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MODERNISATION EU DIPLOMACY

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Abstract: *Modernisation of EU Diplomacy in last year underline best Diplomatic Service of the EU Diplomacy start up 2011 European External Action Service, systemic Leadership of this Institution by diverity of nationalitys, now by estonian Kaja KALLAS in context of Russian agression and CSDP in all continentes and of course in Ukraine. Best Negotiations of Kaja KALLAS in Est of Europe, with Russian Federation denote geopolitical areas past colaboration and cooperation for achieve peace in Ukraine and EU accession of Ukraine and Moldova.*

Republic Moldova negotiate and participate in CSDP missions in differente positions adviser, experte in human rights, for mention stability of peace in Est of Europe and benefits of EU Integration.

Keywords: *eu diplomacy, csdp, european integration, negotiations*

Introduction

Economic Diplomacy of the Republic Moldova in European context are, firstly, an observed variation in the receptiveness of countries to EU public diplomacy, which correlates with the receiving country or region's social, economic and political context and past and contemporary experiences with the EU;

secondly, a need for EU economic diplomacy to be flexible in its application; and thirdly, a need for more extensive research on the effectiveness of EU economic public diplomacy.

Accordingly, Economic Diplomacy this European context is: multi-geographical and context-based, providing input for EU countries and non-EU countries to give an overview of the main obstacles and perspectives of European Treaty implementation and better negotiation and cooperation.

There is theoretical-conceptual research of external and internal dimensions in the European Economic Diplomacy of the Republic of MD. The research goal implied the following objectives: the conducting analysis of historiography of external and internal dimensions in the, conceptual identification of European Economic Diplomacy of the Republic of MD; formulation of methodological approaches of European Economic Diplomacy of MD; research of manifestation of the EU member states from EU-11, Central, Eastern Europe, Western Balkan, Trio, MD and Ukraine.

The important scientific problem EU Diplomacy of the Republic of MD that have led to argumentation of their interdependence in order to establish the impact and the role in European context.

The theoretical significance of the research lies in completing the conceptual framework for conducting investigations of interdisciplinary character on EU Diplomacy of the Republic of MD, justifying the need of consolidation of this Topic.

Methodology

The given research is interdisciplinary, descriptive, applied with logical-deductive and quantitative approaches. The following methods were applied to conduct the research: traditional (*historical enlargement of EU, evolutive economic benefits and contributors, comparative Post Brexit cooperation*) analytical dates of EEAS, synthetical economic development, statistical (*dates for eurostat.eu*), audio-lingual (*videoconference,*

interview) and methods of approximation legislation coordination, (*uniformization, harmonization minimum/maximum, total, partial, mutual of recognition, hierarchic, cumulative, alternative, selective*). The comparative method was used in view of highlighting the road that the Republic of Moldova has to go by comparing it with the reforms and changes that Romania had to implement as part of the negotiations with the EU.

Information base Scientific Research was motivate by different arguments with elucidate in articles, interview, videoconferences, scientific monographs and studies.

I. PRIORITY OF EU DIPLOMACY

Common foreign and security policy (CFSP) is the EU's joint foreign and security policy. It seeks to: preserve peace; reinforce international security; and promote international cooperation, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU has a diplomatic service, the European External Action Service (EEAS), which was formally launched in 2011. The EEAS acts under the authority of the EU's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP), a position currently held by Josep Borrell Fontelles. It assists the HR/VP in fulfilling their mandate.

The Political and Security Committee (PSC), comprising ambassadors from the 27 EU countries, also acts under the responsibility of the HR/VP. It monitors the international situation in the areas covered by the CFSP and plays a key role in defining and following up on the EU's response to a crisis.

The CFSP was first established in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty. It has been progressively reinforced by subsequent treaties, particularly the Treaty of Lisbon. [14]
the Netherlands

1973 First enlargement **1 January Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom**

1981 Second enlargement **1 January Greece** Third enlargement

1986 Third enlargement**1 January**

Portugal, Spain 1995 Fourth enlargement

1 January Austria, Finland, Sweden

2004 Fifth enlargement**1 May Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia**

2007 Sixth enlargement **1 January Bulgaria, Romania**

2013 Seventh enlargement **1 July Croatia**

The UK withdrew from the EU on 31 January 2020.

External Challenges:

The war in Ukraine created security, energy, and refugee crises. Persistent Russian influence. The EU's internal enlargement fatigue

Internal Challenges:

Ongoing judicial and anti-corruption reforms. Transnistrian issue

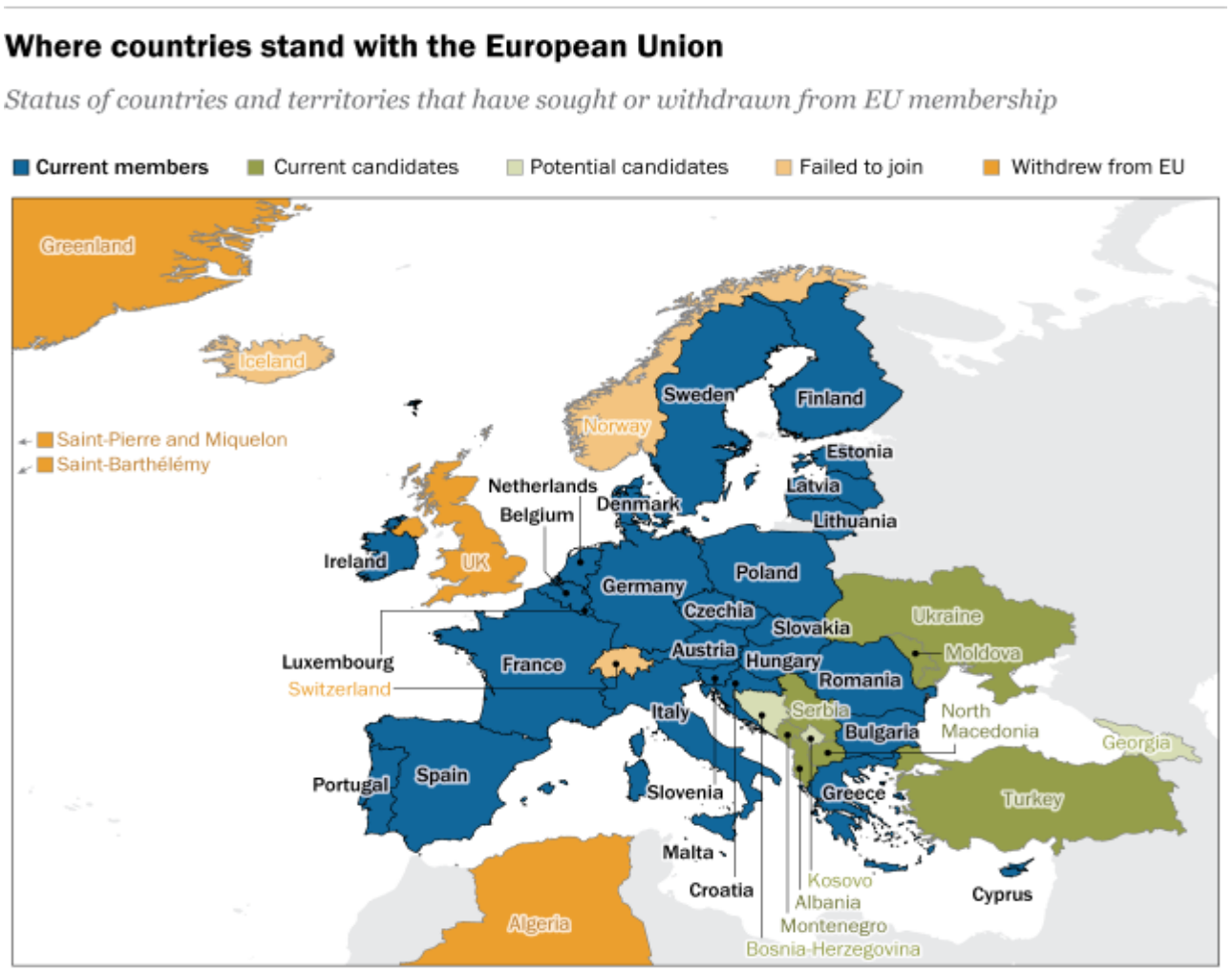


Figure 1.2. EU States

EU, EEA, EFTA and Schengen Area countries What are the 27 countries that are Member States of the EU(EU)? Which countries make up the EEA and the EFTA? Which countries are members of the Schengen Area? See the lists of countries below.

The 27 EU Member States The EU is a political and economic union of Member States that are located in Europe. There are 27 Member States of the EU: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, see Fig. 3.8., Annexe nr.1.

The 30 EEA countries EEA stands for European Economic Area. The EEA aims to strengthen trade and economic relations between each of the EEA countries. There are 30 EEA countries: The 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein. Norway.

The 4 EFTA countries EFTA stands for European Free Trade Association. It is a regional trade organisation and a free trade area between each of the Member States. It has 4 Member States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland. Romania will be lifted, but land border checks will remain in place.

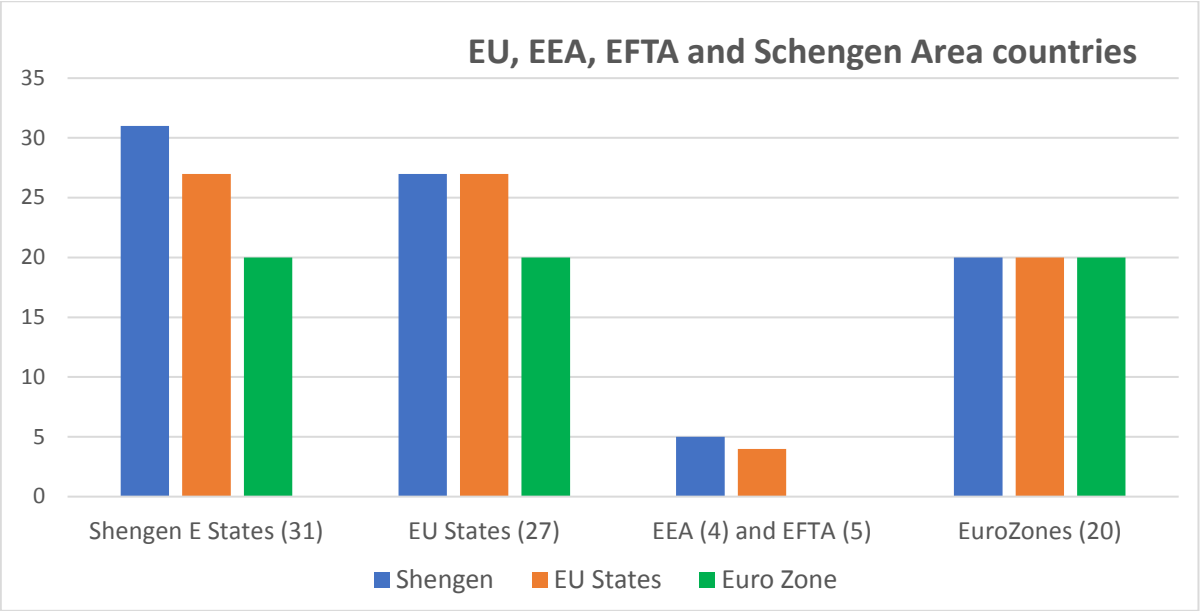


Figure 1.2. EU, EEA, EFTA and Schengen Area countries

Source: elaborated by the authors' representation based on dates eeas.eu

The untapped potential of the EU treaties comprises, in particular, the following instruments: — the passerelle clauses, which allow a shift from unanimity to qualified majority in the Council and, in the legislative domains, from unanimity to the ordinary legislative procedure, which entails co-decision between the Council and the European Parliament; — changes to certain protocols by legislative procedures; — targeted changes to internal policies; — strengthening external action; — use of Article 352 TFEU (the flexibility clause); — creation of a common defence; — evolution of the EU's institutional system through 'constitutional practice'. [15, p.384]

Those special passerelle clauses are as follows: — Social policy: Article 153(2) TFEU. This clause has been introduced by the Treaty of Nice. — Environmental measures still subject to unanimity, notably environmental taxes: Article 192(2) TFEU. This clause has been introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht. — Common foreign and security policy: Article 31(3) and (4) TEU. This clause has been introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. — Family law with cross-border implications: Article 81TFEU. This clause has been introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. [15, p.385]

EU strategic Agenda for 2024-2029

In their 2024-2029 strategic agenda, EU leaders set out 3 priority areas to guide the work of the EU institutions over these 5 years. The need for a clear strategic plan has become ever more pressing. By focusing on new priority areas, the EU will help make Europe more sovereign and better equipped to deal with future challenges.

