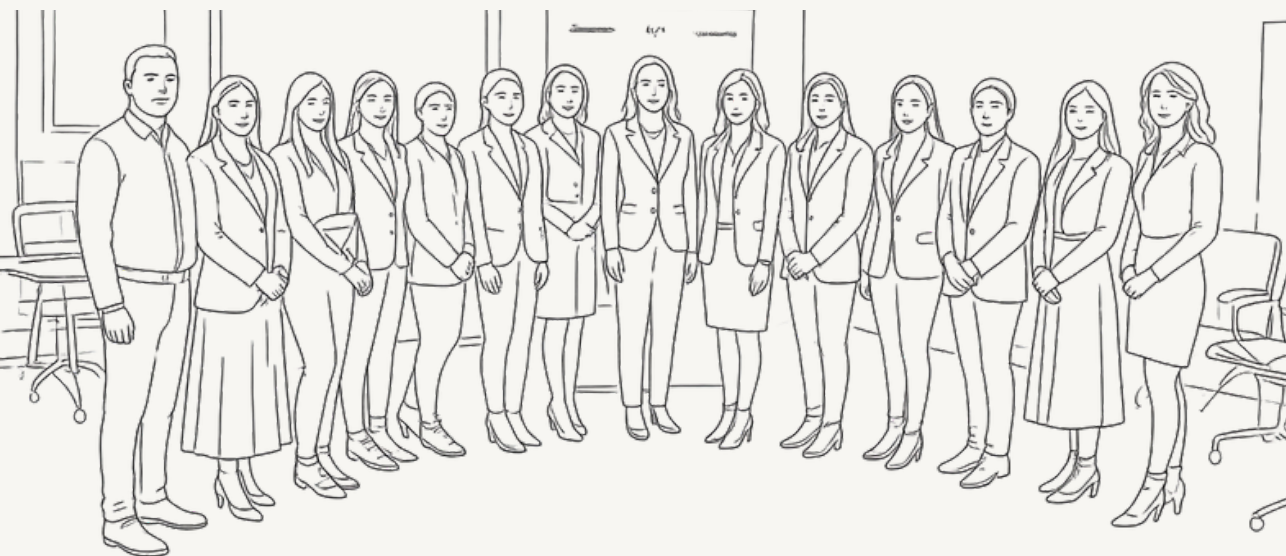


CIVIL SOCIETY AS A PARTNER IN IMPLEMENTING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA AND ADVANCING THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



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The study was prepared within the project “Strengthening Commitment to Inclusive Human Security,” implemented by the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA), and funded through a grant from the Peace and War Reporting Institute, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (FCDO). The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of IWPR or the UK Government.

We express our sincere gratitude to the institutions responsible for implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, as well as to civil society organizations implementing projects in this field, for the support provided in preparing this Study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATU Gagauzia	Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia
CPAs	Central Public Authorities
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
EU	European Union
National Programme 1325	National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for 2023–2027 and its Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PISA	Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives
Resolution 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security

INTRODUCTION



This Study was prepared as part of implementing the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security for 2023–2027 and its Action Plan, which constitutes the principal national policy framework for the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

The preparation of the Study followed the presentation of the Interim Evaluation Report on the National Programme¹, which assessed progress achieved during the first stage of implementation, as well as the challenges, gaps, and areas requiring increased attention during the remaining period leading up to the Programme's completion in 2027. Against this background, a dedicated analysis of civil society's contribution to achieving the Programme's objectives, as well as ways to strengthen its participation in the next stage of implementation, is warranted.

Civil society plays an important role by implementing projects and initiatives that contribute to achieving the objectives of the National Programme 1325, by providing expertise, monitoring, research, training, and advocacy activities, and by facilitating dialogue between public institutions and communities. The data and experience accumulated throughout the implementation process point to the need to assess not only the scope of activities carried out, but also the extent to which civil society organisations are integrated into the planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

The need for the Study, therefore, stems from the importance of conducting an in-depth analysis of the level and forms of civil society participation, the projects and initiatives developed in support of the WPS Agenda, and their contribution to achieving the objectives of the National Programme 1325. The Study complements the perspective provided by the interim evaluation by focusing on the role of civil society and on the cooperation relationships between civil society organisations and the institutions responsible for implementing the Programme.

The analysis is also relevant in the final stage of implementation of the 2023–2027 Programme and for the next policy cycle in Women, Peace and Security. Identifying good practices, existing gaps, and civil society needs is essential for developing a more systematic, predictable, and institutionalised model of participation.

At the same time, the Republic of Moldova's European integration process further increases the relevance of civil society participation in public policy development, implementation, and monitoring processes. From this perspective, strengthening cooperation between the institutions responsible for implementing the National Programme 1325 and civil society organisations is both a prerequisite for enhancing the effectiveness of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and an integral component of developing participatory and inclusive governance in the security sector.

¹ Raport de evaluare intermediară a Programului național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al Organizației Națiunilor Unite privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027.
[https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/Raport%20de%20evaluare%20intermediar%C4%83%20PNA%201325%20\(2023%20-%202025\).pdf](https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/Raport%20de%20evaluare%20intermediar%C4%83%20PNA%201325%20(2023%20-%202025).pdf)

The Relevance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the European and Regional Context

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda, established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions, has become an important normative framework for integrating a gender perspective into security policies and into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction. Resolution 1325 emphasises women's participation at all levels of decision-making in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, as well as the protection of women and girls in contexts of insecurity².

From an analytical perspective, assessing the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the WPS Agenda should go beyond simply quantifying activities carried out and focus on relevant indicators, such as the level of participation in monitoring processes, the existence of institutionalised dialogue mechanisms, the representation of women in the security sector, and the level of financial resources allocated. The main challenge remains to translate the formal participation envisaged in strategic documents into measurable and sustainable results, an issue that has been consistently highlighted in international assessments of the WPS Agenda³.

The Republic of Moldova has a relevant national policy framework through the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for the period 2023–2027. The Programme sets out objectives concerning the integration of a gender perspective into the security and defence sector, the reduction of stereotypes, the strengthening of the institutional framework, professional training, women's participation, and communication with relevant stakeholders⁴. However, for the WPS Agenda to deliver sustainable results, it is necessary to move from a predominantly institutional approach towards a participatory one, in which civil society is systematically and continuously involved in planning, implementation, monitoring and public communication.

Data on the implementation of the National Programme highlight both its potential and the challenges that remain. According to the official report, in 2023, 43.3% of the measures set out in the 2023–2027 Action Plan were either implemented or partially implemented, while 63% of the activities planned for that year were achieved⁵. These results show that civil society organisations play multiple roles, acting as implementation partners, providers of expertise, monitoring actors, and facilitators of dialogue between public institutions and communities.

² UN Women, Rezoluția Consiliului de Securitate al ONU 1325, 2000, disponibil online: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325\(2000\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325(2000))

³ Programul național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027, aprobat prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 152 din 22 martie 2023. https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/program%20national_152md.pdf

⁴ Programul național pentru implementarea Rezoluției 1325 privind Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027, HG nr. 152/2023, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136486&lang=ro

⁵ Retrospectiva anului 2023: raportul de progres pentru 2023 privind implementarea Rezoluției Consiliului de Securitate al ONU 1325. https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/Copy%20of%20RO_Copy%20of%20Final_Booklet%20Caiet%20WPS.pdf, p. 4

⁶ Ibidem

Research Aim and Objectives

The research aims to analyse the role and contribution of civil society to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in the Republic of Moldova, with a focus on forms of participation, cooperation mechanisms with public institutions, contributions through projects and initiatives, as well as the identification of gaps and areas for strengthening civil society engagement.

To achieve this aim, the research pursues the following **objectives**:

- Analysis of the legal and institutional framework governing civil society participation in the implementation of the WPS Agenda and the National Programme in the Republic of Moldova.
- Review of European and regional models of civil society engagement in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and identification of good practices relevant to the Republic of Moldova.
- Assessment of the role and contribution of civil society to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, including from the perspective of the Republic of Moldova's European integration process.
- Analysis of the forms and level of participation of civil society organisations in the implementation of the National Programme 1325, including their experience of cooperation and coordination with public authorities.

- Mapping of civil society projects and initiatives relevant to the WPS Agenda and analysis of their contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the National Programme 1325.
- Comparison of the perceptions of civil society and public authorities regarding the effectiveness of cooperation mechanisms, the extent to which recommendations are taken into account and acted upon, and the level of participation in implementation and monitoring processes.
- Identification of the main challenges, gaps and needs that constrain the effective and institutionalised participation of civil society in the implementation of the WPS Agenda.
- Formulation of priority areas and recommendations for strengthening the role of civil society in the implementation of the current and future National Programmes 1325.

Research Methodology and Limitations of the Analysis

The research combines quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, drawing on the integration and triangulation of information from different sources and data sets. The combined use of documentary data, questionnaire responses, and project mapping enables a comparison of the perspectives of institutions responsible for implementing the National Programme 1325 with those of civil society organisations advancing the WPS Agenda.

Research Methods and Instruments

The research employed the following methods and instruments:

- **Documentary analysis** of the legal and policy framework relevant to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, including the National Programme WPS (UNSCR 1325), implementation and monitoring documents, as well as other relevant documents addressing civil society participation;
- **Analysis of European and regional models and practices** concerning the engagement of civil society organisations in the implementation of the WPS Agenda, with a view to identifying mechanisms, practices, and lessons learned relevant to the Republic of Moldova;
- **Survey of civil society organisations** implementing projects, programmes or initiatives relevant to the WPS Agenda. The questionnaire sought to identify forms of engagement in the implementation of the National Programme, the areas and objectives to which organisations contribute, their experience of cooperation with public authorities, as well as the main challenges and needs⁷;
- **Survey of public authorities and institutions⁸ involved in the implementation of the National Programme 1325**, focusing on their perceptions of the role of civil society, their experience of cooperation, the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, and opportunities for strengthening cooperation and coordination;
- **Comparative analysis of the responses** provided by public authorities and civil society organisations, undertaken to identify areas of convergence, as well as differences in perceptions regarding the level of participation, the functioning of coordination mechanisms, the extent to which civil society recommendations are taken into account, and the effectiveness of cooperation;
- **Mapping of civil society projects and initiatives relevant to the WPS Agenda**, including the identification of implementing organisations, donors, areas of intervention, and their alignment with the objectives of the National Programme. The exercise was not limited to projects that explicitly use the terminology “Women, Peace and Security” or “UN Security Council Resolution 1325”, but also covered initiatives which, through their objectives and activities, contribute directly to areas relevant to the WPS Agenda, including women’s participation and leadership, prevention of and response to

⁷ The questionnaire addressed to civil society organizations was completed between June and July 2026 by the following organizations: the Association of Women in the National Army, the Association of Women in the Prosecutor’s Office, the Public Association “AFI – Act for Involvement,” the “FĂCLIA” Public Association, the MIRKIRAS Public Association (part of UTAG), the ECOU Association for Combating Information Isolation, the Association for Integrated Sustainable Development, the “Rezonans” Center for the Development and Support of Civic Initiatives (Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova), Partnership for Development Center (CPD), Pro Marshall Center in the Republic of Moldova, Institute for Democracy and Development (I4DD), Institutum Virtutes Civilis, Keystone Moldova, Platform for Security and Defense Initiatives (PISA), LEADER National Rural Development Network.

⁸ The questionnaire addressed to implementing institutions was completed in June 2026 by the following public authorities and institutions: Ministry of Internal Affairs—Central Administration, General Inspectorate of Police; General Inspectorate of Border Police; General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations; General Inspectorate for Migration; General Inspectorate of Carabinieri; the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Ministry of Defense; the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; the State Chancellery; the Office of Reintegration Policies; the National Prison Administration; the General Prosecutor’s Office; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Intelligence and Security Service; the State Protection and Security Service; the National Anti-Corruption Center; the Customs Service (under the Ministry of Finance); and the Office of the Ombudsman.

violence, human and community security, information resilience, support to refugee women and vulnerable groups, security sector governance, research, monitoring, and strategic communication.

The research findings should be interpreted considering some **methodological limitations**.

The questionnaires do not constitute a statistically representative sample of the civil society sector as a whole or of all public authorities and institutions in the Republic of Moldova. They reflect the experiences and perceptions of the organisations and institutions that participated in the research, which have varying degrees of involvement in and familiarity with the WPS Agenda.

A further limitation relates to the *mapping of civil society projects*. In the absence of a single, permanent national mechanism for systematically recording projects relevant to the WPS Agenda, the mapping was based on information available and identified throughout the research process. It therefore cannot be considered exhaustive. Some initiatives, particularly those implemented at the local level, on a smaller scale, or as components of projects with a broader thematic scope, may not have been captured in the mapping process.

The crosscutting nature of the WPS Agenda also presents a methodological challenge. Numerous projects contribute to the objectives of the National Programme 1325 without being explicitly defined as WPS-related projects. Their alignment with the objectives of the National Programme therefore involves a degree of analytical interpretation, based on the projects' objectives, target groups, and activities

The research focuses primarily on contributions and participation mechanisms, rather than undertaking an impact assessment of each project identified. The existence of an initiative, or its alignment with a specific objective of the National Programme 1325, indicates a potential or direct contribution to that objective; however, in the absence of dedicated indicators and project-level evaluations, it does not allow for the establishment of a causal relationship between the project and changes occurring among beneficiaries, institutions or public policies.

At the same time, the comparison between the perceptions of public authorities and those of civil society should be interpreted with caution. The two groups of respondents assess cooperation from different institutional positions and reference points: public authorities may place greater emphasis on the existence and functioning of consultation mechanisms, whereas civil society organisations may focus more strongly on their actual influence on decision-making and the extent to which their recommendations are taken up. Finally, the Study provides a *snapshot of the situation during the period under review*.

Civil society projects, funding sources and cooperation mechanisms are continuously evolving. Accordingly, the findings should be understood as an analytical basis for identifying trends, gaps and development needs, rather than as a definitive inventory of all civil society contributions to the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Republic of Moldova.

CHAPTER I

**ROLE OF CIVIL
SOCIETY IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WOMEN,
PEACE AND
SECURITY
AGENDA**



1.1. Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Context of European Integration

At the European Union (EU) level, the WPS Agenda is a central component of the EU's foreign and security policy, associated with promoting women's equal participation and integrating a gender perspective into peace and security processes⁹. Over the past decade, the EU has significantly broadened its understanding of the agenda, linking it to dimensions such as democratic resilience and information security.

At the same time, an active and independent civil society is recognised as one of the fundamental conditions of the EU accession process. This approach places the WPS Agenda at the heart of democratic reforms and the European integration process, transforming it from a sector-specific instrument into a mechanism for strengthening democratic governance and human security¹⁰. In this context, civil society organisations contribute to building trust between citizens and institutions, supporting vulnerable groups, and developing sustainable forms of social and institutional dialogue¹¹.

Within the WPS Agenda, civil society performs both normative and operational functions. Civil society organisations (CSOs), particularly women's organisations, networks of experts, human rights organisations and community-based groups, contribute through expertise, access to communities, independent monitoring, public communication and advocacy. In the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region, analysis of the implementation of the WPS Agenda highlights both progresses achieved through national action plans and persistent challenges, including insufficient funding, weak accountability mechanisms and the sometimes-formal nature of CSO participation. Civil society organisations contribute to promoting and monitoring the implementation of Resolution 1325, as well as to translating its principles into public policies and practice through research, service provision, training and the facilitation of

⁹ National Strategy on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) - Women, Peace and Security, for the Period 2024–2028, p. 15

<https://gendermanagement.mapn.ro/webroot/fileslib/upload/files/legislatie%20na%C8%9Bional%C4%83/National%20Strategy,%20and%20National%20Action%20Plan%20Women%2C%20Peace%20and%20Security%202024-2028.pdf>

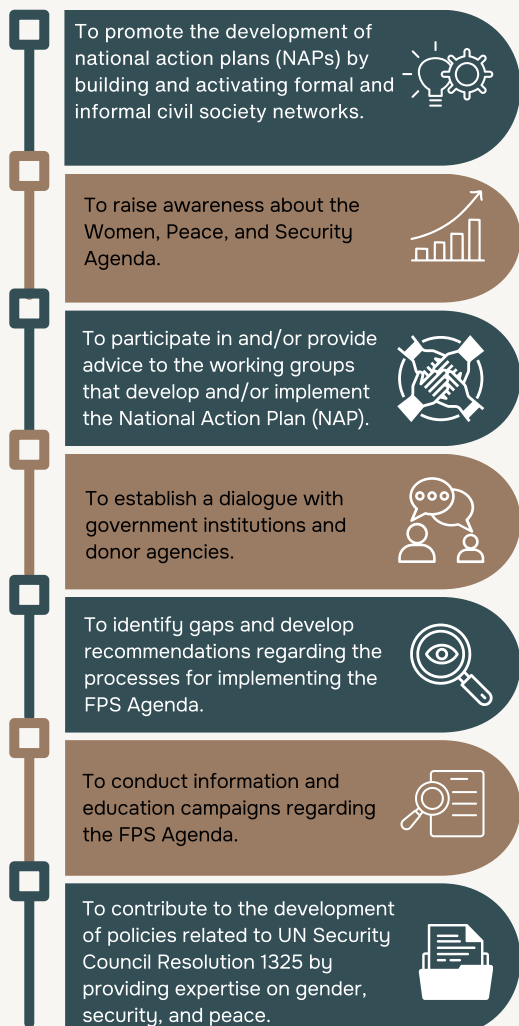
¹⁰ Civil Society. *Civil Society - Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood - European Commission*

¹¹ Women, peace and security. <https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/about-us/what-we-do/wps/>

¹² Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region, 2020. <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/444577>

dialogue between authorities and communities¹³. În Republica Moldova, Programul național de implementare a Agendei FPS pentru perioada 2023–2027 acordă un rol important

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN IMPLEMENTING THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA:



Produced as part of the "SECURITY ACADEMY" project, edition: "Human Security & Women, Peace, and Security"

In the Republic of Moldova, the National Programme for the Implementation of the WPS Agenda for 2023–2027 assigns an

important role to civil society organisations, academia and development partners, while institutionalising consultation and monitoring mechanisms¹⁴.

The Importance of Civil Society Participation in the EU Accession Process, with the WPS Agenda in the Context of European Reforms and Democratic Resilience

In the EU accession process, civil society is a key factor in promoting reforms, monitoring their implementation, and strengthening public support for European integration. Its contribution extends beyond a consultative role, encompassing the accountability of public institutions, enhanced transparency, and the facilitation of citizens' participation in decision-making processes.

European integration provides an additional opportunity to strengthen the WPS Agenda

European integration provides an additional opportunity to strengthen the WPS Agenda. Chapter 31 of the EU acquis, "Foreign, Security and Defence Policy", concerns the capacity of candidate countries to align themselves with EU positions, participate in EU actions, and implement agreed sanctions and restrictive measures. For the Republic of Moldova, the European Commission's 2025 Report found a good level of preparation in the area of foreign, security and defence policy, as well as progress through intensified political dialogue with the EU, strengthened cooperation in the field of security and defence, and the maintenance of a high level of alignment

¹³ Preventing conflict, transforming justice, securing the peace: A global study on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. <https://wps.unwomen.org/participation/>

¹⁴ Program Național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027. https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/program%20national_152md.pdf

with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy¹⁵. At the same time, assessments of the gender dimension of the accession process highlight the direct relevance of the WPS Agenda to Chapter 31. The report on the Republic of Moldova explicitly refers to the National Programme 1325 and recommends maintaining WPS commitments beyond 2027.

Against this background, the WPS Agenda represents a complementary instrument for the democratisation of security policies, inclusive participation, strengthening public trust, and bringing the Republic of Moldova closer to European standards in the areas of human security, good governance and democratic resilience. An important component is civil society participation, including the involvement of women's rights organisations, both in policy development and in monitoring reforms related to the EU accession process. Recent analyses recommend developing mechanisms that enable CSOs to participate in overseeing the

implementation of reforms and to draw on their expertise in areas such as gender equality, the protection of vulnerable groups, political participation, and combating gender- and identity-based disinformation.

In the case of the Republic of Moldova, this participation already has a practical dimension in the EU accession process. Recent analyses highlight the involvement of civil society organisations in both decision-making processes and in the preparations for EU accession. At the same time, the financial sustainability of civil society organisations remains a vulnerability, particularly in the context of their significant dependence on external funding. The report „Gender analysis of the 2025 European Commission country reports for EU accession countries” explicitly confirms the involvement of CSOs in decision-making processes and in preparations for EU accession, while also highlighting the impact of reduced external funding on their sustainability.



¹⁵ European Commission, Moldova Report 2025; Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy, https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/moldova-report-2025_en

¹⁶ Gender analysis of the 2025 European Commission country reports for EU accession countries. <https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/The-Kvinna-till-Kvinna-Foundation-Gender-analysis-of-the-2025-European-Commission-Country-Reports-for-EU-accession-countries.pdf>, p.25

The Republic of Moldova provides a relevant example of how civil society engagement can contribute to the Europeanisation process. European Commission assessments highlight the active participation of civil society organisations in the development and monitoring of reforms, as well as the existence of consultative platforms within ministries. However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms is constrained by persistent challenges, including the uneven functioning of dialogue platforms and significant dependence on external funding¹⁷.

From the perspective of the EU accession process, the WPS Agenda is cross-cutting in nature and intersects with several areas of the EU acquis.

Issues relating to gender equality, non-discrimination, the protection of vulnerable groups and women's participation are relevant to several negotiating chapters, including Chapter 23, "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights", Chapter 19, "Social Policy and Employment", and Chapter 28, "Consumer Protection and Health". At the same time, commitments relating to Women, Peace and Security are directly reflected in Chapter 31, "Foreign, Security and Defence Policy". This crosscutting dimension creates scope for a more systematic integration of WPS objectives into reforms undertaken as part of the EU accession process¹⁸. Against this background, civil society should contribute not only to

consultations on draft policies, but also to the development, monitoring and evaluation of accession-related reforms. Recent analyses recommend the full involvement of civil society organisations, including women's rights organisations, in policy development at both national and local levels, as well as the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for their participation in monitoring EU accession-related reforms, including the Reform Agenda.

The Contribution of Civil Society Organisations to Promoting European Values, Gender Equality and Human Security

In the Republic of Moldova, civil society makes a significant contribution to promoting European values by addressing gender-based violence, both by providing services to victims and monitoring the implementation of reforms and European standards.

An important milestone is the EU-Republic of Moldova Security and Defence Partnership, concluded in 2024¹⁹, which includes gender equality among the areas of cooperation and provides for the exchange of good practices on the implementation of WPS commitments. This framework creates additional opportunities to mainstream the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda into EU - Republic of Moldova cooperation in the field of security and defence, including by strengthening resilience and addressing hybrid threats.

