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

**Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of Sustainable
Development and Green Economy,**

National Implementation Committee (NIC) for EU4Environment

Republic of Moldova

12 February 2021, 10.00-12.30 (EET, Chisinau time)

Virtual meeting (Zoom platform)

Working languages (Romanian and English) (interpretation)

Background:

Meetings of Moldova's Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy (also acting as the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for the EU4Environment programme) are regularly supported by the EU-funded EU4Environment programme, as part of its component Output 1.1 on "Green economy ownership, policy coherence and cross-sectorial coordination", which is implemented by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Thanks to the EU's and UNEP's support, the Inter-ministerial Working Group has recently marked 5 years of activity (2015-2020).

The Inter-ministerial Working Group (hereafter WG) for the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy in the Republic of Moldova was initially established by the joint order of the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Environment nr. 107/66 from 17 June 2015. This was done in the framework of the EU-funded project "Greening Economies in the EU EaP Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN)" (2014-2017), implemented in partnership by OECD, UN ECE, UNEP and UNIDO. In order to coordinate the implementation of the EaP GREEN programme in the period of 2015-2017, quarterly meetings of the WG were organized. The Members of the WG attended Final Conferences of the EaP GREEN programme in Brussels and Chisinau in December 2017; coordinated the preparation of 5 editions of the National High-level Round Table "Green Economy - Made in Moldova"; and participated in the development of the Programme on the promotion of the Green Economy in the Republic of Moldova (GD nr. 160 of 21.02.2018), as well as of the National Report on Green Growth Indicators (OECD, 2017) and of the mid-term report on the implementation of the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E, UN ECE, April-June 2018). The WG has subsequently also participated in the preparation and discussion of the Concept of the follow-up programme to EaP GREEN - EU4Environment.

On 07 February 2019 the ordinary meeting of the WG took place, and by the joint Order of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and

Environment nr. 65/63 from 18 March 2019, the WG's composition was renewed and its functions had been adjusted to be better aligned with the major goals and activities of the EU4Environment programme and of other relevant activities in Moldova.

The EU4Environment programme seeks to help six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to 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 programme is implemented in the period of 2019-2022, with a total budget of over 20 million Euro, divided among the 6 partner countries and 5 implementing organisations (OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank).

The members of the WG participated in the preparations and attended the launching event of the EU4Environment programme at the national level, which took place on 12 April 2019 in the House of the Government of the RM. In the period of 14 April - 01 May 2019 the WG was involved in the mapping of national priorities that formed the basis of the EU4Environment workplan in Moldova (as well as at the regional level).

In the period of 27-28 June 2019, a number of members of the WG (Co-chair and NFP from MEI side, secretaries and members of WG and national experts) attended the First meeting of the Regional Assembly of EU4Environment, which took place at EC in Brussels, under the coordination of DG NEAR and DG Environment and the 5 implementing partners, where they presented and discussed the draft regional and country work plans under this programme

On 08 August 2019 took place the ordinary meeting of the WG, at which draft plans and selected actions for the regional and country level for each of the 5 results of the EU4Environment programme were presented. Comments were submitted by the partner countries by September 06, 2019. By the end of November 2019, the OECD, on behalf of all the implementing partners, sent the final country work plans for an 18 month and till the end of project.

By the official letter sent to EC and Implementing partners on September 06, 2019, the **Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of Sustainable Development and Green Economy was designated to also serve as National Implementation Committee (NIC) for EU4Environment in Moldova.**

The First meeting of the WG/NIC in 2020 took place on 14 February 2020. The event presented information about the start of implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in the last Quarter of 2019, demonstrating also the planned activities under various EU4Environment sub-components – including implementation of the Programme on the promotion of Green economy for 2018-2020 and of the EU4Environment country work plan. The Summary of the meeting and the report on the implementation of the Program on Green Economy were circulated to WG/NIC members.

On **29 May 2020** took place **EU4Environment Virtual Country Consultations** between EC, Implementing Partners and EU4Environment National Focal Points (NFPs) – State secretaries from MEI and MARDE. The consultations evaluated the state of implementation of the planned actions and formulated proposals for adjustment of terms and activities, which are reflected in the Summary of the consultations, circulated to WG/NIC members in June 2020.

