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**Call for expression of interest
for selecting
Plastic collective system management entity responsible for Reverse Vending
Machines operation**

May 2021

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EE	Energy Efficiency
EoI	Expression of Interest
GCL	Green City Lab
GCP	Green City Project
GD	Government decision
RVM	Reverse Vending Machines
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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General context

Project Summary:

Moldova Sustainable Green Cities Project is a 5-year UNDP managed and Global Environment Facility financed project. The objective of the project is to catalyse 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 strategy of the project is to create, launch and support a new institutional mechanism called “Green City Lab” (GCL) as a vehicle for encouraging and supporting new innovative measures and approaches in addressing the urban development challenges and barriers. Green City Lab has to become the leading knowledge management and networking platform, clearing house, an facilitator of financing various green urban development projects, and a source of innovations and expertise to catalyse sustainable low carbon green city development in Moldova with a mission to transform Chisinau and other cities/towns 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. The pilot project is seeking to support the government and private sector to implement the Regulation on the management of packaging and packaging waste.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the Green Cities project development objective and intended CO2 reduction (200k tons of CO2eq. from direct GHG emission reductions);
- Promotion of efficient plastic waste management through establishment of a network of reward-based plastic bottles collection points;
- Encourage further development of plastic bottles collection system/infrastructure in commercial entities (stores, etc).

Expected results:

- A developed reward-based plastic collection points in Chisinau based on approx. 20 Reverse Vending Machines operational by the end of 2021.
- Increase amount of collected plastic bottles with 20% (from the current 250 tons/year) through collection points by the end of 2023*;

Additional information about the Green City project can be checked on the link: <https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/projects/Moldova-Sustainable-Green-Cities.html>

*To be clarified during the methodology development stage.

Call for Expression of Interest

The United Nations Development Programme Moldova invites interested specialized companies to apply for being selected as a implementing partner for Plastic bottles collecting through Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) as per following:

Context

The solid waste management system in Chisinau is characterized by a traditional collection and storage, with a very limited recycling and recovery rate. The quantity of waste collected in Chisinau, in the last 5 years, was about 188 thousand tons, or with an annual average volume of 1723 thousand m³. Waste generation rate for the city inhabitants is about 295 kg / person / year, with an average growth rate of 2% per year.

Due to a low level of awareness of the population and the lack of a practices of pre-sorting at the source of waste, the system of selective collection of recyclable materials implemented in Chisinau Municipality by M.E. Regia “Autosalubritate” proved to be totally inefficient both from a technical point of view, the quality and quantity of waste being very low, and from an economic point of view, the supported costs from separate collection of recyclable waste are exceeding more than 5 times the average income from sale of recovered recyclables. (source: M.E. Regia “Autosalubritate”).

In Chisinau there are approx. 800 containers for plastic waste collection installed. Unfortunately only 15% of the collected waste is currently being recycled. (https://observatorul.md/proiecte/moldova-plus/2018/03/25/43331_drumul-deseurilor-unde-ajung-acestea-dupa-ce-sunt-sortate). Existing plastic recycling companies, have enough capacities for plastic recycling - 20 tons/month or 250 tons/year., but the collected amount of plastic waste is not enough for the current company production capacities.

Plastic bottles are inexpensive, lightweight and durable materials, which can readily be moulded into a variety of products that find use in a wide range of applications. As a consequence, the production of plastics has increased markedly over the last 60 years. However, current levels of their usage and disposal generate several environmental problems. Around 4% of world oil and gas production, a non-renewable resource, is used as feedstock for plastics and a further 3–4% is expected to provide energy for their manufacture. A major portion of plastic produced each year is used to make disposable items of packaging or other short-lived products that are discarded within a year of manufacture. These two observations alone indicate that our current use of plastics is not sustainable. In addition, because of the durability of the polymers involved, substantial quantities of discarded end-of-life plastics are accumulating as debris in landfills and in natural habitats worldwide.

Proposed solutions:

In order to meet the challenge of the waste problem, according to the provision of art.12 from the Law nr 209/2016 on waste, a Regulation on packaging and packaging waste was approved by

the Government of Moldova (GD nr. 561 of 31.07.2020). The Regulation regulates the management of packaging and packaging waste in order to prevent or reduce the impact on the environment, ensuring a high degree of environmental protection, the functioning of the market and the avoidance of barriers to trade, and the prevention of distortions or restrictions of competition. According to the regulation, starting with January 1, 2023, selling of the products in packages will be possible only by the producers of products subject to the extended producer responsibility, registered in the Automated Information System “Waste Management”, established in the Government Decision no. 682/2018. The producers/importers have to do it individually or by joining a collective system.

UNDP through the GCP and GCL will select the collective system management entity and support it in development of the deposit refund systems and installation and management of at least 20 collection points using RVM. Customers will insert empty bottles into the RVM and consequently receive their deposit back (in cash, special cards or in the form of coupons for discounts). RVMs are automated machines that utilise advanced technology to identify, sort, collect and process used beverage containers.