The 3 priorities are:

- A free and democratic Europe upholding European values within the EU living up to EU values at global level.
- A strong and secure Europe ensuring coherent and influential external action strengthening EU security and defence, and protecting EU citizens preparing for a bigger and stronger Union pursuing a comprehensive approach to migration and border management.
- A prosperous and competitive Europe bolstering the EU's competitiveness making a success of the green and digital transitions promoting an innovation- and business-friendly environment advancing together Commission priorities for 2024-2029.
- The priorities are: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness.

Priorities on European Integration of the Government.

The stability of European vector of the country in face of changes, Introducing institutional changes, such as: Establishment of the Bureau for European integration and the position of Deputy Prime Minister focusing solely on EU Affairs; Creation of domestic working groups based on accession negotiations chapters; Overall adjustments to the country's institutional setup to ensure the approximation of EU acquis. Learning from the experience of other countries who have been through the accession process (including the Baltic countries, other Central and East European countries). Training civil service personnel to be able to participate in the preparations of accession process.

Challenges for MD in the EU integration process

Administrative capacity: limited personnel, need for expertise

Implementation of reforms requires consistency and support of public opinion in MD, as well as financial resources, including funds provided by the EU

Regional instability due to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine EU unity required for MD's accession.

Comparing the accession process of Estonia and MD

Process as such has not changed much over the past 20 years but the EU has adopted a lot of new acquis during that time (e.g. climate, economy).

Both are small countries with limited resources (funds, personnel), so the process can be challenging but the end goal needs to be kept in mind.

Lessons from Estonia's experience: do not keep things in the narrow (high) circle, delegate as much as possible – this way the civil service will be more competent upon accession.

MD must accept the results of any other accession negotiations as they stand at the moment of its accession. Clear commitments will be needed to ensure that no future Member State is in a position to unduly block the accession of other candidates, provided they meet the Union's accession criteria.

Parallel to the accession negotiations, the Union and MD will continue and further enhance their civil society dialogue and cultural cooperation, with the aim of bringing people together and fostering the support of citizens for the accession process.

MD should accurately and strategically communicate the benefits and obligations of the accession process to its public, including addressing disinformation, in accordance with its pro-European strategic choice. [11]

In the context of the adoption in July 2024 by the Romanian Government of the National Strategy in the field of artificial intelligence for 2024-2027, it is expected that the use of AI technologies in public sector organizations, especially at the central level, will accelerate significantly for the coming years. Additionally, the preliminary approaches and positions of EU institutions regarding the post-2027 EU cohesion policy cycle, aspects related to the impact of digital transformations, including those related to AI, are more nuanced compared to previous cycles.

The relationship of the Republic of MD, Ukraine with EU, the current situation of these states within EaPand ENP. Authors, also, underline the necessity of consolidation of both, bilateral and multilateral cooperation among partner states, as well as the improvement of existing individual and common working mechanisms on the advancement of European integration process of countries. This memorandum reflects the necessity for the three states to have a more ambitious approach of European integration as well as a necessity of a rethinking of EaP framework in general

Eastern dimension of the ENP, in particular through the launch and implementation of the EaP project, represents a special interest for research, as its main objective is the strengthening of the political association and economic integration of six Eastern European. The EaP program was conceived by the EU as an effective platform for collaboration between EU and its partner states, as well as among the partner states themselves. [12]

In the period up to accession, MD will be required to progressively align its policies towards third countries and its positions within international organisations with the policies and positions adopted by the Union and its Member States. CFSP alignment will be regularly monitored throughout the negotiation process and promoted through regular CFSP dialogue.

The substance of negotiations will be conducted in an Intergovernmental Conference with the participation of all Member States on the one hand and MD on the other. The Intergovernmental conference will take place at least once a year, after the adoption of the Council conclusions taking into account the Commission's annual enlargement package, and whenever relevant. The Intergovernmental conference will provide political steer and a forum for political dialogue on the reform process.

Negotiations are opened on the basis that MD respects and is committed to promoting the values on which the Union is founded, referred to in Article 2 TEU, namely the respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Compliance with those values is a condition for the enjoyment of all the rights deriving from EU Membership. It provides EU countries with the flexibility to address challenges they face, while maintaining necessary safeguards to protect people in need. The risk that EU international agreements become politicised and are used as proxies for internal political infighting is real and worrying. This tendency threatens to invalidate one of the EU's most significant foreign policy instruments. International agreements are an effective way for the EU to further its interests and values by combining sticks and carrots in one package: for example, access to EU markets in exchange for respect for human rights and the rule of law. However, pointing fingers at national parliaments would be barking up the wrong tree. It is natural that national ratification by 36 legislative bodies may delay the process, but it is also of limited effect, given that many relevant provisions can enter into force provisionally once the agreement is signed. The EU's recent approach of splitting agreements into EU-only trade parts and mixed political parts may have insulated trade from unpredictable ratification processes in 36 national legislatures. [13]

EU policies, the EU market and EU programmes in a merit based and reversible manner, in order to unleash the potential of such integration, in particular by removing technical barriers to trade, while ensuring a level playing field and safeguarding the internal market's integrity; primary focus should be given to areas where the candidate country already has the capacity and expertise for exports to the EU, and to areas of mutual strategic interest where the candidate country has significant production but needs to meet EU norms and standards. University leaders are seen as agents of change in the institutions they lead and can be both tools and barriers for change.

Priorities on European Integration of the Government of Republic Moldova

1. Finalising accession negotiations by end of 2027

The Government will implement the EU acquis across all clusters to enable the signing of the Accession Treaty by 2028. The objective is to ensure that Moldova is fully prepared – legally, institutionally, and economically – for EU membership by 2030.

