

THE RESULTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA WITHIN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP IN THE LIGHT OF THE “EASTERN PARTNERSHIP INDEX” STUDY

Victoria GOREAINOV*

Abstract. *This paper is an in-depth analysis of the results of the Republic of Moldova within the Eastern Partnership in the light of the “Eastern Partnership Index” study. For ten years, the Republic of Moldova has had different results in the Eastern Partnership, being considered even the “success story” in a certain period of time, and then giving way to Ukraine and Georgia in certain areas of development.*

Keywords: *Republic of Moldova, Eastern Partnership, Eastern Partnership Index, European Union, cooperation, partnership.*

Since 2009, the Republic of Moldova has been part of the Eastern Partnership Initiative, launched by the European Union. Two years after the launch of the Eastern Partnership, in 2011 a study called “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries” appeared, developed by several experts from Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, which was a kind of barometer that measures the state of democracy in the Eastern Partnership states and which included statistical information on the European integration of each EaP state, based on the analysis of the political, economic, civil and security dimension.

After 2014, the name of this study is changed to “Eastern Partnership Index”. “Eastern Partnership Index” is conducted with the support of several European institutions being a study that presents the parallel evolution of the European integration agenda in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership.¹

At the same time, the “Eastern Partnership Index” represents a comprehensive analysis of the progress made by each state in the process of carrying out the reforms and adjusting the internal situation to the requirements of the European Union. This study presents the results of the monitoring of the actions undertaken during a year and is carried out with the participation of over 50 experts from different states, including the members of the EaP.

The publication analyzes over 800 indicators being divided into three dimensions, such as:

- 1) **Linkage**, which examines the deepening of political, economic and social relations between each state and the European Union;
- 2) **Approximation**, which seeks to bring the legislation and work of the institutions of the partner states into line with European standards; compliance with the recommendations

* PhD Student, Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of European Studies, Institute for Doctoral Studies, Doctoral School: European Paradigm, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, E-mail: victoriagoreainov@gmail.com

¹ What is EaP Index? <https://eap-csf.eu/what-is-eap-index/>, accessed 20.04.2020

and requirements submitted by the European Commission;

3) **Management** assesses the evolution of EaP management structures and policies.²

It should be mentioned that these three dimensions have several sub-dimensions, which we will analyze separately, in the case of the Republic of Moldova.

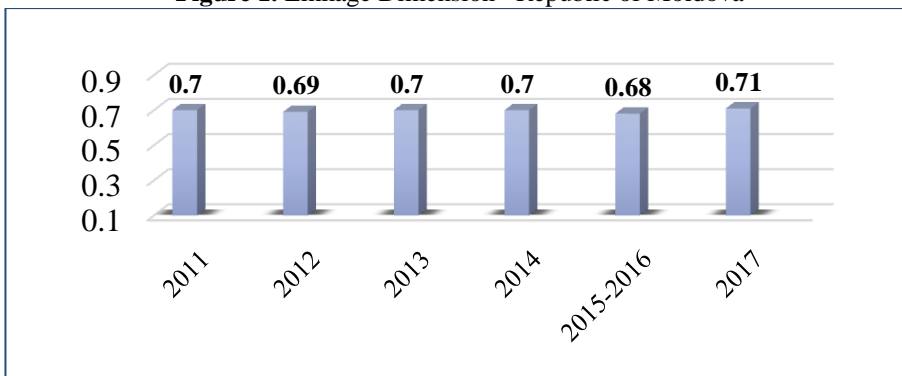
Linkage Dimension

Linkage Dimension includes such components as: political dialogue; trade and economic integration; freedom, security and justice (sectoral cooperation since 2012); energy and transport; education and people-to-people; assistance; international security, political dialogue and cooperation (since 2015); sectoral cooperation and trade flows (since 2015); citizens in Europe (since 2015).

The structure of the Linkage dimension reflects the multisectoral nature of the European integration process. This dimension analyzes the depth and intensity of cooperation between the EU and the EaP states, in particular political dialogue, trade flows, cooperation in various sectors, human mobility and the level of EU assistance for each country.³

Analyzing this dimension in the case of the Republic of Moldova, we note that the difference between the main indicators in 2011-2017 is not large, the best result being recorded by Moldova in 2017 – 0.71 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Linkage Dimension– Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

It should be mentioned that, in the Linkage department, the Republic of Moldova is an absolute leader during these years, having the highest indicator and leaving behind the 5 states in the EaP. In order to understand the progress made by the Republic of Moldova in this regard, we will analyze each category in the linkage dimension separately.

The first and very important category in Linkage Dimension is that of **political dialogue**. The intensity and depth of the political dialogue depends significantly on the institutional structure of each State in the EaP. It should be noted that, since 2015, the category of political dialogue has been included in the category of “*international security*,

² Natalia Percinschi, Gheorghe Rîciu. Retrospective asupra Parteneriatului Estic. Revista Științifică “Vector European”, №1, 2015.

³ European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2012, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

political dialogue and cooperation”.

This category measures how governments in the EaP and the EU cooperate in crucial areas of international security, defense, border management. Intergovernmental contacts are conceptualized as part of a “European society”. Thus, the extent to which EaP states control their own security as sovereign actors is also taken into account. That category includes the following sub-categories – Political dialogue with the EU; Intergovernmental Co-operation and Engagement in EaP Multilateral Events/Panels; International Security Co-operation; Border Security; EU Funding of Security Projects; Development Assistance from EU and Other Donors.⁴

Analyzing this category, we can highlight the fact that, from 2011 to 2014, the result of the Republic of Moldova was increasing, reaching the highest indicator in 2014 – 0.86 out of 1.00. In these 4 years Moldova was placed on the 2nd place, after Ukraine in terms of areas in this category. In the next 3 years the score of the Republic of Moldova decreased considerably, reaching the lowest and worst indicator in 2017 – 0, 70. Thus, after 2014, Moldova was already ranked 3rd after Ukraine and Georgia. It should be noted that even in 2011 Moldova did not have such a low score in the category of political dialogue as in 2017 (*see* Figure 2).