¹⁷ Commission staff working document. Republic of Moldova 2025 report. Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 2025 Communication on EU enlargement policy. https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/23fa6af0-89b3-4532-a3d9-d1638727d14c_en?filename=moldova-report-2025.pdf

¹⁸ Gender analysis of the 2025 European Commission country reports for EU accession countries. <https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/The-Kvinna-till-Kvinna-Foundation-Gender-analysis-of-the-2025-European-Commission-Country-Reports-for-EU-accession-countries.pdf>. p.27

¹⁹ Parteneriat de securitate și apărare dintre Republica Moldova și Uniunea Europeană. https://old.gov.md/sites/default/files/security_and_defence_partnership_md-eu-2_-_ro_translation_1_2.pdf



The European Commission highlights the existence of a mixed system of services delivered by public institutions and civil society organisations, while the Reform Agenda provides for the expansion of protection infrastructure and the strengthening of monitoring mechanisms^{20 21}.

Comparative analyses suggest that countries with more active civic participation and civil society organisations engaged in democratic processes tend to achieve better outcomes in the areas of gender equality and women's participation.²²

Thus, the findings suggest that civic participation and cooperation between public institutions and civil society contribute to greater inclusion and gender equality.

However, challenges persist, including gender stereotypes, unequal access to services, and inadequate protection of vulnerable groups. Against this background, sustainable funding, gender-responsive budgeting, the use of disaggregated data, and the integration of WPS indicators into the monitoring of reforms related to EU accession are necessary.

The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Countering Disinformation, Hate Speech and Social Polarisation

In the Republic of Moldova, countering disinformation has become an integral part of democratic security, particularly in the context of hybrid threats and the European integration process. The Democratic Resilience Strengthening Plan for 2026-2027 and the EU sanctions imposed in response to the manipulation of electoral processes reflect this trend²³.

An emerging dimension of the implementation of the WPS Agenda is strengthening information resilience and addressing gender- and identity-based disinformation. Such campaigns can undermine women's political and civic participation, the safety of targeted individuals, the exercise of fundamental rights, and trust in democratic institutions. In the context of the Republic of Moldova, the

²⁰ Commission staff working document. Republic of Moldova 2025 report. Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. 2025 Communication on EU enlargement policy. https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/23fa6af0-89b3-4532-a3d9-d1638727d14c_en?filename=moldova-report-2025.pdf

²¹ Hotărâre nr. 200 din 22.04.2026 cu privire la aprobarea Mecanismului național de implementare și monitorizare a Agendei de reforme aferente Planului de creștere al Republicii Moldova pentru anii 2025–2027 și de raportare către Comisia Europeană. https://gov.md/sites/default/files/media/documents/sedinte-de-guvern/2026-04/NU-765-CS-2025_0.pdf

²² Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WPS-Index-2025-Report.pdf>

²³ How citizens recognise false news and what is the perception of the press: a Study by the Council of Europe reveals the level of media literacy among citizens of the Republic of Moldova. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/chisinau/-/how-citizens-recognise-false-news-and-what-is-the-perception-of-the-press-a-study-by-the-council-of-europe-reveals-the-level-of-media-literacy-among-citizens-of-the-republic-of-moldova>

development of institutional capacities to identify and analyse such phenomena can be complemented by cooperation with civil society organisations and women's rights organisations, which possess relevant expertise, access to communities, and monitoring capacities. The report "Gender Analysis of the 2025 European Commission Country Reports for EU Accession Countries"²⁴ highlights the impact of gender- and identity-based disinformation on women and their political participation and recommends cooperation between the relevant institutions and women's organisations. European Commission assessments highlight both progress and persistent vulnerabilities, including an incomplete legal framework on hate speech and limited online monitoring capacities.

Against this background, civil society organisations contribute to monitoring harmful narratives, documenting cases of hate speech, promoting media literacy, and supporting vulnerable groups, thereby playing an important role in promoting European standards and strengthening information resilience²⁵. Overall, European integration provides a favourable framework for strengthening civil society participation in the implementation of the WPS Agenda. The convergence between the objectives of the Agenda-participation, protection, prevention, and the integration of a gender perspective-and European priorities relating to fundamental rights, good governance, democratic security, and resilience creates opportunities for a more systematic alignment of the WPS

Agenda with reforms associated with the EU accession process. Within this framework, civil society contributes not only through the implementation of projects and activities, but also through expertise, independent monitoring, data collection, the representation of vulnerable groups, and the assessment of the impact of reforms. This perspective provides a rationale for examining European and regional experiences in institutionalising cooperation between public authorities and civil society, co-creating National Action Plans, conducting independent monitoring, localising the WPS Agenda, and developing sustainable participation mechanisms-issues examined in the following subchapter.

Cooperation between State Institutions, External Partners and Civil Society in the Implementation of the National Programme 1325

Effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda depends on functional cooperation between state institutions, international partners and civil society organisations (CSOs), which make complementary contributions through public policies, expertise, resources, monitoring and knowledge of community needs²⁶. This participatory approach enhances the sustainability of implementation and reduces the risk of the WPS Agenda remaining dependent on ad hoc interventions or externally funded projects.

²⁴ Gender analysis of the 2025 European Commission country reports for EU accession countries. <https://kvinna.tillkvinna.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/The-Kvinna-till-Kvinna-Foundation-Gender-analysis-of-the-2025-European-Commission-Country-Reports-for-EU-accession-countries.pdf>

²⁵ The Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-countering-illegal-hate-speech-online>

²⁶ Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/implementing-women-peace-and-security-agenda_en

This approach reflects the contemporary model of participatory governance promoted by the EU and international organisations, whereby the implementation of complex public policies requires the simultaneous involvement of state and non-state actors. International experience demonstrates that when one of these elements is lacking, policy implementation tends either to become excessively bureaucratic and formalistic or to depend heavily on external projects and funding, without generating sustainable institutional change. In the Republic of Moldova, the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on the WPS Agenda for 2023–2027 provides for cooperation between public institutions and local authorities, civil society, academia, the media and development partners. However, financial sustainability remains a significant challenge, with a substantial proportion of the costs dependent on external support²⁷. Cooperation has materialised through training activities, dialogue platforms and independent monitoring conducted with the involvement of CSOs and international partners²⁸. At the same time, independent assessments highlight the need for a more formalised and permanent mechanism for cooperation between institutions and civil society supported by adequate resources and clear coordination mechanisms²⁹. From the perspective of the EU accession

process, strengthening this cooperation is of strategic relevance. The WPS Agenda intersects with several priority areas of European reforms, including fundamental rights, gender equality, security, public administration and democratic resilience. To the extent that WPS principles and objectives are integrated into strategic planning documents, national reform programmes and monitoring mechanisms used by the EU, the Agenda can serve as an accelerator of the Europeanisation process and institutional strengthening. Conversely, in the absence of such integration, there is a risk that implementation of the WPS Agenda will remain dependent on individual projects, donor support and the involvement of key individuals, without generating lasting institutional change. From this perspective, strengthening cooperation mechanisms between the state, external partners and civil society is not only a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the WPS Agenda, but also an important component of the European integration process and of strengthening the democratic resilience of the Republic of Moldova.

²⁷ Program național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023-2027. https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/program%20national_152md.pdf, p. 18

¹⁸ Retrospectiva anului 2023: raportul de progres pentru 2023 privind implementarea Rezoluției Consiliului de Securitate al ONU 1325

https://mai.gov.md/sites/default/files/ONU/Copy%20of%20RO_Copy%20of%20Final_Booklet%2BCaiet%20WPS.pdf

²⁸ Monitoring report of the National Implementation Programme of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the years 2023-2027: 1 year and 6 months. <https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/MONITORING-REPORT-OF-THE-NATIONAL-IMPLEMENTATION-PROGRAMME-OF-THE-UN-SECURITY-COUNCIL-RESOLUTION-1325-ON-WOMEN-PEACE-AND-SECURITY-FOR-THE-YEARS-2023-2027-1.pdf>

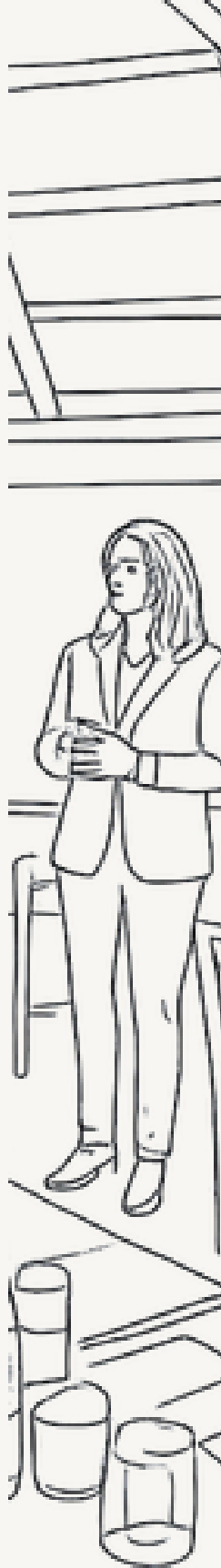




Photo source: www.pisa.md

1.2. European and Regional Models of Civil Society Engagement in the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

European and regional experience demonstrates that implementation of the WPS Agenda is more effective when civil society is involved not only in a consultative capacity, but also in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of relevant policies and measures³⁰. Comparative studies of National Action Plans 1325 highlight that the participation of CSOs contributes to strengthening national ownership, accountability, the relevance of measures, and the quality of monitoring, particularly where cooperation is institutionalised and sustained. By contrast, limiting CSO participation to ad hoc and formal consultations reduces their capacity to influence implementation and contribute to the independent assessment of results³¹.

European Models of Cooperation between Public Authorities and Civil Society

A *relevant model* is that of joint ownership and institutionalised partnership, as illustrated by the experience of the *Netherlands*. The Dutch National Action Plan 1325 is

structured as a partnership between government ministries and more than 70 civil society organisations. This model recognises civil society as an actor sharing responsibility with public institutions for the implementation of the agenda. CSOs participate in defining commitments, implementing activities, and cooperating with diplomatic missions and local partners in conflict-affected countries³².

The relevance of this model lies in the fact that the WPS Agenda is approached both as a government policy and as a shared responsibility of the state and civil society.

For states undergoing democratic consolidation, including the Republic of Moldova, the key lesson is that CSO engagement should be formalised through clear mechanisms, such as working groups, monitoring platforms, regular consultations, and clearly defined implementation responsibilities.

A second model is that of public consultation and periodic reporting, reflected in the experience of Ireland. Ireland's Fourth National Action Plan on WPS covers the period 2025-2030 and

³⁰ OSCE, Implementing Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region, OSCE Secretariat, Vienna, 2020, [Implementing Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region](https://www.osce.org/data/Implementing-Women-Peace-and-Security-Agenda-in-the-OSCE-Region) | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

³¹ UN Women, Involving Women in Peace and Security: Good Practices in the Implementation of 1325 National Action Plans in East and Southern Africa, 2022.

³² Dutch National Action Plan 1325, Women, Peace and Security - NAP 1325, the Netherlands, <https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2020/12/15/dutch-national-action-plan-1325-women-peace-and-security-2021-2025>

maintains a strong focus on continuity, oversight, reporting, and the systematic incorporation of lessons learned from previous action plans.

This model is important because it transforms civil society participation into an ongoing feedback process rather than limiting it to a single stage of public policy validation³³

A third model is the integration of the WPS Agenda into security and defence institutions. The NATO/EAPC Action Plan for the Implementation of the Policy on WPS 2021-2025 emphasises the integration of a gender perspective into civilian and military structures, training, policies, planning, missions, and operations. The document also stresses cooperation with partners, international organisations, and civil society³⁴. This model is particularly relevant for NATO partner countries, as it links the WPS Agenda with security sector reform, institutional culture, and democratic interoperability.

A fourth model, particularly important for Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, is the localisation of the WPS Agenda 1325. This involves adapting national objectives to the realities of communities, regions, and groups affected by insecurity. Localisation is particularly important in states affected by protracted conflicts, hybrid threats, migration, displacement, social polarisation, or low levels of trust in institutions. CSOs and local actors can identify the needs of women and girls at an early stage and contribute to local security audits, community safety plans, and referral mechanisms for survivors of violence.

Ukraine's Experience in Implementing the WPS Agenda in the Context of War and Hybrid Threats

Ukraine represents one of the most relevant regional examples of implementing the WPS Agenda in the context of war, occupation, internal displacement, accelerated militarisation, and hybrid threats. Ukraine's first National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2016, following the onset of Russian aggression in 2014. The Plan, covering the period up to 2025, was adopted in 2020 and, subsequently, updated in 2022 in response to the full-scale invasion. The Plan includes objectives related to women's participation in decision-making, protection from gender-based violence, support for conflict-affected persons, and women's participation in peacebuilding and reconstruction processes. A distinctive feature of Ukraine's experience is the localisation of the Agenda 1325. Following the adoption of the first National Plan, regions were encouraged to develop regional and local action plans that adapt national objectives to the specific risks and needs of each region. These plans take into account the needs of internally displaced persons, access to essential services, and the level of exposure to hostilities, demographic characteristics, and the capacity of the local authorities³⁵.

³⁴ Action Plan for the Implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2025, 21 October 2021, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_187485.htm

³⁵ National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 «Women, Peace and Security» until 2025. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1544-2020-%D1%80#Text>

³⁶ National Action Plan 1325 Ukraine, Regional action plans. <https://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/ukraine/>

³⁷ Ukrainian Women's Fund: 25 years of work. <https://uwf.org.ua/en/>

Regional 1325 coalitions played an important role. Since 2018, the Ukrainian Women's Fund³⁷ has supported the development of regional platforms bringing together public authorities, civil society organisations, and representatives of the security sector. These coalitions serve as mechanisms for dialogue, localisation, implementation, monitoring, and advocacy in relation to the WPS Agenda³⁸. They contribute to the development and implementation of regional action plans, the delivery of training, awareness-raising campaigns, and support for survivors of violence, and the documentation of the needs of communities affected by the war.

The Ukrainian experience demonstrates that civil society can simultaneously serve as a service provider, monitoring actor, public policy partner, and voice of affected communities. Women's organisations, networks of women veterans, organisations representing internally displaced persons, local networks of experts, and survivor support groups have contributed to transforming the WPS Agenda into a practical instrument for strengthening resilience. In the context of war, these organisations have provided psychosocial support, documented community needs, advocated for improved services, supported women's participation in reconstruction planning, and facilitated continued dialogue with local and central authorities.

For the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine's experience matters not only because the two countries are geographically close, but also because both face hybrid

threats, disinformation, regional security challenges, and challenges to social cohesion.

The main lesson is that the WPS Agenda should be approached as an integral component of democratic resilience and crisis response, rather than solely as a gender equality policy.



³⁷ Ukrainian Women's Fund: 25 years of work. <https://uwf.org.ua/en/>

³⁸ National Action Plan 1325 Ukraine, Coalitions in the regions. <https://uwf.org.ua/en/navigator-1325/>

The analysis of European and regional models makes it possible to identify good practices that can be adapted to the context of the Republic of Moldova.

institutionalisation of civil society participation

Ad hoc consultations are useful, but insufficient. The most effective models include permanent structures, such as advisory councils, intersectoral working groups, monitoring platforms, or co-implementation mechanisms. CSOs should have clearly defined roles in providing expertise, delivering training, public communication, monitoring, research, and representing affected groups.

co-creation of National Action Plans

Civil society should be involved from the stage of problem analysis and objective setting, rather than only in the validation of the final document. Co-creation contributes to more realistic objectives, more relevant indicators, and actions that are better aligned with the needs of women in local communities, women in the security sector, refugees, survivors of violence, and women in vulnerable areas.

localisation of the 1325 Agenda

Ukraine's experience demonstrates that regional and local action plans can transform the WPS Agenda into a practical mechanism for crisis response. Localisation may include local safety plans, community security audits, training for local authorities,

reporting and referral mechanisms, consultations with women at community level, and support for local CSOs.

monitorizarea independentă și raportarea alternativă

OSC-urile pot evalua gradul real de implementare a planurilor naționale, pot identifica blocaje și pot formula recomandări bazate pe date. Acest mecanism este deosebit de important în domeniul securității, unde transparența, responsabilizarea și dialogul cu societatea contribuie la consolidarea încrederii publice.

independent monitoring and alternative reporting

CSOs can assess the actual level of implementation of National Action Plans, identify implementation gaps and bottlenecks, and formulate evidence-based recommendations. This mechanism is particularly important in the security sector, where transparency, accountability, and dialogue with civil society contribute to strengthening public trust.

linking the WPS Agenda with security sector reform and European integration

The 1325 Agenda should be understood as an instrument of good governance, democratic security, and institutional resilience. It contributes to women's participation in the security sector, reducing institutional stereotypes, enabling more effective public communication, and more inclusive security policies.



Photo source: www.plsa.md

1.3. Good Practices and Lessons Relevant to the Republic of Moldova

Linking the WPS Agenda to the European integration process, particularly to Chapters 24 and 31, as well as to other relevant chapters.

The WPS Agenda contributes to the modernisation of the Republic of Moldova's security and defence policies by integrating the principles of participation, democratic accountability, equality, protection, and societal resilience. In the EU accession process, the Republic of Moldova is expected to demonstrate alignment with the EU acquis and Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), while also strengthening democratic, inclusive, and citizen-centred security institutions.

In this context, the 1325 Programme serves as an instrument that supports the implementation of Chapter 31, as well as other relevant negotiating chapters, while contributing to the strengthening of democratic resilience. The meaningful participation of women and civil society in security policymaking contributes to a better public understanding of the European integration process, strengthens the legitimacy and accountability of institutions, and promotes security policies that are more responsive to the actual needs of citizens.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Mainstream the WPS Agenda into sectorial dialogues on EU integration, particularly those addressing security, defence, resilience, and countering hybrid threats;
- Integrate the WPS dimension into planning and policy documents related to relevant negotiating chapters (Chapter 24 and Chapter 31);
- Promote cooperation between institutions responsible for European integration, security institutions, and CSOs working on the WPS Agenda;
- Elaborate analytical papers on the contribution of the WPS Agenda to the implementation of Chapter 31;
- Organise an annual “Women, Peace and Security in the European Integration Process” dialogue, bringing together public authorities, civil society, the EU, NATO, and development partners;
- Incorporate CSO expertise into the preparation of reports, consultations, and contributions on the Republic of Moldova's progress in the areas of foreign policy, security, and defence.

Strengthening Civil Society Participation through the Operationalisation of Existing Dialogue and Monitoring Mechanisms

European experience demonstrates that the participation of civil society organisations in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is more effective when it is institutionalised, regular, and linked to official coordination and monitoring mechanisms, rather than limited to ad hoc consultations or one-off events.

The Republic of Moldova already has such a framework through the specialised Commission for monitoring the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, established within the National Council for Human Rights, under the State Chancellery. The Commission's Regulation, approved in 2023³⁹ following the adoption of the National Programme on WPS for 2023–2027, establishes the continuous monitoring of the Programme's implementation as its objective. The institutional structure of the Commission is set out in an annex to the Regulation, while the existing framework also allows for the participation of other relevant

stakeholders, including civil society representatives. In this context, a priority should be to further develop and operationalise the existing mechanism by strengthening its dialogue and cooperation dimension with civil society. This would enable the Commission to function not only as an institutional monitoring mechanism, but also as a regular platform for reviewing progress, discussing implementation challenges, developing recommendations, and facilitating the exchange of information between public institutions and civil society organisations.

Complementarily, the Civil Society Initiative Group on the WPS Agenda could be strengthened as a mechanism for coordinating CSO positions and expertise and as an institutional interlocutor for the specialised Commission. Such an approach would help structure and strengthen civil society participation without multiplying platforms or fragmenting available resources and responsibilities.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Strengthen cooperation between the specialised Commission, the Civil Society Initiative Group on the WPS Agenda, and representatives of local public authorities (LPAs);
- Establish regular consultations with CSOs within the framework of the Commission's activities, including consultations on progress and challenges in implementing the National Programme 1325;
- Systematically involve relevant organisations in thematic working groups or dedicated meetings addressing areas such as women's participation in the security sector, violence prevention, strategic communication, countering gender-based disinformation, and the localisation of the WPS Agenda;

³⁹ Dispoziția nr. 121-d din 24 august 2023 cu privire la aprobarea Regulamentului Comisiei specializate a Consiliului național pentru drepturile omului, coordonată de către Ministerul Afacerilor Interne, Chișinău, 24 august 2023. https://gov.md/sites/default/files/users-media/media16/media17/transparenta%20decizionala/consiliul%20pentru%20coordonarea%20dezv%20durabile/dispozitie_comis_ia_specializata_cndo_mai.pdf

- Designate WPS 1325 focal points within key public institutions and partner civil society organisations;
- Develop a simple joint annual reporting mechanism, including recommendations formulated by civil society;
- Establish a predictable mechanism through which civil society recommendations are presented, discussed, and followed up as part of the monitoring process;
- Leverage the Civil Society Initiative Group to collect and consolidate CSO contributions to the monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme and to the preparation of the next WPS policy cycle;
- Reflect civil society contributions in periodic reporting on the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

Localisation of the WPS Agenda

Ukraine's experience demonstrates that the WPS Agenda becomes more relevant when it is adapted to the actual risks, vulnerabilities, and needs of local communities. For the Republic of Moldova, localisation is particularly important in regions exposed to insecurity, disinformation, social polarisation, the effects of the war in Ukraine, the presence of refugees, or limited participation of women in decision-making processes. The WPS Agenda should not remain solely a national-level policy document, but should be translated into a practical instrument for strengthening community safety, social cohesion, and trust between citizens and public authorities. The Republic of Moldova could pilot the localisation of the WPS Agenda in

several priority areas, including the Security Zone, border districts, localities hosting refugees, communities affected by disinformation campaigns, and regions where women are underrepresented in local public administration or consultative bodies. In these communities, local authorities and CSOs could conduct consultations with women, young women, refugees, representatives of minority groups, women working in the public sector, women journalists, and local activists to identify the main community-level security risks and concerns. This participatory approach would help ensure that local WPS priorities are evidence-based, context-specific, and responsive to the needs of different groups within the community.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Launch 3-5 pilot projects to localise the WPS Agenda in districts or communities of particular relevance to security and social cohesion (including the Security Zone, northern Moldova, and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia);
- Develop local WPS 1325 action plans or integrate WPS objectives into local development and community safety plans;
- Organise local consultations with women from diverse social groups, including refugees, women from minority groups, women journalists, activists, and women working in local public administration;

- Conduct local security audits from a gender perspective;
- Establish local women's networks for community security and resilience;
- Integrate WPS-related topics into awareness-raising activities organised by local authorities, libraries, universities, youth centres, and community-based organisations.

Strengthening Independent Monitoring

Implementation of the WPS Agenda involves not only carrying out planned activities but also assessing their impact. Civil society contributes to more objective monitoring through data collection, consultations with beneficiaries, and the preparation of alternative/shadow reports, assessment of progress against established indicators, and the formulation of recommendations. Independent monitoring supports public institutions in identifying implementation bottlenecks at an early stage, adjusting insufficient measures, and demonstrating progress in dialogue with European and Euro-

Atlantic partners. For the Republic of Moldova, a useful mechanism would be the preparation of an annual Shadow Report on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda, developed by a consortium of CSOs, experts, and women's organisations. The report would complement official reporting and include an assessment of progress, qualitative evidence from local communities, beneficiaries' perspectives, institutional challenges, and practical recommendations. It could also be presented publicly at an annual conference dedicated to the WPS Agenda.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Prepare an annual civil society shadow report on the implementation of the National Programme 1325;
- Develop a set of simple indicators for assessing progress, including women's participation, training delivered, communication and awareness-raising measures, reported cases of gender stereotypes or online attacks, and the level of interinstitutional cooperation;
- Conduct annual consultations with beneficiaries and local stakeholders to assess the actual impact of the Programme;
- Publicly present the shadow report through dialogue with the responsible institutions, international partners, and the media;
- Establish a mechanism for following up on recommendations put forward by CSOs;
- Integrate monitoring findings into the Republic of Moldova's dialogue with the EU, NATO, UN Women, the OSCE, and other relevant partners.

