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EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Training workshop on ecolabelling and sustainable procurements
in the Republic of Moldova dedicated to central and local authorities

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, 03 March 2023
09.00 – 12:00 (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, more specifically, it calls for setting up the eco-labelling systems. Ecolabelling is also one of the sustainability criteria and tools for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) that the EU promotes in the Republic of Moldova.

The development of ecolabels contributes to meeting important requests of society:

- General increase of concern in the population on the sustainability attributes of their products.
- Coherence between SPP and ecolabeling as tools for SPP (in case SPP become mandatory in a country, companies would be strongly motivated to obtain eco-labels for their products).
- Increase of the EU market access sustainability-marketed products grew more than twice as fast as conventionally marketed products in the past 6 years (Centre for sustainable business, 2021).

The regulatory framework of the Republic of Moldova currently does not transpose the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EEC) of 25 November 2009 on EU Eco-label. At the same time, the national legislative basis includes a number of laws and policy documents that indirectly regulate the aspects of eco-labelling: Environmental Strategy for 2014–2023; Law on Ratification of the Association Agreement; Law on Labelling of Energy-Related Products; Law on Eco-design Requirements for Energy-Related Products; Law on Organic Agri-Food Production, etc. The Republic of Moldova committed to implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by the end of 2030 (where ecolabels especially contribute to accomplishing the Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production). Finally, the numerous international treaties which the Republic of Moldova is a party to, formulate requirements on eco-labelling development and access to environmental information.

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, such as eco-labelling.

UNEP in close cooperation with the PA EcoContact implements a set of activities on promotion of eco-labelling system development in the Republic of Moldova. In particular, a comprehensive assessment of the legal framework of Moldova was prepared, identifying the current state related to the eco labelling, and existing laws facilitating the regulation and later implementation of eco labelling in the country. The only existing and currently functioning system of environmental labelling in Moldova is on organic labelling in the agriculture sector.

In order to understand better the application of the EU ecolabelling system, the document provides an analysis of the EU ecolabel with its specific particularities and summarises key challenges, as well as the most suitable institution that could accredit and be responsible for the eco-labeling issuance. The assessment is available in [Romanian](#) and [English](#).

The Roadmap to align an eco-labeling system in Moldova was drafted to determine the objectives and measures to be taken to facilitate the transposition of the provisions set out in the EU Regulation on the Ecolabel (Regulation (EC) No 66/2010) in the Republic of Moldova. Essentially, the roadmap is an action plan for successfully creating and implementing a voluntary national eco-labelling scheme. The Roadmap is available in [Romanian](#) and [English](#).

The most valuable progress is the elaboration of the Regulation on Ecolabelling by the transposition of the Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on EU Ecolabel and develop all supportive documents (Note, RIA, Draft of Governmental Decision, Regulation).

To stimulate the demand and supply of sustainable products in Republic of Moldova, two elements have been combined: ecolabelling and sustainable public procurements. Even though these two mechanisms are still at the initial phase, the awareness and information on benefits that can be achieved should be an intensive approach for the applicability of both instruments.

Objectives of the training workshop

- Present and discuss the future national ecolabelling mechanism, including recently developed legal provisions.
- Highlight the economic, environmental, and social benefits and impact of the eco-labelled products and services.
- Promote ecolabelling as an efficient tool for access to consumer information.
- Promote the principles and benefits of SPP and dispel common myths.
- Explain how eco-labelling could be considered as one of the criteria for SPP practices.
- Present and explain the SPP mechanism, its practices and how to encourage state central and municipal procurers of the Republic of Moldova to apply sustainability criteria in tenders.

Participants

The participants in the training workshop will be the representatives of the central and local authorities responsible for developing and applying the ecolabelling mechanisms, as well as beneficiaries and potential practitioners of SPP.

Practical information

The event will occur online via the Zoom platform on 03 March 2023 (09.00-12.00).

Format and questions to the panellists

The workshop will take place in the form of training, with presentations and discussion topics on eco-labelling and sustainable procurement.

Moderator of the event: Natalia POSTOLACHE, Sustainable procurement expert

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.

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3 March 2023

The event will take place in an online format via Zoom Platform

Moderator: Natalia POSTOLACHE, Expert on public procurement

Time	Item
09.00 – 09.10	Introduction by the Moderator
09.10 – 09.30	<p>Welcome speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of progress achieved in the frame of the EU4Environment project 2020-2023 in the field of eco-labelling - Economic, environmental, and social benefits of eco labelled products and services - Ways of integration of eco-labelling into SPP tenders <p>Mrs. Natalia Guranda, Executive Director PA EcoContact</p>
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Presentation of the draft Regulation on eco-labelling (transposition of EU Regulation 66/2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of legal provisions - Presentation of the mechanism and roles of authorities - Control of the eco-labeled products - Inspection and attributions of the certification bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Irina PUNGA, Legal Consultant PA EcoContact
10.00 -11.30	<p>Sustainable public procurement, general principles, benefits, and the participation mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPP and how it differs from traditional public procurement - SPP as a support tool for economic, social, and environmental goals achievement. - Planning and implementation of SPP - Development of legal frameworks for SPP in the Republic of Moldova - Managing contracts with sustainability clauses - Best practices of SPP application in the EU country (1 case study) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Natalia POSTOLACHE, Expert public procurements
11:30-12:00	<p>Q&A session, collection of feedback and recommendations</p> <p>Closure of the event and following steps</p>