

Peer Review of the Moldovan Research and Innovation system

Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility

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Increasing the efficiency of R&I performing bodies, instruments and public funding



Efficiency of R&I funding

- * almost all the state budget for R&I activities in Moldova is managed by the ASM, and its sub-unit, the Center for Fundamental and Applied Research Funding (CFCFA)
- * Private companies, NGOs are not eligible for public R&I funding

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An independent Agency for R&I

- * The Panel and stakeholders in Moldova recognizes the need to establish an **independent Agency for R&I**
- * Agency should be subordinated to a suitable Ministry(ies)
- * Tasks: Policy implementation (calls, etc), policy advise, evaluation of Public Research Organisations (PROs) and public universities

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Secure the independence of the R&I Agency

- * selection of its Director General by foreign experts / peers
- * Board involving key R&I stakeholders: Ministry of Education, Economy, Line Ministries, ASM, Universities, private sector and foreign experts
- * full responsibility and autonomy for project selection and funding allocation
- * transparency and quality

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A single R&I funding entity

- * **the whole public R&I funding should be channeled through the new R&I Agency as a single R&I funding entity**
- * spreading the limited national R&I public funding through several Ministries and other entities will reduce impact, transparency, accountability, risks wasting funds
- * Agency should start as soon as possible –when funding and evaluation procedures are established

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Institutional versus competitive funding

- * **share of the competitive funding in the overall R&I budget should increase**
- * **stimulate competition, fund the most promising proposals and research teams**
- * **Increase the R&I intensity to reach at least the level of 2007 as quickly as possible**

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Efficiency of the R&I performing bodies

- * **put in place strong incentives for cooperation and mobility between research institutes and universities**
- * competitive calls for joint applications from research institutes and universities;
- * strengthening doctoral study programs between research institutes and universities;
- * making research infrastructure of research institutes available to all the research community

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Evaluation of the research entities

- * **Introduce systematic evaluation procedures for public research organizations and public higher education institutions**
- * **linking public research funding to performance in the medium term**
- * **direct additional funds towards the better performing research entities**

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Safeguarding the available R&I capacities

- * **available public research capacity in the ASM, in research institutes under Ministries, and in universities needs to be safeguarded**
- * **significantly enhance their accountability**
- * **the autonomy of ASM and of the public universities should be preserved**



Improving human resources and mobility of researchers

Situation of the human resource capacity for R&I in Moldova is alarming

- * shrinking & ageing research community
- * brain-drain internally and externally
- * research careers are not attractive for young researchers
- * authorities are aware of the precarious situation for young researchers and positive initiatives have been taken, e.g. specific grants for young researchers



Improving human resources and mobility of researchers

Training

- * **improve employment and funding opportunities, working conditions and career perspectives of public researchers**
- * **Support young and female scientific talent via structured and high-content PhD programs**
- * **PhD students should benefit from a strong research institute / universities interface**
- * **measures for young researchers should be further strengthened with adequate funding**



Improving human resources and mobility of researchers

Recruiting/promotion/career pathway

- * **reinforce the recruitment, promotion and career opportunities of researchers**
- * **open and merit-based recruitment procedures based on competence and not on hierarchy**
- * **Increase the number of foreign evaluators for recruitment and for joint PhD projects/supervision**
- * **revise the job descriptions to take into account teaching and research activities**



Improving human resources and mobility of researchers

Reward and social recognition - incentives for researchers' careers

- * better salaries; financial prizes for significant scientific outputs
- * performance-based evaluation of scientific work, with direct impact on career – leadership perspectives
- * strengthen international and science-business mobility - Moldovan scientific diaspora

Improving human resources and mobility of researchers



International mobility & EU Framework Programme participation

- * **continue the good efforts and success in integrating with the European Research Area (ERA)**
- * **fully exploit available instruments**
- * **use H2020 schemes targeted at “low-performing countries”:** "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", ERA Chairs, twinning and teaming funding lines

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Thank you for your attention!

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