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Trends and Opportunities for the Domestic Trade Development in the Republic of Moldova in the Context of Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement with EU

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Abstract: Trade plays an important role in the process of distribution of goods, economic growth and in increasing the quality of life of the population, contributing to the ensurance of macroeconomic equilibrium. Trade is ranked first regarding its contribution to GDP formation. Its share constituted 14.1% in 2016, this indicator being on the rise. That is why the study of the phenomena taking place in this field and the continuous modernization of this sector has a major significance.

The paper analyses the legislation, policies and the current situation in the field of domestic trade, the level of assurance of consumers with units and commercial infrastructure in the urban and rural localities over the country, the structure of the volume of goods sales by category. Particular attention is paid to the assessment of the implementation of the Domestic Trade Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2020, as well as to the analysis of internal trade in Chisinau, which has a market share of about 40% of the total sales.

In the light of recent legislative changes and innovations, the paper describes the simplification of the commercial activity launching procedure through the implementation of commercial notification and creation of a unique information system for the management and issuance of permissive documents (Single Window Service), which contributes to the optimization of permissive documents for business start-up in trade and reducing of tax burden for entrepreneurs.

On the basis of carried out researches, proposals are reasoned regarding the improvement of domestic trade activity, the implementation of which will facilitate the evolution of this sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

Keywords: trade, needs, demand, distribution, supply, service, trade unit, commercial network, sales area, sales revenue, commercial infrastructure, trade assortment, domestic market, Single Window Service

Introduction

Since the establishment of the Republic of Moldova as an independent and sovereign state, the issue of domestic trade is current, as trade performs a number of specific tasks and functions that ensure the satisfaction of the needs of intermediate and individual consumers, contributing to the intensification of the commodity exchange and the development of the national economy as a whole. Over time, the government developed a comprehensive program that created the legislative and regulatory framework which governs the activity in the field of trade, developed and implemented a trade-oriented development policy.

On June 27, 2014, the European Union and the Republic of Moldova signed the Association Agreement and applied it provisionally on September 1, 2014. The agreement introduces the preferential trade relationship – **The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)** which establishes business opportunities in the Republic of Moldova by promoting real economic modernization and facilitating integration into the EU, and as a result, citizens will benefit from products and services of improved quality and safety, and producers will gain more effective and open access to international markets [7].

For these reasons, it is possible to conduct a study of the situation regarding the simplification of the procedure for registering trade activities and the level of customer service quality, in order to establish new tasks for the development and improvement of trade aiming at achieving the level of European states.

The paper explains the current situation of the interior trade with reference to the level of assurance of consumers with quality goods and products, the quality of commercial service in the urban and rural localities in the country. The paper analyses the dynamics and structure of the volume of sales by category of goods, the number of retail units and the commercial area on average per trade unit, and the correlation of these indicators with state trade policies.

1. The Role of Domestic Trade in the National Economy

Domestic trade plays an important role in the national economy. Trade is a branch of the economy that provides more than 14.1% of the country's GDP. For these reasons, the government has always paid special attention to issues related to trade. In 2010, after being revised, the *Law on Internal Trade* [1] was reapproved by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. In addition, over time, the Ministry of Economy (and Infrastructure) has developed and implemented various policies aimed at supporting and developing domestic trade. Thus, the *Domestic Trade Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2009-2013* was developed and implemented. Currently, the Strategy for 2014-2020 was approved and is being implemented. During this period research was carried out and the problems of internal trade were published and analyzed in a number of works and articles. Scientific conferences [8], addressing the issues of domestic trade, are organized in the academic and business environment. At the same time, there are not enough actions to promote the state policy on domestic trade among the masses of population.

The economic and social role of trade is linked to the fact that the sale of goods is an indispensable process in the economic life of the unit, because through trade the products become available to consumers, in places where they are located, and offered in accordance with their buying opportunities. The role is the same for traditional trade, through small business units, as well as in trade units with commercial areas of thousands of square meters. Trade is particularly important for employment. In 2016, more than 199,600 people were employed in the trade, food and tourism sectors of the Republic of Moldova [9].

Currently, the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure implements the *Domestic Trade Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for 2014-2020* and the *Action Plan on its Implementation* [3], which was approved by the Government Decision on 13 November 2013. The Strategy foresees a number of actions, including ... "Improvement of rural commercial infrastructure, ensuring the domestic market with quality products, predominantly indigenous, reducing the number of permissive acts in launching the business, clear rules in promotional sales".

