Located between Romania and Ukraine, Republic of Moldova has an area of 33840 km$^2$, with a population of 3,559,541 and a distribution between ethnic groups of Moldovan/Romanian 64.5%, Ukrainian 13.8%, Russian 13%, Jewish 1.5%, Bulgarian 2%, Gagauz and other 5.2% (1989) (Transnistria region). Republic of Moldova is divided in 32 raions, 5 municipalities and 2 regions.

Although is a small country, the development of clinical trials has grown dramatically in the last years. The beginning was timid, in year 2000 when in Republic of Moldova were performed about 10 clinical trials approved by the National Medicines Agency, reaching at the end of 2012 to talk about 86 clinical trials approved and ongoing.

However Republic of Moldova ranks last among the neighbour countries as number of clinical trials ongoing, being surpassed by Estonia - 462, Ukraine-882, Romania-1219 or Germany- 9292.

Clinical Trials developed in Republic of Moldova aimed a diverse pathology, the most common being the projects of oncology specialty, cardiology, neurology, infectious, psychiatry, dermatology, gynecology performed in public hospitals and municipal republican. By far the center of attraction is the Capital Chisinau, university center where the patient population and subjects that can be enrolled in Clinical Trials. For this reason you can find in Republic of Moldova pharma sponsors as: Roche, Glaxo SmithKline, Novartis, Merck Serono, Jansen Cilag, Sanofi,Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, Servier,Lilly, Boehringer Ingelheim.

The most important and interesting for clinical research public medical institutions located as follows:

**Chisinau:**

* Republican Clinical Hospital
* Institute of Cardiology
* Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery
* Psychiatric Hospital
* Institute of Phthisiopneumology

* National Centre for Emergency Medicine
* Central Scientific Research Institute of Mother and Child.

* Institute of Oncology
At the legislative level, the development of clinical trials is accordingly with the principles of the Declaration from Helsinki, ICH-GCP and the national regulations, translating some of the relevant European legislation (EU CT Directive/2001/20 and EU GCP Directive 2005/28/EC).

The national legislation applicable for clinical trials is represented by several laws and orders in MS:

1. Law on Health Protection nr. 411 – XIII of 28.03.1995
2. Law on medicines nr. 1409-XIII of 17.12.1997, art. 11, 12, 13 and with the purpose to respect the quality and ethics of the clinical studies.
4. Order nr. 22 dated 12.01.2006 regarding the modification of the Order of nr 10. of 14.01.2002 of Ministry of Health of Republic of Moldova “

The main actors involved in the approval and conduct of clinical trial in Republic of Moldova are the Ministry of Health, National Medicine Agency, National Commission of Ethics and of course the applicants, meaning the sponsors or their representatives, various CRO’s. At national level there are representatives of research companies such as: Parexel, Pharmaceutical Research Associates Germany, PSI Pharma, 3S-Pharmacological Consultation & Research GmbH, Germany, Arensia Exploratory Medicine Germany or local companies such as Innophar MO Ltd., CTG CRO Ltd., CRO Dokumeds, Poxel,Tangent Data.

Regarding the profile of clinical trials developed in Republic of Moldova, by far the most numerous are bioequivalence studies, but also Phase I-IV studies, mainly in recent years the Phase I-II studies.

What is important to remember is that the period of time since the study file is submitted to the authorities until obtain approval of running the clinical trial is maximum 60 days (35-50 days to obtain the approval from the Medicine Commission of the Medicines Agency, plus another 10 days to obtain the study approval from Ministry of Health).

This fact together with the patient population which is not negligible are the main attractions for the various pharmaceuticals companies in developing their research projects in this country. In addition, the medical staff is well trained and in the last years more and more familiarized with the procedures for the development of clinical trial different from every day patients practice. More and more doctors know GCP are trained for this purpose as English.

Information required by the Medicines Agency for authorization of a clinical trial on the medicinal product for human use Information required by the Medicines Agency for authorization of a clinical trial are:

1. General information:
   - Covering letter
   - Application form
   - List of Competent Authorities to which the application has been submitted and details of decisions

   If the applicant is not the sponsor, a letter of authorization enabling the applicant to act on behalf of the sponsor.

2. Subject related:
   - Informed consent form
   - Subject Information leaflet
   - Arrangements for recruitment of subjects

3. Protocol related:
   - Protocol with all current amendments
Summary of the protocol in the national language

4. IMP related:

Investigator ‘s brochure
Investigational Medicinal Product dossier (IMPD)
Simplified IMPD for products registered in the R. of Moldova
Outline of all active trials with the same IMPD
Copy of the manufacturing authorization
Copy of GMP certificate for manufacturer of IMP
Certification of GMP status of active substance
TSE certificate when applicable
Viral safety studies when applicable
Examples of the label in the national language

5. Staff related:

CV of the coordinating investigator
CV of each investigator responsible for the conduct of the trial
Finance related
Provisions for indemnify or compensation on the event of injury or death attributable to the clinical trial
Any insurance or indemnity to cover the liability of the sponsor or investigator
Agreement between the sponsor and the trial site
Agreement between the sponsor and the investigators
Extremely important to note is the fact that in the last years, the Medicine Agency has established a department of clinical trials (March 2012) and stability of an Working Group for revision of the current legislation on CT.

This has greatly streamlined the review of clinical trial study protocols submitted to the Agency and optimized the response time to requests for approval for carrying various projects in Republic of Moldova.

In addition, in October 8, 2012, was held the Scientific practical conference on “The importance of clinical trials in medicine”, where in the presence of various authorities (Minister of Health, Chairman of Social Protection, Health and Family Moldavian Parliament, Health Minister, Medicines Agency representatives, representatives of the National Commission of Ethics) as well as international specialists in clinical studies discussed the need to develop the clinical trials in Republic of Moldova and the efforts that the authorities must do, to harmonize laws and regulations in clinical research with the European and international standards in this field.

As a conclusion is nothing to say except that the development of the clinical trials in this country is very promising, the existing legislative framework and organization inviting any pharmaceutical company to direct its actions to the patients/subjects from Republic of Moldova, the development of clinical trials is a positive fact both for the medical profession and for patients how have access to treatment thus advanced.

AUTHORS:

Cristina Florescu Moraid, MD, MSc, EurClinChem, Country Manager Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Serbia - Synevo Central Lab

Lina Gudima, MD, Chief of Clinical Trial Department, National Medicines Agency, Republic of Moldova

Olimpia Gherman MD, Svetlana Caragia MD, Natalia Popescu
Synevo Central Lab, Chisinau, Rep of Moldova