



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

Republic of Moldova Institutional and Stakeholder Report

The Themis Network Project
**Managing Natural Resources and
Combating Environmental Crime**

Chisinau, 2014

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1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report was to describe Moldovan institutional set up and how environmental governance is; legal framework relevant to the Themis Network and the EU approximation process in the field of environment.

This report reflects the current situation in Moldova regarding inter-institutional cooperation and responsibilities, monitoring management and exchange of data, and public information in the field of environment.

In the Republic of Moldova environmental monitoring is a basic element of any environmental management system. The RM has an environmental monitoring system covering ambient environmental quality, state of natural resources like soils, forests and wildlife, and pollution emissions and discharges. The Ministry of Environment plays a key role in environmental observations and data collection.

Main priorities of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources for the Republic of Moldova are the following:

1. Improvement and insurance of the conditions of good governance in the area of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

This objective includes:

- Consolidation of the institutional and managerial potential in the area of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources;
- Defining the Action Plan for approximation of the National environmental legislation and initiation of transposition of the European Union Directives.

2. Maintaining the quality of environment as a factor, which insures health, and life quality.

This objective includes:

- Consolidating the measures on preventing the pollution of the environment through increased awareness and integration of the requirements for environmental protection in the National, territorial and sectorial economic policies;
- Prevention and reduction of the degradation of the natural resources and their efficient usage;
- Extension and protection of the nature territories protected by the State;
- Improvement of the policy of the waste management;
- Modernizing and making more efficient the National monitoring system of the status and evolution of the hydrometeorological conditions and the environmental quality;
- Improvement of the State control on insuring the execution of the legislation in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

3. Transboundary cooperation on the environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

This objective includes:

- Strengthening the efforts in the framework of bilateral agreements;
- Strengthening the administrative capacities for the implementation of the stipulations of the International treaties that Moldova is party to;
- Attracting investments for environmental protection;
- Capacity development on project drawing.

4. Increase the public's awareness, including information and education.

This objective includes:

- Development of a National Strategy on „Education for sustainable development”
- Organizing radio and TV ecological programmes.

For report development, official documents of the Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Inspectorate, State Hydrometeorological Service, Agency „Apele Moldovei”, Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, National Bureau of Statistics, National Center for Public Health and other institutions were reviewed.

2. Institutional set up

In the Republic of Moldova, environmental monitoring is a basic element of any environmental management system. The environmental monitoring system covers ambient environmental quality, state of natural resources such as soils, forests and wildlife, and pollution emissions and discharges.

2.1. Description of the State apparatus

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the central public authority responsible for development of legal and regulatory framework in the field of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources, including management of air, waste, water resources, water supply and sewerage system, ensuring compatibility of legal framework with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) of which Moldova is party, etc. In its task also are included establishment of an information management system, development of databases in its fields of competence, development of national records system on state of impact on atmospheric air, air pollution monitoring, waste monitoring, etc. Thereby, the MoE is the central authority, responsible for the development and promotion of the state policy in the field of environment and natural resources. It performs: state control over the natural resources use; coordination and control over the implementation of environmental laws and policies; initiating and drafting laws and regulations and issuing relevant instructions/ decisions; issuing permits on natural resources uses and licenses for polluting emissions; elaboration, approval and introduction of environmental standards and normative documents in the field of its competence; environmental monitoring; imposing economic sanctions in case of violations environmental legislation; supervises territorial development and its infrastructure, town-planning, architecture, industry of construction materials and introduction of new techniques and technologies in the sphere of its competence; drinking water supply and waste water treatment in urban areas, etc.

According to Law on Local Public Administration, in the Republic of Moldova there are 32 administrative units, the Territorial-administrative „Gagauz-Yeri” and 3 municipalities. Social and economic competencies have been established for all Local Public Authorities while environmental competencies are lacking. The Environmental Inspections established in each district are subordinated to 4 Regional Environmental Agencies (North, Centre, South and Gagauz-Yeri) being responsible for the environmental control. The local self-government is exercised by 1442 mayors’ offices with elected local councils and their own budgets,

The activity framework for the Central Public Authorities is established by the „Law on State Service” (1995). According to this Law, Ministries draw up and implement policies either directly or through their executive bodies.

The Structure of the Ministry of Environment is the following:

The Division of Environmental Policy and European Integration (Tel. + 373 (22) 204 520; e-mail: ecopolicy@mediu.gov.md).

The main goal of the environmental policy of the Republic of Moldova is to consolidate the country’s course toward sustainable development and European Integration through ensuring a safe environment of the population and improvement of the state of the environment. The Ministry promotes environmental policy through its division of Environmental Policy and European Integration.

The Division of Natural Resources and Biodiversity (Tel. + 373 (22) 204 522; e-mail: rotaru@mediu.gov.md).

The Division develops and promotes the state policy in the field of protection, preservation and use of natural resources, declaration and protection of natural areas protected by the State, promoting of the Red Book of the plant and the animal species, National Strategies and Action Plan in Biological Diversity Conservation.

The Division of Prevention of the Environmental Pollution (Tel. + 373 (22) 204 525; e-mail: bolocan@mediu.gov.md).

The Division of Prevention of the Environmental Pollution deals with the issues of pollution prevention and waste management and also with the implementation of the State ecological expertise plans, programmes, schemes and strategies and also develops related legislation.

The Division of Accounting and Finance (Tel. +373 (22) 204 531; e-mail: malic@mediu.gov.md).

General attributes of the Division includes: Control of existing goods and their circulation, utilization of material, finance and work sources, according to approved standards and legislative acts; Processing accounting information; elaboration of valuable information of accounting activities, reports and control.

Legal and Personal Service (Tel. + 373 (22) 204508; e-mail: panciuc@mediu.gov.md). The main activities of the Division are: Ensures juridical accuracy of the activity of the Ministry; Develops or participates in the development and noting of the drafts of legislative and normative acts; Performs the juridical expertise of the documents; Represents the interests of the Ministry in legal instances and other actions; Considers administrative actions according to national legislation regarding human resources of the Ministry.

Secretariat Service (Tel. + 373 (22) 20 45 09), that Insures the correspondence of the Ministry with the Presidency, Parliament, Government and other respondents; Performs secretariat and archive activities; Cooperates with the subordinated institutions, related Government services, Presidency, and Parliament, ministries, services, agencies, offices and other central and local bodies on performing documental activities.

Institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Environment are:

State Ecological Inspectorate (SEI).

SEI is responsible for protection of natural resources, focus being on water, air and waste through issuing permits for special water use, water discharge and air pollution for economic actors.

The State Ecological Inspection was founded in 1990 and implements the following activities:

- Implementation (promotion) of environmental policy at the local level;
- Compliance control on environmental enforcement and the use natural resources, including at country borders;
- Ecological expert evaluation and monitoring of economic project documentation for construction, extension, modernization, reshaping, conservation, elimination of objects in order to prevent a negative impact on the environment and natural resources;
- Organization of activities to fight poaching and illegal wood cutting;
- Control of instruments over mobile sources of pollution;
- Laboratory ecological investigation;
- Co-operation with local administrative bodies, scientific institutes, mass media, international and national ecological non-governmental organizations;
- Supervises the activity of economic agents regarding the payment of taxes for polluting the environment and issues environment authorizations.

The State Environment Inspection exercises its functions through the Ecological Agencies „North”, „Center”, „South” and „Gagauz-Yeri”, Fishery Service and Specialized ecologic control services.

The SEI through its countrywide network of Territorial Agencies and Rayonal Inspections monitors industrial facilities, which generate impacts on environment. The SEI issues permits on use of natural resources and environmental pollution in admissible limits; supervises the level of respecting ecological norms and requirements, instructions, recommendations, norms on use of natural resources, dangerous products and substances, and wastes; evaluates environmental impact assessment applications for new developments; provides ecological expertise; regulates and establishes Emission Limit Values

(ELVs) and Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MACs) and regulates the emission of dangerous substances into the environment as well as the storage limits of industrial, domestic, hazardous and other wastes; performs environmental pollution monitoring; carries out enforcement of the permits by inspection visits, monitors, and levies fines in cases of non-compliance, initiates legal processing, ceases the activity in case of non-compliance with environmental protection requirements, etc.

The State Hydrometeorologic Service of the Republic of Moldova was established in October 1944 in spite of the fact that the first meteorological observations started in 1844 and hydrological observations in 1978. The Service monitors State hydrometeorological conditions and environmental quality for protection of the general population and the national economy against dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena and high level of environmental pollution.

At present the Service's activity is performed in correspondence with the provisions of the Law on the Hydrometeorological Activity.

The State Hydrometeorological Service has a network of both hydrometeorological posts and stations for systematic observations on the meteorological, hydrological phenomena and control over environmental pollution levels. Modern technologies to process the related information are developed and applied. Service specialists carry out a series of scientific work in the field along with operational tasks, which are focused on improvement of the quality of the forecasts and increasing the volume of the products of the forecasts as well as other regime information.

The main activities of the Service are performed through its subdivisions: Meteorology Department, Hydrology Department, and Monitoring Centre on Environmental Quality.

The International activity of this service is implemented on the basis of International cooperation, according to the International Meteorological Organisation (IMO), according to the International Conventions in this area to which the Republic of Moldova is party to.

