



# ACTIVITY REPORT

Legal Resource  
Centre from  
Moldova

2021





## IDENTITY

The Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM) is a non-governmental, non-profit, independent, politically unaffiliated organization that contributes to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in the Republic of Moldova through research, monitoring, and advocacy activities.



## MISSION

The LRCM promotes an independent, efficient, and accountable judiciary, efficient anti-corruption mechanisms, observance of human rights, and an enabling environment for civil society and democracy. To that end, we identify problems with systemic impact, propose solutions, bring them onto the public agenda, address abuses, and mobilize partners to bring changes.



## VISION

We live in a prosperous, democratic state where people are free and accountable, live safely, enjoy equal opportunities, are protected by law, trust the judiciary and are confident in their future.



## VALUES

The LRCM believes in democracy, rule of law, human rights, and the values of an open society.



## PRINCIPLES

LRCM is guided by the following principles:

- Professionalism and respect for professional ethics
- Integrity and transparency
- Human rights approach
- Gender balance
- Proactive and constructive attitude to changing things for the better
- Team spirit and participatory approach in strategic decision making
- Political non-affiliation
- Complying with regulations to ensure a sustainable environment



## **LRCM BOARD**

**TATIANA RĂDUCANU**, *Chairperson*

**ARCADIE BARBĂROȘIE**

**CORINA CEPOI**

**ELENA PROHNIȚCHI**

**VICTOR URSU/CRISTINA PERETEATCU**

**LRCM**

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**ANDREI BRIGHIDIN**

**CORNELIU RUSNAC**

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**RAISA BOTEZATU**

**SORINA MACRINICI**

**VERONICA MIHAILOV-MORARU**

**VLADISLAV GRIBINCEA**

**ANA REVENCO** *until 6 July 2021*

**NICOLAE ROȘCA** *until 6 July 2021*

**OCTAVIAN ȚÎCU** *until 6 July 2021*



## LRCM DONORS



The Swedish  
International  
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Cooperation Agency  
(SIDA)



United States Department of  
State / Bureau of International  
Narcotics and Law  
Enforcement Affairs (INL) in  
the Republic of Moldova



Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Embassy  
of the  
Netherlands



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
(KAS) Rule of Law Programme  
Southeast Europe (RLP SEE)



The Delegation of the  
European Union in the  
Republic of Moldova



**FOREWORD BY  
THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

The Legal Resources Centre's activity in 2021 was mainly marked by the change of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in July. The new Government came up with an ambitious reform agenda in the field of justice and the fight against corruption, an agenda that largely coincides with the reforms promoted by the LRCM. Additionally, the Association's work was affected by the pandemic, with most of our events being organized online.

In the field of justice, we promoted the amending of the Constitution to give greater independence to judges. The law was voted by the Parliament in September 2021 and it entered into force on 1 April 2022. Several LRCM proposals were embedded into the new justice reform strategy adopted by the Parliament at the end of the year. In November 2021, we managed to organise the third edition of the Justice and Anticorruption Reforms Forum. We have also analysed the practices regarding the selection and promotion of prosecutors and tried to identify the systemic deficiencies that interfere with good reasoning of court decisions in the country.

To increase the integrity of public service, in the fall of 2021, LRCM experts contributed to the improvement of the legislation regarding the declaration and verification of the wealth of public officials. The LRCM experts were also involved in the drafting of the legislation regarding the external evaluation of the members of the SCM and SCP.

The LRCM continued raising awareness and holding trainings in the field of human rights, and we continued strengthening the civil society in the Republic of Moldova. We constantly informed the Council of Europe, the UN, the European Union, and other development partners about the degree of human rights observance in the country. We have also trained judges, prosecutors, and lawyers in the field of the ECHR. The LRCM held public lectures in universities and organised its School of Applied Democracy to raise awareness with regards to democracy amongst young people. We also continued our efforts to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders in the country.

By 2021, we have been raising funds through the 2% designation mechanism for five years consecutively. We continued to promote it and train civil society organisations to make the most of this mechanism. Moreover, we evaluated the impact of this mechanism. Earlier this year, criticism from several civil society organisations to the problematic policies promoted by the authorities prompted harsh attacks by the government aimed at discrediting them. To discourage such practices, the LRCM together with other organisations, published a paper on these attacks.

This year was also a year of internal challenges for the organisation. The LRCM team has significantly renewed itself and I am happy about this change. The organization also had to make more efforts to diversify its funding sources with the completion of the multi-year institutional support provided by SIDA. These changes took place simultaneously with the development of the new LRCM strategy for the years 2022-2025.