Mainstreaming the WPS Agenda into Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation

In the Republic of Moldova, women engaged in public life, women

journalists, public officials, civic activists, and security experts may

become targets of hate speech, gender stereotypes, discrediting campaigns, and online violence. Such attacks affect not only the reputation of those targeted, but also undermine women's participation in public life, discourage civic engagement, and erode trust in public institutions. For this reason, countering gender-based disinformation should be an integral component of the WPS Agenda and an element of democratic security. The Republic of Moldova should develop a specific gender-disinformation dimension in implementing the National Programme 1325.

This could include monitoring information attacks targeting women in public life, training institutional communication officers, developing media guidance, establishing support mechanisms for targeted individuals, and conducting public awareness campaigns highlighting women's contributions to security, defence, peace, and resilience. Public institutions should also communicate more proactively about women's contributions to the security and defence sectors, in order to challenge gender stereotypes, promote inclusive narratives, and strengthen public trust in security institutions.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS:

- Include countering gender-based disinformation as a distinct priority in the implementation of the National Programme 1325;
- Develop a monitoring mechanism for hate speech, gender stereotypes, and online attacks targeting women engaged in security, politics, journalism, and civic activism;
- Use and implement the practical guide for public institutions and the media on responsible communication on Women, Peace and Security issues⁴⁰.
- Provide training for institutional communication officers, women and men journalists, and CSOs on identifying and countering gender-based disinformation;
- Launch a public awareness campaign on women's roles in security, defence, crisis management, peacebuilding, and resilience;
- Establish a rapid-response protocol for disinformation and discrediting campaigns targeting women in public life;
- Promote positive narratives and stories highlighting women in the police, armed forces, diplomatic service, civil society, local public administration, and communities affected by crises.

CONCLUSION

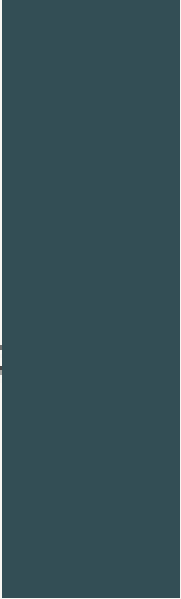
In conclusion, regional experience demonstrates that the effective implementation of the WPS Agenda depends on the quality of the partnership between public authorities and civil society. European models highlight the importance of joint participation, clear and predictable funding, reporting, and the 1325 Agenda integration into security policies. Ukraine's experience demonstrates the value of localisation and the important role of women's organisations in war and hybrid threats contexts. For the Republic of Moldova, these lessons are particularly relevant in the context of European integration, strengthening democratic resilience, and modernising the security and defence sector. Applying these lessons would enable the Republic of Moldova to transform the WPS Agenda from a normative framework into a practical instrument of democratic governance, human security, and societal resilience.

⁴⁰ Promovarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea. Ghid de comunicare strategic. <https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Promovarea-Agendei-Femeile-Pacea-si-Securitatea.-Ghid-de-comunicare-strategica.pdf>



CHAPTER I

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda entails translating normative commitments into operational mechanisms, policies and interventions capable of addressing actual needs. In this process, cooperation between public institutions and civil society is essential to ensure that security policies are informed by experiences and vulnerabilities at both societal and local levels.

In the Republic of Moldova, civil society has developed considerable expertise and practical experience in recent years in areas such as women's participation, violence prevention, human security, policy monitoring, strategic communication and community resilience. At the same time, moving from predominantly project-based engagement and ad hoc consultations towards an institutionalised, predictable and results-oriented partnership remains one of the conditions for strengthening the implementation of the WPS Agenda and preparing the future post-2027 framework.

This chapter analyses the participation and contribution of civil society to the implementation of the National Programme 1325 in the Republic of Moldova, examining both the formal cooperation framework and the actual involvement of civil society organisations in practice. The analysis considers the level and forms of participation, implemented initiatives and projects, the functioning of coordination mechanisms with public institutions, as well as the main challenges and needs identified. Attention is paid to the gap between participation envisaged under the formal framework and the actual contribution of

CSOs, as well as to the perspectives of public institutions and civil society on the effectiveness of cooperation. On this basis, the chapter identifies areas in which the partnership could be further strengthened during the current Programme cycle and in view of the development of the next programming framework. In the Republic of Moldova, civil society organisations have become important stakeholders in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, contributing both directly to the implementation of the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for 2023–2027 and to the development of related areas of human security.

The assessment of civil society engagement draws on two benchmarks. The first is the Council of Europe's Civil Participation Scale, which distinguishes four levels of participation: information, consultation, dialogue and partnership⁴¹.

The second is the dataset collected for the purposes of this study: a questionnaire⁴² completed by 14 civil society organisations active in the WPS field and a questionnaire completed by 19 public authorities and institutions responsible for implementation. The two instruments make it possible to assess engagement in terms of both scope (the number of organisations involved and the number of Programme objectives to which they contribute) and influence (their actual position on the participation scale).

⁴¹ Consiliul European, Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process (versiunea revizuită), Conferința OING, 2019, <https://rm.coe.int/code-of-good-practice-civil-participation-revised-301019-en/168098b0e2>

⁴² Vezi metodologia din introducerea



2.1. Formal Framework and Mechanisms for Civil Society Participation and Cooperation in the Implementation of the National WPS Programme

Government Decision No. 152/2023 establishes an implementation mechanism that places central public authorities and institutions within the security and defence sector at the centre of the implementation process. These institutions submit annual reports to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which, in turn, reports to the Government on the progress achieved⁴³.

The Programme assigns civil society the status of a consultative and expert partner, but does not establish specific responsibilities, deadlines, indicators or reporting obligations. The formal framework for participation therefore remains limited to consultation.

Forms of participation extending beyond consultation have developed outside the framework established by the Programme, through projects and bilateral memoranda initiated by civil society organisations or development partners.

The continuity with the previous cycle is only partial. The Programme for 2018–2021, approved by Government Decision No. 259/2018, explicitly included, among its eight specific objectives, the strengthening of transparency and civil society participation in decision-making. At the same time, the international

synthesis of National Action Plans on the implementation of Resolution 1325 notes that the document provided for the involvement of civil society organisations throughout the implementation cycle, from the drafting stage through to monitoring⁴⁴. The current Programme maintains this dimension under Specific Objective 12, “Reporting and Engagement in the Implementation and Monitoring of the WPS Agenda.” However, the Action Plan does not translate this engagement into specific responsibilities assigned to civil society organisations, while the reporting mechanism remains predominantly inter-institutional. Therefore, from the perspective of the level of participation, the formal framework does not represent significant progress compared with the previous cycle.

The questionnaire results demonstrate significant engagement by civil society organisations in the implementation of the WPS Agenda and, more specifically, of the National Programme 1325. Of the 14 responding organisations, 11 had implemented projects or initiatives directly related to the WPS Agenda, 12 aligned their interventions with the objectives of the National Programme, 11 had participated in training or information activities concerning the National

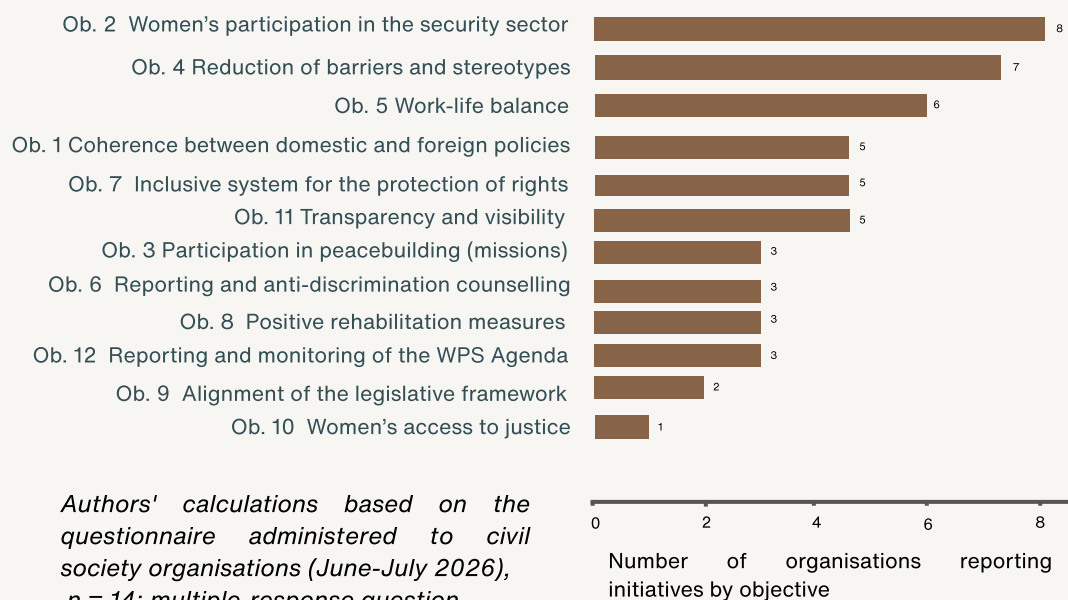
⁴³ Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 152/2023 pentru aprobarea Programului național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136486&lang=ro Hotărârea

⁴⁴ Guvernului nr. 259/2018 pentru aprobarea Programului național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2018–2021; pentru sinteza prevederilor privind societatea civilă, PeaceWomen/WILPF, 1325 National Action Plans: Moldova, <https://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/moldova/>

Programme 1325, and 9 supported local women's networks, groups or platforms⁴⁵. The most frequently reported forms of participation among the responding organisations were training activities and workshops, followed by mentoring activities, information and awareness-raising campaigns, participation in consultations, and the facilitation of dialogue platforms. The distribution of initiatives across the Programme's objectives (Figure 1) highlights the areas

in which civil society engagement is most pronounced. The largest number of organisations implement activities related to Specific Objective 2, concerning women's participation in the security and defence sector-8 organisations. This is followed by Specific Objective 4, concerning the reduction of barriers and stereotypes-7 organisations-and Specific Objective 5, concerning work-family reconciliation-6 organisations. Objectives 1, 7 and 11 are reflected in the activities of 5 organisations.

Fig. 1. Specific Objectives of the National Programme 1325 Addressed by the Initiatives of Responding Organisations



By contrast, engagement is limited in areas with a strong legal and regulatory dimension. Objective 9, concerning the alignment of the legislative framework, is addressed by two organisations, while Objective 10, relating to women's access to justice, is addressed by only one organisation. These findings point to a civil society engagement profile

predominantly focused on training, information and public communication. The legal dimension of the WPS Agenda, which contributes to the institutionalisation and sustainability of change, remains less developed within the civil society sector, partly due to limited access to dedicated funding and

⁴⁵ Chestionarul OSC-FPS (2026), întrebările 1, 4, 5, 7 și 10.

the perception that this area falls primarily within the remit of public institutions. Although participation by the civil society sector is relatively broad, institutional cooperation remains limited. Only 7 of the 14 respondent organisations have cooperated with the Secretariat of the National Programme 1325 within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The most common forms of cooperation are participation in events and ad hoc consultations, while involvement in monitoring and evaluation processes remains limited. Only one organisation reported contributing to monitoring reports and participating in *peer review*⁴⁶. evaluation exercises as forms of cooperation with public institutions. From the perspective of the level of participation, most of the civil society sector falls between consultation and dialogue: organisations are invited to express their views and participate in joint activities, but are less frequently involved in planning and decision-making processes.

The self-assessments conducted by CSOs conclude that civil society engagement is visible in practice but remains limited within the formal framework. The Programme assigns implementation and monitoring responsibilities to central public authorities, without integrating civil society organisations into an institutionalised participation mechanism. At the same time, a significant share of activities under the National Programme 1325 is carried out with the support of non-governmental organisations, indicating considerable reliance on external expertise and

resources⁴⁷. In other words, the civil society sector makes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Programme, but its participation in coordination and decision-making processes remains limited.

Current Configuration of Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms

Effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda depends not only on the existence of a normative framework and designated responsible institutions, but also on the quality of the mechanisms through which these institutions cooperate and with civil society organisations. In the case of the National Programme 1325, inter-institutional coordination, public consultation, information-sharing, feedback mechanisms and civil society participation directly affect the Programme's capacity to translate its commitments into tangible results.

Mechanisms for cooperation between civil society and the institutions involved in the implementation of the WPS Agenda are already in place. One such mechanism is the “Women, Peace and Security Agenda” Initiative Group. Established in October 2024 by the Security and Defence Initiatives Platform (PISA), with the support of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF⁴⁸), the Group brings together representatives of civil society and academia and provides a framework for cooperation, information-sharing and coordination of WPS-related initiatives⁴⁹. Since October 2025 and throughout 2026, the Group has been chaired by the Institute for Democracy and Development (I4DD).

⁴⁶ Chestionarul OSC-FPS (2026), întrebările 2, 3 și 5.

⁴⁷ Chestionarul OSC-FPS (2026), întrebarea 22a.

⁴⁸ Activitatea Grupului de Inițiativă privind Agenda „Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea”. <https://mai.gov.md/ro/node/9820>

⁴⁹ Grupul de Inițiativă reprezintă o comunitate de 9 organizații a societății civile, printre care I4DD, PISA, IVC, I4P, CPD, Pro Marshall, CDF, Făclia și ADDI.

The Group's activities focus on discussing progress and challenges in the implementation of the National Programme 1325, identifying the needs of institutions and communities, and strengthening dialogue with the structures responsible for coordinating the WPS Agenda. Opportunities for cooperation and the development of joint initiatives between civil society organisations and public institutions are also explored.

Priority areas include expanding activities at the local level, developing women's mentorship and leadership, strengthening public communication, localising the WPS Agenda, and enhancing cooperation between civil society and state institutions. Dialogue with public authorities and development partners contributes to better aligning civil society initiatives with the objectives of the National Programme and to establishing more sustainable and structured forms of cooperation throughout the implementation process.

In the Republic of Moldova, there is already a practice of institutionalising cooperation between public authorities and civil society in the area of the WPS Agenda through memoranda and bilateral agreements. Relevant examples include cooperation between the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA) and the Ministry of Defence⁵⁰ as well as between the Institute for Democracy and Development (I4DD) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs⁵¹.

In 2019-2020, the Ministry of Defence also concluded memoranda of cooperation agreements with the Association of Women in the National Army and the "Gender-Centru" Public Association⁵³. However, these partnerships do not constitute a single, systematic cooperation mechanism bringing together civil society and all institutions responsible for implementing the National Programme on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

All these mechanisms have been developed primarily at the initiative of civil society or with the support of development partners, outside the Programme's formal institutional framework, and their continuity is often dependent on the duration of the projects through which they are supported.

Law No. 239/2008 on Transparency in Decision-Making and the public consultation mechanism established by Government Decision No. 967/2016 provide the general framework for civil society participation in decision-making and require public authorities to consult stakeholders on draft decisions⁵⁴.

The analysis of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda goes beyond this general framework and focuses on the specific coordination and dialogue mechanisms developed around the National Programme 1325. The current coordination framework comprises four main components.

⁵⁰ Semnarea acordului de colaborare cu Ministerul Apărării. <https://pisa.md/noutati/948-semnarea-acordului-de-colaborare-cu-ministerul-apararii/>

⁵¹ Semnare Memorandum de Înțelegere între MAI și I4DD. <https://mai.gov.md/ro/node/9293>

⁵² Lansarea Asociației Femeilor din Armata Națională (AFAN). <https://egalitatedegen.md/author/managerppedg/page/6/>

⁵³ Ministerul Apărării a semnat un acord de cooperare cu "Gender-Centru". <https://radiochisinau.md/ministerul-apararii-a-semnat-un-acord-de-cooperare-cu-gendercentru---92089>

⁵⁴ Legea nr. 239/2008 privind transparența în procesul decizional; Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 967/2016 cu privire la mecanismul de consultare publică cu societatea civilă în procesul decizional.

At its core is the Secretariat of the National Programme 1325 within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is responsible for collecting and consolidating reports from the authorities and institutions involved in implementation. Its institutional capacity, however, remains limited: the mid-term evaluation of the Programme indicates that only one fully funded position is provided for coordinating the WPS Agenda as a whole⁵⁵.

The second component consists of institutional coordination mechanisms in the areas of WPS and gender equality. These include focal points designated to support the implementation of the National Programme 1325, gender units responsible for mainstreaming gender equality into sectoral policies, as well as institutional gender coordination groups. During the reporting period, some of these mechanisms were formalised or strengthened through internal orders issued by institutions within the security and defence sector. In the case of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Order No. 81/2025 regulated the activities of the Ministry's Gender Coordination Group.

The third component consists of the bilateral instruments identified by the institutions themselves in the questionnaire: public consultations, including through the particip.gov.md platform, inter-institutional working groups, cooperation agreements and memoranda, as well as reciprocal invitations to training activities⁵⁶. The fourth, and only, permanent dialogue structure dedicated exclusively to the WPS Agenda and involving civil society

is the WPS Initiative Group, which has no formal normative basis. In its current form, none of the mechanisms ensures both continuity of operation and consistent representation of civil society. From the perspective of the institutions surveyed, the existing cooperation mechanisms are assessed favourably.

All 19 respondent authorities consider the role of civil society in implementing the National Programme 1325 to be either "important" (9) or "very important" (10). Furthermore, 15 institutions report "ongoing cooperation" with civil society organisations, while four "occasional cooperation". The assessment of the effectiveness of cooperation mechanisms confirms the same trend: 14 institutions rate them as "effective", and five as "very effective" with no negative ratings recorded⁵⁷.

From the institutions' perspective, cooperation with civil society has intensified compared with the 2018-2021 period. Civil society organisations, however, apply different benchmarks, closer to the partnership standards used in their relations with development partners and to the models examined in Chapter 1.2. Consequently, the same cooperation mechanisms are assessed differently depending on the criteria against which they are evaluated.

From the perspective of civil society organisations, the assessment of the same relationship is more cautious. Of the 14 organisations that assessed the level of sectoral engagement, 10 rated it as "moderate", while only three considered the level of engagement to be high.

⁵⁵ Ministerul Afacerilor Interne, Secretariatul Programului național 1325, Raport de evaluare intermediară a Programului național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027 (ianuarie 2023 – iunie 2025), Chișinău, martie 2026

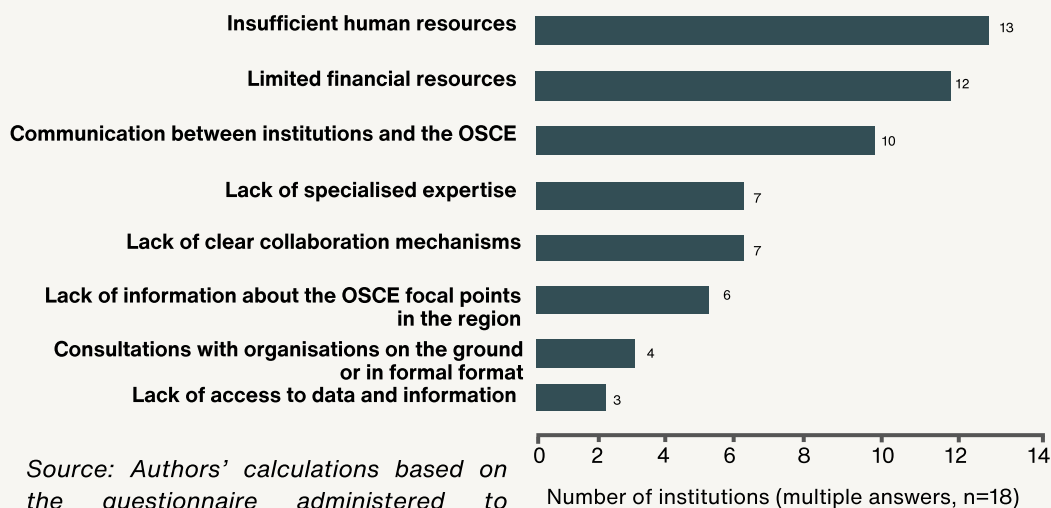
⁵⁶ Chestionarul adresat instituțiilor implementatoare ale PNA 1325 (iunie 2026), întrebarea 5

⁵⁷ Chestionarul instituțiilor implementatoare (iunie 2026), n=19, întrebările 2, 4 și 6.

A similar trend can be observed with regard to the uptake of recommendations addressed to institutions: of the 14 respondent organisations, 10 considered that the recommendations were taken on

board only “partially”, two “to a very limited extent”, and only two “to a large extent”. The two perspectives on the cooperation mechanisms are presented in Figure 3.

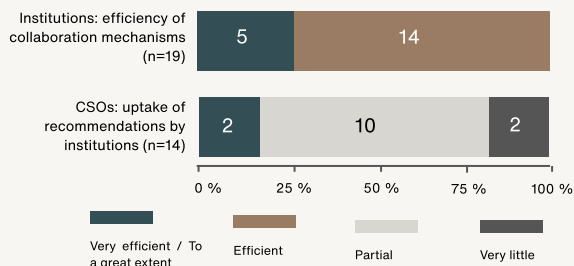
Fig. 2. Obstacles to Cooperation with Civil Society, as Perceived by Institutions



Source: Authors' calculations based on the questionnaire administered to implementing institutions (June 2026), n = 18; multiple-response question



Fig. 3. Comparative Perceptions: Effectiveness of Cooperation Mechanisms (Institutions) and Uptake of Recommendations (CSOs)



Source: Authors' calculations based on the questionnaires administered to implementing institutions (June 2026, n = 19) and civil society organisations (June–July 2026, n = 14).

Taken together, the data indicate a moderate level of civil society engagement in the implementation of the National Programme 1325: relatively broad participation but limited influence over processes and decision-making.

The analysis highlights a gap between the practical contribution of civil society to the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” Agenda and its role within the formal framework of the National Programme 1325. Although civil society organisations actively contribute through projects, training activities, awareness-raising campaigns and dialogue platforms, their involvement in planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision-making remains limited.

The existing cooperation mechanism, including the National Programme 1325 Secretariat, the network of focal points for the implementation of the National Programme 1325, gender focal points, institutional gender coordination groups, bilateral agreements, and the Women, Peace and Security Initiative Group, contributes to dialogue and coordination, but does not yet constitute a single, institutionalised mechanism for civil society participation.





2.2. Civil Society Contribution to the Implementation of the Objectives of the National Programme 1325: Initiatives, Projects and Results

During the implementation period of the second National Programme 1325, civil society organisations implemented a number of relevant projects⁵⁹ aimed at advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. The projects reflect both the increased engagement of civil society and the diversification of interventions, ranging from women's participation and violence prevention to human and community security, information resilience, support for refugee women, good governance of the security sector, research, and strategic communication. The cross-cutting nature of these interventions enables them to contribute simultaneously to several objectives of the Programme, confirming the increasingly integrated approach to the WPS Agenda within frameworks addressing human security and societal resilience.

