



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
for selecting Companies for being founders/members
of the GreenCityLab**

December 2019

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EoI	Expression of Interest
GCL	Green City Lab
GCP	Green City Project
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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General context

Project Summary:

While still being the least urbanized European country with over 55% of the population residing in rural areas (as of 2014), the situation is rapidly changing in Republic of Moldova, with projected reduction of the share of rural population down to 50% by 2030 and close to 40% by 2050. The inflow of new residents has been particularly strong to Chisinau, not only from the rural areas, but also from other cities across the country. By 2030 Chisinau is expected to host over 50% of all urban population in Moldova putting even more pressure on city's infrastructure and services, while also creating considerable social and environmental challenges. Thus, the management of the urbanization and rural-urban migration process has been gaining attention as one of the key national development priorities.

The objective of the project is to catalyze investments in low carbon green urban development based on integrated urban planning approach by encouraging innovation, participatory planning and partnerships between a variety of public and private sector entities.

The project will support the design, launching, and establishment of the Green City Lab to become the leading knowledge management and networking platform, clearing house, an inter-mediator of finance and a source of innovations and expertise to catalyze sustainable low carbon green city development in Moldova with a mission to transform Chisinau and other urban centers in Moldova into modern green and smart European cities with improved quality of life for their citizens, while also demonstrating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

Objectives:

- To catalyze investments in low carbon green urban development based on integrated urban planning approach;
- To encourage innovation, participatory planning and partnerships between a variety of public and private sector entities.

Expected results:

- Fully operational and sustainable Green City Lab (GCL) recognized by the key stakeholders as the leading innovation, knowledge management and networking platform and a source of expertise for catalyzing sustainable low carbon green city development in Moldova;
- Successfully completed pilot/demonstration projects facilitated by the GCL with related monitoring, reporting and verification of its results in: integrated and participatory urban land use and mobility planning; residential building energy efficiency and renewable energy use; low carbon mobility; resource efficient waste management.
- Knowledge management and M&E to facilitate learning, scaling up and replication of project results.

Additional information about the project can be checked on the link:

<https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/projects/Moldova-Sustainable-Green-Cities.html>

Call for Expression of Interest

The United Nations Development Programme Moldova invites interested companies to apply for being founders/members of the **Green City Lab** as per following:

Summary of proposal:

Initially supported by UNDP Green City Project (GCP), **Green City Lab should become urban projects powerhouse and platform** where both Moldovan public sector, private sector and funds/donors meet, exchange ideas and create projects that will enable low carbon green city development, energy efficient society and industry, new tech-based industry and adapt to future.

The **mission of the GCL** is to:

- Become leading knowledge management and networking platform;
- Become source of innovations and expertise in low carbon green city development;
- Offer opportunities for sustainable economic growth of the Chisinau and other urban centres from Moldova;
- Improve the quality of services provided by municipalities to citizens;
- Become a training/educational centre in urban planning, energy efficiency and environment protection.

GCL areas of intervention

- Integrated and participatory urban land use and mobility planning;
- Energy efficiency in buildings and renewable energy use;
- Resource efficient waste management;
- Low carbon mobility;
- Environmental protection.

GCL indicators

1. To catalyze investments in low carbon green urban development by an integrated urban planning approach and by encouraging innovation, participatory planning and partnerships with a variety of public and private sector entities.
 - *Indicator 1:* Extent to which climate finance is being accessed;
 - *Indicator 2:* Number of direct project beneficiaries with gender disaggregated data;
 - *Indicator 3:* Direct GHG emission reduction impact of the project;
 - *Indicator 4:* Status of the GCL and the specific outputs under Outcome 1 to support its operations;
 - *Indicator 5:* Number of partnerships for green city development established in the frame of jointly implemented and/or developed projects and measures with gender disaggregated data, as applicable;
 - *Indicator 6:* Value of signed contracts / agreements not funded by GEF resources for covering the GCL operational costs.
2. Successfully completed pilot/demonstration projects with related monitoring, reporting and verification of the results in the areas of: i) integrated and participatory urban land use and mobility planning; ii) residential building energy efficiency and renewable energy use; iii) low carbon mobility; and iv) resource efficient waste management.