Using this opportunity, I want to thank once again all the partners and supporters of LRCM for the good collaboration and support of our activities. I am also deeply grateful and thank the members of the Board, the members of the Association and the LRCM team for their dedication, professionalism, and involvement.



**Vladislav GRIBINCEA,**  
Executive Director LRCM

# INDEPENDENT, ACCOUNTABLE, NON-CORRUPT, AND EFFICIENT JUDICIARY

A responsible, efficient, non-corrupt and independent judiciary has always been a strategic objective for the LRCM, for which we strived considerably in 2021. The LRCM team has made every effort to keep justice reform on the public agenda and [published legal opinions](#) on the main directions of reform in this field.

Following the elections of July 2021, the pro-European parliamentary majority proposed an ambitious agenda to fight corruption and to make profound changes in the judiciary. Thus, towards the end of 2021, the Parliament approved the National Justice Strategy for the years 2022-2025, which contains a set of measures aimed at ensuring the independence and efficiency of the justice sector. A good deal of the recommendations promoted by LRCM can be found in the new strategy. Our team continued to actively promote radical changes in the justice sector.

In 2021, LRCM analysed how [the judiciary in the Republic of Moldova](#) is financed and how efficient it is, how good the [reasoning of court decisions](#) is and how it can be improved. The authorities, development partners, and other civil society organizations welcomed the recommendations made by our experts and committed to adjusting the legal framework to address the systemic problems identified by the LRCM.

In September 2021, the Parliament amended the constitutional provisions regarding the SCM and the judicial system. The LRCM team was fully involved in the development and promotion of these changes.

Finally, the proposals of the LRCM regarding the composition of the SCM were accepted, as well as the amendments to the Constitution on the transparent and merit-based nature of the appointment and promotion of judges.

The LRCM team provided many recommendations on improving the mechanisms for electing members of the SCM and SCP. [The LRCM was able to offer its legal expertise](#) as a result of our long effort in monitoring the activity of the two institutions and identifying existing dysfunctions. The main recommendations of the LRCM regarding the election of SCM members and the transparency of the SCM were accepted and entered into force. We also analysed and [publicly presented](#) how [prosecutors are promoted](#) in the Republic of Moldova and came up with a series of recommendations to improve the level of transparency in the activity of the Prosecutor's Office in the Republic of Moldova. LRCM Legal Officers actively presented [legal opinions](#) regarding the organisation of the judiciary, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Superior Council of Magistracy.





Justice and Anticorruption Reforms Forum, 18-19 November 2021

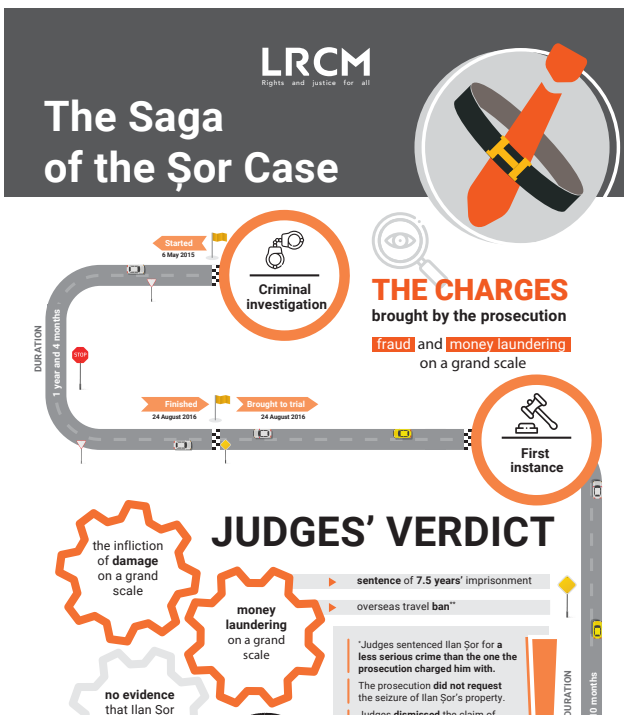
To promote integrity and independence in the justice sector, our experts also monitored the activity of the National Integrity Authority and analysed the verifications carried out by it. Based on the conclusions drawn from this exercise, we provided legal expertise to improve the legislation on NIA. The LRCM team was very actively involved in the process of adjusting the regulatory framework in the field of integrity, and the final version of the package of laws includes more than 80% of the recommendations made by our experts. To identify the gaps and deficiencies in the system, we monitored 12 cases in which high-level corruption was investigated, including the case of the fugitive, internationally wanted, MP Ilan Șor, as well as other cases. They were brought to the attention of the public to put pressure on the authorities responsible for the efficient and fair trial, and to restore citizens' trust in justice.