The Service participates to the International exchange of information in the framework of Global Observation System, represents and defends the country interests in the hydrometeorology and environment quality monitoring in relationships with other International organisations and with the National hydrometeorologic services from other countries.

Through the Monitoring Centre on Environmental Quality, the SHS performs regular monitoring of the air, water and soil quality as well as atmospheric radiation background level. Among other responsibilities are monitoring of meteorological conditions, Prut and Dniester Rivers' water flow, hydrological forecast, weather forecast, agro-meteorological monitoring and forecast, etc.

The State Agency of Geology of the Republic of Moldova "AGeoM" (hereinafter referred to as - Agency) is part of The Ministry of Environment. It is responsible for regulation and coordination study and protection and rational use, as well as development of, mineral resources of the Republic.

In its activity the Agency is guided by the Constitution and Law of the Republic of Moldova as well as by regulations of Parliament, President's decrees, Ordinances, Governmental regulations and instructions, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources' orders and directions.

The AGeoM is responsible for promoting of state policy in the field of management and monitoring of underground resources in Moldova and provides an overall umbrella for state organizations and enterprises specialized in field of underground water use; administrations at district and regional level, as well as organizations specialized in the design and investigation of underground water objects. It performs management of underground water resource and their protection; counting of groundwater resources and monitoring of groundwater quality and regime.

The activities of the Agency include: development and organizational management of mineral resources; geological study of mineral resources and coordination of the established order of allowing the right to the use of those resources; maintenance of the State Environmental Fund and the State Balance of those resources, and; departmental control for the protection and rational use of mineral resources.

The general objectives of the Agency are:

- State control of the study and use of mineral resources;

- Working out the proposals on the use of State and other investments for mineral resource development;
- Departmental control for observing the requirements, standards and codes on mineral resource study as well as the rules of state register maintenance and accounts;
- Coordination of the established order of concessions in the use of mineral resources;
- Maintenance of the state register and entry of works of geological study of mineral resources, registration of mineral resource sites aimed at mining as well as other purposes not related to their extraction;
- Creation of a unified information system on the use of mineral resources;
- Management of the storing of mineral resources, their characteristics for economic purposes and geological information on mineral resources;
- In cooperation with interested ministries and departments, working out proposals on the development of a national economic mineral resource base and keeping international contacts in the field of geological study and use of mineral resources;
- Developing at the Ministry of Environment a list of works on geological exploration, completed at the expense of the State budget and its ratification.

The Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova was founded in accordance with the Governmental Decision “As Concerns the Measures for Optimization of Infrastructure in the Sphere of Science and Innovation” nr. 1326 on December 14, 2005. The National Institute of Ecology of the Ministry of Environment and the Institute of Geography of ASM were united.

IEG is in charge of the study of the dynamics and trends in geo-and ecosystems components under the influence of natural and anthropogenic factors, evaluation of factors which determine the occurrence of unfavorable geo-ecological situations and establishing the integrated information base for monitoring.

The major objectives of the Institute are:

- Strategy development of the concept and implementation of GIS structures; creation of a database on the impact of geomorphology, climate, pedology, landscapes, anthropogenic and natural calamities on water resource subsystems; the 1993 edition of “Symposium on the Working of Geographical Informational Systems” (Institute of geography with collaboration of the A. I. Cuza University, Iasi, Romania).
- Development of the National Strategic Action Programme of Environmental Protection for the Republic of Moldova; annual edition of the National Report „State of the Environment”.

National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiologic Activities is national authority, which has the purpose to regulate, permit and control of nuclear and radiological activities.

The tasks of the Agency are:

- Establishment of mechanisms that will ensure safe nuclear and radiologic activities
- Prevention of unauthorised nuclear and radiologic activities
- Keep the National Register of radiation sources and authorized persons or entities
- Informing the central authorities on noncompliance with legal provisions as well as about environmental pollution with radioactive substances.

The Environmental Information Centre was created on the 3rd of October, 2000 on the basis on the project „Assistance offered to Moldova for implementing the Aarhus Convention”, financed by the Danish Environment Protection Agency (DEPA).

The Centre collects, store and offers the information on environment to the population. In addition, the Centre has a specialized library. There is access to environment information and daily the Center serves 25-30 people who require environmental information.

The Web page and the Information Electronic Bulletin of the Centre for Environmental Information (CEI) publish information about the current activity of the Ministry and its subdivisions, specialized reports on the quality and environment status, drafts of the legal and normative acts, materials signed by the employees of the Ministry, ecologic digest etc. The people who require information also

find here access to more than 50 links of the environmental institutions and organizations from Moldova and abroad.

The National Environmental Fund (NEF) was set up in 1993 and is directly administered by the Ministry of Environment.

The Fund has a bilateral management structure: The Steering Committee (management function) and the Evidence and Control Service (executive function).

NEF resources are collected from resources transferred from local ecological funds, payments for noxious substances emitted by mobile sources, payment for merchandise that caused environmental pollution during their use, etc.

The financial resources of the National Environmental Fund are being used for:

- Financing projects implementing national strategies; programmes and national plans for environmental protection, standards and norms; construction and participation in sharing the construction of environmental protection facilities;
- Extinction and protection of the forestry funds and of the natural areas protected by the State;
- Scientific investigations on environment protection conducted on the order of the MENR; participation through the shares in the works of research and development; development of the projects for the protected zones of the natural patrimony and the one of International and National importance;
- Organization and management of ecological information and advertising systems, and promotion of ecological knowledge;
- International cooperation on the environment protection, by involving the foreign specialists in offering consultancy and expertise; participation of the country representatives to the International Ecologic Conventions to which Moldova is Party to; payment of the membership fees to the interstate environment protection organizations, organizing and implementing the Convention activities on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Payment of membership fees to interstate environmental protection organizations to continue collaboration in international environmental protection, Removing the consequences of natural calamities, production damages or other situations that could affect the environment;
- Offering financial support to ecological nongovernmental organizations based on a special grant programme for environmental protection projects.

Agency „Apele Moldovei”. It is the central technical and administrative organization dealing with surface water resources, and is responsible for management of water resources used for irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply purposes as follows: development of long-term programs concerning river basins and water administration works throughout the country, including centralized water supply facilities, irrigation and drainage, protection against floods or other damage, coordinating of construction, design, and operation activities in the field of water.

State Agency „Moldsilva”.

State Forestry Agency „Moldsilva” is a state institution subordinated directly to the Government (since 2014 is subordinated to the Ministry of Environment). It is responsible for development and promotion of the state policy in the field of forest resources management through establishment forest resources management, forest research and monitoring, conservation and protection of forest fund; forestation of eroded and agricultural lands, etc.

The National Institute for Standards and Metrology is a sub-division of the Service of Standardization and Metrology which as a public administration authority subordinates directly to the Government. The Institute was designated as a National Metrology Body with responsibilities to develop metrological policy, assure the instrumental measurement results, development and adherence of national and reference standards, etc.

Other Relevant Institutions

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

In accordance with the national legislation, Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry approved by Government Decision no. 578 of 15.06.2005 and other Government Decisions, MAFI along with its primary functions on the development and promotion of state policy in the field of agriculture and food industry is empowered with the following specific functions in the field of environmental protection, including management of PPPs and fertilizers:

- stimulating and monitoring the use of sustainable and efficient farming systems, based on the maintenance and enhancement of soil fertility by applying agro-technical and agrochemical land improvement methods and measures, land organization and planning, including maintenance and development of hydro-ameliorative and soil conservation systems, for maintaining the ecological balance and recovery of water reserves;
- development and promotion of state policy in the field of agriculture and food industry to ensure food security of the population in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility of food;
- ensuring compliance with environmental restrictions in the agricultural and agro-industrial sector, including through land reclamation works and control of the rational exploitation of country's land resources;
- import authorization and supervision of storage, production, marketing and application of fertilizers and PPPs;
- investment policy promotion through its own means and the agrobusiness, and by attracting foreign and local resources in order to ensure efficient use of natural resources, energy, technical equipment and transport.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service.

State supervision in the civil protection is undertaken by the bodies of the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service which is subordination to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is responsible for overseeing the state of the sapper, radioactive, chemical, medical and biological protection of the population and objectives of the national economy. The role of civil protection is a development of state policy for the organization of preventive measures and coordination of activities of all existing state structures to create a real system to protect the population, localities and property against calamities including involving chemicals. The tasks of the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Service are:

- protection of people and property in emergency situations;
- carry out rescue work and other urgent work in circumstances of emergency situations and prevention of its effects;
- organization of prior and multilateral preparation of the population, objects of national economy, Civil Protection Forces to conduct operations in case of danger and during emergency situations;
- carry out measures in a state of emergency, siege or war;
- carry out verification of citizens' knowledge of the basic methods of protection of population and territory in case of emergency situations, ensuring fire protection, chemical and irradiative safety and knowledge how to use the collective and individual means of protection.

The ***Ministry of Health*** is the central authority responsible for population health protection, and sanitary and epidemiological supervision in Moldova. Ministerial sub-division *National Centre for Public Health* performs regular sampling and analyzing water quality in water bodies and groundwater used for drinking water supply (tap water, artesian and shallow wells), and those used for recreation purposes.

