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EU4Climate

Better Climate Policies for Eastern Partner Countries



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UNDP in Moldova

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Climate policy development and advancing cooperation with the EU in Moldova



- With a population of around 33.07 million¹ (2022), Moldova contributes as little as 0.03% to the total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is amongst the lowest range of the per capita footprint per region with 4.4 t CO₂e². **The key emitter sectors in 2020 were³:**



The energy system in Moldova faces serious challenges, prompting a need to develop alternative sources of energy and secure an alternative energy import source, particularly given the unstable situation in Ukraine.

- The total national direct GHG emissions (without LULUCF) had decreased in the Republic of Moldova during the 1990-2020 period by 69.8%, from 45.25 Mt CO₂ equivalent in 1990 to 13.66 Mt CO₂ equivalent in 2020 (the lowest level was registered in 2000 with 10.97 Mt CO₂ eq.). At the same time, net direct GHG emissions (with LULUCF) had decreased by 68.7% in the same time period, from 43.59 Mt CO₂ equivalent in 1990 to 13.66 Mt CO₂ equivalent in 2020 (the lowest level was registered in 2000 with 8.84 Mt CO₂ eq.). From 2000 to 2020, the consumption of primary energy resources had increased in the Republic of Moldova by 54.1%; while the intensity of emissions (CO₂eq/GDP) decreased by 42.6%, indicating signs of economic growth decoupling from the increase in GHG emissions by 24.6% over the period 2000-2020⁴.

In its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Republic of Moldova has committed to more ambitious targets than in its first NDC. The country's new economy-wide unconditional target is to reduce its GHG emissions by 70% below its 1990 level in 2030, instead of 64-67% as committed in the first NDC, which could be further increased to 88%, if international low-cost financial resources, technology transfer, and technical cooperation are ensured.

The Fifth National Communication of the Republic of Moldova to the UNFCCC⁵ reports that over the last 133 years, the Republic of Moldova has experienced changes in average values of temperature and precipitation. The country had become warmer, with an average temperature increase of more than 1.2°C, while the increase in precipitation was only 51.3 mm⁶.

- Moldova is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and variability, and the socio-economic costs of climate change related hazards such as **droughts (1), floods (2), late spring frost (3), and hail (4)** are significant.



- Increasingly erratic weather patterns and extreme weather events have resulted in the loss of life and income through rising food and energy prices.⁷



The most vulnerable sectors are agriculture, human health, water resources, forestry, transport, and energy.



Climate change is streamlined into the main strategic planning document of the country - the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030" (2022). Moldova approved in 2016 its Low Emissions Development Strategy for the year 2030. The National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Moldova will outline the climate change mitigation in the sector until 2030 and 2050 horizontal. The Republic of Moldova is advancing in the second cycle of its National Adaptation Planning process (NAP2) and the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation⁸ is developed and is under promotion.

Moldova is set, for the next years, to ensure the country's energy independence and the citizens' supply with accessible energy, both in terms of source and price. This goal is seen in the Concept of Moldova's Energy Strategy till the 2050 year, approved by the State Chancellery – a document of policies, which establishes priorities in the energy sector by the middle of the 21st century (2022).

The EU-Moldova Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), fully entered into force on 1 July 2016 after being applied - since September 2014. The Agreement significantly strengthens the political association and economic integration between Moldova and the EU. During the European Council on 23 June 2022, EU leaders granted EU candidate status to Moldova. With extensive support from the EU, Moldova is making gradual progress on the approximation of the EU environmental and energy legislation to ensure energy security and diversify supply sources, including renewable energy. The EU has supported climate change related actions in the transport sector as well, amongst others, by improving clean public transport in the largest cities and restructuring and modernizing the Moldovan railway sector. Moldova is moving forward on its low-carbon and climate resilient development pathway, with strong support from the EU and international financing institutions.