The Strategy aims to contribute to the development of activities related to trading products and services across the country and to modify the existing concept of internal trade. The main objectives of the *Strategy* are to increase the efficiency of internal trade regulation, to increase the competitiveness of the products and services placed on the market, to improve the commercial infrastructure in the territory, especially in the rural areas, to modernize the forms of distribution and marketing of products, to ensure trade with skilled work force in continuous improvement.

As a result of the implementation of the actions outlined in the strategy, consumers will benefit from affordable and qualitative goods and services and a higher level of service in commercial units. Experts estimate that as a result of implementing the strategy, retail sales will increase by about 3-4% annually, reducing the imbalance of commercial infrastructure between urban and rural localities by 10-15% by 2020. *The Action Plan* provides for the expansion of the commercial network with about 50 units annually, increasing both the share of modern trade in total retail sales up to 45%, and the share of distance trade in the total retail sales by about 2-3% annually.

2. Indicators of the Internal Trade

To assess the level of implementation of the provisions of the *Domestic Trade Development Strategy* in the Republic of Moldova, we will examine the main indicators that characterize the current state and their trend for the next years.

The main indicator that characterizes the internal trade is the volume of sales. Thus, between 2005 and 2016, the volume of sales is characterized by steady growth [10]. According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics, in this period there is a dynamic increase in sales of more than 4.4 times compared to 2005 and 1.9 times compared to 2010. In 2016, the volume of sales reached 48517.0 million lei [4], increasing by 114,3% relative to 2015 (Table no. 1).

Table no. 1. Retail dynamics (million lei, current prices)

Years	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	In %		
						2016/ 2015	2016/ 2010	2016/ 2005
Categories of goods, total	11030.8	25096.5	45972.0	42444.3	48517	114.3	1.9 increase	4.4 increase
Foodstuffs	3611.4	8049.2	14004.1	15481.8	18164.9	117.3	2.2 increase	5 increase
Non-food goods (items)	7419.4	17047.3	31967.9	26962.5	30352.1	112.6	1.8 increase	4.1 increase

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Structure of retail trade, 2005-2016.[4]

If we analyse this indicator by categories of goods, then there is a higher increase in food sales of more than 5.0 times, and of non-food goods only by 4.1 times. This trend persists throughout the analysed period, even in the last two years, where the increase in the sale of food products is 117.3% and the non-food goods - 112.6%.

It is well known that consumer welfare can be considered as rising when expenses for purchasing non-food goods increase. However, the data presented in Table no. 2 shows that the share of expenditures for the purchase of food products is maintained at a high level, even it is increasing.

Table no. 2. Structure of retail trade by commodity groups (%)

Years	2014	2015	2016	Deviation, +/-	
Total	100	100	100	2016/ 2015	2016/ 2014
Foodstuffs, total including	34.8	36.5	37.4	+0.9	+2.6
- Retail sale of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bakery products and dairy products, eggs	18.0	19.3	18.6	-0.7	+0.6
- Retail sales of food products (coffee, tea, oil, other foodstuffs)	8.8	9.3	9.5	0.2	0.7
- Retail sale of alcoholic beverages	3.6	3.7	3.7	-	+0.1
- Retail sale of tobacco products	4.4	4.2	5.6	+1.4	+1.2
Non-food goods (items), total including	65.2	63.5	62.6	-0.9	-2.6
- Retail sale of building materials and hardware products	9.1	9.6	9.2	-0.4	+0.1
- Retail sale of household goods	10	9.7	9.5	-0.2	-0.5
- Retail sale of cultural and recreation goods	1.6	1.5	1.7	+0.2	+0.1
- Retail sales of clothing	3	3.2	3.4	+0.2	+0.4
- Retail sales of footwear products	0.7	1.2	1.1	-0.1	+0.4
- Retail sale of pharmaceutical products	6.7	7.6	7.1	-0.5	+0.4
- Retail sale of cosmetics and perfumery, and toilet articles	3.8	3.3	3.2	-0.1	-0.6
- Retail sale of fuels for internal combustion engines	14.7	17.1	16.9	-0.2	+2.2
- Other non-food consumer products	15.6	10.3	10.6	+0.2	-5.1

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Structure of retail trade, 2014-2016 [6]

Over the past three years, the share of food sales [6] has increased from 34.8% in 2014 to 37.4% in 2016, or by 2.6% which is characteristic of food price increase, and not of an improvement in

consumer welfare in the Republic of Moldova (Table no. 2). From the data presented in the Table it can be noticed that in recent years the share of alcoholic beverages sale increased by 0.1% and the share of tobacco products by - 1.2%, compared to 0.6% sale of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish , bakery products, dairy products and eggs and 0.7% of other food products.

