Moldova & EU

Last July, the Associa-

tion Agreement that the Republic of Moldova and

the European Union signed

in 2014 went into full ef-

fect, improving Moldova's access to the EU market of

The pact has Moldova in

bourhood, along with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,

Georgia, Ukraine, and 10 countries in North Africa.

The agreement allows

goods to the EU duty-free,

easily expand to the Union.

have increased dramatically

since 2014, according to a

press release, including a 455% increase in sales of

European Commission

preserved vegetables.

In 2015, the first full

the EU increased by 5%.

Moldova's largest trade

decreased by 11%.

provisional year of the pact,

overall Moldovan exports to

while imports from the EU

The European Union is

partner, buying 62% of the

republic's exports. (Russia

buys 12% and Belarus, 6%.)

The 735-page agreement

Some Moldovan exports

and lets companies more

Moldova to trade most

goods and services.

the European Neigh

# **Famous Moldovans**

Moldova has given the world many people who have contributed much and become well-known outside the country - Wikipedia lists 95 "famous" Moldovans. I have found three people with ties to

Moldova who have achieved extraordinary recognition around the globe. Itec Domnici was born

in 1920 in what is now Ungheni, Moldova, and moved to the U.S. at age 9, where he became a major Hollywood writer, influencing Åmerican comedy films for generations.



Under the name I.A.L. Diamond, he teamed up with the legendary Billy Wilder to write nearly a dozen screenplays, including "Some Like it Hot," which has often been voted or named one of the best films ever made.

Diamond won an Academy Award in 1960 for "The Apartment." He lived in Beverly Hills until his death in 1988.

German President Horst Köhler was born in Poland

in 1943 to Elisabeth and Eduard Köhler, who had left their home in Rîșcani, Moldova three years prior amid the Nazi-Soviet Popu-

lation Transfer program. Köhler also served as head of the International

Köhler Monetary fund from 2000 until 2004, when he was elected president of Germany. He resigned in 2010.

Fashion designer **Diane** von Furstenberg's father, Leon Halfin, grew up in Chisinau, and moved to Belgium in 1929 at age 18.

She was born in 1946 in Belgium. Both her parents were Jewish, and



her mother, Liliane, had been imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1944.

Diane took the name she made famous when she married Prince Egon von Fürstenberg in 1969. Five years later, she introduced the wrap dress, which has been popular ever since, enjoying much exposure with Michelle Obama four decades later. Photo

sources: DVF, Kohler

JOKE OF THE MONTH

have lost one engine. It is okay, as we have four en-

gines. We will just fly slower and arrive 30 minutes

later." When the second and then the third engines died,

he said the same thing, delaying our landing by one

That's when I told the guy next to me; "I hope we

don't lose the 4th engine, or we'll be up here all night!"

The pilot announced over the intercom; "I'm sorry, we

I visited Italy recently and loved how happy Italians are! Whenever I saw two or more of them together, they were usually laughing, joking, or just enjoying each other's company. I photographed mostly places and things, like this boat in Venice. Click to see more photos in two albums; one artsy and one fun.

### Travel & visas for Moldovans and **Americans**

Moldovan citizens can travel without visas or obtain visas on arrival at 101 countries, ranking the Moldovan passport as the

 $52 nd \ most \ accepted \ in the world.$ Residents of Moldova who qualify and obtain a Romanian passport may easily obtain visas for 153 countries. U.S. citizens can easily travel to 174 countries.

"Travel is fatal to

prejudice, bigotry,

and narrow-

mindedness...'

Mark Twain

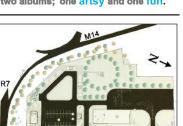
The five countries in the world for which it is hardest for citizens to obtain visas? Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The seven easiest? Germany, Sweden, Finland, France, Italy, Spain and Agricultural mar-ket at highway in-tersection is under construction

Balți, Edinet, Rîșcani and Drochia will be able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from up to 30 vendors in a safe and accessible environment.

clude a 400-ton warehouse and a 750-ton refrigerated warehouse, so more farmers will be able to store their crops and wait to sell them when the price increases.

The project is funded by Agentia Dezvoltare Nord and will be managed by the Rîşcani District Council. Opening is expected in October.





Plan of the agricultural market in Rîşcani that will open in Oct.

'Moldova has committed to ambitious structural reforms in key areas, such as democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, foreign and security policy, trade and economic development," the EU states.

MOLDOVAN OF THE MONTH

For March, we honor Svetlana Raifura, a sci-

ence teacher at Gimnaziul

Gheorge Riscanu. Her

dedication to the environ-

ment is obvious as she in-

spires her students in a

new recycling program

and makes the sciences

### lists 109 pages of wines with protected designations of origin, and requires positive changes in many areas A new farmers market and agricultural other than commerce. storage facility will open later this year at the intersection of R7 & M14. Travellers Between areas including

The 2.5-million-Euro facility will in-



Want a peek at an American's view of Moldova? Here's a short video I made as a presentation for 140 people in North Carolina, who work on projects to help Moldovans. The video has photos and notes about the Peace Corps in Moldova. Click

### lmagini RISCANI

hour, and then by 90 minutes.

In February, I posted photographs that I took in September of the city of Costesti. This spring, I plan to visit 23 more villages! **Photos: Click** 

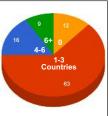




the United Kingdom.

## **100 People**

I asked 100 people how many countries they have visited. While 12 people have never left Moldova, 63 have visited 1-3 other countries, 16 have visited 4-6 countries, and 9 have visited more than 6.





1 - Martisori, 1st day of spring (MD) 8 - International Womens Day (MD)

17 - St. Patrick's Day (U.S.) 20 - 1st day of spring (U.S.)

fun to learn.

"I love children and I love ecology," Raifura said. "So why not teach it?"