2. Ensuring coherence between economic reforms and European convergence criteria

The Government will promote economic policies compatible with the principles of the EU internal market, improve the business environment, encourage investment and innovation, and progressively implement EU rules on competition, state aid, and consumer protection. The timely implementation of the Reform Agenda and growth-generating projects deriving from investments to be made under the Growth Plan are key priorities in this regard.

3. Strengthening rule of law - the backbone of European integration The Government will continue to consolidate rule of law and advance justice sector reform as the foundation of Moldova's European path. Strengthening judicial independence, anti-corruption efforts and safeguarding fundamental rights, will remain overarching priorities, guiding progress across all accession milestones. A credible, fair, and transparent rule of law system will ensure that Moldova's European integration remains both irreversible and trusted by citizens.

4. Europeanisation of public administration and institutional capacity-building The Government will enhance the capacity of both central and local public administration, introduce European standards of public management, strengthen the professional civil service, and expand training for civil servants in negotiation and acquis implementation. It will also prioritise capacity building for the absorption of EU funds both at central and local levels of public administration.

5. Accelerated integration into sectors delivering direct benefits to citizens & enhancing Moldova's resilience Moldova will continue early integration into key European systems and policies (such as SEPA, Roam Like at Home, the Digital Single Market, the Energy Market, etc.), bringing tangible benefits to citizens ahead of formal accession. It will also seek expanding participation in EU programmes and agencies to strengthen institutional capacity and expertise within EU structures. It will broaden participation in European programmes in research, education, youth, innovation, culture, environment, and digitalisation, thereby strengthening institutional presence and expertise within EU structures. The Government will also prioritise energy and transport infrastructure integration - and namely initiation or conclusion of major infrastructure projects interconnecting Moldova's energy (2 more high voltage interconnections), road (bridges and connections with Romania's highway) and railway (Chisinau-Ungheni European track) infrastructure with the European Union.

6. Deepening political and technical dialogue with institutions and Member States of the European Union. Moldova will strengthen bilateral partnerships, draw on the expertise of Member States, and maintain an active diplomatic presence to secure political support for its accession process. In particular, we will continue relying on Romania's valuable expertise and assistance in the process of preparation for accession.

7. Implementation of the National Programme for Accession 2025–2029

The National Programme for Accession (NPA) will serve as the main strategic and overarching framework, aimed at planning and guiding the transposition of the EU acquis, as well as the strengthening of institutional and administrative capacities. The coordination of its implementation will be supported by the Bureau for European Integration through robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to ensure coherence between reforms, public policies, and budget allocations.

8. Strengthening the coordination and European governance mechanism

The Government will further reinforce the role of European integration coordination structures (the Bureau for European Integration, the National Commission for European Integration) to ensure coherent decision-making, clear ministerial accountability, and strict adherence to negotiation timelines, while promoting a whole-of-society approach that involves with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

Strategic communication on European integration and citizen engagement

The Government will implement a national communication strategy on European integration – focused on transparency, results, and continuous dialogue with citizens, businesses, civil society, academia, and diaspora – to sustain broad public support for EU membership.

Promoting Moldova's credible image and active role in Europe

Through active diplomacy and an active communication strategy abroad, Moldova will continue projecting the image of a stable, democratic, and reform-oriented country, capable of contributing to Europe's shared project of peace, security, and prosperity, and thereby reinforcing political support for its membership.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF EU DIPLOMACY

EU enlargement policy and the EU accession The EU enlargement policy is the Union's most important soft power tool. It is a successful foreign policy that according to the EU Commission applies to countries with EU membership aspirations, categorized as candidate or potential candidate countries, and is comprised of the "principles, goals, and instruments defined by the EU to incorporate new member states".

Europe must now assume its responsibilities in all areas in order to assert its sovereignty by increasing its defense capabilities, reducing its dependencies and designing a new model of growth and investment by 2030.

However, the involvement of citizens in the process of creating an 'E-state' depends on their trust in either technology or the political class. On the other hand, the decisions of the elites influence both e-Government and eGovernance, with the political class being the architect of both processes, where government

denotes an organization, the structure of the state and its institutional framework, and governance denotes an active process involving several stakeholders as well as society as a whole, respecting governance.

EU Member States are required to collect and report annually to the European Commission data on various aspects, including the statutory minimum wage, the coverage of collective bargaining and the wage levels for employees not covered by these mechanisms. The monitoring serves both as a self-assessment tool for the Member States and as a basis for the EU institutions to review and subsequently issue recommendations.

Mains phase Getting Candidate Status

Accession Negotiation, 33 Chapters of 6 thematic clusters

Finalization of Accession Treaty.

Key problem Many opportunities firm EU member states & too many veto players (27).

