

19.11.2019

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT  
FRAMEWORK**

for

**MOLDOVA HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT**

**Developed by**

**Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova**

**Project Management Team**

**Chisinau, Moldova**

**2019**

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP-CL	Environmental and social management plan - Checklist
ESS	Environmental and Social standards
GD	Governmental Decision
GRC	Grievances Redress Committee
HEIs	High Educational Institutions
IDA	International Development Association
MAC	Maximum Allowable Concentration
MoECR	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
WB	World Bank
WWTP	WasteWater Treatment Plants

### ***Environmental and Social Management Framework***

*In order to address the potential impact of Moldova Higher Education Project, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed, which contains the national and the World Bank's requirements on Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and sub-projects to be financed.*

*The document describes in a non-technical manner the proposed project and presents major findings of the Environmental and Social risk analysis of the proposed Moldova Higher Education Project.*

*The document provides a summary of environmental and socioeconomic conditions and the how the proposed sub-projects could affect the environment and people. In addition, the ESMF describes what actions have to be taken to reduce the effects on the environment or people.*

*This ESMF will ensure that the implementation of individual sub-projects will be carried out in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.*

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## Executive Summary

The current developments within the higher educational sector in Moldova, its alignment with the key international treaties within the educational field as well as undergoing reforms that require the continuous assistance, all together call upon the Ministry to seek for financial assistance from the World Bank, as one of key supporters of the reform. Following this request the World Bank accepted to provide support to Moldovan Government in order to improve the labor market orientation of higher education institutions and the quality assurance mechanisms.

The proposed Project would be implemented over a period of five years, organized around three components, which are presented below, and financed by an International Development Association Credit of US\$40 million. The Project design includes systemic interventions in higher education quality monitoring capacity, financing and management, as well as a targeted program to be implemented by selected higher education institutions and pedagogical colleges to address some of their most pressing needs in labor market orientation. The Project components are described below.

Minor civil works will be financed by the Project and won't include the construction of new buildings, but rather the renovation of existing facilities to meet applicable standards. It would also finance the procurement of equipment and furniture for learning environments and teaching laboratories for these institutions.

As sub-projects to be supported are not identified during Project preparation, details on sites and exact scope is not available, an Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF) document is proposed for managing sub-projects environmental and social risks. The main goal of the ESMF is to identify potential environmental and social risks and opportunities and provide guidance on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential negative environmental and social risks and impacts caused by implementation of the project, as well as leverage positive opportunities when possible. The Framework provides the relevant standards, procedures, and guidelines to be followed throughout project implementation to ensure alignment with WB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the Environmental and Social Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Moldova for adequate mitigation of any residual and/or unavoidable impacts. The Framework serves as guidance in identifying and assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of subprojects, in preparing plans and documents that will summarize necessary mitigation measures to minimize or prevent them, and to provide guidance on environmental and social monitoring and reporting.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

Built upon the WB methodology, the present document entitled Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was specifically designed for Moldova Higher Education Project.

The ESMF is the methodological document, its content is critical for ensuring that potentially adverse environmental and social consequences are identified, minimized, and properly mitigated within further interventions scheduled within the project components/subcomponents, described further in the documents. Besides that, the ESMF sets out the procedures and mechanisms as well as the practical approaches to be used to ensure the compliance of the project activities with the laws of the Republic of Moldova and the requirements of the World Bank.

The present project **aims to improve the labor market orientation of selected higher education institutions and the quality assurance mechanisms.**

The **key stakeholders** play an important role within the proposed methodology, the spectrum of those is comprised of various state institutions and business associations, authorities at central level, including some academia representatives. More closely the stakeholders are listed under Chapter 9 of the present document.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MoECR) is the key central authority that establishes priorities of the education system as a whole, as well as the objectives of education by levels and profiles of education.

## 1.2. Main objectives of ESMF

The Project's ESMF includes the analyses of data collected, information and materials on environmental and social issues relevant to the components of the project, mentioned below.

Along with screening instructions, ESMF carries detailed guidance (and template) for developing site-specific ESMPs.

In the process of elaboration of the Project's ESMF it was taken into consideration what it has been done and the lessons learned under previous Bank's financed projects in order to formulate a solid foundation to the current ESMF. Relevant potential environmental risks and social concerns that may arise as a result of the implementation of proposed project and activities were identified and analyzed. The identified risks and social concerns were evaluated in accordance with all 10 environmental and social standards (ESS), approved by World Bank. During assessment a team of experts identified the main stakeholders and specified the appropriate roles and responsibilities of involved actors and parties according to the proposed project and activities.

For assessing the potential impacts of activities, the screening and assessment methodology was developed that shall further allow an environmental / social risk classification and the identification of appropriate Environmental and Social Framework instruments.



Based on the initial assessment, the outline of the required procedures for managing and monitoring environmental risks and social concerns related to the project were elaborated and proposed for application during the project implementation.

Another main objective of the assessment was to determine the training needs, capacity building and technical assistance required to successfully and effectively develop and implement the proposed project actions.

It is expected that according with the present framework the MoECR and its Project Management Team will be knowledgeable on the key due diligence issues to be expected within the project activities under the project and would have the capabilities and capacity to manage them in line with best available international codes of practice.

### 1.3. Project Description and Proposed Arrangements

The following PDO level indicators would be used to measure the outcomes specified in the PDO statement:

- Share of students enrolled in Bachelor programs that are in high demand in the labor market.
- The status of the labor market information system.<sup>1</sup>
- The status of the registration of NAQAER in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).<sup>2</sup>
- The status of the higher education management information system.<sup>3</sup>

Project structure and key components activities:

**Component 1 – Improving the Quality Assurance Mechanisms.** This component aims to improve Moldova higher education system’s quality assurance mechanisms, which would also contribute to improve its labor market orientation. It comprises three sub-components that support activities in higher education quality, financing and information systems (management and monitoring), which would benefit all public higher education institutions in Moldova. It would also benefit Moldovan citizens, including university graduates, who look for jobs and currently struggle with the lack of reliable information on labor market needs and job offers.

**Sub-Component 1.1 – National Qualifications Framework and Quality Assurance.** This sub-component would finance relevant activities in higher education quality, which are expected to contribute to improving the overall management and monitoring capacity of the system in this area. These activities include the development and revision of qualification standards in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework, and the improvement of the existing quality assurance mechanisms.

**Sub-component 1.2 – System Management and Monitoring.** This sub-component would finance activities

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<sup>1</sup> Status of the labor market information system: the end target is that the system is operational, and its data is used for planning and/or decision-making.

<sup>2</sup> The registration of NAQAER in EQAR is important for the recognition of diplomas issued by Moldovan public higher education institutions in Europe.

<sup>3</sup> Status of the higher education management information system: the end target is that the system is operational, and its data is used for planning and/or decision-making.

aimed at improving the capacity for the collection of data and the subsequent utilization of information for the monitoring of the higher education system. It would also help job seekers (including university graduates) and employers with the implementation of the Labor Market Information System.

**Sub-component 1.3 - Higher Education Financing.** To improve the internal efficiency of Moldova's higher education system, which would ultimately help to channel more public funds toward the improvement of this system's quality, this sub-component would support the piloting and implementation of the new financial model which includes a performance-based component that was developed in 2016.

**Component 2 – Improving the Labor Market Orientation through Targeted Interventions.** This component would finance the design and implementation of an institution and needs-based program (Higher Education Improvement Program - HEIP<sup>4</sup>) aimed to improving the labor market orientation of Moldova's higher education institutions. This program may primarily benefit public higher education institutions in the areas of **pedagogy, information technologies, engineering and health (medicine)**, as well as 6 pedagogical colleges.

**Component 3 – Project Management.** This component would support the day-to-day management and monitoring of the proposed Project through the establishment and maintenance of the Project Management Team (PMT). The PMT would provide managerial, fiduciary and technical support to the implementation of the proposed Project for its full duration. This component would also finance: (i) project monitoring studies or surveys, (ii) the required annual project audits, as well as the (iii) design and implementation of a project-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The project's GRM should be able to capture grievance through various channels including telephone and Internet-based applications for computers and smart phones. The results of the Project's GRM should be made public by the MoECR.

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<sup>4</sup> Though pedagogical colleges would also benefit from this program, it's called HEIP for the sake of simplicity.

## 2. Baseline data and information

### 2.1 Background data and information

#### Policy Framework

This chapter offers a brief analysis of the environmental and socio-economic situation in Republic of Moldova.

As core policy documents viewed within the project field of intervention, it should be at first mentioned the **nation-wise sustainable development policies**, economic development and innovation, education development, health and environmental protection sector development policies, anti-corruption and transparent public procurement strategies.

At **sustainable national policy level**, the following key documents shall be mentioned:

*Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part*, (ratified by Law no. 112 of 02 July 2014) covers activities related to transposition of European Union legislation on environment protection, chemicals and waste into national legislation and insurance of its implementation.

The education policy is formulated in the **Education 2020 Strategy** (for the period of 2014-2020) – approved by Governmental Decision 944/2014. The strategy is organized on the basis of three pillars: access, relevance, quality. .

“Greening” of economy and promotion of the sustainable procurements is reflected under the **approving the Program for the promotion of the "green" economy in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020** (GD no. 160 of 21 February 2018) and of the Action Plan for its implementation. Among the specific objectives of the Programme is ensuring, by 2020, that **at least 15%** of all public procurement will meet sustainable procurement criteria. The Programme sets measures to achieve the objective: update the procurement instructions, taking into account the lessons learned in the pilot auctions; elaborate a monitoring and evaluation system regarding the implementation of the contracts concluded following the development of sustainable public procurement.

