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GC and GC Caucasus launch a new capacity development initiative with the Moldova State University



The Global Campus of Human Rights together with its <u>GC Caucasus</u> regional network are proud to enter into a cooperation with the Moldova State University (MSU) as part of the GC Capacity Development

programme.

This new partnership was officially kicked-off in Chisinau on 1 February with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed to support the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova through innovative human rights education activities, with a special attention to the rights of children, youth and next generations.

The cooperation will be centred on the implementation of the project "Promoting Human and Children's Rights Education at the Moldova State University" with a thematic focus on the impact of new technologies on the rights of children and youth. This project is the first step in the process of integration of the MSU into the Global Campus of Human Rights by the academic year 2024/25 as a full member within the regional hub for the Caucasus and the Eastern Partnership, coordinated by the Yerevan State University.

The project launching event was attended by representatives of the MSU administration, professors and students from the MSU Law Faculty and its Scientific Research Laboratory "Comparative Public Law and e-Government", by the Minister of Environment Jordanca-Rodica Iordanov, delegates from the Ministries of Education and Research, of Justice, of Social Protection, Health and Family, and from the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsperson). Likewise, the event was honoured by representatives of the EU Delegation in Moldova, the Embassy of Italy as well as civil society organisations focused on human and children's rights, such as the National Center for State Courts, Child, Community, Family - CCF Moldova and the National Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

In this context, **Igor Sarov**, **Ph.D.**, **Rector of Moldova State University**, expressed his openness to the implementation of the project, considering that investments in human resources - university staff and students - must be supported, in order to strengthen the institutional capacities for training a solid pool of professionals, able to integrate on the labour market in the dynamics of global social realities. **Serghei Brinza**, **Dean of the MSU Faculty of Law** remarked that assuming the obligations to implement the project represents a new challenge for the MSU teaching staff and students, as a result of which the establishment of cooperative relations with local and foreign partners and alignment with the values and activities of the Global Campus of Human Rights are indispensable. Furthermore, **Ciobanu Rodica**, **Head of the Public Law Department**, emphasised the responsibility that rests with the MSU by signing the Memorandum and, on the other hand, the opportunities for internationalization, which can become a reality through collaboration and common efforts. In this sense, she noted that the successful example of the Yerevan State University (Armenia), constitutes a strong argument for accepting challenges and committing towards the integration into the Global Campus of Human Rights and adhere to its values.

Through a video message, **Prof. Manfred Nowak, GC Secretary General**, expressed his strong confidence that, thanks to the joint effort of so many key actors, this capacity development project will be as successful as the recent cooperation experience with the National University of Timor-Leste. According to **Mr. Adriano Remiddi, Head of the GC Capacity Development programme**, this project will allow for the MSU to follow the virtuous path of all main public universities from the eastern, central and southeast Europe and join the Global Campus in the context of their EU accession process. During the meeting **Ms. Kristine Gevorgyan, Coordinator of the GC Caucasus** for Yerevan State University - Center for European Studies, stressed the regional dimension of this initiative, stating that "the involvement of the Moldova State University not only will enhance the GC Caucasus programme through inclusion of new partner university into the consortium with clear focus on child rights, but it will also boost the promotion of human and child rights in Moldova, strengthen cooperation between regional universities and stimulate internationalisation processes".

This project is supported by the Right Livelihood and will be implemented until July 2024. For more information about this project please contact adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org