To maintain the attention of the international community on the most important issues on the anti-corruption agenda, we presented, together with other civil society organisations, alternative reports to GRECO and UPR on the progress of the national authorities in the fight against corruption.

In 2021, the Moldovan authorities committed themselves to the implementation of the ambitious external vetting process, and our experts presented legal opinions to the authorities regarding the concept of external vetting, fully contributed to the development of the regulatory framework regarding pre-vetting and provided extensive expertise and knowledge acquired during several exchanges of good practices with countries that have implemented similar processes, such as Ukraine or Albania.

In November, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, we organised the third Justice and Anticorruption Reforms Forum, which is the main platform for transparent and professional debates about justice between justice sector actors, public authorities, civil society, and development partners. We also summarized the main discussions from the event. The most important justice platforms took note of this event, which was appreciated by high-ranking national and international officials and experts.

LRCM continued to stress the importance of raising young people's awareness in the field of justice, thus over 150 students and young professionals participated in public lectures on integrity, fighting corruption and justice, where people with impeccable reputations and integrity spoke about the practical aspects of their professional activity. Moreover, law students had the opportunity to learn first-hand how they can become lawyers, judges, or prosecutors. For justice professionals, we organised closed events where we discussed the most pressing justice-related issues, where the professionals had the opportunity to exchange best practices with experts from within the country and abroad.



The full infographic is available [here](#)

# OBSERVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS

Observing Human Rights has always been one of the strategic pillars of the LRCM. It mainly concerns compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and raising the public's awareness of human rights.

In January 2021, for the 11th consecutive year, the LRCM experts synthesised the violations found by the ECtHR in Moldovan court cases and presented the main findings at a press conference. Additionally, in 2021, we published a study on the impact of artificial intelligence and technology on human rights.



Launch of the Analytical Note "Republic of Moldova at the European Court of Human Rights in 2020", January 26, 2021

The LRCM continued to inform the Council of Europe about the execution by the Republic of Moldova of ECtHR judgments regarding conditions of detention, combating torture and the expulsion of Turkish teachers, to keep the Council of Europe's focus on the most pressing problems and the biggest deficiencies on the observance of human rights. Together with other civil society organisations, we submitted four communications to the UN Human Rights Council regarding the observance of human rights, the state of civil society in the country, justice, and the fight against corruption. Additionally, in 2021, our team won two cases at the ECtHR, *Falun Dafa and others v. Moldova* and *T.A. and others v. Moldova*.

Training on topics related to human rights remained a priority for LRCM in 2021. We improved the knowledge of over 30 legal professionals – judges, prosecutors and lawyers on the guarantees provided by Art. 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In 2021, LRCM supported the Apriori Association in organising a series of training sessions for professionals from Transnistria regarding the application of the ECtHR. To increase the awareness of the general public on this subject, we launched a series of nine video tutorials on what the ECtHR is and how it works, where LRCM lawyers explained the main aspects of the ECtHR procedure in plain language.

# PROMOTING A FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY

Another strategic objective of the LRCM refers to civil society, namely to the creation of a favourable environment for its development, but also for democracy.

In 2021, LRCM was one of the most active organisations within the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (CALC), reacting to the issues related to the coverage and organisation of the July 2021 parliamentary elections, the illegal transportation of voters and the establishment of polling stations abroad.

LRCM team experts have monitored and published the timeline of the attacks against CSOs and human rights defenders (HRDs). We have started to monitor more cases and provide legal assistance to HRDs and have conducted a series of training aimed at increasing the monitoring capabilities on these cases. We have provided legal opinions on the concept of HRD law and developed a guide with basic instructions in case of detention.





LRCM continued to promote the financial sustainability of NGOs and their development. We launched a campaign to promote the percentage designation mechanism. Over **50 civil society organizations** have been trained on how to raise funds through the 2% mechanism. And we compiled a report on the use of this mechanism in 2021.

LRCM campaigned for transparency in decision-making processes and together with other CSOs reacted to various events in the public space, such as **the slips of the Prosecutor General**; we condemned **the energy blackmail coming from the Russian Federation**; we requested public explanations with regards to **the situation of the Office of the People’s Advocate**, and we submitted to the new Government **over 200 proposals** for the Government’s action plan.

In 2021, we organised the **fifth edition of the ‘Applied Democracy’ Summer School** online, where 24 young people completed a program that developed their critical thinking and social activism, and deepened their knowledge of democracy. Expert trainers from Moldova and Romania took part in the summer school.



