FINAL RESULTS OF THE ASM-EPFL JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT

“Connecting the scientific diaspora of the Republic of Moldova to the scientific and economic development of the home country”

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Survey on Moldovan scientific community

1. Profile overview of respondents
2. Employment situation in Moldova
3. Mobility experience and emigration plans
4. Links and cooperation with colleagues from diaspora
5. Cooperation opportunities and challenges.
6. Participation in pro diaspora programmes
Profile overview of respondents

- General profile:
  - 101 respondents
  - 55% female/ 45% men
  - 57% married with children

Gender (n=101)
2. Employment situation in Moldova
Work experience

(n=97)

- 1-5 years: 20%
- 6-10 years: 24%
- 11-15 years: 17%
- 16-20 years: 9%
- Above 20 years: 30%
Field of specialization

Do you work on your specialization? (n=101)

- Yes: 98%
- No: 2%
Specific field of specialization

What is your research field? (n=98)

- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology: 13.30%
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities: 46.90%
- Nanosciences: 11.20%
- Environment: 10.20%
- Energy: 3.10%
- ICT: 11.20%
- Health: 28.60%
Satisfaction with the scientific activity

To what extent are you satisfied with the scientific activity / work that you perform today? (n=100)

- Very satisfied: 7%
- Fairly satisfied: 49%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 37%
- Dissatisfied: 7%
- Very dissatisfied: 0%
Satisfaction with the salary

To what extent are you satisfied with your monthly salary? (n=101)

- Very satisfied: 2%
- Fairly satisfied: 10.90%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 27.70%
- Dissatisfied: 41.60%
- Very dissatisfied: 17.80%
3. Mobility experience and emigration plans
Experience in research institutions abroad

Do you have experience in research institutions from abroad? (n=101)

- Yes: 34%
- No: 66%
Reasons for going abroad

Which were the main reasons behind your decision to go abroad? (n=29)

- For the research activities in the framework of project: 55.20%
- To continue the studies: 37.90%
- For excellence in research: 55.20%
- To gain experience, which later will be highly appreciated in Moldova: 51.70%
- To improve quality of life: 13.80%
- For family reunification: 3.40%
- Higher revenues abroad: 27.60%
- Better employment opportunities abroad: 17.20%
- Lack of opportunities for research excellence in Moldova: 34.50%
- Lack of employment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova: 3.40%

Lack of employment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova

Lack of opportunities for research excellence in Moldova

Better employment opportunities abroad

Higher revenues abroad

To improve quality of life

For family reunification

To gain experience, which later will be highly appreciated in Moldova

For excellence in research

To continue the studies

For the research activities in the framework of project

Reasons for going abroad

Lack of employment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova

Lack of opportunities for research excellence in Moldova

Better employment opportunities abroad

Higher revenues abroad

To improve quality of life

For family reunification

To gain experience, which later will be highly appreciated in Moldova

For excellence in research

To continue the studies

For the research activities in the framework of project
Host countries

In which country(ies) do you have research experience? (n=33)

- Romania: 16
- Russia: 9
- Germany: 7
- USA: 7
- Italy: 5
- France: 4
- Japan: 2
- Poland: 2
- Ukraine: 2
- Austria: 1
- Bulgaria: 1
- China: 1
- Croatia: 1
- Greece: 1
- India: 1
- Spain: 1
- Sweden: 1
- Switzerland: 1
- UK: 1
- Ungaria: 1
- Czech Republic: 1
Length of stay in host country

How long did you stay abroad? (n=29)

- less than 1 year: 6
- from 1 to 3 years: 10
- from 4 to 6 years: 6
- from 7 to 10 years: 5
- more than 11 years: 2
Future emigration plans

Have you considered the opportunity to emigrate? (n=100)

- Yes: 34.0%
- No: 66.0%

When do you plan to emigrate? (n=12)

- in less than 1 year: 8.3%
- 1-3 years: 16.7%
- more than 3 years: 75.0%
Reasons behind the emigration plans

What were the reasons that make you to think about the option to migrate?

