



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Hincești Highway, 84, MD-2021, Chisinau municipality
phone +373 22 25-20-70. Fax. +373 25-22-93
e-mail: cancelariama@army.gov.md. web: www.army.md

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European Bureau of Conscientious Objections

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova has examined the request in order to provide information on conscientious objections and we are hereby convey the following:

A. Status of conscription

1. In the Republic of Moldova, obligatory military service is currently applied. Conscription is applicable to male citizens who meet the eligibility criteria established by law.

B. (Skip if not applicable) Countries with conscription

2. In the Republic of Moldova, the procedures for obligatory military service are governed by the **Constitution of the Republic of Moldova**, the **Law on the Preparation of Citizens for Homeland Defense (No. 1245-XV of 2002)**, and other related legislative acts. These provisions outline the framework for conscription, including eligibility criteria, duration of service, and exemptions.

- **Constitution of the Republic of Moldova:**

Article 57 states that the defense of the country is a fundamental duty of all citizens.

- **Law on the Preparation of Citizens for Homeland Defense:**

- Defines the procedures for conscription, including age limits (18 to 27 years), health requirements, and educational considerations.
- Establishes the duration of mandatory military service, typically 12 months.

- **Alternative Civilian Service (Law No. 156-XVI of 2007):**

- Provides an option for conscientious objectors to perform non-military service in public institutions for a longer period (up to 24 months).

- **Regulations issued by the Ministry of Defense:**

- Detail the administrative and logistical steps for conscription, including medical evaluations, summons, and training schedules.

The laws also specify penalties for evasion of military service and establish mechanisms for deferment, such as pursuing higher education or family obligations.

3. In the Republic of Moldova, obligatory military service begins at the age of 18 for male citizens who are not entitled to deferment from mandatory military service under the law.

4. The duration of mandatory military service is 12 months for citizens without higher education, but for those with higher education, it is 3 months (reduced-term military service).

5. The decision regarding the fulfillment of alternative civilian service is made by the recruitment and conscription commission, with the participation of the recruits, and the conditions for fulfilling this service are stipulated in Law No. 156/2007 on the organization of civilian (alternative) service.

In practice, there are cases where recruits have been denied the right to perform civilian (alternative) service due to procedural violations and the lack of merit in their requests..

6. The proportion of conscripts who sign up for subsequent voluntary service varies, but approximately 14% of those who complete mandatory military service choose to continue with voluntary service in the Republic of Moldova.

7. In the Republic of Moldova, reservists are required to attend periodic training and respond to calls from the authorities in the event of mobilization or national defense needs. Reservists are citizens who have completed active military service and are registered in the National Army Reserve.

Call-up procedure for reserve service:

- **Call-up:** Reservists may be summoned for service through an official notice issued by the Ministry of Defense. This can include annual training or mobilization in case of a national emergency.

- **Duration:** The duration of reserve service can vary depending on defense needs, but generally involves an annual training period or participation in military exercises.

- **Examinations:** Reservists are required to undergo evaluations of their preparedness and health. If they do not meet health or other requirements, they may be exempted from service.

- **Mobilization:** In the case of general mobilization, reservists may be called upon immediately to participate in defense actions.

The obligations of reservists are regulated by the Law on the Status of Military Personnel and other normative acts that detail how they are enlisted and called to service.

8. In accordance with the applicable legislation, citizens who fail to report to military centers when summoned are subject to the issuance of contravention reports, resulting in fines. Thus, in 2024, approximately 8,700 contravention reports were issued. At the same time, around 200 individuals, due to conscientious reasons, requested exemption from mandatory military service. Of these, approximately 100 were accepted to perform alternative civilian service, in accordance with the provisions of Law No.

156/2007. The others were not accepted as they did not meet the specific legal requirements.

C. (Skip if not applicable) Countries without conscription

Point C does not refer to the Republic of Moldova and is therefore omitted in this case.

D. School system

13. In the Republic of Moldova, attendance at days of introduction to the armed forces, military careers, or other programs that could be seen as preparatory to military recruitment is not an obligatory part of the secondary education curriculum. These activities may be organized as extracurricular options or additional educational activities, but they are not required as part of the formal educational program.

