



Republic of Moldova  
Border Police



## Activity Report for 2014



Chisinau, 2015

## **The message of the Head of the Border Police Department**



Dear colleagues and friends,  
Each end of the year is an opportunity to review our activity, the achievements we accomplished and the difficulties we went through. It is also a good time to set new priorities for the years to come.

2014 was a very important year. We had to meet our core objectives and face various

challenges. We witnessed historical events both for the Border Police and the Republic of Moldova. Our relationship with the European Union has experienced an unprecedented acceleration. Today, Moldovan citizens enjoy the right of free movement within the Schengen area. Moreover, the signing of the Association Agreement brought our relationship with the European Union to a new level. We, the Border Police stepped up our efforts to achieve all these and contributed in a significant way to the final result.

Together, we focused on strengthening the reform launched in 2012. We developed a new Strategy for the Integrated Border Management, adapted to the current national and international state of play. We participated in joint operations with other relevant national law enforcement authorities, which considerably enhanced the practical cooperation between us. We improved our reaction and intervention capability. The efficiency of operational activities resulted in important seizures.

We continued the dialogue with international partners, and benefited of a significant support both in terms of technical equipment and valuable expertise. We tried to be closer to the citizens and to increase their confidence in our activity. We were transparent, honest, and open to the proposals coming from the civil society in order to work together and to become better.

Although we are constantly improving our activity, the threats to the border security are also developing. It implies that our responsibilities will continue to grow and the same is for the requirements towards ourselves.

The upcoming year is expected to be even more demanding. That is why we must join our efforts to honour our commitments towards ourselves, our citizens, national and external partners.

**Dorin PURICE**

## **Evolution trends of the border situation**

Republic of Moldova is at the external border of the EU, fact which requires a common approach with regards to border issues. At the same time, EU accession is set up as a political and strategic objective of the country that involves among others, alignment to the EU regulations, standards and good practices in the field of border management. Conceptual and operational compatibility between the national and the European relevant authorities is one of the aims.



Ensuring border security represents a national priority, which determines an increased concern of the Republic of Moldova to the circumstances arisen from the destabilization of the situation in the region.

The regional geopolitical developments in recent years have generated the risk of intensification, in this regard, of illegal migration, the appearance of waves of refugees, the amplification of transnational organized crime and other criminal acts. These are severe threats, in progress, addressed to the Moldovan border security, including state and society one.

The geopolitical area related to the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a high crime potential. Moldova is simultaneously a source, a transit and destination country with regards illegal acts.

The main evolution trends of the operational situation are as follows:

- *The possibility of increasing the flow of people by 5-6%, especially at the Moldovan-Romanian border, as result of the liberalization of visa regime with the EU; at the same time, it is possible to reduce it at Moldovan-Ukrainian border, as result of the situation in the area and of migration restrictions imposed by the Russian Federation;*
- *The maintenance of attempts to cross illegally the border, having as final destination the EU member states;*
- *Constant change of the methods and means, place and time of action, used routes, the object of criminal acts;*
- *The possibility of enhancing the illicit trafficking of drugs, nuclear materials, weapons of mass destruction, increasing the share of cases of direct involvement in smuggling networks trafficking counterfeit goods.*

## ***Risks and threats***

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Based on the risk analysis, the following risks and threats to the border security of the Republic of Moldova are registered:

✓ diversification of the typology, causes and effects of criminal activities facilitated by escalation of the situation in the region, the possibility of causing challenges in the border area and attempts to alter the internal climate in the Republic of Moldova, including through terrorist acts;

✓ The unsettled conflict in Transnistria maintains an open source of crime, including the illegal migration and the cross-border crime, affecting the normal climate of the order and public security;

✓ Widening the coverage of the international organized crime groups, by the presence of the offenders with different specializations and from various geographic areas and expanding the border security related fraud, increases the risk of illegal acts, development that may affect the security of the border;

✓ The eventual degeneration of the socio-political and economic situation from the country and from the region can influence the events in the sphere of border security, of public order and security, and can generate criminal tendencies. Although, as a whole, the illegal migration is declining, it may persist, however, both in the Border Crossing Points and on the "green" border;