“Applied Democracy” Summer School, 16-21 august 2021



## LRCM IN FIGURES

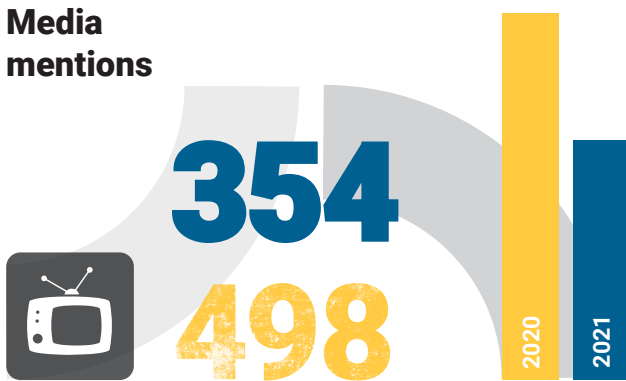
Studies and other publications



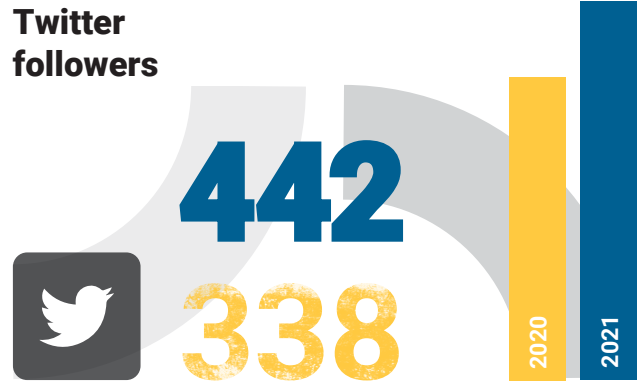
Public Events



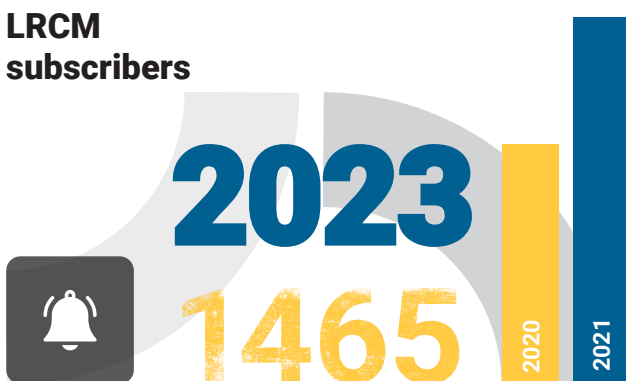
Media mentions



Twitter followers



LRCM subscribers



Facebook likes



► **LRCM SOURCES OF FUNDING IN YEAR 2021\***

US Agency for International Development USAID – grant agreement No. AID-117-A-1600003 (USAID RoL)
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, contract no. 12136 (SIDA CORE)
US State Department – grant agreement no. SINLEC20GR3100 (INL2)
Embassy of the Netherlands, grant agreement no. 4000004172/BKR-20-HR-12 \ (MATRA-HR)
International Center for Non-for-Profit Law \ grant agreement Netherlands.2020.LRCM.01(ICNL)
The Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova, contract no. NEAR TS 202042 ( EIDHR HRD)
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung – grant agreement R90720000V (KAS/KAS2)
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Secretariat
Income from the sale of non-current assets
2% mechanism
Self-financing fund
Sources of funding in USD
Sources of funding in EUR
Sources of funding in MDL
<b>Total sources of funding, estimated in MDL</b>



Total funding in 2021 (received) equal to **9,789,306 MDL** estimated at **553,644 USD**



Total spent in 2021 (payments) equal to **9,399,563 MDL** estimate at **531,601 USD**

Currency	For year 2021		Accrued by 31 December 2021		Cumulative Budget
	MDL	USD/EUR	MDL	USD/EUR	
USD	-	-	19,900,177	1,199,888	1,200,000
USD	4,860,467	278,008	10,818,508	619,746	625,000
USD	1,167,696	65,870	2,634,578	148,346	258,275
EUR	926,154	45,000	1,808,393	90,000	150,000
USD	109,846	6,205	266,081	15,375	15,375
EUR	2,150,835	102,630	2,150,835	102,630	400,000
EUR	490,889	23,328	490,889	23,328	42,687
EUR	42,155	2,000	42,155	2,000	-
MDL	18,750	-	-	-	-
MDL	4,800	-	-	-	-
MDL	17,714	-	-	-	-
	6,138,009	350,083			
	3,610,033	170,958			
	41,264				
	<b>9,789,306</b>				

