



**WG3 meeting**

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# Environmental Strategy

The Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 was approved on 24 April 2014 by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The Strategy:

- establish basic principles and priorities in the field of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development of the country;
- ensure the synergy of implementation of the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova and realization of the policy framework through the European integration;
- constitute the basis of an institutional reform and of capacity building for the implementation of the policy and legal framework in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.



## EU integration & environmental policy

The process of European integration presents a challenge for the environmental sector and includes two main action directions: **harmonization of national environmental legislation with the EU acquis and institutional reform**, which implies the development of an institutional mechanism capable to enforce the newly adopted legislation. The Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 covers exactly these challenges and aspires to be the key strategic planning document for the actions to be taken in the following decade



# Association Agreement

The „Environment” Chapter of the Association Agreement provides for the concrete commitments and activities of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the field of environmental protection, such as:

- elaboration of legislation, norms and standards harmonized with the EU directives, institutional capacity building and the establishment of new required structures;
- elaboration of a national Environmental Strategy that would include planned institutional reforms, within the established time frame, for the implementation of the environmental legislation and compliance;



# Association Agreement

- elaboration of sectoral strategies for **water**, air, **biodiversity conservation**, climate change adaptation and mitigation etc.;
- strict and clear separation of competences between the environmental authorities at national, regional and local levels;
- integration of the environment into other sectoral policies, promotion of the green economy development and of eco-innovations.



## Problems of institutional and managerial systems

- lack of strategic environmental planning both at national and local level (policy documents are outdated and have to be updated, whereas for some components, such as air and soil protection, rational use of useful mineral resources and climate change such documents do not even exist);
- the legal framework is outdated and not adjusted to the provisions of the European Union directives;
- discrepancy between institutional framework and the existing requirements and challenges. Attributions of environmental policies' elaboration, implementation and legislation compliance control are not clearly divided between environmental institutions. There are no agencies to deal with environmental policies' implementation in all respective areas. There is a series of confusions and overlapping of responsibilities and competences in the fields of environmental protection with those of other, non-environmental institutions (forest fund protection, soil protection).



## *Harmonization of environmental legislation with provisions of EU directives*

The Annex to the „Environment” Chapter of the Association Agreement contains 25 European Union environmental directives regarding the following sectors:

- environmental governance and the integration of environment in the other sectoral policy documents;
- air quality;
- water quality and water resource management;
- waste management;
- nature protection;
- industrial pollution and industrial risks;
- chemical substances.



## *Harmonization of environmental legislation with provisions of EU directives*

In conformity with these directives, the Republic of Moldova has to transpose and implement a set of requirements, which, respectively, involve significant costs.

Thus, in the legislative/normative area a **new environmental framework law** is going to be adopted, containing provisions of the 25 EU directives, such as: strategic environmental assessment, integrated environmental management, hydrographic basins management system, integrated environmental monitoring, environmental authorization/integrated environmental authorization, public involvement in environmental decision-making and access to environmental information.





## *Harmonization of environmental legislation with provisions of EU directives*

For a more comprehensive transposition of EU environmental directives special laws shall be elaborated: Law on drinking water, Law on air quality and protection, Law on soil protection, Law on biosafety, Law on strategic environmental assessment, Law on environmental impact assessment, **Law on waste**, Law on chemicals, Law on environmental authorization (including integrated one), **Law on access to environmental information**, etc., as well as their implementation regulations.

Once adopted the development of a mechanism for their implementation shall be initiated (regulations, instructions, methodologies, etc.).



## *Ensuring institutional reform in the environmental sector*

A mere transposition of those 25 EU environmental directives contained in the Association Agreement to national legislation is not sufficient to meet the commitments laid down therein. First, the obligations set out in these Directives **have to be implemented**, ensuring further control over their application. This exercise requires capacities and a high level of expertise from the Ministry of Environment. Therefore, the Ministry should see the consolidation and capacity building of environmental institutions as a priority to meet the requirements arising from challenges of legal, institutional and administrative order, as well as ones determined by harmonization with EU environmental directives.



## *Ensuring institutional reform in the environmental sector*

Institutional capacity building shall focus on defining or ensuring the followings:

- clear competences for elaboration of environmental and related legislation;
- necessary capacities, human resources and sufficient financing to fulfill the tasks;
- clear and effective procedures for decision-making and further implementation;
- investments for compliance with EU legislation, especially for these parts that require substantial expenses, and a corresponding financing strategy.



## *Ensuring institutional reform in the environmental sector*

To ensure the conditions of good governance in the field of environmental protection, the Strategy proposes, for the first 4-5 years, to realize an essential institutional reform in environmental sector, which would result in reorganization of specialized agencies and creation of new institutions in order to improve the operational capacities and optimize public expenses. It is proposed to conduct an institutional analysis of the Ministry of Environment and its subordinated institutions, regarding the functions, structure, policies and personnel, in order to determine the institutional structures capable to achieve the objectives set out in this Strategy and the commitments undertaken in the Association Agreement.



**Thank you!**

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