Furthering effective and inclusive access to information for green transformations

Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention

DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

70th Session of the Commission

UNECE

Policy Recommendations to support digital solutions for green transformation

UNECE

- The Republic of Moldova is chairing the Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention

- Novel [Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools](#) were prepared under the auspices of the Task Force on Access to Information, to support entire 2030 Agenda, in particular, SDG 16

Aim: raise public awareness of **product information** (e.g. through product databases, digital product passports, eco-labelling, energy efficiency and eco-auditing schemes and environmental product declarations), knowledge of **good practices and guidelines** related to green economy transition, **green procurement** and sustainable use of natural resources and reporting on SDG indicators and other relevant international and national targets

Policy Recommendations to support digital solutions for green transformation

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The Recommendations assist governments to:

- Promote inclusive and effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters using electronic information tools
- Facilitate the development, maintenance, upgrade and use of a nationwide digital environmental information system and enable measuring and progress reporting towards the achievement of relevant international and national goals and targets
- Support evidence-based decision-making and policy development; enhance early notification measures; identify emerging environmental risks and vulnerabilities; and support a multi-hazard early warning system

The Recommendations address major challenges:

- The modernization of the informational system of environment is not always a priority of investment in the general agenda of digitalization
- The digital divide, for example due to high connection costs and poor connectivity, lack of computer literacy; barriers for groups and communities in vulnerable situations, such as the elderly, women in some societies, migrants, people with disabilities
- The progress of digitalization is not equal between local, regional and national levels

Applying Recommendations on the ground: Electronic Information Tools for Environmental Protection in the Republic of Moldova

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Republic of Moldova is a Party to the Aarhus Convention, which guarantees the right of access to environmental **information** held by public authorities.

The Convention encourages the use of electronic information tools to enhance **transparency and accessibility** of environmental information.

The Environment Agency of the Republic of Moldova uses several **automated information systems**, including the "Waste Management"; Automated Information System, the "National Registry of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants" and the "e-Pescuit" Automated Information System.

Environmental Information

Shared by official platforms owned by state institutions (Ministry of Environment and its subordinated Agencies)

Shared by third parties: analytical reports/studies/data shared by CSOs to public, think thanks, associations, initiative groups etc.

Shared by state institutions National Bureau of Statistics data base + research reports; Annual reports of State Inspectorate, Annual Reports of State Hydrometeorological Service etc.

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Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

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Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) are databases containing information on emissions and transfers of pollutants from industrial facilities.

PRTRs enable public access to information on the environmental performance of industrial facilities and promote the use of cleaner production technologies.

The Environment Agency of Moldova maintains the "National Registry of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants" which serves as the PRTR for Moldova.

Ecoalert and Environmental Incident Reporting

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The Environmental Protection Inspectorate administers the electronic platform for reporting environmental incidents, "Ecoalert"

Citizens can use Ecoalert to report environmental issues, and follow up on the online stage of solving the problem.

The Inspectorate also participates in district inspections for environmental protection and requests the involvement of Police employees.

Transparency and Access to Environmental Information

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Moldovan public authorities are committed to ensuring **transparency and access to environmental information** through various channels, including their official web pages, Facebook pages, and telephone lines.

Authorities also maintain **registers and archives** of environmental information and provide written responses to requests for information.

The Environment Agency of the Republic of Moldova holds a **register in manual form** for requesting information, and **quarterly records** of requests are made public in the agency's annual activity report.

Conclusion

Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools assist Governments to **further digital solutions for green transformations** in support of 2030 Agenda

Republic of Moldova leads the Task Force on Access to information and is committed to ensuring transparency, access, and dissemination of environmental information through various **electronic information tools**

These tools enhance **public participation**, promote **compliance** with environmental laws and regulations, and facilitate the implementation of environmental policies and programs

Republic of Moldova's implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the use of PRTRs and Ecoalert demonstrate its **commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development**