The key policy document within the healthcare sector regulation is the **National Public Health Strategy for 2014-2020** (approved by the Government Decision no. 1032 from December 20, 2013) which is based on various international and national documents, which address the field of public health, such as, in particular, the Framework Policy of the World Health Organization "Health 2020", with the purpose of supporting the interactions of the Government and the society in order to significantly improve the health and well-being of the population, reduction of inequalities in the field of health, consolidation of public health. As a priority, the Strategy will pursue the implementation of the Post-2014 Action Program of the International Conference on Population and Development and the post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Under the procurement chapter, the main document is the **Development Strategy of the public procurement system for the years 2016-2020** (GD no.1332 dated 14.12.2016). The strategy presents the perspective of how the procurement system will become stronger and how it will gradually incorporate EU public procurement legislation into Moldovan law. Its effective implementation and activities to strengthen the institutional capacities, at the level of the central institutions, as well as of the contracting authorities, planned until the end of 2020.*

***National Programme on Sound Management of Chemicals in the Republic of Moldova**, (GD no. 973 of 18.10.2010) is the main document of long-term strategic planning, which determines the objectives of the sound chemicals management system until 2020. The Programme has been approved in order to reduce and eliminate the impact of chemicals on environment and human health by developing an integrated management of chemicals, technically, economically, socially and environmentally efficient and implementation of international treaties concerning chemical substances to which the Republic of Moldova is Party, as well as in line with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).*

***National Waste Management Strategy 2013-2027** (GD no 248 of 10.04.2013) establishes the strategic vision of waste management until 2027 as an integrated system, economically efficient and ensuring protection of human health and environment. Inter alia, the Strategy aims to promote separate waste collection and treatment for each type of waste, particularly toxic and hazardous waste.*

***National Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023** (GD no. 301 of 24.04.2014) is the main document of long term strategic planning which establishes the strategic framework on the environment protection, including protection of human health and the environment from adverse effects caused by chemicals, their stocks and waste.*

***Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2016-2025 (approved by GD no.1063 of 20.09.2016)** was elaborated in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 207-XVI of July 29, 2005 for the ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health at the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, signed on March 10, 2000, Law no.10 - XVI end of February 3, 2009 regarding the state surveillance of public health, Water Law no. 272 of December 23, 2011 in order to carry out strategic actions in the medium and long term for the achievement of the target indicators in accordance with the obligations of the Republic of Moldova to the Protocol on Water and Health until 2025 by establishing and achieving national target indicators by implementing appropriate measures to prevent water-related diseases, by ensuring the quality of drinking water and a more efficient and sustainable management of water resources.*

***Development Strategy with reduced emissions of the Republic of Moldova until 2030** (Government Decision no. 1470 as of December 30, 2016) is a strategic document that allows the Republic of Moldova to orient towards a low carbon economy and to achieve the targets mentioned the document "Intentional determined national contribution" through green sustainable development, based on the socio-economic priorities of the country's development.*

Also, this Strategy supports the achievement of sustainable development objectives, providing a national strategic context to the mitigation efforts for which the country receives international support. The

specific objective 1 of the Strategy is to reduce, until 2030, the GHG emissions from the energy sector by 74% (unconditional) and up to 82% (conditioned) compared to 1990 level.

**National Strategy on Energy Efficiency** until 2030 (GD no. 102 din 05.02.2013) and **National Energy Efficiency Program** for 2011-2020 (GD no. 833 of 10.11.2011) are key policy documents that look at measures that country will take regarding these future CO2 emission limits. It is expected, that in the next decade, 2021-2030, carbon capture and storage technology will have to prove economically viable in order to be allowed to actively enter the market, thus substantially altering the structure, values, prices and costs, of fuel for the latest technologies. Between 2021-2030, smart grid technologies and equipment will clearly prove to be economically viable and will become a de facto standard for the electricity industry. This type of structuring of the energy system will greatly change the existing approaches of the topologies, balancing, measurement, monitoring and energy mix of the system. All these changes will act in favor of the assimilation of increasing quotas of electricity from renewable sources.

**Program for promoting the "green" economy in the Republic of Moldova** for the years 2018-2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation (GD no. 160 of 21.02.2018), with the purpose to promote the implementation of the principles of the "green" economy in the Republic of Moldova in harmony with the economic development and social welfare. The key actors involved are SMEs, authorities and general public.

Under the social and equal opportunities agenda, the Government developed the *National Strategy on Gender Equality 2020 and a Strategy on Violence Against Women*. The aim is to response to gender-based violence through improving quality of services for survivors in shelters and day care centers has been effective but the number of facilities remains inadequate, as has the attention to the problems of male perpetrators and prevention of the violence.

In mean time, Government approved a *National Youth Development Strategy 2020 and a Youth Gap Index* tool for mainstreaming youth priorities, although there remain gaps in data and weaknesses in monitoring youth policies.

## **Environmental data**

The general information on the environmental data in Republic of Moldova is provided by official reports and bulletins, issued regularly by the competent authorities, along with the monitoring reports and ad-hoc publications of the various research organization and civil society associations.

Thus, among official reports issued by responsible state agencies / institutions, available on the key **environmental indicators** can be mentioned as follows:

- Daily update on air quality, issued jointly by the Hydrometeorological service and the laboratories of the Environmental Agencies;
- **Monthly report** on environmental situation, issued by Environmental Agency / Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment;
- **Quarter / semester / annual based reports** drafted by Environmental Protection Inspectorate, Agency, Apele Moldovei, Moldsilva, Environmental Agency, National Bureau for Statistics.

Thus, an important analysis of the state of environment on annual basis is reflected under the yearbook “Environmental Protection in Republic of Moldova”, developed by the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. The last report from 2018 states a range of achievements, challenges and progress made by the country in term of key elements of environment.

Also, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) provides annually a report entitled “Natural Resources” that also served as source of information.

All the data on environmental pollution is being collected, processed and disseminated to general and professional public by Environmental Reference Laboratories within the state institutions, that carry out systematic monitoring on the quality of environmental components (surface water, air, soil, aquatic alluviums, radioactivity of the environment) on the territory of the Republic of Moldova

Yet, there are still some data gaps on the state of environment, registered at present due to several reasons, such as insufficient reporting from economic operators, insufficient data analytical capacities and forecasting within the state authorities, lack of relevant laboratory equipment, etc. Thus, in upcoming future the country shall put a lot of efforts in order to create and develop a complex and full data base available to the public.

## **2.2. Overview of the status of the country’s environment**

The overall status of the environment is being presented at yearbook, developed by the Environmental Protection Inspectorate. The data is being analyzed by environmental media (air, water, soil) and key environmental performance indicators.

### ***Air***

The latest data on air pollution level within the Republic of Moldova confirms, that the emission of air pollutants is a leading negative externality because of its direct impact on the health of a large part of the country’s population.

Moldova is an agrarian-industrial country, and the pollution of the airspace from fixed and mobile sources is not uniform for the whole territory. The degree of pollution of the urban airspace is higher than the rural one due to the existence of major industrial enterprises in the cities, the thermo-energy and thermal objectives and the intense traffic of the car transport. Atmospheric air pollution is a problem that requires activities to determine the quality of atmospheric air and to prevent the harmful effects of economic activities on natural ecosystems.

The main sources of atmospheric air pollution in the Republic of Moldova are presented by the production of electricity at thermal power stations, by the heating systems of the houses, the traffic of cars, rail, air and industrial activity. The most important pollutants resulting from these processes are oxides of carbon, sulfur, nitrogen; suspended particles; formaldehyde; benzo (a) pyrene, etc. The biggest source of air pollution, however, remains fuel burning. Due to impurities present in the fuel, through smoke (incomplete combustion) or through oxides of nitrogen and sulfur, the air is polluted in significant proportions.

## Water

The availability of Moldovan water resources depends on the geography position of the country within the Central and Eastern European climate area. Currently, the national water stock, reserves – consumptions, from Republic of Moldova is appropriate in relation to available resources. Despite this balance, some regions of the country are facing a water shortage; mostly being felt in the last years (2012 -2017).

Also, the level of access of the population to improved drinking water sources has increased substantially since 2005 and is reflected in table no.1 (in%):

Table 1: Share of population access to all types of improved drinking water sources<sup>5</sup>

Year	2005	2009	2015
Total	45,0	55,0	86,0
Urban	92,0	93,0	96,0
Rural	17,0	27,0	81,0

The water pollution sources are most often categorized as point sources or non-point (diffuse) sources. The point-source discharges of municipal and industrial wastewater are usually known and supervised, and their pollution loads can be quantified. On the other side, non-sewerage dwellings, agriculture fields, as well as occasional or accidental spills have a non-organized character and are, therefore, difficult to monitor and control. In the Republic of Moldova, the major point-source discharges are monitored. This primarily includes the wastewater discharges of the large water users and the centralized sewerage systems. In the same time, data provided by the State Ecological Inspectorate showed that other sources can be equally or more dangerous for the environment (e.g. water runoff from industrial sites, waste dumps) than point sources. Domestic wastewater discharges from non-skewered population (70% of the total dwellings in Moldova) is another major pollution source.

Other potential major pollution sources are the filtration beds of sugar factories, sludge decantation beds of WWTPs, manure heaps, etc. Unfortunately, the environmental impacts of these pollution sources are not monitored. Lack of data hampers the sound assessment of the situation and taking adequate pollution mitigation measures to prevent further degradation of surface and ground waters.

Now, the urban wastewater treatment plants are in rather poor condition. Most of the existing facilities provide only mechanical treatment, while high energy consuming biological installations were taken out of operation due to unaffordable operating costs. In most cases, the existing treatment technology and even location of the facilities shall be reconsidered, in order to provide the required level of system efficiency and to cover a larger number of consumers.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr10\\_77.pdf](http://www.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr10_77.pdf)

## Soil

In Republic of Moldova land and soils resources represents 3384.6 thousand of ha<sup>6</sup> having the following structure by category of use: agriculture purpose; land that belongs to localities; surplus fund; lands for industry, transport, communications and other special purposes; lands of the forestry fund and for nature protection purposes and lands of water funds. The distribution of land as well the variations suffered in the last eight years can be seen in the table no.2.

**Table 2:** Land fund on 1 January 2016<sup>7</sup>

*Thousand hectares*

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lands total	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6	3384.6
Lands for agricultural purpose	1984.6	2007.6	2008.7	2008.9	2014.5	2024.2	2026.5	2028.3
Lands that belong to localities	311.4	311.6	312.1	312.2	312.8	313.1	314.8	314.3
Surplus Fund*	497.0	469.9	466.7	466.4	461.2	452.4	449.0	446.3
Lands for industry, transport, communication and other special purposes	58.5	58.7	58.9	58.9	59.6	59.4	58.7	58.8
Lands of the forestry fund and for nature protection purposes	447.1	450.0	450.9	450.6	450.4	450.4	450.5	451.7
Lands of water funds	86.0	86.8	87.3	87.6	86.1	85.1	85.1	85.2

\*Lands for community development of the localities and for common use

## Noise

In Republic of Moldova there are lack of data's regarding the level of noise in cities, as well in some specific regions (for example where traffic is heavier and constructions are taking place, industry

<sup>6</sup> Statistical Year Book of Republic of Moldova 2016

<sup>7</sup> National Cadastre for 2016



polygons etc). On the web page of National Agency of Public Health is stated that the pollution level in Moldova is 54.17 decibels being considered as moderate.

In Moldova, at the moment, the permissible norms that are regulated by the law developed during Soviet time states that in residential areas are 55 decibels per day. For night-time it is stricter - the maximum allowable norm is 45 decibels. In homes, the permissible norm is 40 decibels a day, and the night with ten decibels less.

### **2.3. General presentation of the social status of the country**

The information on the social situation is regularly analyzed and disseminated by the directions of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and by the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova (SNB).

#### ***The social dimensions of higher education (vulnerable and disadvantaged groups)***

Annually, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research offers 15 percent of the total number of places provided in the budget financing registration plan, for certain vulnerable and disadvantaged categories of candidates, including:

- a) orphan children and children left without care of the parents, who have the status of an orphan child;
- b) children with severe or increased degree of disability;
- c) children with physical and sensory impairments;
- d) children whose parents are both with disabilities;
- e) children whose parents participated in military actions for the defense of the integrity and independence of the Republic of Moldova, in the war in Afghanistan or in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl damage; the military, participants in post-conflict military operations with humanitarian character in Iraq;
- f) children from families with four and more children, who are in care;
- g) the graduates of high schools and Colleges s from the eastern localities of the Republic of Moldova and from the municipality of Bender, who studied according to the educational programs approved by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova;
- h) Roma communities;
- i) young people who have performed the military service on time.