Local Public Authorities. Among responsibilities of local public authorities on local (settlement) level are: approval and supervision of local programs in the field of environmental protection; protection and conservation of historical and natural monuments; natural parks and protected areas, and approval of admissible limit values of emissions and discharges (admissible level of environmental pollution) and limits of natural resources (water) use.

2.2. Description of the non-State actors

To carry out activities in the framework of conventions special units were created. The units are autonomous and are not incorporated in the institutional structure of the Ministry of Environment, even if some of them were created by minister's order. The following units were created and are being implementing projects: Biodiversity Office, Biosecurity Office, Ozone Office, Climate Change Office and Carbon Fund Office.

The **Biodiversity Office** was created under the Ministry of Environment and Territorial by the Order No. 334 of 14 July 2000. The tasks of this Office are related to the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Parliament Decision No. 112-XV of 27 April 2001) and implementation of RM's obligations under the Convention for Biological Diversity (Parliament Decision No. 1546 of 23 June 1993, Official Gazette No. 6 of 30 June 1993), RAMSAR Convention, Berna Convention etc., promoting of the National Ecological Network.

POPs Office - Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants Office was created under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in accordance with the National Plan for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by the Order No. 22 of 20 March 2006. The main tasks of the Office are to support the Ministry's activities and facilitate the implementation of the National Strategy on Reducing and Eliminating the Persistent Organic Pollutants and of the National Plan for Implementing the Stockholm Convention, approved by the Government Decision No.1155 of 20 October 2004, for implementing RM's obligations under the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Framework (SAICM), and other line international agreements to which Moldova is a party.

The **Ozone Office** was created by the Order no.27 of 7 April 1999 of the Ministry of Environment in view of implementing the Government Decision No. 1064 of 11 November 1999 on approving the National Program for Staggered Removal of Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer in RM and is aimed at:

- Coordinating the process of implementing the NP Action Plan aimed at a gradual phase-out of ODS in the Republic of Moldova;
- Monitoring the implementation of the NP, conduct and accomplishment of the Refrigeration Management Plan and the Program for the recovery/recycling of refrigerants;
- Monitoring results of gradual phase-out of ODS and development of appropriate reports concerning the gradual phase-out of ODS in Moldova and presenting them to the Government of Moldova, UNEP and other international bodies.

The **Biosafety Office** is an independent non commercial, non-profit. Biosafety Office is established by order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Office duties are to promote and strengthen national capacities to implement activities on the governmental sector, academic and in the civil society; also promoting studies and scientific research in the field of "climate change" and facilitate the implementation of the activities, programs and projects that contribute to the goals of the UN Convention on Climate Change at the local, regional and international levels.

Climate Change Office. The main tasks of the Climate Change Office are:

- providing logistical support to the Government, central and local public administration authorities, non-government and academic organizations, in activities implemented and promoted by the Republic of Moldova under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol;
- implementing climate change related projects and programs providing for such activities as:
 - national greenhouse gas emissions assessment and development the National Inventory Reports (NIRs);
 - development and implementation of greenhouse gas emissions mitigation activities and projects;
 - development and implementation of measures and projects aimed at adapting to climate change;
 - assessment of the climate change impacts on biologic and socio-economic components;
 - cooperation, promotion and implementation of activities and projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol;
 - implementation and facilitation of activities aimed at building awareness and information among civil society, relevant experts and decision makers on issues related to climate change, etc.

Carbon Finance Office

The Carbon Funding Office was created in view of developing the institutional capacity for enforcing the Law No. 29-XV of 13 February 2003 on RM's Joining the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework-Convention on Climate Change and for Implementing the Clean Development Mechanism.

The Office's objectives are to develop, monitor and implement new projects under the Clean Development Mechanism. The main tasks of the Carbon Funding Office are:

- prepare a plan for monitoring the projects supported by the World Bank and the Carbon Community Fund under the Clean Development Mechanism: "Energy Conservation and Reduction of GEF Emission, Associated with the Energy II Project" and "Public Biomass Heating Systems in Rural Communities of RM";
- strengthen the institutional and human capacities in the area of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol;
- provide technical and financial assistance to the beneficiaries of the above-said projects;
- assess and monitor the implementation of the projects of the Clean Development Mechanism, manage the special accounts of the Office, submit reports to the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank, Supervision Committee, and other international organizations;
- develop new projects under the Clean Development Mechanism and submit them to the National Commission for Implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Mechanisms and Provisions of the Kyoto Protocol;
- ensure the implementation of the commitments stipulated in the agreements signed with the donors and the beneficiaries; periodically inspect the objects, monitor and assess the performance;
- coordinate and enhance the training of project beneficiaries by organizing training courses, seminars, conferences, creating a website; h) carry out other necessary activities for the efficient implementation of carbon funding projects, including developing and implementing other environmental projects.

The ***Environmental Pollution Prevention Office*** was established on 6 May 2010. The Office implements and coordinates projects in environment pollution prevention, including for facilitating the creation of sustainable waste and chemical substances management in accordance with the international treaties and EU Directives, having the following tasks:

- start, develop and manage/coordinate the implementation of projects funded by international and/or national institutions and organizations focused on implementing and improving the existing policies in pollution prevention, development of the legal framework and institutional

potential for preventing environment pollution and establishing a sustainable waste and chemical substances management, including in view of implementing the National Program of Sustainable Chemical Substances Management;

- cooperate with the international specialized organizations, public and private institutions and the Moldovan civil society in view of promoting and implementing policies on environment pollution prevention, including sustainable waste and chemical substances management; cooperate and have mutual experience exchange with similar projects, started or implemented in the countries in the region;
- provide local and international consulting in environment pollution prevention, including in waste and hazardous chemical substance management etc.;
- participate in organizing conferences, seminars, national and international forums in environment pollution issues, including waste and chemical substance management;
- carry out other necessary activities for the efficient implementation of projects, including developing and implementing other environment projects.

REC Moldova was created by the Decision of Government of Moldova no.1071 from October 22, 1998 according to the agreement signed on July 15, 1998 in Brussels by the Government of Republic of Moldova and the European Commission. It is an independent, international, non-profit and non-political organization.

In 2005 the Government of Romania, the Ministries of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Republic of Latvia and Republic of Estonia became the new Founders of REC Moldova and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland became an Associated Partner.

The Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova) was established to assist in solving environmental problems in Moldova and neighboring countries through the promotion of co-operation between NGOs, Governmental bodies, local communities, the business sector and all other environmental stakeholders at both national and regional level. The REC M aims to increase public participation in environmental decision making process.

REC Moldova's main programmes are the following: Environmental Policy Programme; Local Initiatives Programme; Co-operation with NGOs and Local Partners Programme; Information and Communication Programme.

Since 1998 REC M has implemented a lot of activities within the above mentioned programmes in order to fulfill its mission. It is worth mentioning a range of projects implemented by REC Moldova, which mainly aimed to:

- Raise public participation in environmental decision-making process;
- Assure access to environmental information of all the environmental stakeholders of the country (state environmental authorities, local public administration, environmental NGOs, scientists, private sector, agricultural sector and large public);
- Strengthen partnerships between all the environmental stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels;
- Solve local, national and transboundary priority environmental problems through real actions;
- Harmonize the national environmental legislation to the EU environmental legislation;
- Promote sustainable development principles.

There are a number of NGOs dealing with the environment and natural protection. It is worth to mention at least few of them: „*Ecospectru*”, *BIOTICA Ecological Society*, *BIOS*, *The Ecological Movement of Moldova* (EMM), “*Eco-Tiras*”

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) plays a key role in environmental observations and data collection whereas the main network of environmental quality monitoring stations is maintained generally by the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS). A number of other organizations are also involved in water, air and waste monitoring, data and information collection and management. Among main actors in the fields of water, air, waste and biodiversity conservation are subdivisions of the

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and National Center for Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and National Bureau of Statistics. Each organization has a role in this process. However, there is no optimal level of coordination for data collection and management between those organizations. Thus, necessary information exists in fragmented, incomplete and dispersed forms.

3. Legal framework relevant to the Themis Network and the EU approximation process in the field of environment

The development of an environmental protection system in the Republic of Moldova started in 1988 with the creation of a Committee for the protection of environment. After the collapse of the USSR the Environment Protection Department was established which was directly subordinated to the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. In 1998 the Environmental Protection Department was reorganized with a status of Ministry of Environment.

The 1995 Concept of External Policy remains the main document identifying the priorities of the country in International cooperation. Firm compliance with undertaken commitments is one of the main principles stated in the Concept of External Policy. According to this document, the external policy is oriented towards bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Signing the International treaties, Republic of Moldova is governed by two main juridical acts: Law on International Agreements (1999) and Regulation on the Mechanism of Conclusions of International Agreements (2001). The leading role in concluding any new environmental treaty or acceding to conventions belongs to the Ministry of Environment. To coordinate the implementation of the international treaties' commitments, national focal points were appointed.