The most strongly represented area remains **women's participation and representation**. Projects have focused on developing leadership, negotiation and mediation skills, strengthening professional networks,

and engaging women in public policy development and monitoring processes. The "Women Lead Development" project⁶⁰ combined training in negotiation and mediation with the provision of expertise on peace and security, including in the Security Zone and the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia. Initiatives such as "Women for Leadership and Good Governance"⁶¹ and "Women Leaders of Today, Peace of Tomorrow"⁶² extended this approach to public administration, local communities and economic development, while the Roma Women for Peace and Security project introduced an important inclusion dimension, linking the participation of Roma women with community mediation, violence prevention and resilience to disinformation.

A significant development has been the shift from individual skills development towards strengthening women's capacity to influence decision-making and peacebuilding processes. This approach is also reflected in projects focusing on young women's leadership and peacebuilding on both banks of the

⁵⁹ Cartografierea realizată de PISA. Vezi Anexa proiecte realizate de societatea civilă în domeniul Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea

⁶⁰ Women Lead Development – femeile conduc schimbarea pentru pace și dezvoltare durabilă. Institutul pentru Democrație și Dezvoltare.

<https://www.idd.md/service/women-lead-development-femeile-conduc-schimbarea-pentru-pace-si-dezvoltare-durabila/>

⁶¹ Femei pentru Leadership și Bună Guvernare. Institutum Virtutes Civilis.

<https://ivcmoldova.org/category/proiecte-in-derulare/femei-pentru-leadership-si-buna-guvernare/>

⁶² AO „Help” și Asociația Inovatorium, Femei-lidere de astăzi, pacea de mâine.

<https://avahelp.md/eveniment-de-totalizare-a-proiectului-femei-lidere-de-astazi-pacea-de-maine/>

Dniester River⁶³, as well as initiatives aimed at fostering cooperation between refugee women and women from host communities.

A distinct area of focus is the **localisation of the WPS Agenda**. Projects implemented at community level, particularly in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, indicate a shift from a uniform, predominantly national approach towards one that is adapted to regional contexts. The project “The Role of Women in Peace Processes: Needs, Perceptions and Perspectives for the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia”⁶⁴ combined empirical research, consultation and local capacity-building. This approach enables the integration of variables such as the level of institutional trust, social and cultural specificities, the information environment, and relations between public authorities, civil society and local communities. Localisation thus represents one of the areas with significant potential for further development in the next phase of the WPS Agenda. A second area with a high level of coverage is the prevention of gender-based violence, harassment and discrimination.

During the period under review, there has been a shift from general awareness-raising campaigns towards interventions combining research, case analysis, advocacy and community action. The campaign “Sexual Harassment Leaves a Mark. Consent, No”⁶⁵ and related Denim Day Moldova initiatives⁶⁶ have used data and analysis of existing practices to inform recommendations on the prevention of harassment and sexual violence. At the same time, the “Stop Moldova” project⁶⁷, the EQUALITY CAMP programme⁶⁸ and educational projects such as MYCS⁶⁹ demonstrate the expansion of prevention efforts to communities, educational institutions and women-led organisations. Small-grant mechanisms and the involvement of local organisations contribute to devolving part of the prevention capacity to the community level. The overall trend is therefore a shift from *post-factum response towards the early identification of risks and the development of local prevention mechanisms*.

An important element is the link between violence prevention and economic empowerment. Multisectoral interventions targeting survivors of violence⁷⁰ integrate specialised services

⁶³ PNUD, OHCHR și UN Women, Construirea păcii durabile și incluzive, consolidarea încrederii și coeziunii sociale pe ambele maluri ale râului Nistru.

<https://www.undp.org/ro/moldova/projects/construirea-pacii-durabile-si-incluzive-consolidarea-increderii-si-coeziunii-sociale-pe-amebele-maluri-ale-nistrului>

⁶⁴ Gagauzia: CMI strengthens women's role in peacebuilding and local dialogue, 2026.

<https://cmi.fi/2026/01/14/gagauzia-cmi-strengthens-womens-role-in-peacebuilding-and-local-dialogue>; Elena Mârzac, Natalia Albu, Rodica Panța, Rolul femeilor în procesele de pace: nevoi, percepții și perspective pentru UTA Găgăuzia.

<https://gagauziadiialogue.md/ro/studiu-rolul-femeilor-in-procesele-de-pace-necesitati-si-perspective-pentru-atu-gagauzia/>

⁶⁵ Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Hărțuirea sexuală lasă urme. Consimțământul, nu.: fenomenul afectează unul din cinci tineri.

<https://progen.md/cpd-lanseaza-campania-hartuirea-sexuala-lasa-urme-consimtamtantul-nu-fenomenul-afecteaza-unul-din-cinci-tineri/>

⁶⁶ La Strada Moldova, Consimțământul are vârstă. Sub 14 ani nu ar trebui să existe spațiu de interpretare – Denim Day Moldova.

<https://lastrada.md/media/comunicate-de-presa/consimtamtantul-are-varsta-sub-14-ani-nu-ar-trebui-sa-existe-spatiu-de-interpretare-este-mesajul-campaniei-denim-day-moldova-din-acest-an>

⁶⁷ Lansarea apelului de granturi pentru StoP Moldova.

<https://sdvmd.net/lansarea-apelului-de-granturi-pentru-stop-moldova/>

⁶⁸ Gender-Centru/Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen, EQUALITY CAMP: Împreună împotriva violenței!

<https://egalitatedegen.md/equality-camp-impreuna-impotriva-violentei/>

⁶⁹ Terre des hommes Moldova și partenerii, MYCS: pentru o societate civilă de tineret mai puternică.

<https://eu4moldova.eu/ro/capacitarea-si-participarea-incluziva-a-tinerilor-promovate-cu-suportul-ue/>

⁷⁰ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Susținerea eforturilor multi-sectoriale de prevenire a violenței împotriva femeilor, prin acordarea unor servicii cuprinzătoare de asistență supraviețuitoarelor, inclusiv prin intermediul programelor de abilitare economică.

<https://cdf.md/projects-in-derulare/>

with career guidance, mentoring and support for developing economic autonomy. This approach reflects a broader understanding of women's security, in which economic vulnerability is considered a factor that may increase the risk of violence and dependency.

In the area of protection, good governance and institutional capacity-building, projects are fewer in number but have greater potential for institutionalisation. The project "Women on Both Sides of the Bars: Between Equity and Resilience"⁷¹, combined research within the penitentiary system with staff training, contributing to the identification of institutional vulnerabilities and the formulation of recommendations for mainstreaming a gender perspective. Projects addressing integrity and respect for human rights in the defence sector⁷² complement this area of intervention. *They indicate a shift from individual training towards the development of an organisational culture and the integration of a gender perspective into the functioning of security and defence institutions.* At the same time, the WPS Agenda is beginning to more explicitly incorporate

information security, digital technologies and hybrid threats. The project "AI without Borders: Young People and Women from Diverse Communities Unite Moldova through Innovation"⁷³ and the project "Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Combating Misinformation and Stereotypes"⁷⁴ extend the gender perspective to cybersecurity, information integrity, and information manipulation. This development is particularly relevant in the context of the Republic of Moldova, as gender stereotypes may be instrumentalised within disinformation narratives, potentially undermining trust in public institutions and in policies promoting gender equality and women's participation.

With regard to rehabilitation and recovery, interventions are fewer in number but demonstrate a qualitative shift. Programmes such as "TransFormare"⁷⁵ and "Alina"⁷⁶ combine psychological and social assistance with professional and economic support. Career centres for refugee women⁷⁷ and projects aimed at empowering women and communities⁷⁸

⁷¹ AFI, De la date la acțiune: proiectul care redefineste echitatea de gen în instituțiile de detenție.

<https://afi.md/rom/noutati/de-la-date-la-actiune-proiectul-care-redefineste-echitatea-de-gen-in-institutiile-175-Femeia-de-pe-ambele-parti-ale-gratiilor-ntre-echitate-si-rezilienta>

https://afi.md/pic/uploaded/BREN_report_v7_RO_final.pdf

⁷² Centrul ProMarshall, Cultivarea integrității și dreptății pentru consolidarea securității în cadrul Ministerului Apărării.

<https://www.army.md/?lng=2&action=show&cat=122&obj=9314>

⁷³ Asociația "Ecou". AI fără granițe: Tineri și femei din comunități diverse conectează Moldova prin inovație.

<https://www.ecou.md/project/ai-fara-granite-tineri-si-femei-din-comunitati-diverse-conecteaza-moldova-prin-inovatie>

⁷⁴ Platforma pentru Inițiative de Securitate și Apărare, Promovarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea: Combaterea dezinformării și stereotipurilor.

<https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea-combaterea-dezinformarii-si-stereotipurilor/>

⁷⁵ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Programul de vouchere – TransFormare oferă sprijin femeilor supraviețuitoare ale violenței în drumul spre independență economică.

<https://cdf.md/noutati/programul-de-vouchere-transformare-ofera-sprijin-femeilor-supravietuitoare-ale-violentei-in-drumul-spre-independenta-economica/>

⁷⁶ Programul de sprijin pentru fete și femei „Alina”.

<https://www.fpfmd.org/proiecte/>

⁷⁷ AO „Făclia”, Rețeaua de sprijin pentru solidaritate și abilitare socio-economică a femeilor refugiate ucrainene – Centre de carieră pentru femei.

<https://www.faclia.md/ro/news/noutati/63-de-femei-stramutate-din-ucraina-cunosc-mai-multe-despre-accesul-la-servicii-si-opportunitati-de-ocupare-in-republica-moldova>

⁷⁸ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Abilitarea femeilor, comunităților locale și refugiaților în Moldova.

<https://cdf.md/noutati/lansarea-proiectului-abilitarea-femeilor-comunitatilor-locale-si-a-refugiatilor-din-moldova/>

confirm the same orientation. Recovery is a process of reducing vulnerability and strengthening personal and economic autonomy. At the same time, compared with the areas of participation and prevention, the number of interventions remains lower, while the continuity of services depends to a large extent on project-based funding.

The war in Ukraine has led to an expansion of the WPS Agenda towards humanitarian support, the protection of refugee women and social cohesion. Initial interventions focused predominantly on access to services and violence prevention, including through the project “Protection of Refugees and Host Communities from Gender-Based Violence on Both Banks of the Dniester River”⁷⁹. Subsequently, projects increasingly incorporated the participation of refugee women in community initiatives, mediation and peacebuilding. The project “Local Action for Inclusive Recovery: Empowering Refugee and Host-Community Women through Peacebuilding and Economic Resilience”⁸⁰, interventions by Human Rights Embassy⁸¹ and the project “Enhance Women’s Cohesion in Peace Processes and Sustainable Response in Humanitarian Aid”⁸² illustrate this evolution. Refugee women are progressively approached not only as beneficiaries of protection, but also as actors in recovery and in strengthening the resilience of host communities.



One of the areas in which civil society engagement is particularly visible is communication, monitoring and reporting. CSOs have developed independent reports, analytical products, advocacy activities and strategic communication tools. The project “Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through Strategic Communication and Monitoring”⁸³ linked independent reporting with the development of the Strategic Communication Plan and the promotion of recommendations arising from monitoring.

The establishment of a specialised research and expertise base on the WPS Agenda has been a gradual, distinct development during the reference period. The research no longer serves merely a descriptive function; it contributes to assessing progress, identifying vulnerabilities, informing recommendations, and developing practical tools for institutions.

⁷⁹ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Protecția refugiaților și comunităților gazdă împotriva violenței în bază de gen pe ambele maluri ale râului Nistru. <https://cdf.md/proiecte-finalizate/>

⁸⁰ Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen, Acțiune locală pentru recuperare incluzivă: abilitarea femeilor refugiate și din comunitățile gazdă prin construirea păcii și reziliență economică. <https://www.facebook.com/platformaegalitatedegen/>.

⁸¹ Human Rights Embassy, proiecte pentru femeile refugiate din Ucraina, mediere comunitară și coeziune socială. <https://humanrightsembassy.org/>

⁸² Institutul pentru Democrație și Dezvoltare, Enhance Women's Cohesion in Peace Processes and Sustainable Response in Humanitarian Aid.

<https://idd.md/en/service/proiectul-enhances-womens-cohesion-in-peace-processes-and-sustainable-response-in-humanitarian-aid/>

⁸³ Platforma pentru Inițiative de Securitate și Apărare, Promovarea Agendei privind Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea prin Comunicare Strategică și Monitorizare. <https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-privind-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea-prin-comunicare-strategica-si-monitorizare/>

The analytical paper “Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Guiding Principles for Effective Implementation”⁸⁴ and the “Strategic Communication Concept for Promoting Women, Peace and Security Agenda Policies”⁸⁵, were developed in 2024. These products contributed to the conceptual structuring of the Agenda implementation and communication, highlighting links between human security, participation, institutional cooperation and coordinated communication. This direction was complemented by the analytical paper “The Information Environment in the Context of Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”⁸⁶, which explicitly introduces the information environment and related vulnerabilities into the analysis of the Agenda’s implementation.

A central output of the period is the First Monitoring Report (2023–2024) on the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for 2023–2027⁸⁷, developed by PISA and presented in January 2025. The report assessed the first 18 months of implementation, identifying progress, challenges and areas requiring further intervention. Its benefit lies in complementing institutional reporting with an independent civil society

assessment, thereby contributing to the accountability of stakeholders and the adjustment of policies and activities. Monitoring was directly linked to communication through the development of the Strategic Communication Plan on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda⁸⁸. The Plan identifies communication challenges, objectives, target audiences, messages and instruments to promote the Agenda and contributes to a shift from ad hoc communication towards a planned and coordinated approach.

The study “Perceptions and Attitudes Regarding the Role of Women in Peace and Security Processes in the Republic of Moldova”⁸⁹ complements institutional monitoring with a societal dimension. Based on a survey of 539 respondents, focus groups and a review of the specialised literature, the study highlights the persistence of stereotypes and social barriers affecting women’s participation. The incorporation of the war in Ukraine, perceptions of refugees and social cohesion into the analysis further expands the Agenda towards the concept of human security.

The study “The Role of Women in Peace Processes: Needs, Perceptions and Perspectives for the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia”⁹⁰

⁸⁴ Agenda Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea: linii directorii pentru implementarea eficientă, 2024.

https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NOTA-ANALITICA-AGENDA-FEMEILE-PACEA-SI-SECURITATEA-Linii-directorii-pentru-implementarea-eficienta_2024-1.pdf

⁸⁵ Concepție de comunicare strategică privind promovarea politicilor Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea, 2024.

<https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/STRATCOM-2.pdf>

⁸⁶ Mediul informațional în contextul promovării Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea, 2024.

<https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Diagnosticarea-mediului-informatiional-6.pdf>

⁸⁷ Raport de monitorizare (2023–2024) a Programului național de implementare a Rezoluției 1325 a Consiliului de Securitate al ONU privind femeile, pacea și securitatea pentru anii 2023–2027.

<https://pisa.md/projects/consolidarea-angajamentului-pentru-o-securitate-incluziva-si-centrata-pe-oameni/>

⁸⁸ Plan de Comunicare Strategică privind Agenda Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea, 2025.

<https://pisa.md/noutati/3126-prezentarea-planului-de-comunicare-strategica-privind-agenda-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea/>

⁸⁹ Elena Mărzac, Percepții și atitudini privind rolul femeilor în procesele de pace și securitate din Republica Moldova.

<https://moldova.unwomen.org/ro/digital-library/publications/2026/01/perceptii-si-atitudini-privind-rolul-femeilor-in-procesele-de-pace-si-securitate-din-republica-moldova>

⁹⁰ Elena Mărzac, Natalia Albu, Rodica Panța, Rolul femeilor în procesele de pace: nevoi, percepții și perspective pentru UTA Găgăuzia.

<https://gagauziadialogue.md/ro/studii-rolul-femeilor-in-procesele-de-pace-necesitati-si-perspective-pentru-atu-gagauzia/>

introduces a regional dimension. The research shows that women's participation and perceptions of security are influenced by the local social, political, cultural, and information context. From this perspective, the findings support the need for localisation of the WPS Agenda and for differentiating interventions according to the specific characteristics of communities. In the security and justice sector, the study "Women on Both Sides of the Bars: Between Equity and Resilience"⁹¹ provides evidence for integrating a gender perspective into institutional reform.

The research thus contributes to a shift from a general approach to gender equality towards an analysis of how institutional policies and practices affect women and men differently.

The evidence base on prevention and protection is complemented by the study "How Safe are Educational Institutions in Moldova?"⁹² the Report on the Analysis of Cases of Domestic Violence Resulting in Death or Serious Injury⁹³ and the study on the intersection between violence against children and violence against women⁹⁴.



⁹¹ Femeia de pe ambele părți ale gratiilor: între echitate și reziliență.

https://afi.md/pic/uploaded/BREN_report_v7_RO_final.pdf

⁹² Alina Andronache, Alexandra Ermolenco, Natalia Covrig, Cristina Cojocar, Gheorghina Drumea, Cât de sigure sunt instituțiile de învățământ din Moldova?, 2026.

https://progen.md/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Raport_HS_2026.pdf

⁹³ Raportul de analiză a cazurilor examinate de Comisia de monitorizare și analiză a cazurilor de violență în familie soldate cu deces sau vătămare gravă. <https://moldova.un.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/raport-letalitate-2024.pdf>

⁹⁴ Intersecția dintre violența împotriva copiilor și violența împotriva femeilor în Republica Moldova. UNFPA Moldova. <https://moldova.unfpa.org/>

These studies contribute to identifying patterns of vulnerability and informing prevention and protection mechanisms better adapted to the profiles of victims. The study on women's access to essential services and economic empowerment opportunities⁹⁵, broadens the perspective towards economic autonomy, access to services, and reducing dependency, linking protection and recovery objectives with socio-economic resilience.

In 2026, the "Strategic Communication Guide on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda"⁹⁶ transformed the experience accumulated through research, monitoring and planning into a practical tool for public institutions and actors in the security and defence sector. The portfolio of analytical products is further complemented by studies on leveraging the WPS Agenda in the European Union accession

process⁹⁷, the role of leadership in implementing the Agenda and security sector reform, and gendered disinformation as a vector of hybrid risk⁹⁸. These products indicate the thematic expansion of the Agenda towards European integration, good governance of the security sector and hybrid threats.

Overall, during the period under review, a knowledge infrastructure around the WPS Agenda was gradually established: from guiding principles and the conceptualisation of communication to independent monitoring, perception studies, regional research, thematic analyses and methodological tools for institutions. This dimension represents one of the principal added values of civil society, as it creates a link between implementation experience, assessment of results and the adjustment of public policies.



⁹⁵ Diana Cheianu-Andrei, Igor Andrei, Accesul femeilor la serviciile esențiale și oportunitățile de abilitare economică. UN Women Moldova, 2026. <https://moldova.unwomen.org/>

⁹⁶ Elena Mărzac, Rodica Panța, Ana Negru, Promovarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea. Ghid de comunicare strategică. PISA, 2026. <https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Promovarea-Agendei-Femeile-Pacea-si-Securitatea-Ghid-de-comunicare-strategica.pdf>

⁹⁷ Valorificarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea în procesul de aderare la Uniunea Europeană a Republicii Moldova. <https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/POLICY-BRIEF-PISA-4.pdf>

⁹⁸ Iulian Chifu, Elena Mărzac, Vira Kostantinova. Cognitive Informational Warfare in the Romania - Republic of Moldova - Ukraine Trilateral. București: RAO, 2025. ISBN 978-630-352-079-7

Table 1. Extent of Coverage of the General Objectives by Civil Society Projects⁹⁹

General Objective	Extent of Coverage through CSO Projects	Analysis	Representative Examples
O1. Increasing the level of women's participation and representation in the security and defence sector	Very high	This is the most extensively addressed area. Interventions have evolved from training and leadership development towards negotiation, mediation, decision-making participation, and the localisation of the WPS Agenda.	Women Lead Development- Women Driving Change for Peace and Sustainable Development ¹⁰⁰ ; Women for Leadership and Good Governance ¹⁰¹ ; Roma Women for Peace and Security ¹⁰² ; The Role of Women in Peace Processes: Needs, Perceptions and Perspectives for the ATU Gagauzia ¹⁰³ .
O2. Preventing inequalities, violence and harassment	High	Interventions combine awareness-raising with research, advocacy, case analysis, and community-based prevention. There is a shift from a reactive approach towards the early identification of risks.	Sexual Harassment Leaves a Mark. Consent, Not.; EQUALITY CAMP ¹⁰⁴ ; MYCS ¹⁰⁵ .
O3. Protection through Good Governance and Developed Capacities	Medium	The number of projects is more limited, but interventions have potential for institutionalisation . The focus is on organisational culture, the gender perspective, integrity, leadership, and information security.	Women on Both Sides of the Bars ¹⁰⁶ ; AI without Borders: Young People and Women from Diverse Communities Unite Moldova through Innovation ¹⁰⁷ ; Fostering Integrity and Justice to Strengthen Security within the Ministry of Defence ¹⁰⁸ ; Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Combating Misinformation and Stereotypes ¹⁰⁹

⁹⁹ Gradul prezentat în tabel reprezintă o apreciere calitativă a nivelului de acoperire prin cele 58 de proiecte analizate și nu gradul oficial de realizare a Programului național.

¹⁰⁰ Women Lead Development – femeile conduc schimbarea pentru pace și dezvoltare durabilă. Institutul pentru Democrație și Dezvoltare. <https://www.idd.md/service/women-lead-development-femeile-conduc-schimbarea-pentru-pace-si-dezvoltare-durabila/>

¹⁰¹ Femei pentru Leadership și Bună Guvernare. Institutul Virtutes Civilis.

<https://ivcmoldova.org/category/proiecte-in-derulare/femei-pentru-leadership-si-buna-guvernare/>

¹⁰² Asociația Națională a Mediatorilor Comunitari, ANMC – Roma Women for Peace and Security. <https://www.anmc.md/proiectul-roma-women-4-peacecurity/>

¹⁰³ CMI, Gagauzia: CMI strengthens women's role in peacebuilding and local dialogue, 2026.

<https://cmi.fi/2026/01/14/gagauzia-cmi-strengthens-womens-role-in-peacebuilding-and-local-dialogue>

¹⁰⁴ Gender-Centru/Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen, EQUALITY CAMP: Împreună împotriva violenței.

<https://egalitatedegen.md/equality-camp-impuneuna-impotriva-violentei/>

¹⁰⁵ Terre des hommes Moldova și partenerii, MYCS: pentru o societate civilă de tineret mai puternică.

<https://eu4moldova.eu/ro/capacitatea-si-participarea-incluziva-a-tinerilor-promovate-cu-suportul-ue/>

¹⁰⁶ AFI, De la date la acțiune: proiectul care redefineste echitatea de gen în instituțiile de detenție.

<https://afi.md/rom/noutati/de-la-date-la-actiune-proiectul-care-redefineste-echitatea-de-gen-in-institutiile-175>

¹⁰⁷ AI fără granițe: Tineri și femeile din comunități diverse conectează Moldova prin inovație.

