

Basic approaches in the process of the gradual reintegration of the Transnistrian region

Objectives and Principles

The Republic of Moldova reaffirms its firm commitment to advancing the process of the country's reintegration. The primary objective is to achieve a comprehensive, viable, and lasting solution to the Transnistrian conflict, to be attained exclusively through peaceful means.

In the settlement process, the Republic of Moldova is the sole subject of international law and the territory of the Transnistrian region constitutes an integral part of the Republic of Moldova, within its borders as recognized by the international community.

The reintegration process shall be based strictly on respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, within the internationally recognized borders as of 23 June 1990, the date of the proclamation of national sovereignty.

The reintegration of the country shall be carried out consistently in accordance with the strategic direction of the Republic of Moldova's European integration.

Demilitarization and democratization are key prerequisites of a viable reintegration. A sustainable settlement must ensure the functionality of the state and the same standards for democracy, pluralism, human rights and the rule of law to apply in all parts and institutions of the country.

Vulnerabilities and risks

The challenges and risks faced by the Republic of Moldova in its efforts towards a reintegration of the country include:

- The objectives of the settlement process for the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and for the Russian Federation and the "authorities" on the Left Bank of the Nistru River, on the other hand, are fundamentally different.
- The lack of political will on the part of the leadership in Tiraspol to engage in any discussions that would imply reintegration. This situation, combined with Russia's influence over the structures in Tiraspol, as well as the illegal presence of Russian military forces in the region, significantly complicates the process.
- Russia has not lost interest in the region; on the contrary, in the current context this interest has increased, even if the resources available are more limited.
- The Russian Federation's propensity' to use military force in foreign policy.
- Reintegration entails bringing into the legal framework of a democratic, albeit still fragile, state a territory under the control of an oligarchic regime, whose residents have been excluded from democratic practices for decades.
- It remains unclear what the configuration of a potential peace arrangement for Ukraine will be and to what extent the Republic of Moldova will be affected.
- The non-involvement or insufficient involvement of international actors constitutes a substantial risk to the success of the reintegration process, as it may lead to a reduction in the political, financial, and technical support necessary for the effective implementation of the reintegration process.

Geopolitical context

Under the current context and objective circumstances, the "5+2" format is not operational. At the same time, the political will to meet the prerequisites for a viable settlement has been lacking in Moscow and Tiraspol. This is an impediment to meaningful negotiations which does not depend

on the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. In the meantime, however, the Republic of Moldova works to prepare the ground for a future reintegration via two main avenues, to cooperate with its European and Trans-Atlantic partners toward a demilitarization of the region, and to engage the Left Bank towards a gradual integration of the social, economic and legal framework - including in the context of EU integration.

The Russian military contingent illegally deployed in the region has limited capabilities but continues to generate security concerns and remains a key instrument of Russian control. In the current geopolitical context, it remains necessary' to increase international pressure on the Russian Federation to withdraw its illegally deployed forces, as well as to internationalize and demilitarize the peacekeeping operation. It is important that this effort be separated from the negotiation process aimed at the political settlement of the conflict. The establishment of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine could create conditions conducive to the withdrawal of Russian Federation troops and ammunition under international supervision. In this context, there is a need for stronger coordination, and the Republic of Moldova expresses its readiness to cooperate with its European and Trans-Atlantic partners to consolidate efforts aimed at the demilitarization of the region.

Alongside this, one of the key objectives is the establishment of an international civilian mission for peacekeeping or for the civil administration of the region, ensuring that all participating partners contribute positively to the mission's neutrality, impartiality, and legitimacy. The success of this initiative depends on the firm commitment and sustained support of international partners, which would provide the necessary' framework for stability, security, and progress in the reintegration process.

Operational Directions and Mechanisms

At present, the only functional platform for direct dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol is the 1+1 negotiation format at the level of political representatives. However, accumulated experience demonstrates that the representatives in Tiraspol consistently display an obstructive attitude toward durable solutions necessary for advancing the region's reintegration process. To date, Tiraspol has not accepted any measures that would entail sustainable reintegration, including in areas such as human rights, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, and freedom of association.