The second category in the Linkage Dimension is that of **trade and economic integration**, which since 2015 has been included in “*sectoral cooperation and trade flows*”. This category examines the extent to which trade and investment in EaP countries are integrated into the EU. At the same time, the integration of energy sources/markets and the density of transport links is assessed separately, as these two sectors constitute crucial infrastructures for economic integration.⁵

Figure 2. Political dialogue (international security, political dialogue and cooperation) – Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The results obtained in this category show the efforts made towards improving trade flows, removing barriers to trade in goods and boosting foreign direct investment. This category includes the following subcategories – Trade with EU: Commodities; Investments

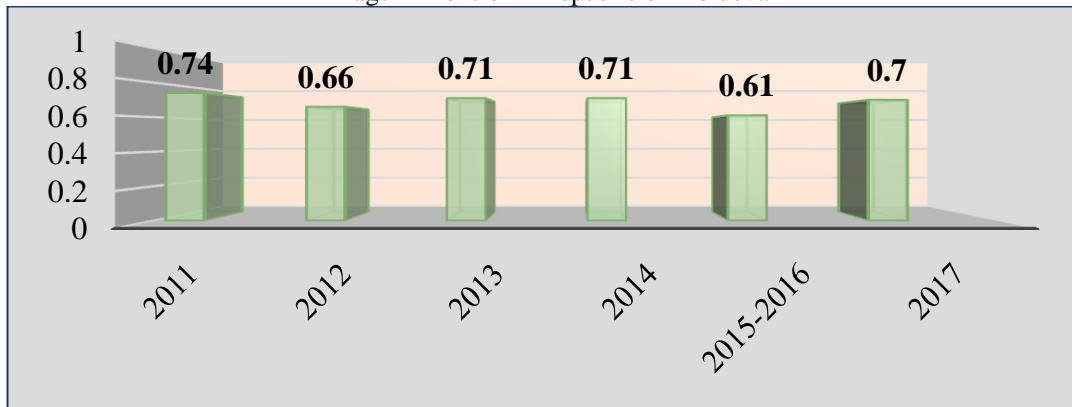
⁴ Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

⁵ Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

and Loans from EU; Trade with EU: Services; Trade Defence Instruments; Energy Interdependence; Transport: Integration with Trans-European Networks; Environment.

Performing the analysis of the results of the Republic of Moldova in the category of trade and economic integration in 2011-2017, we observe the following evolution – decrease (2012) – increase (2013) – stagnation (2014) – decrease (2015-2016) – increase (2017). In the period 2011-2016, Moldova occupied the 2nd place in this category, ceding to Ukraine, but in 2017 the situation changed and Moldova was on the 1st place. Even if Moldova occupied the first position in 2017 with the score – 0.70, this result was not a good one, considering that in 2011 the country had the score - 0.74 (*see* Figure 3).

Figure 3. Trade and economic integration (sectoral cooperation and trade flows)– Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

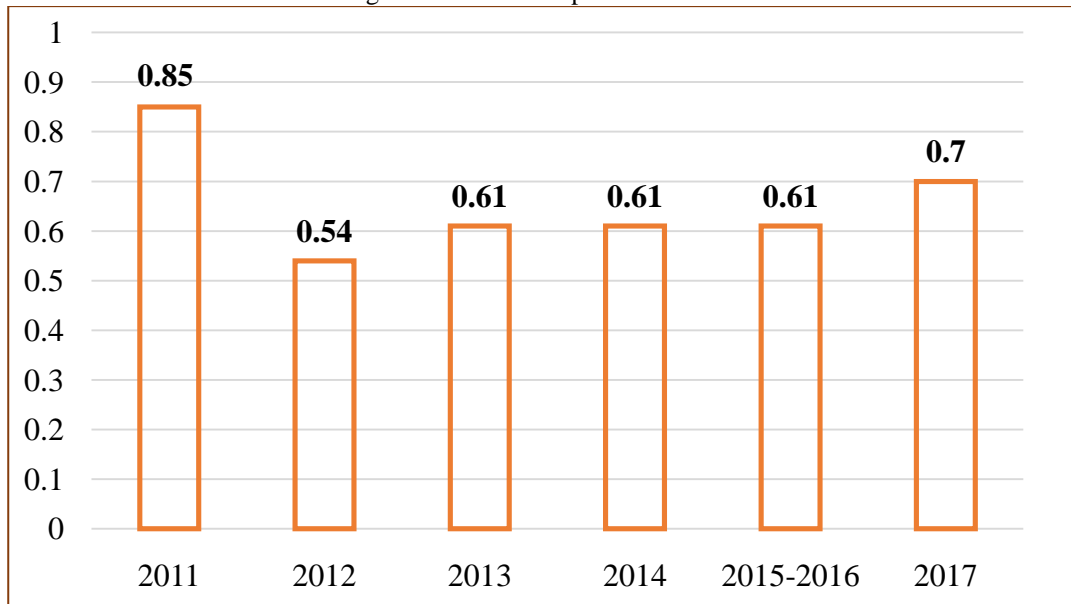
The third category in the Linkage Dimension is that of **freedom, security and justice**, which later since 2012 has been included in “*sectoral cooperation*”, and since 2015 in “*sectoral cooperation and trade flows*”. Cooperation in the area of freedom, security and justice between the EU and EaP countries is a matter of great importance, as it indicates the level of integration/cooperation in the most sensitive areas, which requires high trust between partners. Cooperation in this area is closely linked to the maturity of democratic institutions and the rule of law.

Increasing standards of co-operation in this area can encourage countries to pursue reforms in the fight against corruption and organized crime, the fight against illegal migration and human trafficking, and the promotion of reforms aimed at better protection of human rights, more effective law enforcement and transparent judicial system.⁶

Here we see that in 2011 Moldova had a pretty good score, being on the first place in this category, but in the following years (2012-2016) there was a period of stagnation, in which Moldova gives way to Ukraine, and only in 2017 there was an increase, Moldova again obtaining the first place. At the same time, this result is not better than the initial one in 2011 (*see* Figure 4).

⁶ European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2011, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

Figure 4. Freedom, security and justice (sectoral cooperation and trade flows) – Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

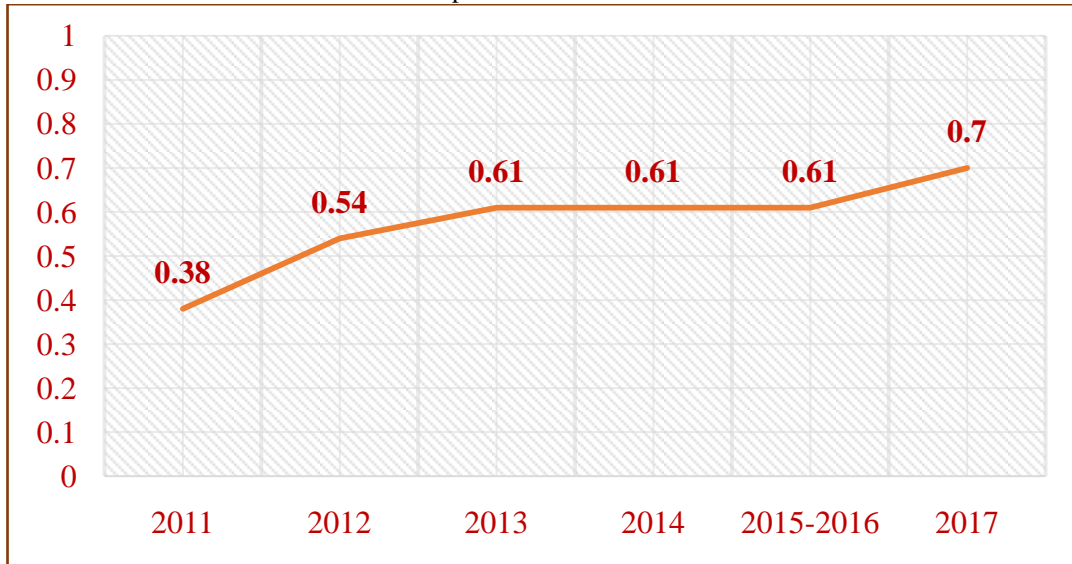
The fourth category in the Linkage Dimension is that of **energy and transport**. This category was initially measured separately, but later in 2012 it was also included in the “*sectoral cooperation*” category, and since 2015 in the “*sectoral cooperation and trade flows*” category.

