



ECO-LABELLING OF THE PRIORITY GROUPS – PVC SUSTAINABLE WINDOWS AND DOORS AND ORGANIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

FINAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Concepts like "green public procurement," "sustainable development," "sustainable public procurement," are increasingly common in development strategies established at the European, national or local levels.

In this regard, the following terms can be considered:

Green public procurement is defined as a process through which public authorities acquire goods, services and works with a reduced impact on the environment throughout their lifetime, compared to goods, services and works with the same basic function which would have been purchased in the classical system¹, while the sustainable public procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.²

The aims of the implementation of sustainable procurement are: development of a market for ecological products and services which would lead to the improvement of environmental performance of services and products, as well as the technologies applied to obtain them; modernization of public institutions from the point of view of products, services and works whose acquisition would include, when possible, ecological criteria in the tender documentation to allow biodiversity conservation, reduction of the excessive use of natural resources, protection and improvement of the environment, prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, promotion of sustainable consumption and production, thus reducing environmental degradation while still promoting economic growth.

These measures are carried out within the project "Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP-GREEN) funded by the European Union and implemented with the support of OECD, UNEP, UNECE and UNIDO. UNEP is in charge of component related to sustainable public procurement, which is implemented to support three countries, and namely Belarus, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in their transition to green economy through the design and implementation of the sustainable public procurement policy.

During the prioritization exercise performed during the policy component of the project, two groups of prioritized products have been selected.

- a) From the group of products „construction works”, **PVC windows and doors** have been prioritized, because a well grounded legal framework already exists in Moldova, which addresses the energy efficiency in buildings. There is an Energy Efficiency fund that was created in this respect. In addition, there are local economic operators who produce and assemble them according to compulsory sustainable requirements.
- b) From the group of food products, **organic fruits and vegetables** have been selected, as Moldova is an agricultural country and started efforts to move toward organic

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Public procurement for a better environment COM(2008) 400

² Definition adopted by Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement „ Procuring the Future” http://www.unep.fr/scp/procurement/docsres/ProjectInfo/MTF_Flyer_A4_Ansicht.pdf

agriculture.. Some economic operators are already authorized to cultivate organic fruits and vegetables.

This report provides an overview of ecolabels that are currently used both in the European Union and at the national level, and an opportunity to apply them to both priority groups of products. The ultimate scope of the study is to define a list of ecolabels to be used for both priority groups, based on an analysis of the existing ecolabels..

The applied methodology aimed at analyzing the logos used on the markets of the EU and the Republic of Moldova for the certification of organic fruits and vegetables, as well as for eco-efficient PVC windows and doors.

CHAPTER I - ECOLABELLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS (FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)

1.1 Organic agriculture and organic products in the European Union

Organic farming, is a term protected and assigned by the EU to define this system of farming. It is similar to the terms „organic agriculture” or „biological agriculture” which are used in all member states.

The role of organic farming system is to produce cleaner” food, which is more appropriate to human metabolism, correlated in full with the conservation and development of the environment. One of the main scopes of organic farming is the production of farming and fresh and authentic food products, through processes that do not harm the environment.

At the production stage, the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their derivatives), synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, stimulators and growth regulators, hormones, and antibiotics is prohibited. At the food processing stage, the use of additives, additional substances and synthetic chemicals to produce organic food is also restricted. Organic farming contributes to sustainable development and business activities with an increased value added of and growing interest for rural areas.

An organic food product is, first of all, obtained from ingredients derived from organic farming. This type of farming has to take into account the following principles and rules³:

- To eliminate any polluting technologies in an unpolluted area;
- To use varieties and species with enhanced resistance to environmental conditions;
- To improve and maintain the natural fertility of soil;
- To use sustainable soil fertilizers, raw materials and ingredients for the preparation of food, according to the list of products allowed in organic farming;
- To prohibit genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and plants;
- To prohibit synthetic chemical additives, and namely, certain preservatives, colorants, flavors, emulsifiers, acidifiers, taste enhancers, thickeners, etc.

Farming food production aims to create sustainable, diverse and balanced farming systems and ensure the safety of natural resources and consumers’ health. The impact of organic production process on the environment is minimal. By taking advantage of media campaigns which have shown food additives as substances, dangerous for health, the organic products gained increasingly more ground.

For the preparation of organic food, no additives or other incorporated substances are used. The certified organic products are marked and labelled according to the regulations in the field. The organic products are only those which have a certificate of quality and bear the logo

³ “What is organic farming” http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/organic-farming/what-is-organic-farming/index_en.htm

of the certification authority on the package. It is important to know that not all products with a reference to „natural”, „rustic”, etc., can be considered organic.

The label of an organic product shall comprise the following compulsory references⁴:

- Logo;
- Name and address of the manufacturer or processor;
- Name of the product, including the used organic method of production;
- Name and trademark of the certification and inspection authority.

1.2 Regulations on organic/biodynamic food production

The EU and national legislations cover objectives, principles and rules applicable to organic products. These rules define the method of production in the vegetal, animal and aquaculture domains and regulate the following aspects regarding the system of organic farming:

- processing
- labelling
- trading
- inspection and certification.

EU Regulations

- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 on laying down detailed rules;
- Commission Regulation EEC No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991, on organic production of agricultural products and labelling.

1.3 Ecolabelling in the European Union

Ecolabelling or sustainability standards represent a labelling system for food and consumer products. Ecolabelling represents a voluntary measure used to inform consumers.

Eco-labelling systems have been designed first by NGOs. Since then, legislators of the European Union have become familiar with ecolabelling, and have created their own eco-labels, one for food products and another one – for consumer products. A high degree of consumer confidence can be achieved when eco-labels are used and applied by the Government as official certification marks (recognized as logos). Usually, these elements are approved as certified

⁴ Government Decision Nr. 149 from 10.02.2006 on implementation of the Law on organic food production (*Monitorul Oficial 31-34/199, 24.02.2006*)

trademarks, and the state department which is in charge of the approval, declares that the system has a standard and confirms the fact that these „are competent to certify”. The highest degree of confidence belongs to the certification trademark which is recognized by the government and complies with ISO key-standards, especially ISO 14024-type 1Ecolabel.

1.4 The European Union organic logo



The European sector of organic farming is developing rapidly. In the last ten years, the surface of land designed for organic farming in the EU increased on average by 500 thousand ha per year. At the moment, there are 186 000 organic farms⁵.

The European Union logo "Organic farming", which is also called "Euro-leaf", has been created to help consumers to identify organic products. Its presence on the product ensures the conformity with

the Rule on organic farming in the European Union.

The European logo can be applied to products which⁶:

- Are in full conformity with the conditions and regulations for the organic farming sector established by the European Union or at least 95% of the agricultural ingredients are organic - in the case of processed products;
- Comply with the requirements of the official control and certification system;

This logo became compulsory from 1 July 2010 and refers to labels for food products which are pre-packed in the European Union. It is optional for imported products.

In all cases, the label has to comprise the following information:

- Place of production of the primary farming component with the mark „EU Farming”, „Non-EU Farming” or „EU Farming/Outside EU”, with the possibility to mention the name of the country;
- Code number of certification authority.

National and private logos can be used in addition.

It is possible to replace the reference „EU” or „Non-EU” with the name of country of origin of at least 95% from the weight of the raw material.

⁵ According to data available on <http://ec.europa.eu/>

⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91

1.5 Other European ecolabels

Organic farming⁷



"Organic farming" is the national logo of Romania used to define this system of farming. It is similar to the terms "organic farming" or "biological farming" which are used in other member states.

In Romania, the control and certification of organic products is currently ensured by private **inspection and certification authorities**. They are approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development based on criteria of independence, impartiality and competence established by **Order no 181/2012** on the approval of Rules regarding the organization of inspection and certification system, approval of inspection and certification authorities, and supervising control bodies. The approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of inspection and certification authorities is proceeded, on a mandatory base, by their accreditation under the European standard EN ISO 45011:1998, issued by a competent authority in this respect.

Based on the controls performed by inspection and certification authorities, the operators who comply with the production rules shall receive the certificate for organic products and can label their products with the note „organic”. The label applied on an organic product shall include the following compulsory references: reference as organic product, the logos, the name and code of the inspection and certification authority that performed the inspection and issued the certificate of organic product.

The national logo „ae”, which is specific for organic products, is used near the community logo to supplement the labelling. This helps consumers to identify the products obtained according to organic production methods.

The logo „ae” is the property of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and guarantees that the labelled product is organic and certified by an approved inspection and certification authority.

AB (Agriculture Biologique)⁸



The national logo of France designed for organic products was created in 1985. However, the Agency Bio began to use and promote the label in 2008. According to Agence Bio Barometer/CSA 2015, 98% of the French know about the AB mark.

The organic products which bear this logo must contain more than 95% of organic ingredients and be produced or processed within the EU. They also

⁷ <http://www.madr.ro/agricultura-ecologica.html>

⁸ <http://www.agencebio.org/>

must be certified by one of control authorities which are accredited according to the EN 45011 standard.

As exclusive property of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of France, which defines the rules for use, the AB certification mark, such as the organic logo of the EU, it identifies the products which are 100% organic or at least 95% organic – in the case of processed products. However, its use is optional.

By delegation on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of France, certification authorities issue the labels for the authorization to use (brand AB certification). Agence Bio is responsible for the AB brand management. INAO ensures the protection of AB brand at the global level. In France, for restaurant activity – which is regulated by national specifications – only AB logo (not the European logo) is used.

BIO Hellas⁹



BIO Hellas is an accredited certification authority which was created in Bulgaria and Greece and which assures the inspection and certification of services for organic products based on:

- Rule EC 834/2007 & 889/2008
- Rule NOP/ USDA.

It also ensures the inspection of services for organic products according to:

- Naturland standard
- Biosuisse standard
- Demeter standard
- KRAV standard

BIO Hellas is a certification and inspection authority which is recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing of the Republic of Moldova. The activities of BIO Hellas are based on research and promotion of organic farming and development of inspection and certification systems.

The institute for the control of organic products „Biohellas” was founded in 2001 and accredited by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food Products as the Authority of Inspection and Certification for organic products (European Union Code GR-BIO-03). In 2002, it was accredited by the National System of Accreditation (ESYD) according to ELOT EN 45011/ISO 65 Standard as a control authority which may confirm the organic products.

⁹ <http://www.bio-hellas.gr/en/AboutBioHellas/tabid/61/Default.aspx>





BIO Hellas is an official certification authority in Bulgaria with the code BG-BIO-10 and a certification authority which is recognized in Moldova. Biohellas is a member of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) and HellasCert.

According to Organic Certification Directory 2008 (a special edition of the Organic standard), Biohellas is among the first ten inspection and certification authorities at the international level.

Other logos

In the table below, several other eco-labels, used in the European Union, are described:

Name of the eco-label	Logo	Country of origin	Type of organization	Application period
AIAB (Italian Association for Organic Agriculture)		Italy	NGO	1998
AMA Biozeichen		Austria	Ministry of Agriculture of Austria	1995
BIODAR		Slovenia	The Union of Slovenian Organic Farmers' Associations (ISOFA)	1997
Biokreis		Austria, Germany, Switzerland	NGO	1979
La agricultura ecológica		Spain	Governmental	1989

Das Bio-Siegel		Germany	Governmental	2001
Bioland		Germany	Non-profit	1971
Danish Ø-mark		Denmark	Governmental	1989
Estonian Organic Farming		Estonia	Governmental	1997

1.6 National Trademark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova"¹⁰



With the promotion and development of organic farming in the Republic of Moldova, the issue to identify these products has appeared. Due to the fact that organic food products are specific products, without the use of synthetic chemicals, they should not be confused with products from traditional agriculture, and thus require a specific labelling.

The national trademark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" was elaborated for the certification of organic food products. The ecolabel will confirm the certification of the product introduced on the market and its compliance with the production and/or processing rules related to organic farming. It will also build confidence in consumers that the products bearing the national trademark „Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova” are obtained according to the rules and principles provided in the community and national legal documents in the field of organic food production or in case of imports – according to a similar system, with similar strict requirements.

¹⁰ Government Decision Nr. 884 from 22.10.2014 for approving the Regulation on the use national brand "Organic Agriculture - Moldova"

The mentioned sign is an official element of control and guarantee, which confirms the fact that the process of manufacture of the product with the national trademark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" is controlled by inspection and certification authorities which are approved according to the provisions of legal documents and guarantees the fact that the product was obtained according to the requirements and principles of organic farming.

The national trademark " Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" shall be applied only on organic food products which **have passed the conversion period and have obtained the certificate of conformity from the inspection authority.**

The implementation of the reference of organic farming in the national trademark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" will allow to create a visual image for a food product obtained from organic farming with all the conformity guarantees stipulated in the provisions of the Law no 115-XVI of 9 June 2005 and subsequent amendments on the production of organic food production and Government Decision no 149 of 10 February 2006. The ecolabel guarantees that the farming product and ingredients which form the content of a food product were produced, processed and conditioned by an economic operator subject to the control carried out by an inspection and certification authority which shall be accredited by the National Accreditation Authority and authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing Industry.

The national trademark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" has been registered by State Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova under no 23231 of 09/02/2011 and is valid for 10 years. The data on the registration of the trademark is published in BOPI no 10/2012. In addition, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldovahas obtained permission of State Commission of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no 117-30 of 12/01/2012 to use the official name of the state in the product trademark.

CHAPTER II - ECOLABELLING OF PVC WINDOWS AND DOORS

2.1 Ecolabelling of PVC windows and doors

For windows and doors in the Republic of Moldova and the EU, the following ecolabels are used:



Ecolabels for PVC profiles which are produced with a chemical stabilizer based on Calcium – Zinc formula as standard for plastic profiles. Lead is eliminated throughout the whole production process. The green line profiles are not good only from organic point of view. They are also more resistant against the effects of external factors. During the

procedures of public procurement of sustainable doors and windows, they must be assembled from PVC profiles which do not contain lead.



European Conformity Marking (EC Marking) represents a declaration of the producer that the product is conform and complies with all the applicable directives in the field of windows and doors. For the majority of products sold in the EU, the use of the EC Marking and the conformity declaration is compulsory, even if it is namely the EC Marking which allows the access of products in the

EU. This is neither an approval mark, nor a certification or quality mark.

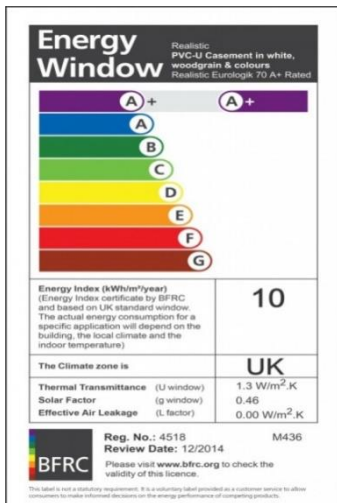
The EC Marking is a „sign” which shows the existence of the statutory declaration of the producer that the products comply with the applicable European Directives which allow the products to be traded on the European market, to move freely and in the same time, to be withdrawn when they are inconsistent with the rules.



Ecolabel regarding the recycling of PVC profiles – the presence of this ecolabel on PVC profiles is recommended, but shall be compulsory if the procurement agency includes this as a requirement within public procurement procedures of purchasing doors and windows which are energetically eco/efficient. It confirms that the PVC profiles used in assembling doors and windows can be recycled after disposal.



Mixtures and items with recovered PVC content – PVC profiles with such labels can be found in the market of the Republic of Moldova. However, some contracting authorities do not accept items with recovered PVC content within public procurement procedures of doors and windows.



BFRC (British Fenestration Rating Council) is the main independent authority in Great Britain which rates energy efficiency of PVC windows and doors. BFRC uses a well-known and favorite "A+" to "G" – which are similar with those found on refrigerators, freezers and washing machines, and represent the values for a rating system which have led to technical progress in the field of energy efficiency.



This is a standard with wide international recognition which contains compulsory requirements regarding the observance of the law and other applicable environment regulations. The ecolabel also represents the reference standard for the implementation of a system for environmental management recommended by the specialists of the international standardization forum. All these have the aim to support the organizations which are interested in achieving the objectives related to environment and economy, as well as the strategic and competition issues, by advocating protection of the environment and prevention of pollution.

An **Environment Management Standard** is a component of the general management system of an organization consisting of an organizational structure, planning, duties, processes, experience, procedures and resources which help to elaborate, implement, execute, revise and maintain the environmental policy of an organization. The implementation of an Environment Management Standard allows the organization not only to meet the expectations on the environment performance but also to control the costs and to comply with the environmental legislation and regulations.

The benefits of implementation of such a system are:

- Systematisation of all relevant environmental activities which reduce environmental risks;
- Improvement of environmental performance through the organization;
- Increase in confidence in the community, governmental agencies, banks, insurers and clients;
- Saving costs through a systemic and proactive thinking and action;
- Legal certainty resulted from the systematic compliance with relevant environmental legislation and regulations, which support its implementation.



this is a management instrument allowing voluntary participation of organizations which develop activities with impact on the environment (trading company, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority or institution situated within or outside the Community, a part of/or a combination, with or without the quality of business person, of private or public law, which has its own functional or administrative structure) for the community system of environment and audit management with the scope to continuously improve environmental performance.

The system was designed for the participation of companies since 1993 and was initially limited to companies from the industrial field. From 2001 under Rule (EC) no 761/2001 (EMAS II), the participation in this system was opened to all economic fields, including public and private services.

In July 2008, the European Commission proposed the revision of the EMAS Rule. The aim was to increase the number of participating companies and to reduce the administrative burden and costs, namely in respect to small and medium enterprises.

The third revision of the EMAS Rule was performed in 2009 (EMAS III). This revision allowed the extension of the applicability of this rule's provisions since it became available to all organizations whose activities had impact on the environment, both for those inside and outside the European Community. Participation remained voluntary and EMAS continues to apply a standard system of environmental management, as it is described in the ISO 14001 standard. Moreover, the new rule contains elements that emphasize the obligation to observe a consolidated environment reporting by using the key performance indicators.

The scope of EMAS is to promote continuous improvement of environmental performances through:

- Development and implementation of an Environment Management System;
- Assessment of environmental performances through audit;
- Providing information related to environmental performances to the public.

In the context of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Action plan for Sustainable Industrial Policy of the EU, EMAS is a model for organizations and leads to the optimization of production processes, environmental impact reduction and efficient use of resources.

The European Commission recognized that the ISO 14001 can be a cornerstone for EMAS. The requirements of environment management system, as defined in the EN ISO 14001:2004 standard, are an integral part of EMAS II (Annex II of the EMAS III Rule). However, EMAS III considers additional elements to support organizations in continuous and significant improvement of environmental performance.

Moreover, with regard to the requirements of the ISO 14001 Standard, EMAS claims the observance of the the following requirements:¹¹

- To perform initial environmental analyses;
- To comply with the law on environmental protection;
- To assure environmental performance and its continuous improvement;
- To assure external communication by providing environment declarations to the public;
- To involve employees.

As a recognized and used tool, both inside and outside the European zone, EMAS is more attractive for the Republic of Moldova, however, in other cases, organizations can use the ISO 14001 Standard.

All organizations that want to improve their environmental performance can apply for registration in the EMAS. The smallest entity from the structure of an organization which may be registered by EMAS is a site. An organization which has sites in one or more member states or third parties can claim a single corporate registration of these sites or some of them. Also, a group of independent organizations which have some links can be registered by EMAS. This may be done duet o their geographical proximity or trading activities which implement an environment management system (EMAS Global). The organizations outside the European Community can demand the registration in the EMAS of any competent authority from the member states which demand the registration of organizations from outside the European Community.

In order to be registered in EMAS, an organization has to perform the following actions:¹²

- To identify and prioritize the environmental issues, according to environmental criteria: water discharges, air emissions, noise, leaking into the soil and groundwater, waste, use of utilities, management of dangerous and noxious substances, etc.
- To perform an analysis of all environmental issues within the organization (one should take into consideration both the direct and indirect aspects related to the environment, activities, products or services, assessment methods, relevant legal and regulation framework, existing environment management practices and procedures).
- To adopt an environmental policy which shall include the commitment of the organization to observe the relevant environmental legislation and to continuously improve environmental performance.
- To elaborate and implement an environment management system. Based on the results of analysis, to establish an efficient environment management system (EMS) which shall realize the environmental policy of the organization aimed at continuously

¹¹ Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC

¹² Ibidem



improving environmental performances. The management system has to identify its duties at all levels, operation procedures, training needs, monitoring and communication systems.

- To perform an internal audit, to elaborate an environmental program which shall include information on the environmental objectives.
- To establish its environmental key objectives and targets.
- To identify the legal provisions and other requirements which regulate the activity of the organization.
- To assure an active involvement of employees in a proper and adequate organization and training, which would allow them to actively participate in the elaboration and implementation of EMS within the organization.
- To elaborate an environmental declaration. If the reference documents for a specific area of activity are available, during the environmental performance assessment of the organization, it has to take into account the respective document.
- To ensure the internal and external communication.

The initial environmental analysis, environment management system, audit procedure and its implementation, have to be verified and approved by an accredited and authorized environmental assessor who shall validate the environmental declaration.

2.2 Certification of PVC windows and doors conformity

For the first group of priority products in the Republic of Moldova, we refer to national manufacturers. For the second selected group – windows and doors of sustainable PVC – the PVC profiles are imported from Germany, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and China; the glass for windows – is produced on the territory of the Republic or imported, while the windows are assembled in Moldova. Therefore, the PVC profiles distributors import the profiles which are already certified by international certification authorities, but under Government Decision no 226 of 29.02.2008 on the approval of the Technical rule regarding the construction products. These profiles, as well as glass and windows as a whole are subject to mandatory certification in the Republic of Moldova as well.

At the moment, for the certification of conformity of the group of PVC windows and doors, the Certification authorities shall verify the compliance with the reference standards GOST 30673-99 for PVC profiles, GOST 24866-99 for glass and GOST 30674-99 for blocks of windows, and GOST 30970-2002 for doors. All these standards are intergovernmental reference standards.

GOST 30673-99 shall be applied for white PVC profiles, coloured, for frame windows and doors, as well as for extrusion products of a composition based on non-plasticized polyvinyl chloride, with high hardness and resistance to climate action. Certification authorities shall

determine the mass deviation for a linear meter, its thermal resistance, tensile strength, relative extent of rupture, resistance at corner joints and resistance to static loads.

GOST 24866-99 shall be applied for the double pane glass designed for windows and doors, fences, skylights and others. The certification authorities shall determine – besides the size and deviations – the resistance to heat transfer and tightness (hermetic sealing) and the dewpoint.

GOST 30674-99 shall be applied for PVC assembled windows and GOST 30970-2002 – for doors. According to these standards, the Certification authorities shall determine the resistance to static loads. Similarly, according to other state standards, it shall determine the resistance to heat transfer as well.

Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 226 of 29 February 2008 for the approval of technical regulation on the construction products was elaborated under the Directive of the Council of European Community no 89/106/CEE of 21 December 1988 on products designed for constructions (Official Journal of the European Community, L 40/12, 11/02/1989). According to Article 65 of the Rule (EU) no 305/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 March 2011 to establish harmonized conditions for the trade of products designed for construction works and abrogation of Directive no 89/106/CEE of the Council (Official Journal of the EU, OJ C 054 of 13.02.2015), Directive 89/106/CEE was abrogated. As a result, the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 226 of 29 February 2008 and Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 611 of 11 August 2011 are non-applicable.

Until 2005/IVth quarter/12, the approval of the Government Decision project " For the approval of Technical Rule on the conditions of construction products introduction on the market" (shall replace the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 226 of 29 February 2008).

The Rule of laying down harmonized conditions for the trade of construction products has been elaborated with the scope to implement the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 808 of 7 October 2014 " On the approval of the National plan for actions aimed for the implementation of the Association Agreement Republic of Moldova – European Union in the period 2014 – 2016" (Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova, 2014, no 297 – 309, Article 851) and implementation of provisions of Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no 16 of 26 February 2015 on the approval of the National plan for legislation harmonization in 2015 (Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova, 2015, no 52-57, Article 34).

The respective rule establishes the conditions of marketing or making available of construction products by laying down harmonized rules on how to express construction products performance regarding their main characteristics and the use of the SM/CE marks which is applied on the respective products. It is common for all economic operators who produce, supply or sell new products for construction manufactured at national level or imported; for conformity of construction products assessment authorities which test and certify the products; as well as for inspection authorities, investors, designers, contractors, owners and users of construction products which are to be used.

According to the respective Rule, when a product for construction is subject to a harmonized standard or complies with a national/european technical assessment which was issued in this respect, the manufacturer shall draw up a performance declaration at the moment the product is launched on the market. By this declaration of conformity, the manufacturer declares himself liable for the conformity of the construction products with the declared performance. In the absence of objective indications, member states assume that the performance declaration made by the manufacturer is accurate and reliable.

The general principles provided in Article 30 of the Rule (EC) no 765/2008 are applied for the SM/CE mark. The SM/CE mark is applied on those products for which the manufacturer has drawn up a declaration of performance under the Rule laying down harmonized conditions on the marketing of construction products. If a performance declaration has not been drawn up by the manufacturer according to the mentioned rule, the SM/CE mark shall not be applied. By applying or deciding upon the affixing of the SM/CE mark, the manufacturers demonstrate that they undertake the liability for the declared conformity of construction products as well as for the respect of all requirements provided in the present Rule and other harmonization and relevant legal documents of the EU, which refer to the application of the mark.

Harmonized standards are established by the European authorities for standardization which are enumerated in Annex I to the Directive 98/34/CE, on the basis of applications (hereinafter called „mandates”) issued by the Commission according to Article 6 of the respective directive after the consultation of the permanent Committee for constructions mentioned in paragraph 67 of the present Rule (hereinafter called „Permanent Committee for constructions”). Harmonized standards define the methods and assessment criteria for construction products’ performance with regard to their main characteristics. A harmonized standard represents the sole means used to draw up the performance declaration for construction products which are subject to this standard.

In the Republic of Moldova, the European standards are adopted beginning from 2012, but the certification authorities did not purchase the equipments necessary for testing PVC doors and windows according to those standards, since they are very expensive and, therefore, they continue to apply the above mentioned GOSTs.

The abrogation of Government Decision no 226 of 29 February 2008 on the approval of Technical Rule on construction products and approval of Rule laying down harmonized conditions for the trade of construction products obliges certification authorities to certify PVC doors and windows according to European standards.

In this respect, the first step has been made by the Testing Center which is part of the Institute of Scientific Research in Constructions „INCERCOM” I.S.¹³, which has the necessary equipment (European production) for testing double pane glass systems according to the international quality requirements. The Laboratory of the Center is equipped with the latest technology, ensuring the testing range according to the provisions of in force standards:

- Watertightness (SR EN 1027:2001, IDT);

¹³ Abbreviation for State owned enterprise



- Test of wind resistance (SR EN 12211:2001, IDT);
- Air permeability (SR EN 1026:2001, IDT);

Through this initiative, the Institute of Scientific Research in Constructions „INCERCOM” I.S. meets the demands of economic operators who need specific services of the highest quality. The renovation of the laboratory with modern equipment constitutes an additional stage of the process according to which the Institute wants to improve the degree of a deep study of physico-mechanical properties of materials and products used in the construction field in Moldova.

CONCLUSIONS

Potential of using farming-food eco-labels in the Republic of Moldova:

- From the information described above we can conclude that at European Union level, the European mark "Organic Farming" is used, which is also called "Euro-leaf". This mark is applied throughout the EU. At each EU member state level, national and private logos are also used, which may be applied in addition to the general European mark "Euro-leaf".
- In the Republic of Moldova, the use of the national mark "Organic Farming – Republic of Moldova" became very popular. It certifies that farming products comply with the rules and principles provided in the community and national legal documents in the field of organic food products.
- Therefore, the two eco-labels "Euro-leaf" and "Organic Farming – Republic Moldova" can coexist and may be used to demonstrate the respect of specific provisions regarding the ecolabelling of organic food products. They can equally be used for the procurement of fruits and vegetables within public procurement procedures.

In this conditions, according to the principle of mutual recognition, provided by the law on Public Procurement of Moldova, the national trademark "Organic Farming – Republic Moldova" or any ecolabels recognized in the European Union could be used by economic operators to demonstrate compliance with sustainable criteria.

Regarding the procurement of sustainable PVC doors and windows, the following conclusions may be drawn up:

- The PVC windows and doors items are not generally considered as ecological, that is why they do not have specific eco-labels (as the farming products have, for example). However, from sustainability and energy efficiency points of view, some ecolabels and sustainability standards which have been mentioned in this report can be applied.
- The market in the Republic of Moldova does not import already assembled PVC windows and doors, because they are expensive. Therefore, the energy efficiency rating of PVC windows and doors of BFRC (British Fenestration Rating Council) "A + " - "G" will be widely used in the Republic of Moldova and we recommend that it is being applied.
- Mixtures and items with recycled PVC content – PVC profiles with such ecolabels can be found on the market of the Republic of Moldova, however some contracting authorities do not accept items with recycled PVC content within public procurement of doors and windows.



- With the approval of the rule laying down harmonized conditions for the trade of construction products¹⁴, the certification authorities shall be obliged to certify PVC doors and windows on the basis of European standards.

Therefore, the use of ecolabelling systems designed for farming products and PVC windows and doors items could boost the sustainable public procurement procedures and will serve as an incentive for economic operators to develop in this direction.

¹⁴ Rule (EU) no 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 2011 to establish harmonized conditions for the trade of construction products and for abrogation of Directive no 89/106/CEE of the Council (*Official Journal of the EU*, L 88/5, 4.4.2011).



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