At the rate of 15% (or about 736) of the total number of places provided for the budget financing admission plan, priority was given, according to the established rules, to orphans and children left without the care of parents with orphans' status and children with severe or accentuated disability. Enrollment in the remaining places not covered by this quota is done in descending order of the means of competition of the rest of the candidates who have registered for this quota, regardless of category.

Currently, 23 young people with locomotor disabilities are registered in 6 state higher education institutions. Over the last 4 years, over 300 people with disabilities have benefited from higher education, and this number is expected to raise through the project activities, including through component 1. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) applicable to the project will ensure awareness raising and outreach to stakeholders in a socially inclusive manner.

## 3. National Legal and regulatory Framework

### 3.1. Relevant National Laws and Regulations

The *Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States and the Republic of Moldova* was signed on June 27, 2014. The Agreement was ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on July 2, 2014 and by the European Parliament on November 13, 2014.

Following the signature of *the Agreement*, the country committed to implement the relevant environmental legislation of the European Union into its national legal system by adopting or changing national legislation, regulations and procedures aiming at political association and economic integration with the EU.

The Association Agreement includes binding provisions, regulatory norms and broader cooperation arrangements in all sectors of interest. Therefore, the EU directives have become directly relevant to all aspects of green city development and are discussed separately per sector and key issue.

The achievement of commitments started with the adoption of the *National Implementation Plan of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement for 2014-2016 by Government Decision 808/2014*.

### 3.2. Overview of Key National Environmental Legal Provisions

The Republic of Moldova is characterized by a new legislative base, that most of it was harmonized with EU *acquis communautaire* according with Association Agreement. Some of the main laws related to the project proposal and activities that will be implemented are indicated below:

- Constitution of the Republic of Moldova (1994);
- Law on the Environmental Protection no.1515-XII of June 16 (1993);
- Law on Ecological Expertise no. 851-XIII of 29.05.1996;
- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment no.86 of 29.05.2014;
- The Water Law no. 272 of 23.12.2012;
- Land Code (1991) 828-XII of 25.12.91;
- Law on Drinking Water no.272-XIV of February 10 (1999);
- Law on State Supervision of Public Health, no.10-XVI of February 03, 2009;
- The Law on the Fund of Natural Areas Protected by the State, no. 1538-XIII of 25 February 1998;

Other laws relevant for this project are:

- Law on accreditation and conformity assessment activities no. 235 of 01.12.2011;
- Law on Quality in Construction (no. 721 of February 02, 1996);
- Law on Construction Works authorizations, no.163 of July 09, 2010;
- Law on access to information (982-XIV of 11.05.2000);
- Law on Town-planning and Territorial Development, no. 835, 1996;
- Law on Wastes no. 209 of 29.07.2016;

- Law on chemicals no 277 of 29.11.2018
- Law on Air Protection (1422- XIII of 17.12.97).

The Governmental Decisions and Instructions:

- Construction Norms and Regulations (SNiP 2.04.01-04-85) ;
- Governmental Decision on Standard provisions on use of water supply and sewerage systems communal (2002);
- Governmental Decision regarding Concept of sustainable development of cities and towns in Republic of Moldova (2002);
- Sanitary Rules on atmospheric air prevention in localities (1998);
- Governmental Decision on increasing of exploitation safety of buildings and constructions, installations and pipelines which are sources of a heightened risk (1996);

The general evaluation of the legal acts and its relevancy to MHEP are indicate in table no.5 below.

<i>Title</i>	<i>General overview</i>	<i>Relevancy with the project</i>
Law on the Environmental Protection no.1515-XII of June 16 (1993);	establishes the basic legal framework for drafting special normative acts and instructions issues of environmental protection.	basic rules regarding air quality conditions, rights and duties of each actor with activities with potential impact to environment;
Law on Ecological Expertise no. 851-XIII of 29.05.1996;	determines goals, objectives and principles of State Ecological Expertise (SEE), as well as basics of procedure.	the list and procedure for the small economical activities that are subject of ecological expertise;
Law on Environmental Impact Assessment no. 86 of 29.05.2014;	establishes the goal of preparing documentation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), its procedure, coordination and approval, and includes the List of objects and types of activities for which an EIA is compulsory prior to their design.	not relevant, because project will not support any big infrastructure measures;
Law no.591 on Green Spaces of the Urban and Rural Localities (1999)	regulates relations in the field of development and protection of green spaces in urban and rural localities in order to ensure the right of each individual to a healthy and aesthetic environment.	the identification and delineation of the green areas nearby the educational institutions;
The Water Law no.. 272 of 23.12.2012;	partially harmonized with EU directives in the field of water policy, establishes the legal framework necessary for the water management, protection and use.	could be relevant if for the laboratories will be necessary to apply for the water authorizations, in other cases is not relevant;

Land Code (1991) 828-XII of 25.12.91;	establishes the relations and rights of land ownership and the basic framework of land use.	for establishing the procedures, duties and obligations under administration of the land;
Law on State Supervision of Public Health, no.10-XVI of February 03, 2009;	The Purpose of this law is providing optimum conditions for the maximum realization of potential of health of everyone throughout all life by means of organized efforts of society on the prevention of diseases, protection and promotion of health of the population, improvement of quality of life.	relevant for the indoor air quality and drinking water quality, as well as quality of products used in education institutions;
The Law on the Fund of Natural Areas Protected by the State, no. 1538-XIII of 25 February 1998;	establishes the legal bases for the creation and functioning of the state-protected natural areas fund.	will be relevant if on the territory of educational institution any protected area exists;
Law on accreditation and conformity assessment activities no. 235 of 01.12.2011;	This Law establishes the legal framework for the accreditation activity of conformity assessment bodies, made with mandatory or voluntary title, for product placement on market and for conformity assessment activities, regardless of the fact that this evaluation is mandatory or not for products marketed and /or used in the Republic of Moldova.	will be relevant if the institutions will implement projects for improving technical, methodological and material part of the laboratory activities, the accreditation process should be in place
Law on Quality in Construction (no. 721 of February 02, 1996);	The provisions of this law are applied to construction and related facilities, hereinafter referred to as the building industry, in the design, construction and building, as well as in the stages of exploitation and interventions to existing buildings and post-utilization them, regardless of their form of ownership, destination, category and class or source of funding, in order to protect people's lives their goods, society and the environment.	will be relevant for the small civil works;
Law on authorization of the executing the construction Works, no.163 of July 09,	The provisions of the law are mandatory for authorizing the execution of constructions of any kind, category, destination and type of property, except for objects of a military or secret character,	will be relevant for the small civil works, if will be according with criteria provided by Law;

2010;	which are specifically authorized.	
Law on access to information (no. 982-XIV of 11.05.2000);	This Law shall govern the rights of access to information of public importance held by public authorities, with a view to exercising and protecting the public interest to know and attaining a free democratic order and an open society	relevant for ensuring active and passive way of disseminating information about implementation of the project and small civil work executed under the project;
Law on Wastes no. 209 of 29.07.2016;	The Law sees that waste management methods will not endanger the environment, peoples' health and other living organisms. Authorities in charge are authorizing waste collecting, transportation, exploitation and disposal activities, avoiding water, soil, flora, fauna, phonic and air pollution. New methods must not endanger landscapes or protected areas.	relevant for ensuring the waste management at the level of each institution for toxic waste, electric and electronic waste equipment for the solid waste;
Law on Air Protection (no. 1422- XIII of 17.12.97).	The Law has the objective to maintaining the air quality and improving the air quality - component of the environment, preventing and reducing the adverse effects of physical, chemical, biological, radioactive and other factors on the atmosphere, with adverse consequences for the population and /or the environment, and regulates the activity of individuals and legal entities, irrespective of type of ownership and legal form of organization, when he/she directly or indirectly affects or may affect the air quality.	relevant for ensuring the air quality for the activities connected with small civil works and also for ensuring the legal requirements for noise during small civil work and exploitation of the equipment from laboratory.

### 3.3. Overview of Key National Social Legal Provisions

In respect of the provisions of Constitution and for stronger implementation Parliament adopted few Laws relevant for the social component, as:

**Law on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**, no. 60 of 30.03.2012 - regulates the rights of persons with disabilities for their social inclusion, guaranteeing the possibility of their participation in all areas of life without discrimination, at a level identical to the other members of the society, having as a basis the respect of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

**Law regarding the promotion of employment and unemployment insurance**, no. 105 from 14.06.2018 - the purpose of this law is to prevent and reduce unemployment and its social effects, reduce

the risk of unemployment and ensure a high level of employment and adapting to the demands of the labor market.

**Law on Social Services, no. 123 of 18.06.2010** - establishes the general framework for the creation and functioning of the integrated system of social services, with the determination of the tasks and responsibilities of the central and local public administration authorities, of other legal and natural persons empowered to provide and provide social services, as well as the protection of the rights of the beneficiaries of social services.

**Law on ensuring equal opportunities between women and men** no. 5-XVI from 09.02.2006 - the purpose of this law is to ensure the exercise of their equal rights by women and men in the political, economic, social, cultural, other spheres of life, rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination according to the gender criteria. The law also introduces the notion of affirmative actions.

### 3.4. Relevant Institutions

#### 3.4.1. Environmental Assessment Administrative/Institutional Framework

In the last years, environmental policies and management practices in Moldova have been under continuous changes. Even though these changes were more on institutional level their impact on the state of environment have been essential. One of the important instruments that influenced on the development of the environmental field in Republic of Moldova is the Association Agreement signed with European Union. By this, Moldova must implement a reform agenda based around a comprehensive program for approximation of its environmental (and not only) legislation to EU norms.

Thus, in order to carry out the institutional reform and the capacity building in the environmental sector, have been created the **Environmental Agency and Inspectorate for Environmental Protection**, both institutions being functional.

At central level the **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment**<sup>8</sup> elaborates and implements public policies in the areas of competence (agriculture, food production; food safety; regional and rural development; spatial planning; environmental protection and climate change; natural resources).

**Environmental Agency**<sup>9</sup> is an administrative authority subordinated<sup>9</sup> to the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, responsible for the implementation of state policy in the following areas of activity:

1. prevention of environmental pollution;
2. protection of atmospheric air and climate change;
3. protection and regulation of the use of water resources;
4. the protection and regulation of the use of the animal and plant kingdom, of the aquatic biological resources;
5. conservation of biodiversity and management of natural areas protected by the state;

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<sup>8</sup> GD nr. 695/2017 on MoARDE regulation <http://lex.justice.md/md/371190/>

<sup>9</sup> GH nr. 549 of 13.06.2018 on Environmental Agency Regulation <http://lex.justice.md/md/375961/>

6. waste management;
7. biosecurity.

**Inspectorate on Environmental Protection**<sup>10</sup> - is organized and functions as an administrative authority under the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment empowered to carry out **state supervision and control** in the field of environmental protection and use of natural resources.

#### **3.4.2. Social and Administrative/Institutional framework**

*Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection* has the mission to analyze the situation and the problems in the areas of health, work, social protection and demographics, to elaborate efficient public policies in the fields, to monitor the quality of the policies and normative acts and to propose justified interventions of the state that will offer effective solutions in the areas of competence, ensuring the best ratio between the expected results and the expected costs.