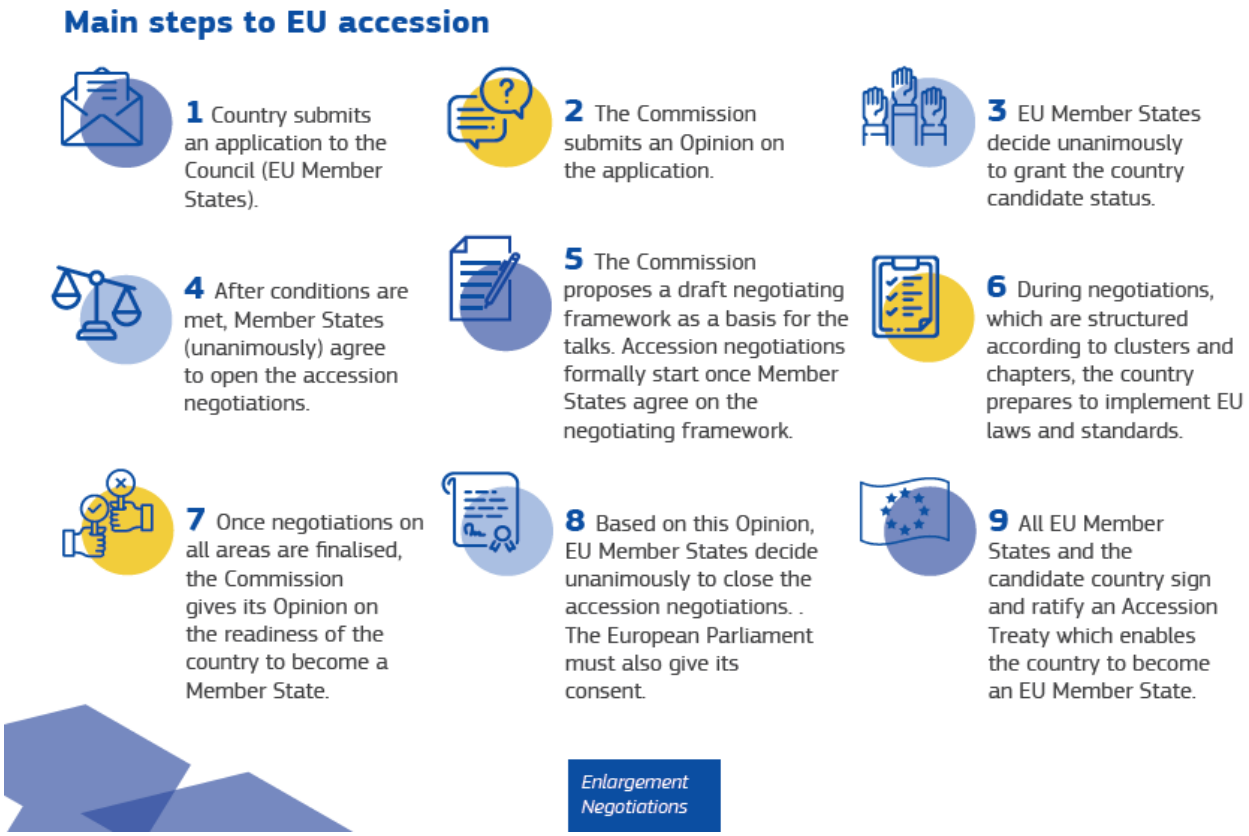


Figure 2.1. Main steps to EU accession Source: elaborated by the authors' representation based on dates eeas.eu

2025 – 2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of MD to the EU

2025-2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of MD to the EU(NPA) was approved by the Government on 28 May 2025, and published in the Official Gazette

NPA is the main document for planning and monitoring the fulfilment of obligations generated and assumed during the accession negotiations. It defines the priorities, actions, dynamics, and resources needed to harmonise national legislation with the EU acquis, as well as the activities to adapt national institutions to the administrative structures of the EU. Its structure consists of the narrative part, as well as the two annexes: Annex A, which includes the normative actions for alignment with the EU acquis, and Annex B, which contains the actions for implementing the EU acquis and developing administrative capacity.

PNA is updated annually, in accordance with the provisions of point 7 of the Government Decision No 306/2025 by integrating the necessary actions to fulfil the recommendations from the annual progress reports published by the European Commission on the EU Enlargement Package and other commitments assumed during the accession negotiations of the Republic of MD to the EU. At the same time, excluding actions that

have already been completed. Details regarding the PNA update, CLUSTER I – FUNDAMENTALS comprises the ‘economic criteria’; the "political criteria", divided into ‘functioning of democratic institutions’ and ‘public administration reform.

CLUSTER II - INTERNAL MARKET

Cluster 2 - Internal Market includes the four freedoms of the European Single Market, detailed in the following chapters:

- Ch. 1 - Free movement of goods;
- Ch. 2 - Free movement of workers;
- Ch. 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services;
- Ch. 4 - Free movement of capital;
- Ch. 6 - Company law;
- Ch. 7 - Intellectual property law;
- Ch. 8 - Competition policy;
- h. 9 - Financial services;
- Ch. 28 - Consumer and health protection.

CLUSTER III - COMPETITIVENES; INCLUSIVE GROWTH

- Ch. 10 - Information society and media;
- Ch. 16 - Taxation;
- Ch. 17 - Economic and monetary policy;
- Ch. 19 - Social policy and employment;
- Ch. 20 - Enterprise and industrial policy;
- Ch. 25 - Science and research;
- Ch. 26 - Education and culture;
- Ch. 29 - Customs union.

CLUSTER IV - GREEN AGENDA; SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIVITY

- Ch. 14 - Transport policy;
- Ch. 15 - Energy;
- Ch. 21 - Trans-European networks;
- Ch. 27 - Environment and climate change.

CLUSTER V - NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE &COHESION

CLUSTER VI - EXTERNAL RELATIONS comprises 2 negotiating chapters: Ch. 30 - *External relations*; Ch. 31 - *Foreign security and defense policy*.

Typology o EU shared (art.3 of the TFEU), exclusive (art.4 of the TFEU), supporting competences (art. 6 of the TFEU). The EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or complement the action of its Member States. Legally binding EU acts must not require the harmonisation of the laws or regulations of the Member States. Supporting competences relate to the following policy areas: protection and improvement of human health, industry, culture, tourism, education, vocational training, youth and sport, civil protection, administrative cooperation.

Special competences. The EU can take measures to ensure that Member States coordinate their economic, social and employment policies at EU level. The EU’s common foreign and security policy is characterised by specific institutional features, such as the limited participation of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the decision-making procedure and the exclusion of any legislation activity. That policy is defined and implemented by the European Council and by the Council of the European Union.

Shared competences’ The institutions may adopt EU laws in these areas, as well as other forms of cooperation, but these laws have to be justified in terms of subsidiarity and negotiated among the institutions. Until there is an EU rule governing an issue, Member States may adopt their own measures, so long as these do not conflict with any other part of EU law. Once an EU rule is in effect, Member States cannot do anything that conflicts with this rule, following the principle of the ‘primacy’ of EU law over

national law. This principle, known as 'pre-emption', concerns the following areas: internal market, social policy, economic, social, and territorial cohesion, agriculture and fisheries, environment, consumer protection, transport, trans-European networks, energy, area of freedom, security and justice, common safety concerns in public health. These are: research, technological development, space, development policy, humanitarian aid. [9]

Cluster 2 - Internal Market includes the four freedoms of the European Single Market, detailed in the following chapters: Ch. 1 - Free movement of goods; Ch. 2 - Free movement of workers; Ch. 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services; Ch. 4 - Free movement of capital; Ch. 6 - Company law; Ch. 7 - Intellectual property law; Ch. 8 - Competition policy; Ch. 9 - Financial services; Ch. 28- Consumer and health protection. *Ch. 14 - Transport policy; Ch. 15 - Energy; Ch. 21 - Trans-European networks; Ch. 27 - Environment and climate change.*

Cluster 5 - Natural Resources, Agriculture and Cohesion contains 5 negotiating chapters: Ch. 11 - Agriculture and rural development; Ch. 12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies; Ch. 13 - Fisheries; Ch. 22 - Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments; Ch. 33 - Financial and budgetary provisions.