✓ The fiscal policy and the differences between the Republic of Moldova, the EU and neighbouring countries, such as Ukraine, of rates of excise duties and taxes on many consumer products, but, in particular, on cigarettes and tobacco products, influence or foster the establishment of well organized smuggling and trafficking networks, that are often internationalized;

✓ The amplification and the diversification of corruption acts among the staff of the authorities of the integrated border management system and the delay in resolving the detected cases are also major risks to the border security;

✓ As result to the liberalization of visa regime for the Republic of Moldova, can generate the following risks:

- migration dynamization, including the illegal migration, using the country as a transit area and platform for illegally crossing of the border with false documents, and by exceeding the legal term of stay in the EU and Schengen. The main risk category is constituted by both Moldovan citizens, who want not only to travel, but also to work or to settle in the EU and the people from the countries with high migratory potential;

- increasing number of cases of false requests for asylum of Moldovan citizens in the EU / Schengen countries;

- increasing number of refusals of entry of Moldovan citizens in the EU area, for the lack of knowledge of visa-free movement rules.

## ***Strengthening the institutional framework and the human resources***

### **Strategies and activity programs**

In 2014, the Border Police (BP) has completed the implementation of the initiation stage of the institutional reform, from its establishment until present, and gradually moved to a new stage of development, namely the consolidation and strengthening of functional, structural systems, management, infrastructure, equipment and information technology.

Therefore, the reform stage, which included the years 2011-2014 overlapped, in general, with the period of implementation of the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management for 2011-2013 and aimed the preparation of institutional changes, development and implementation of the legal, organizational and functional necessary framework of the new institution and its operationalization, according to its legal attributions.

It was ensured, therefore, the development, approval and implementation of the new sectorial policy framework in this field, in particular: the Strategic Development Program of the Border Police for the years 2014-2016, the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management for the period 2015 -2017, which laid the foundation for the results exploitation and institution progress in previous years, ensuring the continuity and the development of the implementation process of the international and national framework promoting the goal of joining the Republic of Moldova to the European Union (the EU).

This year, the BP has further developed its functionality, by amending laws, government decisions, basic internal regulations and standard operating procedures, in the context of newly granted competences.

It has been developed the border infrastructure, thus obtaining better working conditions, perfecting and strengthening the control system and the state border surveillance by supplying performant equipment and vehicles to the territorial subdivisions donated within the external assistance, whose beneficiary is our institution.

The aviation security, special control competences were strengthened, as well as the public order in the ports, airports and railway stations from the border area.

It has been developed the bilateral and multilateral border cooperation, the joint patrols system with Ukraine and coordinated with Romania was strengthened, established joint working groups on various areas of mutual interest, concluded inter-agency cooperation agreements that enable the coordinated deployment of the tasks with other bodies with related responsibilities of integrated border management.

Therefore, at the end of 2014, the new BP is completely reconfigured conceptually, structurally and functionally, properly placed and fixed on the strategic evolution coordinates towards the assimilation of regulations, experience and best practices in the field.



## ***Staff management***



Aiming to ensure an appropriate number of the the staff subdivisions needed for the efficient performing of the duties, measures were undertaken in order to conduct an extensive recruitment and selection process.

In this context, during 2014 were employed 369 persons, including 338 border guards. Out of the total number of border guards, 145 completed the initial training. From the service were dismissed 331 persons, including 304 border

guards as compared to 2013: 428 persons including 356 border guards, the main reasons for the resignation is represented by their own will (268, including 63 in relation to establishing pensions), transfer to other public authorities - 22 and the sanction - 34. By 31 December 2014, the level of staffing of the Border Police constituted 93% and 243 positions remained unoccupied.

Regarding disciplinary practice of staff during the year, have been applied:

- ✓ Stimulations - 1186 as compared to 1116 – in 2013.
- ✓ Disciplinary sanctions – 492 as compared to 577 – in 2013.

### **Professional training**

Enhancing professional skills of the staff was one of the main objectives of the institution, in this respect being organized 488 training activities, involving 2643 employees, which is double of the number from 2013.

