



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title: International Consultant to support the institutional capacity building for MRV system implementation in the Republic of Moldova

Duty Station: home based

Reference to the project: EU4Climate

Contract type: Individual Contracts (IC)

Contract duration: Up to 23 working days in the period November 2021 – March 2022

Starting date: November 2021

1. BACKGROUND

The goal of EU4Climate Project is to contribute to climate change mitigation & adaptation and the development towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy in line with the Paris Agreement² in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

To realize this project goal, the following results should be achieved:

Result 1: Finalized or up-dated nationally determined contributions communicated to the UNFCCC;

Result 2: Improved inter-institutional awareness and coordination at political and technical level of the Paris Agreement and the corresponding national commitments;

Result 3: Established or strengthened MRV systems, with countries getting on track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements;

Result 4: Advanced alignment with EU climate acquis as provided by bilateral agreements with EU and in the context of Energy Community Treaty on climate matters that are not covered by the EU4Energy programme;

Result 5: Establishment of concrete sectoral guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in each of the Eastern Partners;

Result 6: Increased mobilization of climate finance;

Result 7: Enhanced adaptation planning.

The project implementation methodology will follow the logic of the Paris Agreement framework and relevant EU climate acquis, as well as their subsequent developments. The respective climate change EU acquis and climate provisions under the Energy Community treaty will be the integral part of the project logic and implementation methodology, the EU best practices will be shared. Relevant technical guidance on various elements of climate policy development will be used through the capacity building and training activities.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was adopted at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in December 2015 and officially entered into force on 4 November 2016. The Paris Agreement was the first ever universal, legally binding climate deal that set out a plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to “well below 2°C”. Together with Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement provides an unprecedented opportunity to create an integrated development approach towards inclusive resilient economies with a zero-carbon footprint by 2100.

The Paris Agreement establishes a new transparency regime, under which countries will have to report progress on reducing GHG emissions and building climate resilience. This transparency regime is currently

being established within the UNFCCC framework and its final details are still to be defined. At the same time, the three regional members of the Energy Community (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) are encouraged to align their legislation with the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation as well as to prepare for the development and adoption of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans and may soon have to align their legislation with the new EU Energy Union Governance Regulation while the agreement with Armenia equally foresees legal approximation to EU MRV rules. In the past years, significant technical assistance has been provided by the regional ClimaEast project, but countries' capacities for MRV still need further strengthening.

Moldova's context

The Republic of Moldova's INDC (NDC1) was submitted on 25 September 2015¹. According to it, The Republic of Moldova intends to achieve an economy-wide unconditional target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 64-67 per cent below its 1990 level in 2030 and to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 67 per cent. The reduction commitment expressed above could be increased up to 78 per cent below 1990 level conditional to, a global agreement addressing important topics including low-cost financial resources, technology transfer, and technical cooperation, accessible to all at a scale commensurate to the challenge of global climate change. To achieve at the national level the Moldova's NDC targets, the Low emissions development Strategy by 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation (LEDS 2030) were adopted by the Government². The Strategy plans the low emission development for the following sectors: energy, transport, building, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste.

The decision 1/CP.21 requests those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2030 to communicate or update by 2020 these contributions and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, Ministry of Environment presented, on March 2020, to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2) of the Republic of Moldova³. According to it, Republic of Moldova intends to achieve more ambitious targets than in its NDC1. The country's new economy-wide unconditional target is to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent below its 1990 level in 2030, instead of 64-67 per cent as committed in NDC1. As to the new economy-wide conditional target, instead of 78 per cent as committed in NDC1, the reduction commitment expressed above could be increased in NDC2 up to 88 per cent below 1990 level, provided a global agreement addressing important topics including low-cost financial resources, technology transfer, and technical cooperation, accessible to all at a scale commensurate to the challenge of global climate change, is insured. The Republic of Moldova has included in its updated NDC the adaptation component in line with Articles 2.1 and 7.1 of the Paris Agreement and Katowice Rulebook (COP 24). According to it, the adaptation priority sectors are agriculture, water resources, forestry, human health, transport and energy. Following, the LEDS 2030 was updated. This activity was conducted with the support of the EU4Climate project and on 17 June the updated LEDS 2030 was presented within a public event.

The MRV system helps countries to report on the implementation of its NDCs, the changes in emissions and to report projections of emissions with measures in place.

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https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Moldova%20First/INDC_Republic_of_Moldova_25.09.2015.pdf

² https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=98493&lang=ro

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https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Moldova%20First/MD_Update_d_NDC_final_version_EN.pdf

Moldova's MRV system is regulated by the Governmental Decision No. 1277 as of 26.12.2018⁴ on the Establishment and Functioning of the National System for Monitoring and Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions and other Information Relevant to Climate Change, which transposed into the national legislation the Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change. The GD 1277/2018 approves the following:

- procedures on establishment and functioning of the National System for monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change. National system consists on: (1) National Inventory System and (2) National System for Policies, Measures and Forecasts. It establishes the competent authority – Environmental Agency, instruments of reporting, format/structure of these instruments, deadline for presenting the reports to the secretariat of the UNFCCC etc.
- List of authorities and institutions which are part of the National System for monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change.
- List of GHG and their GWP which are taken into consideration within the National System for monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions.