- For the research activities in the framework of project: 42.90%
- For permanent establishment abroad: 17.10%
- To get a job: 22.90%
- For higher education: 14.30%
- To gain professional experience: 42.90%
- For excellence in research abroad: 40%
- To gain experience, which later will be highly appreciated in Moldova: 40%
- To improve the quality of life: 74.30%
- For family reunification: 5.70%
- Higher incomes abroad: 68.60%
- Better employment opportunities abroad: 60%
- Lack of opportunities for excellence in research in Moldova: 37.10%
- Lack of employment opportunities in the Republic of Moldova: 31.40%
Duration of potential stay in country of destination

How long do you plan to remain in the country of destination? (n=14)

- 35.7% in less than 1 year
- 42.9% 1-2 years
- 14.3% 3 year
- 7.1% more than 3 years
4. Links and cooperation with colleagues from diaspora
Existing contacts with colleagues from diaspora

Do you keep in touch with researchers and highly qualified people from Moldova working abroad? (n=99)

- Yes: 41.4%
- No: 58.6%
Means of contacts

By which means do you use to keep contact with your colleagues? (n=42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During different scientific events in Moldova</td>
<td>38.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through collaboration projects</td>
<td>23.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working visits abroad</td>
<td>21.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday visits of diaspora colleagues to Moldova</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working visits of diaspora colleagues to Moldova</td>
<td>14.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Networks</td>
<td>16.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;T on-line Forums</td>
<td>4.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video conferences</td>
<td>14.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post mails</td>
<td>7.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone calls</td>
<td>33.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messengers (yahoo, skype, icq etc.)</td>
<td>35.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mails</td>
<td>95.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frequency of contacts

How often do you contact with your colleagues abroad? (n=43)

- Permanently: 39.5%
- Often: 44.2%
- Sometimes: 9.3%
- Very rarely: 7.0%
5. Cooperation opportunities and challenges.
Reasons for lack of contacts

If you do not contact with your colleagues from abroad, please explain why? (n=70)

- I do not know colleagues from diaspora: 44.30%
- I've lost contact with colleagues from diaspora: 28.60%
- I'm not interested in such cooperation: 1.40%
- I have lack of resources: 21.40%
- I have lack of time: 20%
Intentions to establish contacts

If you have no contacts with researchers and highly qualified people from abroad, do you intend to establish such contacts? (n=78)

- Yes: 92.3%
- No: 7.7%
The potential role of diaspora

Do you think that scientists and skilled professionals abroad should have an important role in development of Moldova, even if they remain established abroad? (n=98)

- Yes: 96.9%
- No: 3.1%
If you think that researchers and highly qualified individuals should have a recognized role in the development of the country of origin, what would be that role, in your opinion? (n=96)

- Knowledge Sharing: 90.60%
- Technological Transfer: 55.20%
- Consultation in policy setting: 69.80%
- Cultural ambassadors: 38.50%
- Investment activities: 36.50%
- Philanthropy: 24%
Have you ever supported / promoted specific initiatives to connect scientific diaspora and / or highly qualified to the development of Moldova? (n=92)
Concrete ideas for cooperation

Do you have concrete ideas for cooperation with the diaspora? (n=91)

- Yes: 25.3%
- No: 8.8%
- Not yet: 65.9%
Perception on the existing barriers

Do you perceive the existence of barriers for the exchange of ideas and experience with the members of scientific and highly qualified diaspora? (n=97)

- Yes: 20.6%
- No: 26.8%
- It is difficult to say: 52.6%
Most frequent barriers mentioned

Geographic distances / lack of financial support / personal frustration / bad relations with their former Moldovan managers / different principles of science management and coordination / lack of interest and motivation of the Moldovan scientific community to develop these relations / bureaucracy / the ineligibility of the Republic of Moldova to participate in different EU programs / the geopolitical oscillation of the Republic of Moldova between West and East / lack of information on the competences of Moldovan scientific diaspora / unclear perspective for the development of S&T in the Republic of Moldova / etc.
Expectations regarding diaspora involvement

more open to cooperation / more active with regard to promoting young Moldovan researchers in international scientific activities / more insistent in terms of maintaining and expanding connections with colleagues from Moldova / more dynamic in helping Moldovan research groups to engage in international research projects / more persistent in assisting the Moldovan scientific community to promote the development of the R&D sector in Moldova etc.
Examples of implemented ideas

the launching of joint research projects, joint scientific publications, inviting experts to participate in scientific events in Moldova, as well as the promotion of the achievements of their colleagues abroad within Moldova
Conclusions on scientific community in Moldova:

• Respondents from Moldova think that Moldovan scientific diaspora should have an important role for development in Moldova;
• Some of them have already some collaboration contacts with diaspora colleagues, but mainly on a sporadic basis;
• They are eager to initiate collaboration links with their colleagues from diaspora;
• Some of them have already promoted development initiatives with diaspora colleagues;
• Some are considering to emigrate in near future if the opportunities for doing so arise;
• The emigration plans are related to the dissatisfaction with the local conditions in Moldova (incomes, quality of life, employment opportunities etc.)