As regards the training activities, the most importanta are:

the control of the travel documents;

✓ preventing and combating the illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, special measures of investigation;

- ✓ preventing and combating corruption;
- ✓ professional communication;
- ✓ professional tactics and interventions;
- ✓ making use of the weapons.



### **Psychological assessment and assistance**

To ensure favorable psychological climate in the work collectives, during 2014, several activities of psychological nature were conducted, including:

- ✓ psychological training for the staff, psycho-prophylactic theme;

- ✓ counseling sessions and individual and group discussions;
- ✓ assessment of psychologic state of the personnel;
- ✓ psychologic evaluation of the potential candidates during their recruitment.

## ***Legal framework***

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Currently, the BP applies the provisions of the national legislation in terms of border control which is carried out in accordance with the European practice.

Alignment of the relevant legislation seeks to avoid discrepancies and overlapping and to meet EU recommendations related to ensuring border security in line with Integrated Border Management principles.



During 2014, 20 draft legislative and normative acts were elaborated/amended/supplemented, the most relevant being:

- ✓ draft law on amending and supplementing some legislative acts (Contravention Code);
- ✓ Law No. 200 as of 16 July 2010 on the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova;
- ✓ Law No. 215 as of 04 November 2011 on the state border of the Republic of Moldova;
- ✓ Law No. 283 as of 28 December 2011 on the Border Police, approved by the Government

on 26 August 2014;

- ✓ Draft Government Decision to supplement Government Decision No. 834 as of 7 July 2008 on the Border Police Integrated Information System, approved by Government Decision No. 249 as of 3 April 2014;
- ✓ Government Decision No. 765 as of 18 September 2014 on travel documents allowing border crossing of the Republic of Moldova;
- ✓ Draft Government Decision on approval of the draft law on exemption from compensation for losses related to exclusion of some lands from agricultural use – approved by Government Decision No. 818 as of 7 October 2014;
- ✓ Draft Government Decision to amend and supplement Government Decision No. 50 as of 15 January 2013 on approval of the Regulation on issuing of visas – approved by Government Decision No. 911 as of 5 November 2014.

## **Results of the operational activity**

### **General statistics for 2014**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Trends</b>
Flow of persons	15,52 mln. persons	14,7 mln. persons	5 %
Flow of vehicles	3,15 mln. units	3,13 mln. units	0,6 %
Refusals	6239	4060	- 35 %
Violation of border legislation	3989 persons	4109 persons	+ 3 %
Document fraud	314 persons	269 persons	- 14 %
Criminal cases initiated	604	774	+ 28 %
Contraventions	3650 reports	2975 reports	- 18 %
Fines imposed	2 664 300 MDL	892 170 MDL	- 66 %
Fines charged	1 012 850 MDL	376 150 MDL	- 62 %
Illegal migration	86 persons	98 persons	+ 14 %
Trafficking in persons	10 cases	13 cases	+ 30 %
Smuggling	386 cases	386 cases	0 %

### **Flow of persons**



In 2014, the total flow of persons registered in the BCPs decreased by 5% compared to 2013.

The decrease is consequence of the socio-political situation, the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the migration restrictions imposed by the Russian Federation to CIS residents.

The highest decrease - over 20%, was registered on the Moldova-Ukraine border sector, (considering that the flow share on this segment is 52% of the total) which has influenced the overall decrease.

On the Moldova-Romania and air border sectors, the flow of persons increased by 16% and 32% respectively compared to 2013. Visa Liberalization with the EU beginning with 28 April 2014 generated an increase in the number of border crossings or the flow of persons especially on these segments.

The analysis of the flow of persons crossing the Moldova border in 2014 are at the top of the ranking with a share of about 70% of the total or over 10,20 million crossings.

From the beginning of 2014, 83 visas have been issued in BCPs in exceptional cases, most being issued within official visits at the "Chisinau International Airport" BPS.





## Refusals

Border Police refused over 4060 persons, by 35% less than in 2013. A constant increase in the number of refusals is registered at the air border, by 7% more than in 2013.