Nowadays, the national legal basis for environmental protection is fairly comprehensive. It includes a set of environmental laws and regulations and there is a general opinion that this existing body of laws, governmental and ministerial decrees, official rules and standards is a sufficient base for effectively addressing the country's environmental issues. Nevertheless, being under the European choice, Moldova is continuously improving legal frameworks towards approximation with European legislation. Within last years there were adopted a series of new laws such as Law on the National Ecological Network, developed a new version of the Water Law which aims to establish a legal base for implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Moldova; there was approved the new system of Surface Water Quality Standards, which comprises three principal components: a use-base hierarchical (i.e., ranked in order of decreasing water quality) classification of water bodies; list of water pollution parameters to be regulated, consistent with the existing monitoring capacity and pollutants relevant for Moldova; and numerical values of water quality standards for each class of water quality; in conformity with the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, there was developed and approved by the Government a Regulation on Discharges of Municipal Wastewaters into Natural Watercourses, etc.

The improvement of the legislative-normative framework is a continuous and permanent process, which is performed in conformity with the development of the relations between society and environment. The environmental legislation of each country corresponds to the geographical specific, development degree of the national economy, availability of natural resources and current environmental situation.

Environmental Protection Law and Water Code constitute the basic legal framework for the elaboration of the normative acts and special instructions on environment protection. Other laws, including the Subsoil Code, Land Code, Forest Code, Law on Natural Resources, Law on Animal and Plant Kingdom represent the legal framework for natural resources use. The last ones, being special laws, determine the institutional and organizational structure of natural resources management (Forest Code, Subsoil Code), stipulate the juridical norms with direct effect or related to other legislative acts. They also define specific regulations and instructions of a number of laws (Laws on Animal and Plant Kingdom, Law on Ecological Expertise and Assessment of the Impact on Environment, Forest Code). The Government task is to approve the regulations in order to ensure laws application.

According to the Article 91 of Charter 16 “Environment” of the Association Agreement between Republic of Moldova and EU, signed in 2014, *“The Republic of Moldova shall carry out approximation of its legislation to the EU acts and international instruments referred to in Annex XI to this Agreement according to the provisions of that Annex”*. Almost all legislation related to the Themis Network should be approximated to the EU legislation sooner or later.

4. Implementation and enforcement status of the legal framework and action strategies

Capacity building at the individual level is connected to public mentality and attitude change towards ecological issues, formation of the qualified staff in the environmental institutions, co-interested the public, environmental institution staff and local public administration in the integrated realization of the environmental Conventions objectives.

Considering the situation in the environmental protection field, we can affirm that the Government has three options in this purpose: to educate the consumers; to establish payments for the use of certain resources or to limit the access to it; or to create economic incentives based on the market relations in order to influence both the producers behavior and the consumers one.

We consider that in RM the state promotes and applies a strategy based on order and control in this field. In other words, the environment protection is regulated according to the general accepted laws and standards. This implies application of quotes or restrictions for the utilization of renewable resources (hunting and fishing resources), restrictions on air polluting emissions, the control over the waste management, etc. This controls became mandatory and is operated by licensing, applying fees or penalties.

In this context it should be mentioned the existence of certain disadvantages of above-mentioned approach, as in some cases, it is difficult and expensively to implement the respective regulations and to follow their execution.

The basic impediment that persists at the enforcement of policy instruments, relates to the fact that the institutions responsible of supervising the implementation of the national policy instruments and their transpose into fact, often, do not dispose of qualified experts for their realization.

Cross-cutting constraints and priority capacity building needs related to enforcement of policy instruments

<i>Capacity constraints</i>	<i>Capacity needs</i>
Responsible institutions for supervising the implementation of national instruments of transposing the strategies, programs, action plans and environmental policies have no qualified experts for their realization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of individual capacities of CPA and LPA experts related to effective and efficient realization of the national environmental policy, inclusively by implementing acknowledgement, training, education and cadre refresh programs. • Elaboration of project proposals regarding individual capacity building of CPA and LPA servants referring to the effective and efficient application of the environment policy instruments, inclusively in order to realize the objectives of environmental Conventions to which RM is part.
The applicable component of the Strategies, Programs and the Action Plans is weak. Its development at sectoral and local level is insufficient.	Strategies, Programs and the Action Plans is weak. Its development at sectoral and local level is insufficient. The strengthening of the applicable components of the Strategies, Programs and Action Plans, including the development of this component at sectoral and local levels.

For the majority of measures provided by environmental Programs and Plans, the real financing sources weren't stipulated; the financial support offered by the state budget is insufficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The real estimation of available financing sources, at the stage of approval, for the strategies, programs, action plans and environmental policies; • Strengthening the financial support for environmental strategies, programs and action plans, including adjustment of the Law on State Budget (agriculture, forestry, fishery and water household and environmental protection and hydro-meteorology compartments) in order to accomplish the environmental Convention provisions; draw up external financing sources for environmental protection activities; • Elaboration of a flexible and attractive investment policy for the local and foreign investors and facilitate access to the Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST).
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This situation may be solved by developing individual capacities of the Central Public Authority (CPA) and Local Public Authority (LPA) experts regarding the effective and efficient application of the environment policy instruments, inclusively by implementing acknowledgement and human resources refreshment programs that operate in the environmental field.

As well, as effective instruments in performing strategies, programs, action plans and environmental policies may be considered the following actions:

- Including in the national development programs of the problems related to environmental protection;
- Draw priority to those environmental Conventions objectives, realization of which lead to the sustainable economic development of the country, poverty reduction, social stability and improvement of the economic environment;
- Improve of the legislative-normative frame, which would stipulate clearly and would define the obligations and the responsibilities of the public servants, civil society and population in realizing the objectives of environmental strategies;
- Strengthen the staff professional potential in the field of ecology in order to improve the planning and the management system in the environmental protection field and realization of the environmental Convention provisions;
- Capacity building of local public authorities and ensure the more active involvement of the communities, local groups and NGOs in the durable management of the natural resources;
- Provide economic incentives of the main actors in using durable knowledge and practices in the environmental protection field, inclusively by: preferential access to the production factors, credits with low interest on long term with a grace period, economic stimulation of using technologies favorable to the environment etc.;
- Reforming the public wage system, increase of the staff wage, considering the value of the minimal consumption basket;
- Increase of revenues and possibilities of hiring rural population, inclusively by market development, creation of financial tools adequate to the local needs, development of the economic activities like agricultural or non-agricultural;
- Perform activities that follow the decrease of the direct dependency of the country population on the natural resources (soil, water, biological resources) which, together with the technological base and the outworn production practices causes the accelerate degradation of the natural resources;
- Eradicate corruption in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources;
- Improve the training, educational and public acknowledgement system in the environmental protection field, as of the system of cadre preparing and refreshing, inclusively of the decision

factors, managers, persons responsible for data collection, information use, warning in case of exceptional situations etc.

Insufficient financial support and low standard of living are the most serious constraints hindering the development of capacity building activities in Moldova. A partial solution will be to introduce budget provisions for Conventions implementation into the State Budget (environmental compartment), Local Budgets and Extra-budgetary Funds. But a fundamental measure is still to improve the investment climate in order to facilitate in-country and ex-country financing, including environmental.

Another way consists in realizing a set of organizational measures, which would permit a more efficient use of the economic mechanisms and financial resources obtained from taxes, fines, penalties etc.

The administrative responsibility for the infringement of environmental regime was stipulated in the Code on Administrative Contraventions. Referring directly to fines as one of the basic economic tools instituted in the Republic of Moldova for environment protection, it should be mentioned their reduced efficiency, generated by the following reasons:

- The low level of fines, varying from notification to amend formed by 20 minimal salaries for natural and legal entities who violated the relevant legislation, and for the persons with responsible functions from 20 to 30 minimal salaries, in terms when the minimal salary used for calculations is 18 MDL (in 2010: 1 USD = 12.6 MDL), it is obvious that this instrument has a very low efficiency, especially related to modeling the behavior of natural resources users;
- The related articles of the old Code on Administrative Contraventions were not correlated in the proper extent to the economical reality, the provisions being revised in the last 10-12 years, in terms in which the macroeconomic situation in the country suffered radical changes (there should be mentioned, that since 2005 the new Code on Administrative Contraventions entered into force);
- The fines couldn't be considered even an instrument for income generation, as their collection is linked to long legal procedures, which imply a long period till collection. In addition, the responsible units for managing the related natural resources, often, do not hold information on solving contravention cases; between the related legal authorities and the units managing natural resources a poor communication exists.

Analyzing the information on this since 2001, it should be mentioned that because the fines were extremely reduced, their collection rate was insignificant as well. The above mentioned leads to the idea the persons that caused environmental damages are irresponsible and, not that they have reduced payment capacity. Maybe, the respective economic instrument followed to be correlated strictly to the constraint methods, for public concern and responsibility for the subjects connected to the environmental resources protection

Another serious constraint consists of the lack of National Strategy on Ecological Education. This situation proves the modest ecological knowledge of decision-makers and insufficient public information regarding the environmental protection issues. The significant strengthening of the national capacity in ecological education can be achieved by introducing environmental protection subjects within the educational programs of kindergartens, primary, gymnasium and secondary schools as well as by adjusting the university and post-graduate specialization programs with aspects related to the implementation of the environmental Conventions, would allow the formation of a civic approach, would contribute to acknowledgment of this imperative – environmental protection – and would open ways for a new social-economic approach of country development.

Finally should be mentioned few initiatives and activities implemented by the Government of Moldova and Ministry of Environment in order to mitigate the enforcement problems.