The Ministry has under its subordination a range of agencies and institutions, that has as aim to implement the policy promoted by the Ministry. The institutions related to the social field, can be mentioned:

*National Agency for Employment* is the administrative authority subordinated to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, empowered to ensure the implementation of the policy in the field of promoting employment, labor migration and unemployment insurance. Agency's mission is to increase the employment opportunities of people looking for a job and supports employers in identifying the skilled workforce and creating new jobs.

*State Labor Inspectorate* is an administrative authority, which is empowered with the right to exercise state control over compliance with legislative acts and other normative acts in the field of work, safety and health at work.

Social Inspection has the mission of inspecting the correct and unitary application of the laws and other normative acts that regulate the granting of the social aid, the aid for the cold period of the year and the social services.

*The National Social Assistance Agency* is an administrative authority subordinated to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection. The Agency's mission is to increase the quality of the social assistance granted to the population by implementing the state policy in the field of social assistance.

*The National Council for Accreditation of Social Service Providers* is an administrative authority within the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, which has the mission to certify the capacity of social service providers, regardless of the type of property, the legal form of organization and administrative subordination and to provide qualitative social services.

*The National Council for the Determination of Disability and Capacity of Work* has the mission to ensure the fulfillment of the provisions of the normative acts in force regarding the determination of the

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<sup>10</sup> GD nr. 548 of 13.06.2018 on Environmental Protection Inspectorate Regulation <http://lex.justice.md/md/375960/>

disability and the capacity of work, having as final objectives the social inclusion of the persons with disabilities.

*Temporary placement center for elderly, children and people with disabilities (from few localities), as well Center for assistance and protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings* that represents institution of social assistance and rehabilitation / recovery from the management of the National Agency for Social Assistance.



## 4. Relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESS)

The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework sets out the World Bank's commitment to sustainable development, through a Bank Policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards that are designed to support Borrowers' projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.

The Environmental and Social Standards<sup>11</sup> (ESS) set out the requirements for Borrowers relating to the identification and assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with projects supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing. The Bank believes that the application of these standards, by focusing on the identification and management of environmental and social risks, will support Borrowers in their goal to reduce poverty and increase prosperity in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the environment and their citizens.

The standards will:

- (a) support Borrowers/Clients in achieving good international practice relating to environmental and social sustainability;
- (b) assist Borrowers/Clients in fulfilling their national and international environmental and social obligations;
- (c) enhance nondiscrimination, transparency, participation, accountability and governance;
- (d) enhance the sustainable development outcomes of projects through ongoing stakeholder engagement

The following five Environmental and Social Standards establish the standards that the Borrower and the project will meet through the project life cycle, as follows:

### 4.1 ESS 1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

ESS1 sets out the Client's responsibilities for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a project supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing, in order to achieve environmental and social outcomes consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

The environmental and social assessment will be based on current information, including a description and delineation of the project and any associated aspects, and environmental and social baseline data at an appropriate level of detail sufficient to inform characterization and identification of risks and impacts and mitigation measures. The assessment will evaluate the project's potential environmental and social risks and impacts, with a particular attention to those that may fall disproportionately on disadvantaged and/or vulnerable social groups; examine project alternatives; identify ways of improving project selection, siting, planning, design and implementation in order to apply the mitigation hierarchy for adverse environmental and social impacts and seek opportunities to enhance the positive impacts of the project.

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<sup>11</sup> [www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards](http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards) and <http://projects-beta.vsemirnyjbank.org/ru/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-socialstandards>

The environmental and social assessment will include stakeholder engagement as an integral part of the assessment, in accordance with ESS10.

According to ESS1 the Client will manage environmental and social risks and impacts of the project throughout the project life cycle in a systematic manner, proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and the potential risks and impacts (please refer to Annex 2 and Annex 7 for the environmental and social risks assessment).

#### **4.2 ESS 2 – Labor and Working Conditions**

ESS2 recognizes the importance of employment creation and income generation in the pursuit of poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. Borrowers can promote sound worker-management relationships and enhance the development benefits of a project by treating workers in the project fairly and providing safe and healthy working conditions. ESS2 applies to project workers including fulltime, part-time, temporary, seasonal and migrant workers.

The Borrower will develop and implement written labor management procedures applicable to the project. These procedures will set out the way in which project workers will be managed, in accordance with the requirements of national law and this ESS. The procedures will address the way in which this ESS will apply to different categories of project workers including direct workers, and the way in which the Borrower will require third parties to manage their workers in accordance with ESS2.

#### **4.3 ESS 3 – Recourse and Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management**

ESS3 recognizes that economic activity and urbanization often generate pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources that may threaten people, ecosystem services and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. The current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the welfare of current and future generations. At the same time, more efficient and effective resource use, pollution prevention and GHG emission avoidance, and mitigation technologies and practices have become more accessible and achievable. This ESS sets out the requirements to address resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management throughout the project life cycle.

The ESMF should include sections on resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management. Assessment of risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS3, including raw materials, water use, air pollution, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste are included within scope of the ESMF, and ESMPs as relevant. The example of ESMP could be find in Annex 3.

#### **4.4 ESS 4 – Community Health and Safety**

ESS4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities. ESS4 addresses the health, safety, and security risks and impacts on project-affected communities and the corresponding responsibility of Borrowers to avoid or minimize such risks and impacts, with particular attention to people who, because of their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable.

#### **4.5 ESS 10 – Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

This ESS recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder

engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation.

The client will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.

Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks.

Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process, and is an integral part of early project decisions and the assessment, management and

monitoring of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts. In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower will develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.

## **5. Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts / Mitigation measures**

### **5.1. Positive impacts**

Sub-projects to be implemented under this project are expected to generate both direct and indirect positive social and environmental impacts. Direct positive social impacts will be generated by improved learning and teaching conditions in targeted higher education institutions and colleges as a result the learning process activities being carried out in well-equipped spaces.

Indirect positive impacts will relate to overall improvement of education environment, improvement of needs in research, learning and labor market relevance, some small civil work as better ventilation and heating systems, and institutions that are more accessible with people with disabilities. Furthermore, the project would bring positive impacts in terms of energy conservation and reduction of air pollutants.

### **5.2. Labor and working conditions**

The International Labor Organization (ILO) and the European Union (EU) have long-standing commitments to improving working conditions and job quality. Work must meet material needs as well to create conditions of labor that involve justice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people. The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), a tripartite EU agency founded in 1975, helps EU Member States to realize these objectives by increasing knowledge about how to improve working conditions in Europe.

The importance of better working conditions is also discussed in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which reflects widespread concern over a lack of work opportunities and decent work, and recognizes the link between full employment, decent working conditions and eradicating poverty. The Sustainable Development Goals include Goal 8 on promoting 'sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'. In particular, Target 8.8 highlights the need to 'protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employments'.

The current project is expected to have generally positive impacts on population and occupation. Rehabilitation of HEIs and colleges will have certain impacts on demographic structure of labor force in the areas affected by the proposed project improvements. The project will create temporary and some permanent job opportunities for the local population (both men and women), as they could be employed during rehabilitation and maintenance. The project would be able to monitor these impacts by applying gender-disaggregated indicators. Availability of modern HEIs and colleges will allow more people to attend the higher education institutions , as well the education standards and quality will increase.

## 5.3 Recourse and Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management

### Pollution Prevention

According to provisions of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, no.. 86/2014, the classification of projects by environmental impact is done as follows.

*22. The activities that plan the construction of new objectives and / or installations, the extension or modification / modernization of the existing ones with potential impact on the environment, including the decommissioning projects, are classified according to the degree of impact on the environment, as follows:*

*1) activities with insignificant impact - are considered activities exclusively intended to satisfy the needs of own homes and / or households and which are not located in areas with special protection regime, as well as other activities for which, according to the provisions of the legislation, it is not necessary to obtain the authorization of construction;*

*2) activities with reduced impact - the activities in annex no. 2 to Law no. 86/2014, annex no. 1 to Law no. 851 of May 29, 1996 on ecological expertise (hereinafter - Law no. 851/1996), as well as any other activities, other than those mentioned in sbp. 1), for which the national legislation provides in advance the procedure for assessing the impact on the environment, and their realization is not allowed without obtaining the environmental agreement or obtaining the opinion of the state ecological expertise;*

*3) activities with significant impact - the activities indicated in the annex no. 1 to Law no. 86/2014 for which the environmental impact assessment is mandatory, as well as those mentioned in sbp. 2) that, after carrying out the preliminary assessment stage, the necessity of carrying out the environmental impact assessment procedure is established, and the environmental agreement is issued or refused. The documentation submitted for obtaining the environmental agreement will be the basis for issuing the permissive act for the realization and development of the project, before beginning the construction works and putting into operation the objective.*

Thus, depending on subcomponents of the present project and the degree of environmental impacts, the classified activities shall be subject of the specified procedures.

### Resource efficiency for public buildings

If the case will be, the resource efficiency provisions under the present project shall comply with the approach on **Resource Efficiency for Public buildings**, promoted in the Republic of Moldova starting with beginning of 2000. Buildings are responsible for over 45% of total energy consumption and are important sources of greenhouse gas / GHG pollutants.

For the Republic of Moldova, the energy efficiency can be achieved through the adoption and application of the concrete programs of thermal energy rehabilitation of buildings and modernization of their installations.

However, the minor civil works in the case of colleges will consider where possible simple measures for energy savings and direct resources savings.

**Water saving measures** that can be grouped according to the scope, that is indicated in table no.6 below:

<p><b>a. Toilet / floor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– periodic checking and removing any leaks;</li> <li>– adjusting the float of the tanks, washing the WC for use</li> <li>– minimum quantities of water;</li> <li>– replacement or repair of used faucets;</li> <li>– the use, if possible, of non-potable water for the toilet;</li> </ul> <p>use of motion sensors for taps.</p>	<p><b>b. Faucets / showers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the use of showers and faucets with aerators, as this can lead to savings</li> <li>– more than 50%;</li> <li>– - regular checking of leaks;</li> <li>– use of valves with infrared sensors and automatic disconnection when removing;</li> <li>– objects or hands under the tap;</li> </ul> <p>encouraging users to use water rationally.</p>
<p><b>c. Laundry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the operation of washing machines only at maximum washing capacity;</li> <li>– replacing old used washing machines with new efficient machines as possible;</li> <li>– the use, if possible, of the non-potable but clean waters for washing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>d. Canteen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– use of basins or vessels instead of using flowing water;</li> <li>– installation of valves with sensor or activated with the foot;</li> <li>– avoiding defrosting the products with water;</li> <li>– use of washing in cascades using rinse water for washing;</li> <li>– use of modern rinsing nozzles;</li> <li>– organizational measures, which practically do not require investments, or require non-essential investments.</li> </ul>

#### 5.4. Community Health and Safety

Construction and building renovation sites are dynamic, ever changing work areas that offer unique safety challenges. Construction and renovation activities at the institutions may be performed by either outside contractors or high education institutions/colleges employees. The work may be done exclusively by one group or the other, or a project may be a collaborative effort. Because of these differing arrangements, it often is unclear who has the responsibility and authority to ensure that safety and health regulations are followed.

