



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Project: Improving sustainable institutional and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste management throughout their lifecycle in the Republic of Moldova

Independent Assessment of the Closed Projects under the Special Programme Report (December 2022)

RESULTS

Overall Assessment

The effectiveness of the project was high as it met all the targets. The project contributed to strengthening legislative framework and institutional capacity of the country for chemicals and waste management by a) laying the foundation for the creation of chemicals registry and coordination mechanism, b) building capacities of relevant stakeholders on SMC issues, including the reporting under Basel, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, and c) developing regulatory frameworks.

Implementing partner:
Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO, currently Experts Association Promediu)

Agreement timeframe:
July 2018 to June 2021

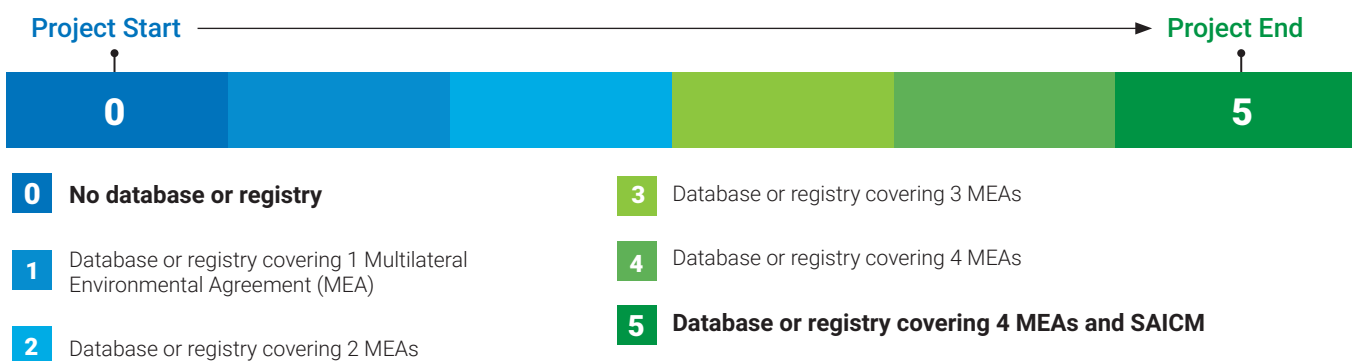
Budget: 218,190 USD

Results & progress by Core Indicator Criteria

The project covered six of the existing eight Core Indicator Criteria, namely:

Criterion 1.1: Level of development of national chemical/waste database

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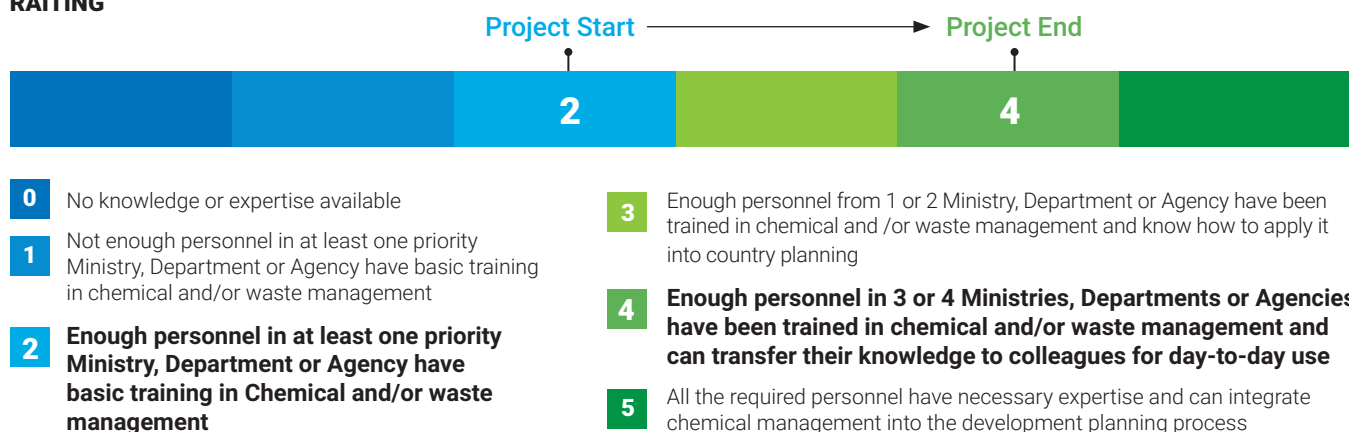


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- **The project laid the groundwork for the creation of a chemicals registry in Moldova.** More specifically, the project elaborated a technical concept on chemicals registry that was approved by the government in July 2020. The Chemical Registry has the approach of a “one-window” system that captures four groups of waste: a) those imported to Moldova, b) exported from Moldova, c) in transit on the territory of Moldova, and d) transferred exclusively on the territory of Moldova.
- The project also developed a software for the chemicals registry and conducted its functional testing. The software was created for covering chemicals under all the relevant conventions and SAICM and currently its maintenance is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MADRE)¹.
- Moreover, the project updated the national chemicals management profile in 2020 based on the working meetings and on the analysis of data collected from all the relevant institutions.

