



## GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

### MOLDOVAN OFFICIALS FROM LINE MINISTRIES RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT EU BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN MOLDOVA

**Chisinau, 20 March – Over 40 participants, including representatives of the State Chancellery, the line ministries, and the EU Delegation to Moldova discussed the EU Budget Support Programme in Moldova during a roundtable at the National Coordinating Unit. The aim of the event was to raise awareness and to provide more information on the EU Sector Policy Support/Budget Support Programme to the key stakeholders.**

Speakers informed participants on the principles and procedures of the EU Budget Support; the key issues and challenges encountered by the Project Technical Assistance to Sector Budget Support on Economic Stimulation in Rural Areas; the Water Sector Policy Support Programme and the problems.

Representatives of the line ministries – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice – not only listened to presentations, but also actively participated in discussions, having the possibility to address the officials from the EU Delegation and the project experts.

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### REPORT ON DISCRIMINATORY ILL-TREATMENT IN MOLDOVA RELEASED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

**Chisinau, 19 March – A report on discriminatory ill-treatment in Moldova was released during a roundtable by the Promo-LEX Association and The Equal Rights Trust. It examines the specific phenomenon of discriminatory ill-treatment against women, persons with disabilities, LGBT, ethnic and religious minorities in Moldova.**

“The purpose of this report is to inform Moldovan authorities and general public on the issues at hand and make the authorities aware of the need to address effectively any allegations of discriminatory ill-treatment that come to their knowledge”, stated Olga Manole, Project Coordinator at Promo-LEX Association.

Present at the event Hubert Duhot, Project Manager of the EU Delegation to Moldova emphasised the EU support for civil initiatives in Moldova, noting the importance and necessity of such publications and the relevance of the issue discussed at the event.

The event was organised in the framework of a project funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

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### MOLDOVAN OFFICIALS FAMILIARISED WITH ROMANIAN EXPERIENCE AND PROCEDURES IN THE DOMAIN OF VISA AND MIGRATION

**Bucharest, 14-15 March – The EU-funded project on Supporting the Implementation of the EC Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in Moldova and Georgia held a study visit to Romania in the domain of visa policies. A delegation of 7 Moldovan officials representing Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Bureau for Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior and Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova have been familiarised with Romanian experience and procedures in the domain of visa and migration.**

Romanian counterparts presented their practical experience in the field of visa reception, processing and issuance and harmonization process of visa issuance procedures and visa systems with EU legislation and standards. Moldovan delegates had the opportunity to visit National Visa Centre and Centre for the Ongoing Training of Consular Staff of the Romanian MFA and Romanian Immigration Office in order to analyze best practices and recommendations which could be considered for the improving and reform process of the Moldovan legal and institutional framework in the visa domain.

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## EUBAM SUPPORTS THE CAPACITY OF PARTNER SERVICES TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

**Chisinau, 22-23 February** – In order to exchange experience and views regarding the latest mechanisms for combating new phenomena of psychoactive substance, the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine organised a “New Psychoactive Substances” seminar jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova (MoIA).

Representatives of Moldovan law-enforcement agencies were joined by international experts from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine at the seminar, which aimed to support the capacity of EUBAM’s partner services in Moldova and Ukraine to combat drug trafficking.

New psychoactive substances are considered a serious threat to Moldovan society, especially the younger generations, and represent a huge challenge for law-enforcement agencies. Proposals for solutions in line with the EU best practices regarding effective preventing and combating of psychoactive substance were presented, discussed and submitted to Moldovan and Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies for their consideration.

Apart from its capacity building role, EUBAM and international partners also used the seminar to support the anti-drug department of the MoIA in a specific criminal investigation concerning new psychoactive substances smuggled into the Republic of Moldova.

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### TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## STRATEGY PAPER FOR BETTER OBSERVANCE OF THE COMPETITION LAW DEVELOPED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

**Chisinau, 19-23 March** – The EU-funded Twinning Project, „Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy” held a short-term mission focused on completion of the Strategy Paper on competition. This Paper will establish the most appropriate cooperation methods between the National Agency for Protection of Competition and its stakeholders towards an increased awareness of the Competition legal framework. The mission aimed at identifying the training needs on the competition rules among different actors of Moldovan society, government officials, sector regulators and courts.

Another short mission took place in the same period for the effective implementation of the legislative framework in the field of abuse of dominant position. The Austrian STEs together with NAPC experts worked out two draft guidelines concerning the assessment of dominance and abuse of dominant position, which are to be used by NAPC and operating on the Moldovan market after the Competition law enters into force.

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## ANALYSIS OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN MOLDOVA REVEALS UNACCOUNTED WOOD

**Chisinau, 19 March** – A study on the scale of illegal logging in Moldova revealed that possibly around 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> of harvested wood went unrecorded in recent official documents by governmental authorities. This amount represents domestic consumption of forest resources which are likely to come from illegal and/or from unsustainable practices. Yet the source of this consumption still needs to be verified. The study was conducted by the ENPI FLEG Programme in 2010-2011 and supplemented with data from another study on real annual wood consumption in the country.

