Moldova - Country Brief
Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025
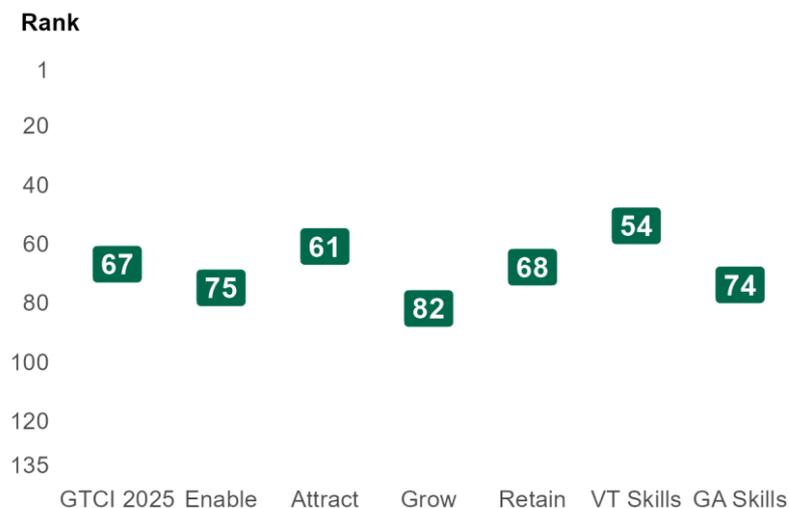
Total population:	2.39 million
GDP:	US$ 16.751 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US$ 17,501
	(76 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Upper-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	67 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Moldova is ranked 67th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Moldova relate to Employability, External Openness and Lifestyle, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the Sustainability, Lifelong Learning and High-level Skills sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Moldova global ranking (GTCI sample of 135 countries)

Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Comparison with different groups of countries

Moldova is situated in Europe and is classified as Upper-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 39th out of 39 countries (Table 1).

Moldova is ranked 16th within the group of Upper-middle income countries (implying that 54 percent of countries rank lower).

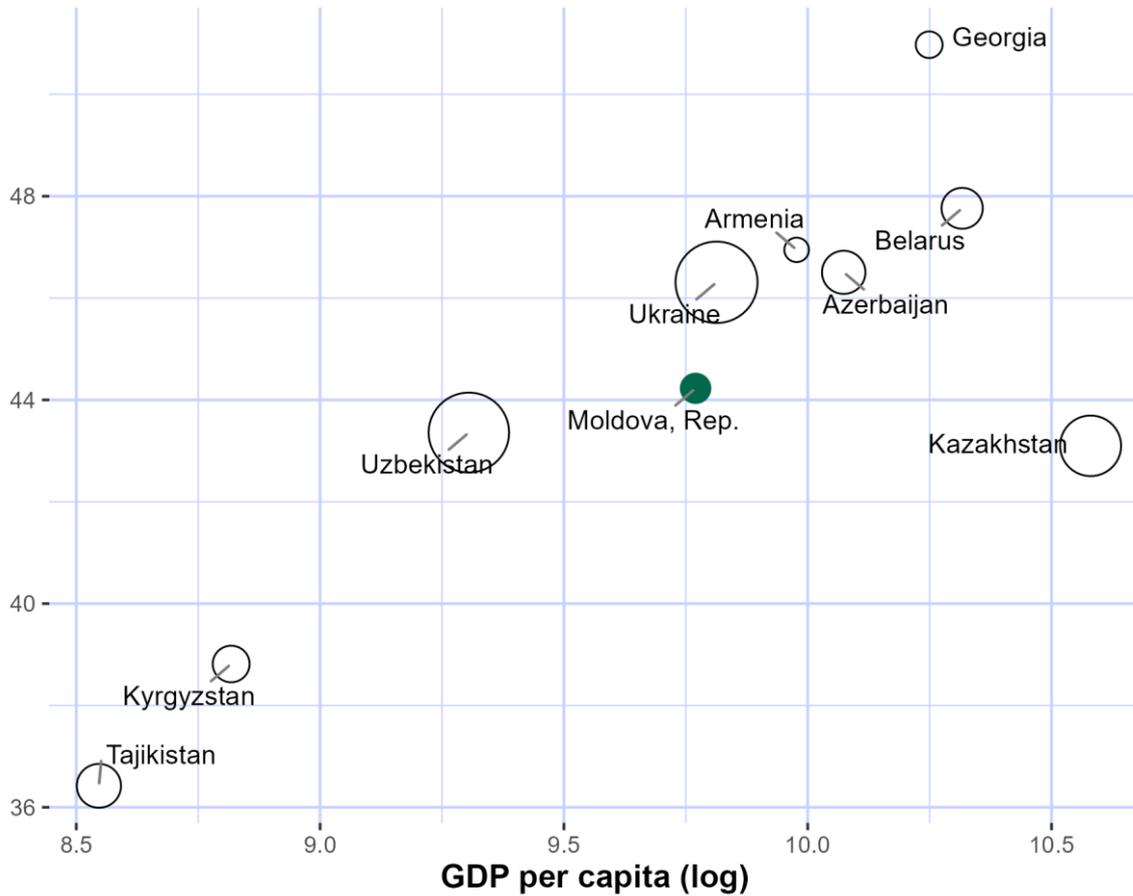**Table 1: Moldova performance vs. income groups and regions**

Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Moldova score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Moldova
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	0.9	100%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-29.1	44%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-28.9	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-8.4	78%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-15.9	42%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-25.2	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-5.5	94%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-29.1	2%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-6.7	54%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	0.9	100%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	10.3	100%

Comparison with group of competitors

Moldova's group of competitors is defined as post-Soviet republics in Eurasia, excluding Russia. It comprises a group of 10 economies. Figure 2 plots how Moldova fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Moldova's GTCI score and GDP per capita are both lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, the country's talent competitiveness is not in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 2: GTCI score and GDP per capita (log) of Moldova and its identified competitors

Note: Bubble size indicates country population.
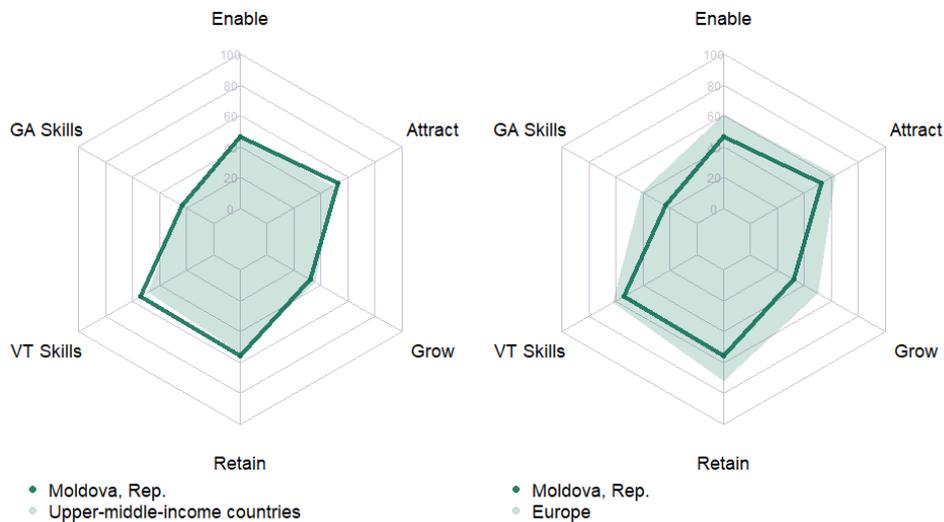
Performance against its income group and region

Upper-middle-income countries
Moldova is ranked 16th in the group of upper-middle-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in four of the six pillars: GTCI, Attract, Retain, VT and GA. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-middle-income countries in six of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, External Openness, Lifestyle, Midlevel Skills, Employability and Talent Impact.

Europe
Moldova is ranked 39th within Europe (Figure 3, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in one of the fourteen sub-pillars: Employability.

Figure 3: Moldova pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region

Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Moldova's ranking ranges from 62nd to 89th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Moldova ranks 74 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is better than the average rank of 75 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Moldova, 2015-2025

62 (out of 93)	**64** (out of 109)	**75** (out of 118)	**86** (out of 119)	**89** (out of 125)
GTCI 2014	GTCI 2015-16	GTCI 2017	GTCI 2018	GTCI 2019
86 (out of 132)	**83** (out of 134)	**67** (out of 133)	**65** (out of 134)	**67** (out of 135)
GTCI 2020	GTCI 2021	GTCI 2022	GTCI 2023	GTCI 2025

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