Criterion 1.2: level of necessary for chemical/waste management expertise

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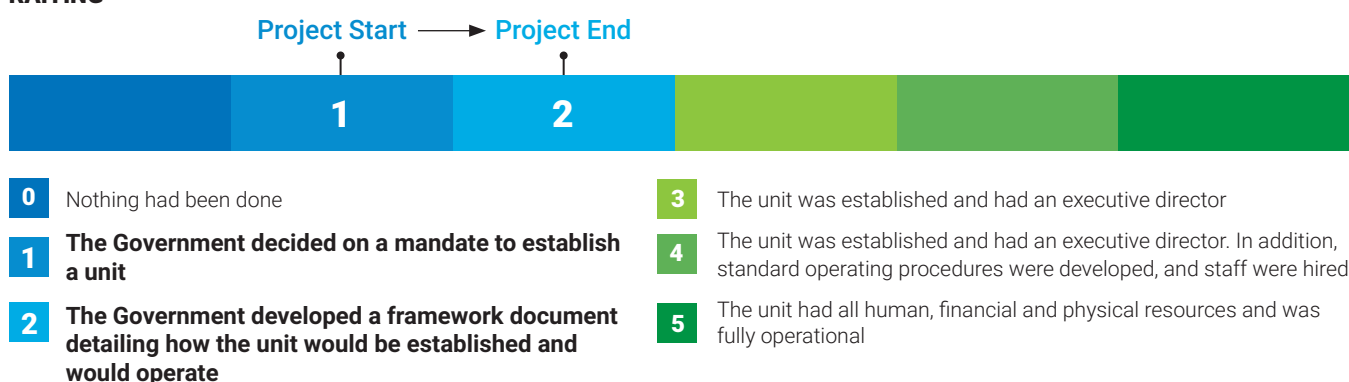


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

- **The project contributed to the increase of capacities of various stakeholders on SMC by:**
 - Holding the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings where its members identified and discussed chemicals and wastes related issues, reviewed project deliverables and provided comments (five PSC meetings were held in total during the project implementation).
 - Organizing a study tour to Serbia which, according to the final evaluation report, helped five participants from the government and business sectors to get insights on how the processes for chemical and wastes management can be organized, including institutional, legislative and procedural aspects. The visit also built the foundation for further cooperation between the two countries.
 - Holding working meetings and trainings for relevant stakeholders. More specifically, the project organized two working meetings with businesses representatives for the development of regulations and chemicals registry. The project also conducted the following trainings: a) two-day training for 50 waste collectors and recyclers on Waste Evidence and Reporting, b) three online trainings for 40 participants (including national and local authorities, farmers, businesses, NGOs) on agrochemicals management, c) two-day training for over 30 representatives from public and private sectors (one day for each target group) on environmental risk assessment, REACH and CLP regulations². This training was conducted by an international expert.

Criterion 1.3: Existence and level of development of chemical/waste management unit or department

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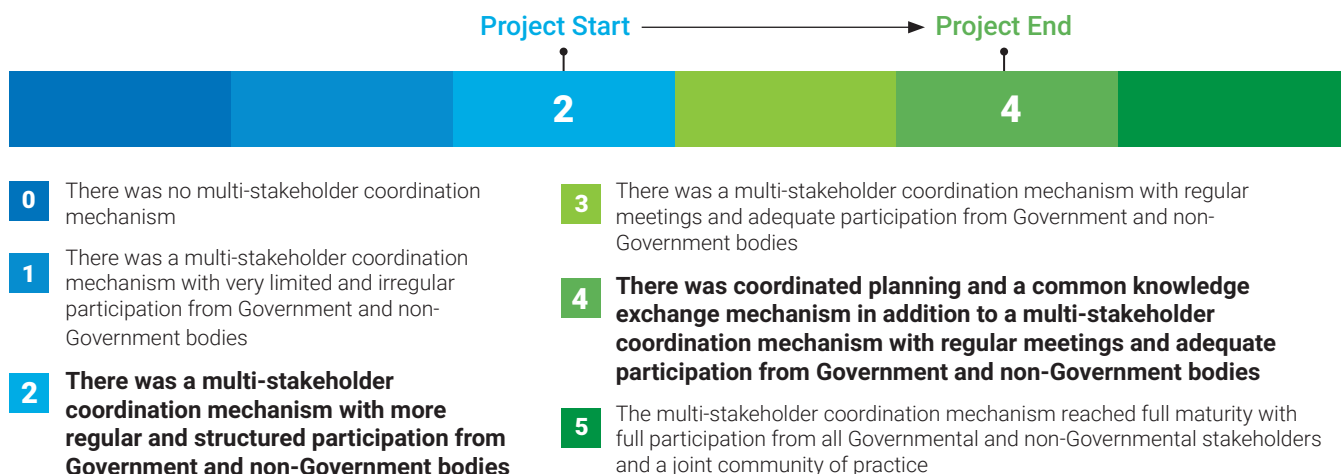