Chapter 30 - External relations Moldova is moderately prepared in external relations and made some progress. Moldova amended the legislation on import licensing for agricultural products and brought it in line with the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and WTO provisions. The law on the control regime of trade in strategic goods entered into force in January 2025. The Commission's recommendations from last year were partially implemented and remain valid. In the coming year, Moldova should, in particular: → align the functioning of the Council for the promotion of investment projects of national importance with international and EU standards; → build up the capacity of a new department for development cooperation within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and advance work on the legal framework on international cooperation, development and humanitarian aid to non-EU countries, in line with EU policies and principles.

Chapter 31 - Foreign, security and defence policy Moldova has a good level of preparation in the area of foreign, security and defence policy. Good progress was made by continued intense political dialogue with the EU at all levels, significantly enhanced security and defence cooperation with the EU and its Member States and maintaining a high alignment rate with the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP). Moldova has further increased its participation in EU crisis management missions and operations under the common security and defence policy (CSDP). The recommendations from last year were partially implemented and remain valid. In the coming year, Moldova should, in particular: → continue increasing the alignment with the CFSP, ensure that the restrictive measures are implemented and continue the good cooperation on preventing any attempts to circumvent sanctions against Russia and Belarus; → continue efforts to strengthen resilience to hybrid threats.

In a **'Exclusive competences'**, Member States have renounced their autonomy in order to benefit from the possibility of collective action. No independent national measures are possible even if there is no EU rule in place. Member States may only act if and as they are authorised to do by the EU. Decisions are taken on the basis of negotiations among the Member States and the institutions, and third countries can try to shape their content.The level at which action is taken is not open to question: it is the EU, customs union, common commercial policy, competition policy for the internal market, monetary policy for the euro area, protection of marine biological resources, international agreements in areas of internal competence. [9]

The exercise of EU competences is subject to two fundamental principles laid down in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. Proportionality. The content and scope of EU action may not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the treaties și Subsidiarity. In the area of its non-exclusive competences, the EU may act only if – and in so far as – the objective of a proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but could be better achieved at EU level.

Cluster 3 - Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth comprises 8 negotiating chapters: Ch. 10 - Information society and media; Ch. 16 - Taxation; Ch. 17 - Economic and monetary policy; Ch. 19 - Social

policy and employment; Ch. 20 - Enterprise and industrial policy; Ch. 25 - Science and research; Ch. 26 - Education and culture; Ch. 29 - Customs union.

Second, for international organisations dealing with policy areas that fall (entirely or at least to a large extent) under EU competences (whether exclusive or shared), the EU and its Member States should ensure that the EU becomes either a full member (and, for certain organisations, replaces Member States) or at least an observer with the right to speak and act on behalf of EU Member States. This would allow the EU to effectively exercise external aspects of certain core policies. Prominent examples are economic and monetary policy (through involvement in the International Monetary Fund) or health policy (through involvement in the World Health Organization). In addition, the way in which positions in international organisations are to be taken on behalf of the EU (or the EU and its Member States) should be streamlined to ensure effective action (which is often lacking, even for organisations where the EU is a full member, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization). [15, p.389]

The institutions in charge of the EU integration process are in place. The institutional capacity of the Bureau for European Integration (BEI) was strengthened and staff numbers increased, allowing for improved operational and analytical capacity. The Parliament presented plans to set up a standing committee for European Integration in the legislature 2025 – 2029. The Bureau developed the internal 2024-2026 Strategy for Public Communication about EU Integration, with an action plan for the respective period. Based on these documents, the Bureau organised communication campaigns adapted to different target groups. In April 2025, the government approved the 2026-2028 National Development Plan, which includes EU accession priorities, including those set out in the Moldova Growth Plan. The 2025-2029 National Programme for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the EU was adopted in May 2025 following broad stakeholder consultation. The capacity of the government's EU coordination structures need to be further strengthened. [10]

5 scenario for integration of Republic Moldova in EU

We made five scenarios for the future starting from the best-case scenario

1. The Republic of Moldova in the EU until 2030;
2. The Republic of Moldova-Ukraine join together;
3. Maintaining the status quo;
4. The Republic of Moldova-buffer zone between the east and west) and the worst-case scenario
5. Non-EU Republic of Moldova for an unlimited period of time).

The internal political evolution of the Republic of Moldova and the complicated geopolitical context in Eastern Europe (EU, Russia, USA, Ukraine, etc.) were taken into account.

Formulating recommendations to support the acceleration of implementing the necessary reforms in order to bring the Republic of Moldova closer to the European Union. The formulation of recommendations (at the tactical, operational and strategic level) to support the acceleration of the implementation of the reforms needed in order to bring the Republic of Moldova closer to the EU resulted from the analysis.

The communication Strengthening EU economic security, published on 3 December 2025, is not called a doctrine but rather presents itself as an updated overview of risks, tools and actions. It avoids explicitly naming countries as posing economic security risks, but points to Russia, China and, to a lesser extent, the US through the examples provided. However, it is less explicit regarding trusted partners that could support the EU, referring to the G7 (and US), CPTPP countries and regional partners. The communication repeats three risks mentioned in the 2023 strategy: 1) supply chain resilience, which can include reshoring to the EU, a candidate country or other nearby country (referred to as near-shoring); 2) critical infrastructure disruption; and 3) technology leakage. It adds three new areas of attention: 4) preventing access to sensitive information; 5) attracting value-added inbound investment, for instance, when the foreign investor shares technological knowledge; and 6) supporting a vibrant defence and space industrial base (the latter two constituting policy objectives rather than risks). The communication adds new economic security tools to the existing trade defence, investment screening and anti-coercion tools. It proposes introducing conditionality linking EU economic security considerations to EU investments under the Global Gateway, Horizon Europe and pre-accession investment instruments.