##### Responsibility for Safety

In an effort to provide a baseline of minimum safety requirements, the following shall apply to all high education institutions/colleges personnel when performing work on any construction or building renovation site. Supervisors are responsible for the health and safety of individuals working under their direction. Employees must follow safety policies and procedures and comply with safety directives issued by their individual supervisors.

General Contractors may have additional safety or training requirements that would apply for sites under their management and be considered mandatory for employees as well.

Bellow some general rules and guidance aspects on the safety and health of the workers are provided. Additional rules could be applied in dependency of the work performed.

### **Work Clothing & Personal Protective Equipment**

Required personal protection equipment (PPE) will always be worn. At a minimum, each employee is required to wear a hard hat and safety glasses. High visibility safety vests with reflective striping are required when employees are exposed to vehicular traffic. In the absences of vehicular traffic, high visibility shirts should always be worn. Depending on circumstances, additional PPE may be required. This determination will be made by supervisor, and may include:

- a. Protective gloves
- b. Hearing protection
- c. Full face shields when cutting, grinding, or chipping
- d. Chemical splash goggles
- e. Respiratory protection
- f. Other equipment such as protective clothing, fall protection when working above 6 feet, or safety-toed shoes

All workers must wear shirts with sleeves, long work pants, and sturdy work shoes or boots. Sleeveless or tank top shirts, short pants, sweatpants, sneakers, sandals, and high-heeled or open-toed shoes are not permitted.

### **Reporting Emergencies, Injuries & Unsafe Conditions**

Follow the site emergency action plan in the event of a site evacuation or other emergency, reporting all emergencies and unsafe practices or conditions to the supervisor is a must. as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the work shift.

### **Site Protection and Security**

Barricades, signs, or guardrails must be used wherever necessary for the physical protection of people or property. Barricades or guardrails should act as physical barriers, preventing contact by passers-by with the hazards created by construction or renovation activities. Signs should be used to direct traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, safely through or around the work site. Secure worksites by locking doors, fencing, or barricades after work hours and whenever the site is unoccupied. Whenever required, follow check in/out procedures when entering or leaving the work site.

### **Tools & Equipment**

All power and extension cords must be equipped with ground-fault protection. If not built-in, a portable protection must be used between the receptacle and cord. The use of all tools and equipment, including ladders, scaffolding, powder-actuated tools, forklifts, etc., shall be performed by skilled, properly trained workers. Tools and equipment must be inspected before use and removed from service if found defective. Safety guards, devices, or features must be maintained in full operating condition.

### **Fire Safety & Housekeeping**

Follow hot work permit procedures for cutting, welding, or burning. Erect arc shields for the protection of co-workers or passers-by. Follow good housekeeping practices. Keep work areas orderly and clean-up worksite debris at the end of each work shift. Smoking is not permitted in any building, including those under renovation or construction, or on construction sites except in designated areas.

### **Other Requirements**

The use of radios, disc players, IPODS, or other devices with earphones is prohibited. Horseplay, fighting, scuffling, or creating a disturbance is strictly prohibited.

### **Disciplinary Procedure**

“It is the Institution's expectation that all employees will conduct themselves according to generally accepted standards of conduct and performance. When employees do not meet these standards, it is the supervisor's responsibility to act in a timely manner and initiate a program of disciplinary steps to address the problem.” General Contractors may have established disciplinary procedures for worksites under their control that may result in dismissal from the project for violations of safety rules and procedures.

## **5.6. Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement**

According with the design of Moldova Higher Education Project, proposals including any land acquisition, restrictions on land use, and involuntary resettlement are not planned, so for the ESMF is not relevant to conduct any assessments and evaluations.

## **5.7. Diversity and Inclusion of different groups**

Moldova being a multi-ethnic country, the issues of indigenous people is viewed from ethnicity point of view. According to the general census of 2014, the population of the Republic of Moldova is about 2.9 million. Moldovans represent 75.1% of the total population; 7.0% identified themselves as Romanians; Ukrainians represent 6.6%, Gagauzians - 4.6%, Russians - 4.1%, Bulgarians - 1.9%, Jews - 0.11%, Roma - 0.3% and other nationalities - 0.5%, including Belarusians, Poles, Armenians, Germans, Tatars. The ethnic communities are not territorially divided and are distributed throughout Moldova, except for the Gagauzians - who live in the south of Moldova. The data on Moldova do not include the region of Transnistria, which remains outside the control of the central government.

The works done at the institutions will not influence negatively on the ethnic minorities, more than that, the project will contribute to sustainable development by enhance opportunities to participate and benefit from the development process through work and educational opportunities.

## **5.8. Cultural Heritage**

In the Republic of Moldova the architectural monuments are protected by the "Law on the protection of monuments (no. 1530 of 22.06.1993)". A complement to the legislation for the protection of monuments was brought by the "Law of culture" (27.05.1999) and by "Convention on the protection of the cultural and natural world heritage", ratified in 2002 by the Republic of Moldova. These legislative acts



constituted the legal support regarding the aspects of protection, restoration and protection of monuments of artistic and historical value in the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

In Chisinau, buildings of two higher education institutions and one pedagogical college are included in the list of state-protected monuments. These are the former fiscal room building (currently Technical University, central block) and former real HEIs and Colleges building (currently the State University, building situated on the 65, M. Kogalniceanu street). They are protected according to the Law and represents the cultural heritage of the state.

According to the Law on the protection of monuments, the preservation and restoration of monuments is based on universally accepted scientific principles and norms. Also, restoration through appropriate repairs and works of conservation first provides for measures that would prevent damage and ruin, preserving the original structures of the monuments without undermining their historical, artistic or scientific value.

The conservation and restoration works are carried out according to the norms and prescriptions adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research. The works of conservation and restoration are executed according to the technical documentation, drawn up based on the multidisciplinary studies and the approval of the state bodies for the protection of monuments. The state bodies for the protection of the monuments are obliged to prevent the deterioration of the monuments, ensuring the immediate carrying out of the conservation and restoration works.

The state bodies for the protection of monuments designate special empowered persons, the only ones with the right to supervise and control the works of conservation and restoration, as well as to interrupt them in case of non-observance of the provisions of the law.

Even though the works are with minimum invasion, the beneficiary (Higher education institutions and colleges) are obliged to follow the Law and implement its accordingly when will perform any of the works indicated in the above-mentioned Law.

## 6. Adverse Risks and Impacts

### 6.1. Adverse Environmental Impacts and risks.

Potential adverse environmental effects of the Project might be indirectly generated by Component 2 – **Improving the Labor Market Orientation through Targeted Interventions**, and are likely to be related to the generation and management of (a) small constructions work and laboratory equipment, which would have impacts on population health and on the environment. The Project does not support any new investments in construction or rehabilitation of the Higher education institutions facilities, but only for the College facilities as well as does not result in reducing their number. The conducted sector environmental assessment (EA) includes some environmental issues such as sanitation, air emissions, energy conservation and potential impacts of civil works, as well as environmental legacy in the case of small civil work activities and procurement of new laboratory equipment.

Largely, Components 2 of the proposed project will support skills development and no adverse socio-environmental impacts are predicted to arise. Positive impacts are:

- a) Improved capacity and skills for professors / teachers after they are trained on using the new laboratory equipment;
- b) Improved quality of graduates from Higher education institutions and Colleges. With new and modern equipment, institutions will be able to train students on equipment / machines they would likely find in their workplaces after graduation;
- c) Establishing the multi-disciplinary committee that will:
  - improve programs in accordance with the agreed upon criteria;
  - establish some targets to be achieved by the beneficiary institution during a period of up to 2 years;
- d) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and modernized the Quality Assurance (QA) System, that will include 300 qualification standards in 23 fields that will ensure the higher education quality which will make graduates more competitive;
- e) Support to improving management and monitoring mechanisms in MoECR will ensure continual improvement and sustained high quality in educational institutions.

Negative impacts mainly relate to physical and biological environmental components and are linked to water, air and soil pollution, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity and habitats, energy and water consumption, health and occupational hazards. During implementation of the Sub-projects small civil work, which may have a relevance to college could have negative impacts that could be, soil and water pollution through waste generation, air pollution, noise and aesthetics. The main potential environmental risks could be:

- *Dust and noise* – through the small civil works;
- *Waste handling and spill response* – the small civil works will generate solid and liquid wastes including drywall, machine oil, paints, and solvents. Improper management of the waste during the civil work could result in adverse effects on the local environment

including groundwater and students;

- *Waste waters* - as the results of inadequate execution of the small civil works in water treatment system could be spills quantities of solvents, paints and other chemicals used in small civil work activities.
- *Asbestos*: In the case of inappropriate handling of asbestos this material might be a real health concern for the workers, for the students and teachers and the general public, including from the neighborhood with institution when it is inhaled.
- *Labor and safety impacts*: during civil works: construction / reconstruction or adjusting of the laboratories, if workers do not obey necessary safety rules, they might be subject to various accidents;
- *Pollutant air emissions from the laboratory equipment*.

These potential adverse impacts are site specific, relatively minor and can be efficiently managed during project implementation.

Supported institutions should avoid pilferage of laboratory equipment supplied by the project by undertaking proper inventory control and providing adequate security measures (burglar proofing windows/ doors and manned security) at laboratories. A cost-effective security surveillance system may be considered by the project.

Equipment supplied should match requirements of updated curricula to avoid financial loss and redundant investment.

Equipment support should ensure there is adequate room in laboratory to accommodate units supplied. If there is need to modify buildings to increase space in machine workshops, this should be considered early in the planning stage. This will avoid equipment being kept in the open exposed to destructive elements of weather (rain, sun) and dust.

The potential adverse environmental and social impacts are described below for the construction and operation phases. In general, the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with rehabilitation works carried out on HEIs and colleges' buildings and associated infrastructure are expected to be construction-associated, short-term and localized. The vast majority of the potential adverse impacts will be observed during the construction / rehabilitation period only and will mainly occur within the site of works implementation.

### **Re-construction Phase impact**

**Noise, vibration, and emissions.** Noise, vibration, and emissions will be generated in the course of the transportation of construction materials and truck traffic. Emission of inorganic dust from digging loading works and emission of harmful substances and dust from combustion of diesel used by transportation means and machinery occur during the construction works. Welding works cause welding aerosol and manganese monoxide emissions. Concrete mixers work result in concrete dust emissions.

Dust arising from construction works will have negative impact on the ambient air quality, and it is necessary to take effective protective measures to minimize the negative impact.

***Safety hazards from renovation activities.*** Safety hazards can occur due to violation of proper health and safety practices and may lead to injuries and accidents. Additional hazards can occur if HEIs and Colleges renovation works are implemented during teaching process or at a time when youth can access the HEIs and Colleges building and premises.

### **Operation phase impacts**

***Safety hazards from operation activities.*** No major hazards are expected during operation of rehabilitated HEIs and colleges as long as proper operation practices and safety procedures are applied. During the operation period proper operation and maintenance activities have to be ensured.