14. The Ministry of Defense has the right to access students' personal data only after they reach the age of 16. Access to students' personal data is granted through the State Registry of Defense Resources, which is interconnected with the State Population Registry and pertains only to male individuals.

15. In the Republic of Moldova, military institutions do not offer permanent programs for students under 18 years old, but they may organize informational activities or introductory sessions about military careers. These activities may include visits to military units, meetings with military personnel, or presentations on various fields of activity in the army, but they are not structured educational programs or mandatory for individuals under 18.

16. In the Republic of Moldova, military personnel may be involved in educational activities in schools, but this is typically on a temporary basis. For example, they may organize informational sessions or presentations about military careers, defense education, or values related to discipline and responsibility in the military. These activities are generally occasional and do not form part of the permanent school curriculum. Military personnel are not usually involved in teaching regular classes on a long-term basis..

E. Voluntary recruitment into military service

17. The national armed forces of the Republic of Moldova use several incentives and measures to encourage voluntary recruitment. These include:

- **Financial Incentives:** The Ministry of Defense offers competitive salaries and benefits to those who join the military voluntarily, including additional allowances for specific roles or deployments.

- **Career Prospects:** Voluntary service provides career development opportunities within the armed forces, including specialized training and the chance to advance through ranks. It also offers the potential for a long-term career in the military.

- **Advertising and Campaigns:** The Ministry of Defense conducts regular advertising campaigns, including information sessions, to promote the benefits of a military career. These campaigns often include participation in events such as job fairs to reach potential recruits.

- **Other Benefits:** In addition to financial incentives, recruits may receive health insurance, housing support, and other social benefits.

These measures aim to make military service an attractive career option and to meet the recruitment needs of the national armed forces.

18. The minimum age for recruitment into the military is 18 years old. Citizens can voluntarily enlist at this age, provided they meet the necessary legal and health requirements..

19. In 2024, approximately 2,500 recruits were enlisted. Of these, 75% were aged between 18 and 20, 20% were aged between 21 and 25, and 5% were aged between 26 and 27.

20. In the Republic of Moldova, voluntary military service is considered contract-based military service. The legislative act governing this service is Government Decision No. 941/2006 "on the approval of the Regulation regarding the fulfillment of military service in the Armed Forces," as well as Law No. 162/2005 regarding the status of military personnel. These legal acts establish the conditions and procedures for the recruitment and enlistment of volunteers in the national army, regulating the status and rights of military personnel.

21. The initial duration of contract military service can be 3 years or 5 years, depending on the decision of the individual candidate.

22. Approximately 50% of recruits sign up for a subsequent contract.

23. In 2024, approximately 650 reservists were called up, and they underwent mobilization training for one week.

F. Application process for recognition of conscientious objectors

24. A citizen who wishes to be exempt from compulsory military service and incorporated into civil service must personally submit a motivated application to the civil service representative within 2 months prior to the current conscription for compulsory military service, reduced-term service, or civil service.

Afterwards, the legality of their incorporation into civil service is analyzed within the framework of the recruitment-conscription committees' activities, and a decision is made.

25. Regarding the information provided to conscripts about their right to be exempt from performing mandatory military service, pacifist organizations, as well as the civil service, conduct information campaigns throughout the year.

26. The body responsible for deciding upon applications for the recognition of conscientious objectors is the Civil Service, which is tasked with reviewing and processing the applications in accordance with the law.

27. The authorities responsible for the application process for the recognition of conscientious objectors are the Civil Service Center of the Republic of Moldova, website: <https://csc.md/> .

28. The number of applications and their outcomes may vary from year to year. Generally, a certain number of applications are approved on the first review, while others are rejected and may be appealed. The success of appeals depends on the evidence presented and the specific case review process. According to the records, in 2024, approximately 200 applications were submitted, of which around 50% were not accepted due to non-compliance with the legal framework.

29. The applications were rejected because the applicants failed to demonstrate sufficient grounds for conscientious objection, such as not providing credible or compelling reasons for refusing to perform the service. Other rejections may be due to legal technicalities or procedural issues.

30. Citizens can challenge the decision of the recruitment-conscription commission before the State Commission for Conscription or can appeal it in court, in the manner established by law, within 10 days from the date of notification. The execution of the contested or appealed decision is suspended.

31. Those who evade performing alternative service are subject to a penalty in accordance with Article 370 of the Contraventions Code of the Republic of Moldova, No. 218/2008: "Evasion of conscription for civil (alternative) service is punishable by a fine".

G. Terms of alternative service

32. Alternative service is mandatory for all individuals who, under the law, do not qualify for deferment from conscription due to health reasons, family circumstances, or continued studies and who are members of pacifist associations. Responsibility for overseeing the execution of alternative service for these individuals lies with the Civil Service Center of the Republic of Moldova.

33. Duration of Civil Service

- The duration of civil service is 12 months. For individuals with higher education, this duration is reduced to 6 months.

- Civil service begins on the date of signing the fixed-term individual employment contract.

- The end date of civil service is the day the individual employment contract of the citizen performing civil service, referred to as the civil service executor, is terminated through dismissal from civil service. The employment contract with the civil service executor will be terminated by the employer on the day the civil service term expires.

34. For all conscripts, the duration of mandatory military service is 12 months, with the exception of citizens with higher education, for whom it is 3 months.

35. In accordance with the applicable legislative framework, citizens performing alternative service are remunerated at a rate of 75% of the net income for the work performed.

36. The remuneration rate for those performing alternative service cannot be compared to that of conscripts in mandatory military service, as conscripts have different obligations, rights, and benefits compared to those in alternative service.

37. In accordance with point 4 of the Regulation on the organization and execution of civil service, approved by the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova No. 865/2008: "Civil service is performed in public institutions or commercial companies carrying out activities on national territory, in the fields of social and medical assistance, industrial construction, civil construction, road and railway construction, environmental protection, agricultural associations, enterprises processing agricultural production, communal services, and special civil service formations (search and rescue, firefighting, construction, etc.)."

38. The Civil Service Center of the Republic of Moldova coordinates with the National Employment Agency the available positions for the potential assignment of civil service executors.

39. Yes, it is possible to perform alternative service while continuing to live at your permanent address, depending on the nature of the activity and the requirements of the institution where the service is performed. However, certain placements within alternative service may impose specific accommodation conditions, depending on the workplace and the field of activity.

H. Conscientious objection during military service of conscripts/volunteers

Regarding early release from mandatory military service on grounds of conscience, the legislation stipulates that the examination of recruits takes place before they are enlisted in mandatory military service, not after they have been enlisted.

Thus, questions 40 to 45 do not apply to the case of the Republic of Moldova.

I. Conscientious objection after military service

In the Republic of Moldova, the legislation does not explicitly provide for the recognition of conscientious objection after the completion of mandatory military service. According to current legislation, the status of conscientious objector is considered only before enlistment, as part of the recruitment examination procedures. After completing military service, reservists remain subject to mobilization obligations, and the legislation does not offer a clear mechanism for invoking conscientious objection at this stage.

J. Asylum for conscientious objectors

48. Statistics regarding refusals to perform alternative service can be provided in cases where individuals do not meet the legal requirements. According to the data held by the Ministry of Defense, it is reported that in 2024 there were approximately 200 cases of refusal to fulfill mandatory military service on grounds of conscience, but after the recruitment commission, fewer than 100 were accepted for alternative service.

K. Developments since last year

Here you can find the information published in last year's Report.

49. In 2024, there were no legislative amendments.

50. Regarding proposals for amendments to the relevant legislation, the Ministry of Defense is not aware of any, as this area falls under the responsibility of the "Civil Service," a separate institution.

51. We do not have any additions.

State General Secretary

Igor CUTIE

Digitally signed by Cutie Igor
Date: 2024.11.25 09:31:44 EET
Reason: MoldSign Signature
Location: Moldova

MOLDOVA EUROPEANĂ



Ex. Victor Vîrlan
tel.022 252258
e-mail: victor.virlan@army.md

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