law* (1995) sets out the criteria for granting broadcasting licenses, and the regulations governing satellite and cable broadcasting. It provides for the rights and obligations of audiovisual institutions and their staff, and contains regulations concerning responsibility for broadcast contents and international co-operation in the field of audiovisual communication. Section 13 of the *Law on Audiovisual Broadcasting* stipulates that each channel must broadcast at least 65% of its programmes in the official language of the Republic of Moldova. However, this obligation is rarely fulfilled primarily due to the ambiguities in the Law (see chapter 4.2.5). This language quota does not apply to foreign broadcasters in the Republic.

Section 31 of the Law concerns the activities of the Audiovisual Co-ordination Board, consisting of 15 members. They are appointed by the Parliament, by the President of the Republic of Moldova and by the government department responsible for broadcasting. Their term of office is 5 years and the Board is the "guarantor" of public interests.

5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation

Other laws partly related to culture:

- *Law on the State Language, Law on the Functioning of Languages Spoken in the Republic of Moldova, Law on the Latin Alphabet* (1989);
- *Law on Advertising* (1997);
- *Law on Children's Rights* (1994);
- *Law on Education* (1995);
- *Law on Tourism* (2000);
- *Law on Physical Culture* (1999);
- *Law on Philanthropy and Sponsorship* (2002);
- *Law on Local Public Administration* (1998); and
- *Law on Public Associations* (1996).

6. Financing of culture

6.1 Short overview

The main source of financing for culture during the transition period was the state and the administrative-territorial units budgets. The cultural sector's share in the national public budget in 2009-2011 was in decline from 2.13% to 1.72%, and 1.45% in 2012-2013. The culture sector's share of GDP in 2009-2011 was also in decline from 0.83% to 0.63%, and in 2012-2013 it reached 0.58%. Funding of culture is carried out in accordance with the legal provisions on delimitation of powers of public authorities. Thus, to achieve the objectives of the state for the development of culture, institutions subordinated to the government are financed from the state budget, while the rest of the institutions - from the budgets of administrative-territorial units of level I or II.

The main document of budgetary policy of the Ministry of Culture is the *Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF)*. In the cultural field, the MTBF has the following sub-programmes:

Table 2: Distribution of financing by subprogrammes, in thousand MDL, 2010-2013

Subprogrammes	2010	2011	2012	2013
I. Developing management policy in the cultural field	13 561.8	14 415.6	16 924.0	22 937.9
II. Developing culture	406 510.6	419 164.4	484 945.7	520 794.5
III. Protection and promoting the national cultural heritage	646.0	7 670.0	1 588.8	3 871.4
IV. State support for public television and radio broadcasting	74 027.9	88 603.6	98 410.2	96 874.2
V. Supporting written culture	10 416.6	9 726.3	13 509.6	5 592.1
Total by sector	505 162.9	539 579.9	615 378.3	650 070.1

Source: Sectorial Strategy of expenses in the cultural field, 2013-2015, Ministry of Culture.

Arts education funding is carried out based on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework prepared by the Ministry of Education. In 2013 Arts education funding amounted to 99 660 900 MDL.

According to the report on execution of the National Public Budget, spending on culture, arts and sport for 2013 amounted to 1 020.1 million MDL (EUR 53 973 544), of which 376.9 million MDL (basic component and special means) are from the state budget and 644.0 million MDL are from the budgets of the administrative territorial units.

Analysing the financing policies of the cultural sphere, one can notice that there is an uneven distribution of resources, excessively focused on financing public institutions and not based on the results obtained from achieving the objectives of this sector. The volume of financing and the structure of budgets allocated for culture in recent years demonstrate that the cultural field is perceived as a consumer of resources, being underestimated by the political elite. Consequently, the model of financing culture continued to be of the Soviet type, being highly centralised, and hindering the dynamic development of the sector. Therefore, funding of the objectives of the Ministry of Culture is focused largely on maintaining the current infrastructure of culture and is less oriented towards the development and reforming of the cultural sector in the conditions of the market economy. It requires a paradigm shift for the development of culture, which can contribute to solving priority issues facing the cultural field such as: lack of efficient management of cultural institutions based on performance indicators; lack of mechanisms for financing cultural institutions based on principles of equality, transparency and competition; lack of

motivational system and professional growth in management of cultural institutions; lack of infrastructure, etc.

As for the efficiency and transparency of public resource use in the cultural field, according to the audit reports of the Court of Auditors prepared by the central office of the Ministry of Culture and in some subordinated institutions, one can find that there are numerous deviations and deficiencies in the administration of expenses and in management of public property. Neither civil society, nor mass-media have public access to information on public procurement carried out, and respectively, is limited in elucidation of cases of conflict of interest or public procurement fraud. Also, on the website of the Ministry of Culture are not placed publicly reports on state budget execution by the Ministry of Culture for 2011-2013.

At the same time that professional cultural institutions are being confronted with budget deficits, they are trying to diversify their extra-budgetary resources through studies on a contract basis in artistic educational institutions, expertise of the artworks, and by renting spaces available both at the cultural institutions and artistic educational institutions.

