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**Summary
of the Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group
on Sustainable Development and Green Economy
National Implementation Committee of EU4Environment project**

10 September 2021 (10.00-13.00)

Total present at the meeting - 75 participants, members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons (EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Implementing Partners and local experts – OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO, the World Bank) (on-line, Zoom platform).

The meeting was opened and moderated by Mrs. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, NFP for EU4Environment from ME side, Co-chair of the Working Group/NIC. Moderation of the session 2 of the meeting - by Mr. Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova.

Secretary of the WG/meeting – EU4Environment Technical NFP: Ms. Maria Nagornîi, Head of Division, Ministry of Environment.

The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting:

- Presenting the current state of the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2021 (with contribution/presentation from Implementing Partners);
- Presentation of detailed workplans for the last 4 months of 2021 and general activity plans for 2022 (with contribution/presentation from Implementing Partners) including the planned EU4Environment regional events (including the RA on September 21, 2021);

- Presentation of the country workplan for the Result 4 for 2021-2022 (the WB);
- Presentation of the final evaluation of the implementation of the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2018-2020 and recommendations for the development of the new program for 2022-2027;
- Presentation of the information paper on the EU Green Deal and the state of the green transition in the Republic of Moldova;
- Presentation of the updated Green Growth Indicators (GGIs) for Moldova and new indicators;
- 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 received in advance the discussion documents and a copy of the presentation (Eng) in electronic format and discussion documents, presented during the meeting. The meeting took place in Green meeting/paper less and on-line format. Detailed final agenda of the meeting – annex 1.

Opening and works of the event

In her opening statement, **Ms Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV**, State Secretary, welcomed the members of the working group to the first meeting of the WG within the new government and presented the agenda of the event.

In her greeting message, **Ms. Iuliana CANTARAGIU**, Minister of Environment, stressed that "In the current government we aim that economic activity must be carried out with maximum responsibility to the environment and society, given the sustainability of life by satisfying needs not only of the current generation, but also of future generations. For the near future, the ministry is interested in advancing activities related to the reform of the National Ecological Fund, the reform of the Moldsilva Agency and the improvement of forest and protected areas management, the application of the set of Green Growth Indicators for decision making and monitoring, etc. "

In the greeting message from the Ministry of Economy, **Mr. Sergiu GAIBU**, Minister of Economy, stressed that "the beginning of the third year of implementation of the EU4Environment project in the Republic of Moldova practically coincided with the launch of activities under the Government Program "Moldova of the good times". First of all, we emphasize the need to ensure the

continuity of previous actions, which come to contribute to strengthening institutional capacities in the field of greening SMEs, promoting ecological approaches in Industrial Parks and Free Economic Zones, implementing resource efficiency and cleaner production in enterprises in our country".

Mr Gintautas BARANAUSKAS, Deputy Head of Operations, EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, stated that “for the European Union, environmental protection is a priority and EU4Environment helps Moldova to accelerate the progress in the green transition, which requires attention, capacity and green investments”.

Session 2. In line with the agenda, Mr Andrei Isac, National Coordinator, EU4Environment presented and gave the floor to the Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNECE and the World Bank).

The information on the activities implemented in 2021 and the plans for 2022, developed by the Implementation Partners within EU4Environment in Moldova for each result / sub-component were presented: Result 1: A “greener” decision-making process, Result 2: Circular economy and new growth opportunities, Outcome 3: Ensuring compliance with environmental requirements, Outcome 4: Ecosystem services; Outcome 5: Knowledge exchange and regional coordination. After the presentation, GL members were invited to comment on the actions taken / planned. The presentation in English was sent to all participants by e-mail (annexes).

