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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

EU4Environment Republic of Moldova

Progress in 2023 and plans for sustainability

(prepared by the IPs and NAC for the **WG/NIC meeting, 12.09.2023**)

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Results 1 & 2: Greener decision making and circular economy (UNEP)

Progress in 2023

- ✓ In partnership with the State University of Moldova, EU4Environment facilitated delivery of **5 e-courses on Green Economy, taken by 97 public servants**
- ✓ Supporting development of the **Programme on the promotion of Green and Circular Economy and the associated Action Plan for 2024-2028**
- ✓ **Assessment of existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms** and policy recommendations to improve **EPR legal framework for Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and waste batteries**
- ✓ **Eco-labelling regulation and national eco-label finalised and adopted** following public hearings
- ✓ **New product categories identified for Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)** – including technical specifications, criteria and guidelines
- ✓ **Awareness raising events** on SPP and eco-labelling with involvement of **media and private sector**
- ✓ **Communication materials** on SPP and eco-labelling prepared in English and Romanian

Remaining plans

- ✓ **5 more training e-courses** on Green Economy for civil servants
- ✓ National training workshops on SPP, including a **Pan-European regional workshop**
- ✓ Launch **SPP pilot tenders**
- ✓ Publications/materials on **highlights of SPP and eco-labelling achievements**

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Opportunities beyond EU4Environment

- ✓ Programme on the promotion of Green and Circular Economy and Action Plan for 2024-2028
- ✓ Continuation of regular inter-ministerial dialogue
- ✓ Roadmap/plans for more distance learning courses
- ✓ SPP pilot tenders
- ✓ Eco-labeling process
- ✓ EPR schemes for electronic and packaging waste
- ✓ Eco-innovation advisory services for further SMEs

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Result 1. Greener decision making (1.3 - UNECE: SEA/EIA)

Progress in 2023	Remaining plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Finalized:</i> the two guidelines on quality control, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on Quality Control of Environmental Impact Assessment Documentation (EIA QC Guidelines) for the Republic of Moldova, including Guidance for the Transboundary EIA process; • Guidelines on Assessment of the Quality Control of Strategic Environmental Assessment. ✓ <i>Finalized:</i> Training Workshop on Quality Control of SEA and EIA Documentation in the Republic of Moldova (24 May 2023) ✓ <i>In progress:</i> two regulations under the amended Law on EIA and the amended Law on SEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulation for the Technical Commission on quality control of EIA documents • regulation for the Commission of Experts on quality control of SEA documents. ✓ <i>In progress:</i> a model for a SEA database for the Republic of Moldova and other countries is being developed. ✓ <i>In progress:</i> awareness-raising material (posters) on SEA and EIA procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Finalization of the two regulations under the amended Law on EIA and the Law on SEA - regarding the commissions on quality control of SEA documentation and EIA documents [by Q4 2023]. ✓ Pilot SEA project: focus and implementation under discussion ✓ Finalization of the model for a SEA database [Q3-Q4 2023]. ✓ Finalization of the awareness-raising materials (posters) development [Q4 2023]. ✓ Some planning and preparatory work for a possible additional regional event on EIA and SEA (tbc)

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Opportunities beyond EU4Environment

- ✓ No capacity-building projects on SEA and EIA envisioned under UNECE for 2024 - 2026
- ✓ The Republic of Moldova and other beneficiary countries of EU4Environment invited to discover opportunities for capacity-building assistance offered by the interested parties bilaterally
- ✓ The additional regional event on SEA and EIA (tbc) likely to accommodate a discussion and some advice on potentially available opportunities for technical assistance and capacity building support

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Result 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities (UNIDO)

Progress in 2023

- ✓ RECP web page updated by ODA at www.oda.md
- ✓ **EIP prefeasibility assessments** discussed at the media lunch, partners' meeting and tour of IP Tracom
- ✓ Result of EIP assessments of IP Tracom and FEZ Valkanesz presented at the Regional event Eco-Industrial Parks in the EaP region and featured in the Regional EIP Guide
- ✓ Training sessions for two RECP Clubs in Gagauzia and Cahul* (extended); measurement visits to enterprises; reports are prepared for 9 enterprises
- ✓ **RECP Clubs Joint event** organized with NGO "Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables" to introduce the RECP options to Covenant of Mayors signatories in April 2023
- ✓ RECP training program is completed for **15 RECP trainees**
- ✓ **RECP assessments** of 13 SMEs, final 13 reports and 13 business cases of most relevant measures for resource efficiency improvements are drafted
- ✓ **Monitoring** of 9 RECP alumnae SMEs from EaP GREEN Action (2013-17) and new demonstration companies: Business Cases are being prepared
- ✓ **Draft Strategy for RECP institutionalization and RECP network** elaborated
- ✓ Contributing to a **World Environment Days** workshop with "ECOCONS" on "The advantages of the circular economy during climate change" in June 2023
- ✓ Awareness campaign and event on the **concept and tools of the EU Single Market for Green Products** initiative to introduce Product Environmental Footprint methodology
- ✓ Exploratory mission on RECP and collaboration with **EU4Business** in joint event with ODA in July 2023
- ✓ Contribution to the **Regional Skills for Greening event** in June 2023