The way the cultural sector was financed in the last 23 years clearly demonstrates that culture is not listed among the priorities of the state, and to enrol in programmes of modernisation and sustainable development of the country, this sector needs more significant financial support with major investment in human capital. There is a need for a paradigm shift on developing culture and a need for systematic decentralisation and efficient management.

In the case the state will not change essentially its vision on culture financing in the coming years, there is a risk that most of the objectives of the *National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020* will be compromised and not realised.

6.2 Public cultural expenditure

6.2.1 Aggregated indicators

Per capita expenditure in the field of culture, arts and sport in 2013 constituted 301.4 MDL (EUR 16.14).

6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

Table 3: Public cultural expenditure by level of government, in million MDL, 2013

Level of government	Total expenditure in million MDL	% share of total
State budget	376.9	37
Budget of the administrative-territorial units	644.0	63
Total	1 020.1	100

Source: Ministry of Finance, 2013.

6.2.3 Sector breakdown

Table 4: State cultural expenditure: by sector, MDL, 2013

	Executed at the core component, 2013			
	executed	effective expenditures	accounts receivable	accounts payable
Total, central public authority	252 523.3	255 006.9	2 198.5	6 236.8
inclusive:				
Total, education	94 705.8	93 914.8	803.3	3 044.8
Total, higher education	39 192.9	39 192.9	-	-
Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts	39 192.9	39 192.9	-	-
Total, specialised secondary education	36 703.8	36 213.2	625.1	1 706.6
Colleges	35 397.5	34 896.9	621.9	1 641.3
Dorms	1 306.3	1 316.3	3.2	65.3
Total, secondary education	21 508.1	21 508.7	178.2	1 338.2
Boarding Lyceums	21 508.1	21 508.7	178.2	1 338.2
Total, activities in the field of culture	147 754.0	147 910.8	1 292.0	2 539.2
Libraries	19 672.2	19 717.0	110.6	998.2
Museums	21 341.6	21 721.4	127.5	1 113.3
Theatres	83 030.1	83 030.1	-	128.0
Other institutions	1 588.0	1 598.4	1.8	53.0
Cinematography	-	-	652.8	-
Artists' unions	3 579.2	3 563.9	81.9	56.4
Cultural activities	9 217.7	9 217.6	0.4	-
State Agency for Protection of Morality	439.1	442.7	15.4	40.0
National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO	354.7	350.6	-	35.6
Cultural activities	8 351.4	8 269.3	301.6	114.7
including: from the government's reserve fund	468.9	468.7	-	-
Periodicals	2 975.7	3 172.3	17.0	206.6
Magazine "Moldova"	900.0	900.0	-	-
Publishers	2 075.7	2 272.3	17.0	206.6
Institutions in the cultural field	1 494.1	1 468.0	9.9	46.7
Agencies	1 494.1	1 468.0	9.9	46.7
Total, administrative bodies	5 178.7	5 131.6	70.5	399.5
The Ministry Central Office	5 178.7	5 131.6	70.5	399.5
Social insurance and assistance	415.0	409.2	5.8	-

Source: Data selected from the Report on Ministry of Culture Budget Execution 2013.

The major share of total financing sources of the Ministry comes from the basic component of the state budget – 92%, while 8% comes from the special means component - these coming from offering paid services, leasing immovable heritage and sponsorship.

6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

Currently there are no reference research sources with precise figures on which fields of culture are financed and the amounts of sponsorship for culture carried out by businesses, private companies, foundations, agencies and individual donors. Culture is not listed among the priority investment and financing programmes of donor organisations that work in the Republic of Moldova, while the majority of foreign private companies have not formulated any communication strategies that would reflect their interest in culture. Public-private partnerships, like the culture of corporate social responsibility are at the incipient stage in the Republic of Moldova. Partnerships and relationships between business and the cultural sector are weakly developed, while the legal framework and tax benefits are not

sufficiently incentive for serious investment in this sector. However, a small number of private companies and institutions have constantly supported and invested in developing the cultural sector.

One eloquent example is the Soros Foundation-Moldova (SFM), which over the last five years invested 401 109 USD in supporting and developing cultural projects in the Republic of Moldova. The Budget of SFM for the programme of cultural policy in 2013 was 21 329 USD, for project TRIO - Hub for Rural Cultural Development 2011-2013. The project ran from November 2011 to December 2013 with the financial support of the European Cultural Foundation, the Open Society Foundation and Soros Foundation-Moldova (FSM). The goal was to create models for the reorganisation of houses of culture in centres that provide cultural services for the population on the basis of partnership and cooperation between cultural institutions, organisations representing the civic sector and public administration institutions. The TRIO project Moldova marked the end of a long-term programme on consolidation of development capacities in the cultural sector in the Republic of Moldova, implemented by the European Cultural Foundation in 2007. A successful project of the Soros Foundation-Moldova in 2012 was TANDEM project, implemented in partnership with the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam), MitOst (Berlin), European Cultural Action (Brussels) and the Centre for Cultural Management (Lviv). The project activities were implemented with the financial support of the European Commission and the Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation. The organisers intended to provide a breeding ground for cultural cooperation with the European Union countries, also to combat stereotypes that exist on both sides of the border, and facilitate implementation of artistic cooperation projects. Likewise, professionals from the cultural field from the European Union countries and from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had the opportunity to create new networks and collaborative partnerships. The budget for the programme of cultural policy of SFM in 2012 amounted to a total of 119 334 USD.