Among the main reasons for refusal are: invalid document, attempt to cross the border with internal documents (ID), unaccompanied minors, minor with invalid documents, lack of visa, expired documents, etc.

A sharp decline of the refusals was registered on the MDA-UKR border segment as a result of the decline of the flow of persons on this segment.

## Violation of border legislation

During 2014, BP registered 3427 cases of violation of the border legislation involving over 4109 persons. The number of detained persons has insignificantly increased compared to the previous year (by 3%).

The cases related to violation of border legislation in BCPs decreased by 5% compared to 2013. The decrease of the number of detentions relates to the decrease of the persons detained for violating the rules of stay on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The share of violations of the rules of stay in BCPs amounts 50%, decreasing by 20% compared to 2013.

The number of cases for violation of the border legislation on the "green" border sector grew by 20% compared to 2013. The biggest number of violations relates to violation of the border regime (poaching, presence in the border without permission, deforestation, etc.), with a share of 70% of the total;

## Documents check



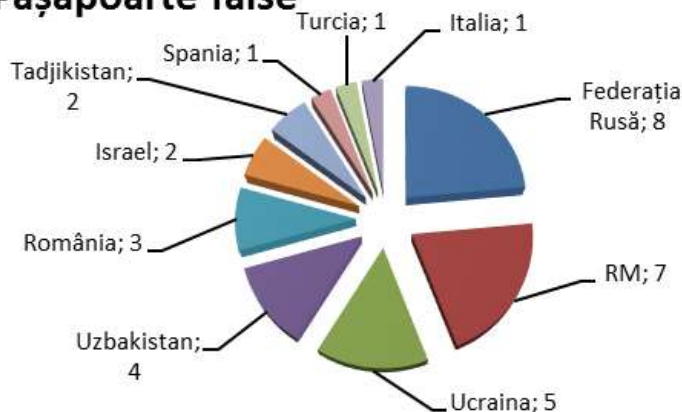
The number of forged and counterfeit documents used decrease by 14% or 45 documented persons less than the previous year;

The number of counterfeit documents decreased by approx. 40%.

The main counterfeit and forged documents are as in 2013 the green cards and power of attorneys for vehicles.

During 2014, 46 cases on ownership and use of false documents were documented, of which:

### **Pașapoarte false**



- 34 passports of different countries;
- 8 ID cards (6 Romanian, 1 Turkish and 1 Slovak),
- 1 Italian residence permit,
- 1 French travel order for refugees,
- 3 false visas used by both MD and foreign citizens.

### **Illegal migration and trafficking in human beings**



According to the subject of the offence, illegal migration phenomenon might be divided into:

- ✓ Illegal migration of the Republic of Moldova citizens;
- ✓ Illegal migration of foreigners having the Republic of Moldova of the European Union as destination.

The analysis on illegal migration of the Republic of Moldova citizens shows the trend of illegal migration for employment purposes, using false identity documents (passports, illegal change of identity). The main causes are the deportation of persons and the interdictions enforced by the Russian Federation, Israel, and Turkey for violation of the rules of stay.

The analysis on the illegal migration of foreigners shows the high migration risk countries: Afghanistan, Syria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Congo, and Cameroon.

The number of illegal migrants on the Moldova-Romania border sector decreased by more than 35%. The number of Moldovan migrants decreased as a result of the visa liberalization with the EU. On this border sector the number of migrants originating from South-East Asia using Moldova as transit country to reach Western Europe countries also decreased.

The number of detected CIS and non-CIS migrants aiming to reach the EU increased by almost 60% on the Moldova-Ukraine border sector.

As for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings the activity of the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Inspectorate General of Police of the MIA is complemented by the active involvement in the process of the Border Police Department.

An effective cooperation between the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Border Police Department was established by the Cooperation Agreement between the BPD and the Inspectorate General of Police and the joint action plan in this area of activity.



The assessment of identified threats provides that the Republic of Moldova is a source and to a lesser extent a transit and a destination country for the trafficking in human beings. Mostly, the victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation (women), labor and begging.