2014

- Association Agreement with the EU
- 3rd National Communication submitted to UNFCCC
- National Adaptation Strategy until 2020



2015

- Intended National Determined Contribution (INDC) 2016-2030
- COP21 Paris Agreement
- Pledge to Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



2016

- Biennial Update Report 1 (BUR) submitted to UNFCCC
- Adopted LEDS (2016-2030)
- Revised National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2018-2020)



2017

- Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) 2030 entered into force
- Ratification of Paris Agreement
- Third GHG Inventory submitted to UNFCCC



2018

- Environment Agency set up
- 4rd National Communication submitted to UNFCCC
- National Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System set up
- BUR2 submitted to UNFCCC



2019

- EU4Climate launched
- 3rd National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) (2019-2021)



2020

- Updated NDC (2021-2030)
- NAP 2 launched



2021

- Draft updated LEDS 2030
- Enhanced Transparency Framework
- BUR3 submitted to UNFCCC
- Ministry of Environment set up



2022

- F-gases Law adopted
- National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030" adopted
- MRV implementation capacity building
- Roadmap for Moldova alignment with climate acquis



2023

- Adoption of the Low Emission Development Programme until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation
- Adoption of the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme (until 2030) and the Action Plan for its implementation
- F-gases Law adopted
- Climate law designed
- NECP designed
- 5th National Communication submitted to UNFCCC
- Drafted Climate Law Concept
- Ministry of Energy set up

¹National Bureau of Statistics of the RM, Statistical data base

²<http://clima.md/lib.php?en&id=81>

³www.clima.md/doc.php?ro&id=82&id=5357

⁴<http://clima.md/doc.php?en&id=82&id=5801>

⁵<http://clima.md/lib.php?en&id=81>

⁶<http://www.meteo.md/index.php/en>

⁷National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030"

⁸<http://mediu.gov.md/ro/content/4196>

<https://mediu.gov.md/ro/content/consultarea-proiectului-planului-programului>

EU4Climate key policy interventions and expected impact



Moldova is working towards establishing a strong foundation for low emission and climate resilient growth, being the fourth country to submit to UNFCCC a very ambitious updated NDC (on 4th March 2020). In addition, Moldovan Institutions increasingly recognize the importance of adapting to new climatic conditions and pledge a strong commitment to increasing preparedness to address disasters and climate risks. **However, being a developing country, with limited capacity, Moldova needs additional support to national efforts through international financial, technological, and capacity building assistance.**

On 23 June 2022, the European Council adopted conclusions on the membership applications from Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and has decided to grant the status of candidate country to Ukraine and to the Republic of Moldova, also recognizing the European perspective of Georgia.



The EU4Climate Programme, co-funded by the European Union, aims to support the development and implementation of climate-related policies by the Eastern Partnership countries. The EU4Climate initiative supports Moldova in elaborating its long-term low emission development strategy and mainstreaming climate in the sectoral strategies. A robust domestic emissions monitoring, reporting and verification system will be established, to inform the government and the international community on the progress of its NDC implementation. Throughout the programme, the best international and EU practices will be applied.

Result areas and timeframe in Moldova

RESULT AREAS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4
NDC					
LEDS					
MRV System					
EU Climate Acquis					
Climate Mainstreaming					
Climate Investments					
Adaptation Planning					



The EU4Climate substantial activities started in Moldova in the second half of 2019 and laid the footing for a systematic implementation of the requirements of the Paris Agreement and the commitments of Moldova under it. Throughout the programme, the best international and EU practices will be applied, including some alignment with the EU Acquis included in bilateral agreements and the Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action.

EU4Climate Moldova: key results achieved in 2022



- 1 **Development of mid-century long-term LE DS**
- 2 **Introduction, when necessary, of robust domestic emissions MRV frameworks and strengthening of the existing ones**
- 3 **Alignment with EU Acquis included in bilateral agreements and Energy Community Treaty on Climate Action**
- 4 **Mainstreaming climate into other sectors, interinstitutional awareness (on policy and technical level)**
- 5 **Communication and visibility actions**
 - SEA procedure for the draft Low Emission Development Programme until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation has been implemented⁹.
 - A 2-day national training on applying Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) and verification procedures for the National System for Monitoring and Reporting (NSMR) greenhouse gas emissions and other climate-related information was organized on 2-3 June 2022 for 42 participants, representatives of the institutions that are part of the NSMR. An interactive training course on GHG Inventory for the energy sector was delivered on 31 October- 1st November 2022 for more than 30 representatives of stakeholders of the Republic of Moldova.
 - The F-gases Law was adopted by the Parliament.
 - Recommendations on climate change mainstreaming were formulated for the energy sector. **A national workshop on mainstreaming climate aspects into energy sectoral policies** was held on 24 February 2022 providing 40 government officials with recommendations for mitigating the climate change impacts on the energy sector. Additionally, a Guideline on consolidation of climate and energy planning processes was developed with the view to ensure the coherence of the national climate and energy policy framework developed in the frame of the Republic of Moldova's commitments under the UNFCCC and the Energy Community Treaty.
 - **Awareness raising campaign in social media** was conducted related to the **UNFCCC COP 25** (UN Climate Change Conference).



