



Migration and Development in the Moldovan Health System

Dear members of the Moldovan Diaspora worldwide,

It is well known that the migration phenomenon, especially the migration of high skilled professionals, has a deep impact on the social-economic situation of the Republic of Moldova. It hinders the country's sustainable development, challenges all the structural reforms aimed at supporting the development of very specific sectors of Moldova's economy, and directly affects most of Moldovan families.

Although the remittances of Moldovan migrants help to reduce poverty and to increase the access of the children remained in the country to a better education and of the old people – to a better health care, they alone cannot remove the structural constraints to economic growth, social change and better governance that characterize Moldova along with many other countries with low levels of human development.

A more intelligent way to address these challenges and a greater involvement of the Moldovan Academic Diaspora in the development of the Republic of Moldova is needed. One of the possible options in this respect is *the development of networks which facilitate the transfer of knowledge, innovation and attitudes that can promote development in very specific sectors*. This served also as the conceptual point of departure for the German-Moldovan project "Migrants' Capacities for the Moldovan Health System Development" implemented within the Joint EU-UN Initiative "Migration for Development" in October 2009- April 2011.

The goal of this project consisted in exploring the potential of Moldovan Diaspora doctors (scientists, practitioners) for the development of the Moldovan health system. This was achieved through a well-targeted co-operation between the host institutions of the Moldovan migrants currently working in the health system of the EU member

states and the interested medical institutions of the Republic Moldova in the field of common research and co-operation projects, joint initiatives for students' exchange and internships, common publications, implementing new methods of diagnosing and treatment in Moldovan health care institutions, and signing interinstitutional agreements of cooperation.

The project started with the parallel work on a complex database of the Moldovan Medical Diaspora in the EU (Germany) and on a Study on the strengths and the weaknesses of the Moldovan Health System (the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University "Nicolae Testemitanu", (SMPHU) Republic of Moldova). At the workshop organized in Leipzig with the participation of Moldovan partners and physicians activating in Germany and wishing to participate in carrying out the project



WORKSHOP "BRAIN DRAIN-BRAIN GAIN" (LEIPZIG, APRIL 2010)



objectives, there were discussed in details ways of carrying out the project activities.

It continued with a series of working visits of Moldovan Diaspora physicians at the SMPHU for teaching, research and curriculum development.

It then carried on with another series of working visits for institutional cooperation paid by representatives of the interested Moldovan Medical institutions at the host institutions of the Moldovan migrants and a third series of working visits for institutional cooperation paid by the heads of the host institutions of Moldovan Diaspora physicians at Moldovan Medical institutions.

One of the main activities of the project has been the National Seminar “Managing the Impact of Migration on the Moldovan Health System” which took place in Chisinau, Moldova on 21-24 February 2011, followed by a round table with representatives of the Moldovan Government and mass-media.

The project has had excellent results:

- Approximately 130 doctors, didactic staff, residents of the SMPHU “Nicolae Testemițanu” have benefited from training courses and workshops in the fields of neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, as well as cardiothoracic, vascular surgery and transplantology.
- 8 doctors, professors of the SMPHU “Nicolae Testemițanu” have had working visits at the medical institutions and institutions providing medical education and research from Germany, where they have discussed the matters of cooperation between German and Moldovan institutions
- 9 common project proposals have been elaborated and 30 ideas for common projects on development, mobility and research have been outlined.



The following new projects resulted from this pilot project:

- “Curriculum modernization and improvement of the treatment provided to the patients with rheumatic diseases” – accepted by DAAD within the framework of the PAGEL program; per. 2011 – 2014;
- “Patients School and continual training of the family doctors in the field of rheumatology” submitted to the Robert Bosch Foundation;
- “Ensuring the quality in the Institutions of Higher Education of the Republic of Moldova”, project submitted to the EU within the framework of the TEMPUS program;
- “Multicentric Study for the Evaluation of Valves Transplant”. An experimental study to be tested on 200 patients from 8 European centers, including Germany, Moldova, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Poland, etc. Project submitted within the framework of FP-7 HEALTH 2011.1.4 – 1

Additionally, a series of political recommendations aimed at (i) the consolidation of the legislation on migration in the Republic of Moldova, (ii) the elaboration of a differentiated policy aimed at working with the migrant doctors who are currently abroad, (iii) the organization of a complex research regarding the real situation in the Republic of Moldova concerning the migration of the medical personnel have been formulated and addressed to the relevant Governmental bodies of Moldova.