\* Official average exchange rate in 2021 – 17.6816 MDL/USD

\*\* Excerpt from the LRCM Audit report for 2020, developed by PriceWaterhouseCoopers

## ► LRCM BALANCE SHEET FOR 2021 (MDL)

No.	Assets	Line	Balance at	
			Beginning of the reporting period	End of the reporting period
1	2	3	4	5
1	<b>Non-current assets</b>			
	Intangible assets	010		44,532
	Assets in course of construction	020		
	Land	030		
	Property, plant, and equipment	040	261,345	325,522
	Long-term financial investments	050		
	Other non-current assets	060		
	<b>Total non-current assets</b> (line 010 + line 020 + line 030 + line 040 + line 050 + line 060)	070	261,345	370,054
2	<b>Current assets</b>			
	Materials	080		
	Low-value and short-term assets	090	64,079	60,680
	Production in progress and products	100		
	Trade receivables and advance payments	110	99,054	122,859
	Receivables from the state budget	120		884
	Receivables from employees	130		
	Other current receivables, out of which	140	105,454	481,611
	Receivables related to earmarked funds	141	105,454	481,611
	Cash	150	3,355,179	3,801,781
	Current financial investments	160	676,051	643,002
	Other current assets	170		
	<b>Total current assets</b> (line 080 + line 090 + line 100 + line 110 + line 120 + line 130 + line 140 + line 150 + line 160 + line 170)	180	4,299,817	5,110,817
	<b>Total assets (line 070 + line 180)</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4,561,162</b>	<b>5,480,871</b>

<b>Equity and liabilities</b>				
3	<b>Equity</b>			
	Prior period adjustments	200		
	Net surplus (net deficit) of the reporting period	210	34,733	30,655
	Initial contributions of the founders	220		
	Non-current assets fund	230	261,345	370,054
	Self-financing fund	240	1,691,437	1,742,215
	Other funds	250		
	<b>Total equity</b> (line 200 + line 210 + line 220 + line 230 + line 240 + line 250)	260	1,987,515	2,142,924
4	<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
	Earmarked financing and receipts	270		
	Financial liabilities	280		
	Other long-term liabilities	290		
	<b>Total long-term liabilities</b> (line 270 + line 280 + line 290)	300		
5	<b>Current liabilities</b>			
	Earmarked financing and receipts	310	2,295,820	2,799,645
	Current financial liabilities	320		
	Trade payables and advance payments received	330	3,019	8,882
	Payables to employees	340		230
	Social and health insurance payables	350		
	Payables to state budget	360		
	Deferred revenue	370	169,354	191,554
	Other current liabilities	380	105,454	337,636
	<b>Total current liabilities</b> (line 310 + line 320 + line 330 + line 340 + line 350 + line 360 + line 370 + line 380)	390	2,573,647	3,337,947
	<b>Total equity and liabilities</b> (line 260 + line 300 + line 390)	<b>400</b>	<b>4,561,162</b>	<b>5,480,871</b>



## ► STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (MDL)

### FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

Indicators	Line	Reporting period	
		Prior (2020)	Current (2021)
1	2	3	4
Income-related to earmarked funds	010	8,104,386	8,040,641
Expenses related to earmarked funds	020	8,074,936	8,021,891
<b>Surplus (deficit) related to earmarked funds (line 010 - line 020)</b>	030	29,450	18,750
Other income (excluding income from economic activity)	040	10,328	3,006
Other expenses (excluding expenses on economic activity)	050	10,328	3,006
<b>Surplus (deficit) related to other activities (line 040 - line 050)</b>	060	-	-
Income from economic activity	070	5,283	42,155
Expenses on economic activity	080	-	30,250
<b>Result: profit (loss) from economic activity (line 070 - line 080)</b>	090	5,283	11,905
Income tax	100		
<b>Net surplus (net deficit) of the reporting period (line 030 + line 060 + line 090 - line 100)</b>	110	34,733	30,655

## LRCM TEAM



**VLADISLAV GRIBINCEA**  
Executive Director



**NADEJDA HRIPTIEVSCHI**  
Programme Director



**SORINA MACRINICI**  
Programme Director



**ILIE CHIRTOACĂ**  
Legal Officer



**DANIEL GOINIC**  
Legal Officer



**OXANA BRIGHIDIN**  
Legal Officer





**VICTORIA MEREUȚĂ**  
Legal Officer



**OLGA CORTAC**  
Director of Administrative Service



**AURELIA CELAC**  
Accounting and Financial Manager



**ALINA FRIMU**  
Assistant of Accounting  
and Financial Manager



**DUMITRU JOMIR**  
Communication Coordinator



**DANIEL STANCIU**  
Communication Specialist



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