In 2013 "Edelweiss" Foundation supported and promoted talented persons from the Republic of Moldova through sponsorship of six cultural projects that reached 29 501 direct beneficiaries, with a budget of 306 088.4 MDL. A successful project entitled "Classical Music for All" was launched, which gathered 24 000 spectators eager to listen classical music performed by 65 young musicians from Chisinau Youth Orchestra. Cultural events dedicated to children from socially vulnerable families, disadvantaged children or those with disabilities, were also supported in partnership with the Cultural Society "Vatra". Likewise, the IV-th edition of the National Festival "Carols, Carols" was organised. Three spectacular concerts were held during the Festival, which brought together 11 choirs from across the country, symphonic orchestras and guests from abroad.

Among the private companies that have an active involvement in sponsoring cultural events are two mobile operators - Orange and Moldcell. These two companies, with clearly defined policies of civic responsibility are in most cases general sponsors of important cultural events.

The Orange Company through the Orange Foundation is involved in sponsoring cultural events, organised outdoor, dedicated to young people, or in inviting world-renowned performers, such as Goran Bregovic, Cesaria Evora, Thomas Anders, etc.

In turn, Moldcell Comps has an action programme entitled "Ambassador of Culture", which includes events such as the "Ethno Jazz Festival", the International Festival of Theatre Art "BITEI", the International Festival "Queen Violin" and many other important cultural events.

Of course there are many other small private enterprises like travel agencies or publishing houses that offer funds in different spheres of culture, but their agreement with organisers is of a barter nature and confidential. Unfortunately, the figures are not made public.

For now, these contributions may only be observed on promotion materials and during various launch events.

An alternative for financing the cultural sector and particularly the non-governmental organisations may be provided by adoption of the *2% Law*, by which NGOs in the Republic of Moldova could be partially funded by taxpayers. A solution successfully implemented in several European countries is creation of a National Cultural Fund, with the budget being provided from different sources, such as: excise duty of 1% on the import of beer and alcohol products; excise duty of 1% on the import of tobacco products; conducting a cultural lottery; income collected from concerts (performances) organised specially by the cultural institutions, donations from individuals and businesses and other means not contrary to the legislation.

7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies

The Moldovan model of Cultural Policy is based on the strong influence of the state on cultural institutions and their activity. For years, the state tried to maintain and to revive the the infrastructure that remained as a legacy from the Soviet period, using resources for culture inefficiently. The state did not invest in human capital which has to manage this infrastructure in the new conditions of the market economy. As a result, we have an underdeveloped cultural infrastructure: institutions with weak management capacity and an acute shortage of skilled human resources.

Some signs of democratisation such as decentralisation and the combination with market mechanisms appeared through the establishment of new agencies such as: the State Enterprise "Impresarios Agency", State Agency for Morality Protection, Agency of Inspection and Restoration of Monuments, National Centre of Folk Arts, and the National Archaeological Agency. Thus, a substantial part of public responsibilities were transferred to these institutions, but the role of the civil society still remains underestimated and unappreciated.

Recently, the Ministry of Culture has developed the *Decentralisation Programme of the Cultural Sector*, which aims to strengthen the financial, institutional and management autonomy, establishes the powers and responsibilities of the cultural sector management, the central and local public authorities of the I and II level. Thus, the following powers were delegated to the local public authorities of level I and II: patrimony, planning, development and management of infrastructure necessary for cultural activities. They will ensure management of cultural institutions from the regions through rayon / municipal specialised bodies (cultural departments, divisions, services).

7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

Table 5: Cultural institutions financed by public authorities, by domain

Domain	Cultural institutions (subdomains)	Number (Year)	Trend (++ to --)
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)	-	-
	Museums (organisations)	3 (2013)	
	Archives (of public authorities)	-	-
Visual arts	public art galleries / exhibition halls	-	-
	National College of Fine Arts	1 (2013)	
	Boarding school at secondary level, which provides special courses in fine arts	1 (2013)	
Performing arts	Symphonic orchestras (see below - <i>Concert Halls and Performing Institutions</i>)	-	-
	Music schools (Colleges of Music)	3 (2013)	
	Boarding schools at second level, providing special courses in music and choreography.	3 (2013)	
	Music / theatre academies (Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts)	1 (2013)	
	Dramatic theatre	12 (2013)	
	Music theatres, opera houses	2 (2013)	
	Dance and ballet companies (National Academic Ensemble of Folk Dance "JOC")	1 (2013)	

Books and Libraries	Libraries	3 (2013)	n/a
Audiovisual	Broadcasting organisations	1 (2013)	
Interdisciplinary	Socio-cultural centres / cultural houses (National Centre of Folk Arts)	1 (2013)	
Other	Publishing and Printing Houses	5 (2013)	
	Concert Halls and Performing Institutions (including orchestras)	17 (2013)	

Source: Ministry of Culture, 2013.

