

**MOLDOVA DIGITAL
SUMMIT 2024**

**06/08
JUNE**

powering
100% DIGITAL TOMORROW

MEDIA GUIDE

MOLDOVA

DIGITAL SUMMIT 2024

Moldova Digital Summit 2024 is the nation's main tech event. Themed "Powering a 100% Digital Tomorrow", the platform aims to fuel innovation and ignite partnerships. The current edition fosters a comprehensive transformation across business, skills, infrastructure, and governance, aligning with the European Digital Decade's vision for a sustainable, human-centric digital society. The summit will highlight Moldova's digital advancements and explore innovative ways to streamline governance, business, and social systems, with a strong focus on cross-border cooperation.

In an invigorating three-day marathon of ideas aimed at shaping a 100% digital future, the summit is set to gather over 3,000 participants and business representatives from Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Poland, UK, Sweden and more, who can look forward to meeting inspiring speakers on the main stage, experiencing showcases from innovative entrepreneurs, engaging in countless B2B workshops, exploring numerous opportunities for digital transformation, and discovering an extensive expo area. Building on the success of last year's summit, this year's event is set to be even larger and more impactful, representing Moldova's transformation journey towards a 100% digital state, as it will be held at the country's largest venue - Chisinau Arena.

Discover key strategies for digital acceleration

Leading experts from EU, US and South East Europe will unveil key strategies for the digital acceleration of society:

- Digitalization of public services: showcasing how a 100% digital government improves efficiency and transparency.
- Digital transformation of economy and businesses: empowering SMEs, enhancing digital supply chains, and fostering tech startups.
- Skill development: focusing on creating a future-ready workforce with skills beyond the technical, including change management and adaptability.
- Development of secure digital infrastructure: creating a modern, secure, and resilient infrastructure as the foundation for a digital society.

Meet 50 inspiring keynote speakers

Moldova Digital Summit will feature over 570 inspiring speakers who will cover critical topics including digital transformation on the government level and integrations into the digital market, the development of a global digital ecosystem, and the role of capacity building, AI and cybersecurity. The summit will host over 25+ panel discussions and workshops focusing on overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities in G2B and B2B collaboration.

Explore a 1,000m² expo area

The expansive Expo Area, over 1,000m², is central to the summit, offering a sectorial showcase of digitalization where main agencies, companies, and organizations are set to present their innovations, solutions, future plans, and needs. Multiple real-time demonstrations will be featured in the expo area, including obtaining electronic signatures or digital IDs and the groundbreaking government "one-stop shop" app for all of Moldova's digital public services: EVO, set to be officially launched during the summit. The area focuses on building connections between startups, venture capitalists, and angel investors while promoting innovation and business development. It also features cutting-edge projects and collaborative research, alongside interactive displays that demonstrate why Moldova is a top investment destination and a place for building long-lasting partnerships.

DIGITAL MOLDOVA

Moldova is quickly becoming a leader in digital public services, with 59% of its services already digitized and a goal to reach 100% by 2030. Currently, 70% of all business requests in Moldova are handled online. The country's investment appeal is further bolstered by a favourable income tax environment that supports profit reinvestment and business growth, along with stability and predictability reinforced by extending the IT Park until 2035 with a 7% tax rate.

Efforts to streamline government processes have been effective, evidenced by the reduction of bureaucratic barriers equivalent to 0.5% of GDP in 2023, with plans for further reductions in 2024. Over half of the public services for entrepreneurs are now available online, targeting an increase to 75% by the year's end. Recent LLC reforms have also enhanced entrepreneurial freedom, leading to more efficient business management, and citizens from 47 countries can work in Moldova without a work permit, enhancing the local talent pool.

Moldova is rapidly emerging as a regional leader in the technology sector, with remarkable growth and innovation across its IT landscape, thanks to the talent, ease of doing business in Moldova, but also the best fiscal system for IT companies on the European continent of a unique single 7% tax on revenue, and an extended state guarantee until the end of 2035.

Since 2023, the Information Technology sector has been the leader in Moldova's exports. In recent years, this branch of the economy has gained significant momentum. In 2023, IT services exports amounted to \$830 million, representing nearly 28% of the total service exports.

Moldova IT Park, Europe's first e-Park, is home to over 1,600 IT companies, including more than 230 foreign-capital firms, with substantial investments from the United States, Romania, and Germany, solidifying Moldova's reputation as an emerging tech hub.

In terms of economic contribution, 73% of the revenue of the IT industry in Moldova is generated by MITP residents. In addition, the IT industry's contribution to Moldova's GDP increased from 2.7% to 5.1%, with eight out of ten of all IT employees working in MITP resident companies. Official statistics highlight the robust growth within the IT sector, showing a more than 66% increase in the number of ICT companies over the last seven years. Additionally, enterprises engaged in computer programming, consultancy, and related activities have expanded by more than 135%.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: AN OVERVIEW

Moldova is a country rich in cultural diversity and historical depth, poised for significant economic growth as it integrates into European markets. The nation is enhancing its investment climate and streamlining bureaucratic processes, establishing itself as an attractive destination for global investors and business leaders. Looking ahead, Moldova is focusing on strengthening its economic stability and growth through deeper integration with European markets. This focus is particularly timely following its application for EU membership and the subsequent steps toward formal accession negotiations.

