

The Role of Women in the Social Development of Gagauzia

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**Event: 1st International women in the
Turkish world: success stories symposium**

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Introduction

ATU Gagauzia is an autonomous region in Republic of Moldova

Traditional female roles dominated historically.

Since 2000: growing involvement in business, education, politics.

Goal: document progress and identify challenges

**Gagauz kızlar. 20.
yüzyılın başlarından
çekilmiş bir fotoğraf**



stamatov

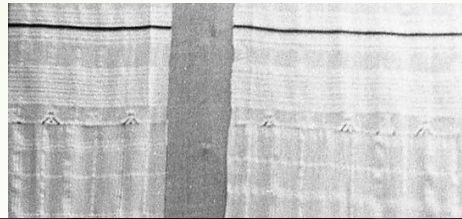


MatisArt

Pioneer – Dr. Maria Marunovich



Historian, educator, public figure.
Promoted Gagauz culture.
Founded 'Women of Gagauzia' movement.
Inspired female leadership



Education & Digitalization



65% of Comrat State University (ATU Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova) students are women. Digital skills help drive empowerment



Women's Digital Competencies



**Women Hub Comrat (2022) by Tekwill, Sweden, UNDP.
250+ trained in e-commerce & remote work in ATU Gagauzia.
Example: Anna Karaseni's online handmade store**



Women and Economy



UNDP grants (2021–2023) supported 50+ women in ATU Gagauzia.
Fields: bakeries, farms, salons, education.
Case: Lidia Tomai's cheese business



EU-Supported Entrepreneurship



**EU grant upgraded Tomai's equipment.
Sales in Chişinău and Bolhrad.
7 women employed in ATU Gagauzia**



Economic Barriers



ODA grants focus on cities.

Rural women lack info, legal aid, bank access in Republic of Moldova



Finanțat de
Uniunea Europeană

Acest program este finanțat de **Guvernul Republicii Moldova** și **Uniunea Europeană**, prin intermediul ODA.

Programul de Susținere a Antreprenoriatului Feminin

 Ghid de aplicare



Social Protection & Violence Prevention

Vesta NGO active for 10+ years.
147 women helped in 2023 in ATU Gagauzia.
24/7 support centers since 2022



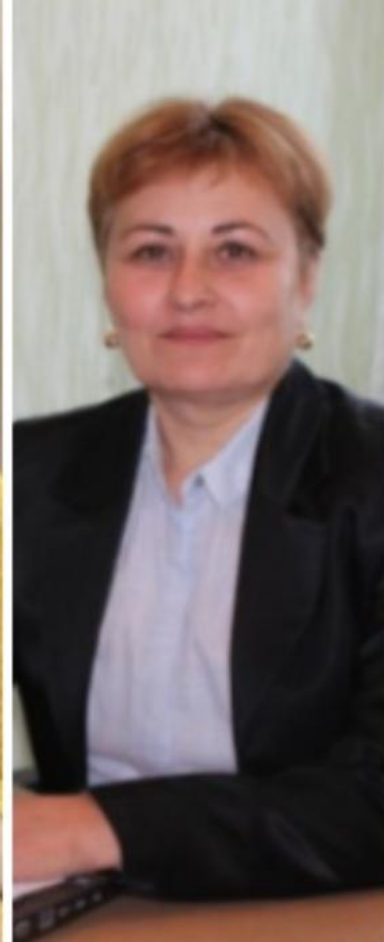
Fear & Stigma

**Many women in Republic of Moldova
fear judgment or family
shame. Villages intensify isolation.
Awareness efforts crucial**



Political Participation

2 of 35 People's Assembly of Gagauzia deputies are women. Irina Tarnavski: first female mayor of Avdarma (2024)



Confidence & Training

**Thomson Foundation trained women in public speaking.
Barriers: low confidence, fear of aggressive male politics**

A Center for the Protection of Women in ATU Gagauzia

10 decembrie 2020 , 17:54

19 viz.



Structural Challenges

60% in Republic of Moldova believe women should focus on family. Women do 80% of household duties



FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS

#ForAllWomenandGirls:

Entrepreneur Mariana Zabrian on bringing her traditional family recipe to households across Moldova



Institutional Gaps

No gender quotas or leadership strategy
Support programs are sporadic in ATU Gagauzia



Conclusion



**Gagauz women are leaders and changemakers.
Structured support is key for progress**

Recommendations

- 1. Gender quotas;**
- 2. Childcare, legal help, mentorship;**
- 3. Training programs;**
- 4. Media visibility**

Sources

UNDP, ODA, CSU, Tekwill
Expert-Grup, CEDAW, Vesta, Thomson Foundation
Statistics Bureau of Moldova
(QR/handout suggested)



Thank you for your attention!