In the reporting period the BPD initiated 14 criminal cases on trafficking in human beings. Among the most relevant cases registered during 2014 are the cases initiated in Chisinau International Airport BPS, flight Chisinau – Dubai, involving a Moldovan citizen who trafficked several persons for prostitution.

### **Tobacco smuggling**

Compared to the previous year, as for 2014 an insignificant increase of the number of cases, detained persons and cigarette seizures has been registered. Thus, 153 smuggling cases have been registered, an increase by 4% compared to 2013.

Over 2014, Border Police inspectors seized 407 thousand of packages of smuggling cigarette.

Most of the cases were documented on the Moldova-Romania border sector, particularly “green sector”.

Some of the relevant cases with tobacco smuggling are as follow:



✓ In the proximity of Lipcani, an illegal crossing tentative with tobacco products has been counteracted. 50500 cigarette packages were destined to reach fraudulently Romania, transported during the night, with two means of transport. The border police officers made use of their guns while catching on the spot the criminal group.

✓ Making use of operative information, smuggling goods had been detected in the proximity of the state border, 50 m Prut River, localities Cahul – Slobozia-Oancea. The border police officers found on the spot 42 thousands of cigarette packages and a rubber boat. The price of the tobacco products were estimated over 400 MDL.

### **Smuggling with alcohol and alcohol products**

Analysis on cases of smuggling with alcohol and alcohol products points out an increase in 2014, 24 cases being registered. Overall we are registering an increase by 10% of the detained alcohol quantity, compared to 2013. Cases of alcohol smuggling have been established both in BCPs and “green border”, predominantly on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

✓ As a result of specific activity in the area of competence, border police officers detected and seized high heavy transport units and trailers equipped with special places that were used to transport illicit alcohol, both in Moldova and across the state border, especially South East, South and Northeast regions of the country. Also, about 50 thousands liters of high quality ethylic alcohol, estimated at about 4,000,000 MDL without certificates of origin, have been discovered. The alcohol was intended to be transported illegally across the state border, without paying taxes established by law.

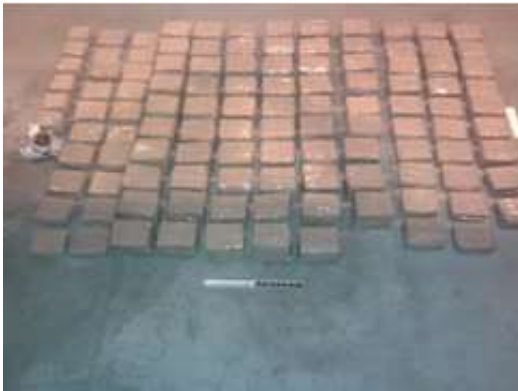




✓ 8 tons of ethylic alcohols were seized in the framework of a joint operation carried out by border police officers of Moldova and Ukrainian counterparts, in the proximity of Taraclia – Ogorodnoe localities. Persons involved in the criminal activity have been caught in flagrante delicto, while they were pumping alcohol through the hose, from the territory of the Republic of Moldova to the territory of Ukraine.



### **Trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors**



Referring to trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, it should be mentioned that the criminal organizations committing these kind of violations are very different in terms of networks established, temporary groups and organizations hierarchy, using various operating modes and routes.

In most of the cases, the Republic of Moldova is a transiting country for international networks transporting narcotic substances and have as main destination European and CIS.

To be mentioned 80 kg Hashish narcotic substance detected and detained in Leuseni BCP, as well as investigation of a group of persons that was smuggling “Subutex” psihotropic substances.

Special operation “Mac” was developed, in the framework of which special measures have been carried out in order to combat drug use and ilegal traficking of drugs of vegetal origin, detection and destroying of plants with narcotic content, as well as identification of persons that grow these type of plants in border area.



As a result of measures undertaken during the operation, 7 cases of cultivation of poppy plants have been investigated, 1287 plants have been destroyed, as well as 10 cases of cannabis cultivation have been investigated, being seized 8327 plants and 200 gr. of cannabis seeds

In is important also to be mentioned that the specialized unit within Moldovan Border Police is actively cooperating and exchanging information on different cases with counetrpats of different states.

