



Funded by  
the European Union



MINISTERUL JUSTIȚIEI  
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## PRESS RELEASE

13 June 2022, Chișinău

### International Conference on the right to information and institutional changes in the Republic of Moldova

The Office of the Council of Europe in Chisinau and the European Union Project “Support for structured policy dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and enhancement of the legal approximation process in the Republic of Moldova,” in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, organised on 9 and 10 June the international conference “Making right to information work in practice: from new law on access to information to institutional changes in the Republic of Moldova.”

The conference took place in the context of the development by the Ministry of Justice of a new law on access to information. One of the solutions addressed during the conference was the creation of an independent institution responsible for access to information (Information Commissioners). In this regard, the Information Commissioner from Ireland, and representatives from Slovenia, Albania, as well as experts from Balkan countries shared their experience in enhancing the transparency of public bodies with the conference participants, analysed lesson learnt and explored the best practices that can be taken over and applied in the Republic of Moldova.

*“Access to public information and the enforcement of this right is a key feature of good governance and an indicator of whether or not a society is genuinely democratic and pluralist. However, in many Council of Europe member States, including the Republic of Moldova, existing legal framework on access to information does not meet the needs of the current reality. To this end, the entry into force last year of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention), after a waiting period of 10 years, marks an important stepping-stone for the Republic of Moldova. The Council of Europe will support Moldovan authorities and all concerned stakeholders to improve the existing legal framework of the country on access to information and its active enforcement,”* noted **Patrick Penninckx**, Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe.

The conference brought together representatives of public authorities, Information Commissioners, NGOs and media representatives. The stakeholders involved identified the most appropriate legislative and institutional solutions to improve the transparency of public institutions and access to information in the Republic of Moldova.