In this context, sectoral working groups play an essential role in facilitating technical dialogue between the parties. They contribute to the identification and resolution of concrete issues, create functional mechanisms for cooperation, and lay the groundwork for the adoption of sustainable decisions, thereby reducing the risk of tensions and blockages in the reintegration process.

At the same time, the identification of a comprehensive solution will be pursued through a gradual and phased reintegration process across multiple domains. Economic reintegration, as a central element of the overall strategy, will be achieved through the gradual extension and uniform application of the relevant regulatory' framework throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova. In parallel, this process will be supported by progressive reintegration measures in the energy, customs, fiscal, monetary, social, healthcare, education, and other relevant sectors.

This approach raises the issue of the mechanisms through which reintegration can be achieved. Experience suggests that negotiations have limited chances of concluding with consensus. For this reason, through legislative amendments, uniform rules of the game will be applied, requiring strict compliance with the national legal framework, as well as with fiscal, customs, and trade regulations throughout the country's territory. This course of action will make economic reintegration a gradual process based on common rules rather than political concessions, thereby- ensuring the functioning of a unified economic space. A special fund for convergence, supported

by national and international contributions, will help facilitate this process. The support of our international partners is essential.

Additionally, efforts to reintegrate the legal and institutional space will be strengthened through the development and implementation of a clear framework of conditionalities. This will include, inter alia, respect for human rights, guaranteeing freedom of expression and access to information, ensuring free movement of persons and goods, the unhindered functioning of educational institutions with instruction in the Romanian language, as well as the protection of economic interests and the local business environment.

To create an adequate informational framework, a communication and counter-disinformation strategy tailored to the specific characteristics of the region will be developed and implemented.

Reintegration and European integration

Reintegration and European integration are two distinct processes. The ideal scenario would be for a reintegrated Republic of Moldova to become part of the European Union. However, not only is there a lack of political will in Tiraspol, which has a strong preference for the status quo, but significant external factors also intervene, such as the illegal presence of Russian military forces on the country's territory and the regional security context shaped by the war at the border. Under these conditions, the two processes advance at different speeds and follow distinct timelines, which could lead to the possible suspension of the application of the EU acquis on the left bank for a certain period at the time of the Republic of Moldova's accession.

At the same time, the European integration process offers additional opportunities for economic and social development on the left bank; however, it creates a less flexible framework for conducting negotiations. In order to facilitate the process of absorption and understanding of the integration objective, as well as to establish a communication framework with representatives of the authorities in Tiraspol, an information mechanism has been put in place, complemented by a well-defined schedule of meetings.

System of guarantees

The Republic of Moldova views the guarantees offered to the residents of the region as an integral component of the conflict settlement. The system of guarantees covers the following areas, without being limited to these:

Political - the right to citizenship at birth and for persons who have had permanent residence in the region for more than ten years.

Legal - the application of amnesty to persons holding positions of responsibility within the so-called Transnistrian structures requires a differentiated approach, particularly with respect to law-enforcement representatives and other officials implicated in violations of human rights. Economic - the recognition and settlement of issues related to property rights.

Social - ensuring a level of social assistance not lower than that which existed in the region prior to the settlement.

The settlement process must include a transition period aimed at achieving harmonious synchronization on both banks of the Nistru River. During this period, the management of the region would be gradually transferred under the auspices of an international administration, which would oversee the processes of demilitarization and democratization of the territory. Likewise, the international administration would gradually transfer competencies in the region to the central authorities in Chisinau.

Confidence-Building Measures

The promotion of confidence-building measures aims to create a favorable environment for advancing the country's reintegration process. In this regard, the Republic of Moldova reaffirms

its commitment to channel external assistance intended for convergence and reintegration processes toward the Transnistrian region, so that it contributes directly to reducing divergences and facilitating the settlement of the conflict.