1) The Republic of Moldova's Program „European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare, 2011-2014” provides strengthening actions for sustainable economic and environmental standard:

Thus:

- was developed and promoted the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity Conservation;
- were developed eight laws and 18 regulations on Biodiversity Conservation in RM;
- has been expanded protected natural areas from 1.96% (1998) to 5.61% (2014) from the national territory;
- was founded National Park Orhei (33.0 thousand ha);
- were founded three protected wetlands of international importance (Under Ramsar Convention);
- was published Red Book of Moldova (second edition), 2001 and is ready for editing 3rd edition of the Red Book, which includes about 200 species of rare plants and 220 species of animals;
- was elaborated series of books „Plant World” and „Animal World” in four volumes of each; started publishing „Flora of Bessarabia” in six volumes;
- were developed Environmental Protection Local Plans in five districts and two municipalities.

2) *Ministry of Environment through Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants Office conducted following actions:*

- residues of persistent organic pollutants identified and mapped polluted areas;
- more than 2220 tons of toxic materials were transported to France during the years 2006-2013 and destroyed in special incinerators in Tredi Company;
- from transformer stations were dismantled and removed 81,600 old capacitors, which contained 934 tons of polychlorinated biphenyl compounds, which were later destroyed;
- in the agricultural sector has been collected and liquidated 2500 tons of old pesticides, whole were issued 13 central pesticides warehouses;
- were developed plans for remediation of POPs contaminated territories;
- Government of the RM has prepared Disaster Management Programme and Climate Risks in Moldova, which have developed capabilities of State Hydrometeorologic Service - network creating of weather stations, weather monitoring, launch warnings about natural hazards management measures to combat these disasters;
- developed National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2004);
- developed Practical Guide "Ecological Management of polychlorinated biphenyl compounds" (2009).

3) *The Ministry of Environment through the Environmental Pollution Prevention Office conducted following actions:*

- Development and approval of the National Waste Management Strategy in Moldova (2012-2025), which aims to create the necessary framework for the development and implementation of an integrated and efficient environmental protection in RM;
- development of the National Programme on Sustainable Management of Chemicals in RM.

5. Conclusions

a) The status of the institutional set up and its efficiency in enforcing laws.

The main constraints in the activity of the institutional framework lie in its reduced amount of budgetary financing and, as a result, the exodus of qualified staff, the weak capacity of the personnel improvement system in this domain, only partial endowment with modern equipment, insufficient coordination and cooperation. In the above-mentioned context, the national priorities in achieving objectives regarding the institutional framework are the following:

- financial support of research and monitoring programs;
- personnel improvement, coordination of activities and cross-sectoral cooperation.
- remuneration of employees according to the market economy requirements.

The current environmental legislation was approved at the beginning of the '90s and modified according to the evolution of the economic and social circumstances at the national level, and in line with the development of partnership with international organizations. The improvement of the legislative-normative

framework is a continuous and permanent process, which is performed in conformity with the development of the relations between society and environment. The environmental legislation of each country corresponds to the geographical specific, development degree of the national economy, availability of natural resources and current environmental situation. At the same time, the institutional, managerial and investment policy measures designed to contribute to the conventions implementation require legal support. The stress should be particularly posed on the environmental legislation adjustment, improvement of the legislation that regulates connected aspects: institutional structure, investment policy, transfer of environmentally sound technologies (EST), as well as the optimization of the financial management. The improvement of the legal framework supposes the elimination of the divergences and existent contradictions between different laws.

b) The status of the legal apparatus as compared to what it should be for a successful EU approximation.

The structure of the Ministry of Environment should be revised and discussions on this issue are already started.

c) The main self-perceived priorities of Moldovan institutions for environmental governance and how those can be tied to the Themis Network.

The efficiency of the institutional framework on environment protection is ensured through the realization of current legal acts in this field. Carrying out of legal acts from certain related compartment is performed through the interaction and cooperation between the ministries and related central administrative authorities. The initiatives of the ministries and related central administrative authorities to cooperate with regard to implementation and enforcement is not encouraged and supported. There are divergences regarding the capacity building needs and activities dedicated to communication between the institutions working in the field of environment protection. The regulations provisions of the ministries and central administrative authorities are confused and have general recommendations on coordination, interaction and cooperation between partners. Beside these, the institutions did not define clearly their missions and mandates in the related field. A part of the ministries and central administrative authorities signed collaboration agreements that contain the most important interaction and cooperation activities, including the environmental protection issue (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, etc.). At the same time there is no clear and efficient delimitation of the competencies and responsibilities between different managing levels, between the central and local public authorities.

There should be mentioned the reduced efficiency of the activity of the inter-ministerial coordination bodies.

Capacity constraints	Capacity needs
Unclear institutional mandates of environmental institutions, especially referring to operational competencies and decision-making process.	To review the mandates of institutions (the operational and decision-making competence; the tools and mechanisms on financial operation and management; the procedure of establishing the structure and professional composition of the institutions; the ways, forms and authority regarding the inter-institutional cooperation; performance of monitoring indexes, the mechanisms facilitating the development of individual capacity, etc.);
The actual regulations of the ministries do not foresee responsibilities for accomplishing the commitments under the international environmental Conventions and the mechanisms of interaction and cooperation with the main stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the institutional mandates and introduce into the regulations of the ministries of the responsibilities to honor the commitments to environmental Conventions and identify the efficient mechanisms of interaction, coordination and cooperation; • Institutional capacity building of the central and local public authorities by creating subdivisions on environmental protection and introduction of the responsibilities referring to the interaction and cooperation in the environmental protection field; • Creation of the National Roster of Experts for different environmental areas

Recommendations

Based on the situation described above we recommend the Themis Network focal points in Moldova to be placed at the Ministry of Environment and State Ecological Inspectorate.

6. Annexes:

Annex 1.

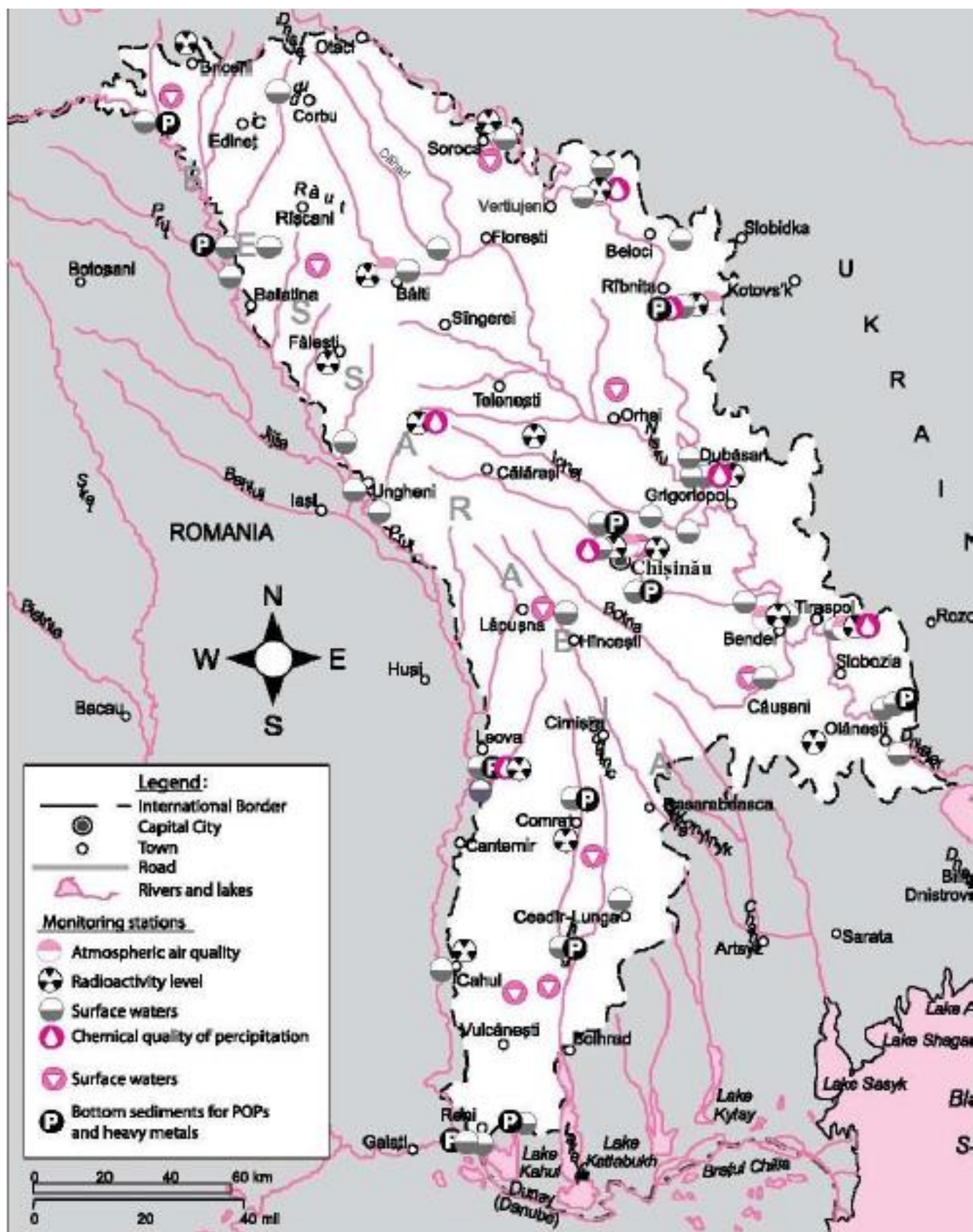
Contact list of relevant state institutions for the Themis Network