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project created the preconditions for strengthening the institutional framework for relevant MEAs' implementation by developing the draft regulation on the establishment of Chemicals Agency³ under MADRE. By the time of this assessment the regulation was not adopted due to the government changes. It is believed that the establishment of the agency will help with the national coordination of chemicals management and will provide a single interface for importers/exporters, manufacturers, government agencies and other stakeholders for the activities related to chemicals management.

Criterion 1.4: Level of development of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for chemical/waste management

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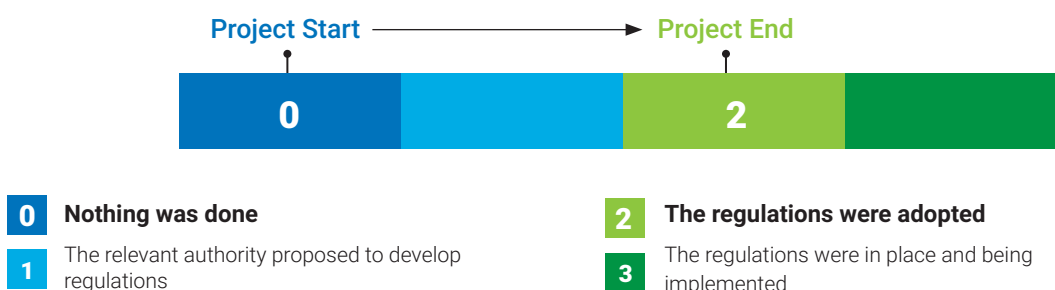


SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project strengthened the multi-sectoral / multi-agency collaboration and coordination mechanism for chemicals and wastes management through facilitating the establishment of the Interministerial Council⁴ for coordinating actions under all relevant MEAs. The key project stakeholders identified members and assigned roles for this national coordination mechanism, based on which the mandate was elaborated and approved. The Council members comprised of the representatives of public institutions, academia and NGOs.

Criterion 2.3: Level of development of regulatory framework/secondary legislation

RAITING



SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project strengthened regulatory framework required for the implementation of relevant MEAs through supporting the development of the following regulations:

- Regulation on the creation of the National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear, Radiological and Chemical Activities (see also Criterion 1.3) that envisaged the reorganization of the National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities into an agency for integrated chemicals management under MADRE. The project submitted and obtained approvals from different line ministries; however, it is still pending the approval from the government.
- PIC Regulation on the Export and Import of Hazardous Chemicals that was approved by the government decision in July 15, 2020.
- Regulation on Waste Shipment which transposed two European regulations: Regulation No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste and Regulation No 1418/2007 concerning the export for recovery of certain wastes. By the end of 2020, the project conducted the first round of consultations with line ministries and submitted the draft regulation to MADRE for the subsequent follow-up. However, the approval of this regulation was delayed due to the lack of expertise for the provision of necessary feedback. The stakeholders, including the project experts who developed the regulation, were not sure about certain provisions of the regulation⁵, and only with the arrival of the competent EU High-Level Adviser to MADRE, the issue was clarified. The mentioned adviser provided technical assistance in the revision of the regulation and its appendices, after which it was approved in 2022.

Criterion 2.4: Submission of reports to MEAs to which the country is a party to

RAITING



- | | |
|--|--|
| 0 No reports were submitted | 2 The reports were drafted |
| 1 Only the outlines of the reports were prepared (unfinished draft) | 3 The reports were submitted to the relevant MEA Secretariat |

SPECIFIC RESULTS:

The project contributed to improving the reporting under the Basel, Minamata and Stockholm Conventions by enhancing the availability and quality of data. More specifically, the project:

- Supported the Basel Convention focal point in preparing three annual reports for 2017-2019. These three reports were transmitted on time and the quality was considered good by the Convention Secretariat. As of October 2022, however, the report for 2020 had not been transmitted yet.
- Updated an inventory of mercury emissions for 2018 for the reporting under the Minamata Convention. This update allowed the assessment of economic impacts and of public health risks associated with the mercury pollution.
- For reporting requirements under the Stockholm Convention the project a) made an inventory of uPOPs emissions for 2016 and recalculated the emissions for 2001, b) mapped obsolete pesticide stocks using GIS platform and mapped the diffuse emissions from pesticides' applications, c) calculated the emissions of dioxins and furans for 2016 and revised their numbers for the year of 2018. Overall, Moldova submitted 3 out of 5 national reports under the Stockholm Convention. The overall quality of the reports was considered good by the Stockholm Secretariat. As of October 2022, the latest had not been transmitted yet.

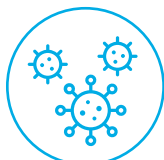
FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE



Gender: The project management ensured corresponding participation of women in its activities (up to 45% of project participants were women). Moreover, one of the capacity building events for importers and distributors of pesticides addressed the impacts of certain chemicals on women.



Socio-political factor: Frequent government changes following the February 2019 parliamentary elections and the constitutional crises of June 2019, delayed the approval of regulations.



COVID-19: Covid-19 hindered the conduct of in-person meetings/workshops in 2020. Online sessions in view of the project management worked well with the public sector, but less so with farmers and private sector.



Other:

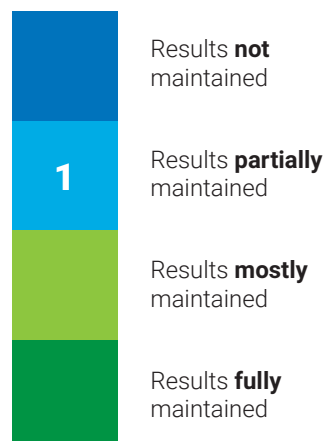
- According to the project's final evaluation report, the project implementation unit and employed experts had a good knowledge in the chemicals and wastes management area, as well as an extensive experience in policymaking and capacity building activities. This experience helped to incorporate lessons learnt from previous interventions⁶.
- Partnerships with the Ozone Unit and EU4Climate project, that are supported by UNDP, contributed to the development of Chemicals Registry.

SUSTAINABILITY

RAITING After the End of the Project

The project results are **partially maintained** due to the following:

- The functioning of the Interministerial Council by the time of the current assessment had been put on hold following the July 2021 Parliamentary elections. This was due to the constant institutional and human resources changes in the government. Once the changes are over, there will be a need to revise the relevant Ministerial Decree on the composition of Interministerial Council.
- The constant government change also affected the adoption of the regulation on the Chemicals Agency establishment.
- PIC and waste shipment regulations are being implemented with the support of SP2 project. The same project also supports the work on chemicals inventories.



LESSONS LEARNED

Well organized study visits foster learning and provide incentives for replicating successful practices. As a result of the study visit to Serbia, the capacities of public and business organizations increased in the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) principles. After the study visit the environmental agency participating in the study tour was able to incorporate some practical considerations into the new regulation on waste packaging, and the country has also seen an increase in the registered EPR associations on e-waste.

Access to specific technical assistance is sometimes vital to ensure the soundness of project deliverables. Two of the EU regulations transposed by the project required the EU's technical assistance, which was obtained after the project end. As a result, the relevant draft regulation was corrected later.

¹ The maintenance of the registry, according to the Law on Chemicals is expected to be done by the Chemicals Agency. Therefore, this function will be transferred to the Chemicals Agency once it is established.

² REACH (Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) and the CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging regulation) are the two main instruments of the EU chemicals legislation.

³ The baseline situation was that the responsibilities for chemicals management were dispersed among different government institutions with gaps in the provision of necessary measures and poor collaboration among them. The proposed function of the Chemical agency is the SCM / MEAs' implementation. Even though the regulation for establishing the Agency was approved by the government, the work for its establishment is still ongoing.

⁴ An inter-ministerial working group (IWG) had been functioning since 2006 under SAICM and different conventions, however it did not cover all groups of chemicals. The newly established national coordination mechanism was supposed to continue functioning under the Chemicals Agency upon its establishment.

⁵ The verbal inquiry with the Basel Convention's secretariat's contact person also did not clarify the issue (based on the interview with the project manager).

⁶ E.g. for the development of a system for chemicals registry or for building the needed capacities of relevant stakeholders.