***Impact on provision of educational services.*** Rehabilitation of the HEIs and Colleges infrastructure will result in significant improvement of conditions of the building where the youth are studying; overall improvement will also be supported by capacity and curricula building related activities. Rehabilitation of HEIs and colleges will allow to provide educational services without interruptions possible due to the dilapidated state of the existing structures (e.g. during malfunction of heating system, etc.).

***Generation of household waste and wastewater.*** Operation of the HEIs and Colleges will result in generation of waste and wastewater. Improper and non-timely collection, removal and disposal of waste can lead of odor and aesthetics impacts in the HEIs and Colleges building and nearby area. Other adverse consequences may constitute worsening of sanitary-hygienic conditions in HEIs and Colleges area due to accumulation of waste and clogging of sewerage system.

***Operation of heating systems.*** Malfunction of heating system can result on interruption of provision of teaching services during the cold season of the year. Improper operation of heating systems may impact the air quality and lead to pollution of atmospheric air.

## **6.2. Adverse Social Impacts and risks.**

The execution of small civil work is expected to generate both direct and indirect positive social impacts. Direct positive social impacts will result from improved the laboratory conditions of work and suppliers for the education conditions. Longer-term indirect positive impacts will relate to overall improvement of education quality and contribution to poverty reduction and strong competition on labor market.

Potential adverse impacts are outlined below:

- Temporary severance of access to certain areas on building during civil work activities;
- Public safety risks from construction traffic;
- Construction noise and vibration affecting teaching and learning during the civil work and installation period.
- Poor labour management and occupational health and safety (OHS) risks such as not providing safety gear (PPE), wash and drinking water, food, toilets at working sites.
- Safety risks for students near construction sites. Such risks could arise from falling debris, uncovered trenches or exposed electrical wires at or near working sites.

The adverse social impacts might be associated with the labor safety and health issues in case the prescribed mitigation measures are not followed by contractors during the execution of the small civil work or installation of the new equipment in laboratory. Most of the direct social impacts are associated with environmental implications, and Table in Section 6.3 contains their description and mitigation measures.

Components 2 and 3 of the project will not have any adverse social impacts. Certain social risks exist with regard to social inclusion, especially ensuring it under implementation of Component 1. which will aim to benefit all public higher education institutions in Moldova. Therefore, it will potentially benefit all Moldovan citizens, including university graduates from all backgrounds (including vulnerable and disadvantaged as described in Section on *Social Dimensions of Higher Education*), who look for jobs and currently struggle with the lack of reliable information on labor market needs and job offers. This component aims to improve relevant aspects of Moldova’s higher education system to ultimately produce a better skilled and diverse work force and makes the overall system more efficient. To ensure that the benefits of the project are delivered in a socially inclusive manner, Stakeholder Engagement Plan maps out key stakeholders and contains a strategy of outreach and awareness raising among project beneficiaries.

### 6.3. Summary of Key Risks and Mitigation Measure

The identified key risks of project components having safeguards implications are presented in table no7. below together with respective mitigation recommendations.

Table 7. Potential Risks and Mitigation Measures

Environmental and Social Standards	Project Relevance	Identified Impacts/Risks, if applicable	Proposed Mitigation Measures
ESS1	Relevant	The HEIP Beneficiary is responsible for assessing, managing and monitoring the social and environmental risks and impacts associated with each stage of a Bank-supported project, by investment projects financing, in order to bring the environmental and social outcomes in compliance with the environmental and social standards.	The HEIP Recipient is responsible for assessing, managing and monitoring the social and environmental risks and impacts associated with each stage of a Bank-supported project, by investment projects financing, in order to bring the environmental and social outcomes in compliance with the environmental and social standards.

ESS2	Relevant	<p>Environmental and social risks/impacts are linked to the OHS. It is expected that these will be risks with low potential, mainly because the project's impact is relatively low and it does not imply a significant amount of labor force, since the project only aims at renovating existing buildings. Most of the workforce will be employed locally, except for a few qualified workers who cannot be found on the project location. No work camps are anticipated.</p>	<p>The ministry has prepared, at the project level, the Labor Management Procedures (LMPs) applicable to the project. These identify the main requirements and risks related to the project-associated workforce and will help the ministry to determine the resources needed to solve project's work issues. LMPs describe (i) relevant procedures for each category of workers involved; (ii) provide a clear general overview on the potential key risks related to work (if any); (iii) revise Moldova's labor legislation; (iv) provide a description of the grievance mechanisms or mechanisms available to all direct workers and contracted workers (if applicable, for their organizations). PMLs can be modified at any time during the project cycle, depending on the needs and evolution in the project preparation and/or implementation.</p>
ESS3	Relevant	<p>There is one issue related to pollution that could be highlighted for this component:  <i>Waste management and discharge</i>  Common streams of waste are wood/ timber waste with sharp nails, cement bags, demolition debris, etc. Improper management of construction waste would pose public health impacts and environmental contamination.</p>	<p>It should be a contractual obligation for the contractor to properly manage construction waste at any buildings. Waste must not be dumped in surroundings or hazardous waste (old equipment) deposit in</p>

			such way to create opportunities to be reused by local people. Disposal of waste should be in a designated location as advised by a local environmental regulation.
		<p><i>Waste waters</i></p> <p>Impact on the local water waste treatment system due to use of sewer system for spilling the solvents, paints, waste from construction materials etc.</p>	Implementation of suitable disposal methods of sediments/construction debris in tune with local condition to avoid water logging at construction area. It should be a contractual obligation for the contractor to properly manage liquid construction waste, chemical waste at any stages of the civil work activities.
		<p><i>Pollutant air emissions from the laboratory equipment</i></p> <p>The project will provide new equipment for laboratory and instruction of students and ensure they are familiar with modern units the kind they would meet in workplaces upon employment. Once new equipment is provided to beneficiary HEIs and colleges, most of old units will be discarded. Improper disposal or abandonment at college area would be an aesthetic impact yet scrap equipment has monetary value to iron and steel smelters.</p>	HEIs and Colleges should explore opportunities to sell off discarded equipment to iron and scrap recycling companies;
ESS4	Relevant	There are no major risks associated with community health and safety, however, a few minor impacts might result following the rehabilitation and construction works. Exposure to dust from building materials, demolition and movement of vehicles might cause short-term respiratory impairments (for instance, cough) to the workers or college students and exposed staff. This is a short-term impact during the construction phase only. Construction noise or vibrations might disturb the teaching and learning process in colleges. This is a significant impact when construction works take a few months or go into the exams period.	The Contractor should use dust arrestants (wall, curtains or water building areas) to control the level of dust deposition. Driving speed beyond the roadside should be slow to avoid dust breaks. The HEIs and Colleges management should request contractors to plan noisy activities outside of class hours or exam

			<p>periods.</p> <p>Proper and prior planning and ordering and proper scheduling of all major construction activities.</p> <p>Construction materials must be stored in covered warehouses or closed spaces.</p>
ESS5	Not relevant	<p>The project will not support any land acquisitions. Also, project activities will not provide for any economic or physical displacement. Minor works (i.e., painting, fixing the doors, all in the premises of public institutions, etc.) will not cause restrictions on access to land.</p>	<p>ESMF has a social checklist that, among other things, will ensure that the project does not finance any activity that would lead to the acquisition of land, physical or economic displacement or would restrict access to land. As no ESS5 impact will result from the project, preparation of the resettlement policy framework (or site-specific action plans) is not required within the project. If the social screening checklist in the ESMF establishes that ESS5 impact might occur during the project implementation, ESS5 should be applied.</p>
ESS6	Not relevant	<p>No negative impacts or risks are expected under ESS6.</p>	<p>No negative impacts or risks are expected under ESS6.</p>
ESS7	Not relevant	<p>No negative impacts or risks are expected under ESS7.</p>	<p>No negative impacts or risks are expected under ESS7.</p>
ESS8	Not relevant	<p>Only three university buildings are considered historical monuments. However, no works with impact on the integrity of the monument, change of its aesthetic, artistic and historical form will be carried out.</p>	<p>The report contains a detailed description of the Cultural Heritage, indicating step by step the measures to be taken and the situations when these</p>



			measures apply.
ESS10	Not relevant	There are no major risks associated with the serious information restriction issues in Moldova. In the context of this particular project, effective stakeholder involvement shall be crucial.	To ensure that a consistent, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate approach for stakeholder involvement and project disclosure is adopted, the ministry should develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP is proportional to the nature and size of the project and the associated risks and impacts identified. A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), as part of the SEP, is foreseen for the project, to allow feedback and complaints. In particular, the ministry has an existing GRM for the ongoing education project supported by the World Bank, and the proposed project will be based on these existing feedback procedures.

Mitigation measures that could be used where appropriate (depending on type of infrastructure, volume and type of works, surrounding area, etc.) are separately defined for the design, construction and operation phases. Appropriate measures will be included in the Environment Management Plans (EMPs).

### Design phase

Environmental and social mitigation requirements will be incorporated in the final designs, technical specifications, and bidding documents to be implemented by the construction contractor(s) and the maintaining entity to avoid, prevent, minimize the potential impacts. The final design documents package will include a list suggesting approved borrow pits and agreed spoil disposal sites; permits and agreements to be obtained from the relevant state and local authorities for use of water resources, borrow pits, and sites for disposal of excavated spoils as appropriate; suggested list of construction preparation temporary sites such as access roads, construction camps, transport and machinery sites, storage facilities, etc. The final design documents will provide such technical solutions that will have minimum impact on the natural resources. It will be ensured that the temporary impacts from noise of operating machinery and civil works do not cause direct adverse impacts on nearby residents. Attention will be paid to buildings

with structural damages and/or seismic instability and specific measures to strengthen such building will be envisaged by the proposed design solutions. Special attention will be paid to the buildings that represent cultural heritage and the final designs will include all relevant agreements and permits (relevant permits are discussed and presented in section 4.8 of this document).

## **Construction phase**

***Managing construction run-offs.*** Existing access roads will be used where possible, thus minimizing the need for establishing the new ones. The top surface of access roads and work areas will be compacted to facilitate water runoff and avoid flooding the area. This may require digging drainage ditches and connecting them to natural drainage axes / rainwater discharge system (e.g. if available along the nearby road). It is important to mention that no site access restrictions (including temporary) shall be imposed following the minor civil works.

***Managing noise, vibration, and emissions.*** Dust-depressing measures aimed at prevention of air pollution through watering of access roads and construction sites will be implemented. During construction, air pollution levels will be increased, and the main pollutants caused by these operations will include exhaust gases emitted by machines and dust caused by the earthwork and stonework. Water sprinkling during construction will alleviate dust impacts. Dust and noise from the construction site will be minimized by using closed/covered trucks for transportation of construction materials and debris. To minimize impacts on nearby residents the vehicles will be equipped with exhaust mufflers and regularly inspected to ensure their proper technical condition. In addition, implementation of renovation works will be carried out only during daytime hours.

***Waste management.*** If the vegetated area is used for establishment of construction site, the topsoil will be scraped and stored in piles not exceeding one meter and will be used afterwards for site restoration. Construction concrete rubbles, debris and spoils will be transported and disposed in approved disposal sites. Permits from the local regional authorities or contracts with specialized entities will be signed to carry out transportation and disposal of excavated materials and construction waste. Restoration to quasi-original conditions of landscape will be carried out after completion of renovation works and after use of quarries.