In terms of energy, the index examines the extent to which the energy markets of the EaP countries are integrated and organized in a similar way to the EU energy markets. As issues related to the energy sector and energy policy receive much attention in the EU policy, the Index examines energy market regulation and market structure in line with EU standards. The energy trade analysis includes mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation. When it comes to transport, the basic idea is that transport connections should be easier, safer for all transport users in the EU and the EaP countries.⁷

Analyzing the results of the Republic of Moldova in the category of energy and transport, we find a modest indicator in 2011, followed by a small increase in 2012, then stagnation for 3 years (2013-2016), and a significant increase in 2017, if we compare with first result from 2011 (*see* Figure 5). Compared to the other EaP states, in this respect, in 2011 and 2017 Moldova was on the first place, and in 2012-2016 on the second place, ceding only to Ukraine.

⁷ European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2011, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

Figure 5. Energy and transport (sectoral cooperation and trade flows) – Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The fifth category in the Linkage Dimension is that of **Education and People to People**. Since 2012 the name of this category changed to “*People to People*”, and since 2015 to “*Citizens in Europe*”. This category analyzes the mobility of people, including students; educational policies, with a focus on the Bologna process; Mobility, including academic and student mobility, policies on culture, youth, information society, media and audiovisual use; and Participation in EU programs and agencies.⁸

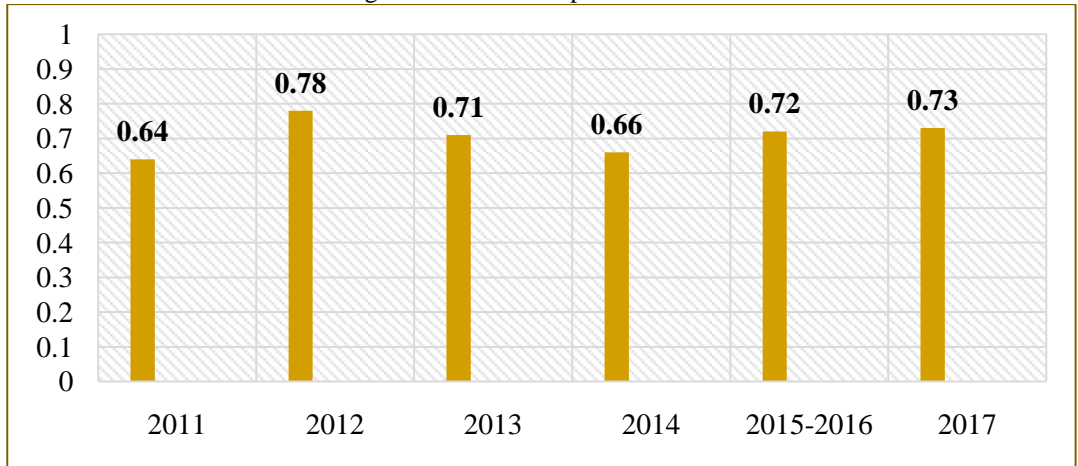
“Citizens in Europe” measures the expansion of citizens’ mobility, migration and communication flows between EaP and EU countries. The index focuses on migration as a process leading to deeper European integration. Migration is not viewed here as a threat to the EU’s internal security or as an EU policy to prevent illegal migration with the help of EU states. At the same time, this category includes cultural exchange and cooperation, affinity with the European Union, cooperation in science and education, mobility, including academic and student mobility, the digital and information society.⁹

Examining the results of the Republic of Moldova in this category, we find the following evolution in this period – a modest result in 2011; growth in 2012; decrease in 2013; decrease in 2014; growth in 2015-2016; growth in 2017 (*see* Figure 6). In terms of Education and Mobility, the Republic of Moldova over the years has been a leader, ranking first, but in 2017 the country ceded this place to Georgia, which achieved a higher result.

⁸ Ibidem

⁹ Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

Figure 6. Education and People to People (People to People, Citizens in Europe) – Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova

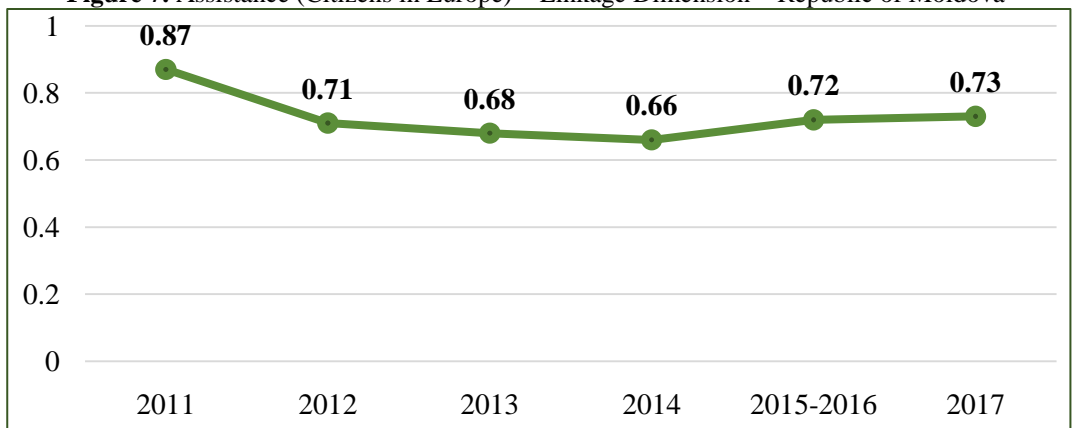


Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The sixth category in the Linkage Dimension is that of **Assistance**, which since 2015 has fallen into the category “*Citizens in Europe*”. This category measures EU development aid, partnership-specific instruments – national and regional, technical assistance and cooperation with European financial institutions.

