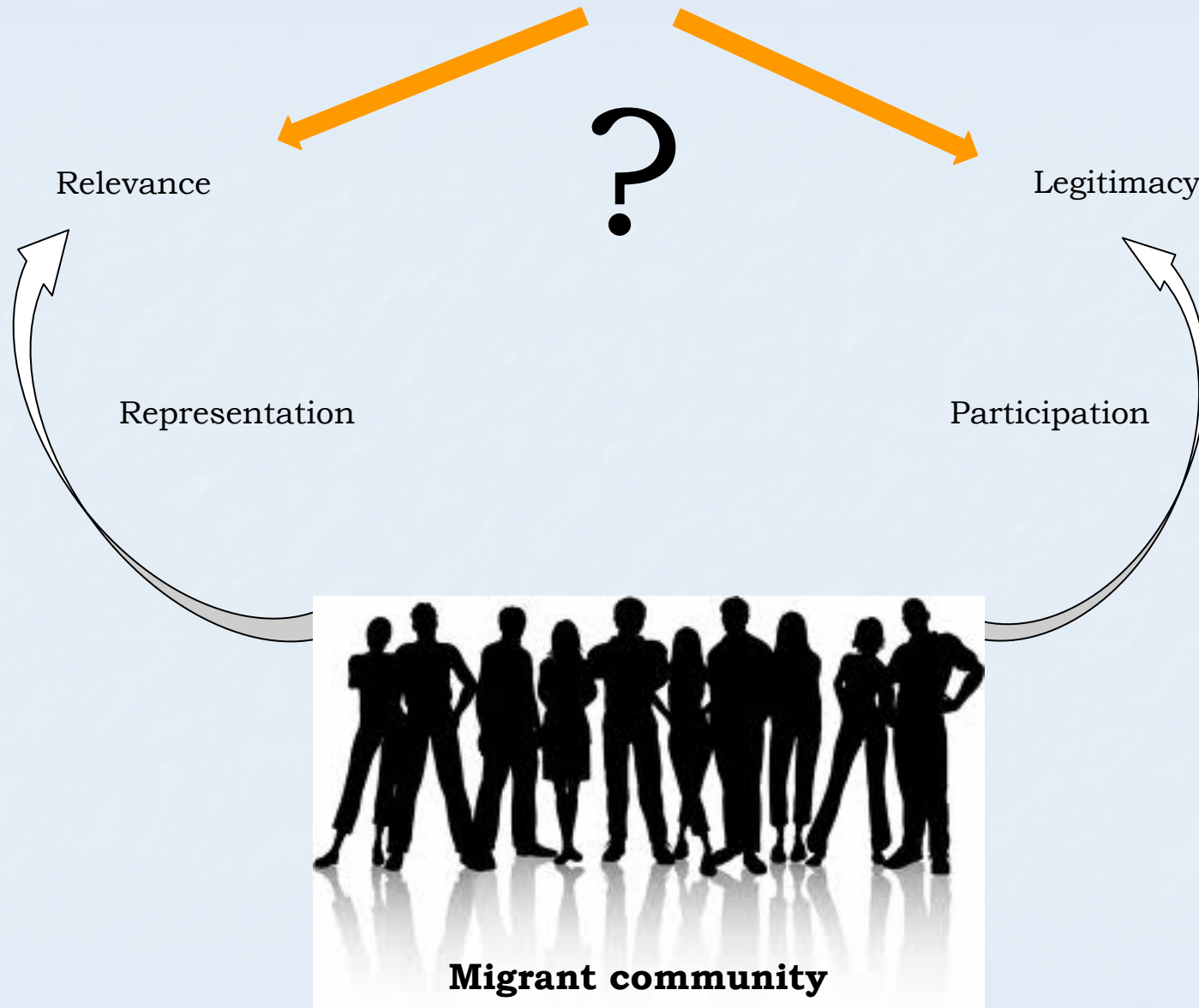




# Moldovan Diaspora Organizations: an Asset for the Country's European Integration

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# Participation of migrants and diaspora organizations in policy formulation processes



## Characteristics of nowadays Moldovan diaspora:

- ➡ Massive emigration from Moldova is a recent phenomenon (late 1990's – present)
- ➡ Main reason of emigration: economical collapse in the post-USSR republic
- ➡ Mainly labour force migration (~40% of the labour force is outside of the country)
- ➡ The majority of migrants are aged 20 – 50
- ➡ Remittances from Moldovan diaspora (34% of the GDP in 2006) is what keeps the country's economy alive
- ➡ Main directions of emigration: Western Europe and Russian Federation
- ➡ Moldova emigration = Greatest exodus from a territory in times of peace in history

Why should Moldovan diaspora organizations collaborate with the home country government on matters of migrants' policy?

5 specific reasons:

Overcome government's **institutional weakness**

Moldovan diaspora is the main vector of **democratic change** for Moldova

Overcome government's weak capacity of **overseas representation** (Moldova's « image » abroad)

Assist the government in the development of new programs for **attracting remittances into the economy and return labour migration**

Use of **highly-qualified** Moldovan's will to help their home country

# Government's institutional weakness

*Status quo*: Diaspora affairs in Moldova



(Bureau of Inter-ethnic Relations of Moldova)

Other relevant actors: IOM, UNDP, EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, etc...



Need for an independent organism, in charge of Diaspora affairs

→ Ministry of Diaspora - ?

→ State Agency for Diaspora - ?



