

Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility: Peer-Review of the Moldovan R&I system

30th plenary meeting of ERAC,

Agenda point 6

Brussels, 22 April 2016

The Moldovan authorities expressed their **interest in an independent Peer Review of their R&I system**, to be carried out through the Policy Support Facility, through a letter of the President of the Academy of Sciences dated 26 May 2015. In line with this request, the aim of this Peer Review was to **provide external advice and operational recommendations to the Moldovan authorities** on possible reforms to undertake within the framework of their new National Strategy for Science and Development 2014-2020 **in line with the following focus areas:**

- 1) *Increasing the efficiency of public R&I funding and the quality of the R&I performing bodies and instruments;*
- 2) *Improving the policies for human resources and mobility of researchers;*
- 3) *Boosting business innovativeness and science-business links; and,*
- 4) *Increasing R&I impact by properly defining the policy instruments*

The Peer Review has been **implemented in the period November 2015-April 2016** by a Panel of independent experts from Poland (Chair, **Krzysztof Gulda**: Scientific Policy Committee advising the Ministry of Science and Higher Education), Austria (co-rapporteur, **Manfred Spiesberger**, Senior researcher at the Centre for Social Innovation), Greece (co-rapporteur, **George Bonas**, Director of the Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support), Netherlands (**Francien Heijts**, Advisor to the Ministry of Education Culture and Science) and Romania (**Daniel Funeriu**, Former Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of Romania) acting in their personal capacity and by two peer reviewers, being policy makers from Austria (**Brigitte Weiss**, Head of sector for EU-coordination, Directorate of Innovation of the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology) and Estonia (**Toivo Raim**, Adviser , Research Policy department, Ministry of Education and Research).

The Moldovan exercise has followed a **three-step PSF Peer Review methodology**:

Firstly, the collection of evidence started by gathering qualitative and quantitative information on the Moldovan R&I system and mobilizing key actors (i.e. **preparation phase**). The overview of the challenges faced by the country, resulting from a series of meetings organised by the Moldovan Academy of Sciences in September-November 2015 (i.e. self-assessment process) was presented at the kick-off meeting in Brussels on 11 November 2015, when the PSF panel had also the first opportunity to discuss the background information on the Moldovan R&I system¹.

¹ Background Report for the Peer Review of the Moldovan R&I system : "Research and Innovation in the Republic of Moldova" by Manfred Spiesberger (Centre for Social Innovation - ZSI, Vienna, Austria) and Gheorghe Cuciureanu (Information Society Development Institute - IDSI, Chisinau, Moldova), November 2015

In a second step (i.e. **implementation phase**) the actual Peer Review analysis took place involving both remote analyses of the information (background documents) in relation to the focus areas selected by Moldova and face-to-face interactions within the host country. During the first country visit to Chisinau on **7-9 December 2015** the PSF panel met all Moldovan authorities involved in the R&I policies as well as the wide range of institutions and stakeholders (i.e. Academy, Universities, Agencies, private entities, NGOs, etc.). A proposal for the structure, main messages and draft recommendations of the Peer Review report followed and the PSF panel presented the preliminary findings (i.e. ‘options for the future’) to Moldovan stakeholders during a second field visit in Chisinau on **27-29 January 2016**.

In a third step (i.e. **reporting phase**) the PSF panel prepared the **draft Peer Review report** including analysis and policy recommendations, with supporting evidence gathered in the peer review process and learning from practice and analysis of similar approaches and reforms introduced in other countries. Withing the thematic framework of the Peer Review and taking into account feedback from the Moldovan authorities, the panel of experts is currently finalising the final report with a set of key policy messages supported by a number of concrete and operational recommendations. The feedback mission to Moldova, during which the findings of the report will be discussed with the authorities and stakeholders, is planned to take place by the end of April 2016.

During the ERAC plenary meeting a short presentation by the Chair of the Review Panel, Krzysztof Gulda and the Moldovan authorities on the lessons learnt from the process will be followed by a broader discussion and exchange of views on experiences gained from other peer reviews and their follow-up.

Contact: RTD-PSF@ec.europa.eu