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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

High-level Dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement in the Republic of Moldova

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, 30 September, 2022
14:00 – 16:00 (Chisinau, EEST)

Action implemented by:



Background

In 2014, the Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) demonstrating its commitment and readiness to reform and harmonise different sectors' policies aligned with the EU approaches. Several Agreements' articles foresee the transformation towards Green Economy principles, where the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is considered as an efficient way in shifting to Green Economy.

Public procurement makes up around 25-30% of GDP of the countries with economies in transition. Annually, the part of the state budget is expended by contracting authorities in the Republic of Moldova for the procurement of goods, services and infrastructure construction works. Shifting that spending towards more sustainable goods and services can generate positive social, environmental and economic results such as poverty reduction, improved equity, reduced GHG emissions and increased energy and resource efficiency. It also offers a largely untapped opportunity to drive businesses and domestic markets towards innovation and increased sustainability. SPP is thus emerging as a key policy instrument to support sustainable development and leverage an inclusive green economy transition.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the five partner agencies implementing the EU-funded EU4 Environment (2019-2022) Action. This regional programme supports 6 countries, including the Republic of Moldova, in making policy planning and investment greener, stimulating the uptake of innovative products and technologies, and raising awareness about the benefits of environmental action. More specifically, within EU4Environment's component on "circular economy and new growth opportunities", UNEP supports the Republic of Moldova to promote activities related to SPP issues and its complementary tools.

UNEP in close cooperation with the Public Procurement Agency (PPA) of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova implements a set of activities on promotion and application of SPP. It includes improvement of the legislation to introduce the SPP provisions, elaboration of complementary tools (by-laws, guidelines, training materials), identification of priority goods and services for SPP pilot tenders accompanied by elaboration of the sustainability criteria per prioritised products. Raising awareness of governmental authorities, as well as the business sector, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business associations on the SPP benefits is envisaged in order to build capacity of business to respond to public tenders.

Objectives of the high-level dialogue on SPP

- Leverage the discussion on SPP high in the governmental agenda to support the legal steps done towards SPP implementation in the Republic of Moldova;
- Raise awareness of the Moldova authority, business associations, national stakeholders on SPP approach and economic, environmental, and social benefits; Ensure buy-in from line ministries (contracting authorities);
- Ensure synergy between other policy developments in the country towards sustainable development (including achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)), Green Economy shift, promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production pattern and SPP;

- Ensure awareness and full support of SPP practices in the Republic of Moldova as an efficient way to meet commitments of the Republic of Moldova under the EU Association Agreement and numerous environmental multilateral agreements.

Participants

The high-level representatives of the Moldovan governmental institutions, business associations, national stakeholders, as well as the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and UNEP.

Practical information

The high-level dialogue will be held on 30 September (14:00-16:00) in the large hall of the Ministry of Finance, 4th floor, 7 Constantin Tănase str., Chisinau.

English and Romanian are the languages of the dialogue. English-Romanian simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Format and questions to the panellists

The dialogue will be organised as the panel discussion with the moderation of the questions.

The panellists will contribute to the discussion by answering the following questions:

Q1: What are the policy prerequisites in the Republic Moldova to create a favourable environment and conditions to promote and practice SPP?

Q2: How would you evaluate the level of understanding and knowledge of SPP among national stakeholders? What challenges of SPP implementation in the Republic of Moldova do you see?

Q3: In your opinion, the actions on SPP (improved legislation, elaborated complementary tools, training and communication campaign etc.) planned in the framework of the EU4Environment project are sufficient to implement SPP in the Republic of Moldova?

Q4: How do you see the role of international partners (for instance, UN Agencies) in promoting SPP at national level?

Q5: What approaches could be suggested by the government (procurers) to motivate businesses to participate in SPP, thus contributing to eco-innovation and new technologies transformation of the market?

Q6: How can SPP be better promoted at the highest national level so that to ensure support of the Republic of Moldova on its way towards SDGs achievement, commitments under different agreements, including the EU Association Agreement are met?

Panellists of the dialogue

The panellists will be invited as followed (tbc):

- Mr. Dumitru Budianschi, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova; Mr. Vladimir Arachelov, State Secretary of Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova;
- Ms. Iuliana Cantaragiu, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova; Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, State Secretary of Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova;
- Mr. Vladimir Cuc, State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
- Ms. Mariana Rufa, Executive Director, European Business Association Moldova;
- Ms. Matilda Halling, Programme Officer, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova;
- Ms. Veronika Safrankova, Head of UNEP Brussels Office;

- Representatives of civil society and international organisations: Ms. Elena Corman, Senior Procurement Specialist, The World Bank; Ms. Diana Ranga-Enachi, Economist / Project coordinator, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul"; Ms. Covalciuc Maria, Project director, Association for Efficient and Responsible Governance; Ms. Natalia Guranda, Director, EcoContact;
- ODA (organization for the development of entrepreneurship);
- Representatives of contracting authorities.

Moderator of the dialogue: Mr. Ruslan Malai, Director of Public Procurement Agency of the Republic of Moldova.

About EU4Environment

The "European Union for Environment" (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine 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 Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

For more information please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org.
