

### Moldova Program Summary

Since Moldova achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, successive governments have stated a common goal – for Moldova to move past its Soviet legacy and become a modern, European state. However, reform efforts have long been hampered by remnants of the Soviet legacy: Economic stagnation, infrastructure decay, corruption, excessive bureaucracy and a lack of democratic institutions.

In 2009, a coalition of several pro-reform opposition parties achieved a parliamentary majority, ending eight years of Communist rule. This new government, now organized into a coalition called the Pro-European Coalition, promised to lead Moldova in a more prosperous and democratic direction. While the government has made progress in moving the country toward this goal, there remains much work to do to help Moldova achieve a stable, European democracy and address the many challenges that have hampered progress in the past.

### Past Activities

The [International Republican Institute](#) (IRI) has conducted political party development programming in Moldova since 1998, and first opened an office in the country in 2003. Between 2003 and 2012, IRI worked with Moldovan political parties on a variety of party-strengthening initiatives, including improving internal and external communications, campaign techniques such as door-to-door, and working with candidates. IRI also provided guidance to party lawyers and poll-watchers in election monitoring and detecting and responding to electoral violations, training more than 3,600 poll watchers for elections between 2009 and 2011. To strengthen democratic governance, IRI worked with local and national level officials, focused primarily on constituent communications and local public administration. IRI has worked with party women's organizations regularly since opening its program in Moldova.

### Survey Research

IRI's current work focuses on providing quarterly public opinion polls to assist parties, civic organizations and the government during the approach to the fall 2014 parliamentary elections. The data equips parties with the information and guidance necessary to design campaigns focused on relevant issues affecting Moldovan citizens, and assist government officials in messaging and managing public expectations as they continue to implement their pro-European agenda.