Recommendations

The EU system works: the different powers that the EU has, who does what, and how you can have a role in shaping EU decisions. It is concise but through and focuses in detail on EU law-making.

➢ **EU enlargement policy**, focusing on its historical evolution, comprehensives challenges, and better prospects.

Objectives:

- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the EU enlargement process.
- Increase awareness of political debates and challenges surrounding accession.
- Highlight the implications of future enlargements on EU policies and institutions.

Topics covered:

– The historical and geopolitical dimensions of EU enlargement.
– The EU's accession methodology, including negotiations and institutional roles.

New model of diplomacy Cyber European Diplomacy explored the emerging field of cyberdiplomacy, in the EU and with key strategic partners, from a multipolar context follows the EU's ambition of advancing EU's independence, influence, and interest in managing cyber risks and cyberthreats. [8]

Cydiplo will create a sustainable network of both EU and non-EU partners. With regards to the drives of EU cyber diplomacy strategies, these have arisen from the need to defend the stability of the Union's own internal democratic systems, and to affirm its global geopolitical influence. The EU and its Member States have increasingly been victims of cyberattack and disinformation campaigns, such has been the case of the Macron campaign (2017), the cyber-attacks in German Parliament (2021).[6] New Year celebrations turned to tragedy in Switzerland, killing 40 and injuring about 119 others (2026). On 24 february 2022, everything changed when Putin invaded independent and sovereign Ukraine. The horrors of war have returned to our continent and today we are facing the most significant and direct threat to our project's longstanding security, peace and stability in decades. In 1952, during his first address to the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, the President of the High Authority, Jean Monnet, said: The tragic events we have experienced and those we are experiencing now may have made us wiser. But we will pass away, others will come to replace us; we will not be able to leave them our personal experience because this experience will disappear with us. What we can leave to them are institutions. The life of institutions is longer than that of men, and thus institutions may, if they are set up in the right manner, accumulate and transmit the wisdom of succeeding generations. [15]

III. MODERNISATION OF EU DIPLOMACY IN MOLDOVA

Europe's impact on the world is hard to miss. Its decisions largely determined human development for centuries. Yet much of early 20th-century Europe saw nothing but death, destruction and division. With countries applying their own rules and standards, Europe started the only two world wars our planet has ever seen. The former beacon of global leadership was unable to provide its own citizens with peace and prosperity, and far less able to compete with rising global powers. The Treaty of Paris on 23 July 1952 changed the course of Europe. Our community laid down the foundations of EU law and the path of European integration began. Over the years, our project saw many treaties that would eventually establish the European Union that we know today. The European single market is one of our greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier. Today, EU citizens enjoy borderless travel, a common currency, and guaranteed fundamental rights and freedoms throughout the entire European Union. In the spirit of unity and solidarity, our Union has also been able to respond to the contemporary challenges of an ever-changing world. To adapt to the digital revolution, we have increased efforts and funding to support Europe's digital transition. Even when faced with a global health crisis, our Union came together to adopt the unprecedented NextGenerationEU, which has helped Member States repair the economic and social damages. [15,p.12]

More than half (57%) of EU citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, while nearly three quarters (72%) believe their country has benefited on balance from being a member of the EU.



Figure 3.1. Benefit of EU membership Source elaborated by the authors' representation based on dates https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3613

The Republic of MD signed the Association Agreement with the EU in 2014, which officially entered into force in July 2016. By 2022, MD had been granted candidate status by the EU. To achieve full EU membership, candidate countries must demonstrate a functioning market economy and the ability to withstand competitive pressures and market forces within the EU.

Moldova's accession to the European Union is an absolute priority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The strengthening of strategic partnerships on the diplomatic line and through concrete projects, agreements, concessions and extensions with the states and organizations that support the freedom, democracy and Europeanity of the Republic of Moldova is another foreign policy priority, PhD Assoc. Prof. Nicu Popescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated in public consultations on the foreign policy chapter of the Government's action plan for 2023."And we are firmly convinced that together we will manage to bring the Republic of Moldova to the European Union and we evidently planned a series of measures to achieve this objective at foreign policy level, the interaction with the EU member states, with European institutions, and as regards the preparedness of our state, our society, the legal framework, institutions for the Republic of Moldova to join the European Union. Certainly, all out plans contain a number of measures to this effect," noted Nicu Popescu. According to the economic diplomacy too. "Here, we do it through our diplomatic missions, the teams of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Facilitating and improving the legal framework so as to ease our economic interaction with other countries is evidently one of the key objectives. This plan for this year envisions the signing of a free trade agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the EFTA States. Energy diplomacy is also a major goal. "I will mention here that this is the first in the history of the Republic of Moldova that we entered with particular gas stores and we worked day and night throughout the year to minimize the risks to the country's energy security. Obviously, these objectives remain valid for the future," stated the official.

Formulating public communication recommendations to support the authorities of the Republic of Moldova in promoting the European integration process. Following and analysing Romania's European path, the expertise accumulated and the examples of good practices, we drew up a set of recommendations that could be used by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova in the process of promoting European integration.

Start EU accession negotiations marks a significant milestone for the Republic of Moldova as its efforts to reform and embrace democratic values are officially recognized with the commencement of EU accession negotiations. The first intergovernmental conference held today resulted in the approval of the negotiation framework between our country and the EU. The goal of these negotiations is for the Republic of Moldova to fully adopt the EU acquis and ensure its functionality by the time of accession. The entire negotiation process will be completed once all 33 negotiation chapters, encompassing the entire acquis Communautaire, are discussed and agreed upon with each EU member state.