7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

In the course of the last 10 years almost all of the major cultural institutions have re-named themselves either "National" or "Centres" without, however, radically changing their status, other than by acquiring impresario rights and a degree of autonomy in the management of their buildings and halls. Similarly, all arts associations ceased being organisations promoting state programmes and became voluntary associations of artists (writers) united primarily by professional interests rather than artistic or conceptual goals.

In the period from 1995 to 2000, university and scientific libraries, the National Library, and the National Children's Library were equipped with hardware and software (Integrated Library System TINLIB). These libraries set up local area networks, bibliographic and specialised databases containing over 700 000 records. Funding for the computerisation of libraries (with a few exceptions) and for other eligible projects in the scientific and cultural fields has been provided by the Soros Foundation of Moldova.

During the last 15 years, the Soros Foundation Moldova was the main sponsor of culture and arts in the Republic of Moldova. It supported the cultural sectors through different programmes, grants, honourable premiums, scholarships etc. In the last couple of years, the Foundation has re-oriented its activity towards policy making. Therefore, artists no longer have funds in this sector. On the other hand, the Soros Foundation brings to Moldova new perspectives. For example, the Foundation's Cultural Policy Programme is developing strategies for the changes to and viability of the cultural sector in Moldova. Through the training and workshops organised within this specific Programme, the cultural agents are trained on how to apply and collect funds from international organisations and also state institutions.

The yearly expenditure provided by Soros Foundation in the field of cultural policies development constitutes 90 000 USD.

8. Promoting creativity and participation

8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers

8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support

Artists receive some financial support for their work from the state procurement system, managed by the Ministry of Culture. The funding available for acquisitions is insufficient and procurement is somewhat sporadic, which significantly limits the scope of financial guarantees for artists. Accordingly, they are obliged to become involved in other activities: teaching, performing, writing musical reviews, street theatre, travelling fairs etc.

In an attempt to improve the situation of retired artists, the government provides a modest grant to the most renowned artists once per year. The shortage of budgetary resources has had an adverse effect on the proper functioning of the state cultural institutions. The extremely low monthly salary of about MDL 1 600 in the cultural field, compared to the country's minimal consumption basket value of over MDL 1 900, is not enough to cover even the minimum subsistence level.

8.1.2 Special artists' funds

20 years ago, there were 8 special artists' funds operating within most of the professional artists unions with the aim of providing support and social security protection for their members. These funds also provided scholarships to free-lance artists to spend time at the "Houses of Creation", where writers and artists could live cheaply and do their work in very good conditions and for several months per year. A new workshop for fine art artists was also constructed.

Since 1993, there was a steady decrease in the amount of funding available. The artists' funds were transformed into insignificant offices under the management of the artist unions. They are financed from donations and sponsorship which does not provide sufficient support or security to their members.

8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships

The Republic of Moldova offers the following awards for artists:

- the National Culture Awards (every three years);
- the National Youth Awards (once a year);
- the Ministry of Culture prize for the best play (once every 2 years);
- the Ministry of Culture prize for the best artistic works exhibited in the annual National Fine Arts Exhibition "Saloanele Moldovei";
- the Theatrical Union prize for the best production of the year;
- five Writers' Union awards for the best first work, anthology, prose, critique and thesis, and the "excellence prize" in recognition of a body of work by one writer (once a year);
- the Artists Union prize for works in different genres exhibited in the National Fine Arts Exhibition: "Saloanele Moldovei";
- the awards of the Union of Composers and Musicians for the best compositions and musical works (once a year); and
- for the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Moldova, the government has established 10 national awards (June 2011), amounting to 100 000 MDL each (EUR 6 250), for the most remarkable achievements in art, culture, and science.

On 12 March 2014, the government passed a draft law introducing a merit allowance for artists with outstanding achievements and notorious activities. Thus, those who are 60 years old will receive a monthly allowance equal to the amount of an average wage in the economy, which is paid by the government and is non-taxable.

8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions

There are 10 artists unions in the Republic of Moldova for: Writers, Theatre Professionals, Visual Artists, Musicians (individuals), Musicians and Composers, Craftsmen, Journalists, Film Makers, Architects and a separate one for Designers. During the 1990s, the main activity of these unions changed significantly. Originally these unions were the promoters of Communist programmes. Today they have been transformed into free associations mostly kept together by professional interests (often by economic reasons) rather than by some aesthetic or conceptual doctrine.

Although their social and economic status has declined dramatically, they still maintain a level of authority and importance. On the other hand, the lack of a coherent national direction for cultural policy has meant that the unions have devised their own policies and strategies in order to help themselves out of their precarious situation.

Since 1993, the Moldovan state budget no longer provides financial assistance to artists associations. The only financial support artists unions receive from the government is through the state procurement system managed by the Ministry of Culture.

In 2013 the Ministry of Culture distributed finance amounting to 2 000 000 MDL (EUR 107 300) for 60 cultural activities organised by non-governmental organisations. According to reports, these financial resources were used for awards, honoraria, jury remunerations, editing of programmes for events, posters and invitation letters, and for organising exhibitions and festivals.

8.2 Cultural consumption and participation

8.2.1 Trends and figures

The rates of participation have steadily decreased from 1991 to 2000, the main reason being the severe decline in personal income (over 90% of the total population has focused their interests on basic survival). In the same period, most of the cultural institutions have shifted from full state-funding to partial self-funding. This means they had to concentrate more on fundraising (by leasing their premises), while performances and audiences were only second priorities.

Since 2001, audience figures have slightly increased. This can be explained by the increase in the number of institutions, e.g. in the case of museums (from 66 in 2000 to 112 in 2013) and libraries (from 1 372 in 2001 to 1 380 in 2013), as well as by the diversification and improvement of their cultural services.

The number of visits to national museums increased by 11.6% (201 800 visits in 2013) as compared to 2012 (174 400 visits). The number of visitors increased thanks to museum programmes dedicated to the International Museum Day and European Night of Museums. The museums organised 137 exhibitions of their own collections dedicated to different events in the national history and culture, 1 963 guides, 460 scientific, educational (conferences, symposia, seminars) and cultural-educational activities.

The number of visitors to public libraries in 2013 was 827 100; the number of virtual visits was 2 965 400 and increased significantly (58.4%) compared to 2012 (1 871 600).

In 2013, 44 books were published, with a circulation of 55 000 copies. The number of books in public libraries increased in 2013 to 403 000 units, including 350 100 units in Romanian.

During 2013, national libraries conducted scientific activities and edited a number of publications: bibliographies, promotional editions, specialised periodicals, analyses, more than 20 titles. The national library has circa 20 000 users.

The activity of National Libraries covered both their direct responsibilities, as well as organising more than 100 national and international activities, such as: the International Book Fair for Children and Youth, IV-th edition of the International Poetry Festival "Grigore Vieru" (location Chişinău - Iaşi), XXIII-rd edition of the Literary Contest "The fountains of wisdom", the National campaign "Children of Moldova read a book" and the XXII edition of the International Book Fair which was attended by more than 300 publishing houses with 6 000 book titles. There were over 150 book launches.

The National Book Chamber organised various cultural and scientific activities, and registered 2 366 titles; the archive reached 10 069 pieces. Also, 6 issues of the national bibliography of Moldova were published.

84 171 cultural-artistic events were organised and conducted in the regions (including 31 834 for children and teenagers), attended by 10 466 600 spectators (including 3 680 600 children and teenagers).

2 998 performances were presented in 2013, with 4.5% more than in 2012, 46 new stagings, 526 tours held in the country, 11 tours abroad, with a total number of 478 400 spectators. There were also 112 charity concerts and performances, 137 visual art exhibitions, book salons and fairs.

Despite a slight economic stabilisation in the Republic of Moldova, the financial possibilities of the population are quite modest. Most spectators cannot afford the cost of a ticket which are sometimes equal to their monthly salary (for example, the average salary in the cultural field is 1 350 MDL, while a ticket to the famous Spivakov's chamber orchestra in Chisinau cost around 2 000 MDL (EUR 125) in 2009.

Annually, there are over 30 national and international festivals, contests, fairs and about 65 329 local cultural activities in the Republic of Moldova with an audience of over 9 000 000 people.

Table 6: Cultural participation rates, 2006-2013

Institution	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Theatres and concerts	626 000	614 000	599 000	515 000	522 000	520 000	568 000	478 400
Museums	540 100	542 400	542 400	531 000	950 000	957 217	828 693	821 319
Libraries	9 800 700	9 222 650	9 780 500	7 210 240	8 253 700	8 591 900	7 888 000	8 271 000

Source: National Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Culture, 2013.

8.2.2 Policies and programmes

Although there are many programmes on civic participation, citizenship and consolidation of the civil society carried out by international organisations (UNDP, UNICEF, Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Swedish Agency on International Development, DFID etc.) and local NGOs ("Contact" Centre, IDIS "Viitorul", NGO Social and Rural Initiative, Ars Dor Association etc.), they do not refer explicitly to the promotion of participation in cultural life.

8.3 Arts and cultural education

8.3.1 Institutional overview

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for specialist training in 110 Music and Fine Arts schools from 32 regions; 9 secondary and higher art schools situated in three towns in Moldova; the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts; 5 Colleges of Music, Art Education, Fine Arts and Folk Art and 4 boarding schools at secondary level, which provide special courses in music, fine arts and choreography. The Ministry of Education is responsible for general education in all these schools.

Artistic education in the Republic of Moldova trains 3 349 pupils / students, of which 1 909 are at the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts. The Ministry of Culture provides methodological assistance, partial financing and monitors these institutions, while the Ministry of Education is responsible for the curriculum management and ensures funding for these 109 institutions together with local public administrations.

In 2012 the *Regulations on functioning of the state higher education institutions in conditions of financial autonomy* was approved and the *Law on Education* amended. Thus, beginning in January 2013, higher education institutions, such as the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts, began operating in the regime of university autonomy, while the role of the Ministry of Culture is limited to participation in the evaluation and accreditation of the institution.

Artistic education funding is made based on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework prepared by the Ministry of Education. In 2013 the planned amount constituted 99 669 800 MDL. The biggest share constitutes expenses for wages, social security contributions and premiums for compulsory health insurance. In recent years, the Ministry of Culture provides funding at the level of about 30-40% annually for 9 artistic educational institutions. Under the new conditions of self-management and self-financing of the institutions, a real danger exists that some institutions might disappear if they will don't succeed to make ends meet independently. The education system costs are calculated according to the needs of the institution: wages, current expenditures and other institutional charges. It should be noted that due to the specifics of professional artistic training, the costs of training pupils and students are increasing from year to year. Thus in 2011, the average costs for a student at the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts amounted to 27 378 000 MDL, which is 322 400 MDL more than in 2010. While the national average in 2009 in higher education institutions spending per student was 6 802 MDL, the expenses per student at the Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts was 25 847.5 MDL. The same is true for colleges, where the national average cost per student in college was 8 709 MDL, while in the colleges with an artistic profile was 18 016.6 MDL.

The buildings of the artistic educational institutions are in poor condition. In the years 2009-2012, investment in capital development amounted to 999 600 MDL (Academy of Theatre, Music and Fine Arts). Capital expenditure from special funds amounted to 431 300 MDL (2010) and 166 800 MDL (2011). Practically all artistic education institutions remain dependent on budgetary funds.

The system is adapted from Soviet practice and is based on the identification of gifted children and their selection for a progressively specialised education and training in the higher art schools. In the case of music or fine arts, the process of training may extend to 20 years. The system makes provision for several hundred students and delivers professional training to a high standard.

Despite a very difficult period, students or graduates of these schools have been highly rated at a number of prestigious international competitions and art festivals.

Despite the problems facing artistic education, in 2013 approximately 357 pupils and students performed in national and international competitions, winning prizes and prestigious awards including: Gold Medal – 2, Silver Medal – 2, Grand Prix – 11, Prize I - 67, Prize II – 39, Prize III - 65, which proves the high quality of the instruction and teaching.

In 2011 the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Moldova, with the financial support of the UNESCO bureau in the amount of USD 10 000, developed the pilot project "Artistic education in Moldova: problems and perspectives for the development of creative capacities for the 21st Century". The report contains the analysis of the current situation; priorities for art education, and recommendations for developing arts education at all levels.

8.3.2 Arts in schools (curricula etc.)

Information is currently not available.

8.3.3 Intercultural education

Intercultural education is not part of the general school curricula specifically. This issue is included within other educational programmes for schools such as citizenship, democracy and human rights, which are carried out in schools by specialised non governmental organisations. One example is the ONG "Independent Society for Human Rights Education", which drafted manuals for teachers and pupils on human rights and democracy that include chapters on cultural diversity, national values and identity, promotion of tolerance, religions etc.

Another point of interest in this context is the European campaign "All different, all equal", carried out by the Youth and Sport Directorate of the Council of Europe in partnership with the European Commission and the European Forum for Youth. The Campaign focuses on three main subjects: eliminating discrimination and promoting diversity; inter-religious and intercultural dialogue; inclusion, democracy and good governance. Within the Campaign various activities will be conducted: art festivals, training of trainers (teachers, local public authorities, journalists, NGOs etc.), promotion materials will be distributed, promoting these values through media etc. Some activities within the framework of the European Campaign "All equal-all different" to be undertaken in Moldova are:

Activities undertaken by the NGO "Institute for Democratic Initiatives" (Orhei). Include: training of trainers (local public authorities, local NGOs etc.) on promoting diversity through inclusion and participation in the community life.

The Centre for Innovation Technologies and the Ministry of Education and Youth will work together on a plan to prepare and organise an Arts Festival "All equal – all different", which is intended to be open to children from specialised and auxiliary educational institutions and boarding schools from Chisinau as well as other from all over Moldova.

Another initiative in this initiative is the recently (May 2010) launched contest within the PLURAL + MOLDOVA Video Festival on the theme of Migration and Diversity, organised with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (AoC), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Festival aims at involving youth in addressing the issues of integration, identity, diversity, human rights and social cohesiveness around the globe by recognising young

people as engines for social change in a world that is often characterised by segregation, divisions and intolerance.

8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training

The Republic of Moldova adhered to the Bologna Process on Higher Education on 1 September 2005. The Ministry of Culture elaborated the *Education Code*, which contains new drafts of laws referring to arts education. Several arts education institutions have been accredited: College of Fine Arts "Al.Plamadeala", College of Music "St. Neaga", National College of Choreography, and the schools of art in Soroca and Balti.

Unfortunately, the whole reform project in education has collapsed. The system, in terms of the Bologna process, was found to be inefficient and non-functioning in Moldova.

One example is visual arts education, where all measures taken to adhere to the Bologna process have been insufficient, as they do not meet European standards and values regarding the promotion of visual art and profound reform is necessary of the entire set of values and principles concerning the creative act.

The education system needs to introduce visual arts practices with reference to current trends, techniques and new media at all levels, expanding and rewriting the entire curriculum. It is compulsory to create a methodological system that meets European standards.

In the view of most lecturers from the art departments in Moldova, the system is not compatible with the Bologna process for other reasons also: the qualifications of lecturers in the education system are outdated, the curriculum is obsolete simply because it is based on Marxist aesthetics which has been, and still is, tributary to the system of values based on socialist realism. As a result, graduates of higher education institutions are often very poorly prepared and further efforts are needed on training, and retraining, to bring them up to the current practice standards and values of contemporary art and culture.

The training level of the lecturers, as well as the quality of the educational programmes in the educational process, is very low in general. Professors and lecturers are not trained in new practices, nor is there a system of teacher training courses. A democratisation of the educational system is necessary for students as they haven't got the right to choose, but instead are constantly under the pressure of the teacher. The reform of the system needs to introduce the use of new technologies (Internet, new media) in the training of artists as well as lecturers. Support also needs to be provided for initiatives of artists and professors in the educational system reform.

8.3.5 Basic out-of school arts and cultural education (music schools, heritage, etc.)

In the Republic of Moldova there are 107 "out of school" art institutions, involving 1 720 teachers and 16 855 pupils. These establishments are subordinated to local public authorities of level I and II and The Ministry of Culture offers logistic and methodical assistance.

Diverse activities are organised each year to improve the quality of services and increase the efficiency of artistic education: specialised seminars with workshops in musical-theoretical disciplines, wind instruments, folk, string, piano, orchestra of folk music, fine arts, with participants from all extracurricular artistic educational institutions in the country.

8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives

8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture

Selected cultural institutions are responsible for implementing state cultural policies in the field of popular (mostly amateur) arts. The National Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Patrimony, subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, has the function to ensure application of protection policies in the regions. The Centre supports the viability of intangible cultural heritage and its transmission to the younger generation through concrete measures, by registering its elements, and preserving information on various modern media.

The Centre's specialist staff, assisted by regional experts, are involved in the implementation of a number of cultural projects: "Artistic Handicrafts Revival", "Inventory of Folk Dances", Parade of summer folk costumes, National Festival of Ie, XXVII-th edition of the Festival-Fair of Potters "Iurceni-2014", "Women - preserving and continuing traditions", "Traditional Moldovan Band", National Festival- Contest of the folk songs performers "Maria Dragan", etc.).

In the Republic of Moldova over 2 900 people work as crafts and there are 47 craft centres that promote pottery, wood and stone processing, weaving, embroidery, knitting, weaving with natural fibres, etc.

The outstanding event of 2013 is considered to be the enrolment of the traditional winter habit "Male groups singing carols" into the Representative List of Human Intangible Cultural Heritage – the first element of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova being accepted to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

On 10 August 2013, the II-nd edition of the National Festival of Ie (women's folk blouse) was held in Moldova, which was attended by 25 craftspeople from the country who manufacture traditional folk costumes. In the frames of the Costumes Parade on the National Holiday "Independence Day of the Republic of Moldova", 37 amateur artists participated from all districts of the country.

In addition, the National Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Patrimony carries out a bi-annual assessment of "model" artistic groups. This is a large-scale initiative co-ordinated and funded by the Ministry of Culture, together with District Culture Offices, District Centres responsible for the conservation and enhancement of folk art, and municipalities. It is a means of monitoring the situation in the fields of amateur arts (music, dance, traditional clothing manufacturing, and theatre), identifying the difficulties to be tackled, and supporting and promoting quality artistic groups.

In the Republic of Moldova, there are 3 972 amateur arts formations, including 798 "model" formations, among which there are 234 folk bands, 87 theatres, 69 folk music orchestras, 61 popular dance ensembles, etc. Although they have no special legal status, they are protected by legislation referring to the development of socio-cultural activity such as the *Law on Education*, *Law on Children Rights*, *Law on Public Associations*, etc. Most of these amateur groups are managed by Cultural Houses.

8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs

The network of cultural institutions in the regions constitutes 1 232 houses of culture, located in villages and towns. Of these institutions, 519 houses of culture need capital repairs, only 347 are heated during winter, 136 are in a poor condition, 12 were privatised, and 10 were fully leased. In this regard, during 2013 capital and current repairs were carried out on 200 houses and homes of culture out of 1 232, amounting to 55.97 million

MDL. During 2013 in the regions, 84 171 cultural-artistic events were organised and conducted (including 31 834 for children and teenagers), which were attended by 10 466 000 spectators (including 3 680 600 children and teenagers).

Cultural houses were built as special projects for producing cultural events, each having concert halls with 200 – 1 000 seats and rooms for rehearsals for artistic (mostly amateur) groups. Most of the cultural houses situated in rural communities include rooms for public libraries.

Although in some houses of culture there are just a few activities organised, the expenses provided by the local public authorities for the maintenance of these buildings in the rural areas are 6 times higher than for those in the cities, thus wasting community resources. Houses of culture must become centres for cultural services in the community, while their funding must be secured on a project basis and depending on the cultural activities provided. In order to provide quality services to the community, houses of culture need major investment in human capital to manage these institutions, greater autonomy in management of resources and available space, liberalisation in terms of creating public-private partnerships, etc.

The Ministry of Culture is only involved in monitoring their activity.

The *State Programme "Moldovan Village 2005-2015"* envisaged MDL 300 million for the capital renovation of 118 Houses of Culture. In 2007, 12 Houses of Culture were renovated in different districts of Moldova. The share of investment projects within this programme amounts to approximately MDL 135 million. Problems appear because of local councils which re-direct the funds toward other areas that are considered to be of bigger concern.