As an exampel would serve the case of cooperation with Belarus counterpats, where on the basis of information held by investigation officers of the BPD, 2 cases of international illegal traficking of drugs have been investigated (detention of 163, 2 kg hashish narcotic substances and 12 kg “hipodron” marijuana).

### **Illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunition**

During 2014, the Border Police has registered 29 cases of illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, out of which 6 arms trafficking offenses have been detained two firearms and 5 pneumatic weapons and ammunition, 23 traffic offenses and 249 cartridges. In the 29 cases reported, 29 people have been documented. It is to be mentioned that the most common incidents are as a result of negligence or carelessness persons intending to cross the state border, being presented during border check with undeclared ammunition in the luggage.



### **Illegal entry/exit of means of transport in/from the Republic of Moldova**

In 2014, Border Police subdivisions detained 108 transport units that attempted to enter/exit illegally in/from the country, with 77 units or 42% less than the last year.



The largest decrease was fixed on the Moldovan-Ukrainian - about 60%, due to a lower traffic flow on this sector.

## ***Strengthening border security***

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### **Border check and surveillance**

In 2014 the focus was on providing high quality services in line with European standards to persons crossing the border, including by ensuring citizens rights and fundamental freedoms.

Another priority was ensuring effective border check, surveillance, and preventing and combating cross-border crime.

Aiming at adjusting border control to existing risks and threats, the internal normative framework was drafted and implemented:

- ✓ on the special regime of activity of Border Police subdivisions;
- ✓ on the reaction capability of the subdivisions;
- ✓ on cooperation with partners;
- ✓ on enforcement of refusals at entry in or exit from the Republic of Moldova.





Following the amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the activity of railway transport, the joint activities of the Border Police, Customs Service and the SE “Calea Ferata” on new control procedures (e.g. check while the train is in motion) were agreed.

The joint implementation procedures of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania on mutual assistance for cross-border interventions in medical emergencies were established in order to implement the SMURD Project.

The Project „Container Control Program in the Republic of Moldova” aiming at ensuring an effective control in Giurgiulesti International Port was launched.

The specimens of the new stamps were elaborated and the new stamps for border check were procured.

Several information and consultation campaigns on border crossing and performing activities at the border were conducted. Provision of citizens with information 24/7 on the rules of crossing the border was ensured. Approximately 18.000 consultations of persons on topics as: public information, the activity of the Border Police and information on crossing the border were held.



A particular emphasis was put on securing and preparing BP subdivisions in case of escalating conflicts and other emergency situations at the border.



To this end, action plans were drafted, measures to strengthen security of Border Police sectors were undertaken, practical exercises were conducted at national level and also jointly with border agencies of neighbouring countries in order to coordinate actions on the territory of both states.

Jointly with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine 418 activities, 418 border representative activities were conducted (joint investigation of events, joint risk analysis, exchange of statistical data, meetings to develop border control mechanisms and procedures at the Moldova-Ukraine border) and 777 joint patrollings (419 on the national territory, 358 on the territory of Ukraine);

246 border representative activities were conducted with the Romanian counterparts and 388 joint border monitoring activities.

Approximately 122000 patrols were deployed to ensure border control;

### **Regime and public order**

Aiming at ensuring state border regime, regime in border crossing points and public order and aviation security:

✓ the Regulation on carrying out security control in ports and airports was drafted and implemented;

✓ the Action Plan to ensure public order and aviation security at Marculesti International Airport was drafted and signed by all relevant agencies;

✓ Authorizations for economic agents in the border zone and activity permits for economic agents in BCPs were issued.

In order to prevent and combat proliferation of radioactive substances across the border the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Border Police Department, the National Agency for Atomic, Nuclear and Radiological Regulation, the Customs Service and the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service was signed.

In partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency trainings and practical exercises on cases of detection of radiological and nuclear materials at the border were conducted.

The Border Police benefited of equipment designed to detect these substances.

### **Dog-handling service**

It is worth mentioning that the guideline on the dog-handling activity within Border Police subdivisions was drafted and approved.