Main results presented by Implementing Partners (IPs) (OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and the World Bank:

- Ensuring the continuity of the inter-ministerial dialogue on the green economy and EU4Environment coordination: 5 meetings of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Promoting Sustainable Development and the Green Economy / EU4Environment National Implementation Committee in Moldova, plans examined and coordinated (previous meeting - 12 February 2021) (activity 1.1.3, UNEP);
- Agreement with the Academy of Public Administration, which will conduct the introductory online course on the Green Economy. Launched the online course on the green economy in Romanian (29.01.2021) and took place the moderated course on the green economy for the nominated civil servants from MEI, MADRM, ODIMM and AAP (activity 1.1.1, UNEP);
- Legislative support was provided for the assessment of legislation in the field of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the development of two Guides / Methodologies on (1) Quality control of SEA documentation, (2) Quality control of EIA documentation in cross-border context (activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, UN EEC);

- The National Coordinator for the RECP component and the local expert on Eco Industrial Parks were selected and the activities of the sub-component on RECP and EIP started (activities 2.1, UNIDO);
- The process of drafting the Regulation on eco-labelling in progress, which will be submitted to the Government for approval by the end of 2021 (UNEP, EcoContact);
- Consultations with ODIMM on assistance in the field of eco-innovations and training took place (activities 2.6.1 and 2.6.2); The first national workshop on eco-innovation for SMEs took place on February 4, 2021; activity within the component - in progress (UNEP);
- The draft Program on Waste Management (activity 2.4) was developed with the integration of the circular economy provisions and the integration of climate change adaptation requirements (synergy with EU4Climate) (UNEP);
- Evaluation and reform of the management of the National Ecological Fund: in the process of finalization is the Operational Manual - the draft will be presented for consultation (OECD);
- The process of implementing EU4Environment Result 4 of the World Bank on ecosystem services, focusing on forests and protected areas to conserve the country's natural capital and improve the living environment was launched; Detailed Country Work Plan for 2021-2022 and general until 2024 elaborated: the coordinated national priorities and the comments and proposals of the Ministry are to be transmitted and integrated in the final version (World Bank);
- The updated list of green growth indicators in the Republic of Moldova was evaluated and developed and initiated the dialogue with key institutions for its coordination and updating (activity 5.3) (OECD);
- Information and awareness campaign: High Level National Round Table “Green Economy - Made in Moldova: from the Green Economy to the European Green Deal” (6th edition at regional level, 29.01.2021); preparation and conduct of the national campaign for European Green Week 2021 (31.04-04.06.2021) and World Environment Day / WED2021 (05.06.2021);
- Promotion of EU4Environment on the project and national web pages, newsletter, video spots and promotional materials (activities 1.4 and 5.1); EU4Environment visuals were placed on the FB pages of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and Europe Cafe (European Green Week and project activities); the progress regarding the implementation of EU4Environment was reflected in all the Newsletters of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova.

More details on the results for 2021 and the general plans for 2022 - in the joint presentation and information document (annexes).

Item 3. Program on Green Economy, European Green Deal and synergies

Presentation of the final evaluation of the implementation of the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2018-2020 and recommendations for the development of the new program for 2022-2027

Conclusions based on the presentation: According to the expert's findings, about 50 percent of the measures included in the program have been implemented, another 20% are currently being implemented, and the rest require a review of activities and deadlines, or setting objectives and new targets.

In accordance with the provisions of the normative acts in force, the given Report serves as a basis for the elaboration of the concept of the new Program, for the period 2022-2027, which the ministry included in the Government's activity plan for 2021-2022. The draft Concept of the new document will be circulated to the members of the working group, in order to identify the new objectives and priority actions for the short and medium term.

Greening TVET: The contribution of GIZ to the Greening of Technical Vocational Education (TVET) was presented, discussed and appreciated: the activity of the Working Group on Greening the TVET, the Alliance for the Promotion of Greening the TVET and the leading role of the College of Ecology.

Presentation of the information paper on the EU Green Deal and the state of green transition in the Republic of Moldova - due to the need to pay special attention to the given topic and time constraints during the meeting it was proposed to organize a separate event on this topic.

Item 4. Special session on Green Growth Indicators in the Republic of Moldova: launch of work to update the national set (EU4Environment Activity 5.3)

After the brief introduction to the GGIs framework and EU4Environment Activity 5.3 by Krzysztof MICHALAK, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD the presentation of the updated list of the Green Growth Indicators of Moldova and new indicators was made by Expert-Grup.

