

The participation of MOST Office in the European Roundtable on the Free Circulation of Knowledge and Talent – Science|Business

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The Moldovan Office for Science and Technology (MOST) participated on **19 November 2025** in the roundtable organised by the **Science|Business Widening Initiative**, dedicated to the **fifth freedom** in the field of **research and innovation** – a concept gaining increasing importance within Europe’s efforts to strengthen the European Research Area.

The event brought together representatives from across Europe to examine the evolution of the *Widening* process over the past two decades, with a focus on the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and on those currently in the enlargement process. Speakers highlighted how the initial vision of the fifth freedom – introduced by former Commissioner Janez Potočnik and recently revived in the Letta Report – has generated significant progress, while also revealing the limitations of a system that remains uneven.

Participants concluded that *Widening* is no longer solely about closing gaps, but has become a bidirectional approach aimed at strengthening capacities and enhancing cooperation across the entire Union. Discussions also addressed Europe’s ambitions for the coming years, exploring what a genuine fifth freedom could mean for **talent, knowledge and innovation**. Structural barriers, policy gaps and fragmented implementation were underscored as key challenges, but so were important opportunities: rethinking governance, deepening collaboration and creating more coherent mechanisms for the circulation of excellence.

During her intervention at the roundtable, the Head of the MOST Office, Doinița Ulinici, emphasised: “For the Republic of Moldova, the fifth freedom means being fully integrated into the European knowledge area — where our researchers can collaborate fully, and where our innovations contribute to Europe’s future.”