<https://www.ecou.md/project/ai-fara-granite-tineri-si-femei-din-comunitati-diverse-conecteaza-moldova-prin-inovatie>

¹⁰⁸ Centrul ProMarshall, Cultivarea integrității și dreptății pentru consolidarea securității în cadrul Ministerului Apărării.

<https://www.army.md/?lng=2&action=show&cat=122&obj=9314>

¹⁰⁹ PISA, Promovarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea: Combaterea dezinformării și stereotipurilor.

<https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea-combaterea-dezinformarii-si-stereotipurilor/>

04. Rehabilitation of Affected Persons	Medium	Integrated recovery models are being developed, combining psychological, social and economic support. This area remains less extensively covered than participation and prevention.	TransFormare ¹¹⁰ ; Women and Communities Empowerment Project ¹¹¹
05. Humanitarian Support for Women and Girls in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas	Low-medium	Projects focus primarily on refugee women from Ukraine and host communities . There is a shift from humanitarian assistance towards participation, mediation, social cohesion, and resilience.	Local Action for Inclusive Recovery ¹¹² ; Human Rights Embassy ¹¹³ .
06. Communication and Reporting	Very high	This is one of the most developed objectives. Activities have evolved from information provision towards independent monitoring, research, strategic communication and advocacy .	Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through Strategic Communication and Monitoring ¹¹⁴ ; Strategic Communication Guide ¹¹⁵ etc.

Source: Developed by the authors

Overall, the key benefit of civil society lies in its cross-cutting approach to implementing the WPS Agenda. Most projects contribute simultaneously to several objectives of the National Programme, linking participation, prevention, protection, recovery,

research, and strategic communication. This integrated approach strengthens the coherence of the implementation of the WPS Agenda and complements the capacity of public institutions to respond to challenges in the field of Women, Peace and Security.

¹¹⁰ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Programul de vouchere – TransFormare oferă sprijin femeilor supraviețuitoare ale violenței în drumul spre independență economică.

<https://cdf.md/noutati/programul-de-vouchere-transformare-ofera-sprijin-femeilor-supravietuitoare-ale-violentei-in-drumul-spre-independenta-economica/>

¹¹¹ Centrul de Drept al Femeilor, Abilitarea femeilor, comunităților locale și refugiaților în Moldova.

<https://cdf.md/noutati/lansarea-proiectului-abilitarea-femeilor-comunitatilor-locale-si-a-refugiatilor-din-moldova/>

¹¹² Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen, Acțiune locală pentru recuperare incluzivă: abilitarea femeilor refugiate și din comunitățile gazdă prin construirea păcii și reziliență economică. <https://www.facebook.com/platformaegalitatedegen/>

¹¹³ Human Rights Embassy, proiecte pentru femeile refugiate din Ucraina, mediere comunitară și coeziune socială.

<https://humanrightsembassy.org/>

¹¹⁴ PISA, Promovarea Agendei privind Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea prin Comunicare Strategică și Monitorizare.

<https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-privind-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea-prin-comunicare-strategica-si-monitorizare/>

¹¹⁵ Elena Mârzac, Rodica Panța, Ana Negru, Promovarea Agendei Femeile, Pacea și Securitatea. Ghid de comunicare strategică. PISA, 2026. <https://pisa.md/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Promovarea-Agendei-Femeile-Pacea-si-Securitatea.-Ghid-de-comunicare-strategica.pdf>



2.3. Challenges, Gaps, and Needs for Effective Civil Society Participation

The implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Republic of Moldova highlights a number of structural and operational challenges that limit the full potential of civil society's contribution. Although CSOs carry out relevant activities across multiple areas and work directly with women beneficiaries and communities, their involvement is not yet systematically integrated into the formal mechanisms for the planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring, and financing of the National Programme.

The main challenges and gaps identified by civil society organisations relate to:

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Lack of a Formal and Clearly Defined Role for CSOs

The first issue concerns *the insufficiently formalised and predictable participation of civil society in the mechanism for implementing NAP 1325*. Although CSOs contribute through expertise, research, training, mentoring, service provision and advocacy, these contributions are not always systematically integrated into the Programme's responsibilities, timelines and reporting mechanisms. Involvement frequently depends on ad hoc initiatives,

externally funded projects or cooperation relationships developed separately with particular institutions. In the absence of clear and consistent mechanisms for participation in implementation and monitoring, civil society expertise is harnessed unevenly, while ensuring continuity of engagement remains challenging.

This situation is also reflected in the differing ways in which institutions and civil society organisations assess the effectiveness of cooperation. Institutions tend to assess cooperation in terms of the existence and frequency of interactions, such as consultations organised, invitations extended, and CSO participation in meetings or joint activities. Civil society organisations, however, attach greater importance to the outcomes of such interactions, particularly the extent to which recommendations are taken into account, incorporated into decisions and subsequently followed up during implementation. The two perspectives are therefore not necessarily contradictory.

A high level of consultation activity may coexist with limited or uneven influence of civil society on decision-making and monitoring processes.

Only half of the participating organisations (7 out of 14) reported having cooperated with the 1325 Secretariat within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This proportion indicates that, although there is an active core of partner organisations, a significant part of the civil society sector remains outside the central coordination mechanisms.

The institutional perspective confirms the relevance of CSOs' contribution: all 19 responding institutions assessed the role of civil society as important or very important. They particularly highlighted the expertise and independent monitoring provided by CSOs, their contribution to capacity building and public communication, as well as their direct interventions in support of women and vulnerable groups. At the same time, the responses indicate the need for a clearer, more consistent cooperation framework, supported by adequate financial resources.

A formal framework should define the roles of CSOs in planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication, as well as arrangements for the representation of national and local organisations and organisations specialising in different dimensions of the WPS Agenda.

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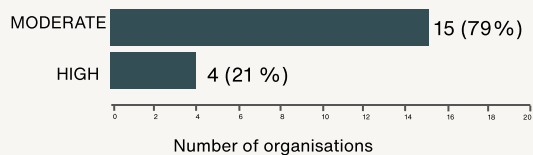
The Occasional and Predominantly Consultative Nature of Cooperation

The second issue concerns the **nature of cooperation**. Organisations that have cooperated with the Secretariat or the implementing institutions mainly report participation in events, consultations and joint activities.

Participation in permanent working groups, structured exchanges of expertise and the joint development of initiatives occur less frequently.

Cooperation is therefore more consultative and reactive than based on joint planning and shared responsibility. Perceptions of the level of involvement further confirm this limitation. Of the 13 civil society organisations that responded to the question, 10 assessed the involvement of CSOs as “moderate”, while 3 rated it as “high”. No organisation assessed the level of involvement as “very high”.

Fig. 4. Assessment of CSO Involvement in the Implementation and Monitoring of NAP 1325



Source: Calculated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

The institutional questionnaire indicates that 15 of the 19 institutions currently cooperate with CSOs, while 4 cooperate on an occasional basis.

Although all institutions confirmed the existence of cooperation, the open-ended responses call for its formalisation through agreements, memoranda of understanding, joint plans, working groups, and the participation of CSOs at all stages of implementation of both the current National Programme 1325 and its successor, including programme development, consultation and endorsement, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The data indicate a willingness to engage in dialogue, but also highlight the need to move from participation in ad hoc activities towards a permanent, predictable and results-oriented cooperation mechanism.

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Insufficient Feedback on Civil Society Proposals

The third issue concerns the insufficiently developed mechanisms for providing feedback on and following up on recommendations put forward by civil society. The data indicate that the views and recommendations of CSOs are taken into account unevenly: some organisations consider that their recommendations are taken partially into account; others believe that they are incorporated to a limited extent, while only some respondents perceive a more consistent integration of the proposals put forward. The qualitative responses confirm this perception. Organisations describe situations in which they participate in consultations, submit proposals and provide expertise, but rarely receive clear information on which recommendations have been accepted or rejected, the rationale behind such decisions, or how their contributions have subsequently been translated into action. For example, one of the responding organisations notes that the mid-term evaluation report of the Programme was not circulated for information, while another considers that some requests for information were handled superficially. Along the same lines, another organisation calls for “clearer feedback on how

recommendations are taken into account”¹¹⁶. The institutional perspective further reinforces this finding. Although institutions generally assess the existing cooperation mechanisms as effective or very effective, these positive assessments are accompanied by proposals to increase the frequency of interactions, ensure continuous cooperation rather than cooperation limited to the duration of individual projects, undertake joint operational activities, and formalise partnerships. These responses suggest that a functional basis for cooperation already exists, but that there is also a shared need to strengthen its continuity, predictability and standardisation.

The issue, therefore, is not the absence of cooperation between institutions and civil society, but rather its variable nature and the lack of a transparent and consistent mechanism for following up on contributions made by CSOs. In particular, the stages following the consultation process remain insufficiently developed: communicating how recommendations have been considered, providing reasons for their acceptance or rejection, following up on the implementation of proposals that have been taken forward, and maintaining dialogue throughout the implementation and monitoring cycle.

The absence of such a mechanism reduces the transparency of the consultation process and makes it difficult to assess the actual contribution of civil society. Thus, a relatively high level of interaction and consultation may coexist with more limited or less demonstrable influence on the decisions and outcomes of the Programme.

¹¹⁶ Chestionarul OSC-FPS (2026), întrebările 23a și 27a.

From this perspective, strengthening CSO participation requires not only organising more consultations, but also ensuring a transparent process that enables the progress of recommendations to be tracked, as well as their influence on decision-making and the implementation of the National Programme 1325.

To this end, it is necessary to establish a recommendations register in which institutions record how each recommendation was considered, the decision taken, the rationale underpinning that decision, and the implementation status. Such an instrument would transform consultation from a formal procedure into a process of mutual learning and accountability.

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Insufficiently Developed Coordination and Information-Sharing Mechanisms

The fourth issue concerns coordination among the 1325 Secretariat, implementing institutions, local authorities, and civil society. The main coordination gaps identified relate to insufficient financial resources, a shortage of staff with expertise in gender equality, limited understanding of the importance of the WPS Agenda, and limited institutional capacity. The qualitative responses also highlight fragmented cooperation between central and local public administration, insufficient synchronisation of activities, and limited involvement of civil society organisations in monitoring and evaluation processes.

The MIA mid-term evaluation report confirms that the existing technical mechanisms- the 1325 Secretariat and

the network of gender focal points- have supported operational cooperation, but points to the absence of a strategic coordination mechanism at senior management level, as well as the limited administrative capacity of the Secretariat, which has only one fully funded position to coordinate an Agenda involving 22 reporting authorities. Under these conditions, the lack of annual and multiannual synchronisation among institutions may result in overlapping activities, thematic gaps and less efficient use of resources.

Access to information is not considered a widespread obstacle. However, the responses pointing to problems in this area identify deficiencies that are relevant to independent monitoring, including limited access to evaluations and reports, superficial responses to certain requests, insufficient availability of disaggregated data, and the absence of a single platform consolidating indicators, results and implementation documents. The issue therefore relates less to the absence of information than to its fragmented, incomplete and difficult-to-use nature, which limits its systematic use for monitoring progress.

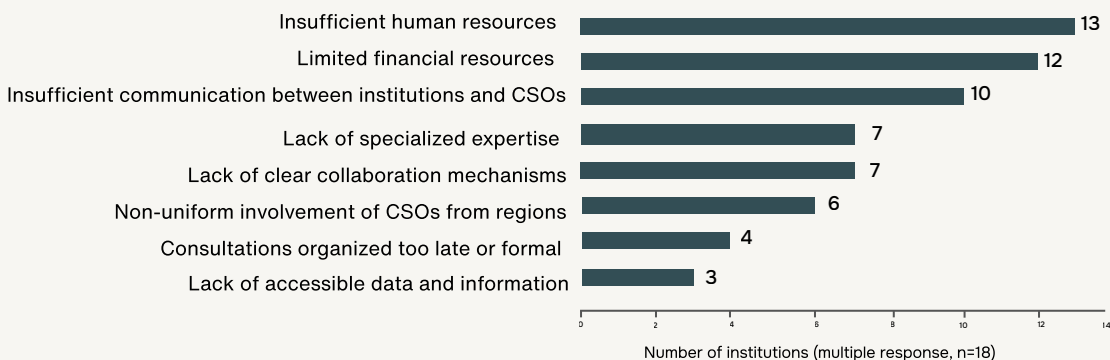
The data provided by institutions complement this picture and show that both sides of the partnership recognise cooperation challenges. The main obstacles identified include insufficient human and financial resources, inadequate communication between institutions and CSOs, the absence of clear cooperation mechanisms, and a lack of specialised expertise. Institutions also point to the uneven participation of organisations from the regions, the late timing or formal nature of some consultations, and limited access to certain categories of data.

The difference between the generally positive assessment of cooperation mechanisms by institutions and the difficulties identified in the open-ended responses can also be explained by the different assessment criteria applied in the two types of questions.

When asked to assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, institutions largely evaluate structures and processes that they themselves manage, which may contribute to a more positive assessment of their functioning. By contrast, when invited to identify specific obstacles to cooperation, their responses become considerably more nuanced and

converge with the issues raised by civil society organisations. Thus, 13 institutions identify insufficient human resources, 12 limited financial resources, 10 insufficient communication between institutions and CSOs, and 7 each mention the lack of clear cooperation mechanisms and a deficit of specialised expertise. Six institutions highlight the uneven participation of organisations from the regions, four acknowledge that some consultations are organised late or are predominantly formal in nature, while three mention limited access to data.

Fig. 5. Obstacles to Cooperation with Civil Society, as Perceived by Institutions



Source: Calculated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).



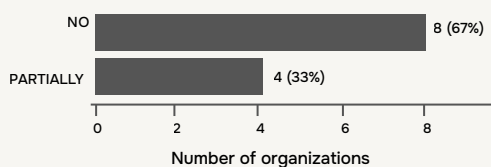
¹¹⁷ Chestionarul instituțiilor implementatoare (iunie 2026), întrebarea 9; 18 instituții au răspuns la această întrebare.

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Lack of Predictable and Sustainable Funding

The fifth issue concerns the lack of sustainable funding. None of the 12 organisations that assessed funding considered it sufficient and sustainable: 8 responded “no”, while 4 responded “partially.” The main sources of funding are UN agencies (9 organisations), bilateral donors (5), foundations and international organisations (5), and the European Union (4). Only two organisations reported receiving funding from the state budget or public authorities; one organisation uses its own resources, while two do not have dedicated funding¹¹⁸.

Fig. 6. Assessment of the Adequacy and Sustainability of Current Funding



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

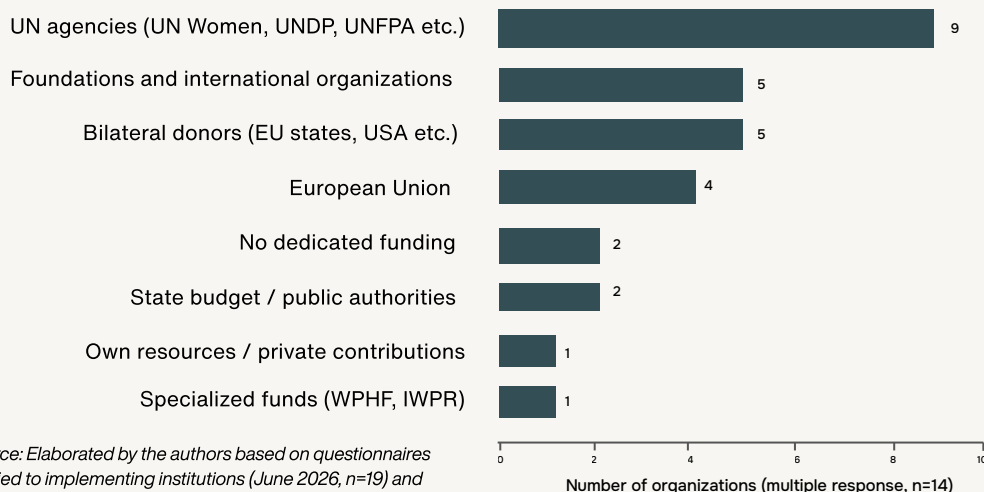
Dependence on external grants has at least three consequences. First, activities are organised according to donors' funding cycles and priorities, which do not always correspond to the needs of

the National Programme for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Second, local initiatives and services for vulnerable women risk being discontinued when projects end. Third, the expertise developed often remains outside public institutions and is not systematically rendered into procedures, curricula and public budgets. The MIA report confirms the reliance on external funding for training, research, mentoring and communication and recommends identifying dedicated budget lines for the Programme's core activities in the 2026-2027 budget cycles.

The institutional perspective points to two important dimensions: the need for a separate budget for the gender component and the need for public financial support for the civil society platform and its initiatives. The Ministry of Defence emphasised the need for continued support rather than support based solely on individual projects, as the People's Advocate's Office indicated that the dialogue mechanism should receive financial support from the Government. These positions reinforce the case for multiannual funding and national budgetary ownership.

The data collected point to a predominantly critical assessment of the current situation: eight organisations consider the available funding insufficient and unsustainable, four assess it as only partially satisfactory, while two highlight the lack of financial resources specifically dedicated to this area.

¹¹⁸ UN Women; Institutul pentru Raportare despre Război și Pace (IWPR); Guvernul Regatului Unit/FCDO; Uniunea Europeană; Guvernul Suediei; Guvernul Elveției; Helvetas; HEKS/EPER Moldova; Norwegian Refugee Council; Ambasada Finlandei; KVINFO; Coaliția Națională „Viața fără Violență”; DCAF; HIAS Moldova; Guvernul Canadei – Canada Fund for Local Initiatives; Guvernul Republicii Coreea; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund; Fondul European pentru Democrație; Institutul Cultural Român; Agenția Suedeză pentru Dezvoltare și Cooperare Internațională (Sida); Ministerul Afacerilor Externe al Republicii Cehe; NATO; Fondul Japonez de Dezvoltare Socială; Agenția Austriacă pentru Dezvoltare; Rețele academice europene; UNFPA; Oak Foundation; ARC; UNICEF; StoP e.V. și parteneri; Fundația Soros Moldova etc.

Fig.7. Main Sources of Funding for NAP 1325 Activities and Initiatives

Source: Elaborated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

This situation highlights a gap between the legal framework provisions and their practical implementation. Law No. 86/2020 provides for financial support to non-commercial organisations for both institutional development and project implementation, including through multiannual funding mechanisms. However, delays in the adoption and operationalisation of the framework regulation have limited the effective application of these provisions, meaning that public budget funding continues to play a relatively limited role, including in the area of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda¹¹⁹. The context of 2025-2026 has turned external funding dependence into an acute vulnerability. The suspension of US assistance at the beginning of 2025, followed by the cancellation of approximately 83% of

USAID programmes, directly affected the civil society sector in the region, while the European Union approved €25 million in support for civil society in the Republic of Moldova in response¹²⁰. The local picture reflects a trend documented globally: the UN Secretary-General's 2025 report on the WPS Agenda notes the chronic underfunding of women's organisations¹²¹. The conclusion is that the level of civil society engagement is directly dependent on the availability of national funding mechanisms. In their absence, the continuity and consistency of civil society participation will remain influenced by the priorities and funding cycles of external donors.

¹¹⁹ Legea nr. 86/2020 cu privire la organizațiile necomerciale, art. 3 alin. (4) și art. 9, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122391&lang=ro; despre întârzierea regulamentului-cadru de finanțare, Centrul CONTACT, Policy Brief privind implementarea Legii nr. 86/2020, 27 octombrie 2023, <https://contact.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Policy-Brief-Implementarea-Legii-86-27.10.2023.pdf>

¹²⁰ Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Eastern Partnership civil society in dire straits, martie 2025, <https://eap-csf.eu/articles/eastern-partnership-civil-society-in-dire-straits/>; Radio Moldova, European Parliament approves €25M for Moldova civil society amid US aid suspension, 2025, <https://radiomoldova.md/p/63583/>

¹²¹ Consiliul de Securitate al ONU, Women and peace and security. Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/556, 5 septembrie 2025, <https://undocs.org/S/2025/556>

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**Uneven Institutional Ownership
of the WPS Agenda**

The sixth issue concerns the uneven level of institutional ownership of the WPS Agenda among implementing institutions and their leadership. The MIA evaluation finds that gender focal points and focal points responsible for the implementation of the National Programme 1325 are frequently perceived as the sole actors responsible for the Agenda, although achieving its objectives requires the involvement of senior management, human resources structures, and planning, training, communication and operational units. Assigning responsibility to a limited number of individuals restricts the integration of a gender perspective into the institutions' day-to-day activities. Institutions that have achieved visible results in promoting women have benefited from explicit support from senior management. This finding shows that the existence of regulatory acts and focal points is necessary but insufficient without leadership, managerial responsibilities, performance indicators, and the integration of WPS-related actions into institutional plans and budgets. Where institutional ownership is limited, CSOs and development partners, without sufficient and sustainable institutional uptake, carry out a significant share of research, training, mentoring and communication activities.

Implementing institutions emphasise the need to institutionalise gender focal points and designate responsible officials for the joint planning, monitoring and reporting of indicators.

At the same time, institutions point out that CSO proposals should be aligned with the actual operational needs of public authorities, while the Government should take ownership of clear and measurable actions, without transferring responsibility for implementation to CSOs and external partners.

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**Limited Localisation and
Incomplete Representation of
Vulnerable Groups**

The seventh issue concerns the insufficient localisation of the WPS Agenda. Although 8 of the 14 organisations that responded cooperate with local public authorities, and 9 out of 14 support local women's networks, groups or platforms, implementation remains fragmented and largely concentrated at the central level. Ten of the 14 organisations identify themselves as national-level actors, while local cooperation is frequently linked to temporary projects. One response points out that the current National Programme 1325 does not assign explicit responsibilities to local public authorities, although gender-based violence, community safety, women's participation, socio-economic vulnerability and access to services are issues that largely manifest themselves and are addressed at local level. The mid-term evaluation report finds that the involvement of local public authorities, local action groups and NGOs outside the capital has been insufficient. Productive cooperation is concentrated among a limited number of organisations, while actors representing Roma communities, persons with disabilities and vulnerable young people are underrepresented.

The questionnaire confirms that CSOs possess expertise in working with rural, refugee and migrant women, women with disabilities, survivors of violence, women in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and the Transnistrian region. However, this expertise is not systematically harnessed within national planning and monitoring mechanisms.

Institutions support the more systematic involvement of organisations from the regions and of vulnerable groups. The State Chancellery emphasised the need for local organisations to communicate information and the outcomes of decision-making processes back to communities, while the Reintegration Policy Bureau identified the Security Zone as a priority area, where local public authorities and CSOs represent the main channels for reaching conflict-affected communities. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection called for a permanent link between the central and local levels, NGOs and groups of women affected by crises, violence or other vulnerabilities.

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Limited Involvement of CSOs in Monitoring and Data Collection

The eighth issue concerns the limited participation of civil society in monitoring indicators, assessing results and collecting data. CSOs produce research, analysis and qualitative information on the experiences of women beneficiaries, but these data are not systematically incorporated into official reporting. The lack of a common framework prevents independent assessment and comparison of progress across institutions, regions and periods.