Currently we are working on a book “Migration and Development in the Moldovan Health System. Global Trends and Local Challenges”. This volume undertakes to address the challenges this phenomenon creates for the health

system of the Republic of Moldova, the possible approaches of the problems conditioned by the exodus of the medical staff and the potential of various approaches such as (i) circular migration or (ii) knowledge circulation for various target groups.

The book is targeted at both the decision factors and the professionals of the health system, politics, diplomacy as well as the representatives of international organizations which address the migration phenomenon in their programs, especially the migration of the medical staff, as well as researchers and students interested in studying the migration phenomenon in all its complexity. It will be edited in English and will have a Romanian translation.

In conclusion we can say that the win-win-win scenario for (i) Moldova’s migrants, (ii) the Moldovan Health System and (iii) the host country and for instance the host institutions of the Moldovan migrants has paid off. The success determinants of this project have been in our view the focus on the knowledge of migrants, the active involvement of their host institutions, as well as the commitment and the motivation of the Moldovan Medical Diaspora to the development of the Moldovan Medical System.

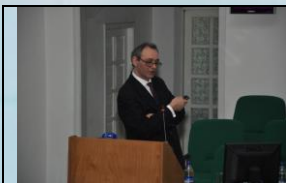
The project has clearly shown that the Moldovan migrants can contribute a lot to the development in Moldova, whilst keeping and even improving their professional and social status in the host country. We have worked with the elite of the Medical Diaspora in Germany, but we believe that this approach can be applied to any other sector with the prospect of extending it to the Moldovan Medical Diaspora worldwide, creating a functional network oriented to a long-term cooperation with health care institutions in the Republic of Moldova.

We would like to encourage the representatives of the Moldovan Diaspora to elaborate further projects targeting sustainable development in Moldova and would be happy to share our experience in this sense with any civil society organization or public entity which is willing to cooperate with us for similar projects.

We present you the representatives of medical Diaspora in Germany who during 18 months formed a team of enthusiasts with a motivation and a big wish to contribute to the development of Moldovan Health System. They are the pioneers of a project which is, in fact, at the very beginning, but in our view, has a great perspective.



NATIONAL SEMINAR "MANAGING THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION" (CHIȘINĂU, FEBRUARY 2011)



Prof. Dr. Kostin Sawa – Max-Planck-Institute for Heart and Lung Research (W.G. Kerckhoff-Institute) and Kerckhoff Clinic



Prof. Dr. med. Mustea Alexandru – Klinik und Poliklinik für Frauenheilkunde und Geburtshilfe, Deputy Director

	<p>Dr. med. Cebotari Serghei – Klinik für Herz-, Thorax- Transplantations- und Gefäßchirurgie, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover Senior Doctor</p>
	<p>Dr. med. Gurschi Eugen – Uniklinikum Marburg, Anesthesia and intensive therapy department</p>
	<p>Dr. med. Jordan Mihaela – MediClin Krankenhaus Plau am See, neurology and stroke department</p>

Please, address your enquiries either through the forum at the project’s homepage (www.medconnect.md) or to the overall coordinator of the project Dr. Victoria Reinhardt at the following address: reinhardt@uni-leipzig.de.

We very much look forward to your feedback and new ideas for further projects which will channel the Moldovan migrants’ potential to the development of the Republic of Moldova.

Dr. Victoria Reinhardt

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 University of Leipzig
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