

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS (DECISION II/3)**

Please fill in and return this questionnaire to the Aarhus Convention secretariat by
20 November 2006

Secretariat: Fax: +41 22 917 0634, E-mail: michael.stanley-jones@unece.org

Submitted by:	Petru CHIRILA
Title:	Senior Officer
Organization:	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Address:	9, Cosmonautilor str. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, MD-2005
Telephone:	373 22 20-45-11
Email:	chirila@mediu.moldova.md

1. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to para 9 (c) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Reports on the state of the environment are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ___ Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link www.mediu.gov.md, www.cim.moldova.md
- iii. Are reports on the state of the environment legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes ___ No ___
- v. Comments *Some reports on state of the environment are placed on the Web site, which are under auspice of international organizations.*

b) Texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ___ Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link www.justice.md; www.mediu.gov.md
- iii. Are texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes ___ No ___
- v. Comments

c) Texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ___ Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link www.justice.md; www.mediu.gov.md; www.cim.moldova.md, www.bsapm.dnt.md

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- iii. Are texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments
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d) Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation, where it is held in electronic form, is:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link: Possible to be found on the ministry's web site:
www.mediu.gov.md
- iii. Are environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation legally required to be available? * Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v. Comments * *We respond "Yes", taking into account, that national legislation contains concrete provisions related to access to EIA information. At the same time national legislation developed insufficiently related to SEA.*

e) Reference to where environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation can be accessed is:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link _____

f) Data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), are:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link _____
- iii. Are PRTR data legally required to be available? ** Yes ☐ No ☒
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v.

Comments * *The Republic of Moldova is not Party to the Kiev PRTR Protocol and actually has not established national PRTR system in conformity with provisions of PRTR Protocol. At the same time there is the established obligatory registration system on pollutant emissions into environment (covering only air and water) and wastes disposal, which contains the some elements of a PRTR, and which exists and functions in conformity with national environmental legislation and Law on Official Statistics.*

** We respond "No", because national legislation does not contain any provisions related to PRTR. At the same time national legislation contains provisions related to access to environmental information.

g) Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention is:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link www.moldovapops.md; www.bsapm.dnt.md;
<http://www.ozon-moldova.org>;

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- iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v. Comments

2. In your country, among documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6, and where held in electronic form, which categories of environmental information are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Applications for licences or permits are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable http://www.mdi.gov.md/main_grp_md/
- iii. Are applications for licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments

b) Draft licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable http://www.mdi.gov.md/main_grp_md/
- iii. Are draft licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments

c) Final licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- iii. Are final licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v. Comments

d) Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions are:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☒

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ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are comments of third parties legally required to be available? Yes ___ No ___

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes ___ No ___

v. Comments

e) Where it is not available in electronic form, a reference to where documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6 can be accessed is:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ☒ Not available ___

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable http://www.mdi.gov.md/main_grp_md/

iii. Is such a reference legally required to be available? Yes ___ No ☒

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ___ No ___

v. Comments

3. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to the paragraph 9 (d) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities, including spatial attributes are:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ☒ Not available ___

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable www.mediu.gov.md; www.cim.moldova.md; www.meteo.md

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ___

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ___ No ___

v. Comments

b) Product information that enables consumers to make informed environmental choices is:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ☒ Not available

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are such data legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ___

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ___ No ___

v. Comments

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c) Good practice information and guidelines on better environmental management are:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes___ No___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ___
- v. Comments
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d) Appropriate metadata or background information so that the methods, processes and standards of data collection are transparent to future data users is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes___ No___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ___
- v. Comments
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e) Meta-information including catalogues of data sources and details of the scope of information held by public authorities and mechanisms for the provision of access to environmental information is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available ☒ Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable <http://unece.unog.ch/enhs/wgema/>
- iii. Is such meta-information legally required to be available? Yes___ No___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ___ No ___
- v. Comments
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4. In your country, what proportion of members of the public has electronic access:

a) In their place of residence?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% ☒ Less than 20% ___

b) In their place of work (employment, school etc.)?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% ☒ Less than 20% ___

c) In a publicly accessible facility (internet café, public library, kiosk etc.)?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% ☒ Less than 20% ___