Future Activities for 2023

- > Development of the climate law
- > Capacity building on the MRV implementation by training relevant stakeholders on GHG inventory in the waste sector
- > Capacity building on the MRV implementation by training relevant stakeholders on GHG inventory for the LULUCF sector
- > Develop recommendations for improving private stakeholders' participation in preparing the national GHG inventories
- > Conduct national trainings/workshops on MRV for private sector actors
- > Development of the NDC Financing Strategy
- > Adoption of the Low Emission Development Programme until 2030.

⁹ <https://mediu.gov.md/ro/content/evaluare-strategic%C4%83-de-mediu-la-nivel-na%C8%99Bional>



Success story about the draft law on F-gases



The need to regulate fluorinated greenhouse gas (F gases) emissions is included in the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. Moldova is expected to adopt national F-gas legislation, in line with Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006. EU4Climate assisted the Ministry of Environment of Moldova with developing and approving the law on fluorinated greenhouse gases.



The law is designed to mitigate climate change and protect the environment by reducing emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases and taking measures to prevent emissions of f-gases throughout their life cycle by gradually reducing the import and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).



The proposed legislative intervention will create the legal framework for the reduction of fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate climate change and protect the environment as a whole. The proposed goal will be achieved by regulating measures for isolation, leakage prevention, use, recovery and destruction of F gases. At the same time, the law prohibits the introduction on the market of some equipment and products containing F gases with high global warming potential and gradual reduction of imported quantities of hydrofluorocarbons.

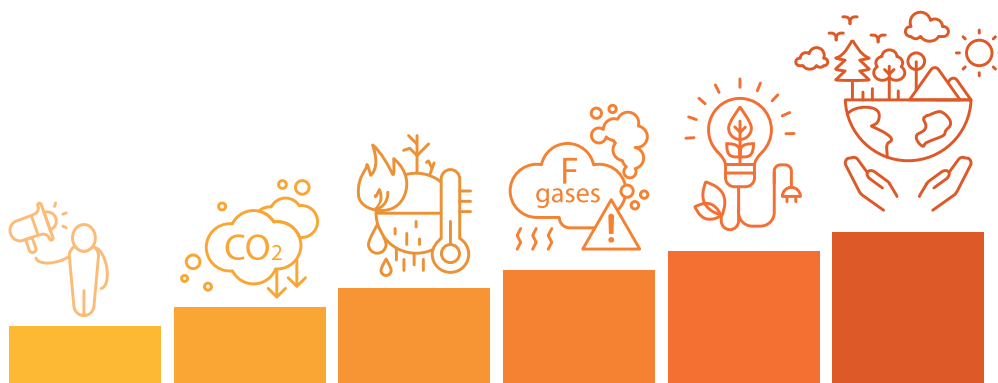


The draft law is expected to accelerate the greening of refrigeration and air conditioning systems operating on HFCs. In addition to environmental protection, alternative refrigerants such as CO₂, isobutane, propane, ammonia, etc., will also offer great energy-saving potential as available technologies allow a smarter and more sustainable use of systems using artificial cold.