In the assistance category, in the results of the Republic of Moldova we observe a decrease from 2011 to 2014, and from 2015 to 2017 an increase in the score (*see* Figure 7). Even if in the period 2011-2014 Moldova’s score was decreasing, the country was placed on the first place, and when the score was increasing (2015-2017), Moldova was ranked third and second, giving way to Ukraine and Georgia.

Figure 7. Assistance (Citizens in Europe) – Linkage Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

It is important to mention that, initially the Linkage Dimension included 6 categories, among which – political dialogue; trade and economic integration; freedom,

security and justice; energy and transport; education and people-to-people; assistance. After a year, in 2012 they were reduced to 5 categories, and from 2015 to 3 categories with a small change of names - international security, political dialogue and cooperation, sectoral cooperation and trade flows, citizens in Europe.

Approximation Dimension

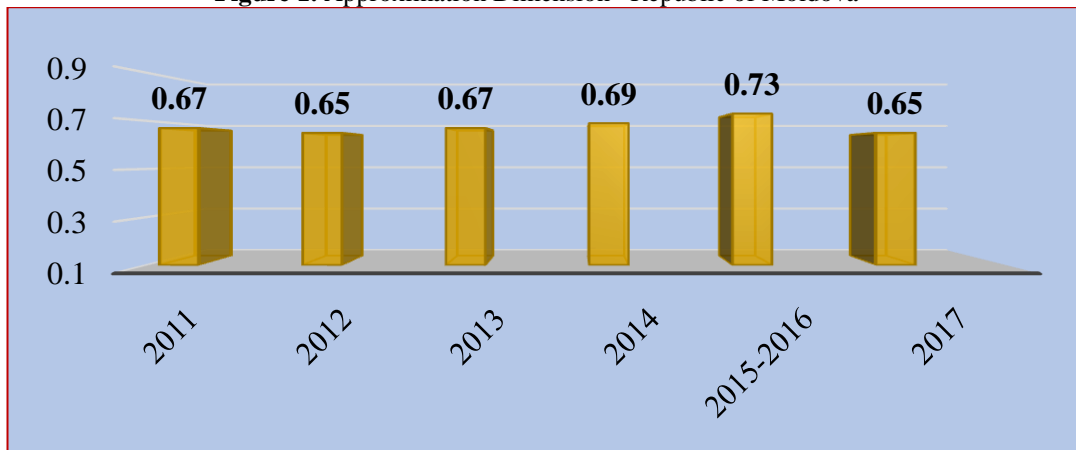
Approximation Dimension aims to evaluate the institutions and policies of the EaP countries and compare them with those typical of EU Member States. The sections on deep and sustainable democracy and the market economy and the DCFTA are not only basic conditions that the EU imposes on the countries concerned for closer relations with it, but are also undisputed political objectives and legitimize general principles in all EaP countries.¹⁰

This dimension includes the analysis of the following components: legislation, practices and institutions in the EaP countries and their compliance with EU standards in line with EU requirements. We should note that, initially in 2011, the Approximation Dimension was divided into 8 sub-categories such as: Democracy; Rule of Law; Governance Quality; Market Economy; Freedom, security and justice; Energy and transport; Environment; Education and People to People.

Since 2012, these categories have been reduced to 3, such as: Deep and Sustainable Democracy; Market Economy and DCFTA; Sectoral Approximation. At the same time, since 2015 the names of these categories have changed – Deep and Sustainable Democracy; EU Integration and Convergence; Sustainable Development. In order to research the result obtained by the Republic of Moldova in this dimension, we will analyze each category separately.

Analyzing the result obtained by Moldova in this regard, we see a stagnation in 2011-2013, then an increase until 2016, and in 2017 a significant decrease. Thus, in 2017 Moldova obtained a very low score, even lower than initially in 2011 (*see* Figure 1).

Figure 1. Approximation Dimension– Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

¹⁰ European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2011, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

We should mention that, during the years 2011-2016, the Republic of Moldova obtained the highest score in Approximation, compared to other countries in the EaP, occupying the first place. Everything changed in 2017, when Moldova lost not only the first position, but also the second, ranking third, after Ukraine and Armenia.

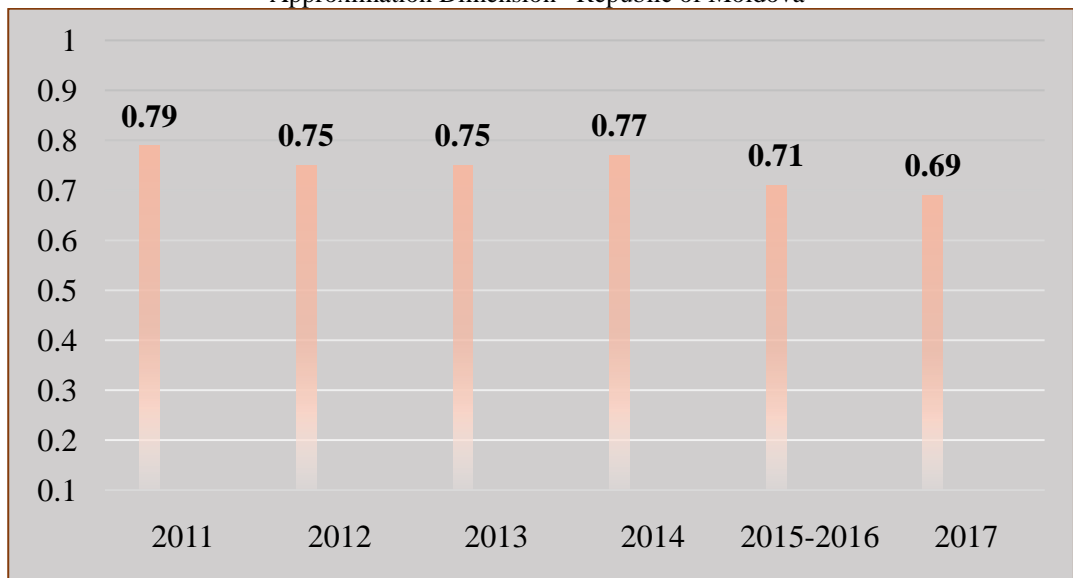
The first categories in the Approximation Dimension that we will analyze will be – *Democracy; Rule of Law and Governance Quality*. We joined these categories because, in 2012, one year after the launch of the Eastern Partnership Indices, they were included in a single category – **Deep and Sustainable Democracy**.