5. In your country, has the scope of environmental information that is electronically accessible since 2005:

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Generally increased ___ Partly increased ☒ Remained the same ___ Declined ___

6. For the majority of Internet users in your country, what is the most common form of Internet access:

Dial-up (telephony) ☒ Wi-Fi (wireless networking) ___ Broadband ___ Don't know: ___

Broadband is a term that encompasses DSL, cable and satellite high-speed Internet connections. DSL stands for "Digital Subscriber Line". Variants include ADSL, HDSL, IDSL, VDSL and SDSL.

7. Please describe any methods or measures that are used to gauge the level of actual use of environmental information accessed electronically in your country (for example, tracking of web traffic statistics on official environmental information sites):

The survey based on the private interview carried out at people houses. For this survey written questionnaires were used, containing pre-coded answers. The volume of the research is about 1114 interviewed people.

8. Please identify in the table below the
a) main users of environmental information in your country, and
b) methods used to assess their information needs.

You may choose one or more categories.

a) Main User	b) Methods
Government	Internet, Special electronic line, Fax and Tel lines, special workshops and meeting
Academia / Schools	Internet, Special electronic line, Fax and Tel lines, special workshops and meeting
General Public	Internet, Fax and Tel lines, special workshops and meeting
Nongovernmental Organizations	Internet, Fax and Tel lines, special workshops and meeting
Private sector	Fax and Tel lines, special workshops and meeting
Others (Please identify)	

9. If your Ministry or agency has assessed user needs for environmental information, please briefly describe how successful it has been.

Our Ministry did not carry out an estimation of the user needs of the environmental information

10. In your country, how is progress on improving electronic access to environmental information being communicated to the public?

There are the new materials, the new information on sites in the Internet

11. What concrete steps have been undertaken to ensure that information is available electronically? Please include reference to national web portals or other sites of interest.

A plan of measures on realization of the National strategy for creation of an information society - "Electronic Moldova " has been developed. Each Ministry has developed its site (in Romanian and Russian languages).

National web portals or other sites of interest: www.gov.md; www.justice.md; www.moldova.md; www.mediu.gov.md

12. Is public access to environmental information through the Internet or other electronic means provided as a matter of practice or is there a legally enforceable right to such access? If possible, please include reference to relevant national policies or provisions of national law referring to this right.

The law on access to the information

http://justice.md/lex/document_rom.php?id=3496BD3E:CA2A4725

13. Has your country formulated and implemented national "e-government" strategies for the use of electronic tools to facilitate administrative processes and services, to make public administration more transparent and efficient in providing available environmental information and dealing with requests for such information from the public? Please include relevant title(s), name(s), contact information of responsible officer(s) and timeframe for implementation.

Our country has formulated and has carried out national strategy of "e-government" for use of electronic tool means

The decree of the President of Republic Moldova N 1743-III from March, 19, 2004 " About creation of an information society in Republic Moldova " and Decisions of Government N 632 from June, 8, 2004 " About the statement of the Policy of creation of an information society in Republic Moldova "

National strategy of creation of an information society - " Electronic Moldova "

Contact information of responsible

Sergiu SITNIC – Director, General Directorate of Information Society Development , Ministry of Information

Contacts: tel.: 504-717; fax: 504-979, e-mail: sytnik@mdi.gov.md

14. In which types of environmental decision-making process (in the sense of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention) may public participation take place electronically? What are the main steps in the process? If possible, please give concrete examples.