Geography

Moldova covers an area of 33,846 km², making it one of the smaller countries in Europe. Despite its modest size, the country boasts a varied landscape that includes hills, forests, and plains. The Dniester and Prut Rivers are significant geographical features, providing vital water resources and enhancing the natural beauty of the country.

Population and language

Moldova has an estimated population of approximately 2.6 million people as of 2022, comprising a mix of ethnic groups. Romanian is the official language of Moldova, but a significant portion of the population is bilingual or multilingual. Russian, English, Italian, and other foreign languages are increasingly spoken, especially among the younger generation, reflecting Moldova's growing integration with the global community.

Climate

Moldova experiences a moderately continental climate, which includes relatively mild winters and long, warm summers. Snowfall during the winter months is generally light, making it easier for travel and economic activities during this season. The summers are typically warm and inviting, with low humidity, creating ideal conditions for agriculture, particularly viticulture, which is a significant part of Moldova's economy. In Chisinau, the capital city, average temperatures in June range between 20-21°C (68-70°F).

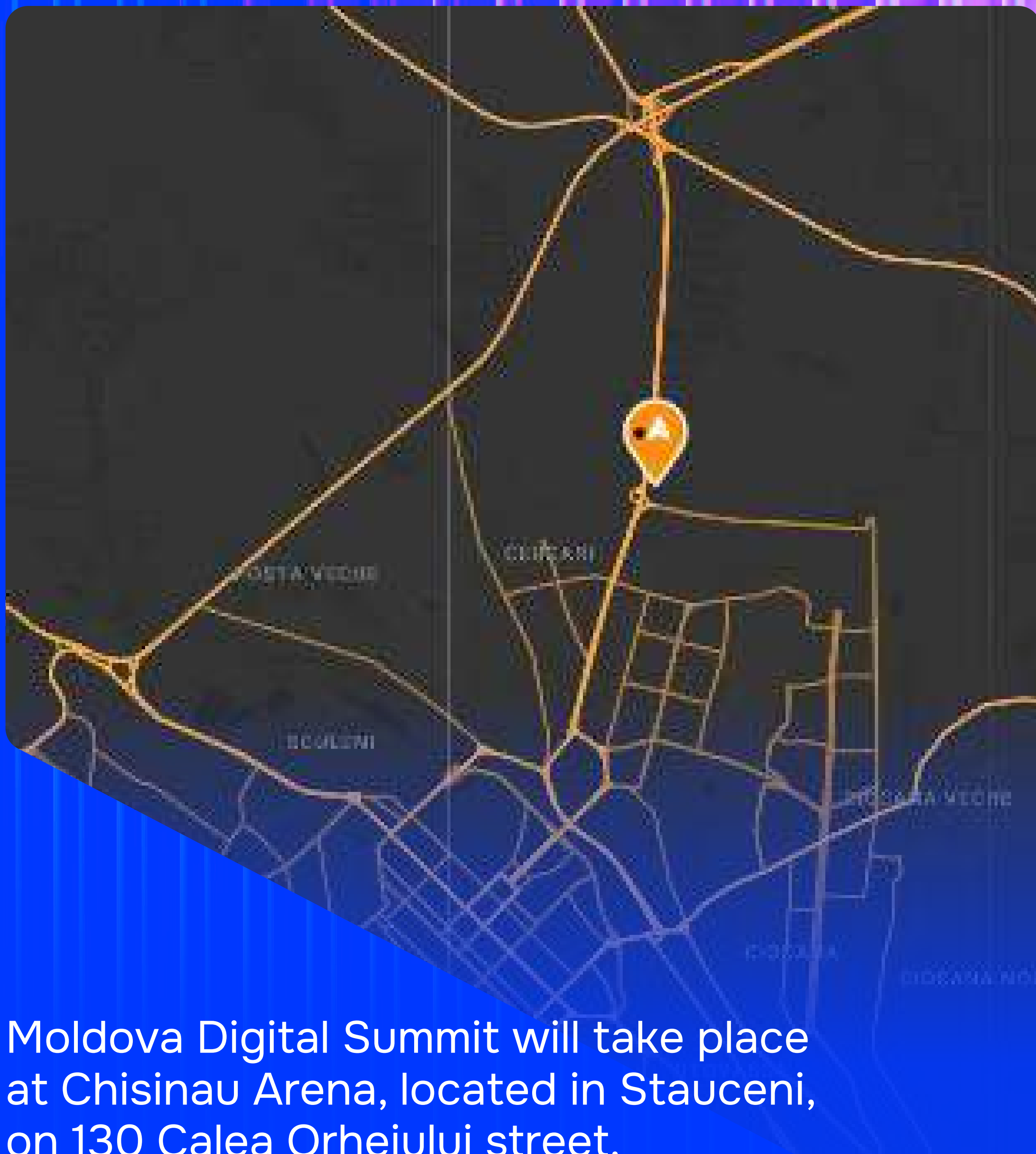
Economic Highlights

Moldova's economy is notably driven by agriculture, wine production, and increasingly by information technology and services sectors. Moldova is ranked 60th in the Global Innovation Index. The country has also debuted at 118th out of 193 in the Global Soft Power Index, marking its recognition for cultural, social, and economic influence worldwide.