This situation shows that in recent years the share of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, threatening the life and health of consumers, has increased. Thus, central and local authorities need to intensify the promotion of healthy lifestyles in order to stop the increase in the consumption of these products.

From the category of non-food products, there is an increase in the volume of fuel, sold for internal combustion engines, by 2.2%, which also indicates an increase in the number of cars, especially cars with high fuel consumption leading to environmental pollution.

An important indicator that characterizes the development of the domestic trade in recent years is the *number of commercial units* that are concerned with the sale of goods and the service of the consumers. It should be noted that official statistics does not provide a clear picture on this subject. The information published by the National Bureau of Statistics in this compartment cannot be taken as a basis for conducting reasoned analyses, as in 2013, 2014 and 2015 the way of reporting the number of commercial units operating in the republic was modified. However, from the data presented in Table 3 it can be concluded that the number of commercial units is increasing, being 14031 units in 2010, and 15966 units in 2015 [5].

The dynamics of the number of commercial units in the structure by regions and municipalities, taking into account the criteria underlying the elaboration of the statistical report, shows that in 2015 as compared to 2010 the number of trade units increased only in the municipality of Chisinau by 4728 units, or by 2.2 times and in the municipality of Cahul with 29 units or 109.2%, while in all the analysed regions and municipalities the number of units decreased.

Table no. 3 Dynamics of commerce units by municipalities and regions (units)

Years	Total per country	Chişinău Municipality	Total region North	Bălţi Municipality	Other districts North	Total region Centre	Ungheni Municipality.	Other districts Centre	Total region South	Cahul Municipality	Other districts South	U.T.A. Gagauzia
2010	14031	4065	4340	1216	3006	3250	300	2983	1600	315	1285	776
2011	15860	5636	4451	1261	3058	3400	309	3091	1611	325	1286	762
2012	10042	5559	1843	546	1259	1650	195	1455	693	226	467	297
2013	13093	7298	2316	688	1576	2086	217	1867	984	324	671	398
2014	15278	8398	2890	1010	1849	2323	252	2071	1154	416	738	513
2015	15966	8793	2900	969	1888	2558	195	2363	1134	344	790	581

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Number of retail units in territorial profiles on January 1, 2010-2015.[5]

It is interesting to analyse the dynamics of the number of stores in correlation with their commercial surface during the analysed period. According to the statistical data, the number of stores in 2015 constituted 8794 units as a whole, compared to 8889 units in 2010. At the same time, commercial surfaces increased from 750.6 thousand m² in 2010 to 963.1 thousand m² in 2015 in this period (Table 4). From these data we can conclude that in the last few years the number of stores has been reduced, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the store's commercial surface has increased. In Chisinau there is an increase in the number of stores by 2.1 times, and in the analysed period the commercial surfaces increased by 1.9 times, which shows a decrease of the commercial surface on average by one store.

Table no. 4. Dynamics of stores and commercial surface

Years/ Regions	Stores						Commercial surface, m ²					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total per country	8889	9556	5340	7012	8356	8794	750571	850923	707622	848226	907846	963105
Chişinău municipality	1562	2064	2122	2768	3176	3332	263797	353903	399161	460878	474997	503312
Total region North, incl.	3000	3091	1358	1731	2140	2226	200069	202664	127803	160312	180648	183504
Bălți	581	620	358	444	599	652	55104	56497	48194	55738	65675	69225
Other districts	2419	2471	1000	1287	1541	1574	144965	146167	79609	104574	114973	114279
Total regions Centre, incl.	2462	2567	1168	1463	1775	1932	162269	173435	110530	130994	146954	163469
Ungheni	180	186	121	140	201	159	20762	21668	19446	20643	25259	30079
Other districts	2282	2381	1047	1323	1574	1773	141507	151767	91840	110351	121950	133390
Total region South, incl.	1213	1208	454	739	852	827	81628	81835	45972	68197	72130	76208
Cahul	212	205	118	197	236	195	18454	17953	11027	18626	19287	19551
Other districts	1001	1003	336	542	616	632	63174	63882	34945	49571	52843	56657
U.T.A. Gagauzia	652	626	238	311	413	477	42808	39086	24156	27845	33117	36612

