

PROJECT INFORMATION

State as of July 2011

Dialogue – Transparency and participation in environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova



Public participation in environmental protection in the Republic of Moldova
(Photo: Eco-TIRAS)

Background

The Republic of Moldova was the first country to ratify the Aarhus Convention in 1999. In 2005, an agreement between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova on its path towards EU membership was instigated. Three sections of an EU-Moldova Action Plan are devoted to environmental issues, including the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. However, between 2005 and mid-2011, the Republic of Moldova did not, for a number of reasons, launch further steps towards implementing the Aarhus Convention. There are two facts in particular which caused the Moldovan government to focus more on this issue: Firstly, the Moldovan non-governmental organisation (NGO) Eco-TIRAS, which later became a partner in this project, filed a complaint with the Compliance Committee, which monitors the implementation of the Convention by Parties; and secondly, in June 2011 the Republic of Moldova hosted the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. Both circumstances motivated the Moldovan gov-

ernment to set up a working group to implement the Aarhus Convention. The project followed on from the activities of this working group.

Project

The main goal of the project was to noticeably and permanently improve the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Moldova. In collaboration with the Ministerial Working Group, which already existed and was extended over the course of the project to include staff of the Environment Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, the Chancellery of State, the Regional Environment Centre of the Republic of Moldova and Moldovan NGOs, an action plan to implement the core pillars of the Convention (information, participation, access to justice) was developed. The Moldovan government adopted this action plan in June 2011. The project also developed two legislative proposals on access to environmental information and participation rights. Two complaint procedures about failure to involve the public, which the project supported as examples, showed that a participatory approach to environmental protection can still not be taken for granted in practice, but must be claimed, in cases of doubt even in court.

- Country: Republic of Moldova
- Duration: 05/2009 – 07/2011
- Beneficiaries: Governmental and non-governmental organisations in the Republic of Moldova
- Implementing organisations: Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU) (www.ufu.de), Eco-TIRAS (www.eco-tiras.org)
- Project number: 380 01 204