***Managing safety hazards.*** No major hazards are expected during the renovation works, as long as proper construction practices and safety procedures are applied. HEIs and Colleges rehabilitation activities will be undertaken preferably during summer months (non-operation period for HEIs and Colleges) to minimize hindering the teaching process and to eliminate the risk of accidents involving children. In case renovation activities have to be undertaken in parallel with teaching process, an option of temporary moving the teaching process to a nearby HEIs and Colleges will be considered. If the latter is impossible, the renovation activities will be limited to a part of the HEIs and Colleges building that is made inaccessible to HEIs and Colleges children (e.g. renovation in carried out on one floor of the building while teaching is carried out on another only). Personal protective equipment will be applied during implementation of works. In case the works include removal of roof tiles made of asbestos-containing material, the works will be implemented by trained personal using specialized personal protective equipment.

***Managing household waste and wastewater.*** Waste container will be placed near the HEIs and Colleges area to collect the household waste generated during HEIs and Colleges renovation. Agreement / contract will be signed with appropriate authority / entity to ensure timely transportation and disposal of waste. Wastewater will be discharged into the centralized sewerage system. If centralized sewerage system is not available in the community, wastewater will be collected in a tank and then periodically removed, transported by specialized organization to a nearby area with centralized sewerage system and discharged into that system.

Rehabilitation works will be carried out in consultation with HEIs and Colleges administration and representatives of relevant authorities to minimize the adverse impacts.

### **Operation phase**

During operation it is essential that the HEIs and Colleges structures and associated facilities will be regularly inspected by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research / local regional authorities and be periodically maintained to ensure proper technical state and prevent damages. Periodical maintenance of HEIs and Colleges structures and associated infrastructure will be cared timely and in due manner. Proper operation of utilities will be carried out to ensure availability of appropriate conditions for HEIs and Colleges students.

***Household waste management.*** Waste container will be placed near each HEIs and Colleges area to collect the waste generated during HEIs and Colleges operation. Agreement / contract will be signed with appropriate authority / entity to ensure timely transportation and disposal of waste at approved disposal site.

***Operation of heating systems.*** Proper operation and maintenance of heating systems, including regular inspection and service of the systems, will be carried out to ensure uninterrupted operation during heating season, proper implementation of teaching process, as well as for minimizing air pollution.

***Maintenance of roofs and utilities.*** Proper maintenance of roofs and other utilities will be carried out during operation of the renovated HEIs and Colleges buildings, including regular inspections and repairs as needed. Roofs will be cleaned during winter season after the snowfall to eliminate safety hazard for passing by HEIs and Colleges students, parents and HEIs and Colleges staff.

***Maintenance of HEIs and Colleges yard and access areas.*** Regular maintenance of HEIs and Colleges yard and premises will be ensured by HEIs and Colleges administrations, so that good sanitary conditions and pleasant environment are maintained. Access areas will be kept free of elements hindering the access to the HEIs and Colleges buildings.

## 7. Environmental and Social Risk Management

As part of the environmental and social procedures, The Bank classifies all projects into one of four classifications: High Risk, Substantial Risk, Moderate Risk or Low Risk. In determining the appropriate risk classification, the Bank takes into account relevant issues, such as the type, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project; the nature and magnitude of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts; and the capacity and commitment of the Client to manage the environmental and social risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards<sup>12</sup>.

MHEP Environmental Risk Rating is "*Moderate*" as the physical works envisaged under the project subcomponent 2.1 will not generate adverse environmental impacts, and are expected to be temporary and reversible, low in magnitude, and site specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the project. Moreover, they are not expected to be located in environmentally sensitive areas. Nor are they expected to generate serious adverse effects to human health and the environment.

No adverse impacts such as involuntary land acquisition, impacts on indigenous peoples, on biodiversity and habitats are expected. Although the Client has some experience with the previous projects on the Bank's safeguards, there is no experience and limited capacity in applying the ESF, and therefore, significant efforts will be required to build the capacity of in the application of the new ESS.

Social risks directly inherent in project activities are deemed as "Low". To address needs in this sector, the project will aim to support public higher education institutions and colleges, and ultimately benefit any students seeking education there. Issues of social inclusion, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and inclusive public outreach would be considered in the project design to ensure that stakeholders have equal access to project benefits.

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<sup>12</sup> Only those ESS which are relevant for the project are covered

## **8. ESMF Implementation**

### **8.1. Overall Implementation Responsibilities**

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research will be in charge for the implementing the MHEP. Project implementation primarily relies on the existing structures of the MoECR. A group of local consultants will be hired for the implementation of the Project and constitute the Project Management Team (PMT). The Bank, through its regular implementation visits, will also periodically review selected high education institutions and colleges' environmental documentation as well as carry out site visits to ensure compliance. Specific tasks could be delegated to other government agencies, with the prior approval of the Bank.

The MoECR will monitor compliance with the project documents and Financing Agreement regarding the Environment Assessment (EA) process, including conducting periodic monitoring of the screening process of applications for EA requirements.

The implementation of the Component 2 will be conducted based on open and transparent competition for Higher Education Institutions and colleges. The MoECR will have direct task to monitor and guide the implementation of it.

### **8.2. Major responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research**

The MoECR will ensure that project activities are being assessed from an environmental point of view and that Environmental Management Plan is adequately implemented. Specifically:

- a) coordination of environmental and environmental assessment related issues;
- b) evaluation of the sub-project's eligibility from the environmental point of view and sub-projects environmental screening;
- c) provision of necessary information on the environmental issues to sub-project applicants (especially inform them about the environmental criteria to be used, explain all obligations regarding the environmental assessment procedure etc.);
- d) monitoring environmental impacts within the overall monitoring of the sub- project's implementation; and
- e) communicating with environmental assessment competent authorities (MARDE and Environmental Agency).

### **8.3. Environmental and Social Specialists within the PMT**

For the purpose of implementing environmental safeguards and monitoring social safeguards, an Environmental and Social Specialist (ES) will be hired to support the MoECR environmental requirements. The ES's main responsibility will be to coordinate all Environmental Assessment activities and ensure adequate implementation of EMF requirements. The role of the environmental

specialist is to: (i) provide assistance to the project's beneficiaries to determine the exact impacts that can be generated by proposed activities supported under the project as well as prescribe the required mitigation actions to be taken; (ii) conduct screening and ensure that due environmental work (EAs/EMPs) are prepared for the proposed investments; and, (iii) monitor and report on a regular basis the effects on the environment that financed activities may provoke and ensure that mitigation is carried out. The Environmental Specialist also must regularly and selectively visit sub- projects and ensure proper environmental monitoring for sub-projects. The ES is also responsible for monitoring of procurement conditions to ensure that they are "green" and the quality of laboratory equipment under the "green" conditions (energy efficiency, emission level).

## 9. Environmental and Social (E&S) Screening, Monitoring, Supervision and Reporting

### 9.1. E&S Screening of sub projects

The main purpose of the screening process is to determine the potential adverse E&S impacts of the proposed sub-projects and based on these to determine the appropriate risk category (according to ESF). Based on the assigned risk category – moderate or low – it will be determined the level of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the type of E&S management tool to be implemented: site-specific ESMP or site-specific EMP Checklists.

The Project will finance small-scale rehabilitation works on the facilities and will have certain social and environmental impacts. The project, therefore, triggers World Bank Environmental and Social Assessment. Based on review of available project documents and discussions with Ministry representatives, works associated with rehabilitation of buildings are not expected to have significant and irreversible negative impact on the environment. Rehabilitation works are expected to have minor environmental and social impacts, thus development of site-specific ESMP Checklists (Annex 2) should be enough (no need for the full-scale EIA and permitting). Thus, in case of financing of large scale works under the project, then site specific ESMPs need to be prepared and implemented.

Overall, the long term social and environmental impacts are expected to be positive, while negative impacts will be limited to the re-construction phase and be of the limited scope. Based on the nature and scope of the proposed activities, the Project is classified through environmental screening as being of “**moderate**” environmental risk. All the possible negative impacts may be effectively mitigated through application of standard good environmental practices. Site-specific recommendations will be prepared for all building rehabilitation activities included in the Project. All environmental risks associated with rehabilitation works to be carried out at the respective project sites will be identified by the implementer and recommend respective mitigation measures and provide monitoring schemes for tracking adherence to the mitigation plans. Adherence to field in the course of civil works will be enough for keeping environmental impacts of the project at the acceptable minimum level.

### 9.2. Development of Site-Specific ESMP Checklist and/or ESMP

For **low-risk** topologies, such as “public building” rehabilitation activities, have been developed a checklist (Annex 2) that will provide an opportunity for a more streamlined approach to minor rehabilitation or small-scale building construction. The intent is that this checklist would be directly used as an integral part of bidding documents for contractors carrying out civil works under Bank-financed projects. The checklist-type format has been developed to provide examples of “good practices” for mitigation and designed to be user-friendly and compatible with Bank safeguard requirements.

The checklist has three sections:

- Part 1 includes describes the project specifics in terms of the physical location, institutional arrangements. This section could be up to two pages long. Attachments for additional information are requested if needed.
- Part 2 includes the environmental and social screening of potential issues and impacts (Annex 7 can serve as orientation), in a simple Yes/No format followed by mitigation measures for any given activity. Currently, the list provides examples of potential issues and impacts. This list can be expanded to specific site issues and /or impacts; and good practices and mitigation measures.
- Part 3 will include the monitoring plan for activities during project construction and implementation. It is the intent of this checklist that Part 2 and Part 3 be included as bidding documents for contractors.

The practical application of the checklist would include the filling in of Part 1 to obtain and document all relevant site characteristics. In Part 2 the type of foreseen works, would be checked, and the completed tabular EMP is additionally attached as integral part to the works contract and, analogous to all technical and commercial terms, that is signed by the contract parties. Part 3 of the checklist, the monitoring plan, is designated to construction inspector, for the Contractor’s safeguards due diligence compliance. This plan should be developed site specifically and in necessary detail, defining clear criteria and parameters which can be included in the works contracts, which reflect the status of environmental practice on the construction site and which can be observed/measured/ quantified/verified by the supervisor during the construction works. The environmental guidelines for civil works contracts are included in Annex 4. Thus Part 3 would thus be filled in during the design process to fix key monitoring criteria which can be checked during and after works for compliance assurance. During the works implementation phase environmental compliance is checked on site alongside other quality criteria by the PMT’s site certified inspector(s)/supervisors. The template of the environmental and social monitoring plan is indicated in Annex 3.

In case of higher environmental risk category – “**moderate**” and larger scope, an ESMP should be developed according to the specificities of the project. Should be highlighted the fact, that **no sub-project with environmental and social risk high of substantial will be eligible for financing under MHEP, only low and moderate risks are considered eligible**. The annex 3 shows an example of detailed ESMP.

### 9.3. E&S Monitoring, Supervision and Reporting

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the systematic measurement of how a sub project is performing and is part of the overall supervision of the sub project. In this document environmental monitoring is only referred to review of the environmental impact of a subproject and whether and how well mitigation measures are being implemented during reconstruction or other types of works.

