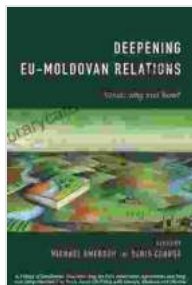


Deepening EU-Moldovan Relations: An In-Depth Exploration of the What, Why, and How

The European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova share a deep and longstanding relationship that has been characterized by cooperation, support, and mutual understanding. In recent years, there has been a renewed focus on deepening this relationship, with both sides recognizing the immense benefits that closer ties can bring. This article delves into the various aspects of EU-Moldovan relations, exploring the what, why, and how of this important partnership.

The Historical Context of EU-Moldovan Relations

The roots of EU-Moldovan relations can be traced back to the early 1990s, when Moldova gained independence from the Soviet Union. In 1995, the two sides signed a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which provided a framework for political, economic, and cultural cooperation. The PCA was replaced by the Association Agreement (AA) in 2014, which brought Moldova closer to the EU by establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and aligning Moldovan legislation with EU standards.



Deepening EU-Moldovan Relations: What, Why and How? by Yoann Barbereau

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Benefits of Deepening EU-Moldovan Relations

There are numerous benefits to deepening EU-Moldovan relations, including:

- **Economic growth**: The DCFTA has boosted trade and investment between the EU and Moldova, leading to increased economic growth and job creation.
- **Political stability**: The EU's support for Moldova's democratic institutions and reforms has helped to promote stability and good governance in the country.
- **Security**: The EU has been a key partner in supporting Moldova's security and defense, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- **Social progress**: The EU has provided significant financial assistance to Moldova for social programs, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development.

The Challenges to Deepening EU-Moldovan Relations

While there are many benefits to deepening EU-Moldovan relations, there are also a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including:

- **Corruption**: Corruption remains a significant problem in Moldova, and it has hindered the country's progress towards EU integration.
- **Organized crime**: Organized crime is another major challenge, and it has undermined the rule of law and economic development.
- **Political**

instability^{**}: Moldova has experienced political instability in recent years, which has made it difficult to implement reforms and pursue closer ties with the EU. - ^{**}Transnistria^{**}: The unresolved conflict in the breakaway region of Transnistria is a major obstacle to Moldova's EU integration.

The Way Forward: How to Deepen EU-Moldovan Relations

Despite the challenges, there is a strong commitment on both sides to deepening EU-Moldovan relations. The following are some key steps that need to be taken to achieve this goal:

- ^{**}Fighting corruption^{**}: Moldova must continue to fight corruption at all levels of government and society. - ^{**}Combating organized crime^{**}: The Moldovan authorities need to strengthen their efforts to combat organized crime and disrupt criminal networks. - ^{**}Promoting political stability^{**}: Moldova needs to establish a stable and inclusive political system that is committed to reforms and EU integration. - ^{**}Resolving the Transnistria conflict^{**}: A peaceful resolution of the Transnistria conflict is essential for Moldova's long-term stability and EU integration.

The deepening of EU-Moldovan relations is a strategic priority for both sides. By working together to overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities, the EU and Moldova can build a stronger and more prosperous future for themselves. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the what, why, and how of EU-Moldovan relations, offering valuable insights into the complexities and the potential of this important partnership.



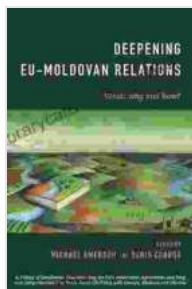
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MOLDOVA

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Ties between the EU and the Republic of Moldova have been in place for over 20 years. Since 2014, relations have been based on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which provides the foundations for stronger political association and economic integration between the EU and Moldova. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is an integral part of this Agreement. The EU's assistance and support for democratic reforms have delivered tangible benefits to Moldovan citizens.

On 2 June 2021 the European Commission announced an Economic Recovery Plan for the Republic of Moldova. The Commission will mobilise up to €800 million between 2021 and 2024 to promote investments in Moldova and support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the country, in exchange for structural reforms.



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