The MIA evaluation identifies incomplete data, non-comparable data series and insufficient sex-disaggregated data on beneficiaries, training, personnel and services. Indicators are sometimes too broad or fail to clarify what constitutes success. An evident example is reporting “zero cases” of harassment in hierarchical institutions, which cannot be properly interpreted in the absence of an anonymous and credible reporting channel. For civil society, these gaps limit its ability to assess impact, identify insufficiently covered groups and formulate evidence-based recommendations.

Institutions call for the development of common monitoring and data-collection tools, measurable and disaggregated indicators, regular public reporting, and focal points for joint reporting. The Prosecutor General's Office proposed designating officials responsible for planning and reporting on indicators, the People's Advocate's Office recommended involving the national human rights institution in assessing the processes under the National Programme 1325. These proposals could strengthen the independence and credibility of monitoring.

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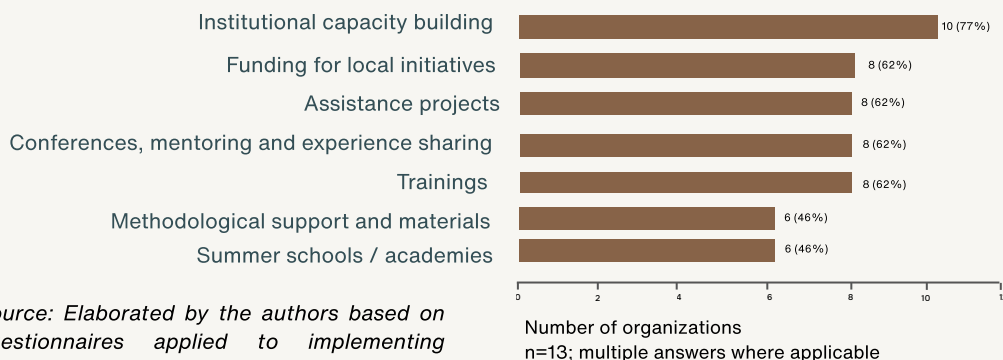
Uneven Organisational and Institutional Capacities

The ninth issue concerns uneven levels of implementation capacity. All 14 organisations consider additional training, information and awareness-raising activities necessary.

This need is not limited to general training courses: CSOs call for institutional capacity building, funding for local initiatives, assistance projects, mentoring and exchange-of-experience programmes, methodological support, information materials, and intensive academy-type formats.

Of the 13 organisations that responded to the question concerning their own needs, 10 selected institutional capacity building, while 8 indicated funding for local initiatives, assistance projects, training, and mentoring or exchange-of-experience programmes.

Fig.8. CSO Needs for the Effective Implementation of NAP 1325



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

The qualitative responses indicate a need for specialised expertise in monitoring and evaluation, gender analysis, data collection, digital security, strategic communication, psychosocial support, harassment prevention, and evidence-based policy development. Local organisations need accessible tools for translating the objectives of NAP 1325 into district- or community-level plans, conducting local security audits, and establishing case referral mechanisms. At the same time, public institutions need leadership and functional team training to ensure that the WPS Agenda is understood and applied beyond the limited circle of gender focal points. From the institutional perspective, capacity building should target both public-sector personnel and CSOs. Institutions call for joint training, exchanges of good practices, strengthening civil

servants' knowledge of how to cooperate with civil society, and developing expertise in monitoring, strategic communication, violence prevention and the application of a gender perspective at local level. Institutions consider that a platform should provide not only a space for dialogue, but also expertise and implementation support.

ISSUE

Limited Public Visibility, Stereotypes and Online Attack

The tenth issue concerns public communication and existence of cultural barriers. The WPS Agenda is still viewed in relatively narrow terms, being associated primarily with gender equality or women's participation in security structures.

Public communication insufficiently reflects the links between WPS, human security, community resilience, conflict prevention, crisis management and responses to hybrid threats. Limited visibility constrains public understanding of and support for the measures under the National Programme 1325.

All 14 organisations identified stereotypes and barriers concerning women's roles as a difficulty in promoting women to decision-making positions; 10 indicated lack of self-confidence, while seven each mentioned underrepresentation and violence, harassment or discrimination. At the same time, only six of the 13 organisations that responded had already addressed gender-related disinformation, hybrid threats or online violence; although 9 out of 14 consider combating disinformation an area in which civil society should play a more active role. The gap between the perceived relevance

of this area and current capacity indicates a need for investment in strategic communication, monitoring of online attacks, digital security, legal and psychological support for targeted women, and public campaigns highlighting women's contribution to peace and security. Institutions identify combating gender stereotypes as one of the most important areas for future civil society engagement. They also prioritise public information and awareness, work with young people and vulnerable groups, strategic communication, combating gender-related disinformation and addressing hybrid threats. This convergence indicates that increasing the visibility of the WPS Agenda should be addressed not only through general awareness-raising campaigns, but also through a coordinated response to the cultural and information-related barriers that limit women's participation.





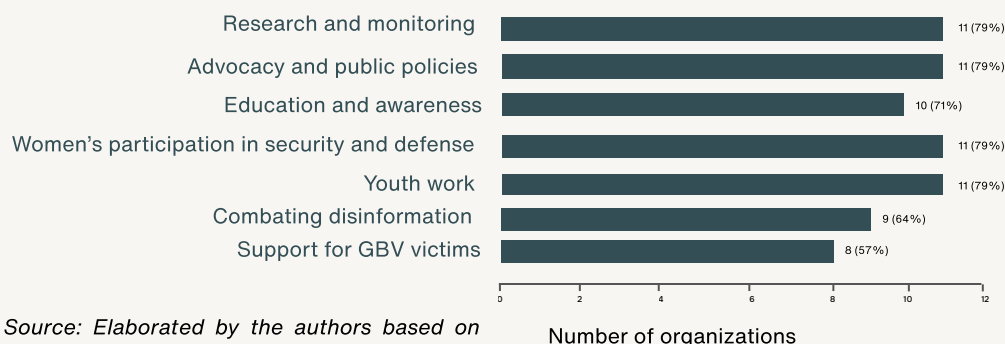
Photo source: www.nisai.md

2.4. Priority Areas for Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Implementing the WPS Agenda

There is a high level of willingness among organisations to remain engaged: 11 of the 13 CSOs that responded plan to undertake future projects, while 13 out of 14 consider it necessary to develop a new National Programme 1325 after 2027. At the same time, the priorities identified go beyond organising ad hoc activities. Organisations call for a more active role in research and monitoring, advocacy, policy development, education, work with young people,

promoting women's participation in the security sector, combating disinformation, and supporting victims of violence. These priorities are consistent with the lessons from the regional experience analysed in Chapter 1.2, including institutionalising the partnership, policy co-creation, localisation, independent monitoring, clear funding arrangements, and linking the WPS Agenda to resilience and European integration.

Fig.9. Areas for Enhanced Civil Society Engagement



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

The priorities identified by institutions confirm and complement these directions. The most frequently cited priorities include combating stereotypes, public information and awareness-raising, training for institutions and local

authorities, work with young people and women from vulnerable groups, supporting women in the security sector, strategic communication and combating disinformation, violence prevention, and creating the post-2027 Programme.

Institutionalised Partnership and Joint Governance of the WPS Agenda

The priority direction is to move from a consultation participant role to that of a permanent implementation partner. The European co-creation model and the recommendations of the MIA evaluation support the establishment of a WPS 1325 National Platform or Committee, bringing together the leadership of implementing institutions, the 1325 Secretariat, women's organisations, local CSOs, groups representing marginalised communities, academia and international partners. The mechanism should have an operational rather than merely consultative mandate, including annual planning, progress reviews, coordination of joint actions, identification of bottlenecks and follow-up on recommendations. Quarterly meetings and thematic working groups should be established to address participation, violence prevention, localisation, strategic communication and monitoring. A public register of CSO recommendations should be maintained and indicate institutional responses as

well as the implementation status of each recommendation. Representation should be geographically and thematically balanced, including rural organisations, organisations from the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and the Transnistrian region, organisations representing persons with disabilities and Roma communities, and youth organisations.

Institutional support for such a platform is unanimous: all responding institutions consider its establishment important or very important. The roles most frequently assigned to the platform include facilitating dialogue, formulating policy recommendations, increasing the visibility of the WPS Agenda, monitoring the National Programme 1325, organising training, and supporting the development of the post-2027 Programme. Institutions propose that the mechanism be formally established, have an activity calendar and a dedicated webpage, ensure institutional and regional representation, and receive adequate financial support.

Fig. 10. Roles Assigned by Institutions to the Future Civil Society Platform for the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda



Source: Elaborated by the authors based on questionnaires applied to implementing institutions (June 2026, n=19) and civil society organizations (June–July 2026, n=14).

Number of institutions (multiple response, n=19)

The perceptions of civil society organisations are supported by official institutional assessments. In its opinion submitted as part of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme, the Prosecutor General's Office assesses internal coordination with the 1325 Secretariat as effective, while cooperation with civil society is rated as moderate. This assessment provides institutional confirmation of some of the difficulties identified by the responding organisations. At the same time, the evaluation points to possible solutions, including the establishment of a coordination committee at senior management level, comprising implementing institutions, civil society organisations and international partners, as well as the strengthening of the 1325 Secretariat through the allocation of additional staff and resources¹²².

Localisation of the WPS Agenda and Cooperation with Local Public Authorities

Civil society can transform the WPS Agenda into an instrument applicable at community level. Ukraine's experience with regional action plans and local coalitions, as well as initiatives already piloted in Ialoveni and Ștefan Vodă districts, demonstrates the value of localisation pilot projects. Priority should be given to the Security Zone, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, border districts, communities hosting refugees, and localities exposed to polarisation, disinformation or socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Key elements of the localization process may include:

Participatory development of local WPS plans or integration of WPS objectives into development strategies and community safety plans.

Local gender-responsive security audits and consultations with rural women, young women, refugee women and women belonging to minority groups, as well as with women journalists, activists and public service professionals.

District-level working groups and local women's networks focusing on human security, conflict prevention and resilience.

Small-grant schemes for local CSOs and social contracting mechanisms for community-based services.

In the future post-2027 Programme, local public authorities should be explicitly included as responsible or co-responsible entities for actions with a local dimension, while CSOs should be recognised as implementing partners and providers of expertise and services.

Institutional responses indicate that localisation should be directly linked to central-level mechanisms. The Reintegration Policy Bureau recommends the explicit involvement of local public authorities from the Security Zone in the post-2027 Programme, while the State Chancellery and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs call for more balanced participation of regional CSOs and feedback mechanisms linking these organisations to the communities they represent.

¹²² Ministerul Afacerilor Interne, Raport de evaluare intermediară a Programului național 1325, Chișinău, martie 2026, secțiunile privind mecanismele de coordonare și direcțiile strategice.

Independent Monitoring, Research and Evidence-Based Policy

Eleven of the 14 organisations identify research and monitoring as an area for future engagement. CSOs can complement official reporting by collecting qualitative data, consulting women beneficiaries, assessing access to services, and analysing the impact of actions on different groups of women. One relevant instrument would be an annual civil society shadow report, presented publicly, discussed with the 1325 Secretariat, and implementing institutions. To strengthen such a mechanism, the following components can be developed:

A common set of indicators, definitions and templates, compatible with the official monitoring system and with the requirement to disaggregate data by sex, age, disability, region and other relevant criteria.

A single public platform providing access to plans, reports, indicators, budgets, good practices and the implementation status of recommendations.

Independent thematic assessments focusing on women's participation, harassment prevention, localisation, services for victims and gender-related disinformation.

Partnerships between CSOs, universities and public institutions for applied research and the development of evidence-based solutions.

Institutions support a common monitoring system, with clear indicators, disaggregated data and regular information exchange.

The platform could also serve as data and transparency infrastructure by publishing reports, budgets, progress updates and responses to recommendations. Designating focal points for joint planning and reporting would create an operational link between official and independent monitoring.

Protection, Integrated Services and Representation of Vulnerable Groups

Civil society has a comparative advantage in accessing communities and providing tailored services. Future areas of engagement should include the prevention of and response to gender-based violence and human trafficking, psychosocial support, protection of refugee and migrant women, socio-economic integration, assistance for women with disabilities, rural women, Roma communities, single mothers, and women in the Transnistrian region or the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia.

CSOs can contribute to developing and piloting referral mechanisms, multidisciplinary team training, service quality assessment, and the provision of a victim-centred perspective. Integrated models, such as the Family Justice Centre and the "EXIT" Procedure for supporting displaced persons in their transition to independent living, can be expanded through stable partnerships with specialised organisations. Service funding should move beyond a short-term project-based approach and include public procurement and multiannual agreements.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection stresses the need to involve organisations working directly with women and girls affected by crises, conflicts, violence and other

vulnerabilities, while the Reintegration Policy Bureau highlights the relevance of partnerships with CSOs to ensure access to communities in the Security Zone. These perspectives support the development of stable service-delivery and beneficiary consultation arrangements.

Leadership, Mentoring and Women's Participation in the Security Sector

Eleven of the 14 organisations consider promoting women's participation in the security and defence sector an area in which civil society can play a more active role. Existing initiatives-including mentoring for women in law enforcement and defence structures, professional networks, research into barriers to career progression, and support for developing anti-harassment regulations-could be developed into a coherent national programme. Similarly, the following can be developed:

Multiannual mentoring and coaching programmes for women in the police, armed forces, border police, penitentiary system, prosecution service, diplomatic service and international missions.

Professional networks and associations for women, including at regional level, providing access to training, exchanges of experience and leadership opportunities.

Regular assessments of recruitment, promotion, retention, work-life balance, harassment and organisational culture.

Leadership training for institutional management, ensuring that responsibility for implementing the WPS Agenda is not transferred exclusively to gender focal points.

Institutions have identified as priorities the reduction of gender stereotypes and barriers, reporting discrimination and harassment, work-life balance, and the protection of the rights of women in the security sector. The General Inspectorate of Border Police emphasised the need for measures addressing work-life balance, while the Ministry of Defense called for continued support aligned with actual institutional needs.

Combating Gender - Related Disinformation and Strengthening Digital Safety

Gender-related disinformation, hate speech and online violence undermine women's participation and erode trust in institutions. CSOs can develop a distinct component of the WPS Agenda dedicated to hybrid threats and information security, in cooperation with public institutions, the media and fact-checking platforms. This area is particularly important given that fewer than half of the responding organisations currently undertake activities in this field, although the majority consider it relevant for the future.



Key elements of such a component might include:

Monitoring and documenting information attacks and discrediting narratives targeting women leaders, women officials, journalists, activists, and candidates for public and leadership positions.

Media literacy, cyber hygiene and digital safety programmes for women and local organisations.

Legal, psychological and communications support mechanisms for women targeted by online attacks.

Rapid response protocols, guidelines for institutional communicators and media outlets, as well as positive campaigns highlighting the role of women in security, defence and crisis management.

Nine of the responding institutions identified strategic communication, gender-related disinformation and hybrid threats as areas in which civil society should be more actively involved. This institutional support provides a basis for establishing a permanent thematic working group capable of combining narrative monitoring, staff training, support for targeted women, and coordinated public communication.

Education, Youth, Academia and the Diaspora

Eleven of the 14 organisations identify work with young people as a priority, and likewise 11 of the 14 consider the involvement of the Moldovan diaspora, particularly women, relevant. Civil society can connect the WPS Agenda with civic education, research, the development of future generations and the transfer of expertise. University modules, security academies, secondary schools and youth centres, as well as training-of-trainers programmes, internships and summer schools, alongside research partnerships between public institutions and academia are required.

The diaspora can contribute through advocacy in countries of residence, transferring good practices, mentoring, professional networks, resource mobilisation, and by promoting the participation of women from Moldova in European peace and security communities. To avoid fragmented interventions, diaspora engagement could be coordinated through the national WPS Platform and thematic networks of experts.

Joint Development of the Post-2027 Programme and Linkages with European Integration

The near-unanimous support for a new Programme after 2027 provides an opportunity to address the gaps identified in the current cycle. The next Programme should be developed through co-creation, based on a joint analysis of challenges, regional consultations and an assessment of the impact on beneficiary groups. The roles of CSOs, LPAs and implementation partners should be explicitly defined, together with measurable indicators, responsibilities, timelines and budgets.

All 13 organisations that responded to the question linking the WPS Agenda to the EU accession process supported it: 11 to a large extent and 2 partially. The Agenda can contribute to democratic security sector reform, gender equality, and the rule of law, human rights, victim protection and resilience to hybrid threats. Civil society can provide expertise, monitoring and data for sectoral dialogues and progress reports related to the relevant negotiation chapters, including Chapters 23, 24 and 31.

Institutions recommend involving CSOs from the initial stage of initiating and developing the new Programme, rather than only consulting them on the final document. Proposed measures include inter-institutional working groups, CSO participation in the endorsement process, regional consultations, measurable indicators, and a focus on a smaller number of actions with clearly defined impact and identified resources. This model would enable a shift from formal participation to meaningful co-creation and shared responsibility.

Sustainable Funding and Strengthening the Implementation Ecosystem

No expansion of the role of civil society will be sustainable without an adequate financing model. Public resources, EU funding, support from UN agencies and bilateral donors need to be combined within a predictable funding framework that supports both activities and organisational capacity. The mechanism should include multiannual grants for specialised organisations, small-grant schemes for local initiatives, social contracting for service provision, and funding for independent monitoring and innovation.

At the same time, institutions need to integrate WPS-related actions into their own plans and budgets, while the 1325 Secretariat should be strengthened with adequate staffing and resources. International partners can continue to provide expertise and financial support for the initiation and development of interventions; however, core activities-coordination, monitoring, training and communication-should gradually be covered by national resources.

Institutional responses support the establishment of a dedicated budget for the gender dimension, public funding for the cooperation mechanism, and continuity of assistance beyond individual project cycles.

Funding should be linked to results, indicators, and institutional responsibilities, ensuring that CSOs complement the capacity of the state rather than substitute for its obligations.

Table 2. Indicative Framework for Future CSO Engagement

Area	CSO Contribution	Immediate Action	Indicative Indicator
Joint Governance	Joint planning, implementation and monitoring.	Establishment of a WPS Platform/ Committee.	At least 4 meetings per year; percentage of recommendations receiving a response.
Localisation	Local analyses, consultations, plans and community networks.	3–5 regional pilot projects.	Number of local plans and groups represented.
Monitoring	Shadow reporting, qualitative data and independent assessments.	Common set of indicators and annual CSO report.	Disaggregated data; recommendations followed up annually.
Protection and Services	Victim-centred services and multidisciplinary referral mechanisms.	Partnership agreements and social contracting.	Number of beneficiaries assisted; continuity of services.
Leadership	Mentoring, professional networks and institutional analysis.	Multiannual national mentoring programme.	Promotions, retention and participation in leadership.
Gender-based Misinformation	Monitoring, media and digital literacy, support and rapid response.	Response protocol and thematic response group.	Documented cases; persons supported; training sessions.
Education and Youth	Curricula, training, research and civic participation.	WPS modules and a training-of-trainers programme.	Institutions and young people involved; research outputs.
Funding	Project management, service provision and local innovation.	Multiannual fund and mini-grant scheme.	Share of national funding and duration of grants.

(Elaborated by the authors)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the study highlights the increasingly important role of civil society in implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the Republic of Moldova. Civil society organisations possess relevant expertise and access to communities; however, their engagement in the WPS Agenda remains fragmented, project-based and insufficiently integrated into the formal mechanisms of the National Programme. In the context of European integration, the WPS Agenda should be leveraged as a cross-cutting instrument for strengthening fundamental rights, gender equality, good governance, democratic security and the resilience of the Republic of Moldova.

The European and regional models analysed confirm that civil society participation is more effective when it is not limited to consultation on policy documents but is integrated throughout the entire public policy cycle. Institutionalised cooperation, joint programme development, independent monitoring, feedback mechanisms and the localisation of the Agenda represent relevant practices for the Republic of Moldova. Regional experience demonstrates that adapting national objectives to the realities of local communities can transform the WPS Agenda into a practical instrument for human security, social cohesion and resilience.

At the national level, the study identifies a gap between the actual level of civil society engagement and its formal status within the implementation mechanism of the National Programme 1325. Civil society organisations actively contribute to achieving the Programme's objectives; however, the current framework positions them predominantly as consultative and expert partners.

Cooperation mechanisms already exist, including the Secretariat of the National Programme 1325, the network of gender focal points, memoranda and bilateral agreements, and the WPS Initiative Group. These mechanisms provide an important foundation for developing the partnership; however, they operate in parallel and do not yet constitute a single, permanent and legally established mechanism for civil society participation. Some forms of cooperation depend on initiatives undertaken by CSOs and development partners and, consequently, on the duration of the projects through which they are supported.

The mapping conducted as part of the study confirms the significant contribution of the civil society sector. This contribution, however, is unevenly distributed across the Programme's objectives. Interventions focus primarily on women's participation and leadership, communication, advocacy, research and monitoring, as well as the prevention of gender-based violence and combating discrimination. Objectives related to institutional capacity development and the rehabilitation of affected persons are addressed through a more limited number of projects, while humanitarian support for women and girls affected by conflict remains the least covered area and is to a significant extent dependent on external funding.

A positive trend is the qualitative evolution of civil society interventions. CSO projects are gradually moving beyond a model focused predominantly on training and awareness-raising campaigns and increasingly incorporate research, advocacy, independent monitoring, institutional development, mentoring, economic empowerment, mediation and women's participation in decision-making processes.

A distinct development is the expansion of the Agenda into areas such as information security, gender-based disinformation, hybrid threats and digital safety. Hate speech, stereotypes, smear campaigns and online violence targeting women engaged in public life undermine their participation and weaken trust in democratic institutions. The integration of these issues into the WPS Agenda reflects the adaptation of civil society interventions to the changing security environment in the Republic of Moldova.

Another relevant trend is the gradual localisation of the WPS Agenda. Initiatives implemented in the ATU Gagauzia, the Security Zone and communities affected by the refugee crisis demonstrate a shift from a predominantly institutional and centralised approach towards one focused on community security and the adaptation of interventions to the specific needs of different regions. However, this dimension remains insufficiently developed, and local public authorities and regional organisations have not yet been systematically integrated into the Programme architecture.

An important finding is the divergence in perceptions of cooperation: institutions predominantly assess cooperation as effective, whereas CSOs rate their level of involvement as moderate and consider recommendations to have been taken on board only partially. Nevertheless, the two perspectives converge on the main challenges: insufficient resources, inadequate communication, weakly formalised dialogue mechanisms, late-stage consultations, fragmented data and limited regional participation. This convergence provides a basis for strengthening a more structured partnership.

Funding also represents one of the main structural vulnerabilities. The high dependence on support from external partners means that part of civil society engagement is driven by the pace of projects rather than consistently by the pace and priorities of the National Programme. This situation particularly affects the continuity of services for vulnerable groups, local initiatives, research and monitoring.

Monitoring is another area requiring further development. It remains largely focused on output indicators—such as the number of activities, beneficiaries or outputs—while the assessment of long-term institutional and social change is less developed. The absence of common indicators, standardised and sufficiently disaggregated data, and the limited integration of information generated by civil society constrain the possibility of conducting a comprehensive impact assessment of the National Programme 1325.

