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

## PRESS RELEASE

# EU Industry Weeks 2022 - EU4Environment underpins the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology as a stepping stone for green economy in the Republic of Moldova

Chişinău (online), 10.02.2022

Thursday, 10 February 2022, marked an important milestone for the application of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in the Republic of Moldova. Under the regional programme funded by the European Union (EU), EU4Environment, and within the EU annual flagship EU Industry Days 2022, members of the Moldovan private sector, alongside representatives of the Government and of national and international organizations, convened in a virtual format to discuss, present, and promote means and tools supporting the country's transition towards a green economy.

Concretely, the webinar promoted a wider application of the RECP methodology, where a local market of service providers will be developed (including with sufficient local capacities and skills). RECP is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in six Eastern Partner (EaP) countries (including Moldova), under the EU4Environment Action. Part of it represents the introduction of specialized RECP training for energy and environmental professionals and for representatives of manufacturing enterprises who wish to become RECP Demonstration Companies.

*It is important that for this event, the Ministries affiliated with the activities of EU4Environment are included, together with economic agencies and representatives from different enterprises, as cooperating with these stakeholders is a key aspect upon which the green transition of Moldova depends. The Ministry of Environment acknowledges that economic activities must be carried out with maximum responsibility towards the environment and society. Hence, the Government's action plan regarding environmental protection has included a series of priority measures: an environmental strategy for 2022-2033, a programme for promoting green economy for 2022-2027, and a programme for development with low emissions until 2033. All these policies will be followed up by practical actions to assist their implementation to involve enterprises, economic agents, and the population as a whole. For this reason, we appreciate the support and commitment of EU4Environment and we encourage all implementing partners and local beneficiaries to put in a maximum effort to achieve the needed results, strengthen the national capacity, and promote sustainability. Here, RECP is extremely important for achieving the ambitions mentioned earlier. The participation of ODIMM (Organizația pentru Dezvoltarea Sectorului Întreprinderilor Mici și Mijlocii) to the Component led by UNIDO can assure the continuity of the planned activities. In the upcoming period, the Ministry is interested in greening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), eco-innovation, and eco-label as they promote new and green jobs, green*

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products, and services. I assure you that we will offer all our support to make these plans realities and strengthen the collaboration with all involved partners said, **Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov**, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government National Focal Point to the EU4Environment.

Hosted within a wider frame of the EU Industry Days campaign, the event related to the thematic areas of green and digital transformation, resilience, and circularity by building the national capacity of Moldovan industrial enterprises, fostering dialogue between the private sector and the Government, and facilitating partnerships.

*I would like to thank UNIDO for its excellent work on implementing the Circular Economy and New Growth Opportunities Component of EU4Environment in Moldova (under the strategic guidance of the EU), and the Ministries and ODIMM for their strong commitment. I encourage the broad participation of stakeholders today, as partnerships between the government and the private sector are vital for green transition. The topic of the webinar is both timely and of critical importance, as RECP is a successful tool to increase the efficiency of resources and prevent them from becoming waste. This minimizes pollution and waste, which has strong benefits for economy and environment. These are central priorities to make Moldova more competitive, resource efficient, and sustainable - and are in line with the EU Green Deal. The EU remains committed to ensure the green transition, and transform environmental challenges into opportunities, while leaving no one behind* said, **Mr. Gintautas Baranauskas**, Deputy Head of Operations, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

The online event gathered around 80 participants from diverse spheres of work, and reached out to around 200 more viewers on social media, where it was also livestreamed. The webinar reiterated the importance of partnerships and synergies, raised awareness of ongoing practices and support, and sedimented the application of the RECP methodology to enterprises (both individually, as well as part of Clubs, as established in Cahul and Găgăuzia).

*Resource efficiency is one of the flagship programmes that UNIDO is introducing globally, and, thanks to the support of the EU (as a donor of EU4Environment), regionally, in the EU's Eastern Partner (EaP) countries. The business arena and the issue of green transition and resilience are a strategic focus for UNIDO, as we strive to prevent the negative impact of industries on biodiversity, climate, and the environment. Here, we see resource efficiency as a stepping stone for the implementation of Circular Economy in Moldova* said, **Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya**, EU4Environment Project Manager, Department of Environment, UNIDO

The participants positively reacted to the introduction of the RECP methodology and presented great interest to further participate in dedicated RECP trainings and RECP Clubs.

*I am pleased to see such a large number of participants which confirm the interest and relevance of this topical event. For this programme, ODIMM was mandated a partner to UNIDO to ensure the support of businesses in Moldova. As a result of the past years, new programmes were launched, dedicated to the growth of businesses, to digitalization, and the promotion of resilience and green economic activities. A rather important area is the greening one, as it also tackles environmental goals. Businesses are some the highest pollutants, but firms do not always have the capacity to comply with the current legislation on their own, nor to measure their immediate impact on the environment,* said **Mr. Dumitru Pinte**a, Director of ODIMM, RECP Training and Assessment Partner of UNIDO

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## Background

EU4Environment Action, funded by the European Union, aims to support Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to preserve and better use their natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being, and grasp new development opportunities. With a budget of some EUR 20 million for all six countries, EU4Environment is carried out with implementation support by five international partners: OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE and the World Bank Group. For more information, please visit: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org)

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