



Funded by the
European Union

EU4Environment

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

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

09 September 2022 (10.00-13.00) (on-line, Zoom platform)

Total present at the meeting - 76 participants, including regular members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons including from the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, the EU4Environment Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and the World Bank) as well as other local experts.

The meeting was opened and moderated by Mrs. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, NFP for EU4Environment, Co-chair of the Working Group/NIC. Moderation of the session 2 and 3 of the meeting was provided by Mr. Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova.

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

The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting were:

- Review progress of EU4Environment in Moldova so far (all EU4Environment Green Economy IPs);
- Continue preparations for the EU4Environment Regional Assembly (OECD);
- Review national BIG-E objectives (Nicosia EfE Ministerial Conference) (MoEnv);
- Update on the process of drafting of the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027 (UNEP);
- Update on the process of drafting of the Law on payments for pollution and taxes for natural resources (OECD);
- Present World Clean-up Day 2022 in Moldova (national campaign from 01 to 17.09.2022 with a Clean-up Day on September 17) (all partners);
- Present the Sustainable Lifestyle Campaign in Moldova (UNEP);
- Consider synergies with other projects.

Opening and works of the event

Mrs. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary, EU4Environment NFP, welcomed the participants and the members of the working group at the second meeting of the WG/NIC this year.

In her greeting message, **Mrs. IORDANOV** stressed that “We have advanced in the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova, and today's meeting allows us to see, what will be the joint efforts going forward. In this context, according to the Government's Action Plan for the current year in the chapter on environmental protection, we have moved forward with measures related to EU4Environment activities, such as:

- Development and approval of the draft Environmental Strategy until 2033;
- Development and approval of the project of the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027;
- Elaboration and approval of the project of the Low Emission Development Program of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation;
- Development and approval of the project of the Program for the expansion of forest vegetation areas for the years 2022-2032 (the Program will provide for the expansion of 15% of the country's territory with forest vegetation);
- Development and approval of the project of the National Waste Management Program.

The central environmental authority faces ambitious and important tasks for the current stage, and this way it relies heavily on the continuous support offered within EU4Environment.”

Mr. Sergiu GAIBU, Minister of Economy, in the greeting message from the Ministry of Economy, stressed that "The current energy crisis forces us to become even more energy efficient and accelerates the switch to alternative energy sources. We will redouble efforts to promote green technologies, including through digitalization and optimization of processes". He also referred to very positive results of cooperation between EU4Environment and the Organization for the Development of the Entrepreneurship (ODE), which aims at making Moldova's enterprises more environmentally aware and performant.”

Mr. Adam Grodzicki, Deputy Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, outlined the need for more policy reforms within the environmental sector, in line with the European Green Deal objectives. He also stated that: “In parallel, implementation of the legal framework needs to be prioritized to ensure we make the green transition a reality on the ground. The European Union remains committed to accelerating this transition, which provides the opportunity to transform environmental challenges into economic and social opportunities while leaving no one behind.”

Session 2. Implementation of EU4Environment Green Economy in Moldova in the first part of 2022 and plans for September – December 2022

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).

This session took stock of progress on the activities under EU4Environment sub-components for January-December 2022, and outlined detailed plans for the first half of 2023, including at the regional level. After the presentation, WG members were invited to comment on the actions taken/planned.

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

Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4:

- Ensuring the continuity of inter-ministerial dialogue on the green economy. EU4Environment supported the coordination of the present **WG/NIC meeting** (Save the date message, agenda and speaking notes, logistical preparations, preparation of the joint PPT of all IPs, as well as securing the participation in the event of the Minister of Environment, Minister of Economy, State secretary for environment, EU4Environment NFP, Director of ODA, etc.). Two posts on EU4Environment and EU4Environment Moldova FB pages were also developed to promote the event.
- A local consultant for the development of the **Programme on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027** was selected (Ms. Oxana Paladiciuc). Two coordination meetings were conducted at the MoEnv with the State secretary (EU4Env NFP), EUHLPAM High level adviser on green transition and Head of circular economy section. The consultant received the draft of the Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy, draft Program on waste management (developed within EU4Environment with UNEP support) and draft Environmental Strategy 2033 – which have a special section on Green Economy. Among one of the key questions for the identification of the priority domains for the Program on GE was the possible identification of costs of actions. The preparation of the BIG-E national objectives for the Nicosia EFE Ministerial process facilitate the selection of the priority domains, which are – greening SMEs, organic agriculture, awareness and education, sustainable tourism and infrastructure etc. Contacts with the second local consultant involved, Ms Tatiana Tugui, were established, and exchange of documents and ideas took place;
- Development of a public awareness campaign on Sustainable Lifestyles (September – October 2022) (UNEP).
- **World Clean-up Day 2022** in Moldova (01-17.09.2022 and the event on 17 September 2022) in Moldova (EU4Environment, EUD, Swedish Embassy, National Environmental Centre) was organized.
- Following the Agreement with the **Academy of Public Administration (APA)**, which started the preparations to host and promote the introductory **online course on the Green Economy – contacts and updates on the state of implementation were identified by Ms Aurelia Tepordei**. The online course on the green economy was launched in Romanian, after nominated civil servants from ME, MEnv., ODIMM and AAP participated in a moderated course on green economy policy development and analysis.