Public participation does not take place with the help of electronics in any types of ecological decision-making processes

15. Have comprehensive environment-related programmes, including specific training programmes linking the use of information technology applications to the promotion of good environmental governance, been developed and implemented in your country?

a) Yes ☐ No ☒

b) Is the training programme:

i. Ongoing ☐ Periodic ☐ One-time ☐

ii. Financed through international assistance ☐
State-financed (National or local government) ☐
Privately-financed (philanthropy, NGO, private sector) ☐
Other (please describe) ☐

c) Please provide the date(s) of initiation and target audience of environment-related training programmes:

16. Please describe any measures taken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public?

Some ways regarding the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public already exists in the Republic of Moldova: through special projects offered by REC Moldova to NGOs, the SOROS Moldova Foundation, USA Embassy and others; also through Network of Internet Cafes, others.

17. What are the most important challenges and obstacles in your country to the use of electronic tools to implement the *Recommendations* contained in decision II/3?

Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country

Limited standardization of data sets

Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data

Limited market availability of equipment

Lack of technical support

High cost of online access

High cost of equipment

Poor state of telecommunication networks

18. Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node web portal? If yes, please identify the website address (url): www.cim.moldova.md

19. Does your country have a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node Administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node? Yes ___ No ___

Responsible for content management:

Name: VREDNIC Nicu

Title: Senior Officer

Organization: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

Postal address: 9, Cosmonautilor str, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, MD 2005

Telephone: 373 22 20 45 33

Fax: 373 22 20 45 33

Email: cim@moldova.md

Technical contact:

Name: Gutu Maia

Telephone: 373 22 20 45 33

Email: cim@moldova.md

20. Date of launch of national node of the Clearinghouse: (Month/Year)

21. How often does your national node administration update the National Clearinghouse web portal? Monthly ___ Quarterly ___ Annually ___ Never ___

22. Approximately how many resource entries in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>) reflect national content?

More than 10 ___ 5 to 10 ___ Less than 5 ___ None ___

23. What method of communicating resource entries to the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy does your organization or agency prefer to use? Does it submit information:

By email to aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org ___

By email to staff of the Aarhus secretariat ___

By email to national experts serving on Task Force ___

By email to Clearinghouse National Node Administrator ___

Using Clearinghouse's online form accessible to registered content managers ☒

Other (please specify) _____

24. Please describe any measures undertaken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the national node of the Clearinghouse.

25. Please provide any additional comments below.

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Information Tools	Relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention	Challenges & obstacles to ICT Implementation
<p>ELECTRONIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet • E-mail • Electronic Community Notice Boards/ Billboards • CD-Rom • Electronic data accessible through bar-code scanning • Electronic data accessible through touch-tone dialling • SMS – Short Messaging System • Public electronic information kiosks • Telephone Hotlines/Fax TV Teletext • Other (to be specified) <p>NON-ELECTRONIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures • Exhibitions • Green community reps • Info-shops (walk in) • Libraries • Newspapers • Open days • Posters • TV, Cinema, Radio • Other (to be specified) 	<p>ARTICLE 4, PARA. 1</p> <p>Response to requests for environmental information in the form requested</p> <p>ARTICLE 5, PARA. 3</p> <p>a) Reports on the state of the environment b) Texts of legislation on or relating to the environment c) Policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements d) Other information, to the extent that the availability of such information in this form would facilitate the application of national law implementing the Convention.</p> <p>ARTICLE 6</p> <p>Public participation in decisions on specific activities which may have a significant effect on the environment</p> <p>ARTICLE 7</p> <p>Public participation concerning plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment</p> <p>ARTICLE 8</p> <p>Public participation during the preparation of executive regulations and/or generally applicable legally binding normative instruments</p>	<p>INSTITUTIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country • Limited standardization of data sets • Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data • Limited interest in utilizing ICT among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data providers (you) -Data users (pls. Quantify) • Other priorities (pls. Detail) • Lack of time to explore/implement <p>ECONOMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited market availability of equipment • Lack of IT service providers • Lack of technical support • High cost of online access • High cost of equipment • Poor state of telecommunication networks <p>CULTURAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited expertise/know-how <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear rules, legislation on environment and informational responsibility <p>OTHER (to be specified)</p>