

# National and institutional perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of participation in ERC competitions

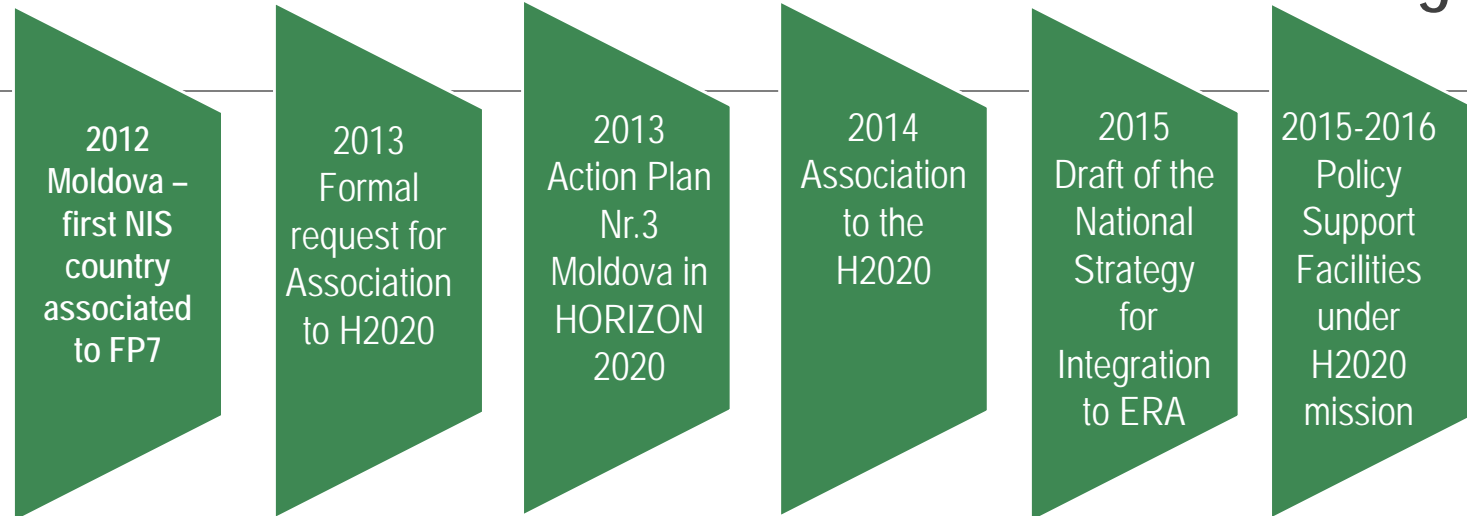
---

GHEORGHE DUCA, ACADEMICIAN

PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF MOLDOVA



# 5 years of association of Moldova to the EU Framework Programme



# Moldova's participation in the Horizon 2020

Country	Moldova (2014)	Armenia	Georgia	Belarus	Ukraine	Azerbaijan	Russia
Population	2 913 281	2.976.443	4.433.434	9.329.243	42.560.230	9.607.122	143.500.000
Submitted projects	<b>242</b>	89	148	178	908	39	249
Successful projects	<b>24</b>	14	16	23	84	5	67
Number of projects by a ratio of 1 mln people	<b>8</b>	5	4	2	2	0,5	0,5
Moldova's effectiveness as compared with other countries		<b>1,75</b>	<b>2,28</b>	<b>3,34</b>	<b>4,17</b>	<b>15,83</b>	<b>17,64</b>

# Participation of Moldova in EU Framework Programmes and ERC

FP7 – from 315 proposals supported 58

---

- **To ERC Calls – 10 applications, 4 eligible, rejected**

H2020 – from 220 proposals supported 26

- **To ERC Calls – 5 applications, 2 eligible, rejected**

Analysis of situation demonstrated the needs of:

- adequate support for Moldovan R&I capacity building,
- swift implementation of long-awaited national reforms in structure, governance and functioning of the R&I system, and
- a careful nurturing of the human resource base.

**These are three crucial pillars for Moldova's economy to directly benefit from the high economic added value that the country's knowledge capacity is able to generate.**

To improve this situation – the Academy of Sciences of Moldova applied to the Policy Support Facilities under H2020 Programme for **Peer Review of the Moldovan Research and Innovation System**, executed in 2015-2016 and starting to be implemented in 2017.

# Prerequisites for reform

The following strategic documents were revised by the PSF Peer Review Mission:

---

**Action Plan for the Implementation of the Association Agreement for 2014-2016 period**

**Road map for improving the country's competitiveness**

**Moldova – 2020 Strategy of Science and Development**

**Moldova – 2020 Innovative strategy**

The Peer-Review exercise supported by the European Commission as part of the "Horizon 2020" Framework Programme has been performed by a group of independent experts which was focused on the evaluation of the national system of science and innovation.

The recommendations in this report aim at strengthening the Moldovan R&I system by addressing a set of structural weaknesses and by building on Moldova's existing and potential strengths

# Recommended Policy Statements

- 1. Embed Research and Innovation (R&I) policy in the overall economic policy strategy of the country.** Improving synergies between Moldova's R&I strategy and the country's overall socio-economic ambitions is key activity that lead to the ambitious reforms of the national R&I system.
- 2. Improve the governance of the national R&I system by strengthening the political responsibility for R&I with a dedicated Ministerial responsibility.**
- 3. Create an independent, transparent and accountable R&I implementation Agency which concentrates and allocates all available R&I funding on the basis of international standards.**
- 4. Redress the binary research and education system of Moldova, whereby universities are mostly concentrated on "teaching" and institutes on "research".** The circulation of knowledge and human resources throughout the country's public system is now more essential than ever before.
- 5. Safeguard the public R&I capacity of Moldova by ensuring that the physical, intellectual and human capital of research institutions is maintained and eventually reinforced.** Systematic evaluation procedures for public research organizations and higher education institutions should be set up to progressively link public R&I funding to performance in the medium-term, thus rewarding quality research.
- 6. Take resolute action to improve the employment and funding opportunities, working conditions and career perspectives of researchers, including notably young and female scientific talents.**
- 7. Urgently review the framework conditions for innovation** by putting in place a coherent set of policy measures to create and stimulate a supportive environment for business engagement in R&I activities.