To promote confidence-building measures, the existing sectoral working groups will be used, and, where necessary', additional working groups will be established with clear mandates focused on resolving concrete issues. Their priority objectives will include ensuring the free movement of persons, goods, and services, as well as the development and implementation of joint socioeconomic and cultural-humanitarian projects. These projects will be implemented, inter alia, with the support of international assistance and development programs and will aim at practical, multidimensional reconnection between the two banks and communities, while also creating the necessary' preconditions and facilitating the reunification of the country.

Annex 1 - Information Exchange Mechanism

Annex 2 - Measures undertaken to advance the reintegration process

Annex 3 - Aspects highlighting the degree of interaction between residents of the Transnistrian region and the central authorities

February 2026

Information Exchange Mechanism (IEM) - Concept Review Follow-Up

1. Updated Strategic Context

The Information Exchange Mechanism (IEM) was established in August 2024 to support the bilateral screening process by facilitating access to sectoral information from the Left Bank of the Nistru River. With the screening process successfully finalized in September 2025, this original function has been completed and the mechanism requires recalibration.

As of December 2025, the Republic of Moldova has entered the phase of technical accession negotiations with the European Union. The updated National Programme for Accession 2025-2029 (NPA), adopted on 29 December 2025, constitutes the central instrument for planning, sequencing, and coordinating legal approximation and institutional reforms. At this stage, the NPA effectively operationalizes the EU *acquis*, setting out how it is being and will be transposed and implemented in national legislation.

In parallel, Moldova continues to manage the Transnistrian settlement process under complex political and security conditions. While gradual and sustainable reintegration remains a national objective, technical, expert-level engagement can contribute to predictability, transparency, sectoral preparedness relevant to Moldova's EU accession process, as well as to confidence building between the two banks.

Against this background, the IEM is updated and repositioned as a technical information exchange platform, focused on explaining Moldova's EU-aligned reforms to sectoral experts from the Left Bank. The mechanism enables structured exchanges on sector-specific reforms and, where applicable, allows the Left Bank to provide data for Chisinau's consultative and analytical awareness, in line with internal procedures and without creating legal, political, or procedural obligations.

2. Redefined Purpose of the IEM

With the screening process concluded, the revised IEM aims to:

- Inform sectoral experts from the Left Bank about planned legislative and institutional reforms in Moldova, as aligned with the EU *acquis* and structured through the National Programme for Accession;
- Increase technical understanding of the EU *acquis* by presenting NPA implementation pathways, chapter by chapter;
- Provide a structured expert-level setting for clarifying technical questions related to upcoming reforms and legal modifications.

The IEM does not serve as a negotiation or decision-making forum and does not create reciprocal commitments.

3, **Operating Principles**

The IEM shall operate in accordance with the following principles:

1. **Accession focus** - All discussions are anchored exclusively in actions and reforms included in the National Programme for Accession.
2. **Technical and expert-level engagement** - Participation is limited to sectoral experts; political representation is excluded.
3. **Non-reciprocal information exchange** - Any information provided by Left Bank participants is non-binding and used solely for consultative and analytical purposes.
4. **Transparency and predictability** - Agendas and thematic focus are communicated and agreed in advance. Interpretation into Russian will be ensured when presentations are delivered in Romanian or English. Presentation materials may be shared in paper format during meetings.
5. **Depoliticization** - Discussions exclude issues related to political status, reintegration processes, or any ongoing issues (schools, farmers, freedom of movement, etc) addressed in working groups or level of political negotiators.
6. **Venue** - Meetings between sectoral experts are held alternatively in Chisinau and Tighina.
7. **EU presence** - An EU notetaker may attend IBM working meetings.