Chapter No. 24, “Justice, Freedom, and Security,” is overseen by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Working Group on Chapter 24 is responsible for coordinating and implementing the necessary reforms to align the country’s legislation and practices with EU standards. This includes combating organized crime, enhancing law enforcement cooperation, counter-terrorism efforts, preventing radicalization, and improving judicial cooperation in criminal, civil, and commercial matters. The member institutions of the Working Group include Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Customs Service, Intelligence and Security Service, National Anticorruption Centre, Criminal Assets Recovery Agency, National Centre for Personal Data Protection, General Prosecutor’s Office, Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, State Protection and Security Service.
To organize the work on Chapter 24, a roadmap was created based on the provisions of: – 2024-2027 National Action Plan for Accession of the Republic of Moldova

Key Milestones

- 10 Oct 2024: The Commission announces the EUR 1.9 billion Growth Plan for MD, underpinned by a Reform and Growth Facility for 2025-2027
- Commission adopts €1.9 billion support package to underpin MD's economic growth plan on its path to the EU
- 22 March 2025: The European Parliament and the Council approve the EUR 1.9 billion Growth Plan for MD
- Parliament approves new support plan for MD Council gives final green light to support reforms and economic growth with €1.9 billion.
- 7 May 2025: The Reform Agenda is adopted by MD
- 9 May 2025: The Facility Agreement between EU and MD is signed by Commissioner Kos and Prime Minister in Chisinau
- 4 July 2025: Pre-financing of EUR 270 million is announced at the first ever EU-MD Summit

9 Sept 2025: After having assessed that MD has fulfilled four reform indicators, the European Commission announces the first regular payment under the Growth Plan (EUR 18.9 million) and calls on businesses to invest in the country

EU delivers additional €18.9 million to MD and calls on businesses to invest in the country. [7]

The EU – a pillar of stability and security The Western Balkans’ stalled accession process and shifting EU priorities.

Table 3.1. Candidate status

State	Status[1]	Chapters opened	Chapters closed	Latest steps	Next step
Moldova (accession process) (relations)	**Candidate negotiating** (since June 2024)	0/33 **0%** complete	0/33 **0%** complete	Screening completed for all chapters in September 2025.[102]	Opening of the first 5 negotiating chapters (Fundamentals cluster) at a second intergovernmental conference. All chapters must be opened and closed to conclude the negotiations.
Ukraine (accession process) (relations)	**Candidate negotiating** (since June 2024)	0/33 **0%** complete	0/33 **0%** complete	Screening completed for all chapters in September 2025.	The opening of the first 5 negotiating chapters (Fundamentals cluster) at a second intergovernmental conference. Every chapter must be opened and closed to conclude the negotiations.

- Public Fonctions of EU affected by multilingvism, multinationalism, professional and study activity.
- Member states' influence on enlargement policy.
- The geostrategic implications of Ukraine, Moldova, candidacies.
- Training EIPA, EEAS, CSDP, for CFSP implementation.
- Transfere Legislation Harmonization Centre in subordination Ministery of Justice Government (2017)
- The Bureau for European Integration (BEI) is a structural subdivision within the State Chancellery responsible for coordinating the European integration (2023)
- Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration (2023)
- EU candidate status to Moldova and Ukraine (2024)
- Referendum for Integration EU Moldova (2024)
- Foundation Bureau for European Parlement in National Parlament
- Foundation Agency CyberSecurity (2024) coopere with The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) (2004) Atena, Heraklion și Bruxelles for implementation EU Diplomacy cyber.

Conclusions

I believe that Europe is once again at a defining moment for European integration. The conference has shown us that there exists a gap between what people expect and what Europe is able to deliver at the moment. This is why we need to implement the outcomes of the conference as soon as possible. EU law has not only expanded from economic law into many other areas, but, more importantly, delivered very concrete results. Today, the EU is stronger and has more influence than ever. To ensure that the EU can effectively protect its citizens, the environment and the climate, and remain an important player on the world stage, the process must continue – and it will, provided that the EU remains committed to the defence of its values. EU's responses to the most recent crises, in particular the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, have demonstrated that, based on the EU leaders' strong political will to act unitedly, EU law is a powerful and effective tool to deliver responses to new and unforeseen crises. [15, p.392]. EU cyber diplomacy to ensure development of diplomatic strategies that foster international cooperation towards a common set of norms, to refers to a series of programmatic, operational actions, to combat cybercrime and minimise the risk and impact of cyberattacks on people and essential infrastructures. [6].

It is very important all negotiations EU-MD political dialogue, Institutional Provisions, Social rights, Trade and economic cooperation, through public functionary in EU Negotiations, EU training, EU Law and Its Implementations, teaching in university EU Law, write article in EU Law and its partnerships, elaborating new legislations according with EU Legislation and its implementations, organize and coordinate the International, European Conference. Republic of MD reforming legislations for sustainable Development implementation of European Commission Enlargement Package for MD, Centre for Adjusting the Legislation reorganization in the Bureau for European Integration, developed civil society in EU areas, create new vice prime Minister for EU Integration. All the documents of the EU institutions encourage MD for implementation AA and advanced negotiations for Accord of Accession in the EU, underline neighbored conflict in Ukraine and European conditions for accessions.

Best Negotiation conduct to the best results in EU areas AA EU-MD, DSFTA EU-MD, CAAA EU-MD, bilateral RFG-MD. Negotiation for National Plan of Harmonization, Table of Concordance, Compatibility Declaration for EU Legislation and Its Implementation in MD is EU English terminology from EU law, EU priorities. Implementation of DSFTA is more important for accession of EU and Single Market and writing agreement in concordance of EU, International Law and national legislation, friendly settlement or Unilateral Declaration in Council of Europe.

Cyber diplomacy refers to efforts made by state representatives to shape, at the global level, the governance of cyberspace in order to prevent or penalise cyberattacks. However, as we shall see shortly in the

next section, in the EU context, the term ‘cyber diplomacy’ is not used only in reference to the EU’s efforts towards setting legally binding, multilateral agreements for responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

Rather, the term is used in reference to a range of strategies and measures that the EU puts in place to promote cybersecurity. In this introduction, we explore here two axes across which the EU’s approach to cyber diplomacy develops: *international* and *internal cybersecurity*. The former is outward looking and focuses on the development of multilateral and global strategies; the latter focuses on the impact of cyber attacks on the Union’s internal security.

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