Aiming at implementing the European methods of training service dog, special trainings were delivered to dog-handling inspectors of the BPD subdivisions.

The dog-handling inspectors, together with their service dogs were involved in searching and apprehension of offenders at the border (cases of illegal migration, smuggling at the green border and in BCPs). At the request of other

LEAs, they also participated in detection of crimes and finding of missing persons.

Moreover, the service dogs also participated in national and international exhibitions out of which are to be mentioned the following:

✓ Moldova Championship organized by the Moldova Dog Lovers' Club, where a BPD dog was awarded the champion of Moldova;

✓ Exhibition "European Dog-handling Week" in Burgas, Bulgaria, where 3 BPD services dogs were ranked I, II and III;

✓ 2014 World Exhibitions in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, where 2 BPD services dogs were ranked I and III;

✓ International Canine Biatlon „Latvia 2014”, where the BPD dog-handling team was ranked 3 among 15 teams.



## ***Strengthening partnerships***

### **Interagency cooperation**



Aiming at implementing the Integrated Border Management (IBM) and the border control system, as well as maintaining cooperation with relevant bodies, the BPD ensures mutual information exchange in the area of preventing and combating illegal migration, cross-border crime and also ensures management of information systems on data record, public order and safety at the border and border inviolability.

Information exchange is performed under interagency cooperation agreements.

During 2014 15 agreements, protocols and interagency cooperation plans were concluded/updated to strengthen cooperation with competent authorities from the IBM system.

The Border Police organized and conducted 7 border operations (listed below) involving both the BPD and other MIA subdivisions as: the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Bureau for Migration and Asylum, Carabinieri Troops.

✓ *MERCURIU phase I (Combating smuggling of cigarettes and tobacco products);*

✓ *HOBBIT (Combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings);*

✓ *MERCURIU phase II (Combating smuggling of cigarettes and tobacco products);*





✓ *CASCADA (preventing and combating illegal migration and illicit trafficking of goods).*

To be mentioned that this area of activity is new for the Border Police Department and was launched in 2014. Moreover, the BPD organized for the first time an international border operation involving Romanian counterparts with the aim to combat illegal transportation across the border of tobacco products.

**International cooperation**

In 2014 the Border Police was fully involved within the relevant initiatives of the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Participation to the IBM Panel meetings was ensured, where the projects implemented and the actions undertaken in the area of IBM were discussed.



BPD participated in realization of the Projects “STRONGBOR-1” and „Palanca-Maiaki-Udobnoe” as well as in elaboration of the Pilot Project on construction and equipping of the Giurgiulesti-Reni BCP at the Moldova-Ukraine border and the Project “Establishment of contact points at the Moldova-Romania border”.

In 2014, the Protocol between the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova and the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine on contact points at the Moldova-Ukraine state border was negotiated and agreed and will be signed after all required coordinations.

On 20 November 2014, the Protocol between the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine on statistical and analytical information exchange was signed.



The cooperation plans between the BPD and the counterparts from Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Estonia, and Belarus for 2014 were approved and provide cooperation activities both at central and local levels.

4 meetings of the Joint Moldova-Ukraine Commission on Border Demarcation were conducted.

Consultations on the possibility of performing “online” information exchange at the Moldova-Ukraine state border have been launched.

Bilateral activities with Romanian counterparts were



conducted and discussions on the possibility of performing information exchange to implement the EUROSUR principles have been launched.



Cooperation with EUBAM was efficient and joint activities were conducted in compliance with EUBAM Action Plan for 2014 (10 Phase Action Plan).

Joint patrolling of the Moldova-Ukraine border and joint control in “Briceni-Rossoshany” BCP continued, examining the possibility of expanding the joint control in other BCPs after concluding a new Agreement on joint control at the Moldova-Ukraine state border.

BPD representatives regularly take part in working groups under EUBAM aegis (on combating illegal migration, trafficking in drugs and weapons, tobacco products and stolen vehicles). Aiming at assessing and streamlining cooperation at regional level, joint meetings of Border Police Regional Directorates and EUBAM Field Offices are organized quarterly.