4, **Thematic Focus and Format**

Each IEM working meeting shall last approximately 3-4 hours and be structured around:

- One relevant NPA chapter or subchapter, depending on the scope of reforms;
- A presentation by Moldovan experts on the corresponding EU *acquis* and planned reforms;
- A facilitated Q&A session for technical clarification.

Where appropriate, additional activities may complement IEM meetings in order to illustrate practical implementation of reforms and sectoral progress in European integration on the Right Bank.

5, **Coordination and Roles**

The IEM does not replace existing reintegration formats or working groups. It operates as a technical mechanism.

- Overall coordination is ensured at technical level.
- Sectoral content is prepared in cooperation with the relevant line ministries.
- Each JEM working meeting is accompanied by a briefing and debriefing with the respective sectoral experts from line ministries/authorities.

Note: IEM agendas, presentation content, and supporting materials are subject to internal clearance prior to each meeting.

6, **Proposed Calendar 2026**

Thematic calendar for the period January - August 2026 (tbc):

January	Study visit of the Left Bank energy experts to the Right Bank focused on energy efficiency of public and residential buildings.
February	Additional topics from chapters on Energy (CH15), Environment (CH27) in the follow-up to the study visit (ex. green energy, renewables)
March	Free movement of goods (CHI)
April	Right of establishment and freedom to provide services (CH3)
May	Consumer and health protection (CH28)
June	Transport policy (CH I 4)
July	European transport policy (CH21)
August	Additional session dedicated to subchapters

Other chapters that may be considered for IEM - subject to how efficient the engagement on above chapters can prove - include: Social policy and employment (CH 19), Agriculture and rural development (CH 11), Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy (CH 12), Statistics (CH 18).

Measures undertaken to advance the reintegration process

Over the past years, Chisinau has pursued a strategy focused on preserving peace while incrementally deepening economic, legal, and social convergence. Rather than pursuing symbolic or coercive moves, authorities prioritised stability, predictability, and practical integration, especially in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Despite the fact that at the beginning of 2025, Tiraspol did not accept the offer* from Chisinau and the EU to secure gas supplies, advocating for a different model, the Government's efforts enabled the creation of a contingency plan to prevent a potential humanitarian crisis.

Peace and Stability

1. Avoidance of escalation after February 2022

Since February 2022, Moldova has successfully avoided the spillover of the war into the Transnistrian region, despite the presence of Russian troops and ammunition depots; isolated security incidents in 2022; repeated external attempts to portray Moldova as a "next target".

2. Maintenance of calm in the Security Zone

Joint mechanisms (Joint Control Commission) continued to function, and incidents were addressed through communication rather than force.

3. Preventing humanitarian or social destabilization

Chisinau ensured uninterrupted supply of basic goods across the Nistru River and continued access of residents to social services, pensions, healthcare (approximately 75,000 people insured through the National Health Insurance System) etc. As well, the government provided full support to prevent a humanitarian crisis at the beginning of 2025, when gas supplies to the region were cut off.

4. Preventing the expansion of Russia's military presence in the region

Measures aimed at preventing the expansion of Russia's military footprint in the region, including legal provisions allowing the withdrawal of Moldovan citizenship for individuals who voluntarily enroll in Russian military forces stationed there. In this respect, two decrees have been signed by the President in 2025.

Dialogue and Confidence-Building Measures

5. Use of the "1+1" channel when the 5+2 format is on hold

Chisinau maintained communication mechanisms with Tiraspol in the absence of full multilateral talks within established negotiation formats.

6. Sustaining sectoral working groups despite political deadlock

Technical dialogue through working groups continued in areas such as the economy, education, healthcare, transport, and the environment. Six working group meetings took place in 2025, while more are currently being prepared.

7. EU-funded confidence-building measures implemented with national authorities

Joint projects supported communities, SMEs, civil society, and cultural initiatives on both banks. It builds trust horizontally, beyond elite-level negotiations.

8. Broadcasting of the public television channel Moldova 1 in the Transnistrian region.

Resumption of Moldova 1 public television broadcasting in the Transnistrian region, ensuring residents' access to national public-interest content and reliable information.

