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# **EU4Environment**

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

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

**17 February 2023 (10.00-13.00) (on-line, Zoom platform)**

**Total present at the meeting - 60** participants, including regular members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons 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**, Minister 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 Nagornîi**, Head of Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova.

### ***The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting were:***

- Review progress of implementation of the EU4Environment in Moldova in 2022 (major results, all EU4Environment Green Economy IPs);
- Discuss and approve plans for EU4Environment activities in Moldova for 2023 (All IPs);
- Present the process of drafting of Moldova's Programme on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027 (UNEP);
- Present the process of drafting the Law on payments for pollution and taxes for natural resources (OECD);
- Present the progress in drafting the Program on afforestation of Moldova (the World Bank Group);
- Overview and initiate preparations of major events of 2023 in Moldova, including: European Green Week 2023 (01 - 07 June 2023), International Exhibition MoldEco (01 - 04 June 2023, Moldexpo), World Environment Day 2023 (05 June 2023), World Clean-up Day 2023 in Moldova (national

campaign on 01-16.09.2023 and Clean-up Day 16.09.2023), National Tree Planting Campaign (November 2023) (Ministry of Environment, EU4Environment Moldova, National Environmental Centre, Ministry of Economy, ODA, CIE Moldexpo, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, all partners);

- Identify synergies with other on-going work or projects in the country.

## **Opening and works of the event**

**Mrs. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV**, Minister of Environment, EU4Environment NFP, welcomed the participants and the members of the working group at the first meeting of the WG/NIC this year.

In her opening statement, **Mrs. IORDANOV, Minister of Environment**, stressed that “Today’s meeting allows us to evaluate, what will be our joint efforts to ensure approval of the **National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program for the years 2023-2032**, the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027, the draft Regulation on Eco-labelling, and the draft Law on payments for environmental pollution, and to successfully finalize all ongoing activities”.

**Mr. Adam Grodzicki, Deputy Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova**, outlined that: “If we look back to 2021, only in those last two years the EU and its Team Europe partners have allocated some 850 million euros to address emergency needs, especially in the energy sector, and boost existing opportunities for **long-term green recovery and climate resilience in Moldova**. And we are planning to mobilize additional resources in 2023, which should bring the total support to **over 1 billion euro**, mostly in grants and concessional loans. The regional EU4Environment programme plays an important role in this regard as it aims at accelerating the **green transition** and provides tools and resources to **transform environmental challenges into opportunities - while leaving no one behind**. Nevertheless, further efforts are needed to **adapt legislation and management practices** prevailing in Moldova, so as to support the country in meeting its own development targets and the European environmental standards as well as aspirations embedded in the European Green Deal”.

**Concluding the opening session**, the Minister stressed that: “in this final year of implementation, the **continuity and sustainability of all actions needs to also be ensured** - what we want to continue working together with the implementing partners and project beneficiaries, to promote the green and circular economy in our country.”

**Session 2. Implementation of EU4Environment Green Economy in Moldova in 2022 (major results) and general plans for 2023**

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 high-level representatives of the Ministry of Environment and of the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova).
- The Draft Concept of the **Programme on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027** was developed, coordinated with the State Chancellery and included comments and proposals from IPs. Proposals on sections on circular economy and EPR had been received and will be included in the full text of the document. Public consultations will also be arranged;
- Thanks to on-going collaboration with the **Institute of Public Administration (APA)**, which has been hosting and promoting an introductory **online course on the Green Economy – 3 GE e-courses had been delivered & attended by 86 civil servants from central and local public authorities in Moldova;**
- 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. Further revision of the draft Guidelines on Quality Control (QC) of SEA Documentation and the draft Guidelines on QC of Transboundary EIA Documentation as per feedback from the Ministry of Environment and Environment Agency (and amended Laws on EIA and SEA). The Ministry of Economy (Currently, after the Governmental Change on 16.02.2023 – Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization) provided the Concept of the Program on Industrial Development for the pilot SEA.
- The Webinar on **RECP** for businesses (February 2022) at the EU Industry Weeks; Gender mainstreaming in industry: training (June 2022); EIP prefeasibility assessments of IP Tracom and FEZ Valkanesz are completed; UNIDO missions organized to validate the findings in June; Launched **RECP**

**Club** in Gagauzia in June, (8 companies); launched RECP Club in Cahul in July, (7 companies); RECP training completed for 15 trainees; Reports on RECP assessments of 9 SMEs are approved.