- *Indicator 7:* The extent, to which integrated and participatory planning methodologies are taken into use in updating the Chisinau General Urban Development Plan (PUG) and related zonal plans, including gender disaggregated data on the number stakeholders engaged into the process;
 - *Indicator 8:* Status of the pilot/demo projects for each of the targeted subsectors;
 - *Indicator 9:* Number of projects supported by the “Fast Track Challenge Program” with monitored gender disaggregated data on project beneficiaries and their contribution to supporting gender equality.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation, knowledge management and replication of project results.
- *Indicator 10:* Status of the Project MRV system and quality of the data delivered by that;
 - *Indicator 11:* Agreed knowledge management (KM) products and events delivered;
 - *Indicator 12:* Number of Eols received for replicating the project intervention strategy, specific technical solutions or business models for new projects and/or municipalities.

GCL envisaged activities/services

- Project management and implementation in the areas of GCL intervention;
- Resource mobilization services for new green projects;
- Capacity building and strengthening the role of homeowner associations in managing the residential building stock;
- Consultancy and advice and facilitating contacts and partnerships between the public administration, international and national donors, non-governmental entities and individual entrepreneurs, innovators and businesses;
- Analytical and consulting services in green urban development, including feasibility studies, analytical sectoral studies, performance reviews and competitiveness analysis;
- Creating and delivering of education programs and trainings in urban planning, energy efficiency and environment protection, including environmental legislation;
- Establishment and management of a roster of experts in the GCL areas of intervention;
- Implementation of “exclusive” projects:
 - Energy management information services (EMIS);
 - Implementation of buildings energy and green certification system;
 - Creating a Data Platform for Chisinau Sustainable Urban Development;
 - Supporting the structuring and leveraging financing for the maintenance and retrofit investments in buildings, including performing of energy audits for buildings and developing feasibility studies for possible investments.

During initial three years, UNDP/GCP will support Green City Lab activities and evolution into self-sustainable platform for project management. Initial funding from UNDP/GCP will cover the administrative costs. Initial funding from UNDP/GCP is based on implementation activities of UNDP GCP pilot (demo) projects.

Beginning with the 4th year of GCL activity, it is envisaged that the GCL will become financial self-sustainable, and the revenues will be formed from the projects management fees on projects as a result of resource mobilization

Also, UNDP/GCP will support the GCL with promotion and communication activities and partnership development with Chisinau Municipality and other Municipalities, public sector institutions and international donor/development community.

UNDP/GCP will act also as GCL initial customer – pilot (demo) projects envisioned and initiated by UNDP GCP should continue its implementation (in part or full) through GCL activities. GCL will ensure project implementation and management, being paid from project overhead costs (included in envisioned initial finding):

- Sustainable transport system planning and management (providing attractive, comfortable and energy-efficient transport alternatives);
- Rehabilitation works and equipment on thermal envelope of one residential building;
- Installation of solar hot water panels and rehabilitation works of thermal system for two residential buildings;
- Creation of new platform/ production facility for producing briquettes from urban biomass (city garden waste).

Green City Lab founders' selection criteria

The potential founders for the Green City Lab are **private sector companies** capable of integrating Green City Lab mandate and mission into its operations. GCL will initially activate under the UNDP umbrella in partnership with the GCL members. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between each of the GCL founders and UNDP. MoU will govern founders' contributions/investments to GCL, set-up, organization and functioning of the GCL. UNDP will not be a Founder but will provide all the necessary support agreed under MoU.