Deep and sustainable democracy measures the adoption and implementation of human rights and democratic principles as defined by the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The following indicators are examined in this category: Democratic Rights and Elections, including Political Pluralism; Human Rights and Protection Against Torture; Accountability; Independent Media; Freedom of Speech and Assembly; Independent Judiciary; Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination; Rule of Law and Fighting Corruption; Public Administration.¹¹

We can see that the score of the Republic of Moldova in this category was initially increasing (2011), in the next 2 years stagnant (2012-2013), after which it increased again (2014) and then decreased again (2015-2017) having the lowest score of these years in 2017 (see Figure 2).

In the period 2011-2016, Moldova had the leading position in this ranking, but in 2017 Ukraine and Georgia showed a better result than Moldova, in terms of deep and sustainable democracy.

Figure 2. Deep and Sustainable Democracy (Democracy; Rule of Law and Governance Quality) – Approximation Dimension– Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

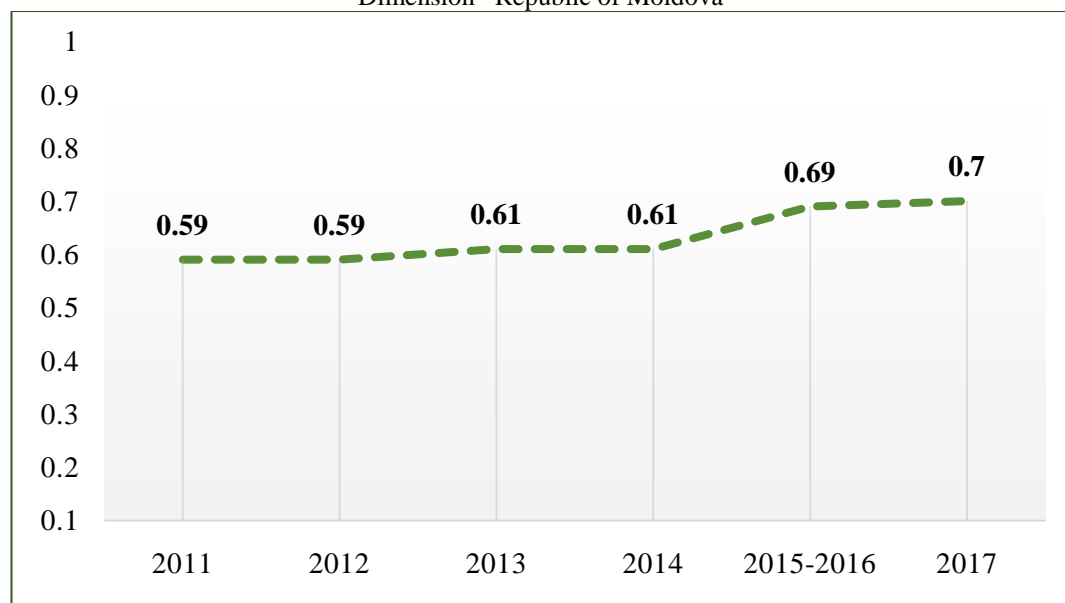
¹¹ Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

The second category in the Approximation Dimension includes – **Market Economy** and *Freedom, security and justice*, which later in 2012 was included in the “*Market Economy and DCFTA*”, and since 2015 has had the name – *EU Integration and Convergence*. In order to assess the domestic economic performance and market economy status of each EaP state, the quality of the business climate in these countries and the progress of their transition were analyzed in this category. The analysis is based on widely used indicators for international economic comparison, specific factors and short-term shocks.¹²

The EU Integration and Convergence category is a measure of integration and convergence with the EU rules on trade, security, migration, energy, environment, transport, infrastructure. This includes the analysis of the following components: Market Economy and DCFTA; Freedom, Security and Justice; Energy: Legislation Convergence and Energy Policy; Environment and Climate Policy; Transport: Regulatory Policy.¹³

Regarding the Republic of Moldova, here we find an increase from 2011 to 2017, with stagnation in 2011-2012 and 2014-2016. Thus, in this category the evolution of the score of the Republic of Moldova during the years 2011-2017 was a positive one (see Figure 3). In the area of market economy, during these years, Moldova ranked second, giving the first position to Georgia, and in 2015-2017 to Ukraine.

Figure 3. Market Economy and DCFTA (EU Integration and Convergence) – Approximation Dimension– Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The third category of the Approximation Dimension includes: *Freedom, security*

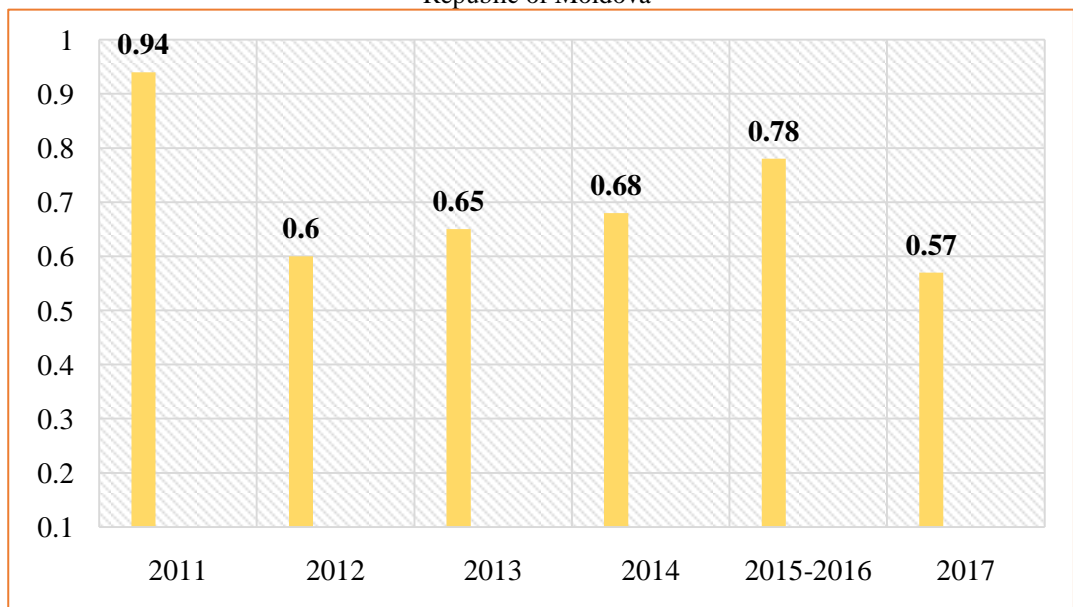
¹² European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2013, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

¹³ Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

and justice; Energy and transport; Environment; Education and People to People, and since 2012 they have been united in a single category „Sectoral approximation”, and since 2015 it has become „Sustainable Development”. Sustainable Development measures the sustainable development policies of EaP countries and analyzes the extent to which they have achieved the sustainable development goals defined by the UNO. This category includes: Sustainable Development Policy; Sustainable Development Goals; Education and life-long learning opportunities.