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Number of Retail Units and Commercial Surface in Territorial Profiles, on January 1, 2010-2015.[5]

Thus, if on average the size of a store was 84.4 m² in 2010, then in 2015 it was 109.5 m², or it was increasing by 129.9% (Table 5). In recent years, in the Northern region the average surface has grown up to 82.4 m² (+15.7 m²), in the Centre - to 84.6 m² (+ 18.7 m²), in the South - to 92.2 m² (+24.9 m²) and in ATU Gagauzia up to 76.6 m² (+10.9 m²). This trend is not relevant for the municipality of Chisinau, where the average surface amounted to 168.9 m² in 2010 and 151.1 m² in 2015, or there is a decrease by 17.8 m² on average by one store.

Table no. 5. Average surface of a store (m²)

Years / Regions	2010	2015	Deviation +/- 2015/2010	Dynamics, %
Total per country	84.4	109.5	+25.1	129.9
Chişinău municipality	168.9	151.1	-17.8	89.5
Region, North	66.7	82.4	+15.7	123.5
Region, Centre	65.9	84.6	+18.7	128.4
Region, South	67.3	92.2	+24.9	137
U.T.A. Gagauzia	65.7	76.6	+10.9	116.6

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. Number of retail units in territorial profiles on January 1, 2010-2015[5]

Although the Strategy foresees the uniform development of commercial infrastructure, in reality the situation is different. If we analyse the statistical data referring to the number of inhabitants it can be seen that the share of Chisinau inhabitants amounts to 22.06% of the total per country in 2010 and 22.77% in 2015. Thus, the share of the number of inhabitants in Chisinau increased by 0.71% (Table no. 6). At the same time, we see that the share of the number of commercial units and stores in this period constituted 28.97% by commercial units' category in Chisinau in 2010 and 55, 07% in 2015. Regarding the category of stores there were 17.57% in 2010 and 37.89% in 2015 in Chisinau. Thus, we can conclude that more than half of all commercial units of the country and more than 1/3 of stores are located in Chisinau. This fact testifies to the uneven development of trade and the low level of quality of customer service in other populated areas compared to the capital city.

Table no. 6. Share of the number of commercial units and stores located in Chisinau municipality

Years	Number of population, thousands of inhabitants			Total number of commercial units			Total number of stores		
	Total per country	Chişinău Municipality	Share, % Chişinău Municipality	Total per country	Chişinău	Share, % Chişinău Municipality	Total per country	Chişinău	Share, % Chişinău Municipality
2010	3 563.7	786.3	22.06	14031	4065	28.97	8889	1562	17.57
2011	3 560.4	789.5	22.17	15860	5636	35.54	9556	2064	21.60
2012	3 559.5	794.8	22.33	10042	5559	55.35	5340	2122	39.74
2013	3 559.5	800.6	22.49	13093	7298	55.74	7012	2768	39.57
2014	3 557.6	804.5	22.61	15278	8398	54.97	8356	3176	38.01
2015	3 555.2	809.6	22.77	15966	8793	55.07	8794	3332	37.89

Source: National Bureau of Statistics. [4]

In the context of the implementation of the *Trade Development Strategy* in the Republic of Moldova, it is interesting to analyze the dynamics and structure of the trade units located in Chisinau. According to the data of the **Report on the activity of the Directorate General for Commerce, Public Catering and Services** for 2016, there were 20450 commercial units, 1867 public catering units and 4763 service units on 01.01.2017 (Table no. 7) in the municipality of Chisinau. From the data presented, it can be seen that, in 2005-2017, the number of commercial units increased by 1.6 times, the number of public catering units by 1.1% and the number of service units by 3.1%. Thus, the highest growth rates are achieved in service units more than 3.0 times and commercial units with more than 1.6 times.

Analysis of the structure of commercial units shows that in the analysed period the sector of commercial units for the sale of non-food products increased more than 3.0 times and the units for goods storage - by 3.0 times, the number of supermarkets and hypermarkets, stores and online stores grew by more than 3.3 times, and booths-by 1.4 times, etc. These data show that in Chisinau trade is developing strongly and plays an important role in the formation of local and national budgets.