**Specific demand** of the Moldovan Diaspora's 4th Congress (October 2010) and of the International Conference of the Moldovan Diaspora (August 2011)

# Diaspora = vector of democratic change for Moldova

Participation of the Diaspora in elections before 2009:

~ 16,000 voters in 34 Electoral Bureaus outside Moldova (1.09% of total)

Participation of the Diaspora in 2010:

~ 64,000 voters in 84 Electoral Bureaus outside Moldova (3.70% of total)

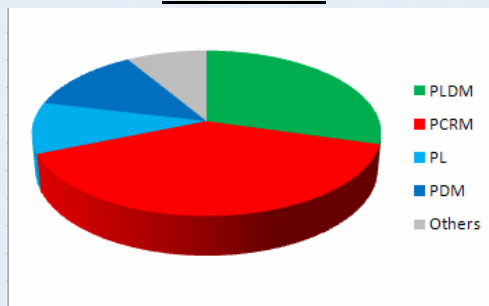


If given the opportunity, Moldovan emigrants will eagerly participate in political processes of their country!

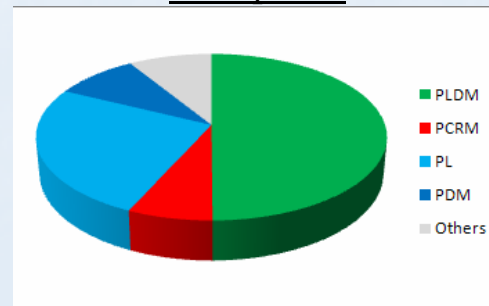
## Structure of the vote in Moldova and abroad:

November 28th, 2010 Parliamentary elections\*

### Moldova:



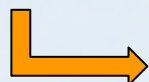
### Diaspora:



\* Source: [www.alegeri.md](http://www.alegeri.md)

# Promoting Moldova's image abroad

Today Moldova has very few Embassies and Consulates abroad



« popular diplomacy » (role of diaspora organizations)

Spreading out the good word about Moldova in order to attract foreign investors

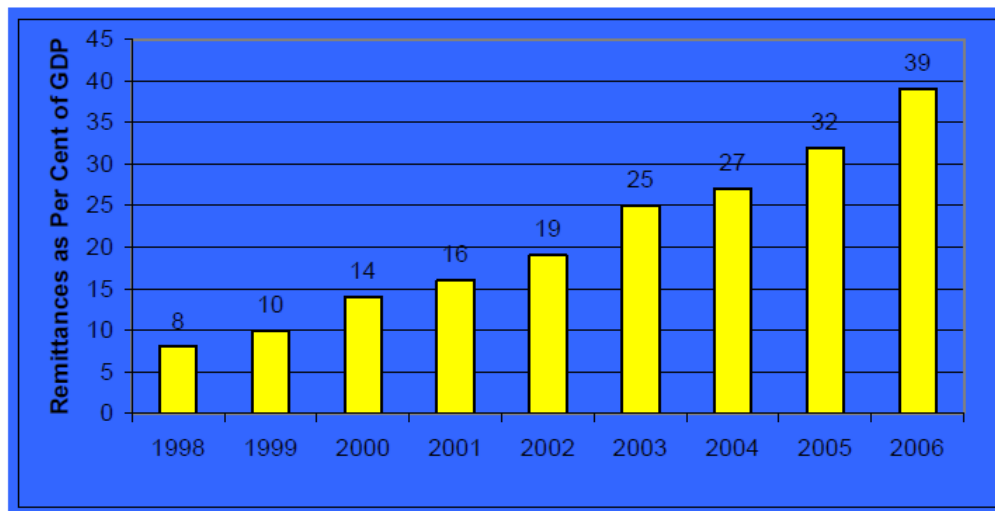


Communicating about Moldova abroad



# Programs to sustain investment of migrant money and return of labour force

Remittances as Per Cent of GDP in Moldova



Source: World Bank and National Bank of Moldova

Existing programs:



Project financed by the European Union

Strengthening Moldova's capacity to manage labor and return migration

Arbetsförmedlingen

Project implemented by the Swedish Public Employment Service



# Highly-qualified Moldovans from abroad

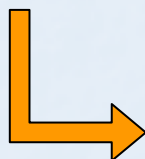
## Scientific diaspora

Project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”

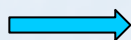


Temporary return of representatives of the Moldovan Scientific Diaspora

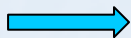
Implement the know-how acquired overseas in Moldova



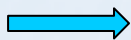
Need for a vast **communication platform** for members of the Moldovan scientific diaspora



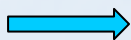
Database of Moldovan scientists



Internet portal for exchange of ideas, projects and expertise



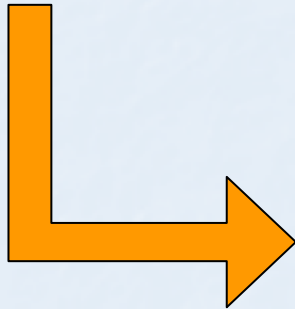
Common scientific projects with Moldovan researchers



« Global intellectual forum » for Moldova’s development

# Perspectives: what needs to be done?

- ❖ Elaborate of a **State Conception on Diaspora**
- ❖ Create of a Government body dealing with Diaspora issues: State Agency is good...  
but **Ministry of Diaspora** is better!
- ❖ Enforce **labour migration** return policies
- ❖ Re-create **local solidarities** that have been destroyed by the migration
- ❖ Ensure the right to vote to all members of the Diaspora => **electronic vote**
- ❖ Enforce interaction capacities for the Moldovan **scientific Diaspora**



Thank you very much for your attention!