The Second Meeting of the NIC took place on September 11, 2020. The meeting was in a virtual format and attended by EC (DG Env), EUD, EU4Environment implementing partners, NFPs and NIC/WG members and NGOs. The report on 8 months of implementation, detailed plans for the last 4 months of the year, and general plans for 2021 were presented, examined and approved.

WG/NIC members (NFPs, Technical NFPs, NAC, key beneficiaries (ODIMM, APP, NGOs)) participated at the virtual **Second Regional Assembly of the EU4Environment** on September 22, 2020. All WG/NIC members received the materials and Summary of the event.

The WG Members periodically received relevant information on the implementation of the EU4Environment and monthly newsletters. Information and data on the project implementation continue to be placed on the web site of the programme.

The main objectives of the next WG/NIC meeting in 2021 are the following:

- Presenting the status of the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2020, including adjustments that have had to be made due to the global pandemic and other political developments;
- Presentation of detailed workplans plans for the first 6 months of 2021 and general activity plans till the end of 2021 (with contribution/presentation from Implementing Partners) including also planned EU4Environment regional events;
- Presentation of the preparations for the EU Green Week in June 2021, as well as other related environmental events in 2021 (both at national and regional levels);
- Ensure synergies with other international projects/programmes under implementation in Moldova and region;
- Informing EU4Environment implementing partners about the possibilities and needs regarding the implementation of the EU4Environment programme in Moldova (and at the regional level, as appropriate);
- Other discussion items.

Participants:

Invited participants include State secretaries (NFPs/Co-chairs from MEI and MARDE), Members of the NIC/WG on SD and GE/NIC of EU4Environment in Moldova, representatives of governmental agencies, MEI, MARDE, ODIMM, APP, AEE, academic sector, environmental NGOs, EC (DG NEAR, DG Environment), Delegation of the EU in RM, representatives of Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP, UNECE and UNIDO, the WB).

AGENDA (working draft, for coordination)

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| 09.45 - 10.00 | Registration of participants/connections |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | <p>Opening statements:</p> <p>Co-chairs of the Working Group/NIC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Lilia PALII, General Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, NFP for EU4Environment from MEI side; • Mr Dorin ANDROS, State secretary, Environmental protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, NFP for EU4Environment from MARDE side; • Mr Gintautas BARANAUSKAS, Deputy Head of Operations Section, Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova |

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| Presentation of the agenda (Andrei Isac, NAC, EU4Environment, Moldova) | |
| 10.20 – 11.30 | <p>Implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2020 - presentation of detailed plans/activities under EU4Environment sub-components for January-June 2021 and general plans till the end of 2021, including regional EU4Environment events</p> <p>Result 1: Greener Decision Making Result 2: Circular economy and New Growth Opportunities Result 3: An Environmental level Playing Field Result 4. Ecosystem services Result 5: Knowledge Sharing and Coordination</p> <p>Andrei Isac, NAC of EU4Environment with contribution from IP and participation of the involved institutions and beneficiaries: Alex LESHCHYNSKYY, Technical Officer, UNEP Leonid KALASHNYK, Project Coordinator, UNECE Tatiana CHERNYAVSKAYA, Project Coordinator, UNIDO Krzysztof MICHALAK, Senior Action Coordinator, OECD Vladislava I. Nemova, Natural Resources Management Specialist, Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy (ENB), the World Bank Group</p> <p>Q/A after each results presentation, moderated discussion on priority future actions and plans.</p> <p>5-10 minutes break (depending on timing, to be coordinated with Co-chairs and participants)</p> |
| 11.35 – 12.00 | <p>Presentation of the preparations for the EU Green Week 2021 (June 2021) and other relevant EU/regional/global environmental events</p> <p>Andrei Isac, NAC, EU4Environment, Moldova</p> <p>Q/A</p> |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | <p>Conclusions, next steps and closure.</p> <p>Co-chairs of the Working Group/NIC, EC</p> |

Note:

Simultaneous interpretation (Rom/Eng) will be provided.

The meeting will take place in virtual format – all discussion and information documents will be circulated electronically (green meeting/paper less approach).

Additional information:

Web-site of EU4Environment: <http://www.eu4environment.org>

EU4Environment in Moldova: <https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/>

EC: <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4environment>