Interventions and closing remarks by high-level participants on the use of GGIs for promoting evidence-based policies took place, including by Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State secretary, Ministry of Environment and Oleg CARA, General Director of the National Bureau of Statistics.

Conclusions: The working group, with the comments presented, generally supports the proposals of the Expert-Grup experts and the list of indicators presented for coordination.

Being updated, this list will serve as a basis for assessing the current situation regarding the promotion of the green economy in our country and will be a new starting point for charting the measures of the green transition, including performance indicators from the Program on Promotion of Green Economy for 2022- 2027.

The elaboration of this policy document is included in the Government Activity Plan for 2021-2022, and its elaboration will take place in synergy with the elaboration of the Environmental Strategy 2030. At the same time, it is important to ensure continuity and transparency in collecting, periodically updating and presenting indicators, accessible to the general public on the pages of the responsible institutions. The institutional framework must be clearly established for the indicators that are collected, but also for those that require calculations and analytical evaluation.

Major conclusions and decisions of the meeting:

- The Working Group/NIC took note and approved the information on the implementation of the EU4Environment project in Moldova for the period of January-August 2021, as presented by Implementing Partners;
- The Working Group/NIC approved the plans of actions within the sub-components of EU4Environment planned for September – December 2021, developed by the Implementing Partners and implementing institutions and the general plans by the end of 2022. The beneficiary institutions will further coordinate with Partners the practical implementation actions for each specific activity;
- The WG/NIC took note and welcomed the recent progress on the RECP and EIP sub-component, implemented by UNIDO. The activities of the RECP sub-component will be implemented in cooperation with ODIMM to ensure the institutional capacity strengthening and sustainability of this project activities in the future;
- The Country Work Plan for Result 4, coordinated by the World Bank, was examined and generally approved: the proposals and comments of the Ministry of Environment are to be presented and integrated in the final version of the plan;
- The working group noted the process of evaluating the implementation of the Program for the Promotion of the Green Economy in Moldova for the period 2018-2020 and the plans for updating and adjusting the Action Plan of the Program for 2022-2027, taking into account the objectives of the European Green Deal and the circular economy, with a review of the actions implemented, the identification of existing gaps and their rescheduling or updating;
- The Working Group appreciated the activities and support provided by GIZ for greening TVET and promoting the green economy in Moldova. The

given activities will also be included in the Action Plan of the Program on Promotion of Green Economy for 2022-2027;

- The Working Group agreed with the proposal and the need to organize a separate event dedicated to the European Green Deal and the state of green transition in the Republic of Moldova;
- The Working Group/NIC took note of the information on reviewing the performance of progress in implementing the green economy with the application of Green Growth Indicators and expects to update the GGIs Report for Moldova by the end of 2021 (updating the 2017 Report based on 2020 data) (Expert-Grup, OECD);
- The Working Group/NIC noted the results of the visibility and communication project subcomponent in 2021 and the specific progress of Moldova in this field and encouraged to promote and support all related information to be placed on social media, web pages of partners and beneficiaries, etc.;
- The Working Group agreed on the organization of the next WG/NIC meeting in February 2022;
- The summary/minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all WG/NIC members and Implementing Partners;
- The Co-Chairs expressed their gratitude for the EU's financial support for EU4Environment in Moldova, to the EC for effective coordination and methodological support and to the Implementing Partners for effective collaboration in implementing the planned actions.

**State Secretary,
Co-Chair of the WG/NIC**

Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV

Secretary of the WG/NIC

Ms. Maria Nagornîi, Head of
Division on Policies for Pollution
Prevention and Environmental
Assessment, Ministry of Agriculture,
Regional Development and
Environment

Annexes to these Summary:

- Agenda of the meeting (Eng/Rom);
- Copy of documents presented and discussed (Word materials);
- Presentations at the meeting (PPT, Eng/Rom).