- The Academy of Public Administration was absorbed by the State University of the Republic of Moldova in July 2022. Professional development activities will now be carried out by the Training and Professional Development Department, which will operate within the said Institute. Thanks to its cooperation with UNEP as part of EU4Environment, the professional development courses "Integrated strategic planning", "Development of public policies" "Monitoring and evaluation of public policies" were adjusted by integrating topics on the green economy. In the current year, 2 "Elaboration of public policies" courses were provided, attended by 50 officials from the central public authorities, and a course with the theme "Monitoring and evaluation of public policies" for 26 public officials from the APC. Also, a training course with the theme "Strategic and operational planning in local public administration" was held, which was attended by 25 civil servants from the first and second level local public authorities. The Environmental Management course was also placed in the catalogue of professional development courses in the second semester, we are going to place the Green Economy e-course on the Learn in Distance Training Platform, which will be accessible to all officials from central and local public authorities.
- 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 transboundary context. The draft law passed the governmental procedures and internal processes and was adopted by the Parliament. Development of Guidelines in process. Ongoing coordination with the MIRD for the selection of the policy document for the pilot SEA.
- Ongoing coordination between UNECE, EcoContact and APA on the university course on SEA. Pilot project on SEA for the Program on Industry development coordinated. Consultants to be contracted (coordination meetings at MoEconomy). Regional Workshop on SEA and EIA, 29 June 2022 (activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, UNECE). The integration of the SEA course in the ongoing courses on the Department of Biology and ecology of the Moldova State University was agreed and in process. The fact that the APA is now subordinated to MSU could facilitate the application of the SEA training at that level for public servants as well;
- 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: First RECP stakeholders group meeting; approval of regions for RECP Clubs, contracting the Clubs implementing partner and launching the search for companies in Cahul and Gagauzia. Progress in EIP feasibility assessments of IP Tracom and SEZ Valkanesz; 2 EIP workshops and a consultation on IP Tracom updates. Webinar on RECP on 10.02.2022. Meetings of the RECP Clubs (Gagauzia and Cahul) in June and July 2022 (activities 2.1, UNIDO). Activities of the RECP Clubs and of EIP continued in August and plans for September-December were coordinated;

Result 2 and 3 (Output 2.6 Eco-labelling):

- **The process of drafting the Regulation on eco-labelling in progress (consultations, governmental process).** Consultations with EcoContact and MoEnv to advance the process. (UNEP, EcoContact). Communication with EcoContact, responsible Division of the Ministry (the Division of Pollution Prevention) took place. Procedures were clarified with MOLADC;
- Consultations with ODIMM/ODA on assistance in the field of **eco-innovations** and training took place. The first national workshop on eco-innovation for SMEs took place on February 4, 2021; activity within the component Continues as 8 SMEs from the textile and wine production sectors are being analysed on their eco-innovation potential with a view to develop tailored roadmaps for implementation of such measures.
- 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). The draft was submitted to the MoEnv for finalization and promotion within the governmental processes. (UNEP); The major concerns are - to strengthen the part related to the circular economy (request from the Minister) and adjust and improve the Action Plan Table. It was agreed that by early October it will be submitted into the coordination and approval procedures according to the governmental provisions. If successful, the draft Program could be submitted to the Government for approval by the end of the year, or, Q1 2023.
- Initiated the process of development of the Law on payments for pollution and environmental taxes. Draft ToR developed, coordinated and under final coordination. Online coordination meetings with the Minister of Environment and OECD and EUHLPAM (June 2022). Local consultant selected in August – Independent Think-tank Exprt-Grup, coordination meetings conducted, initiated and carried out cost estimations for the contract and contract prepared the work to start in September 2022.
- Started the implementation of the Assistance to coordinate work to conduct gap analysis for the current ERP legislation and practice for WEEE (Output 2.4.2) and assistance to implement activities to review the current ERP legislation and practice in Moldova and support regional activities implementation for EPR. The ToRs for a local consultant were developed and coordinated. The local consultant, Ms Tatiana Tugui was in contact with the NAC and Division on Wastes and Chemicals Management of the Ministry of Environment to clarify the tasks and necessary inputs.
- Continued the preparations for the planned UNEP high level events at the end of September – on SPP and Eco-labelling. Draft agenda for both events was developed and coordinated, minister's agendas coordinated for participation. The UNEP mission to Moldova is planned in the period of 29.09 – 03.10. LoIs for Minister of Environment, Minister of Economy and Minister of Finance had been developed and circulated. Content of the meeting, specific focus and logistics – was discussed during the working calls with UNEP and involved implementation institutions (EcoContact and Agency for Public Procurement.

EU4Environment Results 4 and 5

- 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 and coordinated. Assistance to be provided to the MoE on drafting the document of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan 2022-2031. Activities related to the Emerald Sites started. (The World Bank);
- In the framework of delivering **Result 5, in coordination with OCED (Maria Dubois)** contribution to Country Profile of Moldova, developed within EU4Environment was provided, data and information corrected, the Romanian version checked. The information for the Quarterly newsletter of the European Union Delegation in the Republic of Moldova was developed and provided – all EU4Environment events for June-August 2022 were included and information prepared in Eng, Rus and Rom languages.;
- Information and awareness campaigns in preparation: WCD 2022 in Moldova (02-17.09.2022, Sustainable Lifestyle (14.09. 03.10.2022), European Week for Waste Reduction 2022 (November 2022);
- Promotion of EU4Environment on the project and national web pages, newsletter, video spots and promotional materials; visuals were placed on the FB pages of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and Europe Cafe (GGIs launching); the progress regarding the implementation of EU4Environment was reflected in all the Newsletters of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova. The EU4Environment information on the page of the Ministry of Environment updated: <https://mediu.gov.md/ro/node/2700>. More details in the chapter 4 below.

Contribution (additional information; review of drafts (Eng./Rom), comments etc.) was provided for the following products/activities:

- Draft Concept of the Environmental Strategy 2023-2033 (development process ongoing).
- Draft text of the Chapter on Green Economy of the Environmental Strategy 2033;
- Comments to the Chapter on environment from the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 developed and submitted to the State Chancellery in August;
- Comments to the revision of the regulation of ODIMM – currently – the Organisation for the development of the Entrepreneurship were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economy;
- Examination of the draft revised Program on Greening SMEs (ongoing).

More details on the results for 2022 and the general plans for 2023 - in the joint presentation and information document (CWP, PPT - annexes).

Session 3: EU4Environment Green Economy and Environment for Europe processes: synergies and national campaigns:

- Discussed collaboration with other initiatives on education for green economy - **Liudmila STIHI**, GIZ Country Office Moldova, "Support to Vocational Education and Training in the Field of Green Economy" Project, Adviser for Center Region
- Identified synergies between World Clean-up Day 2022 in Moldova and the
- Sustainable Lifestyle campaign (as presented by **Boris Le Montagner**, Initiative and Partnerships, Sustainable Lifestyles & Education Team, Consumption and Production Unit, Economy Division)

The main conclusions and decisions of the meeting:

- The general report for the first half of 2022 and the plans presented were approved by the WG/NIC (the detailed work plan of the project until the end of 2022 and the general work plan per country for the period 2022-2023 from the EU4Environment) (MoEnv and all IPs);
- The NIC took note of the regional events of the current year and the active participation of the representatives of the institutions in the given events was encouraged (OECD);
- The WG/NIC decided to be active involved in the process of developing the draft of the Program for the promotion of the green economy for 2023-2027 (UNEP);
- The WG/NIC members were invited to participate in the organized campaigns, share news and information on them (MoEnv, UNEP, OECD);
- The next meeting can be organized - preventively in February 2023, to discuss the project's plans and activities for the first half of next year (MoEnv).

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

Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV



Secretary of the WG/NIC



Maria Nagornii, Head of
Division, Ministry of Environment,
EU4Environment Technical NFP

Event's page: <https://www.eu4environment.org/events/meeting-of-the-eu4environment-green-economy-national-implementation-committee-in-the-republic-of-moldova/>

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).