Moldova's IT sector is emerging as a dynamic field with significant growth potential, driven by an educated, tech-savvy workforce and supportive government policies aimed at boosting innovation and digital transformation. The Moldovan IT industry generates 7% of the country's GDP with over 1 billion USD annually in revenue. With a workforce of over 20,000 professionals and numerous successful companies, Moldova is rapidly advancing in the digital realm.



MOLDOVA DIGITAL SUMMIT VENUE



Moldova Digital Summit will take place at Chisinau Arena, located in Stauceni, on 130 Calea Orheiului street.

MEDIA REGISTRATION

Media registration is open until **3 June 2024**. For registration please send an e-mail to events@ict.md. You will need the following documents to attach:

- A scan of a valid passport* with an expiration date exceeding the date of the Summit by at least 90 days
- A valid press card and a letter, in English or Romanian, signed and stamped by the editor-in-chief of your media organization that confirms your status as a journalist and states which event you are covering.

You will receive a response to your registration request within 3 calendar days. We strongly recommend that you apply for registration as early as possible.

To gain access to the premises of the Summit on June 6th and 7th, a media badge is required. These badges can be collected at the media corner of Chisinau Arena on the day of the event, starting from 8:00 a.m. Make sure to have all necessary identification and documentation to facilitate a smooth pick-up process.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENT

All the information dedicated to Moldova Digital Summit 2024 can be found on the official website of the event:

- <https://moldovadigitalsummit.md/>

Additional information can be found on the official Moldova Digital Summit social media accounts:



Official live announcements will be posted in the lead up to the summit date. Usage of content will be allowed based on the copyright norms indicated on the official social media platforms.

CONTACTS

We highly encourage journalists to familiarize themselves with the Media Guide provided for the Summit. These resources are designed to address frequently asked questions and provide important information related to media coverage, logistics, and access to various events.

For any media-related enquiries, you can contact Irina Caliman at irina.caliman@qubo.md or **+373 69021887**

GETTING AROUND

Reaching Chişinău from the airport. There are several transportation options from Chişinău International Airport to Chişinău City. First, public trolleybus #30 leaves from the airport to the city center (main square – Piaţa Marii Adunări Naţionale). The trolleybus trip costs 6 MDL (~0.3 EUR) and can be paid with a credit/debit card or in cash onboard the trolleybus.

Reaching Arena Chisinau. The following transit lines have routes pass near Chişinău Arena:

Bus: 112, 186

Trolleybus: 10

You can consult the public transportation schedule [HERE](#).

It is important to ensure that you pay the fare indicated on the meter to avoid any discrepancies. Additionally, you may consider using mobile taxi apps, which provide reliable taxi services. These apps can be a convenient and efficient way to arrange transportation during your stay.

- [Letz](#) - download the app (accepts Visa and MasterCard)
- [hipTaxi](#) - download the app (accepts Visa and MasterCard)
- [TaxiClub](#) - download the app (accepts only cash payments)

Currency and money exchange

The currency of Moldova is Moldovan Leu, plural Lei (MDL). You can check the currency exchange rate at www.curs.md/en.

There are many ATMs around Chişinău and across the country. Card payments are widely accepted in major commercial centers, grocery stores, and restaurants. Money can be exchanged in banks or in currency exchange points around Chişinău.

ACCOMODATION

Journalists are kindly requested to take care of their own accommodation arrangements. It is advisable to book accommodations in Chisinau or its vicinity.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Visiting Moldova is considered safe, but please consider the following recommendations:

- Please maintain a high level of personal security awareness while visiting Moldova, as you would in your own country.
- Ensure the safety of your valuables at all times.
- Always carry your passport with you.
- Be cautious of individuals, especially strangers, who may approach you asking for money. Pickpockets operate in public places, restaurants, public transport, and sometimes even in places of worship.
- When driving in Moldova, ensure that you have all the necessary documentation, including a valid driving license, proof of insurance, passport, and proof of vehicle rental.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal in Moldova, and there is a zero-tolerance policy for drunk driving.
- Both drugs and prostitution are illegal in the country.
- If an ununiformed individual claims to be a policeman and attempts to exercise their duties towards you, ask for their ID and badge to verify their authenticity.
- Keep in mind that large political protests can occur in Moldova.
- The Transnistrian conflict remains an ongoing frozen conflict between Moldova and the unrecognized state of Transnistria.

In case of an incident or emergency, it is crucial to **CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** immediately. In Moldova, there is a single general emergency number that you can call for all types of assistance. **Dial 112 to reach the police, fire department, or ambulance services.** This number will connect you to the appropriate emergency service based on your situation.

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