According to the activity report for 2016, the *Directorate General for Commerce, Public Catering and Services* provided over 15900 consultations [11] to the economic agents and individuals explaining the legislation governing the commercial activity, the quality of goods, the deadlines for their validity, the protection of the consumers' rights, and the specific rules for the development of retail trade.

Table no. 7. Dynamics and structure of trade units, public catering and services in Chisinau municipality

Nr-d/o	Types of commercial, public catering and services units	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017 01.01
	Commercial units, total	13041	16975	19686	18690	20450
1.	Grocery stores, including supermarkets / hypermarkets	954	1076/21	864/46	822/65	863/70/4
2.	Non-food stores	1053	2180	3240	2890	3184
3.	Mixed stores			166	145	145
4.	Shopping centres and complexes, house of commerce	48	41	64	65	50
5.	Commercial sections	3484	4321	4838	4377	4452
6.	Commercial Pavilions	179	446	640	670	725
7.	Booths including the Central Market	3170	3770	4288/940	4427/940	4496/1071
8.	Huckster (peddler) units, including the Central Market	3122	2825	2432/2160	2338	3472
9.	Warehouses	720	1893	2325	2092	2145
10.	Markets	43	40	42	42	40
11.	Other, including:	268	383	787/150	822/183	878
	pharmacies					466
	Online stores					215

Nr-d/o	Types of commercial, public catering and services units	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017 01.01
	Commercial intermediation					58
	Fuel Supply Station					139
12.	Public catering	1626	1719	1824	1849	1867
13.	Service units, total	1542	2586	3265	3836	4763
	Total:	16209	21280	24775	24375	27080

Source: Report on the activity of the Directorate General for Commerce, Public Catering and Services for 2016 [11]

In the last years, the activity of the specialized bodies in the process of informing and consulting the consumers on issues related to the quality of goods, consumer rights, etc. has intensified.

In the process of implementing the *Domestic Trade Development Strategy* an important role lies with the *Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance Agency* (APCSP). In this context, APCSP organizes annually, with the support of the local public administration bodies, the *consultation of consumers and economic agents regarding the protection of consumers' rights and economic interests*. According to the activity report for 2017, APCSP [12] conducted 504 consumer information visits to shopping centres, workplaces, markets, educational institutions compared to 205 visits in 2016 (Table no. 8). In 2017 there were 13132 phone calls and consultations offered to consumers, which makes 123.2% as compared to 2016.

Table no. 8. Analysing information on consumer information and education

Name of action	2016	2017	%
Consumer information and education: consultancy visits	205	504	2.6 times
Number of informed consumers	16136	16489	102.2
Information campaigns with media involvement	7	11	154.1
Phone calls	11035	13132	119.0
Registered petitions	2073	2477	
Number of registered phone calls, total	10659	13132	123.2
Number of registered / settled petitions	2073/1948	2477/1963	119.5
Amount of damage recovered by consumers, lei	614.7	2610.7	4.2 times
Consultation of economic agents on the rules of trade, placing products on the market, legislation	6838	8939	130.7
Distribution of informative materials	23828	49376	2.1 times

Source: Based on activity Report of the Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance Agency for 2016-2017 [12]

In 2017 APCSP received 2477 petitions, compared to 2073 in 2016 and 1199 in 2015, which shows an increase of more than 2.0 times. Directly from the consumers APCSP received 1955 petitions, compared to 1143 petitions in 2016. APCSP contributed to the settlement of 1963 petitions or 79.2% of the total addressed and to the recovery of the damages to consumers in the amount of 2610.7 thousand lei, or 4.24 times more than in 2016. Taking in account these data, we have noticed an increase in the number of petitions, but also an increase in the share of those settled by APCSP. In 2017 the Agency jointly with the media organized 11 information campaigns for consumers, or 1.6 times more than in 2016.