Economic Convergence

9. Unified customs duties regime effective January 2024

Special customs exemptions for Transnistrian economic agents were abolished with the entry into force of the new Customs Code. This was an important step in harmonizing procedures for companies on both banks of the Nistru River.

10. Collection of customs duties into the national budget

Economic agents from the region contributed customs revenues to the Moldovan state budget in 2024-2025, reflecting their practical integration into the national economic system and their reliance on Moldova's institutions.

11. Use of Moldovan-issued trade documentation for foreign commerce

Companies from the region fully benefit from the DCFTA and conduct exports using certificates of origin issued by Moldovan authorities. This integrates the region into Moldova's international trade framework and obligations. As of 31 January 2025, 2,478 economic agents are registered with the Public Service Agency. In 2025, approximately 71% of the region's exports were directed to EU member states, while imports originating from the EU accounted for approximately 48%.

Mobility and Public Services Convergence

12. Resumption and continuation of initial vehicle registrations (2024-2025)

Chisinau restored functionality of the registration mechanism after disruptions caused by Tiraspol's withdrawal. As of 2025, 14,863 neutral license plates linked to Moldovan registries had been issued, while more than 41,000 national-type plates were issued during the same period.

13. Expansion of medical assistance and social assistance service on the Right Bank to the Moldovans residing on the Left Bank.

14. Expansion of education services on the Right Bank for the children from the Left Bank in the institutions located in the security zone.

Planned Priorities and Actions for 2026: Consolidating Stability and Accelerating Convergence

Building on the stability-first approach pursued in recent years, Chisinau plans to advance a set of measures in 2026 aimed at maintaining dialogue, strengthening European convergence, deepening economic integration, and improving public communication and resilience. The objective is to expand the practical foundations for reintegration, while preserving peace and avoiding escalatory dynamics.

Political Dialogue and International Engagement

15. Continuation of the "1+1" dialogue format at the level of political representatives

Moldova will maintain direct, results-oriented communication channels with the region's political representatives to manage sensitive issues and prevent escalation. The primary goal is to re-engage Tiraspol in discussions on meaningful reintegration, rather than on technical sectoral matters.

16. Structured engagement with international partners on reintegration and security risk management

Chisinau will intensify consultations with key international partners to ensure coordinated support, align strategies, and maintain shared situational awareness. These efforts aim to strengthen cooperation, enhance the effectiveness of joint initiatives, and foster a unified approach to addressing challenges in the reintegration process,

17. Permanent dialogue with civil society - establishing trust via informal consultations

Authorities will continue systematic communication with civil society and media to explain measures taken and planned steps, including those from the region.

Economic and Institutional Convergence Measures

18. Gradual economic reintegration, linked to a dedicated convergence mechanism

The gradual expansion of the economic field across the entire territory of the country may be explored through the potential application of environmental taxes, energy-efficiency fees, among other instruments.

19. Establishment of the Convergence fund

Funds collected through such mechanisms will be accumulated in a convergence fund, to be used for reintegration efforts and social support projects for citizens from the left bank. It will also gradually finance public services for the Moldovan citizens on the left bank.

20. Planned meetings of working groups on economic issues

Chisinau will maintain and, where possible, expand technical-level meetings focusing on economic integration barriers.

European Accession Convergence

21. Reshaping the Information Exchange Mechanism on European integration

Chisinau updated and strengthen the EU-focused information exchange mechanism that would allow structured briefings for the Tiraspol's representatives on Moldova's European integration process (annex 1). This will help to prevent informational isolation and reduce opportunities for disinformation on the European Union accession process.

22. Regular technical briefings on EU accession procedures and negotiation dynamics

Chisinau intends to organize technical-level meetings to explain how EU accession talks function, what approximation requires, and how standards will gradually shape national governance.

23. On-demand deployment of EU experts to support understanding of EU standards

When relevant, Moldova will facilitate involvement of EU experts to explain regulatory alignment in priority sectors (e.g., food safety, environment, competition, customs, labor standards etc).

Communication and Countering Disinformation

24. Development of a dedicated communication strategy' on reintegration and resilience

A communication strategy focused on transparency, public trust, and strategic resilience, including countering disinformation narratives targeting settlement efforts.

25. Strengthening efforts to combat disinformation and hostile influence operations linked to the conflict

Measures will include more proactive messaging to the public, strengthened coordination with institutions and international partners, and support for media literacy initiatives as well as the promotion of credible information channels. These actions aim to enhance public awareness, counter misinformation, and foster a more informed and resilient society

Conclusion

Moldova demonstrated that can preserve peace along an unresolved conflict line even in the shadow of a major regional war. At the same time, Chisinau has expanded practical convergence through economic integration, mobility mechanisms, public services inclusion, and sustained dialogue formats.

In 2026, Moldova intends to consolidate and deepen this stability-first strategy by maintaining political communication channels, advancing European convergence mechanisms, strengthening economic alignment, and investing in public trust and resilience against disinformation.

Aspects highlighting the degree of interaction between residents of the Transnistrian region and the central authorities of the Republic of Moldova

The Transnistrian region's population has declined from approximately 750 000 inhabitants in 1989 to an estimated 350 000-360 000 today. Although the exact scale of this decline is difficult to determine - owing to extensive out-migration and the absence of comprehensive and transparent demographic data - the overall trend is unmistakable. The region has experienced a population decrease of more than 50 percent. At the same time, over half of the remaining population is concentrated in and around the municipalities of Bender and Tiraspol.

1. Moldovan identity documents / passports issued in the Transnistrian region

The majority of residents of the Transnistrian region are citizens of the Republic of Moldova and hold identity documents issued by the national authorities. As of 31 December 2025, 337 516 residents of the region possessed Moldovan identity documents. This fact underscores the continued institutional and legal connection between the region and the Republic of Moldova proper.

2023	2024	2025
336 116 Moldovan citizens	342 443 Moldovan citizens	356 833 Moldovan citizens

2. Ethnic composition of the Transnistrian region

The Transnistrian region is neither ethnically homogeneous nor "predominantly Russian": Moldovans and Ukrainians make up the majority (approximately two thirds), while Russians account for about one third. The narrative of a "Russian space" is not supported even by local statistics.

In practice, many localities are predominantly Romanian-speaking, and most villages maintain this linguistic identity. The paradox of the region is that the demographic reality does not confirm Russification, yet through administrative pressure and propaganda, the Russian language is imposed as a socio-economic filter for access to opportunities, services, and advancement.

3. Moldovan driver's licenses issued in the Transnistrian region

Reintegration is also evident in the sphere of traffic and mobility. More than 75 000 Moldovan driver's licenses are held by residents of the Transnistrian region and the city of Bender. In practice, the population's daily mobility relies on Moldovan national documents rather than on unrecognized parallel structures.

4. Neutral license plates for vehicle registration

The mechanism for issuing neutral license plates continues to operate. As of 2025, 21 915 neutral license plates had been issued. At the same time, more than 23 800 national-type plates were issued. The upward trend reflects the population's interest in legal and internationally recognized circulation.

5. Number of children in Romanian-language schools in the Transnistrian region

Between 2023 and 2025, the number of pupils enrolled in Romanian-language schools in the Transnistrian region increased. Against the backdrop of a severe demographic decline in the region and the obstacles artificially imposed by Tiraspol, this trend demonstrates that these schools remain attractive and continue to serve as important educational and identity anchors.

2023	2024	2025
1 813 pupils	1 936 pupils	2041 pupils

6. Health insurance and social services

Data from recent years indicate a rapid increase in the social integration of residents from the Transnistrian region into the systems of the Republic of Moldova, particularly in the areas of health insurance and social benefits. The figures convey an important message; reintegration also has a concrete social dimension, measurable in the services and support provided to citizens. The internal structure of social benefits in 2025 highlights a significant reality: a large portion of beneficiaries are families with children. The data show that approximately half of social benefits recipients are children or related to children (childcare allowances, one-time birth grants, support for child care, etc.). This confirms that the systems of the Republic of Moldova (unction as a real safety net for the most vulnerable groups, and that social reintegration is not an abstract concept, but a process directly reflected in the well-being of families.

Conclusion: The rapid increase in the number of people with health insurance and social benefits demonstrates that, beyond political narratives, the population of the Transnistrian region is seeking real solutions within the systems of the Republic of Moldova.

2023	2024	2025
-Health insurance: 14439 persons. -Social payments: 2912 persons. -Sums paid for healthcare: 77.64 million lei. -Sums paid for social payments: 85.4 million lei.	-Health insurance: 33109 persons. -Social payments: 3 231 persons. -Sums paid for healthcare: 13.09 million lei. -Sums paid for social payments: 98.45 million lei.	-Health insurance: 74500 persons (an increase of over 415% compared to 2023). -Social payments: 10134 persons (an increase of over 248 % compared to 2023). -Sums paid for healthcare: 119.479 million lei. -Sums paid for social payments: 138.529 million lei (an increase of 40.7% over the previous year).

7. Residents of the Transnistrian region commute daily to the right bank

Estimates suggest that 20,000-25,000 people travel there on a daily or weekly basis, while an even larger number have already settled permanently on the right bank, establishing residence, employment, education, and families.

8. Companies from the Transnistrian region registered with the Public Services Agency

Data show that the business environment in the Transnistrian region increasingly relies on the legal mechanisms of the Republic of Moldova, including registration with the Public Services Agency (PSA). In recent years, there has been a steady, albeit moderate, increase.

The addition of 107 companies over two years (~ +4.5%) can largely be attributed to the fact that most companies were registered in previous years.

Notably, even in the face of political pressure and local obstacles, economic actors in the region continue to operate through the legal and administrative frameworks of the Republic of Moldova. The strategic significance is considerable: each company registered with the PSA represents a practical step toward reintegration and legal economic activity, fostering transparency, compliance, and market access. For this reason, Tiraspol treats the issue as a political matter and periodically attempts to impose restrictions: however, economic logic consistently outweighs political rhetoric.

2023	2024	2025
2 371 economic agents: 1 931 - provisional records 440 - permanently	2 406 economic agents: 1 976 - provisional records 430 - permanently	2 478 economic agents: 2 012 - provisional records 466 - permanently

9. Export/import operations from/to the region in the EU

The economy of the Transnistrian region is structurally oriented toward the European Union. In 2025, approximately 71% of the region’s exports were directed to EU member states, up from around 65% in 2014. The peak was reached in 2023, when exports to the EU accounted for 83% of the total, underscoring the region’s actual dependence on the European market despite political rhetoric. The main export destinations are Romania, Poland, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

Imports follow a similar pattern: in 2025, roughly 48% of imports originated from the EU (compared with about 50% in 2014), indicating that supply chains remain closely tied to the European market.

10. Studies for young people from the left bank on the right bank

Education is one of the most reliable channels of reintegration. Each year, hundreds of young people from the Transnistrian region choose to study on the right bank. In 2023, 881 students were enrolled in higher education and 307 in technical vocational programs, while in 2024, 459 were enrolled in higher education and again 307 in technical vocational programs.

Interest is also supported through concrete public policies: between 2018 and 2023, the state allocated 144.14 million lei for 4,473 budget-funded places filled by young people from the region in universities, and in 2023 a peak was reached with 881 budget-funded places for higher education studies.

2023	2024	2025
Technical vocational studies - 307 Higher education studies - 881	Technical vocational studies - 307 Higher education studies - 459	Technical vocational studies - 345 Higher education studies - 511