BPD representatives participated in the 5 phases of the joint border surveillance operation “Olivia”, conducted under the aegis of EUBAM, as well as in the operation “HIT” on combating illicit trafficking of vehicles in Eastern Europe.



Cooperation with FRONTEX Agency was conducted in compliance with the Cooperation Plan for 2014, in the area of training, joint operations and risk analysis. Among the most relevant activities were: training sessions on implementation of

the training programme in the area of detection of stolen vehicles, operational conference of heads of airports 2014, and workshop on implementation of the Common Core Curricula – interoperability programme.

With FRONTEX support, BP regularly participates in international joint operations: Poseidon 2014, Focal Points 2014, Focal Points Air 2014, Focal Points Land, at the border Romania-Serbia border, etc.

The new cooperation plan between the Border Police Department and Frontex for 2015-2017 was approved.

## ***Modernization of border infrastructure***

Aiming at improving the working conditions, aligning to European standards, developing video monitoring of the border, ensuring safety of Border Police sectors' premises and maintenance of vehicles, Border Police carried out construction and reconstruction of several Border Police sectors.



Here is to be mentioned the construction and commissioning of the “Saiti” and “Ocnita” BPS, launching of the construction of “Volontiri” BPS and South and East Regional Directorates.



Border Police benefited of a consistent support in the framework of external assistance projects. The Project “Fixed and mobile communications network for the Border Police” was completed and resulted in installation of TETRA towers on the Western border.

Ongoing projects:

- ✓ Weapons of Mass Destruction – Proliferation Prevention Program;
- ✓ EU budget support to implement the visa liberalization regime with the EU;
- ✓ Eastern Partnership cooperation in fighting against illegal migration;
- ✓ Strengthening migration management and cooperation in the area of readmission in Eastern Europe;
- ✓ IBM Capacity Building Project – Eastern Partnership initiative.

During 2014, BPD benefited of special equipment intended to strengthen capacities in detecting radioactive material in the framework of the US Project “Second Line of Defence”.

In accordance with the Implementing Agreement between the Border Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Department of Defense of the United States of America concerning cooperation in border security assistance and preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, as of 21 December 2012, 4 video monitoring complexes were installed in Giurgiulesti, Tudora, Palanca si Criva.



In the framework of WMD-PPP 5 auto service centres and 8 auto boxes which will ensure maintenance of the procured vehicles were inaugurated.

As a result of the feasibility studies and needs assessment reports developed in the framework of the EU budget support to implement the visa liberalization, the Border Police

already benefits of modern equipment and will develop the Border Police Integrated Information System and the capacities of the Coordination Centres.

## ***Social Activities***

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Border Police officers proved that they are professionals both while performing their daily activity but also on the ground, by organizing and participating to various competitions (championships football, table tennis, athletics, and volleyball).



At the same time, border police officers participated in the ecological actions and greening activities of the country, thus marking National Day of Country Greening, being planted trees and shrubs, landscaped strips and passages surrounding forest roads and water basins.

To complement the job duties performed in order to ensure border security, border police staff has a special connection with children less fortunate fate.



It is a tradition already for the Moldovan Border Police family to organize various surprises for abandoned children or those deprived of parental care and warmth. In the framework of "From soul to soul", "Write to Santa", "Martisor - at the heart of all" and others campaign, various recreational activities and educational programs with clowns, acrobats, princes, princesses were organized.

With the occasion of European Day for Border Guards, a blood donation campaign has been organized – entitled also “Donating life on the European Day for Border Guards”.

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## ***Development priorities Border Police***

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*Improving border control system basing on risk analysis and information on crimes.*

*Developing border infrastructure and equipping the subdivisions with modern technical equipment in line with EU best practices.*

*Capacity building in the area of criminal investigation and special investigations.*

*Capacity building of the national coordination system in the area of border surveillance.*

*Capacity building of the mobile units.*

*Development of the Human Resources Management.*

*Improving interagency and international cooperation in the area of border security and combating of cross-border crime..*

*Enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries, EUBAM, and Frontex in the area of information exchange, joint risk analysis, joint operations and personnel training.*

*Ensuring integrity of Border Police staff.*