



Bounded by the **Soviet System and Islam:**

A story of Hope (2017-2018)





Republic of Moldova

- Moldova is among the few post-soviet countries which has the following advantages:
 - Political situation:
 - A legal framework for registering foreign students
 - A privileged visa regime
 - Economic factor:
 - Student expenses are smaller than in other countries from the region
 - Possibilities for self-support
 - The spiritual and visionary factor:
 - Involvement in local churches
 - The pastoral profile of professors

How it developed:

- 1998 was a year of significant events. Under God's guidance and backed by the prayers of brothers and sisters, a section was established specializing in the training of missionaries to Turkic-speaking people living in the Gagauzia region of Moldova and also for students from Central Asia.
- In the spring of 2013 the College of Theology and Education completed a process of reorganization resulting in a new status as a university and a new name. The Latin name "Divitia Gratiae University" translates as "the riches of His Grace".



The Development of the Intercultural Studies Program



- The beginning: The Great Commission
- The role of the evangelical churches from the region of Gagauzia into Turkey
- Development of the Intercultural Studies program among Muslims – 1997
- Expansion of the Intercultural Studies program in Central Asia -- 2002
- Development of the social work program for Muslim countries – 2006
- Charity programs, opening of training centers in the field of Social Work – 2006
- Development of Business as Intercultural Studies programs among Muslims – 2015





Where are we now:

- UDG Extends its ministry in 5 countries in Europe & 6 different countries in Central Asia, from 20 to 25 different nationalities.
- It prepares leaders, educators, social workers, and entrepreneurs who will work in the Republic of Moldova as well as in countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, nations which are different culturally, nationally, and in religion.



SERVING IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

UDG - UNIVERSITÄT DUISBURG ESSEN

- Intercultural Studies within UDG exists with the purpose of glorifying God by serving Islamic nations in Central Asia and the Middle East



SERVING IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

WOMEN'S MINISTRY | LIFE SKILLS TRAINING | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Women's ministry helps with life skills while providing a context for participant to learn about and love of Jesus



SERVING IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG ESSEN | FACULTY OF THEOLOGY | DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

- Dedicated instructors from UDG teach students on a variety of theological and related topics preparing them for work in their communities and the region.



SERVING IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

UDG | URBAN DESIGN GROUP | URBAN DESIGN GROUP | URBAN DESIGN GROUP

- UDG professors work with students to educate them as well equip them to support themselves, such as training them to devise business plans





Uzbekistan

- The Republic of Uzbekistan declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and today it is considered to be a democratic, secular, unitary republic with a diverse cultural heritage.
- With a population of more than 32 million people, 85% are Uzbek. 5% Russian, 4% Tajik and 3% Kazakhs.
- 96% of the population are Muslim, 2% are Russian Orthodox and 2% are protestant and other religions.





Tajikistan

- The Republic of Tajikistan is a mountainous country in Central Asia with an estimated population of 8 million people. It borders with Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and China.
- Tajikistan gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Immediately after, a civil war was fought lasting from 1992 to 1997.
- 90% of the population belong to the Tajik ethnic group and they speak the Tajik language (a dialect of Persian). Most of them speak Russian as their second language.
- Tajikistan considers itself a secular state with a Constitution providing for freedom of religion. **98%** are Muslim and **2%** are **Protestant, Orthodox, Buddhist**.





Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan is a transcontinental country, located in the northern part of Central Asia and Eastern Europe. It is the dominant nation of Central Asia with a rich oil/gas industry.
- It was among the last countries to declare their independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The population is about 18 million people with 131 ethnicities.
- According to a 2009 census, **70%** of the population declare themselves Muslim and **26%** Christian.

