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EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Summary
of the Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group
on Sustainable Development and Green Economy
National Implementation Committee of EU4Environment
11 September 2020

Total present at the meeting - 32 participants, members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons (DG Environment, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Implementing Partners – OECD, UNEP, UNIDO).

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Lilia PALII, General Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, NFP for EU4 Environment from MEI side, Co-chair of the Working Group/NIC. Moderation of the meeting - by Mr Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova.

Secretaries of the WG/meeting – EU4Environment Technical NFPs: Ms Maria Nagornîi, Head of Division on Policies for pollution prevention and environmental assessment, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and Ms Tatiana Pîrgari, Senior Consultant, Economic Policies and Business Environment Department, MEI.

Participants received in advance all documents and a copy of the Presentation (Eng/Rom) in electronic format and links to the discussion documents, made during the meeting. The meeting took place in Green meeting/paper less and virtual format.

The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting:

1. Presenting the information about the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2020 and plans (with contribution from Implementing Partners);
2. Discussion and general approval of the priority domains for the update of the policy documents in the field of green economy, evaluation of costs and green investments needs and partner actions for the period of 2021-2022 (ex.: eco-innovation for SMEs, eco-labelling etc);
3. Organisation of the process of preparation participation at the Second Regional Assembly of the EU4Environment, virtual conference on 22 September 2020,

- and preparation of the interventions for the State secretaries, EU4Environment NFPs;
4. Presentation of the information on the preparations for the EU Green Week 2020, 19-23 October 2020, and the partner actions – 14.09 – 23.10.2020;
 5. Ensure synergy with other projects/actions under implementation and informing development partners about the possibilities and needs within the implementation of the EU4 Environment in RM;
 6. Other discussion issues.
- Detailed agenda – annex 1.

Opening and works of the event:

In her opening statement, Mrs Lilia PALII, General Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, co-chair of the Inter-ministerial Working Group/NIC, congratulated the WG members on the occasion of 5 years of activity of the WG, mentioning that along time the WG demonstrated efficiency and capacity for the promotion of the green economy principles in the national policy documents.

The General Secretary of MEI indicated that in the actual conditions, when the relaunching of the economy it is a national objective, the integration of environmental requirements could bring an added value in all economic sectors. Greening of the production processes of the services could contribute to the efficient use of resources, application of new technologies, promotion of exports, creation of new green jobs and reduce the impact on the environment.

At the same time, Mrs Lilia PALII added that for the development of the capacities of the SMEs in the field of greening of production processes and services, in June this year ODIMM launched the Program on Greening SMEs. The Program will be implemented during 3 years and the SMEs will benefit from methodological and financial support for the greening of activities and products.

„The promotion of eco-labelling and of eco-innovations among SMEs could create new perspectives for the economic development. Thus, these domains have to be selected as priority ones when speaking about the updating the policy documents in the field of green economy. I consider that the implementation of the actions within EU4Environment come to compliment the efforts of the Government to align to the environmental objectives, for greening the economic sectors, for the efficient use of resources and modernising production processes” – underlined Mrs Lilia PALII.

In his opening statement, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, **Mr Maxim POPOV, State secretary, underlined,** that “...we foresee the implementation of EU4Environment in our country and region for the promotion of economic development in harmony with the environment, for the promotion of green approaches in all sectors and of the circular economy”. MARDE consider environmental protection as an intersectoral domain,

and the efficient collaboration between institutions contribute to the implementation of the obligation assumed by our country in the RM-EU Association Agreement in these domains.

Mr. Gintautas BARANAUSKAS, Deputy Head of Operations, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova indicated that EU has an ambitious plan under environment, climate and circular economy. EU has adopted most advanced policies and standards in these areas. European Union main objective is to ensure the wellbeing of its citizens, protect and enhance natural capital and make the economy more competitive. The green economic recovery seems to be a huge opportunity. EU has the European Green Deal, Circular Economy Action Plan and other related policy documents. And this is more relevant in partner countries. “...This refers especially to integrating environment and climate into other policies, making finance greener and strengthening environmental governance” – highlighted he in his opening statement.

According to the agenda, Mr Andrei Isac, National action coordinator, EU4Environment, introduced and offered the floor for the presentations to the representatives of Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP and UNIDO). Were presented short reports and the plans for the implementation of the EU4Environment for 2020 and general plans for 2021, developed by the Implementing Partners for each Result/sub-component, separately: Result 1: Greener Decision Making; Result 2: Circular economy and New Growth Opportunities; Result 3: An Environmental level Playing Field; Result 5: Knowledge Sharing and Coordination. After the presenting of each of the Results was offered the possibility for a question and answers session and the WG members were invited to present their opinion or comments on the implemented/planned actions. Copy of PP (Eng/Rom) was circulated to all participants (attached).

As part of the Sectoral investment planning and comparative analysis of costs and benefits – new identified priority domains were discussed: **eco-innovations and eco-labelling**.

During the meeting was presented the information about the organisation of the:

- **The EU4Environment Regional Assembly** (22 September 2020) with the major objectives: update on progress on the EU4Environment Action implementation, governance arrangements and communication issues, including impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic; discuss adjusted regional and country work plans for 2020-21;
- **EU Green Week 2020 in Moldova** (19-23 October 2020): National environmental and biodiversity conservation communication and information

campaign on EU Green Week 2020 with the key topics: biodiversity conservation and EU Green Deal for Moldova.

