

Conferences Accessibility: " *Autism in the 21st Century: From Global Challenge to Local Transformation* "

November 20, 2025, INFONET Alliance has organized an online event as part of the "Accessibility Conferences" series. The subject of the day: "***Autism in 21st century: From Global Challenge to Local Transformation. Intervention Models, social Innovation and Evolution of public policies in Moldova and at the International Level***".

Guest expert: **Aliona Dumitraș**, PhD in clinical psychology, founder of SOS Autism Association – national leader in services for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) – and executive director of FEDRA (Federation for Rights and Resources in Autism) from the Republic of Moldova. She is the initiator of several social programs, medical and educational programs dedicated to inclusion of people with autism and of sustainable support networks at the community level.

Aliona Dumitraș delivered a training dedicated to one of the most urgent and complex topics of the present: autism and how we, as a society, build a responsible, modern and future-oriented response. Autism was explored as a global priority in public health, the paradigm shift from deficit to neurodiversity and the crucial role of evidence-based early intervention.

Participants analyzed successful international models, alongside the current realities and challenges in the Republic of Moldova, discussing what functional, sustainable and family-based services really mean.

An important discussion was dedicated to innovative community solutions, the role of NGOs, partnerships and public policies that can transform good directions into real results.

The expert expressed her full conviction that Moldova can become a warmer, more open and more inclusive society by 2030 — one in which each a person is viewed primarily through the prism of his/her potential, not the label:

- *"We strongly believe that Moldova 2030 can be a place where diversity is not a label, but a value — and support becomes something natural, not exceptional";*
- *"An inclusive society is not built only through documents, but through people who choose to see potential where they previously saw limits."*
- *"Communities grow when each of us becomes part of the solution. In autism, no institution can succeed alone."*

This activity is part of the project "**Strengthening Civic Participation in Azerbaijan**", co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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The project " Consolidation participation citizenship in Azerbaijan is co-financed by the Union European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Cooperation Economical and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by the Cooperation Agency German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ). The partner PROJECT is Association The " NFONET Alliance ", which implements the project " Consolidation capacity organizations civil society in Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova through exchange of experience , lessons learn and good PRACTICE in FIELD inclusion social rights of people with disabilities ".