<i>Institution name</i>	<i>Contact information</i>	<i>E-mail, home page</i>
Ministry of Environment	9, Cosmonautilor str., MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 204 509	http://mediu.gov.md
State Ecological Inspection	9, Cosmonautilor str., MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 206 941; fax: (+ 373 22) 206 915	ies@mediu.gov.md http://www.inseco.gov.md/
State Hydrometeorologic Service	134, Grenoble str., MD-2072, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 773 500 / 773 611; fax: (+ 373 22) 773 636	anticamera@meteo.md intern@meteo.md hidrometeo@meteo.md http://www.meteo.md/
Agency for Geology „AGeoM”	156, Mitropolit Dosoftei str., MD-2008, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 750 656; fax: (+ 373 22) 750 863	ageom@starnet.md http://ageom.hq.md
Institute of Ecology and Geography of ASM	1, Academiei str., MD-2028, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 731 550; fax: (+ 373 22) 739 838	geographyasm@yahoo.com ieg@asm.md http://www.ieg.asm.md
National Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiologic Activities	1, Alecu Russo str., MD-2068, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 311 137; fax: (+ 373 22) 311 140	agentia.nucleara@anranr.gov.md http://www.anranr.gov.md/
The National Environmental Fund	9, Cosmonautilor str., office 605 MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 204 518	fondecol@mediu.gov.md fen@mediu.gov.md
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry	31 August 1989 str., office 131, MD-2012, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 233 427 / 232 394; fax: (+ 373 22) 210 072	http://www.maia.gov.md
Agency “Apele Moldovei”	5, Gh. Asachi str., MD-2068, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 280 700; fax: (+ 373 22) 280 822	agentia_am@apele.gov.md http://www.apelemoldovei.gov.md
Ministry of Internal Affairs, Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service	69, Gheorghe Tudor str., MD-2012, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 738 516; fax: (+ 373 22) 738 501	dse@dse.md http://www.dse.md www.mai.gov.md
State Agency „Moldsilva”	124, Ștefan cel Mare bd., MD-2001, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 272 306 / 277 349; fax: (+ 373 22) 277 345	msilva@moldsilva.gov.md http://www.moldsilva.gov.md
Ministry of Health	2, Vasile Alecsandri str., MD-2009, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 729 907 / 268 885; fax: (+ 373 22) 738 781	anticamera@ms.gov.md massmedia@ms.gov.md
National Institute for Standards and Metrology	28, Eugen Coca str., MD-2064, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 905 300; fax: (+ 373 22) 905 310	info@standard.md http://www.standard.md
Fisheries Service of Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova	8, Mereni str., MD-2023, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 472 420; fax: (+ 373 22) 472 412	serviciulpiscicol@yahoo.com http://www.sp.gov.md/
Moldavian Hydrogeological Expedition	156, Mitropolit Dosoftei str., MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+ 373 22) 751 456; fax: (+ 373 22) 750 810	ies@mediu.gov.md
Environmental Information Center	9, Cosmonauților str., office 602, MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 214 533	http://cim.mediu.gov.md/

Contact list of major and relevant non-state institutions for the Themis Network, including NGOs

<i>Institution name</i>	<i>Contact information</i>	<i>E-mail, home page</i>
<i>Biodiversity Office</i>	9, Cosmonautilor str., office 734, MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 242 022	alexandrut@mail.md http://bsapm.moldnet.md/
<i>POPs Office</i>	9, Cosmonautilor str., office 614A, MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 226 254; fax: (+373 22) 226 254	info@moldovapops.md http://www.moldovapops.md
<i>Ozone Office</i>	156A, Mitropolit Dosoftei str., office 302, MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 718-938	environment@ozon.mldnet.com http://www.ozon.md
<i>Biosafety Office</i>	156A, Mitropolit Dosoftei str., office 305, MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+373 22) 226-874	http://www.biosafety.md
<i>Climate Change Office</i>	156A, Mitropolit Dosoftei str., office 307, MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+373 22) 232-247	clima@mediu.gov.md http://www.clima.md
<i>Carbon Finance Office</i>		http://www.cfu.md
<i>Environmental Pollution Prevention Office</i>	9, Cosmonautilor str., office 736, MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 222 542	info@info.md http://www.eppo.md
<i>Ecospectru</i>	14/1, 94, I. Vieru str., MD-2075, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 487 796; fax: (+373 22) 242 022	alexandrut@mail.md http://ecospectru.moldnet.md
<i>BIOTICA Ecological Society</i>	17/4, Nicolae Dimo str., office 22, MD-2068, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 498 837; fax: (+373 22) 495 625	biotica@biotica-moldova.org http://www.biotica-moldova.org
<i>Bios</i>	72/3, Columna str., office 3, MD-2001, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 545 733 / 862 964, (+373 69) 134 294 fax: (+373 22) 545 733 / 862 964	ngobios@yahoo.com ngobios@mtc.md valentin.ciubotaru@yahoo.com www.bios.org.md
<i>REC Moldova</i>	31, Al. Mateevici street, Chisinau, MD-2009, Republic of Moldova, tel.: (+373 22) 240 997 / 240 999, Fax: (+373 22) 240 998	info@rec.md http://www.rec.md
<i>Environmental Movement of Moldova</i>	13, Serghei Lazo str., Chisinau, MD-2004, Republic of Moldova, tel.: (+373 22) 237 423; Fax: (+373 22) 232 408	renitsa@eco.moldnet.md http://www.mem.md
<i>Eco-TIRAS</i>	11A, Teatrăla str., Chisinau, MD-2012, Republic of Moldova, tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 550 953 / 225 615	ecotiras@mtc.md ilyatrom@hotmail.com http://www.eco-tiras.org
<i>„Ecoinginerie” ONG</i>	94A, Chișinăului str., Cricova City, MD-2084, Republic of Moldova tel.: (+373 22) 235 439; Fax: (+373 22) 235 405	ungureanu@adm.utm.md
<i>Industrial Pollution Prevention Centre</i>	124, B. P. Hajdeu str., office 20, Chisinau, MD-2005, Republic of Moldova, tel./fax: (+ 373 22) 227 114	cpee@cppe-md www.cpee.md

The main network of environmental quality monitoring stations in the Republic of Moldova



**Environmental legal framework. Description of some important laws,
which may have a relevance to environmental management [1]**

<i>Nr.</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	<i>Law on Environmental Protection (1993).</i>	This is a basic law that provides general framework for the environment protection in Moldova and options for sustainable development. The central environmental body shall (art. 16): i) conduct state environmental expertise which is its exclusive area of responsibility and competence; ii) prohibit/or suspend the construction and reconstruction of industrial, agricultural and other activities which exploit natural resources; and likewise to other activities that are in defiance of environmental legislation. State Ecological Expertise should be conducted (art. 21) for: i) construction, extension, reconstruction and modernization of any economic and social activity (administrative and military activities are exemptions) that may cause an impact to the environment. Expertise must be conducted (art. 22), among other activities, for: i) hydro technical installations, dykes, irrigation and drainage systems; ii) establishment of vineyards and orchards in zones with water protection schemes; iii) production, sale and use of pesticides and other toxic substances; iv) any other activity that may have a negative effect on environmental quality.
2.	<i>Law on Ecological Expertise and Environment Impact Assessment (1996).</i>	The law determines goals, objectives and principles of Ecological Expertise and Environmental Impact Assessment, as well as fundamentals of both procedures. The Law describes in details Environmental Impact Assessment procedures, demands the reporting, rules of complying and submission of documentation on Environmental Impact Assessment, public involvement, revision of Environmental Impact Assessment documentation, rules for conducting of the SEE. The State Ecological Expertise is a part of a complex of activities toward environment protection through which the potential impacts on environment from planned economic activity, compliance of parameters of these activities with legislation and normative acts, norms and standards in force are identified and mitigated. According to the Law, project documentation for the objects that may adversely affect environment is a subject of state ecological expertise which in turn determines whether it complies with environmental protection requirements. Decision on ecological expertise can be considered as the basis for approval or refusal of the project. Ecological expertise is conducted prior to making decision on planned economic activities, and is mandatory for all economic activities which may have likely negative impact on environment regardless their destination, ownership, investments, location, source of financing etc. In case the objects can affect severely environment, their planning documentation is a subject of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be conducted prior to Ecological Expertise. The EIA/SEE documents shall also include, i) a comparison of alternatives and justification for the selected alternative, ii) mitigation measures and conditions to avoid or minimize impacts. These impacts have to be considered during all stages of the project including construction, operation and decommissioning. Public ecological expertise may be organized and conducted on the basis on initiative of officially registered public organizations/ associations. However, until approval from Central Environmental Authority, the results of the public ecological expertise are considered as ones having a recommendation character.
3.	<i>Land Code (1991).</i>	The Land Code establishes relations and rights of land ownership and the basic framework of land use. Art. 5 states that land conservation should be a priority while implementing any kind of activities. Art. 23 is particularly important because it stipulates cases of termination of land rights, including use of the land in ways that result in soil degradation, chemical and other pollution, deterioration and destruction of ecosystems or their components. The obligations of the land owners (art. 29) are: use of land to conform to its intended and planned use, observe conditions of land exploitation, to ensure structure of crop rotation to conform to good agricultural practices, to apply chemical inputs only to recommended levels and to provide protection and improvement of soil fertility.
4.	<i>Forest Code (1997).</i>	The Law aims to regulate housekeeping of the forest fund through its rational use and regeneration, forest defense and protection, maintenance, conservation and improvement of forest biodiversity towards to ensure current and future needs of society for forest resources.
5.	<i>Code on Mineral Resources (2009).</i>	This new Code adopted has replaced the old Code on mineral resources as of 1993. It provides improved regulatory frameworks for mineral resources management to ensure scientifically substantiated, rational and complex use of mineral resources to ensure their

