

ROM

Result Oriented Monitoring Services

Steering Committee of EU4Environment Programme September 21, 2021

Debriefing of the ROM Review

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Funded by the
European Union

Effectiveness

Outcomes Achieved:

Moldova

- Loan agreements with IFI for implementation of the Waste Management Programme;
- Programming documents for the Clean Transport programme
- GE course added to the portfolio of the Academy of Public Administration

Ukraine

- SPP training module included in curriculum of School of Economics for Ukrainian SMEs.
- Ukrainian National University received and use training material developed by RECP
- A new national coordination body for SPP was set up with EU4Environment support
- Incorporation of the Green Deal into the Association Agreement

Overall

- Some countries have seen an increase in EIA applications submitted
- Government staff use training in their work to draft strategies, policies and laws many of which have been passed, as well as procurement procedures and implement best practices learned

Some countries have not achieved any outcomes due to factors previously outlined

– Armenia, Belarus,



Effectiveness

Potential Outcomes are strong

Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP)

- SMEs are very keen, this Activity has had the highest uptake (all countries)
- Achievements maybe be achieved through low hanging fruit
- Challenges with respect to financing for SMEs for larger items
- More medium to long term realisation of outcomes
- Clear indicators which support future measurement

Updated Laws / EU Approximation

Most countries' legislation has been enhanced and/or submitted for approval:

- SEA/EIA,
- Public Procurement laws and SPP provisions
- Waste Management / EPR



Challenges to Sustainability & Impact

- **Administrative capacity bases are considered low**, as civil service positions are generally considered unattractive due to low salaries and lack of career prospects.
- **High turnover and low institutional in civil services.** High turnover necessitates frequent training and retraining of existing and newly hired staff replacing those who left.
- **The priority of Environmental issues is low** and consequently Ministry of Environment is understaffed and underfinanced. Not for Ukraine – Environment and Green Deal are on the gov. agenda.
- **Engagement and strength of NGOs** in various countries differs significantly
- Countries where there are **strong inter-ministerial working groups** prospects are higher
- **Collaboration with ongoing and new projects is needed**



Findings (1)

1. Pace of change towards green principles in the six countries

- Moldova and Ukraine move fastest
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus move the slowest
- Additional activities conducted outside of work plans when opportunities arise
- Work Plan review, opportunity to re-allocate savings from COVID and inactivity
- Despite demand there are some constraints – absorption capacity, internal challenges such as staff turnover and political instability.

2. The implementation modality impactful compared to a series of smaller, more focused projects

- Modality is excellent for access to best practices and high quality expertise
- Modality allows synergies to improve impact both between IPs and with their existing national programmes
- Sharing of lessons learned and best practices through regional events and RA
- Builds on EaP Green also implemented by these IPs



Findings (2)

3. Practical changes and time extension

- Adapted well to COVID – online events, changes in national activities,
- NAC / NFP / NIC were useful, replicate where possible
- Time extension would be useful given delays and the opportunity to re-allocate savings to new activities

4. Impact on SMEs

- Hampered by access to finance for large investments identified in plans
- Reluctant to take loans, challenges with collateral (National Funds in RM, AZ)
- Some have received action plans - ongoing

5. EAP Green Feedback on RECP

- SMEs implement low cost / no cost recommendations (low hanging fruit)
- Report benefits in resource consumption, energy efficiency – red. cost, inc. profits



Recommendations - Global

- R1. (a)** Update the 2021-2022 work plans to reflect the current situation in each country and include the variations in actual activities in order to reinforce past activities.
- (b)** Update and review the expected outcome and output targets making them more specific and aligned to the actual activities conducted. Milestones should also be added.
- (c)** Develop a standardised reporting format for the NACs that follows the structure of the national workplan and reports against the new output targets
- (d)** In the case of Armenia consider adding RECP Clubs (Output 2.1) and EPR (Output 2.4) to the national work plan.



Recommendations - Global

R2. Consider extending the contracts for the NAC to ensure continuity. Review and update the TORs so that they report on all Results (1 – 5 inclusive) according to the agreed reporting format.

R3. (a) Explore financial instruments available in each of the countries and build the capacity of the national SME Development / RECP partners to support SMEs in the completion of loan and grant applications and the formulation of bankable proposals for investments in green tech. (EU4Energy, EU4Business, Green for Growth Fund, EIB, EBRD, KfW, etc)

(b) Ensure that there is a mechanism in place to support SMEs with the completion of applications for the financial support from ODIMM in Moldova.



Recommendations - Global

R4. Explore and establish country specific exit strategies to support sustainability of SME Clubs and RECP support services, also relates to SMEs using the online tool which is complementary

R5. Ensure that new laws are supported by the formulation of operational manuals and guidelines which facilitate their implementation and provide tools for training and re-training of civil servants e.g. SPP, SEA, Transboundary EIA, environmental permitting, control of hazards during major accidents.

R6. (a) Increase the role of NGOs/CSOs in the awareness raising environmental issues for the general public.

(b) Utilise the expertise available in NGOs/CBOs in the implementation of activities more widely.



Recommendations - Global

R7. Consider increasing the use of technical experts to support line ministries and provide the technical expertise required for legislative review, policy formulation and implementation of project activities.

R8. Consider a no-cost time extension to the EU4Environment programme by the end of 2021 at the latest.

R9. Consider establishing a National Implementation Committee in the other without one.