In this category, Moldova experienced a significant increase in 2011, a decrease in 2012, an increase in 2013-2016 and a decrease in 2017, with the lowest score (see Figure 4). In the period 2011-2014, Moldova was placed on the first place in this ranking, in 2015-2016 on the second place, and in 2017 Moldova obtained a very low score, placing on the last place together with Georgia.

Figure 4. Sustainable Development (Sectoral approximation) – Approximation Dimension– Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

Management Dimension

Management Dimension represents the evolution of management structures and policies in the Eastern Partnership countries, which aim at European integration in the EU. Management analyzes the institutional structures and coordination, management of European integration. This dimension reflects the level of commitment to European integration and the ability to meet the growing EU agenda in each EaP country.¹⁴

Initially, Management Dimension included four categories: Coordination Mechanism; Legal Approximation Mechanism; Participation of civil society; Management of EU Assistance. Since 2012 we already have six categories: Institutional Arrangements

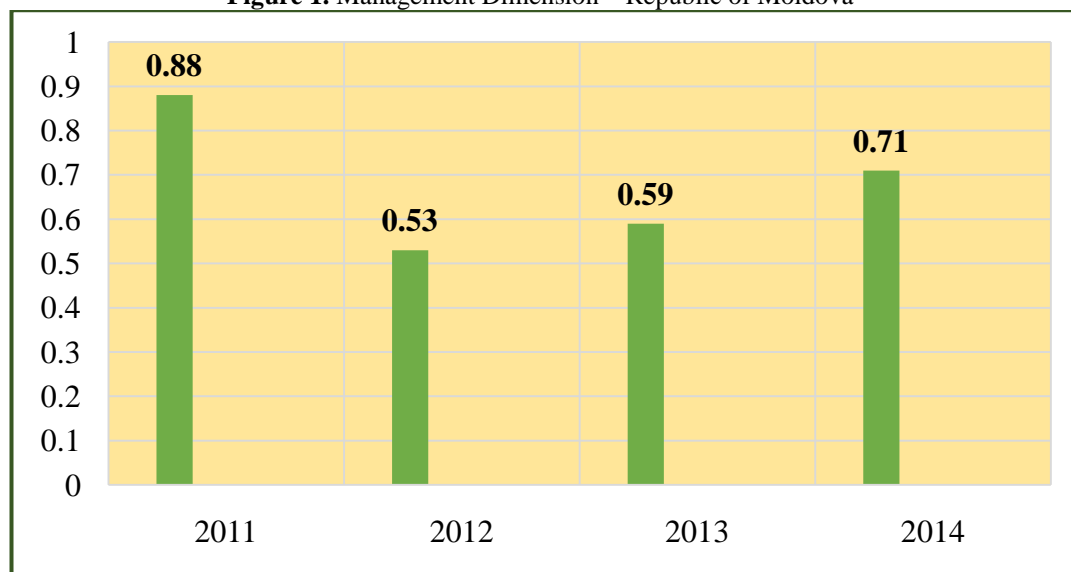
¹⁴ European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2013, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.

for European Integration; Legal Approximation Mechanism; Management of EU Assistance; Training in the field of European Integration; Awareness Raising about European Integration; Participation of civil society.

The analysis of the Management Dimension gives us an image of only four time intervals 2011-2014, this being subsequently analyzed as part of the other two dimensions of the EaP Index.

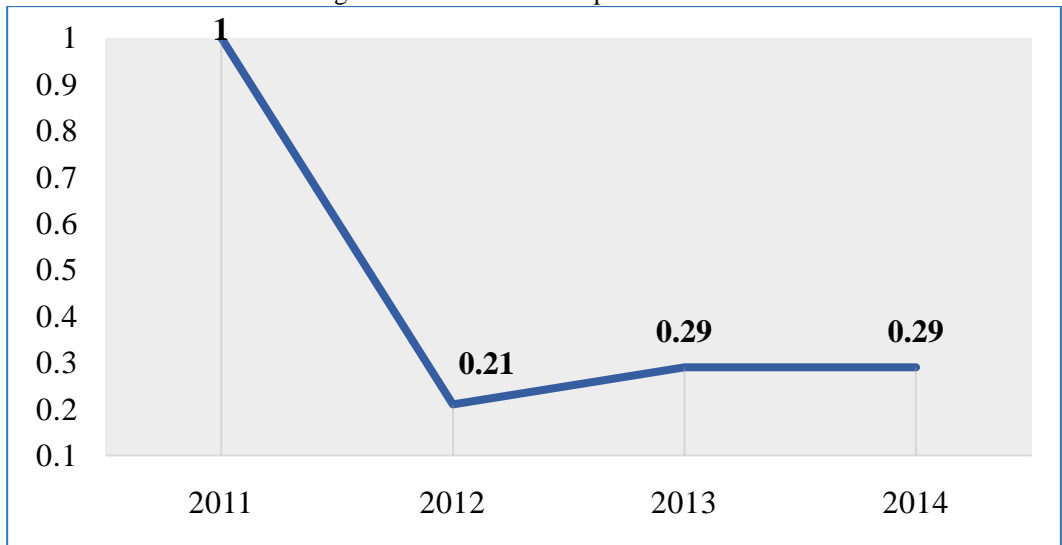
Initially in terms of Management, the Republic of Moldova had a good result, but in 2012 the situation suddenly changed to decrease, and in 2013-2014 the score began to increase, but it still did not reach the same indicator as in 2011 (*see* Figure 1). If in 2011 Moldova was placed second in this ranking, after Georgia, in 2012-2013, the country improved the score, placing first, but in 2014 Moldova lost to Georgia again.

Figure 1. Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

Figure 2. Coordination Mechanism (Institutional Arrangements for European Integration) – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova



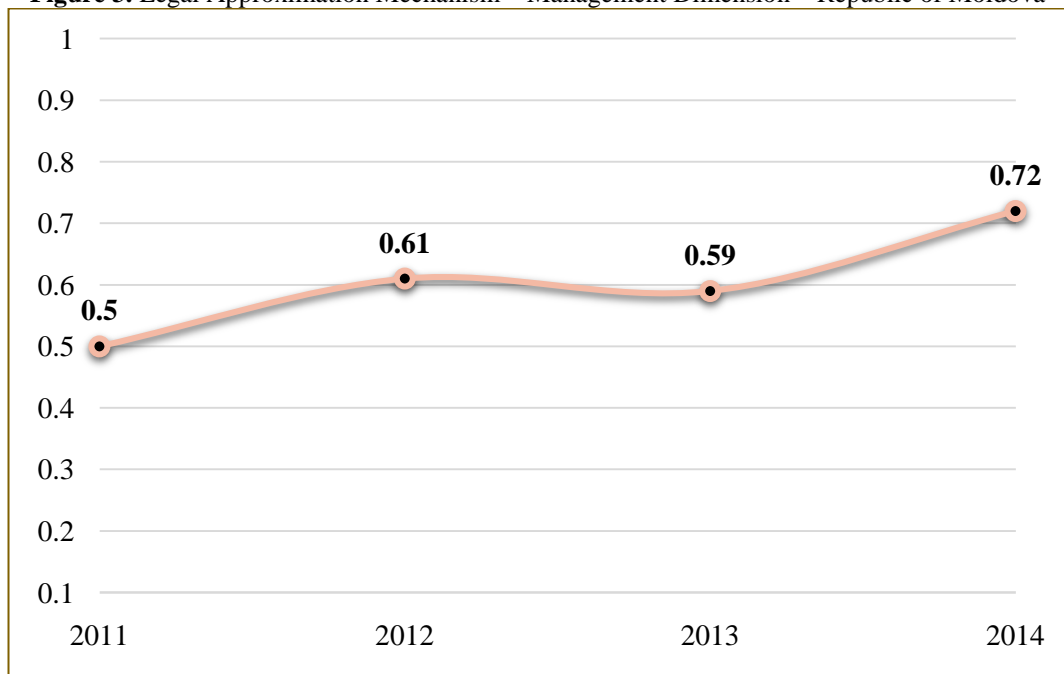
Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The first category in the Management Dimension is that of **Coordination Mechanism**, which since 2012 has changed into “*Institutional Arrangements for European Integration*”. The results of the Republic of Moldova in this category show a maximum score in 2011, then in 2012 a decrease, after which in 2013-2014 an insignificant increase and stagnation (*see* Figure 2). In the period 2011-2012 the Republic of Moldova was placed on the first place, together with Georgia, and in 2013-2014 the result of the Republic of Moldova was better than that of Georgia, the country being placed on the first place.

The second category in the Management Dimension is that of **Legal Approximation Mechanism**.

In this compartment, the result of the Republic of Moldova was one of continuous growth, only in one year (2013), the country registered a small decrease, but in 2014, the score was increasing again (*see* Figure 3).

In the period 2011-2012, the Republic of Moldova was ranked third, ceding to Ukraine and Georgia. In 2013 Moldova shared the second place with Georgia, and in 2014 obtaining the best results, Moldova and Georgia received the first place.

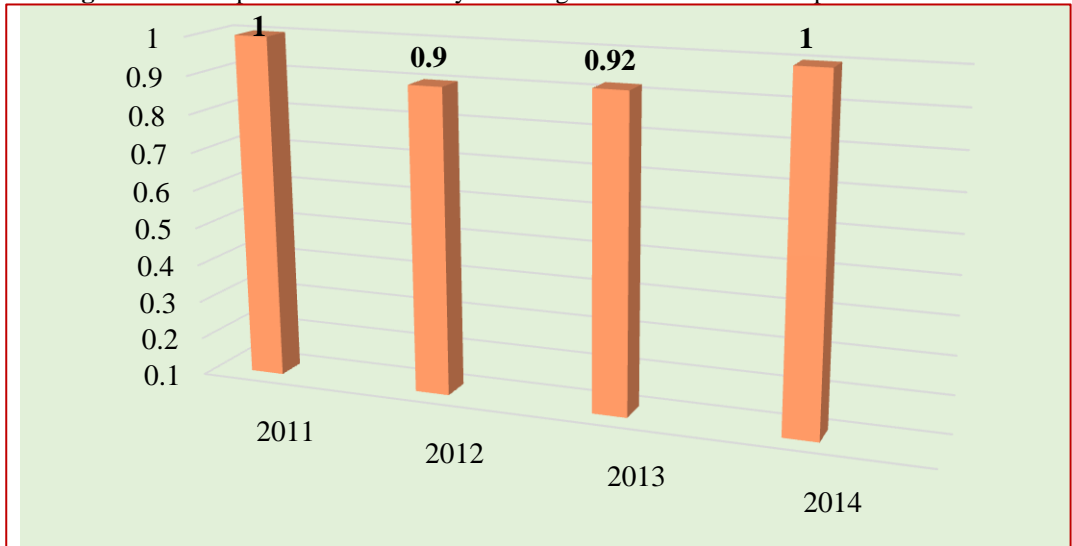
Figure 3. Legal Approximation Mechanism – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova

Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The third category in the Management Dimension is that of **Participation of civil society**.

In terms of civil society participation, the Republic of Moldova had a rather good result, obtaining the highest scores. Having a maximum score in 2011, over a year, in 2012 followed a decrease, then again an increase, reaching the maximum score in 2017 (see Figure 4).

In the period 2011-2013, Moldova was placed on the first place together with Georgia, in terms of civil society participation. At the same time, in 2014, Georgia lost the first position, Moldova being an undisputed leader in this category.

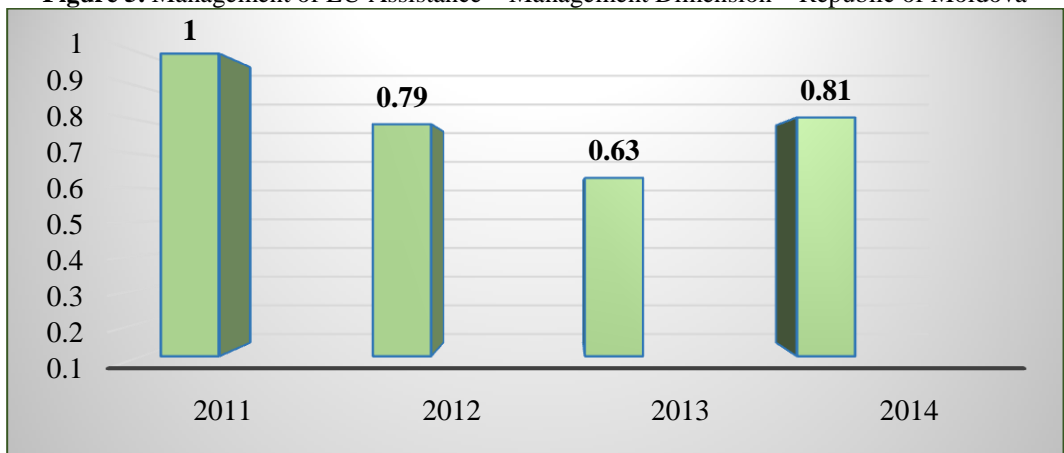
Figure 4. Participation of civil society – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova

Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The fourth category in the Management Dimension is that of **Management of EU Assistance**.

Initially obtaining the highest indicator in 2011, in the EU assistance management department, the score of the Republic of Moldova started to fall in the following years and only in 2014 there was an increase (see Figure 5).