Recently, with the support of EU4Climate project, the GD#1277/2018 was updated based on the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement – Enhanced Transparency Framework. Updated GD is to be approved by the Government by the end of 2021.

During the 2020-2021 a Roadmap for the development of a functional National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory System and MRV System for Moldova was developed within the EU4Climate project by the Environment Agency Austria. According to it Moldova already reports on a very high standard.

GD #1277/2018 nominates the Environment Agency of the Republic of Moldova as the national authority responsible for the implementation of the National System for Monitoring and Reporting (NSMR) for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Other Information Relevant to Climate Change. The Moldovan Environment Agency is responsible also for QA/QC and reporting, which is also set out in the same governmental decision as for the National System.

Overall, Moldova has an extensive system in place to assure an inventory of high quality. However, always external experts are appointed to develop the reports (National Communications, BURs, National GHG Inventory). This mean that ownership of data, as well as the information necessary on how estimates were done, is not within the national competent authority. There is no predefined team of inventory experts, nor is there a plan of establishing one in the near future. Currently, a team of experts (external consultants), that are financed through funds from GEF, provides reports. The respective knowledge is not passed on to the Environment Agency, or the experts responsible for taking part in the CoPs and decision makers, while the data is not stored by the competent authority.

The MPGs in Chapter C paragraph 6 refer to a QA/QC system, in which basic specifications are provided. Even though developing country Parties are given flexibility and are encouraged only to establish such a system, it should be noted that a QA/QC system with good documentation and archiving is not an unnecessary addition to a National System, but a foundation: the better a QA/QC system, the easier it becomes to enhance the quality of reports, to find references and to make sure that information does not get lost with changes in staff. The MPGs also stipulate a QA/QC system as a requirement for all parties when it comes to key categories and those categories where significant methodological changes and or

⁴ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112485&lang=ro

data revisions have been applied. The IPCC guidelines provide information on what a basic QA/QC system should contain.

Notwithstanding the fact that Environmental Agency is responsible for the entire MRV system, it was decided that the Agency will take it over gradually from external experts, and the QA/QC system would be the first step on this.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The objectives of the assignment is to provide support to the Moldovan Environmental Agency for gradually implementation of the MRV system by training specialists in implementing/applying the QA/QC system.

The UNDP Moldova and the Ministry of Environment requires the services of the international consultant to complete the following tasks (list not exhaustive):

- 1) to develop the training concept for the QA/QC system implementation in Moldova;
- 2) to develop the training materials for the respective training.
- 3) to organize a 3 days interactive training for the Environmental Agency representatives.

3. KEY DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

The international consultant is expected to deliver the following deliverables per below identified timeline:

Key Deliverables and the Anticipated Workload	Tentative Timetable/Deadline
Deliverable 1: A detailed Work Plan and Implementation Schedule (1 working day)	By end-November 2021
Deliverable 2: Training concept for the QA/QC system implementation in Moldova as per task number 1 (up to 5 working days)	By mid-December 2021
Deliverable 3: Training materials developed as per task number 2) (up to 10 working days)	By mid-February 2022
Deliverable 4: 3 days interactive training organized for the Environmental Agency representatives, as per task number 3) (3 working days)	By mid-March 2022
Deliverable 5: The final report on the execution of the assignment (up to 4 working days)	By end- March 2022

Note: Deliverables and final timeline can be amended or specified for the purpose of the assignment.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This is a part-time consultancy. The timeframe for the work of the international consultant is planned for November 2021 – March 2022. The international consultant will work under direct supervision of the EU4Climate Project's National Coordinator and in close collaboration with the staff of the Air and Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment, so that the final product reflects their comments. UNDP will provide administrative and logistical support in organization of the trainings.

6. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The contract assignment will be for a fixed timeline. Payments will be provided in two instalments. The first disbursement will account for 25% of the contract amount, upon the presentation of the deliverables 1 and 2, i.e. by mid-December 2021. The last disbursement will be issued upon submission and approval

of deliverables 3-5, and certification by the EU4Climate Project's National Coordinator that the services have been satisfactorily performed, i.e. by end-March 2022.

7. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

I. Education:

- Master's degree or equivalent in Environmental Management, Environmental sciences, Climate Change or other related fields is required.

II. Experience:

- At least 7 years of professional experience in the field of MRV system implementation;
- At least 5 years of working experience in the institutional capacity building related to implementation of the MRV system, including QA/QC system;
- Demonstrated experience in implementing at least 2 trainings of similar nature and complexity

III. Competencies:

- Strong knowledge of the MRV system under the UNFCCC;
- Strong knowledge of Moldova's climate reporting commitments under the UNFCCC;
- Strong analytical skills demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written), demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Ability to work with government representatives, demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines, demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Oral and written fluency in English.

The UNDP Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

8. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Contractors' performance will be evaluated against timeliness, responsibility, initiative, creativity, communication, accuracy, and overall quality of the delivered products.

9. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal, explaining why he/she is most suitable for the work, including past experience in similar assignments, providing a brief information on above qualifications and methodology on how he/she will approach and conduct the work (if applicable).
2. [**OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR \(IC\) ASSIGNMENT**](#), with the financial proposal (in USD, specifying the total lump sum amount). [Financial proposal template prepared in compliance with the template in Annex 2.](#)
3. CV and/or the duly filled in and signed Personal History Form (P11), and at least three names for a reference check.