Monitoring will usually involve site visits. For the purpose of environmental objectives, it is important to determine that mitigation measures are properly implemented, that environmental contractual measures



are being respected, that re-construction works are proceeded in accordance with agreed standards, and that no unforeseen negative impacts are occurring as a results of subproject execution.

Environmental mitigation measures and specific monitoring requirements should be determined or at least outlined during project formulation and finalized during project evaluation. For monitoring purposes, it is important to have some environmental and social capacity available within PMT, preferably at the project implementation level.

Monitoring work may also be contracted out to specialists. Government ministries or departments may, in some cases, play a role in monitoring activities.

As defined here, subproject evaluation refers to the *ex post* review of a subproject to determine if it has met its stated objectives. From an environmental perspective, evaluation looks at the final negative environmental impact (which is a result of how well expected impacts were minimized and how unexpected impacts were handled) and at the positive environmental benefit. Were the expected benefits fully realized? Two types of evaluation are of interest: evaluations of individual subprojects, and evaluation of the entire portfolio.

Most subprojects include periodic site visits by PMT staff as part of the evaluation process. Upon completion of each subproject, a final report is submitted. Follow-up is directed at two key elements: the physical state of the subproject, and the extent of beneficiary use and satisfaction with the subproject.

From a social and environmental perspective, the evaluation process must also look at the success or failure of subprojects in terms of how known environmental or social impacts were minimized and evaluate the significance of unsuspected or unexpected impacts. If problems are identified, the Evaluation report should assist beneficiaries in resolving the problem. The evaluation process should also be designed to promote changes in the targeting and promotion stages, and possibly to suggest changes in other institutional areas.

In addition to the traditional monitoring and evaluation of subprojects that is required, PMT management should also consider undertaking a periodic environmental review of the entire portfolio. Ideally, there should be annual reviews performed by an in-house environmental specialist. Additionally, The World Bank recommends that an independent evaluation or supervision mission be performed by an outside environmental expert preferably on an annual basis.

## **Supervision**

The PMT staff will supervise the project supported activities on a routine basis. This will be complemented by Bank supervision of the project. The process will include the participation of Bank environmental and social staff in implementation review missions, as appropriate, to review progress in the implementation of the EMP.

Contracts and bill of quantities will include clauses for appropriate disposal of unacceptable construction material and disposal of construction waste. Procurement documents will specify that no environmentally unacceptable materials will be used.

## **Reporting**

The Bank together with PMT will agree upon reporting requirements for Financial Monitoring Reports (FMR). Project progress will be reported through annual, semiannual and quarterly Project progress reports, which will also address compliance with the safeguard requirements.

## 10. Stakeholder Engagement

### 10.1. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Process for MHEP project

Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of project development and implementation and should begin as early in project development as possible and continue through the project's full life cycle.

The purpose of stakeholder consultation during the ESMF process is to ensure that the views, interests and concerns of project stakeholders are considered in the following decisions:

- Decisions taken during the planning, design and implementation of the project;
- ESMF decisions regarding planning of the ESMF scope, assessment of the potential impacts and identification of appropriate management measures;
- Decisions by development financiers on the funding of the project and corresponding loan conditions.

An overview of the ESMF stakeholder consultation process for the MHEP projects is presented in table no.8

<i>Steps</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Stakeholders involved</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Main documents to be produced</i>
<b>Scoping</b> Corresponds with the scoping phase of the ESMF	Identify regulatory authorities and other stakeholders who should be involved in the ESMF process. Notify stakeholders of the ESMF process and give them the necessary procedural and substantive information to facilitate their input to the process. Engage stakeholders – listen to them and record issues raised (concerns, comments and questions).	All	Stakeholder identification and analysis (desktop social scan); Planning stakeholder consultation and disclosure; Notification of stakeholders of ESMF process and the proposed project; Engagement of stakeholders.	List of potential stakeholders; Stakeholder Engagement Plan;  Background information document for stakeholders; Records of meetings; Updated stakeholder database and issues record.
<b>Disclosure and Consultations</b> ESMF stakeholders	Disclose ESMF	HEIs, colleges and public authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders as required	Meetings with stakeholders, as per the procedure described in Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Records of meetings.  Specific information sharing documents.

<b>Feedback response</b> on the results of the ESMF	Provide relevant stakeholders with an update on progress with project planning, expected impacts and proposed mitigation. Acknowledge issues raised by stakeholders and tell them how the project proponent to address those. Engage stakeholders – listen to them and record additional issues raised.	All stakeholders that have shown an interest in the project	Notification of stakeholders; Engagement of stakeholders; Delivering public meeting information;	Advertisements; A record of the hearing(s) and meetings;
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**10.2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

MHEP prepared and has disclosed for public review a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that outlines how stakeholders will be engaged throughout the course of the project and which methods will be used as part of the process. It outlines the responsibilities of MHEP and contractors in the implementation of stakeholder engagement activities. Details on ESMF stakeholder consultation are also presented in the SEP. The SEP is considered a live document that will be updated throughout the ESMF process and will continue to evolve as the project proceeds through the construction, operation implementation phases.

Stakeholder engagement activities will be targeted at project affected persons as well as at other interested parties (MoECR and government agencies, NGOs, business and media, general public, among others). The SEP outlines special considerations that will be given to ensure outreach to and engagement of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. SEP activities include establishment and management of a project-wide grievance redress mechanism, public meetings, trainings and workshops, media and social media communication, disclosure of written materials, involvement of project liaison officers, as well as a survey among affected persons to gauge satisfaction with the quality of citizen engagement and share additional concerns.

## 11. Grievance and redress mechanism (GRM)

Transparency and accountability are core elements of the Moldova Higher Education Reform Project (MHEP). For this purpose, the project will include a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is already used in a different project funded by the World Bank. The goal of the GRM is to strengthen accountability to beneficiaries and to provide channels for project stakeholders to provide feedback and/or express grievances related to project supported activities. The GRM is a mechanism that allows for the identification and resolution of issues affecting the project. By increasing transparency and accountability, the GRM aims to reduce the risk of the project inadvertently affecting citizens/beneficiaries and serves as an important feedback and learning mechanism that can help improve project impact.

The mechanism focuses not only on receiving and recording complaints but also on resolving them. While feedback should be handled at the level closest to the complaint, all complaints should be registered and follow the basic procedures set out in this chapter. SEP applicable to the Project contains more detailed information about GRM.

### Definition of GRM

For the purposes of this SEP, a Grievance Redress Mechanism is a process for receiving, evaluating, and addressing project-related complaints from citizens and affected communities at the level of the project.

The terms ‘grievance’ and ‘complaint’ are used interchangeably.

### GRM scope and use

*SCOPE:* MHEP’s Grievance Redress Mechanism will be available for project stakeholders and other interested parties to submit questions, comments, suggestions and/or complaints, or provide any form of feedback on all project-funded activities.

*GRM’s users:* Project beneficiaries, project workers, project affected people (i.e. those who will be and/or are likely to be directly or indirectly affected, positively or negatively, by the project), as well as the broader interested citizens can use the GRM for the above purposes (see Scope).

*GRM’s management:* The GRM for Moldova Higher Education Project is managed by the MHEP’s PTM, under the direct responsibility of MHEP’s Executive Director.

*Submission of complaints:* Complaints can be expressed at any time throughout project implementation.

### Procedures

#### *Channels to make complaints*

MHEP establishes the following channels through which citizens/beneficiaries/Project Affected Persons (PAPs) can make complaints regarding project-funded activities:

- a. By Email
  - MECR/MHEP;

- b. Internet:
  - MECR's website: MHEP's section, GRM rubric
- c. In writing:
  - MECR/MHEP: Letter addressed to MHEP's Executive Director at 180 Stefan cel Mare boulevard, 13<sup>th</sup> floor, office 1305, 1307, Chisinau city
- d. By phone:
  - MECR/MHEP: [022-23-25-02]
- e. By fax:
  - MECR/MERP: 022-23-25-02
- f. Other: Written complaints or phone calls to project staff at MECR/MHEP.

The project shall ensure flexibility in the channels available for complaints, as well as ensure accessibility to the contact information for individuals who make complaints. MHEP's Executive Director must be informed of all complaints received.

#### ***Confidentiality and conflict of interest***

Complaints may be made anonymously and confidentiality will be ensured in all instances, including when the person making the complaint is known. For this reason, multiple channels to submit complaints have been established and conflicts of interest will be avoided.

#### ***Receipt and recording of complaints***

The person receiving the complaint will complete a grievance form (see Annex A) and will record the complaint in the Register of Complaints, kept under MHEP. Then, the complaint is to be submitted immediately to MHEP's Project Director.

Within one week of receiving the complaint, MHEP's Project Director must have forwarded to the department/individual expected to address it. In consultation with the Project Coordinator, MHEP's Project Director is responsible for determining who to direct the complaint to, whether a complaint requires an investigation (or not), and the timeframe to respond to it.

When determining who will be the investigating officer, the Project Director should ensure that there is no conflict of interest, i.e. all persons involved in the investigation process should not have any material, personal, or professional interest in the outcome and no personal or professional connection with complainants or witnesses.

Once the investigation process has been established, the person responsible for managing the GRM records enters this data into the Register of Complaints, and informs the complainant that his/her grievance was received and the timeframe expected for the response.

The number and type of suggestions and questions should also be recorded and reported so that they can be analyzed to improve project communications. Once a month, the Project Coordinator should submit to MHEP's Project Director a list of all complaints received, the follow-up required, and the status of complaints from the previous month ("on-going" or "addressed").

### ***Investigation***

According to the National Law on complaints no. 190 dated July 19, 1994, with further amendments, the complaints shall be examined within 30 working days of the receipt of the grievance. The person responsible for investigating the complaint will gather facts in order to generate a clear picture of the circumstances surrounding the grievance. The investigation/follow-up can include site visits, review of documents and a meeting with those who could resolve the issue.

The results of investigation and the proposed response to the complainant will be presented for consideration to MHEP's Project Coordinator who will decide on the course of action. Once a decision has been made and on the complainant informed, the investigating specialist describes the actions to be taken in the grievance form (see Annex A), along with the details of the investigation and the findings, and submits the response to the corresponding Executive Director for signing.

### ***Responding to Complaints***

The complainant will be informed about the results of verification via letter, email or by post, as received. The response shall be based on the materials of the investigation and, if appropriate, shall contain references to the national legislation.

The deadline for investigating the complaint may be extended by 30 working days by the corresponding Executive Director, and the complainant is to be informed about this fact, whether:

- a) additional consultations are needed to provide response to the complaint;
- b) the complaint refers to a complex volume of information and it is necessary to study additional materials for the response.

### ***Tasks and responsibilities of MHEP's team on the GRM***

The responsibilities for the management of the GRM system include the following and may be updated from time to time in consultation with the ministerial management team and the World Bank task team:

- Overall management of the GRM system
- Developing and maintaining awareness-building
- Collection of complaints
- Recording complaints
- Notification to the complainant on the receipt and timeline to review a complaint
- Sorting/categorization of complaints
- Thorough examination of the issues, including the causal link between project activities and alleged damage/harm/nuisance
- