UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Sergio Vieira de Mello

ACADEMIC NETWORK

GRANT PROGRAM

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Ukraine Human rights Refugees Moldova Integration Protection Support Displacement Collaboration Engagement Network Empowerment Response Civil Society Advocacy Dialogue Research Inclusion Participation Education Learning Reflection Resilience Dignity Community

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What is SVMAC?

The Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair initiative in Moldova represents a strategic partnership between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Moldova, participating universities and their faculties. It aims to strengthen the engagement of these academic institutions with UNHCR's mandate to promote the protection and solutions for refugees and stateless persons, aligning with the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees and fostering a multi-stakeholder approach.

The SVMAC initiative seeks to create a robust framework for collaboration, focusing on four key objectives:

- Strengthening institutional engagement between UNHCR and universities.
- Promoting academic learning and research on forced displacement and statelessness.
- Enhancing community outreach and support for refugees and stateless persons, including access to services and higher education.
- Building capacity within universities to engage on refugee and statelessness issues.

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Which Universities are part of the SVMAC Network ?

Partners

Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy
(*Universitatea de Stat de Medicină și Farmacie „Nicolae Testemițanu” din Republica Moldova)*

Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University
(Universitatea Pedagogică de Stat „Ion Creangă” din Chișinău)

Network members

Alecu Russo State University of Bălți
(Universitatea de Stat „Alecu Russo” din Bălți)

Comrat State University
(Universitatea de Stat din Comrat)

Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu State University of Cahul
(Universitatea de Stat „Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” din Cahul)

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Which projects SVMAC Grant Program Funds?

- Objective 1 – Access to Rights, Services & Community-Based Support: Design and implement initiatives that facilitate access to rights, services, or opportunities for refugee and stateless communities. Projects may focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), legal assistance, language courses, art or recreational programming, digital or vocational skills, and other community-based services. Activities may be carried out within the university or in external communities and should demonstrate responsiveness to real needs and participation of affected persons where possible.

- Objective 2 – Social Inclusion & Cohesion: Foster positive interaction and mutual understanding between refugees/stateless persons and host communities, including students, faculty, and local residents. Projects may include book clubs, intercultural festivals, sports activities, youth dialogue spaces, or creative expression workshops. Initiatives should promote inclusive spaces that reduce stigma, build trust, and strengthen community ties.

- Objective 3 – Academic Research & Knowledge Production: Support research that contributes to understanding the legal, social, gendered, economic, or psychological dimensions of displacement and statelessness in Moldova. Projects may include empirical studies, participatory research, thesis support, or policy analysis, and should aim to generate knowledge that informs policy, improves practice, or amplifies underrepresented perspectives.

- Objective 4 – Public Awareness & Advocacy: Raise awareness of refugee and statelessness issues through campaigns, exhibitions, student journalism, podcasts, short films, legal clinics, or public lectures. Projects should aim to inform, shift public narratives, promote empathy, and support refugees/stateless persons in understanding their rights and navigating local systems.

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2 Grant Categories

Category A: Student-led Inclusion, Support & Awareness Initiatives:

- Focus: Projects led by students (individually or in associations) contributing to Objectives 1, 2, or 4 — focusing on community-based support, social inclusion, and public awareness or advocacy.
- Eligibility: Open to undergraduate and postgraduate students or student groups affiliated with a partner university. Faculty guidance or collaboration with refugee/stateless participants is encouraged.
- Number of Grants: 4-6 grants
- Funding Range: up to 70,000 MDL

Category B: Academic Research & Learning Grants:

- Focus: Projects aligned with Objective 3, involving academic research or innovations in university teaching.
- Eligibility: Open to academic staff, and postgraduate students from partner universities.
- Number of Grants: 2-4 grants
- Funding Range: up to 70,000 MDL

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Who is Eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Affiliation: Must be currently registered students (undergraduate or postgraduate), recognized student associations/groups, or academic staff, affiliated with one of the partner universities or their faculties
- Project Lead: Each application must designate a primary project lead responsible for coordination and reporting.
- Team Composition (if applicable): Teams are encouraged. Applications demonstrating collaboration between students, faculty, and potentially involving refugees or stateless persons in design or implementation are viewed favorably.
- Project Scope: Proposed projects must align with at least one of the Grant Program Objectives and be implemented within Moldova.
- Exclusions: Funds cannot be used for tuition fees, scholarships (unless directly linked to a specific research output like thesis publication support, participation in academic contests), major capital expenditures, or activities outside the scope of the SVMAC objectives.

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How to Apply?

Requested Documents

Project Proposal Form (Appendix A) – Fully completed, detailing the project's rationale, objectives, activities, expected outcomes, timeline, and monitoring plan.

Detailed Budget (Appendix B) – Prepared using the provided template, outlining all anticipated costs and justifications. The budget must be submitted in MDL.

Curriculum Vitae (CV) – For the project lead and key team members (if applicable). Each CV must not exceed two (2) pages.

Letter(s) of Support (Optional but Recommended) – Such as endorsements from a supervising professor, relevant university department, or partner organization.

Proof of Affiliation – A valid copy of student ID, staff ID, or an official letter from the university confirming the applicant's status.

Submission Process:

- **Applications must be submitted electronically in PDF format to: law-center@cda.md copying mdachrcf@unhcr.org**
- **The subject line of the email should read: "SVM Grant Application: [Project Title] - [Applicant Name/Group Name]"**
- **Deadline for Submission: 31 July 2025**
- **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

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Selection Criteria

- Relevance (30%): Clear alignment with the SVMAC goals and the specific objectives of this Grant Program. related to the refugee and statelessness issues in the Moldovan context.
- Impact Potential (25%): Likelihood of achieving tangible, positive outcomes for refugees, stateless persons, the university community, or the field of refugee/statelessness studies. Potential for sustainability or scalability.
- Feasibility & Methodology (20%): Clarity and coherence of proposed activities, realistic timeline, and appropriate methodology.
- Budget & Cost-Effectiveness (15%): Justification of requested funds, realistic costing, and efficient use of resources.
- Inclusivity & Innovation (10%): Extent to which the project promotes inclusivity (e.g., involves refugees/stateless persons in design/implementation, benefits diverse groups, considers gender/ethnicity aspects) and demonstrates creative or innovative approaches.

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Timeline

- Call for Proposals Launch: June 15, 2025
- Application Deadline: July 31, 2025
- Application Review Period: August 1 – 15, 2025
- Selection Committee Meeting & Decision: August 20, 2025
- Notification of Applicants: August 22, 2025
- Grant Agreement Signing (with CDA): September 1, 2025
- Project Implementation Period: September 1 – November 30, 2025
- Mid-term Reporting Due: October 15, 2025
- Final Reporting Due: Dec 10, 2025

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Thank you!

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