Plans for 2023-2024

- ✓ **Raising awareness and sharing knowledge on RECP:** communication plan, web presence, awareness raising events and materials
- ✓ Publishing ca **20 RECP Business Cases** from demonstration companies and Clubs English and Romanian
- ✓ Elaboration of **Investment Plans** for 10 SMEs on RECP measures implementation with external financing/loans
- ✓ **RECP Stakeholders group** meeting
- ✓ **Final Conference** to present implemented activities of the Result 2. Circular economy and new growth opportunities (December 2023, TBC)
- ✓ **RECP Business Card/Report** on barriers and opportunities for resource efficiency of SMEs in Moldova
- ✓ Regional **SMGP/PEF meeting** for EaP Countries
- ✓ Regional **RECP Centers/Partners meeting** – continued
- ✓ **EIP Guide for EaP Countries**
- ✓ **Industrial Waste Mapping** communication campaign and **IWM Guide**

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Opportunities beyond EU4Environment

- ✓ Institutionalizing RECP in relevant structures
- ✓ Exploring full-scale EIP intervention for evaluated and new Industrial Parks/Zones
- ✓ Introducing Industrial Waste Mapping Guide to apply in Moldova regions
- ✓ Including RECP Clubs into the Covenant of Mayors initiative
- ✓ Piloting Product Environmental Footprint to support EU SMGP access
- ✓ New National Strategy stimulates introducing the Circular Economy practices and principles in industries, building on RECP experience

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Results 3 & 5: Environmental level playing field & knowledge sharing (OECD)

Progress in 2023	Remaining plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Operational Manual for the National Environmental Fund and new legislation regulating environmental pollution payments, with improved revenue allocations for the Fund ✓ Analysis of environmental taxation and environmental budget expenditure management ✓ Report on environmental liability legislation in Moldova ✓ Moldova participation in the EU Green Week on upskilling on green economy (June 2023) ✓ Round Table “Green Economy - Made in Moldova” in close cooperation with UNEP ✓ Finalisation of Green Public Investment Programme in clean urban transport sector in Moldova ✓ Continued support to greening SMEs through online self-assessment tool (1 230 SMEs benefitted from the tool) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Publishing the report on Applying Fiscal-Budgetary Instruments (environmental taxation and budget expenditure) to Solve Environmental Issues in Moldova ✓ Publishing regional report on green bonds, including Moldova ✓ Sharing best practices through inviting Moldova to the OECD finance conference (October 2023) and OECD Expert Group on BAT (November 2023) ✓ Finalising and presenting the results of work on strengthening administrative capacity for environmental management in Moldova ✓ Regional E-book on green growth indicators, including Moldova, on Environment at a Glance Platform ✓ Final country profile and regional Brochure, including Moldova

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Opportunities beyond EU4Environment

- ✓ Continuing work on greening the domestic capital market, including among others analytical and legislative support to the relevant government agencies and market regulator, trainings for potential issuers of green bonds
- ✓ Further work on strengthening public finance institutions in line with good international practice
- ✓ Continue strengthening environmental compliance assurance and related legal instruments
- ✓ Capacity building activities and regional knowledge sharing

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Result 4. Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods (the World Bank)

Progress in 2023

Completed work:

- ✓ Support to the MoE for designing the **National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program (NFERP) / Outcome – Government Decision 55 dated 17.02.2023**
- ✓ Analysis: **“Identification of high conservation value forests (HCVF)”**
- ✓ Knowledge sharing & communication: participation in communication campaign **“Get to Know Nature: Understanding Biodiversity for Everyone”**

Ongoing work:

- ✓ **Advancing the establishment of the Emerald Network:** developing Recommendations for the National Emerald Roadmap, Guidelines for unified Emerald management plans, representative sites selected for management planning, awareness raising

Plans for 2023 (September - December)

- ✓ Continue work on advancing the establishment of the **Emerald Network** including:
 - Develop National Emerald Roadmap
 - Develop Guidelines for Emerald sites management plans
 - Start work on developing management plans for selected sites
 - Stakeholder consultations
- ✓ Start work on **promoting legal and deforestation-free timber trade:**
 - analytical work on domestic consumption of wood products
 - support to developing Forest product marketing platform
 - diagnostic analysis of national forest monitoring system
 - support for key-species traceability information system
- ✓ Start work on community engagement in NRM:
 - Community baseline mapping

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Result 4. Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods (the World Bank)

General plans for 2024

Country-specific:

- ✓ Complete work on advancing the Emerald Network in Moldova
- ✓ Continue work on community engagement in NRM:
 - Conduct **baseline mapping** for community engagement in forests and NRM
 - Develop **practical knowledge (e.g. tools, guidelines, training)** to improve communities' engagement in sustainable NRM. In Moldova the focus will be on participatory forest and pasture management planning
- ✓ Continue work on **promoting legal and deforestation-free trade in timber**
- ✓ Start work on **enhancing strategic finance for the forest and NRM sectors**

Regional:

- ✓ Organize **regional workshops and study tours** to exchange knowledge and experience on management of Natura 2000 sites in the EU countries
- ✓ **Online training course** on legal and deforestation-free timber trade
- ✓ **Workshop** on e-timber trade platforms and other innovative technologies
- ✓ Develop a **regional document** on the state of SFM and legal timber trade in EaP countries and recommendations for strengthening timber trade and export controls

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