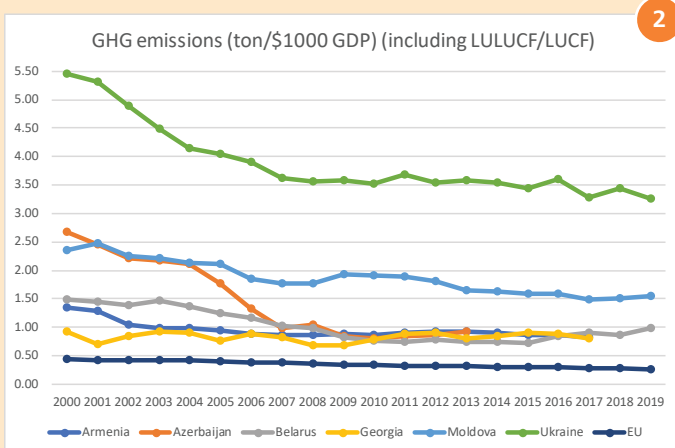
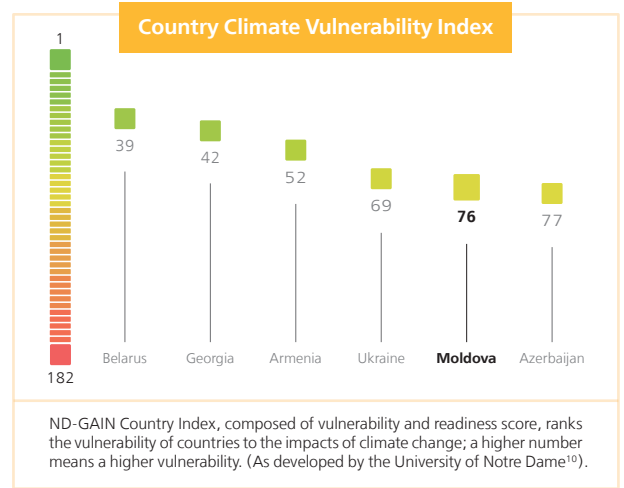
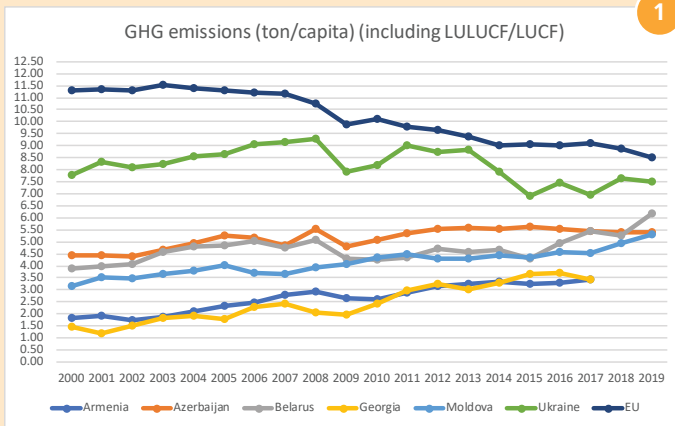
The effective monitoring of F gas emissions is essential for tracking the progress made in order to meet the emission reduction objectives. The Law of Moldova on fluorinated greenhouse gases was approved by the Parliament on 03 March 2023.

The Republic of Moldova is gradually switching to natural cooling agents, which will eliminate gases fluoridated by 2050.



➤ The **EU4Climate Programme** helps governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries to take action against climate change. It supports countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and improving climate policies and legislation. EU4Climate assists the EaP countries to integrate the low-emissions and climate resilience objectives into development policies and plans, to improve and consolidate climate policies and legislative alignment. Its ambition is to limit climate change impact on citizens' lives and make them more resilient to it.

The Programme builds on important achievements of past cooperation programmes, such as the EU's ClimaEast Programme, which supported Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and was completed in 2017. EU4Climate directly contributes to the targets of the Joint Staff Working Document "Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020 Eastern Partnership priorities", adopted in July 2021. The scope of the Programme was defined in cooperation with all partner countries. The Initiative is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. The European Commission provides the overall policy direction.




Partner Countries:
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus¹¹, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Duration:
2019-2023

Budget:
EUR 8.8 million
(EU contribution: EUR 8 million)

Implementing Partner:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Overall direction:
European Commission

¹⁰ <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

¹¹ Participation of Belarus in the EU4Climate was suspended as of 24.02.2022 until further notice.

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