General criteria for GCL's founders selection are:

- Similarities between the activities of the applicant and GreenCityLab's intervention activities;
- Willingness of co-operation in the benefit of and in partnership with Chisinau Municipality and other Municipalities from Moldova;
- Openness for innovation, experimentation and testing the smart solutions for low carbon green city development;
- Gender Perspective: the applicant should describe how the organization considers the roles and needs of men and women in an equidistant way. Gender analysis will be applied to disaggregate women's and men's roles and responsibilities within the organization.
- Demonstrate strong financial and organizational "sustainability"
- Proven track record of successful projects implementation related to areas of GCL intervention
- GCL founders shall pass the UNDP due diligence process. The details on due diligence process will be provided to the potential applicants after the submission of their expression of interest.
- Ready to contribute financially and in-kind (time and/or resources) to implementation of UNDP/GCP transferred demo projects and other related initiatives.
- Ready to contribute to the achievement of GCL indicators and ensure the GCL sustainability after 2023
- Membership at global, regional and local networks will be an asset.

Companies will be selected in accordance with the **below evaluation criteria**:

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Similarities between the applicant's activities and GreenCityLab intervention areas	Each common activity/intervention area – 6 pts	30
Gender Perspective: Is the applicant effective in achieving gender equality?	Yes – 5 pts.; No – 0 pts	5
Proven experience in co-operation in the benefit of and in partnership with Chisinau Municipality and other Municipalities from Moldova	Each year of such experience – 6 pts	30
Financially and in-kind contribution (time and/or resources) to implementation of UNDP/GCP transferred demo projects and other related initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-kind contribution – 10 pts; • Financial co-participative and joint contribution – 40 pts; • Support in the GCL operationalization – 50 pts 	100
Membership to a network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global network – 20 pts; • Regional network – 15 pts; • Local network – 10 pts 	45
Statement on the willingness of co-operation in the benefit of and in partnership with Chisinau Municipality and other Municipalities from Moldova (Annex 1)	Yes – 15 pts; No – 0 pts	15
Copies of the company's internal documents, strategies and/or working plans proving Applicant's openness for innovation, experimentation and testing the smart solutions for low carbon green city development	Yes – 10 pts; No – 0 pts	10
Copies of the company' internal regulations proving Applicant's organizational "sustainability"	Yes – 10 pts; No – 0 pts	10
Copies of the company's financial report for the 2017-2018 and the statement on company's balance sheet for 2019	Yes – 5 pts; No – 0 pts	5
Description of the Applicant's successful projects implementation related to areas of GCL, in the last 5 years (Annex 2)	Each project – 10 pts	50
Total		300

EoI from Companies failing to provide the requested information will be disregarded.

This EoI does not entail any commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserve the right to accept or reject any or all EoI without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds.

Should you require further clarifications, kindly communicate with the contact person identified below as focal point for queries on this EoI:

Alexandru Rotaru, Project Manager
Moldova Sustainable Green Cities Project
e-mail: alexandru.rotaru@undp.org
mob. 069162798

Submission details

The Applicants shall submit:

1. Completed Application form;
2. Statement on the willingness of co-operation in the benefit of and in partnership with Chisinau Municipality and other Municipalities from Moldova (see Annex 1, as part of the Application form);
3. Copies of the company's internal documents, strategies and/or working plans proving Applicant's openness for innovation, experimentation and testing the smart solutions for low carbon green city development;
4. Copies of the company's internal regulations proving Applicant's organizational "sustainability";
5. Copies of the company's financial report for the 2017-2018 and the statement on company's balance sheet for 2019;
6. Description of the Applicant's successful projects implementation related to areas of GCL, in the last 5 years, as per Annex 2, as part of the Application form.
7. Other documents as relevant. Please specify:

The application package shall be submitted electronically by January 31, 2020 to the following e-mail address: alexandru.rotaru@undp.org titled in the message subject line as "GCL founders/members 2020, [applicant's name]". Application package received after the above deadline will not be considered.

Interested Companies must provide information indicating that they are qualified under the general criteria provided above.