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EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Workshop on National Environmental Funds for Promoting Green Investments

Lessons from the Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and possible implications
for Moldova

AGENDA

29 October 2020, Chisinau time 11.00 – 12.30

This workshop takes place via Zoom. Login details will be sent to registered participants.

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Action implemented by:



Workshop on National Environmental Funds for Promoting Green Investments

29 October 2020, 11.00 – 12.30 (Chisinau time), Zoom

Background

The European Union for Environment Action (EU4Environment), funded by the European Union and implemented jointly by the international organisations OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank, aims to help the Republic of Moldova in achieving an environmental level playing field, amongst other objectives. Within the context of this objective under EU4Environment, the OECD is currently supporting the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova (MARDE) in reviewing and streamlining the current operation of the National Ecological Fund (NEF).

International experiences on setting up and running national funding entities can provide valuable lessons as Moldova sets out to finalise its draft regulation on NEF management, is mobilising efforts to reform and streamline operations and management of the NEF. Established in 1989, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management is one of the main sources of finance for environmental protection in Poland today. The Polish Environmental Protection Act establishes the operation of the fund as an independent legal entity.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

This workshop will provide opportunity to reflect on the experience of another environmental fund from the region and deduct lessons for the National Ecological Fund in Moldova. The workshop will facilitate discussions around solutions on how the NEF can speed and scale up green investments going forward.

Participants

Participants include representatives from ministries in the Republic of Moldova, experts on national funding entities and the OECD. Participants are listed at the end of this agenda.

The workshop is funded under EU4Environment supported by the European Union. Romanian-English-Romanian and Russian-English-Russian translation is provided.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

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AGENDA

Time	Item
11h00-11h15	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from the moderator and presentation of the workshop’s agenda • Welcome from State Secretary Maxim Popov. • Krzysztof Michalak, Programme Manager OECD will set the scene and provide background of the support provided by the OECD under EU4Environment.
11h15-11h45	<p>Item 2. Presentation of Polish National Fund for Environmental Protection and Q&A</p> <p>A former administrator of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Poland shares experiences from and explains functioning of the fund. Participants are invited to ask clarification questions.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Maciej Kostrzewa, former National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management
11h45-12h30	<p>Item 3. Lessons from the Polish National Fund for the Moldovan National Ecological Fund</p> <p>Participants are now invited to discuss solutions on various aspects of the NEF. Participants are invited to discuss components of successful Fund management and how these can be applied to the NEF.</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional set-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the legal framework better support the NEF so it can operate efficiently and effectively? • How can we avoid regulatory capture? • What is a first priority change in the institutional set-up to allow the NEF to operate efficiently and effectively? • To what extent should national environmental funds be independent entities- what are best practices (or worst practices) for their governance arrangements? Which governance frameworks work under what circumstances? • How can we de facto improve control and transparency of the NEF?

- How can we ensure sufficiently long planning horizons?
- Financial issues:
 - On the expenditure side: How to broaden the variety of financial instruments to meet the needs of recipients adequately?
 - How can we ensure expenditure is in line with (multi)annual budgets?
 - On the revenue side: Does Moldova need new revenue-raising instruments to feed the Fund, and if so, which ones to use?
- Administrative capacity:
 - How can we attract additional qualified and professional staff for managing the NEF?
 - How can we de facto monitor control and transparency of the NEF? (same question as under institutional set-up, with to be answered from a different angle)
 - How much money, in concrete numbers, can we estimate will be needed to allow for adequate administrative capacity by 2025 (including training/ capacity-building, number of staff members)?

The moderator will sum up the outcomes of the workshop's discussions.