



IN BRIEF...

# Democracy and Human Rights

Respect for Human Rights is still a problem in the Moldovan society and an obstacle for Moldova's future development. Sida supports the promotion of Human Rights as well as a stronger civil society and a transparent and efficient public administration.

An assessment of the human rights situation carried out by Sida resulted in a programme, which is administered by the Swedish Helsinki Committee (SHC). It is focused on three main areas: rule of law, non-discrimination and free media. The SHC has identified a broad range of strong local partners and projects. SHC also continues to support a Human Rights training project for police officers in Moldova.

## Anti-trafficking and migration

Since 2002 the counter-trafficking efforts in Moldova are supported by Sida through IOM (International Organisation for Migration). Sida is funding a project on prosecution and criminalization of trafficking in women, aiming at building the capacity of the Moldovan law enforcement and judicial authorities to more effectively prosecute crimes of trafficking. The project also supports the participation of NGOs and the civil society in prevention of trafficking and protection and support to victims.

On the basis of two assessment studies Sida also prepares a compre-



You are not for sale! This poster is part of a campaign, sponsored by Sida, aiming at raising the awareness of trafficking in human beings in Moldova. Photo: Bengt af Geijerstam

hensive programme for strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Department of Migration in order to work out migration policies and effectively manage the migration flows.

### **Penal Reform**

Sida has been approached by the Ministry of Justice and the Institute for Penal Reform – a local NGO – concerning support for the ongoing penal reform. The programme is under discussion and will focus on the probation reform agenda, especially targeted at post-penitentiary probation and social re-integration of persons released from detention.

### **Free and Fair Elections**

Moldovan NGOs have established the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections in order to contribute to the development of free, fair, transparent and democratic parliamentary elections and to promote civic engagement in the election process. Sida supports the coalition along with other donors.

### **Census**

A population census took place in Moldova in 2004. Sida was one of the lead agencies in coordinating the international assistance to the census. Sida also co-financed the Council of Europe's observation of the census to ensure that international standards and principles were adhered to.

### **Local Democracy**

In the area of democratic governance a Sida funded 5-year programme aimed at strengthening local self governance has recently been finalised. Although the project was implemented successfully, it has not had the expected impact due to recent changes in the public administration system and administrative – territorial reform of the country.

Together with the other international donors Sida has expressed its concern about the weakening of the local self governance, and has changed the focus of the project. Irrespective of the changed reform, the project has managed to strengthen the capacity of the local public administrations in the area of financial management of local budgets.

Development of a new programme in public administration reform is under finalization. The Sida contribution will be directed towards strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Academy of Public Administration to develop human resources policy and effectively design and deliver advanced high quality training for public servants working at different levels of governance.

### **Civil Society**

A Sida-financed programme to support civil society is under preparation. The programme will focus on consolidation, institutional building and participation in the policy dialogue

and advocacy. Direct support will be available for Moldovan NGOs, but partnership between Swedish and Moldovan NGOs and NGOs from other countries will also be encouraged.

### **Public administration**

Sida's support to the Court of Audit continues and has yielded positive results in the form of strengthening the institutional independence of the Court of Audit and the capacity of staff. This has promoted transparency and contributed to the fight against corruption in public administration. Sida is also preparing a programme for training of civil servants. The Moldovan counterpart is the Academy of Public Administration. This is a joint programme with the World Bank and other bilateral donors. The Sida contribution will strengthen the institutional capacity of the Academy of Public Administration to develop human resources policy and effectively design and deliver advanced high quality training of public servants.

### **Gender**

Sida has supported a project on gender, leadership and networking for women. A continuation of the support for gender equality is considered.

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SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden  
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00  
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15  
sida@sida.se, www.sida.se