



SIGNS OF HOPE

- Conflict over Transnistria elite-led
- Geopolitical rivalry but no ethnic or religious cleavages
- Amenable to negotiated solution - a possible success story for mediators



Spiral of misperception and mistrust

- Mainstream political players in MD and TN lambaste the other side
- Extreme positions. Transnistria - “full independence”, Moldova - “autonomy”
- Misperceptions, no realistic policy options
- Joint activities between policy communities remain limited
- **Growing estrangement**



Quick fix?

- Quick fix unlikely to be sustainable;
- A lasting solution requires spadework;
- Policies should be rooted in realities on the ground
- Strategy needs to move away from isolating/ignoring Transnistria to engagement, delegation of authority and involvement.



NEW STRATEGY

- Engagement, modernization and liberalization of Transnistria to encourage diversity and change
- Give Transnistria a stake in regional development processes and policy design
- Engaging Transnistria's central authorities does not amount to “recognition”.



OUTPUTS

- ✓ Cooperation platform with a focus on non-controversial policy areas
- ✓ Integrated cycle for:
 - ✓ **Track I** (an alternative, non-binding forum for decision-makers)
 - ✓ **Track II** (policy professionals and experts from different sectors (business/economy, banking/finance, media, local authorities))
 - ✓ **Track III** (the research community and the official Confidence Building Working Groups)



Outcome: POLICY CHANGE

- Initiate policy change (sidelining vs engaging)
- Build up bi-partisan support
- Devolution as analogy
- Devolved administrations have significant powers and a stake in policy formulation
- Attachments in Scotland, Ireland, academia (Oxford), think tanks (Chattam house) offered analogies and key insights, not ready-made solutions



Milestones towards the key outcome:

- Non-binding communication interface for elites and policy professionals;
- Ensure bi-partisan support from political players in Moldova
- Professional policy network between different sectors;
- A channel for TN to make input into policy making;
- Coordination of issues that involve Transnistria;
- Informed decision-making;
- Upward stream of expert advice and solutions to the Working Groups;