Main results presented by Implementing Partners:

- Continued inter-ministerial dialogue on Green Economy and overall oversight of EU4Environment (activity 1.1.3);
- Memorandum between MARDE and the Academy of Public Administration to host, promote and deliver an introductory GE course (activity 1.1.1);
- On-going development of a tailored in-depth training for nominated individuals from various government agencies on GE policy (activity 1.1.1). The course will enable participants to carry out fitness tests (activity 1.1.2) of relevant policy documents and policy proposals;
- Legislative assistance for the review of EIA and SEA legislation and development of two Methodologies/Guidelines on (1) Quality Control of SEA Documentation, (2) Quality Control of transboundary EIA Documentation (activity 1.3.1 and 1.3.2);
- Consultations with NFPs and other stakeholders on identification of the National Implementing Partner for the RECP, ToR and launching of the tender (activities 2.1 (2.1.1 – 2.1.6));
- Presentation of OECD, UNEP and UNIDO activities and work plan related to SMEs at the Conference on Launching of the Program on Greening SMEs, organized by ODIMM (03 June 2020) and identification of synergies (activities 2.1.2, 2.1.5, 2.6, 3.1.2);
- Consultation with national partners on Sustainable Public Procurement and eco-labelling (contracting international experts and local partners, work in progress) (activities under result 2.3);
- Consultations with Organization for the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector Development (ODIMM) to assist with eco-innovation promotion and training (activity 2.6.1 and 2.6.2);
- Initiated and coordinated the support for the use of strategic approaches on waste management – development of the Program on waste management (activity 2.4);
- Assistance with developing a self-assessment tool for SMEs and assistance with the development of metrics for measuring SME greening nationally (activity 3.1.2);
- Launch of a new project on strengthening public expenditure programmes, a follow up to the previous work on the Clean Public Transport (CPT) Programme (activity 3.3.1);
- Reviewing and reforming the current set-up of the National Ecological Fund and select the local expert for the development of the NEF Operational Manual (activity 3.3.2);
- Launch of preparatory work on administrative capacity for environmental management project (activity 3.4);

- Overview of available green growth indicators in the OECD database for the Republic of Moldova and initial internal discussions on its extension and update (activity 5.3);
- EaP country virtual consultations: Republic of Moldova - 29 May 2020 (activity 5.2);
- Promotion of EU4Environment on project and national web sites, Newsletter, videos and other communication materials (activities 1.4 and 5.1).

More details about the results, plans for 2020 and general plans for 2021 – in the common presentation (annex).

Major conclusions and decisions of the meeting:

- The meeting of the WG/NIC marked the first year of practical implementation of the EU4Environment activities in Moldova, which started in September 2019 and 5 years of activity of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of sustainable development and green economy (established in June 2015 within EaP GREEN);
- The Working Group/NIC took note and approved the information on the implementation of the EU4Environment in Moldova for the period of January-August 2020, as presented by Implementing Partners;
- The Working Group/NIC approved the plans of actions within the sub-components of EU4Environment planned for September – December 2020, developed by the Implementing Partners and implementing institutions and the general plans for 2021. The beneficiary institutions will further coordinate with Partners the practical implementation actions for each specific activity;
- The WG/NIC approved the new priority sectors for the Investment needs assessment in priority sectors (to be carried out as part of the development/update of the Action Plan of the Program on the green economy – in 2021): eco-labelling and eco-innovations for SMEs;
- Was welcomed the support offered for the improvement of the management and functioning of the National Ecological Fund and the final stage of selection and contracting of the local expert by OECD;
- The representative of MARDE (organic agriculture) proposed to examine the possibility to provide support from EU4Environment for the development of the electronic register of organic producers in Moldova;
- The WG/NIC took note about the preparatory process to the EU4Environment Regional Assembly (22 September 2020) and decided to carry out a coordinated preparatory process. The Technical NFPs and NAC will prepare the draft communication from Moldova, based on the format, proposed by OECD, with the involvement of necessary institutions;
- The WG took note about the preparations for the European Green Week 2020 – preparation for the national campaign related to the EUGreenWeek and agreed to carry out a coordinated preparatory process. Key topics of the

EUGreenWeek 2020 in Moldova will be – biodiversity conservation (including protected areas) and EUGreenDeal for Moldova;

- Was agreed on the process of organisation of the next WG/NIC meeting, depending on the possible Regional Assembly meeting in person (later 2020 or early 2021) and linked with the evaluation and reporting for 2020 on the results of the implementation EU4Environment and of the Program for the promotion of green economy for 2018-2020 (Governmental Decision nr.160/2018) (and its update for 2021-2023), which will be carried out under the coordination of the MARDE according to the Governmental Decision 160/2018;
- The Summary of the meeting after coordination will be circulated to all WG/NIC members, Implementing Partners and EC (DG NEAR and DG Environment);
- The Co-chairs expressed their gratitude for the financial support, offered by EU for EU4Environment in Moldova, to EC for efficient coordination and methodological support and to Implementing Partners for efficient collaboration for the implementation of the planned actions.

General Secretary

Lilia PALII

State Secretary

Maxim POPOV

Annexes to the Summary:

- Agenda of the meeting (Rom/Eng);
- Copy of discussion documents (Word);
- Presentation from the meeting (original PP, Rom/Eng).

Information about the event was placed on the web sites:

Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure:

<http://mei.gov.md/ro/content/eu4environment-moldova-un-de-realizari-domeniul-dezvoltarii-durabile-si-economiei-verzi>

<https://www.facebook.com/MinisterulEconomiei>

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment:

<http://madrn.gov.md/ro/content/2805>

<https://www.facebook.com/minister.agricultura.dezvoltare.regionala.mediu/>

EU4Environment/OECD: <https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/second-meeting-inter-ministerial-working-group-promotion-sustainable-development-green-economy.htm>

EU4Environment in Moldova page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/>