Under the provisions of the *Moldova-EU Association Agreement* and the preferential trade relationship - *The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area*, in order to facilitate the procedure of registration and launching of business in the field of trade, the Law of the Republic of Moldova (no. 153 of 01.07.2016) entered into force [2] on July 19, 2016, approving the amendments to the *Law on Internal Trade* no. 231 of 23.09.2010. These amendments provide for the simplification of the launch of commercial activities, namely, the cancellation of the current permit for commercial units and provision of services. Permission is replaced by the *notification to the mayoralty*, except for commercial activities with a high risk for public health and the environment, which additionally requires a sanitary or veterinary sanitary authorization [13]. High-risk activities for the health of the

population and the environment are those that provide for the sale of meat, milk, fish or the provision of public catering services in bars, cafes, restaurants for which the provision of veterinary sanitary authorization is mandatory. Launching a business in the fuel trade or for the provision of cosmetic or beauty services also requires sanitary authorization.

We can mention that the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure has carried out a series of actions to implement the provisions regarding the registration of the notification for commercial activities. In this context, within the local public authorities, the *Single Window Service* has been created for the registration of notifications for commercial activities. Through the information system, the Single Window Service is connected to all state authorities with competence in the supervision of the internal consumer market. As a result of the implementation of the Single Window Service, the applicant may submit the notification regarding trade activity practice, including on-line submission, without annexing other confirmatory documents and without interacting with the state authorities.

In order to activate and accelerate the process of implementing the Strategy, the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure has developed and approved a new *Action Plan for 2017-2020* which provides for the finalization of the started activities and the initiation of new ones. So, among the new actions is the improvement of the regulatory framework of the trade activity in terms of the European exigencies. In this respect, the requirements regarding the protection of consumer rights, labour protection and environmental protection in the framework of internal trade activities are to be reviewed as well.

The Plan also provides for the updating of rules on the conduct of retail, the operation of the huckster retail and trade network in the markets, the provision of commercial and catering services.

In implementing the *Action Plan*, it is necessary to increase the capacity for control and transparency of the Agency for Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance, the National Agency for Food Safety and other institutions with regulatory functions in trade, public catering and provision of services related to domestic commerce.

The most important objectives of the *Action Plan for 2017-2020* regarding the implementation of the Domestic Trade Development Strategy are the improvement of the commercial infrastructure and the provision of the services related to the internal trade, the reduction of the existing imbalances between the bigger towns and other localities, the modernization of goods and services distribution systems, increasing their competitiveness on the domestic market.

Conclusions

According to the *Action Plan for the implementation of the Domestic Trade Development Strategy* there are various activities that contribute to improving the level of service and meeting the expectations of consumers.

Thus, the *chain of “Super” and “Hypermarket” commercial unitises expanding*. These devices are equipped with the most modern equipment, which sells a wide range of goods and food products, including culinary, which enhances the quality of customer service. By increasing the network of stores competitiveness and the level of customer service rise, and the number of booths and other street trade units are reduced.

In the context of the implementation of *Moldova-EU Free Trade Agreement with regard to the quality and level of services in the internal trade* in the Republic of Moldova, the management of the trade activity is improved, the *Single Window Service for registering the notifications by the local public administration bodies* is implemented, activities aiming at enhancing the quality of *public services* are fulfilled through which citizens have access to information of public interest, the electronic management system is implemented through which the local computer system is connected to the Government’s e-commerce database (E-government).

At the level of district public administration bodies, *strategic documents have been approved - Trade Development Strategies*; but other documents are to be approved as well: the *Regulations for carrying out commercial activity* in the locality, district, municipality; the *Requirements and rules for the organisation and unfolding of street trade, location and operation of temporary stationary units - booths and pavilions*; the *Requirements for the organization of summer/seasonal terraces* in the public or private areas of the settlements.

In order to increase the level and quality of commercial service, the local public administration bodies *need to be more actively involved in the drafting of the legislative framework*, not only to examine the draft legislative and normative acts received from the ministry, but also to submit proposals for completion or modification of existing legislative acts drafts.

It is important that *local public administrations everywhere in the country implement the state policies in the field of internal trade* related to receiving the notifications about the commencement of the trade activity, creation and maintenance of the Register of Commerce Units in each locality, verification of the compliance of data shown in the notifications presented with the actual activity of the commercial units according to its type and specialization, informing consumers about how to protect their rights when procuring goods in the trade units, monitoring the observance of commercial process in the commercial units and support the initiation of different commercial and cultural events.

The level of service and internal trade in the Republic of Moldova will increase with the implementation of the actions stipulated in the *Action Plan* for 2017-2020 approved by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

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