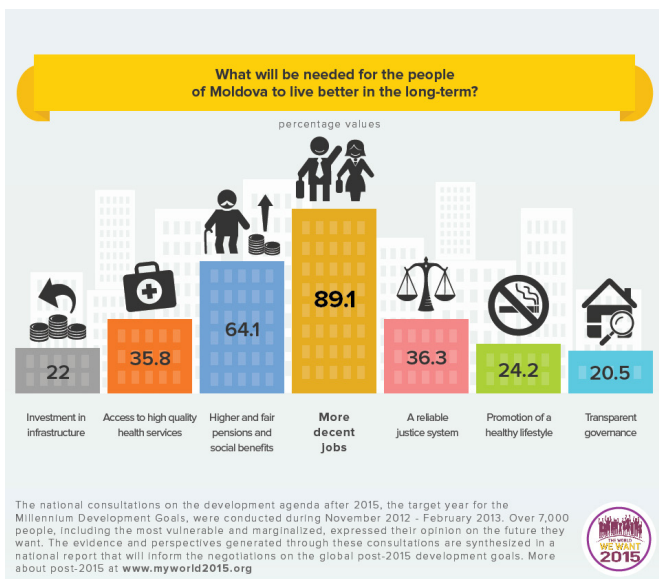


# BUILDING RESPONSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

## THE ISSUE:

**Transparency and accountability are fundamental pre-requisites to a society that reflects people's aspirations and responds to their needs.**



## KEY FIGURES:

- Participants in the national post-2015 consultations ranked the quality of governance third in their list of main concerns, calling for more action to reduce corruption, increase trust in the judiciary, and ensure more human rights protection.
- National post-2015 consultations demonstrated that passiveness is widespread, since people believe they do not participate in the decision-making, while Youth are keen to drive their own development.
- Peoples' trust in Government – 28%; Parliament – 22%, Courts – 22% (Public Opinion Barometer, April 2014).
- Almost 25% of people are unaware of their right to attend local council meetings and almost 65% are dissatisfied with the level of information on LPA activities (2013-2014 Study of Local Services).

- The Association Agenda between the EU and the Republic of Moldova states that it shall be implemented “in full respect of the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness”.
- Transparent governance restrains vested interests and helps increase public trust towards institutions, while fair and accessible justice is critical for ensuring government's accountability and people's trust.
- Given the rising demand from people for involvement in the design and delivery of poli-

cies and services, providing new platforms for civic engagement can enhance the quality of public services, cut costs and strengthen the bonds that bind society together.

- People can contribute more to their development at the local level when they are permanently engaged and consulted and thus feel empowered.
- No less important is an enabling environment at the local level that endows elected local authorities with increased powers and responsibilities to ensure the most pressing local development needs are addressed, while local authorities are held accountable to the communities and rewarded for the development performance of their localities.

## PROGRESS MADE:

- Law on transparency in decision making is in force. The National Participation Council established as a dialogue platform to consult the civil society in public matters.
- E-transformation and open data agendas have made great strides with increasing number of government-managed data and processes, such as procurement and licensing, becoming available on-line thus reducing room for corruption and red-tape.
- Justice Sector Reform Strategy (2012 - 2016) under implementation.
- In 2012, the Parliament approved the Decentralization Strategy, that once implemented offers the scope to devolve decision-making to communities and the people and to increase the transparency and accountability of decisions at the local level.
- In 2013, the Parliament passed amendments to reform the local public finance system, ensuring a fairer distribution of budget resources to municipalities and more opportunities for people to influence resource allocation and to hold the administration accountable for the use of resources.

## WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE:

- Strengthen mechanisms for an enhanced co-operation between government, citizens, and the private sector in decision-making to ensure transparency, accountability and participation using on-line tools and platforms, such as data.gov.md and particip.gov.md, and facilitate the establishment of off-line triangular platforms for public consultations on important policies and decisions.
- Create conditions for higher participation of people in the decision-making process and as co-producers of their own development, including through a progressive implementation of the Decentralization Strategy and through the involvement of citizens in design of public services and of solutions to community problems.
- Accelerate the Justice Sector Reform and in particular the Reform of the Prosecution System and introduce and effectively implement Codes of Ethics for civil servants.
- Raise public awareness about the role and functions of the local public administration and ensure public participation in setting local development goals and in the decision-making process.
- Enable local governments to implement the new responsibilities in financial planning and management and in service provision in a transparent and participatory way to ensure that planned reforms deliver intended results and impact people's lives.