### Results 2 and 3:

- **The process of drafting the Regulation on eco-labelling is in progress:** Finalisation of Regulation on eco-labelling and elaboration of the national eco-label; public hearings and training workshops for central/local authorities and business are planned; the guidelines on eco-labelling are finalised;
- Continued collaboration with **ODA** to provide **eco-innovation advisory services** and develop business plans/roadmaps for SMEs from identified priority sectors (wine and apparel production);
- The **EU Single Market for Green Products (SMGP)** activities were initiated with a consortium joined by a national partner EcoContact. Product Environmental Footprint awareness event is planned at the end of March. Baseline assessment of PEF readiness is being finalized.
- Moldova pre-feasibility assessment of IP/FEZ will be presented at a regional event on **Eco-Industrial Parks** online on 16 March.
- Financing of **RECP assessments** based on the business plans being developed by a national expert is discussed with ODA's referring to the GREEN SMEs Program.
- Trained **national RECP experts** are invited to contribute to the pool of consultants on green projects for SMEs.
- **RECP Clubs** are advancing inviting new companies outside of Cahul and Gagauzia. Municipalities are invited to facilitate engagement of regional energy saving plans through promoting involvement of SMEs into Clubs program/energy efficiency assessments offered to the companies' pro bono.
- **National Waste Management Program and National Waste Action Plan** have been submitted for review and government approval (including necessary documents for submission to the State Chancellery). If successful, the draft Program could be submitted to the Government for approval in Q2 2023;
- **Industrial Waste Mapping Guide** is being prepared at the regional level to guide interested stakeholders on how IWMs could be conducted in the regions of EaP countries.
- **15 RECP Business Cases** are being prepared for wider promotion.
- Advanced the process of development of the **Law on payments for pollution and environmental taxes**. Coordination meetings in the ministry of environment. Assessment developed and submitted;
- Assessment of the existing **EPR mechanisms** and improvement of the legal framework on **EPR implementation for WEEE and waste batteries** have been completed;

- **Prioritisation of three new products for SPP, market readiness and elaboration of associated sustainability criteria** initiated. Awareness raising events were successfully organized in 2022: **High-level dialogues on SPP and eco-labelling** (Sep 2022), **media-breakfast and press-tour on GE** (Oct 2022) with involvement of journalists.
- Publication of the **assessment report on the environmental compliance assurance system** and the system of administrative sanctions in English and in Romanian;
- **Draft Operational Manual for the National Ecological Fund** and assistance to develop new regulation for the National Ecological Fund (amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection approved);
- **Advanced version of report on administrative capacity for environmental management.**

#### **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; Support to the MoE for designing the **National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program finalized with the approval of the Program by the Government on February 20, 2023** (The World Bank).
- **Advancing the establishment of the Emerald Network:** developing Recommendations for the National Emerald Roadmap, legal gap analysis to incorporate Emerald species and habitat conservation under Bern Convention, Guidelines for unified Emerald management plans, representative sites selected for management planning, awareness raising (The World Bank);
- **High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)** under assessment (methodology agreed, consultations with key-stakeholders started, analysis report & mapping in progress) (The World Bank);
- In the framework of delivering **Result 5, in coordination with OCED:** Report on green growth indicators in English and Romanian; Online GGIs platform in English and Romanian (hosted by the Ministry of Environment); Policy brief in English and Romanian; New edition of country profile for 2021-2022 (in English and Romanian); Video on green growth indicators in Romanian; Final project event at WG GE high-level inter-ministerial (Feb 2022); Special session on GGIs to present policy recommendations at EU Green Week (with outreach of appx. 15 000 citizens); High-level event "Towards Green Transformation of Moldova" within EU Green Week; Promotion of EU4Environment on national web sites and in mass media.
- **Information on past awareness campaigns:** WCD 2022 in Moldova (02-17.09.2022, Sustainable Lifestyle (14.09. 03.10.2022), European Week for Waste Reduction 2022 (November 2022);

