

Management Response and Action Plan

Name of Evaluation Report:	Evaluation of the Council of Europe project: "Education for Democracy in the Republic of Moldova"		
Date of Evaluation Report:	13/01/2023	Date of Action Plan:	08/03/2023

Overall management response to the evaluation:

The final project evaluation has been carried out at the request of the Division of Formal and Non-Formal Education, Education Department. The final evaluation report is comprehensive and provides a systematic and impartial assessment of the project outcomes and impact. The findings and recommendations made by the evaluators highlight the added value of the project activities in the education context of Moldova and their sustainability. The evaluators took into consideration the fact that the Council of Europe is implementing a follow up project and provided a series of valuable recommendations and lessons learned for the second phase. Most of these are pertinent and support the objective of strengthening the capacity of the Moldovan education system to contribute to a culture of democracy and human rights and will be taken on board by the project team as described in more detail below.

Dissemination plan for the evaluation:

The report will be disseminated internally by e-mail within the Education Department, including with other education cooperation projects. The report will also be shared by e-mail and/or within a technical coordination meeting with the donor. The main findings and recommendations of the report were shared with the main project stakeholders during a stakeholder consultation event on 4-5 March 2023 and during a national conference to launch the new phase of the project in May 2023. The report will also be published on the project website.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
<p>Recommendation 1: In order to take advantage of its excellent results and remarkable achievements, the project "Education for Democracy in the Republic of Moldova" needs to be continued. The subsequent initiative should clearly build on the results, outcomes and lessons learned of the project and support further the capacities of the Moldovan education system to develop competences for life in democratic and inclusive societies among learners.</p>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department	Funding for a follow up four-year project has been secured. Implementation started in January 2023.		January 2023	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department
<p>Recommendation 2: As capacity building activities developed within the project are also perceived as a necessary process for increasing sustainability - most respondents are aware of the need for further and diversified training and technical assistance, which is crucial to the consolidation process.</p>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department	Further and diversified capacity building activities are envisaged within the follow up project.		31 December 2026	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department

¹ The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Rejected, Under consideration).

² For implementing accepted recommendations.

³ For recommendations that are rejected or under consideration.

<p>Recommendation 3: There is a consensus, to a large extent, among researchers that training approaches need to promote a set of skills often called "twenty-first century skills" which make teaching and learning more connected to the real world in the new era. In this respect, all trained teachers need to find ways to navigate through learning activities and solve problems as the learning experience unfolds. Teachers agree that there are significant competencies, skills, and abilities' discrepancies between them, even with equal access to technology.</p>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department		While equipping teachers with digital skills is not an objective of the follow up project, elements of digital citizenship education will be integrated in teacher training programmes.	31 December 2026	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department
<p>Recommendation 4: The discipline "Education for society" requires further support, as the key subject fully integrates the CoE's Reference Framework of Competences for a Democratic Culture (RFCDC), as well as to preserve the momentum. This is a new approach, requiring more teachers and other educational specialists to familiarize themselves with the tools and principles of the RFCDC, so that they may be integrated with other disciplines and ensure an even approach despite the personnel turnover. A larger and more uniform understanding of the RFCDC, as well as building the sustainability of the approach and methodology, may be achieved by integrating it within the teachers' training curricula in the initial and continuous education systems.</p>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department	Measures to integrate the RFCDC within initial and continuous teacher education programmes will be further taken within the follow up project.		31 December 2026	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department

Recommendation 5: Elements and methods specific to the "Education for society" discipline should be included - at a certain degree - within other disciplines' curricula, a transdisciplinary approach being recommended (including the 20 competencies for democratic culture in all other subjects). New thematic areas could include: digital democratic citizenship, anti-corruption, integrity in the education sector. As the curricular reform is currently in the spotlight, this is an opportunity which should not be missed. However, the ultimate beneficiaries of the project are pupils (school children), and their feedback and reactions to the new discipline and assessment methodology should be collected and followed closely. The impact of the project at macro level depends very much if not entirely on their attitude to the new content and didactical methods and on their behavior outside school.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department	The follow up project will promote a transversal integration of the RFCDC in other school subjects at the secondary level. School children's views and feedback will continue to be gathered, as in the first phase, to evaluate the results of the new civic education subject.		31 December 2026	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department
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Recommendation 6: It is important to support schools and invest in the teachers' training with the latest technology updates so that they can follow (and later conduct) their online training seamlessly.

<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department		Developing teachers' digital skills is not an objective of the Council of Europe work in Moldova, but elements of digital citizenship education will be integrated in teacher		Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department
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			education programmes where possible.		
Recommendation 7: Continuation of the project needs to integrate competencies for a democratic culture in other subjects/disciplines, and other teachers should be part of the process.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department	This will be done within the follow up project – both the transversal integration of the RFCDC in other subjects and the training of teachers of other subjects.		31 December 2026	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department
Recommendation 8: Creating review criteria in advance (that will be used to evaluate the guidelines and lesson plans) would certainly help the process. Teachers should also be aware this is an opportunity to create early 'buy-in' amongst pupils by engaging them with the new content in the pilot process.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	Education Department		We will take this recommendation into account within the follow up project.	31 December 2024	Margareta Platon, Senior Project Officer, Education Department