In 2011, Moldova and Georgia were placed first. One year later, in 2012, Moldova was the only leader in this category, ranking first. In 2013, Moldova ceded the first position to Belarus, ranking second. In 2014, the result of the Republic of Moldova reached the one that Belarus also had, both obtaining the first place.

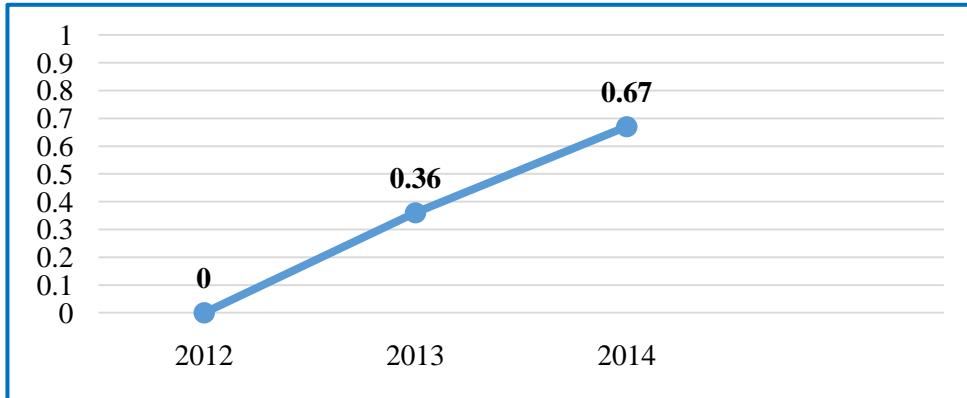
Figure 5. Management of EU Assistance – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova

Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The fifth category in the Management Dimension is that of **Awareness Raising about European Integration**, which has been introduced since 2012.

In the case of the Republic of Moldova, during this period we notice an increase in the score (*see* Figure 6).

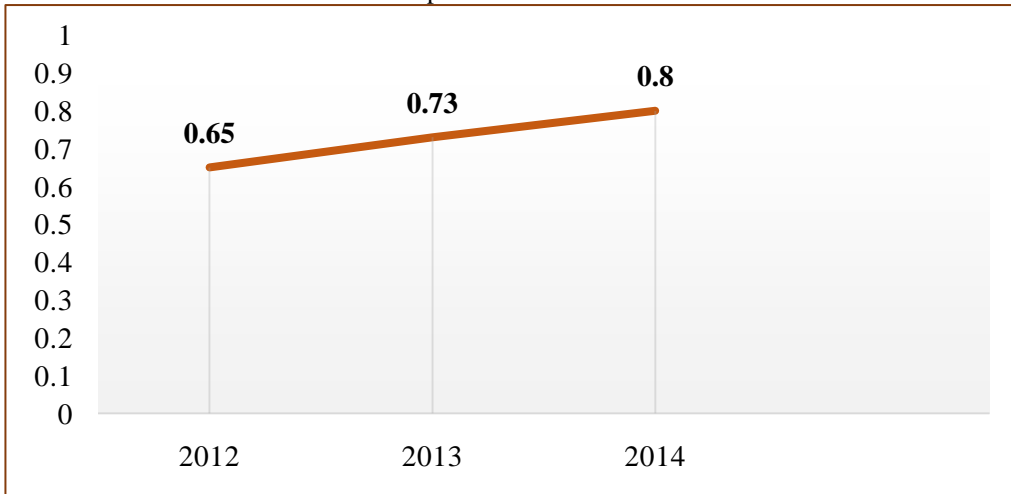
Figure 6. Awareness Raising about European Integration – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

In 2013, Moldova was on the third place, ceding to Georgia and Armenia, and in 2014 it was on the second place, after Georgia.

Figure 7. Institutional Arrangements for European Integration – Management Dimension – Republic of Moldova



Source: made by the author based on data collected from the reports “European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014” and “Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, 2017”, available online <https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/>, accessed April 30, 2020.

The sixth category in the Management Dimension is that of **Institutional Arrangements for European Integration**, which has been introduced since 2012.

In this respect, in the period 2012-2014, the Republic of Moldova registered an

increase (see Figure 7). In these years, Moldova took the first place, leaving behind its EaP colleagues.

In conclusion, we can mention that the “Eastern Partnership Index” is a very important study, which offers a comprehensive analysis of the progress made by each state participating in the Eastern Partnership, in the process of carrying out reforms and adjusting the internal situation to the European Union requirements. For ten years, the Republic of Moldova has had different results in the Eastern Partnership, being considered even the “success story” in a certain period of time, and then giving way to Ukraine and Georgia in certain areas of development.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bărbulescu, I. Gh., Brie, M., Toderăș, N., 2015, *Cooperarea transfrontalieră între România și Ucraina, respectiv între România și Republica Moldova. Oportunități și provocări în perioada 2014-2020*, Institutul European, București
- Brie, Mircea (2009), *The European Neighbourhood Policy, Mass-media and Cross-border Cooperation*, în *Analele Universității din Oradea, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, 2009, p. 81-86
- Brie, Mircea (2016), *Identity as Frontier in Central and Eastern Europe. The Case of the Republic of Moldova*, în Mircea Brie, Alina Stoica, Florentina Chirodea (coord.), *The European Space Borders and Issues. In Honorem Professor Ioan Horga*, Editura Universității din Oradea/Debrecen University Press, Oradea/Debrecen, 2016, p. 359-381
- Brie, Mircea (2017), *A New European Neighbourhood Policy toward Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in the Context of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and the Association Agreements (AA)*, în *Studii Europene*, nr. 10, Chișinău, 2017, p. 123-155
- Brie, Mircea (2017), *Rethinking the European Neighbourhood Policy. Eastern Partnership*, în *Annabelle Universității din Oradea, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, 2017, p. 55-71
- Brie, Mircea; Florentina Chirodea, Constantin Vasile Țoca (coord.) (2013), *European Public Policies. Instruments, Models and Behaviour in the Public Space*, supliment *Analele Universității din Oradea, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, Oradea, 2013
- Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development. Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.
- European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2012, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.
- European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2011, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.
- European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2013, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.
- European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries, 2014, International Renaissance Foundation in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations.
- Goreainov, Victoria; Mircea Brie (2018), *The Republic of Moldova in the Framework of the Eastern Partnership and Prospects for Relations with the Russian Federation*, în *Analele Universității din Oradea, Seria Relații Internaționale și Studii Europene*, 2018, p. 143-169
- Natalia Percinschi, Gheorghe Rîciu. Retrospective asupra Parteneriatului Estic. Revista Științifică “Vector European”, №1, 2015.
- What is EaP Index? <https://eap-csf.eu/what-is-eap-index/>, accessed 20.04.2020.

