



**COMISIA NAȚIONALĂ A REPUBLICII MOLDOVA PENTRU UNESCO  
NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA FOR UNESCO**

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**ANNUAL REPORT NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
FOR UNESCO FOR 2025**

**1. Identification**

Full Name of your National Commission: **National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO**

Name of the President/Chairperson: **Mr Cristian Jardan, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Moldova**

Name of the Secretary-General **Prof. Dr. hab. Sergiu Musteață**

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**2. Summary of activities of your National Commission implemented in 2025**

In 2025, the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO operated in a complex regional context characterised by the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine, socio-economic pressures, and ongoing institutional reforms. Despite these challenges, 98% of the Commission's Action Plan was successfully implemented. The Commission's work aligned closely with UNESCO's priorities and focused on four strategic areas: inclusive education, youth engagement in science, cultural heritage preservation, and gender equality.

Through the UNESCO Participation Programme (2024–2025), Moldova implemented four major national projects:

**1. Bridging Cultures: Education and Wellbeing for Ukrainian Refugees and Local Communities**

This project provided psychosocial and educational support through social theatre, digital tools, and artistic workshops in Ungheni and Cahul. Fifty young participants performed in four public theatre productions that promoted intercultural dialogue and emotional resilience. The initiative strengthened community cohesion and demonstrated innovative use of playback theatre as a therapeutic approach.

**2. Promotion of Science and Research in Pre-University Education**

Implemented in partnership with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, this project connected researchers with schools nationwide. Fourteen paired visits were conducted (school lectures and laboratory sessions), and a Summer Science School gathered over 30 students. Activities promoted STEAM education, gender balance in science, and awareness of sustainable development. More than 780 direct beneficiaries were recorded, with broader national outreach.

**3. Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development: Oryol Trotter Museum in Ceadâr-Lunga**

A new museum-gallery dedicated to the endangered Oryol Trotter breed was established in Ceadâr-Lunga. The project helps safeguard Turkic-Gagauz cultural heritage while promoting tourism and SDG awareness. More than 150 children participated in art and photography competitions, and the museum expects to attract approximately 12,000 annual visitors.

**4. Autistic Lives Matter! – Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs**

Approximately 5,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through training seminars, distribution of educational materials, and publication of a national training module for teachers on autism spectrum disorders. The Guide "Formation of Professional Competencies of Teachers in Assisting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" was developed with UNICEF support and disseminated nationwide.

In addition, the Commission:

- Coordinated over 90 events in 10 UNESCO Associated Schools dedicated to the Year of Mihai Eminescu.
- Supported the application of Chişinău to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (Music).
- Initiated discussions for the opportunity to nominate Moldova's first UNESCO Global Geopark (Nistru region).
- Contributed to the World Heritage nomination process of the Underground Wineries of Moldova (Mileştii Mici and Cricova).
- Organised International Conference "The Outstanding Universal Value of the Precucuteni–Ariuşd–Cucuteni Civilization – Trypillia Cultural Complex" and contributed to preparing the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Culture of Romania, and the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communication of Ukraine on the cooperation for the preparation and promotion of the joint nomination for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List of the transnational serial property "Precucuteni-Ariuşd-Cucuteni-Trypillia Cultural Complex".
- Strengthened cooperation with the UNESCO Venice Office, the National Commissions of Romania and Ukraine for UNESCO.
- Established three new UNESCO Clubs (inclusive education, women's leadership, culture).

### **3. One success story\***

#### **Trilateral Initiative for the World Heritage Nomination of the Cucuteni–Trypillia Cultural Complex**

In 2025, the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO assumed a coordinating role in a high-level trilateral initiative to prepare a joint transnational serial nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List for the Cucuteni–Trypillia Cultural Complex (Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine).

As principal organiser, the Commission convened the International Conference “The Outstanding Universal Value of the Precucuteni–Ariuşd–Cucuteni Civilisation-Trypillia Cultural Complex,” ensuring methodological alignment with the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention. The Conference brought together representatives of the Ministries of Culture, National Commissions for UNESCO, national ICOMOS committees, and leading scholars from the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine. The Conference concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, officially launching the coordinated preparation of a transnational serial nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

This initiative strengthened regional dialogue, reinforced expert coordination, and highlighted shared prehistoric heritage (5th–3rd millennium BCE) as a platform for cultural diplomacy and confidence-building in a complex geopolitical context.

#### **Photo caption:**

**Photo 1.** Sequence from the Conference, Chisinau, September 18, 2025;

**Photo 2.** The Ministers of Culture of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and the Representative of Ukraine, with the signed memorandum, Chisinau, September 18, 2025.

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### **4. Future priorities and possibilities for joint work\***

For 2026–2027, the National Commission will continue to align its activities with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy and global priorities: safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity; inclusive education for persons with special needs; gender equality and women's empowerment; and the promotion of scientific research and innovation. Seven new project proposals have been prepared under the UNESCO Participation Programme framework.

Particular emphasis will be placed on advancing transnational World Heritage cooperation, strengthening inclusive education systems, promoting gender equality, and supporting scientific innovation, including through the potential establishment of a UNESCO Chair and expanded participation in the UNITWIN Network.

The Commission intends to advance the trilateral World Heritage nomination of the Cucuteni–Trypillia Cultural Complex, continue development of Moldova's first UNESCO Global Geopark, progress the World

Heritage nomination of the Underground Wineries of Moldova, strengthen Chişinău's candidature within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, expand the network of UNESCO Associated Schools and UNESCO Clubs, enhance capacity-building for intangible heritage nominations, and mobilise resources for institutional infrastructure development.

The National Commission remains committed to strengthening cooperation within the Network of National Commissions and with UNESCO Field Offices to implement coordinated subregional initiatives and promote sustainable cultural diplomacy.