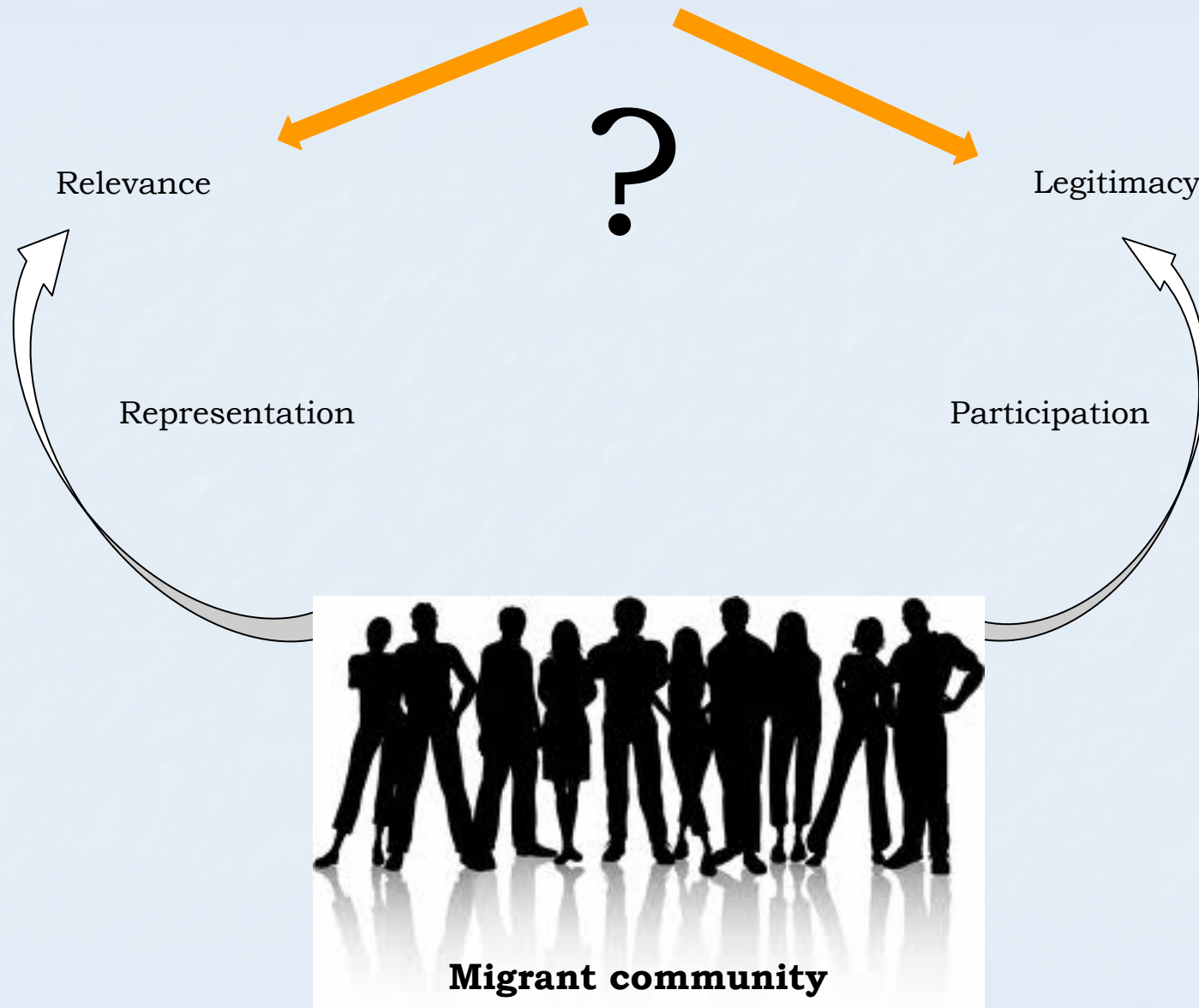




Moldovan Diaspora Organizations: an Asset for the Country's European Integration

Dr. Dorin Dușciac
Paris, France

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)

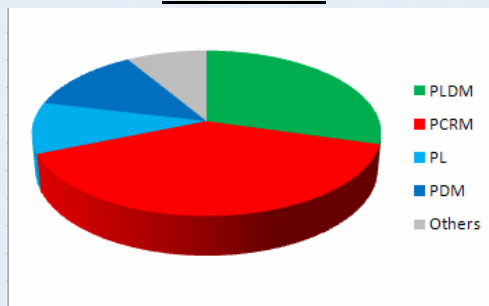


If given the opportunity, Moldovan emigrants will eagerly participate in political processes of their country!

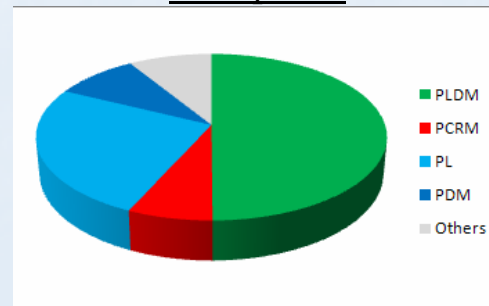
Structure of the vote in Moldova and abroad:

November 28th, 2010 Parliamentary elections*

Moldova:



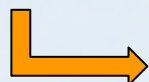
Diaspora:



* Source: www.alegeri.md

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

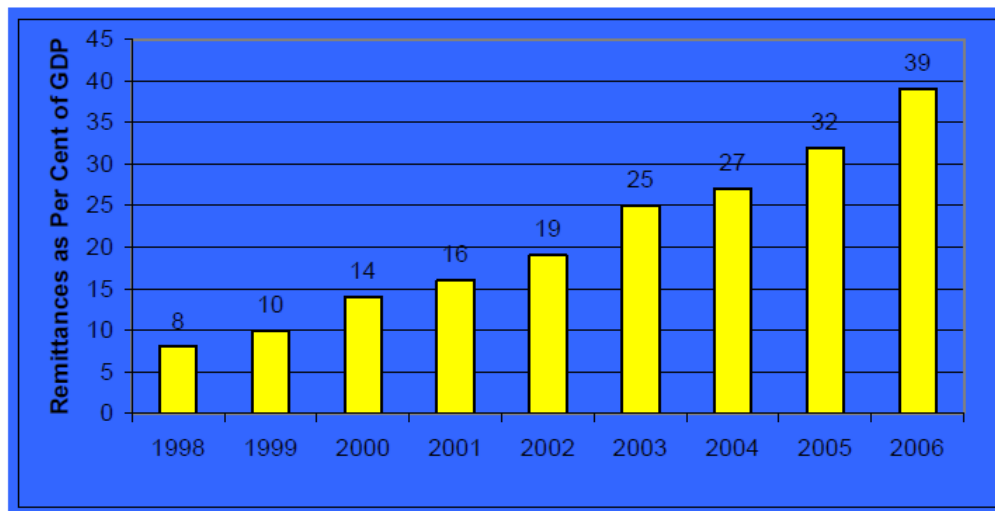


Communicating about Moldova abroad



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

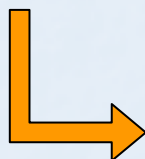
Scientific diaspora

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

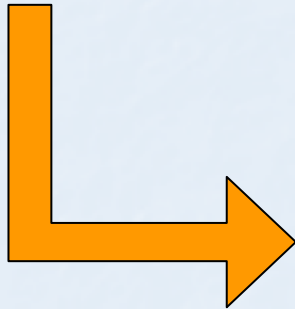


Need for a vast **communication platform** for members of the Moldovan scientific diaspora

- ➡ 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!