		long-term availability for the national economy, and establishes responsibilities physical and juridical persons in the field.
6.	<i>Law on Water Protection Strips along the Rivers and Water Bodies (1995).</i>	The law establishes the rules for creation of water protection zones and strips along rivers and water bodies, the regime of their use and protection. The law determines: (i) dimension of protected zones and strips; (ii) water protection regime (permitted economic activities) within the water protection strips, etc. According to the Law, use of pesticides is restricted on the strip of 300 m width along the river bank; ii) siting of livestock farms, septic tanks and solid waste from livestock farms, location of technical services stations, machinery and transport wash, location of municipal and industrial waste disposals, and irrigation by sewage is to be controlled with respect to distance from river bank.
7.	<i>Law on Air Protection (1997).</i>	The main objectives of the Law are maintenance of clean air, improvement of air quality, prevention and mitigation of harmful physical, chemical, biological and radiological impacts on air quality, and accordingly protection of human health and environment.
8.	<i>Law on Natural Resources (1997).</i>	This law provides the basic principles of natural resource management and use. The legal act includes, among others, provisions for “natural resource use pay” and “pollution pay” principles and other economic mechanisms aimed at improving of economic entities’ production technology to minimize utilization of natural resources and enhance their protection and encouraging environmentally friendly economic activities.
9.	<i>The Law on Taxes for Pollution of the Environment (1998).</i>	This Law refers to the penalties for the discharge of pollutants into the environment. Art. 9(1) describes the penalty charges for pollutants released from waste water discharges both to water bodies and effluents into sewerage systems where such discharges exceed established limits. Part (2) indicates that penalties for pollutants released into sewage facilities and on filtration fields are to be imposed on the base of the total volume of water allocation. Part (3) describes the penalty for release of water from fish ponds in the case of excessive volume of pollutants.
10.	<i>Law on Licensing of Certain Kinds of Activities (2001).</i>	The Law aims at ensuring of the state control over compliance with requirements and conditions to be adhered while fulfilling certain activities. It determines legal, organizational and economic basis for certain kinds of activities and establishes kinds of activities which require permits. The List of activates liable to licensing includes: ecological control, exploitation of deposits of mineral resources, import and sale of chemical and biological means of plant protection; collection, storage and processing of used accumulator batteries, and design of all kinds of buildings and reconstruction works, capital repairs, etc.
11.	<i>Law on Animal Kingdom (1995).</i>	The main purpose of the law is creating conditions for effective protection and rational use of fauna resources. The law determines that design and construction of any facility should be implemented only if animal protection measures (habitat, reproduction, and migration ways) are undertaken. Art. 13 stipulates that sites of construction of enterprises, facilities, installations and other objects are co-ordinated with Ministry of Environment, with local public authorities and other agencies; Art. 14: while carrying out of agricultural and construction works, exploitation of transport and implementing of other activities physical and juridical persons are obliged to undertake measures toward prevention of animals losses.
12.	<i>The Law on Plant Protection (1999).</i>	This law, among others, establishes (art. 14) the requirement of those responsible for the storage, transportation, selling and use of pesticides used for plant protection to observe the stated rules and norms for such. As well, the law bars environmental pollution and other negative impacts that such may have on man and animals.
13.	<i>Law on Regime of Harmful Products and Substances (1997).</i>	The Law establishes role and responsibilities of the Government and other central and local authorities in relation to harmful products and substances, and describes the regime of harmful products and substances (licensing, production, storing, transportation, use, registration, neutralization, import and export).
14.	<i>Law on Production and Consumption Wastes (1997).</i>	The Law provides basic principles in the field of waste management generated during the process of production and consumption, and aims to reduce wastes and prevent environmental pollution. The Law art. 17(2) stipulates that construction and put into operation new and reconstructed enterprises and other objects not provided with equipment and technologies ensuring safe use, treatment and removal of wastes and not provided by a positive decision from ecological and sanitary-epidemiological expert services are prohibited. Art. 18 describes the requirements regarding wastes disposals, i.e., disposal and storage of wastes is executing by means not affecting the human health and environment.
15.	<i>Law on the Fund for Natural Areas Protected by State (1998).</i>	This law establishes the list of objects/areas under state protection, protection regime and buffer zones around protection objects/areas.

16.	<i>Law on the Ecological Network (2007).</i>	The Law establishes a legal framework for creation and maintenance of the National Ecological Network as an integral part of Pan-European Ecological Network.
17.	<i>Law on Quality in Construction (1996).</i>	This law determines juridical, technical, economic and institutional aspects related to the construction activities related to the quality in construction. The Law stipulates that the constructions next requirements should be ensured: resistance and stability; fire, hygiene and environmentally safety, etc. Art. 13: construction, modernisation, strengthening, repair/ renovation are implemented only in accordance with project documentation worked out by physical and juridical persons authorised for such kinds of works and verified by authorised specialists in the field; Art 14: design and construction of buildings is implemented by physical and juridical persons licensed for activity in the field
18.	<i>The Law on Grounds of Town-planning and Territorial Development (1996).</i>	This law relates to planning, location and construction of buildings, including any modifications to buildings. Art. 6(3) states that documentation for town-planning and territorial development establishes location of land zones and rules for their use. Town-planning certificates and permits for construction are issued on the basis of this documentation. For construction purposes based on approved documentation, art. 52 stipulates that local public administration shall provide permits for operations and also for any changes of operation location. Assessment of potential environmental impacts of above activities and developments, and the provision of ecological expertise is to be conducted in accordance with the Law on Ecological Expertise and Environmental Impact Assessment.
19.	<i>Law on fish reserve, fishing and fish-farming (2006).</i>	Most of national natural water streams, lakes and reservoirs are classified as fish-water. It is prohibited by the law: (i) discharge to the fish water of un-treated waste water, (ii) use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals on the water bodies and at the banks (300 m), (iii) lowering of water level or use water for agricultural purposes without permit issued by Fishery Service under the State Ecological Inspectorate, (iv) abstract water without fish protection installations, etc.
20.	<i>Law on Safety of Dangerous Industrial Objects (2000).</i>	The Law establishes legal, economic and social aspects of safety operation of dangerous objects/ enterprises and focuses on prevention of industrial accidents, stoppage actions, minimisation and liquidation of accident consequences, and protection of environment and population. Art. 9: technical installations/ devices used at dangerous objects/ enterprises shall be a subject of compulsory certification on compliance with industrial safety requirements in accordance with established order (enclosure No 1 to the Law explains that as dangerous industrial objects are considered those technical installations disruption of which can cause an accident).
21.	<i>Law on Secondary Material Resources (1996).</i>	The Law determines basic juridical, economic and institutional requirements related to the secondary material resources and aims at ensuring of rational use of natural resources. The economic entities are required (i) to use the environmentally clean production facilities, (ii) to make an inventory and to register industrial and domestic wastes, and submit reports to the statistical offices, (iii) re-utilize own wastes as much as possible, but if not possible, to transport wastes to special organizations dealing with collection or re-utilization of wastes. Art. 9: while designing, constructing and reconstructing of all enterprises the following must be ensured: use of low-wasting, non-wasting and ecologically clean technologies; development of waste treatment facilities attached to enterprises.