## Creation of new structures for implementation of policy in the field of science and innovation

---

To implement the policies in the field of science and innovation, in accordance with PSF Mission recommendations, the following structures under the Government's authority will be created:

**Council for Science, Development, Innovation and Technology Transfer;**

**National Agency for Science, Development and Innovation;**


**National Council for Scientific Qualifications and Ranks.**

# Council for Science, Development, Innovation and Technology Transfer

---

The Council for Science, Development, Innovation and Technology Transfer is a consultative body established to develop proposals and recommendations on the promotion of policy documents, state programs and projects of national importance in the field of science and innovation.

## **The Council:**

- **Considers proposals and recommendations on the promotion of documents of the national policy in the field of science and innovation.**
  - **Coordinates the strategic priorities of science and innovation.**
  - **Facilitates cooperation between the main stakeholders in the development and implementation of policies in the field of science and innovation.**
- 




# National Agency for Science, Development and Innovation

---

The National Agency for Science, Development and Innovation is a specialized body of central public administration established to implement policies in the field of science and innovation.

**The agency** is a financially autonomous state body, which will be responsible for:

- Institutional financing of the organizations in the field of science and innovation (including scientific institutes and universities from Gagauzia).
  - Organizing the competition of programs and projects and their examination.
  - Organizing an assessment of the effectiveness of the organizations in the field of science and innovation.
- 

# National Council for Scientific Qualifications and Attestations

---

**The National Council for Scientific Qualifications and Attestations** is an autonomous administrative body, subordinated to the government. It is a legal entity entrusted with responsibility for the awarding, confirmation and recognition of scientific qualifications and titles.

The Management Board of the Council comprises the President, Vice-President and Scientific Secretary, selected on a competitive basis and approved by the Government.

The Council will also include a Commission for the certification of scientific personnel, that will award and confirm the academic degrees of doctor and doctor habilitat, the titles of associate professor and professor.

# Strengthening the autonomy and building the capacity of the Academy of Sciences

---

Bearing in mind the transfer of the policy development authority in the field of science and innovation from Academy of Sciences to the Government, the reform is aimed at changing the former role through the development of institutional autonomy and potential of a scientific forum for research and innovation.

**The Academy of Sciences** is a state institution of national importance, coordinator of scientific research and a scientific consultant of state bodies.

## **Academy of Sciences:**

- Defines its organizational structure, guided by the country's strategic priorities;
  - Participates in the development of policies in the field of science and innovation, strategic priorities, strategies and programs;
  - Coordinates scientific research of subordinate institutions;
  - Promotes fundamental and applied research;
  - Advises state bodies and institutions, scientific and economic agents.
- .

# Strengthening the autonomy and building the capacity of the Academy of Sciences

---

The Academy of Sciences will consist of three scientific departments:

- **Life sciences;**
- **Exact and engineering sciences;**
- **Social and economic sciences, humanities and arts.**

The specified number of full and corresponding members is **91 people**.

The highest representative body of the Academy of Sciences is the General Assembly

The executive body is the Presidium.

The President of the Academy of Sciences will chair the General Assembly and the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

# Facilitating access to science and innovation financing and improving the national assessment system

---

Considering the goal of the reform, harmonization of the science and innovation management system with the standards of the European Research Area, a new mechanism for policy promotion has been defined – the National Program for Science, Development, Innovation and Technology Transfer.

The program is the main legal document to guide the government in approving the state policy in the science and innovation field for a 4 years period. It will also provide for synchronization with the EU Framework Program.

In order to **facilitate access to the science and innovation financing, the reform entirely eliminates the accreditation procedure**. To consolidate the practice of assessing scientific organizations active in the field, the Agency will evaluate the organizations to reflect their activity profile and abilities necessary to implement it.


**Performance evaluation** is an assessment of the capacity of organizations to implement activities in accordance with their scientific profile.

## Development of mechanisms for increasing the effectiveness and integration of talented young scientists

---

In order to facilitate the implementation of scientific research, particularly the one driven by the young scientists, the reform provides for a biennial scientific certification in accordance with the Rules for attestation of scientific researchers, approved by the Government.

In order to facilitate the entering of talented young scientists in scientific activities, the conditions of employment and scientific advancement will be simplified in the following way.

- **the position of an intern research assistant**, the candidate must have a master's degree and corresponding research skills.
  - **research position** - the young talent has to proof his/her scientific efficiency, certified by scientific publications.
  - **senior research position** and get the right to manage a group / center / laboratory, the necessary work experience has been reduced to three years.
- 

---

**Implementation of PSF Recommendations will contribute to the improving of the R&D System in Moldova that will have a positive impact for the increasing of Moldova's participation in the ERC calls, as well as in the HORIZON 2020 Programme.**

**Thank you!**

Acad. Gherghe DUCA

President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova

E-mail: [ggduca@gmail.com](mailto:ggduca@gmail.com)

Web: [asm.md](http://asm.md)