Only a section of the illegally harvested wood could be physically traced by the ENPI FLEG working group engaged in the study. Within that section data shows that the amount of illicit wood in the forests managed by Agency “Moldsilva” was around 3,800 m<sup>3</sup> in 2010 and around 2,500 m<sup>3</sup> in the first half of 2011, while the amount of illicit wood uncovered in the forestland managed by others constituted around 16,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2010.

The results of the study and the other study on wood consumption conducted by ENPI FLEG were published and disseminated among stakeholders and presented to the Agency “Moldsilva”. The studies leveraged stricter revisions and control of forest resources by the Agency “Moldsilva” and the State Ecological Inspectorate.

**More information at:** <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/>





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## ENERGY LABELLING OF ELECTRIC APPLIANCES AND ECO-DESIGN DISCUSSED AT REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN CHISINAU

**Chisinau, 15-16 March – A workshop dedicated to energy labelling of electric appliances and eco-design was held by the EU-funded regional Energy Saving Initiative in the Building Sector (ESIB), an INOGATE project. Representatives and experts from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine attended the event and shared experience and best practices from their countries.**

The event was attended by governmental official representing the relevant ministries, consumer protection bodies, energy efficiency agencies, technical laboratories, etc., directly responsible for the creation, adoption, implementation and evaluation of the product labelling and eco-design related legislation. An expert from Finland gave a presentation on the "Eco-Design of Energy-related Products: Introduction of legislation, description of process and examples of regulations".

The project experts presented an overview of EU legislation on labelling and eco-design, possible regional cooperation and cooperation with the EU, EU Member States examples, promotion of energy labels and the energy efficient appliances to consumers, and how information on the energy labels in shops can be verified.

**More information at:** <http://www.inogate-ee.org/>



## PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN MOLDOVA WITH THE SUPPORT OF A CIUDAD PROJECT

**Chisinau, 14-17 March – Eight Moldovan and international companies attended the specialised exhibition MOLDENERGY, with the financial support provided under an EU-funded CIUDAD project. "By empowering companies interested not only in profit, but also public education, we want to promote an energy efficiency responsible behaviour in the Republic of Moldova," said Daniela Frantujan, the Manager of the "Energy Efficient Municipalities" Project, which covers the Moldovan capital Chisinau and Sevastopol in Ukraine.**

Within the framework of the project, €10,000 were allocated to cover registration and stand rent expenses for companies selected by an independent committee of experts, following a open call for proposals. Last year, the event gathered 50 companies and 10,000 visitors, including many foreigners.

The CIUDAD-funded project, "Energy Efficient Municipalities: Increasing energy efficiency of Chisinau and Sevastopol municipalities, based on existing positive experience", is implemented by the City Hall of Chisinau, in partnership with the municipality of Sevastopol, IDIS "Viitorul", the Union of Municipalities from the Marmara Region (Turkey) and the University of Marmara.

**More information at:** <http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/>



## DIGITAL MAPS OF MOLDOVAN FOREST DEVELOPED WITH EU ASSISTANCE

**Chisinau, 12 March – Digital maps of Moldovan forests developed within the EU-funded ENPI Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) programme are now available for use. They present an up-to-date picture of the situation of forests in the country. The maps were produced in cooperation with the Silva-Mileniu III NGO and the Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS).**

The ENPI FLEG team and the Moldsilva Agency have made the map databases available in support of the objectives of the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF/UNDP) project entitled "Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System (PAS) in Moldova".

The ENPI FLEG Programme has established synergies with the PAS Project aiming at improving management of protected forest land and reducing the impact on forest ecosystems that are under various categories of protection (i.e. nature reserves, landscape reserves, forest reserves, veteran trees and other forest-type protected areas). Thanks to these cooperation efforts, all forest protected areas that are subject to a re-evaluation and revalidation process in the country should fall within the boundaries set by the latest management planning maps developed by Agency "Moldsilva" and the ENPI FLEG Programme.

**More information at:** <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/>





## NATIONAL AGENCY FOR COMPETITION PROTECTION TO START DRAWING UP A STATE AID INVENTORY

**The EU-funded Twinning Project „Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Competition and State Aid Policy” is currently involved in creating the Inventory of the Existing State Aid, in close cooperation with representatives of ministries and other public authorities.**

The Inventory shall ensure full transparency as regards State aid granting in the Republic of Moldova in accordance with European Union practice and represents the first step of ANPC in creating the state aid mechanism.

The creation of a national inventory including all types of State Aid granted in Moldova started last month with a meeting with representatives of ministries and agencies involved in ensuring a friendly business environment in Moldova. During this meeting, the participants have been informed about the objective of the State aid Inventory, its importance and the methods of working. During the next months, more meetings are envisaged and further training is needed in order to ensure the drafting of the Inventory in accordance with the EU standards.

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### EU-FUNDED PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 2-4 APRIL, CHISINAU

**TAIEX expert mission on quality assurance in higher medical education, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”**

**More information at: <http://www.usmf.md/>**

#### 2-4 APRIL, BRUSSELS

**Study visit for Moldovan Public institutions within the EU-funded project “Effective Governance of Labour Migration and its Skill Dimensions”**

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