Environmental Impact Assessment by-laws [4]

<i>Nr.</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	<i>Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment (2000).</i>	The Regulation is included as an Annex to the Law on Ecological Expertise and Environmental Impact Assessment. It establishes the goal of preparing of documentation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), its procedure, coordination and approval, and includes the List of objects and types of activities for which EIA prior to their design is compulsory is compulsory. EIA is carried out to determine the requisite measures to prevent adverse ecological impacts due to realization of certain planned objects and types of activities. The Regulation describes the requirements for documentation on EIA (materials in which the direct and indirect impacts of planned objects on air, water, soil, landscape, protected areas, fauna, flora, natural resources, cultural and historic monuments, socio-economic situation are establishing, describing and evaluating; comparison of alternative solutions and substantiation of the best one; suggested mitigation activities (on the basis of developed documentation on EIA, the client designs a Statement on Environmental Impact Assessment in which all materials, calculations and researches are presented and systematized), EIA content (title of the project; character of activity; location; substantiation for location; project duration; technical and technological characteristics of the project; suggested technical solutions; project cost; localities affected by projects; information of direct impacts on environment (water, soil, etc.); land to be occupied by project; water abstraction; water use, water source; sources of raw materials, transport and other infrastructure, emissions to air, wastes and their utilization, etc.); order of elaboration and submission documentation on EIA, state ecological expertise of EIA documentation, decision on a state ecological expertise of EIA documentation, etc.
2.	<i>Instruction on Order of Organization and Conducting of the State Ecological Expertise (2002).</i>	The State Ecological Expertise (SEE) is applied for any new construction, its modernization and up-grading. All design documents should be presented to the State Ecological Expertise units (ME for major projects, headquarters of the State Ecological Inspection and rayonal Ecological Inspectorates). Technical solutions, reflected in the submitted for SEE technical documentation have to be sufficiently substantiated in relation to reduction/mitigation of impact on environment. The instruction is accompanied by a series of annexes, which: (i) describe in details requirements for project documentation submitted to SEE; (ii) nominate subdivisions of ME responsible for SEE different types and scales of projects; (iii) establish requirements for every chapter or volume of project documentation, etc.
3.	<i>Regulation on conducting Ecological Audit of Enterprises (1998).</i>	The regulation establishes that Ecological Audit aims at controlling compliance of the enterprises activities with the requirements stipulated in the Law on Environment Protection, Law on Sanitary-Epidemiological Protection of the Population and other environmental protection regulatory documents.
4.	<i>General Regulations on Elaboration and Mode of Submission of Declaration on Industrial Security (2000).</i>	The Regulation establishes rules on elaboration of and requirements to be adhered while presenting of it to the Department of Standardization and Metrology, which in conformity with the law on hazardous industrial objects security exercises the normative regulation in industrial security.

Inter-institutional cooperation in environmental sector [7]

Institution	Environmental Sector	Responsibilities		Inter-institutional cooperation for data exchange
		Information	Monitoring/Research	
National Bureau of Statistics	Water, air, waste	Dissemination of statistical information according to its Action Plan adopted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Starting with 2010 NBS is preparing the statistical report “Natural resources of the Republic of Moldova”, based on statistical and administrative reports.	Development and adoption of methodologies for statistical research and establishment of indicators, approval of forms for reporting and data collection including for environmental sector	Receive information and data from State Ecological Inspection, Agency “Apele Moldovei”, State Hydrometeorological Service, State Service for Public Health and send to Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Environment	Water	Ensure the establishment and management of information systems and databases in its fields of competence, maintain the statistics on state and quality of surface water resources, provide evidence of water resources and ensure maintenance of State Water Cadaster.	Development and promotion of state policy in the field of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources, waste management, biological diversity conservation, researches in geology and soil protection, management of water resources, water supply and sewerage system, regulation of radiological and nuclear activities, state ecological control, hydrometeorology and environmental data monitoring. These responsibilities are implemented through its subordinated institutions.	Receive information and data from State Ecological Inspection, Agency “Apele Moldovei”, institute of Ecology and Geography, Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources, State Hydrometeorological Service, as well as receive processed data from National Bureau of Statistics and send to Environmental Information Center Ministry of Environment cooperates with State Service for Public Health on water issue for example setting out the key target indicators for water in context of implementation of the Water and Health Protocol, other Conventions.
	Air	Ensure the establishment and management of information systems and databases in its fields of competence	Issue the authorization for the import and export of the substances that deplete the ozone layer. Has the role of data validation for ozone report.	Receive information and data from State Ecological Inspection and State Hydrometeorological Service, as well as receive processed data from National Bureau of Statistics and send to Environmental Information Center
	Waste	Ensure the establishment and management of information systems and databases in its fields of competence	Issue the authorization for waste management.	Receive information and data from State Ecological Inspection, as well as receive processed data from National Bureau of Statistics and send to Environmental Information Center
Environmental Information Center	Water, air and waste	Dissemination of information that was collected by Ministry of Environment and its subordinated institutions.		Information is received directly from Ministry of Environment
State Ecological Inspection	Water	The main report on activity of the SEI is prepared yearly and is named “Environmental protection in the	Issuing authorizations for special water use, implement control of environmental	Receive information and data from all enterprises, organizations and economic entities; from Agency “Apele Moldovei”, Agency for Geology and Mineral

		Republic of Moldova” that contains information on water, air pollution and waste. Conduct national initiatives on water issue as “ Water-spring of life”, Clean river from Village to village”, main scope being public awareness and participation in water protection issues.	legal framework enforcement, apply penalties for law breaking. In the context of statistical reporting on environmental protection, SEI has the role of data collection and validation for waste and air pollution, which is passed on later to MoE (for ozone) and NBS.	Resources, State Service for Public Health (this information exchange relates more to process of issuing the authorization for water use. The listed organizations shell submit their opinion on the request for water use, based on which the SEI is issuing or not the authorization, unfortunately the collaboration is limited to such information exchange. Also, there is a collaboration between these institutions during the development of the national Report on State of the Environment) and send it to Ministry of Environment and National Bureau of Statistics
	Air	Lead the annual European initiative “In city without my car”, focused on air protection issues.	Development of annual allowed norms for pollutant emissions into the atmosphere from fixed and mobile sources, Keeps records and implements the inventory of enterprises /organization that pollute the atmosphere.	Receive information and data from all enterprises, organizations and economic entities (all gathered information is included in the annual report on “Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova”) and send it to Ministry of Environment and National Bureau of Statistics.
	Waste	Organize and lead the national competition “The greenest, cleanest and most developed locality”, main purpose of which is to keep clean our localities, inform on negative impact of waste to people health and environment.	Undertakes legal enforcement on production, transport, use or elimination of waste. Collects and validates the reports on waste.	Receive information and data from all economic entities and send it to National Bureau of Statistics (all gathered information is included in the annual report on “Environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova” that is sent to the Ministry of Environment)
Agency “Apele Moldovei”	Water	Besides MoE, information on water use is presented to Ministry of Economy, National Bureau of Statistics and based on request it is also presented to Design Institute “Acvaproiect” and Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Science of Moldova. Participates in development of the State Water Cadaster	Development and implementation of water management resources policy, hydro-amelioration and water supply and sewage system services in Moldova. Agency is responsible for collection and data processing on water use for statistical reports.	Collected information and data is sent to State Ecological Inspection, Institute of Ecology and Geography, Ministry of Environment, National Bureau of Statistics
State Hydrometeorological Service	Water	Inform population, central and local public administration bodies, economic entities on hydro meteorological data and environmental quality information, undertake state control on use of hydro-meteorological information. Participation in information exchange at global level on hydro-meteorological observations and reporting under the hydro meteorological and	Is in charge of undertaking monitoring on hydrological regime, air quality for the entire territory of the country.	Collected information and data is sent to National Bureau of Statistics. State Hydrometeorological Service collaborate with National Bureau of Statistics for the indicators development on air, temperature and precipitation

		environmental quality monitoring conventions and agreements. Participates in development of the State Water Cadaster		
	Air	Systematically elaboration of forecasts on air quality in the monitored localities and determines the character of interaction between the atmospheric air and meteorological conditions; development and transmission of warnings about the eventual changes of the air quality level; development of recommendations for the work regime of relevant enterprises during the unfavorable meteorological conditions.	Develop the indicators on air quality, use of ozone depleting substances, temperature, etc.	Collected information and data is sent to National Bureau of Statistics, as well as to World Meteorological Centre in Moscow.
Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources	Water	Participates in development of the State Water Cadaster	Promoting state policy in the field of management and monitoring of underground resources in Moldova, including water, in order to make estimations of groundwater reserves, as well as monitoring of ground water quality and regime. Take part in process of issuing the water use authorization by approving the authorization application.	Send just the opinion on request for water use authorization to State Ecological Inspection
Institute of Ecology and Geography	Water, waste, air	Contribute to evaluation and modernization of environmental informational system in Moldova and inform on main global and regional environmental problems, develop the National Strategic Action Plan for environmental protection in Moldova.	Develop and implement the Informational Geographic System for researches in field of environment	Cooperate with Agency “Apele Moldovei” and Ministry of Environment for the preparation of the national Report on State of the Environment
State Service for Public Health	Water	Provide information on drinking water pollution and quality in the centralized underground water sources to stakeholders and population.	Maintenance of state sanitary and epidemiological supervision system, monitoring of drinking water quality and pollution; carrying out regular inspections for violation and protection of satisfactory sanitary conditions	Send information and data to State Ecological Inspection, Ministry of Environment, National Bureau of Statistics
	Air		Set out the norms for maximum allowed concentrations for air pollutants and their influence on atmosphere and human health.	Send information and data to National Bureau of Statistics

International conventions ratified by RM [1]

Moldova is a party to about 26 International Environmental Conventions. Among them are the following:

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991), ratified in 1993;
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979), ratified in 1993;
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Species (Hague, 1995), ratified in 2000;
- Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979), ratified in 2000;
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971), ratified in 1999;
- Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, 1992); ratified in 1993;
- Convention on the Protection of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992), ratified in 1993;
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm, 2001), ratified in 2004;
- Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Danube River (Sofia, 1994), ratified in 1999;
- Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), ratified in 1993;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), ratified in 1995;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1973);
- European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), ratified in 2001;
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Paris, 1994), ratified in 1999;
- Convention on Plant Protection Service (Rotterdam, 1998), ratified in 2004;
- Cartagena Protocol on the Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified in 2003;
- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979), ratified in 1995;
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making Process and Access to Justice in Environment (Aarhus, 1998), ratified in 1999.

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