

AGENDA

16 NOVEMBER 2026 · GLIA Impact Hub, Block A, 1st floor, ASEM, Chișinău
61 Mitropolit Gavriil Bănulescu-Bodoni Street, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova

08:00–08:30	***Registration and welcome coffee***
MODERATORS	**Angela TIMUȘ**, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of the National Institute for Economic Research (NIER), ASEM **Constantin ȚURCANU**, Head of the Entrepreneurship Development Policy Directorate, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization **Dumitru UDREA,** Project Manager, United Nations Development Programme **Michael KOCH,** Long-term adviser to the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization. Economic Analisys, Trade and Policy Development
08:30–08:45	**Opening remarks and expectations** **Claudiu-Iulius-Gavril NĂSUI**, Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization **Cristina GHERASIMOV**, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Moldova **Claudia HERMES**, Country Director GIZ Moldova

1	**Structure and potential of the service economy**
08:45–09:20	**Victoria FALA**, PhD in Economics, Researcher, Entrepreneurship Research Section, National Institute for Economic Research (NIER), Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM), Republic of Moldova
	Victor NISTORICĂ, CEO at Brutaria Bardar
	Q&A

2	**Institutional, regulatory environment and market functioning**
09:20–10:30	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Ulrich SCHMITT**, World Bank Group Country Manager for Moldova
	Hans LINDBLAD, Member of the European Court of Auditors
	Mårten BLIX, Member of Swedish Parliament
	Ion LUPAN, Head of secretariat, Economic Council to the Prime Minister
	Q&A

10:30–10:50	***Coffee break***

3	**Internationalisation and integration into value chains**
10:50–11:45	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Francesco ALFONSO,** Deputy Head of Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Unit, OECD Eurasia
	Asees AHUJA, Director EU Policy, Svenskt Näringsliv / Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
	Zuzana ZAVARSKA, Economist, Spatial Productivity Lab, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
	Q&A and discussion

11:45–12:45	***Lunch***

	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION · Innovation, research and knowledge transfer
12:45–13:15	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Niclas RUEFFER**, Digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Eastern Partnership countries, director of project GIZ
	Doina NISTOR, Ph.D in Economic Sciences (Economics and Management) Technical University of Moldova (UTM), 2024
	Q&A and discussion

5	Access to finance and investment
13:15–14:35	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Natalia SELEVESTRU**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization
	Veronica ARPINTIN, CEO Moldova International Stock Exchange (BIMx)
	Reprezentative, National Bank of Moldova
	Victoria COCIUG, PhD, Associate Professor, Vice-Rector for Research and Partnerships, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
	Carlo MENON, Manager of Spatial Productivity Lab, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

14:35–15:00	*Coffee break*

15:00–17:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS Sessions 6–7 · Round table			
6	HUMAN CAPITAL AND SKILLS · Entrepreneurship, market entry and business development		RT	Round table "The Role of Services in Enhancing Agricultural Competitiveness"
15:00–16:00	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Dominika STOJANOSKA**, UN Women Representative to Moldova		15:00–16:30	*opening and scene-setting remarks:* **Diana LAZAR**, PhD, University Lecturer, Senior Advisor on Economic Growth and Strategic Investments, wine sector
	Olga GAGAUZ, PhD Hab., Professor, Head of the Centre for Demographic Research, NIER, ASEM			**Victoria IORDACHI**, PhD, Associate Professor, Head of the Centre for Applied Research in Economics and Entrepreneurship, NIER, ASEM
	Daysianne Iris MENDES, Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation Consultant, Instituto Coria, Brazil			**Niclas RUEFFER**, Director, GIZ project "Digital Transformation of SMEs in Eastern Partnership Countries"
	Janet VEITCH, OBE, Chair, UK Women's Budget Group			**Eugenia LUCAȘENCO**, PhD, Associate Research Professor, Head of the Agri-Food Economics and Rural Development Department, NIER, ASEM
	Maria HAMURARU, PhD Associate Professor, Vice-Rector for Financial and Economic Activity, Moldova State University			**Arman HARUTYUNYAN**, Chairperson of the Chair, Agrarian University, Armenia
	Q&A and discussion			**Stepan DAVTYAN**, Assistant Lecturer, Agrarian University, Armenia
7	Green, circular transition and sustainability			**Ivan KOLODIAZHNYI**, Agricultural Economics Researcher and Policy Analyst, KSE Agrocenter, Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine
16:00–17:00	*opening and scene-setting remarks* **Daniela GASPARIKOVA**, UNDP Resident Representative to the Republic of Moldova			**Valentyn LITVINOV**, Agricultural Economics Researcher and Policy Analyst, KSE Agrocenter, Kyiv School of Economics; PhD Candidate at Wageningen University, Ukraine
	Kädi EELMAA, Head of Circularity Department Tallinn Circular Economy Center, Estonia			
	Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, Co-founder of Public association EcoContact			
	Q&A and discussion			

17:00–17:20	*Coffee break*

8	Business development services and support ecosystem
17:20–17:40	**Cornel COȘERU**, President of the Council, Association of Business and Management Consultants
	Sosanna LISGARA, Legal Expert, Services Directive
	Q&A and discussion

17:40–18:00	**Concluding remarks** **Natalia SELEVESTRU**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization **Victoria COCIUG**, PhD, Associate Professor, Vice-Rector for Research and Partnerships, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

18:00–19:30	*Networking reception*



AGENDA

17 NOVEMBER 2026 · ROUND TABLE
GOVERNMENT HOUSE (CASA GUVERNULUI)
1 Piața Marii Adunări Naționale, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova

ROUND TABLE WITH BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITALIZATION

Cooperation for Economic Development and Making the Most of the Opportunities Offered by Integration into the EU Single Market

A dialogue hosted by the Economic Council to the Prime Minister

MODERATOR	**Constantin ȚURCANU** Head of the Entrepreneurship Development Policy Directorate, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization
13:15–13:30	**Opening remarks and expectations** **Natalia SELEVESTRU**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization **Ion LUPAN**, Head of the Secretariat, Economic Council to the Prime Minister

13:30–14:45	**Swedish private sector's experience in shaping public policy priorities and helping businesses tap into the economic potential of the EU Single Market**
SPEAKERS	**Asees AHUJA**, Director of EU Policy, Svenskt Näringsliv (Confederation of Swedish Enterprise) **Mihaela GORBAN**, Deputy Secretary General for European Integration, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization (to be confirmed) **Mila MALAIARĂU**, Chair of the Working Group on Reducing Administrative Barriers to Business under the Economic Council to the Prime Minister; Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova
14:45–15:45	**Q&A and discussion**
15:45–15:55	**Concluding remarks** **Natalia SELEVESTRU**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization **Ion LUPAN**, Head of the Secretariat, Economic Council to the Prime Minister