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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Press Release

EU4Environment backs resource efficiency efforts to green Moldovan enterprises

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The EU-funded EU4Environment national conference took place at Digital Park Chişinău within the “Made in Moldova 2024” (“Fabricat în Moldova 2024”) exhibition. Gathering 70 participants (both online and in-person), the event marked the completion of the activities pertaining to the implementation of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology amongst Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and provided a platform for future-oriented discussions on greening strategies and support services for Moldovan enterprises.

Climate change, environmental pollution, and resource scarcity are issues that can no longer be denied as they affect us all and require joint action. The European Green Deal, with the circular economy as one of its key instruments, stands for innovation, competitiveness, and improved quality of life while decoupling economic growth from resource depletion. To realise these benefits, we must foster access to innovative technology, acquisition of new competencies, and enhancement of regulatory frameworks to facilitate the transition to resource-efficient models for SMEs. The Government of Moldova has taken significant steps in fostering green transition with the support of the EU-funded EU4Environment programme and the commitment of our implementing partners. We observe that our collective efforts are yielding positive results, opening pathways for SMEs to thrive by embracing circular economy models, said Mr. Adam Grodzicki Deputy Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union stands as Moldova's biggest trade partner, accounting for 49.3% of its total trade. Emphasizing economic development and connectivity, the [Priority Action Plan for trade under the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area \(DCFTA\) and the Economic and Investment Plan \(EIP\) flagship](#) initiatives prioritize aid for SMEs, enhance trade, and foster energy efficiency, alongside improved human capital. The EU contributes to Moldova's reforms by strengthening administrative capacity, offering advisory services, and increasing participation in key EU programmes. Its allocation of €260 million for 2021-24 underscores the EU's enduring commitment to Moldova's green development, resilience in the face of challenges, and clear accession path to join the EU. One of the leitmotifs of the event was the reassurance of support and guidance to embark SMEs on the pathway towards circularity using resource efficiency as a driver for competitiveness and well-being. This strongly echoes the key priorities of Moldova for sustainable development and green economy (particularly in the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030 and the Energy Strategy 2030) and is aligned with the strategic objectives of the European Union's (EU) comprehensive environmental programme, EU4Environment.

Today's conference takes place in the context of achieving an active promotion of green and circular economy, as outlined in the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030, the projects of the 2030 Environmental Strategy, and the Green and Circular Economy Promotion Program for 2024-2028. It is quite significant that we have been promoting the principles of the green economy in the Republic of Moldova for over a decade, and it has become a good tradition to organize such a high-level event at the beginning of the year to highlight hitherto achievements and set new goals in this area. The transition to

green economy and climate neutrality will provide us with significant opportunities, such as the emergence of new potential for economic growth, new business models and markets, new jobs, as well as technological development, said Mr. Grigore Stratulat, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment

The event comprised a wide plethora of national and international stakeholders, including Government agencies and relevant institutions, representatives from industrial enterprises and businesses, experts in the fields of engineering and energy, members of academia, as well as the representatives of the SMEs taking part in different components of the EU4Environment programme in Moldova.

The Strategy of the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization stems from the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova in its accession process to the European community, as well as from the priorities set for promoting and integrating the principles of sustainable, responsible, and inclusive economic development. In this regard, in 2024, our goal is to communicate and promote the importance of adopting the concept of sustainability in all activities and economic processes. This includes developing a reporting methodology in line with ESG principles, providing clarity on reporting methods, and enhancing entrepreneurial skills, especially in the fields of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, said Mrs. Veronica Arpintin State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization National Focal Point, EU4Environment

Considering Earth's finite natural resources, once their use within the economy reaches a threshold, sustaining economic growth becomes contingent on resource efficiency. This paradigm requires new ways to derive outputs from the same volume of resources. Thus, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) comes about not only as an imperative for economic expansion, but also as a pivotal facilitator for industries to increase their competitive standing, create new and green jobs, and invest in recycling and waste recovery. Today's conference recognised not only the commitment of RECP Demonstration Companies and trainees to amplify green growth in the country, but also fostered knowledge exchange, industrial synergies, and advanced opportunities for support and collaboration.

Today's conference signifies the completion of UNIDO's activities within the EU4Environment programme. Between 2021-2023, 31 companies were assessed under the RECP methodology, and 15 professionals were trained to become RECP experts in the country. 65 tailored RECP measures were proposed to help companies improve their production processes, reduce resource and energy consumption, and integrate Circular Economy practices. In addition, UNIDO was also invested in supporting the feasibility assessment of two industrial sites, [IP Tracom](#) and [FEZ Valkaneş](#) in applying the Eco-Industrial Parks (EIP) framework. Here too, the experience shows that Moldova has made important strides in exploring EIPs as part of its sustainable development agenda, said Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya, EU4Environment Project Manager, UNIDO

Background

The EU4Environment Action aims to help the EU's Eastern Partnership countries 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. It is implemented by five partner organizations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank over the 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information, visit www.eu4environment.org. For more information about RECP in Moldova, please visit: <https://www.oda.md/ro/suport-antreprenorial/proiecte/recp>

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