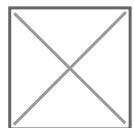


# **Development opportunities for Bulgarian community discussed by Moldovan Prime Minister and Bulgarian counterpart with residents of Taraclia district**



Prime Minister Dorin Recean and his Bulgarian counterpart Rossen Jeliazkov met in Taraclia with representatives of local public authorities and residents of the region. The meeting focused on the development opportunities for the Bulgarian community, the challenges people face, and the benefits of Moldova's accession to the European Union.

"We all want the same thing - a peaceful future for all our children, living together in mutual respect and appreciation," Recean said.

Participants appreciated the achievements in recent years of the Government in Taraclia district. Thanks to the Executive's investments, 15 km of water pipeline have been built, 26 km of roads rehabilitated, and three schools modernized. At the same time, Taraclia District Hospital has been equipped with modern equipment, and the hospital's therapy department has undergone capital renovation.

Sofia Government's efforts were also mentioned, contributing to the development of infrastructure and education, especially the opening of a branch of Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Bulgaria, offering scholarships, and publishing 1000 Bulgarian history and language books.

In this context, Recean urged people to inform themselves from reliable sources and to exercise discernment in the face of manipulation attempts. "We have never talked about dissolving the Taraclia District or other scare tactics related to the Bulgarian community in Moldova. Our visit confirms this. We value the contribution of Moldovan Bulgarians to the development of our country," he stated.

The Chișinău official also highlighted the need to preserve and promote the Bulgarian language and culture, as well as consolidate efforts in the European integration process of Moldova.

Ethnic Bulgarians represent about 1.6% of the population of Moldova. Bulgarian as a mother tongue is studied by nearly 5000 students and is taught in 25 educational institutions in the country.