Development of the Coordination Mechanism. First, the mechanism should have its own legal and regulatory basis to ensure its continuity beyond the duration of the projects through which it is initiated or supported.

Second, the mechanism should ensure balanced representation of public institutions and civil society, with the participation of academia, a regular schedule of meetings, a sufficiently resourced secretariat, and representation that also includes organisations from outside Chisinau. Institutionalisation is only a starting point and does not, in itself, guarantee effective cooperation. The differences in perceptions identified cannot be addressed merely by increasing the number of joint activities; they require clear and transparent mechanisms enabling both sides to track how their contributions are taken on board, used and reflected in the decision-making process.

A clear feedback mechanism should be established, including public recommendations register in which submitted proposals are accompanied by reasoned responses indicating whether they have been accepted, partially taken on board, or rejected. Access to open data would complement this framework and create conditions for more independent and transparent monitoring of Programme implementation.

Looking to the post-2027 period, favourable conditions exist for strengthening civil society participation. Establishing a permanent mechanism with a legal basis, a clear mandate, adequate resources and mechanisms for following up on recommendations would make cooperation more predictable and results-oriented. The future Programme should be developed with the involvement of CSOs and local public authorities from the stage of identifying problems and setting priorities, with clearly defined responsibilities, indicators, timelines and resources. In this way, participation could evolve from consultation towards direct contribution to policy development, implementation and monitoring.

Overall, the study shows that the Republic of Moldova already possesses the expertise, active organisations, projects, cooperation mechanisms and sufficient knowledge base required to move towards a more mature stage of implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The main challenge is no longer the mobilisation of civil society, but rather transforming existing contributions into a coherent, institutionalised and sustainable system. For the period remaining until 2027 and for the next programming cycle, the strategic direction should be to move from consultation and project-dependent cooperation towards a permanent, coordinated, transparent, decentralised and results-oriented partnership that is structured around the necessary areas of intervention and project development, and linked to the European integration process, the strengthening of democratic governance of the security sector, and community resilience.



RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Institutionalise a permanent national WPS cooperation mechanism by strengthening cooperation between the specialised Commission responsible for monitoring the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, CSOs, local public authorities (LPAs) and academia, supported by a regular work programme and schedule of activities.

Strengthen the Secretariat of the National Programme 1325 by allocating the human and administrative resources required for interinstitutional coordination, engagement with civil society, monitoring, and preparation of the next programming cycle.

Develop the post-2027 Programme with the involvement of CSOs and LPAs from the stage of problem analysis and objective-setting through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Roles, responsibilities, indicators, timelines and resources should be explicitly defined.

Establish a public civil society recommendations register, recording each proposal, the responsible institution, the reasoned response and the status of implementation.

Establish a permanent system for mapping and maintaining a consolidated record of projects implemented by civil society organisations at the level of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, supported by development partners working on the WPS Agenda. The mechanism should provide for periodic reporting on projects by CSOs and donors, align projects with the objectives and indicators of the National Programme, and centralise information at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This would enable a more accurate assessment of contributions, identification of gaps and overlaps, uptake of research findings, and mainstreaming of practices with potential for institutionalisation.

Develop a common monitoring system, with measurable indicators, standardised definitions and methodologies, disaggregated data, and a single public platform for reports, results, projects and recommendations.

FOR LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Explicitly include local public authorities in the post-2027 Programme, with shared responsibility for actions with a community dimension.

Pilot and scale up local WPS plans from a gender perspective and integrate WPS objectives into local development and security strategies.

Organise regular consultations with women from diverse groups and develop local networks for community security, conflict prevention and resilience.

Prioritise the Security Zone, the ATU Gagauzia, border districts, and communities affected by refugee flows, polarisation, disinformation or socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Develop local co-financing and support mechanisms for initiatives led by women's organisations and community-based CSOs.

FOR INSTITUTIONS IN THE SECURITY, DEFENCE AND JUSTICE SECTORS

Integrate WPS responsibilities at managerial level and across the work of functional subdivisions, so that implementation is not delegated exclusively to gender focal points.

Develop multiannual leadership, mentoring and professional networking programmes for women, accompanied by assessments of recruitment, promotion, retention, work-life balance, and the prevention of harassment.

Expand cooperation agreements with specialised CSOs, supported by joint plans and outcome indicators.

Ensure the collection and publication of comparable and disaggregated data on women's participation, beneficiaries, services, training, discrimination and harassment.

Mainstream into institutional procedures, curricula and policies the methodologies and tools developed through civil society projects that have demonstrated their utility.

FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Strengthen cooperation among organisations active in the WPS field and develop common representation, including regional representation, within the future national mechanism.

Regularly prepare a shadow monitoring report, based on a consistent methodology and indicators comparable with those used by the official monitoring system.

Adopt common standards for data collection and disaggregation, so that information generated by CSOs can complement the official monitoring system.

Expand interventions into insufficiently covered areas, including protection and recovery, access to justice, institutional change, information security and localisation of the WPS Agenda.

Strengthen capacities in monitoring and evaluation, gender analysis, evidence-based policymaking, strategic communication and digital safety.

Develop cooperation with universities, youth organisations and the diaspora for research, education, mentoring and the transfer of expertise.

FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Gradually move from exclusive reliance on funding for individual projects towards multiannual funding and institutional strengthening for organisations with WPS expertise.

Create dedicated instruments for localisation of the WPS Agenda, including mini-grants for organisations outside Chisinau and for underrepresented groups.

Support research, independent monitoring, evaluation of the 2023–2027 cycle, and the transfer of international good practices.

Align funding with the priorities of the National Programme to reduce overlaps and direct resources towards insufficiently covered areas.

Maintain the role of development partners in funding and providing expertise, while encouraging the State to progressively assume the costs of core activities.

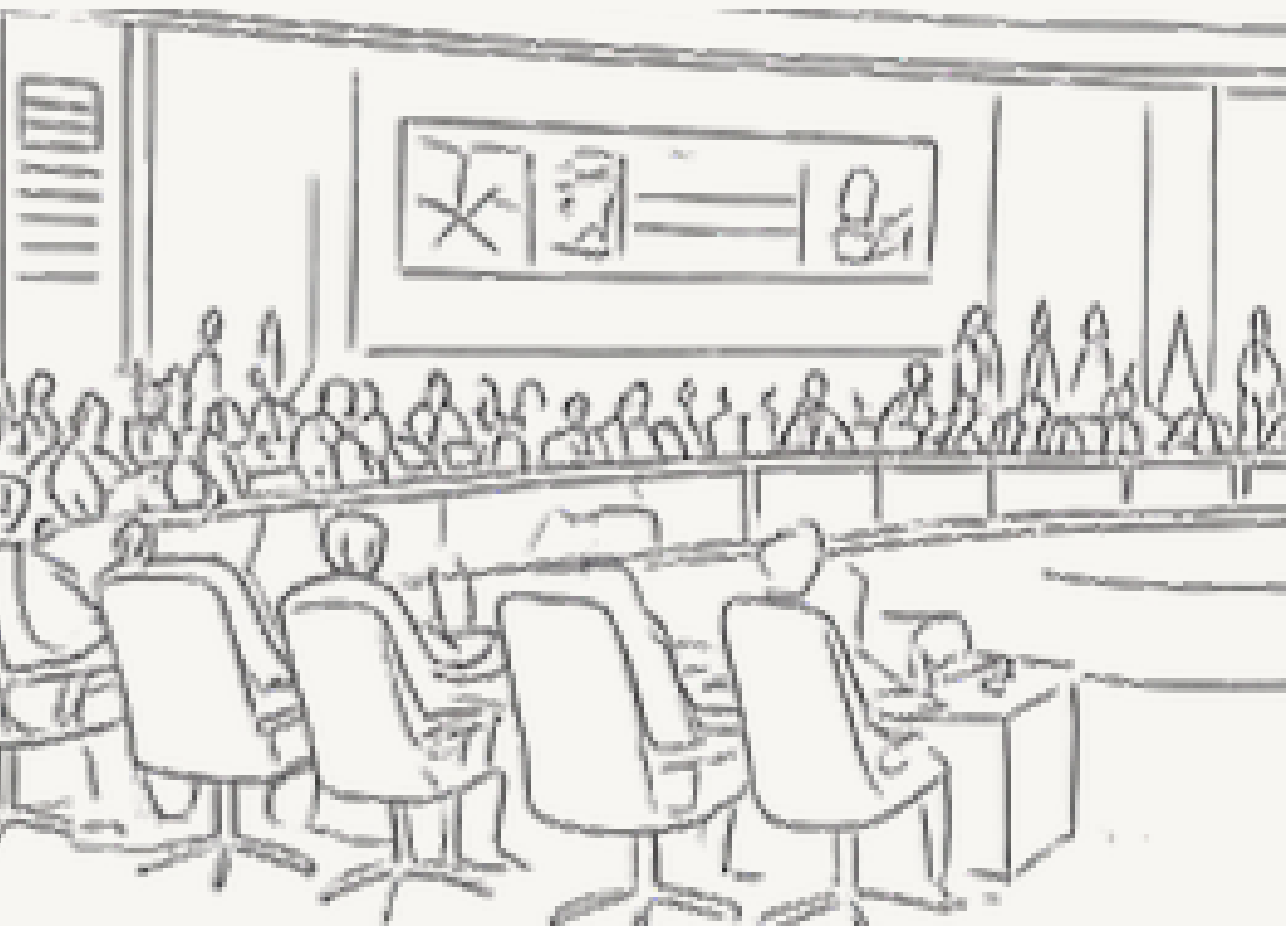
FOR INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Integrate the WPS dimension into the reforms and monitoring mechanisms related to Chapters 23, 24 and 31, as well as into national EU accession preparation documents.

Include CSOs active in the WPS field in sectoral dialogues, consultations on reforms and assessment processes relevant to EU accession.

Make use of research, independent reports and data produced by civil society when reporting on the progress of the Republic of Moldova.

Align the WPS Agenda with security sector reform, democratic resilience, crisis management, countering hybrid threats and the protection of fundamental rights.



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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Questionnaire for Civil Society Organisations

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CSOs – Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda

Regarding the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the National Programme for implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for 2023–2027.

This questionnaire is intended to collect relevant information to be used in preparing an analytical report on the civil society contribution to implementing the National Programme on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2024-2027).

This process is carried out within the project “Strengthening Commitment to Inclusive Human Security”, funded by a grant from the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Once the report has been finalised, we will provide information on the results of the process.

By completing this form, you consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with applicable legislation.

Email _____

In which language would you prefer to complete the questionnaire?

- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Russian

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name of the organisation you represent

2. At what level does the organisation operate?

- ☐ Local
- ☐ National

3. If the organisation operates at local level, please indicate the locality

4. Please, indicate the region(s) in which the organisation carries out activities related to the WPS Agenda

- ☐ Chişinău Municipality
- ☐ Northern Region
- ☐ Central Region
- ☐ Southern Region

- ☐ Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia
- ☐ Transnistrian region (left bank of the Dniester)
- ☐ National level
- ☐ Abroad / diaspora

QUESTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (WPS) AGENDA

1. Do you implement or have you implemented projects, programmes, or initiatives related to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

1a. If yes: please provide an online source (link) with the main objectives and results

2. Have you collaborated with the Secretariat responsible for implementing the National Programme for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2a. If yes: forms of cooperation

- ☐ Participation in events
- ☐ Consultations
- ☐ Involvement in joint activities
- ☐ Other _____

3. How do you cooperate with the institutions responsible for implementing the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

4. Have you participated in training, information or awareness-raising activities concerning the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. What types of activities have you participated in as part of the implementation of the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ Training
- ☐ Mentoring and coaching
- ☐ Workshops
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising campaigns
- ☐ Other _____

6. Do you consider additional training, information, or awareness-raising activities concerning the National Programme 1325 necessary in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6a. If yes: what types of activities do you consider necessary? (Multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Training on the implementation of the National Programme 1325
- ☐ Workshops and exchange of experience
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising campaigns
- ☐ Mentoring and coaching
- ☐ Development and dissemination of information materials
- ☐ Training on gender equality and combating stereotypes
- ☐ Activities on preventing and combating gender-based violence
- ☐ Training in strategic communication and countering disinformation
- ☐ Activities targeting women in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Training for local public authorities and CSOs
- ☐ Activities for young women and men
- ☐ Dialogue and inter-institutional cooperation platforms

7. Have you implemented initiatives that contribute to achieving the objectives of the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7a. If yes: to which objective(s) of the National Programme 1325 do they belong?

- ☐ Objective 1 – Combining domestic and foreign policies to promote the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Objective 2 – Ensuring gender equality by encouraging women to participate actively in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 3 – Participation of women in the security and defence sector in peacebuilding at regional and international level
- ☐ Objective 4 – Reducing barriers and stereotypes related to the role of women in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 5 – Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men regarding work–life balance
- ☐ Objective 6 – Strengthening a reporting and counselling system to eradicate discrimination, harassment, and gender-based violence
- ☐ Objective 7 – Developing an inclusive system for protecting the rights of women in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 8 – Strengthening positive measures for women’s rehabilitation within the security and defence sector

- ☐ Objective 9 – Improving and aligning the legislative framework with international standards on the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of persons affected by conflict
- ☐ Objective 10 – Implementing the legal framework to ensure women’s access to justice in conflict or post-conflict contexts
- ☐ Objective 11 – Strengthening transparency and visibility in the security and defence sector from a gender-sensitive perspective
- ☐ Objective 12 – Reporting and participation in the implementation and monitoring of the WPS Agenda

8. What gaps do you identify in coordinating the implementation of the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ Lack of capacity
- ☐ Lack of interest
- ☐ Lack of financial resources
- ☐ Lack of qualified human resources in the field of gender equality
- ☐ Lack of understanding of the importance of issues related to the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Other _____

9. Do you cooperate with local public authorities (LPAs) in implementing initiatives related to the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9a. If yes: forms of cooperation (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Organisation of joint activities
- ☐ Consultations and institutional dialogue
- ☐ Participation in working groups / cooperation platforms
- ☐ Implementation of joint projects
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising activities in the community
- ☐ Training and capacity building
- ☐ Development of recommendations and policy proposals
- ☐ Exchange of information and good practices
- ☐ Support for promoting gender equality at local level
- ☐ Activities on preventing gender-based violence
- ☐ Cooperation in strategic communication and countering disinformation
- ☐ Involvement of women and young people in community activities
- ☐ Other _____

10. Do you support the creation or strengthening of local networks, groups or platforms of women (e.g. women’s councils, community initiative groups) in the context of the WPS Agenda?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10a. If yes: please describe briefly

11. Do the organisation's activities directly include groups of women and girls in vulnerable situations? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Women in rural areas
- ☐ Roma women
- ☐ Women with disabilities
- ☐ Elder women
- ☐ Refugee or migrant women
- ☐ Women survivors of gender-based violence
- ☐ Women from the Transnistrian region or the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia
- ☐ Single mothers / single-parent families
- ☐ No, the activities target the general population
- ☐ Other _____

12. Do you work directly with women in the security and defence sector or with women involved in peacebuilding? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Women in the National Army
- ☐ Women in the Police / General Inspectorate of Police
- ☐ Women in the Border Police
- ☐ Women in the emergency response and firefighting services (GIES)
- ☐ Women participating in international peacekeeping missions
- ☐ Women veterans
- ☐ We do not work with this group
- ☐ Other _____

13. Does the organisation carry out activities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings or to protect migrant women that are relevant to the WPS Agenda?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13a. If yes: type of activities

- ☐ Information and prevention
- ☐ Assistance and protection of victims
- ☐ Victims' reintegration
- ☐ Cooperation with law enforcement institutions
- ☐ Activities targeting migrant and diaspora women
- ☐ Other _____

14. In your opinion, what are the main risks, threats, or challenges regarding the promotion of women to decision-making positions?

- ☐ Underrepresentation of women
- ☐ Lack of interest
- ☐ Lack of self-confidence
- ☐ Gender-based violence / harassment / discrimination
- ☐ Barriers and stereotypes concerning the role of women in society
- ☐ Other _____

15. Do you carry out activities related to the Transnistrian region (left bank of the Dniester) or the conflict settlement process from a WPS Agenda perspective?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15a. If yes: nature of activities (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Confidence-building measures between the two banks
- ☐ Involvement of women in dialogue and peacebuilding
- ☐ Support for women and communities on the left bank
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising activities
- ☐ Research and monitoring
- ☐ Other _____

16. In the context of the war in Ukraine, has the organisation been involved in the response to the refugee crisis from a gender perspective?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

16a. If yes: type of involvement

- ☐ Humanitarian assistance for refugee women and children
- ☐ Protection from gender-based violence and trafficking
- ☐ Support for integration (education, employment, services)
- ☐ Psychosocial support
- ☐ Involvement of refugee women in community activities
- ☐ Other _____

17. In your opinion, have the recent crises faced by the Republic of Moldova had a differentiated (disproportionate) impact on women that is relevant to the WPS Agenda? (Multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Refugee and regional security crisis
- ☐ Energy crisis
- ☐ Economic crisis and inflation
- ☐ Hybrid threats and disinformation
- ☐ No differentiated impact identified
- ☐ Other _____

17a. Comments

18. Has the organisation addressed gendered disinformation, hybrid threats or online violence targeting women (leaders, activists, candidates, journalists)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

18a. If yes: methods (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Monitoring and reporting gendered disinformation
- ☐ Media and digital literacy
- ☐ Support for women targeted by online attacks
- ☐ Strategic communication campaigns
- ☐ Cooperation with relevant institutions
- ☐ Other _____

19. What are your organisation's needs in order to effectively implement the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Training
- ☐ Conferences, mentoring, and exchange of experience
- ☐ Assistance projects
- ☐ Schools / summer academies
- ☐ Methodological support and information materials
- ☐ Institutional capacity building
- ☐ Funding for local initiatives
- ☐ Other _____

20. What are the main sources of funding for the organisation's activities related to the WPS Agenda? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ State budget / public authorities
- ☐ European Union
- ☐ UN agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, etc.)
- ☐ Bilateral donors (EU Member States, USA, other countries)
- ☐ Foundations and international organisations
- ☐ Own resources / private contributions
- ☐ We do not have dedicated funding
- ☐ Other _____

20a. Do you consider the current funding sufficient and sustainable?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No

21. Are you planning future projects or initiatives in the area of Women, Peace and Security?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21a. If yes: please describe briefly

22. To what extent do you consider CSOs to have been involved in the implementation and monitoring of the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027?

- ☐ To a very great extent
- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a small extent
- ☐ Not at all

22a. Please provide reasons

23. Do you consider that the views and recommendations of civil society are taken into account by the implementing institutions?

- ☐ Yes, to a great extent
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ To a very limited extent
- ☐ Not at all

23a. Examples / comments

24. In your opinion, what are the most important results achieved so far in implementing the National Programme 1325?

- ☐ Increased awareness of the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Strengthened cooperation between institutions and CSOs
- ☐ Increased participation of women in decision-making processes
- ☐ Professional capacity development
- ☐ Combating stereotypes and discrimination
- ☐ Other _____

25. What are the best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the National Programme 1325 for 2023–2027? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ Strengthening cooperation between state institutions and civil society
- ☐ Organisation of joint information and awareness-raising activities
- ☐ More active involvement of women in decision-making processes
- ☐ Increased awareness of the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Development of local and regional partnerships
- ☐ Increased inter-institutional cooperation

- ☐ Need for continuous training in gender equality and WPS
- ☐ Importance of communication and information exchange among stakeholders
- ☐ Need to combat gender stereotypes
- ☐ Importance of involving young people and local communities
- ☐ Need to strengthen institutional capacities
- ☐ Need for a more effective coordination and monitoring mechanism
- ☐ Importance of media involvement
- ☐ Need for additional financial and human resources
- ☐ Other _____

26. What are the main priorities for the final months of implementation of the National Programme 1325?

- ☐ Strengthening inter-institutional cooperation
- ☐ More active involvement of CSOs
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising campaigns
- ☐ Training and capacity building
- ☐ More effective monitoring and evaluation
- ☐ Identification of financial resources
- ☐ Development of a new Programme/Action Plan for the post-2027 period
- ☐ Other:

27. Have you encountered difficulties in accessing information on the implementation of the National Programme 1325?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

27a. If yes: please specify _____

28. Do you consider that implementation of the WPS Agenda and Resolution 1325 should be linked to the Republic of Moldova's EU accession process?

- ☐ Yes, to a great extent
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know

28a. If yes: in which areas do you see the most important links (e.g. gender equality, security sector reform, rule of law, human rights)?

29. Do you consider it necessary to develop a new National Programme on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda after 2027?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know

29a. If yes: what should be the main priorities?

30. Do you cooperate with international organisations and partners present in the Republic of Moldova on the WPS Agenda? (multiple options may be selected)

- ☐ UN Women / UN agencies
- ☐ OSCE / OSCE Mission to Moldova
- ☐ European Union (EU Delegation, EU missions)
- ☐ NATO / Partnership for Peace
- ☐ International non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- ☐ Embassies and development agencies
- ☐ We do not cooperate with international partners
- ☐ Other _____

31. What recommendations do you have for improving cooperation between civil society and state institutions in the area of Women, Peace, and Security?

32. Do you consider the involvement of the Moldovan diaspora, particularly women, relevant to promoting the WPS Agenda?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know

32a. If yes: how could the diaspora contribute (e.g. advocacy, transfer of expertise, financial support, solidarity networks)?

33. In which areas do you consider that civil society could play a more active role in promoting the WPS Agenda?

- ☐ Education and awareness-raising
- ☐ Countering disinformation
- ☐ Support for survivors of gender-based violence
- ☐ Research and monitoring
- ☐ Advocacy and public policy
- ☐ Work with young people
- ☐ Promoting women's participation in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Other _____

Please provide contact details in case clarification is required:

- First name/Surname;
- Email and/or telephone number

By completing and submitting this questionnaire, you consent to the processing by the organiser of the personal data provided (first name/surname, telephone number, email), exclusively for preparing the report.

The data will be used for:

preparing the analytical report on the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the National Programme for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2024–2027).

Your data will not be disclosed to third parties for purposes other than those specified above and will be stored securely in accordance with applicable personal data protection legislation.

You have the right to access, rectify, or erase your data, and to withdraw your consent at any time by submitting a request to the organisers.

- ☐ I have read and agree to the processing of my personal data.
- ☐ I do not agree

Annex 2. Questionnaire for Public Institutions

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME 1325 FOR 2023–2027

This questionnaire is intended to collect relevant information to be used in preparing an analytical report on the civil society contribution to the implementation of the National Programme on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2024-2027).