The funding sources of houses of culture are the local budgets, which are complimented with allocations from the central budget, calculated per capita, at 5 MDL (EUR 0.3) for each community resident. It is obvious that this funding is extremely insufficient and unequal. This method of calculation impedes, from the outset, the localities with a small population.

8.4.3 Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs, and advisory panels

In the Republic of Moldova there are about 7000 registered NGOs, but culture is among the areas where the presence of NGOs is very modest and represents about 5% of the total number of NGOs, of which only 2% are active.

In such circumstances, an art market cannot exist, while the ability of lobbying and advocacy of the civil society from the field of culture is extremely weak. Financing policies are mainly focused on the financing of public institutions, while the non-governmental sector is practically neglected. The Ministry of Culture does not have a public policy on development of the private cultural sector, while the unique form of financial support is a fund of 2 million MDL annually, which is less than 1% of the budget of the Ministry of Culture. Funding of artists' unions and civil society associations takes place under the *"Regulation on financing from the state budget of programmes, projects and cultural activities carried out by civil society associations"*, approved by the *Government Decision No. 39* of 26 January 2009. In 2013 only 53 projects were funded, in the amount of 1 790 200 MDL.

Lately, through various cultural activities, the following organisations manifested themselves: Cultural Policy Centre, Centre for Contemporary Art KSA:K, Moldovan Association of Contemporary Music, ARS DOR Association, Association Oberliht, Artists Associations "Papyrus-studio", German Cultural Centre AKZENTE, Theatre "Spălătorie", "Muzica nelimitată", etc.

The Association of Artists "Papyrus-Studio" is an NGO, operating since 1999 and aims to animate the artistic life of the Republic of Moldova through implementing new technologies and materials.

ARS DOR is an Arts and Professional Development Centre that provides consulting, training and capacity development programmes for the cultural sector of the Republic of Moldova. In this respect, ARS DOR Association contributes to developing and implementing cultural policies, initiation of advocacy campaigns and lobbying, by making research and developing analytical studies in the cultural field. At the same time, ARS DOR consults institutions from the cultural field in developing strategic development plans, provides training in cultural management and marketing, cultural resources mapping, project management, fundraising, etc.

In October 2011 a Convention on support and development of culture in Moldova was jointly signed by Creative Unions, cultural institutions and representatives of six political parties – "Culture 2015".

The aim of signing this convention is the modernisation and inclusion of Moldovan culture in the international circuit. The Convention envisages actions aimed to support artists and other professionals in the field, and foster cultural life in the country for the next four years, corresponding to the length of activity of the current parliament. (for more information see also chapter 4.1)

9. Sources and links

9.1 Key documents on cultural policy

The National Strategy for the Development of Culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020.

Programme for the Strategic Development of the Ministry of Culture for the period 2012-2014.

Action plan for implementing the National Strategy for the Development of Culture in the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020.

National Programme of informatisation of the cultural sphere for the period 2012-2020.

Proposal of the public policy on modernisation and increasing efficiency of the museums activity; Ministry of Culture.

Proposal of the public policy on "Increasing efficiency of the theater and concert institutions from the Republic of Moldova", Ministry of Culture.

Cultural Policy in Republic of Moldova; Chisinau: Ministry of Culture of Republic of Moldova, 2002.

Republic of Moldova: State Programme on the "Development and Protection of Culture and the Arts in the Republic of Moldova, 1997-2000".

Republic of Moldova: State long-term Strategy on Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation.

Republic of Moldova: The National Strategy on the Information Society "E-Moldova".

Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova for 1999 – 2014.

Evaluation of efficiency and transparency of using public resources allocated to culture, Independent Analytic Centre "Expert-Grup", 2013.

Audit reports of the Court of Auditors, 2012, 2013.

The Culture in the Republic of Moldova 2005, The National Bureau of Statistic of the Republic of Moldova.

Archives of the Ministry of Culture (1994-2004).

Magazines: Sud-Est; Contrafort; Semn; Timpul; Jurnal de Chisinau; Moldavskie Vedomosti.

9.2 Key organisations and portals

General information on the country can be found on the official websites:

Cultural policymaking bodies

The official website of the Republic of Moldova

<http://www.moldova.md>

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova

<http://www.mc.gov.md>

Interethnic Relations Bureau of the Republic of Moldova

<http://www.bri.gov.md>

Agency of Inspection and Restoration of Monuments

<http://www.airm.gov.md>

Grant-giving bodies

Soros Foundation-Moldova

<http://www.soros.md>

United Nations Development Programme of the Republic of Moldova

<http://www.undp.md>

International Organisation for Migration

<http://www.iom.md>

Culture / arts portal

National Cultural Fund Initiative

<http://fondulculturii.wordpress.com>

Centre for Contemporary Art KSA:K

<http://www.art.md>

ARS DOR Association

<http://www.arsdor.org>

Teleradio Moldova

<http://www.trm.md>

Radio Moldova

<http://www.trm.md/radio>

News TV

<http://www.jurnaltv.md>

News TV

<http://www.publikatv.md>