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

### **Session 3: EU4Environment - Green Economy: major products, synergies and regional/national campaigns in 2023**

**Brief information was presented on the:**

- Preparation of the **European Green Week 2023** (01 - 07 June 2023), International Exhibition **MoldEco 2023** (01 - 04 June 2023, Moldexpo), World Environment Day 2023 (05 June 2023), World Clean-up Day 2023 in Moldova (national campaign - 01-16.09.2023 and Clean-up Day, September 16, 2023), National Tree Planting Campaign (November 2023) (Ministry of Environment, EU4Environment Moldova, National Environmental Centre, Ministry of Economy, ODA, CIE Moldexpo, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, all partners) (**Andrei ISAC**, NAC);
- Presentation of the draft Programme on the promotion of Green Economy for 2023-2027 (**Oxana PALADICIUC**, local consultant);
- Presentation of the progress on E-waste EPR development in Moldova (**Tatiana TUGUI**, local consultant);
- Presentation of progress on SPP (**Ruslan MALAI**, Director APP);
- Promotion of eco-labelling in Moldova (**Natalia GURANDA**, Executive Director, EcoContact);
- Promotion of eco-innovation and cleaner production among SMEs (**Rodica Crudu, Ion LICĂ**, ODA);
- Presentation of the outcomes of RECP Clubs and EIP implementation in Moldova (**Aurelia SARARI**, National coordinator);
- Presentation of the draft Law on payment for environmental pollution (**Alexandru FALA**, Expert-Grup);
- Presentation of the draft Program for afforestation for 10 years (**Aurel LOZAN**, WB Country Activity Coordinator);
- Presentation of the Sida SEI PROJECT: Green Agenda for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (**Bernardas PADEGIMAS**, Team Leader: Environmental Policy and Strategy, Senior Project Manager, Stockholm Environment Institute).

#### **Conclusions and next steps:**

Based on the presentations from the 2 basic sessions of the meeting:

- The general report for 2022 and the plans presented for the first half and until the end of 2023 were approved;
- The regional events of the current year are noted and active participation of various institutions is encouraged;
- The active involvement of WG members in the process of developing the Program for the promotion of the green economy for 2023-2027 and the Draft Law on payments for environmental pollution is encouraged;

- The implementation of planned national awareness campaigns, organized and carried out by the project, will be further discussed;
- The next meeting can be organized - tentatively in September/October 2023, to discuss implementation outcomes and the continuity/sustainability of actions before the final Regional Assembly of EU4Environment, planned for Q4 of 2023.

Gratitude was expressed to members of the Working Group for their active participation, to the Implementation Partners for their efforts in the programme's implementation in the preparation of the meeting, and to the EU and the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Moldova for the financial and substantive support as well as overall coordination.

**Minister of Environment,  
Co-Chair of the WG/NIC**



**Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV**

**Secretary of the WG/NIC**



Maria Nagornîi, 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-2/>

Event live (Privesc.eu, Archive, Romanian version/channel, original):  
<https://www.privesc.eu/Arhiva/101848/Sedinta-Grupului-de-lucru-interministerial-pentru-promovarea-dezvoltarii-durabile-si-economiei-verzi-Comitetul-National-de-Implementare-a-proiectului->

**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).