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Institution you represent: _____

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN IMPLEMENTING NAP 1325

2. How would you assess the role of civil society in implementing NAP 1325?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Of limited importance
- ☐ Don't know / Cannot assess

Please provide a brief justification: _____

3. In your institution's view, what are the main contributions of civil society to the implementation of NAP 1325?

- ☐ Thematic expertise
- ☐ Monitoring and evaluation
- ☐ Information and awareness-raising activities
- ☐ Training and capacity building
- ☐ Direct work with women and vulnerable groups
- ☐ Advocacy and policy recommendations
- ☐ Strategic communication and countering disinformation
- ☐ Support for victims of gender-based violence
- ☐ Other: _____

INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

4. Does your institution cooperate with civil society organisations in implementing NAP 1325?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Occasionally

If yes/occasionally, please indicate the forms of cooperation:

- ☐ Public consultations
- ☐ Working groups / dialogue platforms
- ☐ Joint information or awareness-raising activities
- ☐ Training / workshops / mentoring
- ☐ Development of recommendations or public policies
- ☐ Monitoring and reporting
- ☐ Joint projects
- ☐ Exchange of data, information and good practices
- ☐ Other: _____

5. What mechanisms or instruments are in place through which your institution cooperates with civil society under the WPS Agenda?

6. How effective do you consider these cooperation mechanisms?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Partially effective
- ☐ Not very effective
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ There are no clear mechanisms

What should be improved?

AREAS WHERE CIVIL SOCIETY SHOULD BE MORE INVOLVED

7. In which areas do you consider that civil society should be more actively involved in implementing NAP 1325?

- ☐ Monitoring the implementation of NAP 1325
- ☐ Progress reporting and data collection
- ☐ Informing the public about the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Training for institutions and local authorities
- ☐ Addressing gender stereotypes
- ☐ Preventing and combating gender-based violence
- ☐ Support for women in the security and defence sector

- ☐ Activities in the regions, including the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and the Transnistrian region
- ☐ Work with young people and women from vulnerable groups
- ☐ Strategic communication, gendered disinformation and hybrid threats
- ☐ Development of the next National Programme for the post-2027 period
- ☐ Other: _____

8. For which objectives of NAP 1325 do you consider that civil society should be more involved? You may select more than one option

- ☐ Objective 1 – Promoting the WPS Agenda in domestic and foreign policies
- ☐ Objective 2 – Women’s participation in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 3 – Women’s participation in peacebuilding
- ☐ Objective 4 – Reducing gender stereotypes and barriers
- ☐ Objective 5 – Reconciliation of work and family life
- ☐ Objective 6 – Reporting and counselling on discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence
- ☐ Objective 7 – Protection of women’s rights in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 8 – Rehabilitation of women in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 9 – Alignment of the legislative framework with international standards
- ☐ Objective 10 – Women’s access to justice in conflict/post-conflict contexts
- ☐ Objective 11 – Transparency and visibility in the security and defence sector
- ☐ Objective 12 – Reporting, monitoring and involvement in the implementation of the WPS Agenda

9. What are the main obstacles to cooperation between state institutions and civil society in implementing NAP 1325?

- ☐ Lack of clear cooperation mechanisms
- ☐ Insufficient communication between institutions and CSOs
- ☐ Limited financial resources
- ☐ Insufficient human resources
- ☐ Lack of specialised expertise
- ☐ Uneven involvement of regional CSOs
- ☐ Consultations organised too late or merely as a formality
- ☐ Lack of accessible data and information
- ☐ Other: _____

10. How important do you consider the existence of a Civil Society Platform for promoting and monitoring the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Republic of Moldova?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Of little importance
- ☐ Not necessary
- ☐ Don’t know / Cannot assess

11. What should be the main role of this platform?

- ☐ Facilitating dialogue between CSOs and government institutions
- ☐ Monitoring the implementation of NAP 1325
- ☐ Formulating recommendations and public policy proposals
- ☐ Gathering contributions from the regions and vulnerable groups
- ☐ Promoting the visibility of the WPS Agenda
- ☐ Organising training, experience-sharing and joint activities
- ☐ Supporting the development of the next National Programme for the post-2027 period
- ☐ Other: _____

Comments/suggestions regarding the operation of the platform:

12. What recommendations do you have for improving cooperation between government institutions and civil society in implementing the current NAP 1325 and developing the next post-2027 programme?

CONTACT DETAILS

Please provide your contact details in case clarification is required:

- First name/Surname;
- Email and/or telephone number

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- ☐ I have read and agree to the processing of my personal data
- ☐ I do not agree

Annex 3. List of Participating Organisations and Institutions

List of participating public authorities, institutions and structures

1. Government coordination structures:

- State Chancellery;
- Reintegration Policy Bureau.

2. Ministry of Internal Affairs and its structures

- Ministry of Internal Affairs – central office;
- General Inspectorate of Police;
- General Inspectorate of Border Police;
- General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations;
- General Inspectorate for Migration;
- General Inspectorate of Carabineers;
- “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

3. Institutions in the field of defence and national security

- Ministry of Defence;
- Information and Security Service;
- State Protection and Guard Service.

4. Authorities with related sectoral responsibilities

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ministry of Health;
- National Penitentiary Administration, subordinated to the Ministry of Justice;
- Customs Service, subordinated to the Ministry of Finance.

5. Institutions in the fields of justice, integrity and rights protection

- General Prosecutor’s Office;
- National Anticorruption Centre;
- People’s Advocate Office.

List of participating organisations:

- Public Association “Institute for Democracy and Development”
- Public Association “Institutum Virtutes Civilis”
- Association for Integrated Sustainable Development
- Public Association “Pro Marshall Center of the Republic of Moldova”
- Partnership for Development Center,
- Public Association for Children and Youth “Făclia”
- Public Association “Association for Combating Information Isolation ECOU”
- Public Association “LEADER”
- Public Association “Act for Involvement” (AFI)
- Public Association “Keystone Moldova”
- Centre for Development and Support of Civic Initiatives “Rezonans”
- Association of Women in the National Army
- National Association of Women Prosecutors
- Public Association “MIRKIRAS”

Annex 4. Summary of the Ten Identified Issues and Priority Needs for Implementing the FPS Agenda

Problem Identified	Key Evidence	Impact on Implementation	Priority Need
Unclear Formal Role of CSOs	Only 7/14 have cooperated with the 1325 Secretariat; CSO contributions are not consistently reflected in the Programme's mechanisms.	Uneven engagement, dependent on projects or ad hoc relationships.	Explicit roles for CSOs in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
Occasional and Consultative Cooperation	10/14 assess their involvement as moderate; events and consultations are the predominant forms of engagement.	Limited continuity of cooperation and limited shared responsibility.	A permanent state-CSO mechanism with a clear mandate, schedule and joint activities.
Insufficient Feedback	10/14 state that recommendations are taken on board only partially; 2/14 – to a very limited extent.	Reduced trust in consultation processes and difficulties in tracking the impact of CSO contributions.	A public recommendations register and reasoned responses from institutions.
Fragmented Coordination and Information	Limited capacity of the Secretariat; lack of coordination and a single reporting platform.	Duplication, thematic gaps and difficulties in conducting independent monitoring.	Strategic coordination at senior management level and a public information platform.
Unsustainable Funding	8/14 consider funding insufficient; 4/14 – only partially sufficient; external sources predominate.	Discontinuity, donor dependence and vulnerability of local services.	Public funding, multiannual grants, mini-grants and social contracting.

Uneven Institutional Ownership	Responsibility is frequently delegated to focal points; results depend on support from senior management.	Superficial integration and outsourcing of certain activities to CSOs and development partners.	Managerial responsibilities, performance indicators and institutional budgets.
Limited Localisation	LPAs do not have an explicit role in the NAP; actors outside the capital and marginalised groups are weakly integrated.	The needs of communities and vulnerable groups are insufficiently reflected.	Local plans, security audits, territorial networks and local funding.
Insufficient Monitoring and Data	Non-disaggregated data, general indicators, non-comparable data series and limited CSO involvement.	Impact is difficult to measure rigorously; insufficiently covered issues and groups remain poorly reflected.	A common set of indicators, open data and an annual CSO shadow report.
Uneven Capacities	10/14 call for institutional strengthening; 8/13 each call for training, mentoring, technical assistance and local funding.	Uneven implementation and insufficient internalisation of expertise.	Continuous training, academies, mentoring and practical methodological tools.
Limited Visibility and Gender-Based Attacks	14/14 identify stereotypes; only 6/14 have addressed gender-based disinformation, although 9/14 consider it a priority.	Reduced participation and a risk of women withdrawing from public life.	Strategic communication, digital safety, support for victims and rapid response mechanisms.

Annex 5. List of Civil Society Organisations with Projects Relevant to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

1. AFI Association
2. Moldova Women's Alliance
3. Afina Association
4. Biaz Gul Association
5. Regional Community Development Centre Association (CRDC)
6. Women for Women Association
7. Help Association
8. Mirkiras Association
9. Honour and Rights of Contemporary Women Association
10. Step by Step Association, South Region (Pas cu Pas, regiunea Sud)
11. Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Moldova
12. Women in the Police Association
13. Initiatives 4 Peace Association
14. National Association of Community Mediators of the Republic of Moldova
15. Association for Combating Information Isolation "ECOU"
16. Education Without Limits Association
17. Inovatrium Association
18. Bilkis
19. Women's Law Centre
20. Theatre Centre of Moldova
21. International Centre "La Strada"
22. Partnership for Every Development Centre
23. ProMarshall Centre
24. Rezonans Centre
25. National Coalition "Life without Violence"
26. Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)
27. East Europe Foundation
28. Terre des Hommes Moldova Foundation
29. Gender-Centru / Gender-Cent
30. European Institute for Political Studies of Moldova (IESPM)
31. Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD)
32. Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC)
33. Platform for Gender Equality
34. Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA)

Annex 6. Projects and Initiatives Relevant to the Implementation of the National Programme 1325

In alphabetical order by project/initiative title

NO	PROJECT / INITIATIVE TITLE	IMPLEMENTED BY	FUNDED BY	GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME 1325
1.	Empowering Refugee Women: Career Centres for Women Link: https://www.faclia.md/ro/news/noutati/63-de-femei-stramutate-din-ucraina-cunosc-mai-multe-despre-accesul-la-servicii-si-oportunitati-de-ocupare-in-republica-moldova	Făclia Association	UN Women; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O4, O5
2.	Local Action for Inclusive Recovery: Empowering Refugee and Host-Community Women through Peacebuilding and Economic Resilience Link: https://www.facebook.com/platformaegalitategen/	Gender-Cent and Honour and Rights of Contemporary Women Association	UN Women	
3.	AI without Borders: Young People and Women from Diverse Communities Unite Moldova through Innovation Link: https://www.ecom.md/project/ai-fara-granite-liner-si-femei-din-comunitati-diverse-conecteaza-moldova-prin-inovatie	Association for Combating Information Isolation "ECOU"	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR); Government of the United Kingdom	O1, O6
4.	Civic Engagement for Empowering Young People and Women Link: https://www.progen.md/termeni-de-referinta-privind-selectarea-unui-unel-cercetator-cercetatoare-in-politica-publice-si-expert-a-juridic/	East Europe Foundation and Partnership for Development Centre	European Union; Government of Sweden	O1, O6
5.	Harmony in the Community: Support and Integration Link: https://mirkiras.md/category/news/page/2/	Mirkiras Association	Government of Switzerland; Helvetas; HEKS/EPER Moldova; Norwegian Refugee Council	O4, O5
6.	Breaking the Silence: Building Inclusive Systems to Prevent and Address Violence Against Women with Disability Link: https://www.civic.md/anunturi/achizitii/89526-termen-extins-concurs-pentru-selectarea-unui-companii-ce-presteaza-servicii-pr-si-comunicare.html	Education "Without Limits" Association	Embassy of Finland	O2, O3
7.	Campaign on Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Link: https://www.progen.md/zona-gri-sau-despre-hartuirea-sexuala-din-ecrane-limitele-completelor-si-mitui-acceptarii-facile-in-randul-tinerilor/	Partnership Development Centre	KVINFO	O2, O6
8.	Surorile Din Lut [Clay Sisters] Campaign Link: https://www.facebook.com/femeipfemei/	Women for Women Association	-	O1, O6
9.	Research on Psychological Violence Link: https://www.biazgul.md/	Biaz Gul Association	National Coalition "Life without Violence"	O2, O6
10.	Active Citizens, Prosperous Communities Link: https://www.eef.md/ro/cetateni-activi-comunitati-prospere-2021-2026/329	East Europe Foundation	Government of Sweden	O1, O6
11.	Combating Misinformation and Stereotypes Link: https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-femeii-pacea-si-securitatea-combaterea-dezinformatiei-si-stereotipurilor/	Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA)	UN Women Moldova; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O1, O6
12.	Consent Has an Age Link: https://www.facebook.com/LaStradaMoldova/	International Centre "La Strada"	KVINFO	O2, O6

13.	Strengthening Commitment to Inclusive Human Security Link: https://www.pisa.md/projects/consolidarea-angajamentului-pentru-o-securitate-incluziva-si-centrata-pe-oameni/	Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA)	IWPR; FCDO (United Kingdom)	01, 06
14.	Capacity Building for the Women in the Police Association Link: https://www.facebook.com/WomenPoliceAssociation/	Women in the Police Association	Sweden; DCAF	01, 03
15.	Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace and Strengthening Trust and Social Cohesion on Both Banks of the Dniester River Link: https://www.undp.org/ro/moldova/projects/constuirea-pacii-durabile-si-incluzive-consolidarea-incredarii-si-coeziunii-sociale-pe-ambele-maluri-ale-nistrului	Initiatives 4 Peace Association	UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR); UNDP; UN Women, through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UN PBF)	01, 06
16.	Establishment of the Women, Peace and Security Initiative Group Link: https://pisa.md/projects/crearea-grupului-de-initiativa-femeile-pacea-si-securitatea/	Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA)	DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, under the Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova project, funded by Sweden	01, 06
17.	Enhancing Women's Resilience and Excellence through Inclusive and Quality Employment Opportunities Link: https://www.progen.md/termeni-de-referinta-privind-selectarea-companiei-care-va-elabora-documentatia-tehnica-pentru-reparatia-si-amenajarea-unei-grupe-cresa-din-incinta-gradinitei-din-s-ghidighici-mun-chisinau/	UNFPA and Partnership for Development Centre	European Union; Government of Sweden	03, 04
18.	Fostering Integrity and Justice to Strengthen Security within the Ministry of Defence Link: https://www.army.md/?lng=2&action=show&cat=122&obj=9314	ProMarshall Centre	Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)	01, 03
19.	Women's Dignity: Transformation through Art Link: https://www.moldova.org/proiect-socio-cultural-demnitatea-feminina-transfigurarea-prin-arta/	Theatre Centre of Moldova	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), funded by the United Kingdom	01, 06
20.	Women's Dignity: Transformation through Art Link: https://www.ammc.md/proiectul-roma-women-4-peacesecurity/	National Association of Community Mediators of the Republic of Moldova	Institute for War and Peace Reporting, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom	01, 06
21.	Denim Day Moldova 2026 Link: https://www.facebook.com/unwomenmoldova	International Centre "La Strada"	UN Women	02, 06
22.	Establishment of Family-Type Nurseries in Ungheni District Link: https://www.facebook.com/reel/983083404450961/	Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Moldova and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Switzerland	01, 03
23.	Institutional Development of Biaz Gul Organisation Link: https://www.biazgul.md/	Biaz Gul Association	National Coalition "Life without Violence"	03

24.	Enhance Women's Cohesion in Peace Processes Link: https://idd.md/en/service/proiectul-enhances-womens-cohesion-in-peace-processes-and-sustainable-response-in-humanitarian-aid/	Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD)	UN Women; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O1, O6
25.	Enhancing Access to Critical Protection Services through Boosting the Humanitarian Response Role of Ukrainian and Moldovan Local Women-Led Organizations Link: https://www.biazgul.md/	Biaz Gul Association	HIAS Moldova	O3, O5
26.	EQUALITY CAMP Link: https://egalitadedegn.md/equality-camp-impreuna-impotriva-violentei/	Gender-Cent, in partnership with the Platform for Gender Equality	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), funded by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom	O1, O6
27.	Women Leaders Today, Peace Tomorrow Link: https://avahelp.md/evnement-de-totalizare-a-proiectului-femei-lidere-de-astazi-pacea-demaine/	Help Association and Inovatrium Association	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O1, O6
28.	Women for Women: Supporting Rural Women Entrepreneurs Link: https://www.facebook.com/AEFL_MD/	Education "Without Limits" Association	Government of Canada - Fund for Local Initiatives	O1, O4
29.	Women for Leadership and Good Governance Link: https://ivcmoldova.org/category/proiecte-in-derulare/femei-pentru-leadership-si-buna-guvernare/	Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC)	UN Women; Government of Sweden	O1, O2, O6
30.	Women on Both Sides of the Bars: Between Equity and Resilience Link: https://www.afi.md/rom/noutati/de-la-data-la-actiune-proiectul-care-redefinese-schitatea-de-egen-in-instituile-175	AFI and Step by Step Association, South Region	IWPR; Government of the United Kingdom	O1, O6
31.	Women for Peace and Prosperity Link: https://www.instagram.com/p/Da25M4XCl-/	UN Women Moldova and Rezonans Centre	UN Women	O1, O4
32.	Women – Promoters of Peace and Social Cohesion Link: https://ivcmoldova.org/femei-lider-comunit-i-mai-sigure-un-atelier-despre-pace-i-incredere-la-nivel-local/	Institutum Virtutes Civilis (IVC)	UN Women, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O1, O6
33.	"Art & Women of Moldova" Festival Link: https://www.nationalmuseum.md/ro/news/arhive/festivalul_arta_femeile_moldovei/	Moldova Alliance	European Endowment for Democracy; Romanian Cultural Institute	O1, O6
34.	Girls and Women – Solidarity and Empowerment, 2nd Edition Link: https://www.facebook.com/femeipfemei/	Women for Women Association and UNICEF Moldova	Government of the Republic of Korea	O4, O5

35.	Sexual Harassment Leaves a Mark. Consent. Not. Link: https://www.progen.md/cpd-lanseaza-campania-hartuirea-sexuala-lasa-urme-consimantului-fenomenul-atacteaza-unul-din-cinci-tineri/	Partnership Development Centre for	Swedish Development Agency (Sida)	International Cooperation	O2, O6
36.	Civic Engagement for Empowering Young People and Women Link: https://www.eef.md/ro/implicarea-civica-pentru-imputernicirea-tinerilor-si-a-femellor/738	East Europe Foundation	European Union; Government of Sweden	Government	O1, O6
37.	Together for Safety – Regional Cooperation against Gender-Based Violence Link: https://crdc.md/noutati/crdc-finalizeaza-proiectul-impreuna-pentru-siguranta-colaborare-regionala-pentru-combaterea-violentei-de-gen	Mirkiras Association and Regional Community Development Centre Association (CRDC)	European Union; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic	O2, O6
38.	Women's Empowerment in National Security – South Regional Edition Link: https://www.facebook.com/20531316728/posts/10154009990506729/	European Institute for Political Studies of Moldova (IESPM)	NATO*		O1, O3
39.	Empowering Women through Gender-Based Violence Services Link: https://www.gender-centru.md/	Gender-Cent	Japanese Social Development Fund	Social Development Fund	O3, O4
40.	Local Women Peacebuilders' Comparative Advantage Link: https://idd.md/service/proiectul-local-women-peacebuilders-comparative-advantage-integrating-women-peace-and-security-in-the-triple-nexus-of-humanitarian-action-development-and-peacebuilding-in-armenia-azerbaidjan/	Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD)	Austrian Development Agency		O1, O6
41.	MYCS: Towards a Stronger Youth Civil Society Link: https://eu4moldova.eu/ro/capacitatea-si-participarea-incluziva-a-tinerilor-promovate-cu-suportul-ue/	Terre des Hommes Moldova Foundation	European Union		O1, O6
42.	ORCA Link: https://www.gender-centru.md/proiecte/orca/	Gender-Cent	European academic networks		O3, O6
43.	Partnerships for Women's Leadership Link: https://ivcmoldova.org/category/proiecte-in-derulare/parteneriate-pentru-liderismul-femeilor-si-buna-guvernare-proiecte-in-derulare/	Friedrich Ebert Foundation Moldova and Institutum Virtutis Civills	European Union and Friedrich Ebert Foundation		O1, O6
44.	Small Grants Programme for Locally Led Women's Organisations Link: https://egalitate4gen.md/apel-pentru-propuneri-de-proiecte-privind-prevenirea-violentei-bazate-pe-gen-si-consolidarea-coeziunii-sociale-destinat-organizatiilor-conduse-de-femei/	Platform for Gender Equality	UNFPA		O2, O5
45.	"Life without Violence" Grants Programme Link: https://sdvmd.net/programme-de-granturi-programul-de-granturi-viata-fara-violenta/	National Coalition "Life without Violence"	-		O2, O4
46.	"Alina" Support Programme for Girls and Women Link: https://www.ipfmd.org/proiecte/	Women for Women Association	Oak Foundation; European Union; UNICEF	ARC;	O4
47.	"Transformare" Voucher Programme Link: https://www.cdf.md/noutati/programul-de-vouchere-transformare-ofera-sprajin-femeilor-supravietuitoare-ale-violentei-in-drumul-spre-independentia-economica/	Women's Law Centre	UN Women; Government of Sweden	Government of Sweden	O4

48.	StoP Moldova Programme Link: https://www.civic.md/anunturi/granturi/87904-termen-extins-coalitia-nationala-viata-fara-violenta-lanseaza-apelul-de-granturi-pentru-programul-stop-moldova.html	National Coalition "Life without Violence"	StoP e.V. and partners	O2, O6
49.	Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through Strategic Communication and Monitoring Link: https://pisa.md/projects/promovarea-agendei-privind-femelle-pacea-si-securitatea-pn-in-comunicare-strategica-si-monitorizare/	Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA)	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO)	O1, O6
50.	Protection of Refugees and Host Communities Link: https://cdf.md/proiecte-finalizate/	Women's Law Centre	OSCE	O4, O5
51.	Gender Think Tank Network Link: https://progen.md/	Partnership Development Centre for	UN Women; Government of Sweden	O1, O6
52.	The Role of Women in Peace Processes: Needs, Perceptions and Prospects for ATU Gagauzia Link: https://cmi.fi/2026/01/14/gagauzia-cmi-strengthens-womens-role-in-peacebuilding-and-local-dialogue	Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and PISA	UN Women; Government of Sweden	O1, O6
53.	Energy-Efficient Social Services for the Temporary Accommodation of Victims of Domestic Violence in ATU Gagauzia Link: https://www.biazgul.md/	Biaz Gul Association	Soros Foundation Moldova	O4
54.	Cross-Border Feminist and LGBT Solidarity in Ukraine and Moldova Link: https://www.facebook.com/ngo.afina/	Afina Bilkis Association and	European Union	O2, O5
55.	Enhancing Women's Cohesion in Peace Processes Link: https://www.facebook.com/progen.md/	Partnership Development Centre for	WPHF; UN Women Moldova	O1, O6
56.	Supporting Multi-Sectoral Efforts to Prevent Violence Link: https://cdf.md/projects-in-derulare/	Women's Law Centre	UN Women Moldova; Sweden	O2, O6
57.	Voices of Leadership: Women Shaping Impact Link: https://idd.md/service/vocele-leadersilui-femelle-care-modeleaza-impactul/	Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD)	UN Women; Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	O1, O3
58.	Women Lead Development Link: https://idd.md/service/women-lead-development-femelle-conduc-schimbarea-pentru-pace-si-dezvoltare-durabila/	Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD)	IWPR; Government of the United Kingdom	O1, O6