Summary of proposal:

Based on a GEF/UNDP project UNDP will support in implementation of a Pilot Project for Plastic bottles collecting through Reverse Vending Machines

For this reason, is UNDP Moldova searching for potential and eligible collective system management entity to provide all related Services under conditions below:

1. The Partnership agreement will be signed between Green City Lab (GCL) and Plastic collective system management entity. Plastic collective system management entity will have the responsibility to ensure that the collected plastic will be further sorted and recycled by the recycling companies at their plants and at the same time ensure that the customers insert will receive their reward.
2. The Plastic collective system management entity will be responsible for development of the financial mechanism and technical requirements (e.g. business model, price mark-up, reward system, methodology for deposit refund, identification of plastic collection points, ToR/Technical specification for RVM system and equipment development) with the support of UNDP and GCL.
3. Procurement and installation of at approx. 20 RVMs at the collection points will be done by the UNDP. However, all the necessary coordination activities will be under the direct responsibility of the Plastic collective system management entity. The GCL will maintain an ownership of the procured RVM machines during the reimbursement period. A bilateral agreement will be concluded between Plastic collective system management entity as machine operator and GCL as machine owner until the total cost of the equipment will be reimbursed. Plastic collective system management entity will receive payments from the plastic recycling unit in the first phase, based on plastic quantity

- collected, and will reimburse the cost of equipment to the GCL in the agreed period of time. At the end of the reimbursement period the ownership of the equipment will be transferred to Plastic collective system management entity. The reimbursed financial resources will be reinvested by GCL in further expansion of the reverse vending machine network or implementation of other projects in waste management domain.
4. Contribution to an educational and promotion campaign by showing benefits of sorting out and returning plastic bottles. The campaign will be implemented in partnership with UNDP and other interested NGO's/projects/companies.

Collective system management entity selection criteria

Requirements for beneficiary Plastic collective system management entity, divided into a four main groups, are listed below. The Applicant must demonstrate that it substantially satisfies those requirements.

(i) Legal and Eligibility Criteria

An Applicant shall be a min. 3 years registered entity according to Moldovan legislation having listed as an activity - Waste management.

(ii) Administrative Criteria

The Applicant shall provide a proof that it represents minimum 3 (three) producers of products subject to the extended producer responsibility.

(iii) Financial Criteria

- The Applicant shall provide copies of contracts/agreements with PET collectors, sorting and recycling companies, to ensure plastic waste traceability.
- The Applicant shall provide copies of financial reports to assess financial sustainability in order to develop and maintain the system.
- The Applicant should confirm in a written form that is ready to accept the procured by UNDP RVM, operate and ensure their technical maintenance under own costs.
- The Applicant should confirm in a written form that will sign the agreement with the Green City Lab (GCL) for reimbursement of the cost of RVM equipment (incl. installation costs) in the agreed period of time.

(iv) Other Criteria

The residential building should have or fulfil following conditions:

- Proof of stipulation in the applicant statutory documents, that the performed activities are in line with the Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, approved by the Government of Moldova (GD nr. 561 of 31.07.2020) would be considered an advantage.
- Proof of existing agreements for installation of plastic collection points would be considered an advantage.

- Previous experience in implementation of waste management projects would be considered an advantage.
- Previous experience in collaboration with international organizations, central and local authorities, NGOs would be considered an advantage.

Plastic collective system management entity will be selected in accordance with the **below evaluation criteria**:

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Scoring</i>	<i>Maximum Points Obtainable</i>
Applicant years of operation in waste management	• 3 – 5 years – 10 pts. • 6 – 8 years – 15 pts. • 9 – 10 years – 20 pts. • 11 years and more – 25 pts.	25
Company activity in line with the Regulation on packaging and packaging waste.	• Waste management - 10 pts. • Collective system management - 20 pts.	20
Number of represented producers/importers of products subject to the extended producer responsibility	• 3 – 5 producers – 20 pts. • 6 - 10 producers – 25 pts. • more than 10 producers – 30 pts.	30
Demonstrated financial capacity of Applicant or its represented producers / importers of products subject to the extended producer responsibility. * * in case the Applicant relies on financial capacity of its represented producers / importers of products subject to extended producer responsibility, the latter shall provide written consent to financially secure successful implementation of the Project.	• Net assets > MDL 1'000'000 - 10 points • Net assets > MDL 2'000'000 - 20 points • Net assets > MDL 5'000'000 - 40 points	40
Contracts/agreements with PET collectors, sorting and recycling companies, to ensure plastic waste traceability.	• Contracts with collectors only - 10 pts. • Contracts with collectors and sorting companies - 20 pts. • Contracts with collectors, sorting and recycling companies - 40 pts.	40

Proof of existing agreements for installation of plastic collection points	• Yes – 10 pts. • No – 0 pts.	10
Previous experience in implementation of waste management projects	• Limited (1-2 projects) – 10 pts. • Average (3-4 projects) – 20 pts. • Extensive (more than 5 projects) – 25 pts.	25
Previous experience in collaboration with international organizations, central and local authorities, NGOs	• Yes – 10 pts. • No – 0 pts.	10
Total		200

Eol from Plastic collective system management entity failing to provide the requested information will be disregarded.

This Eol 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 Eol 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 Eol:

Alexandru Rotaru, Project manager
Moldova Sustainable Green Cities Project
e-mail: alexandru.rotaru@undp.org
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Submission details

The Applicants shall submit:

1. Completed Application form;
2. Copies of contracts/agreements with PET collectors, sorting and recycling companies.
3. Written declaration on the readiness to accept the procured by UNDP RVM, operation and technical maintenance of the RVM under own costs.
4. Written declaration confirming willingness to sign the agreement with the Green City Lab (GCL) for reimbursement of the cost of RVM equipment (incl. installation costs) in the agreed period of time.
5. Copies of the statutory documents and financial reports for the last 3 years;
6. CVs of the organization staff and experts to be involved in the project
7. Other documents as relevant. Please specify:

The application package shall be submitted electronically **by June 14, 2021, 16:00** to the following e-mail address: alexandru.rotaru@undp.org titled in the message subject line as “RVM EoI, *[applicant’s name]*”. Application package received after the above deadline will not be considered.

Interested Plastic collective system management entity must provide information indicating that they are qualified under the general criteria provided above.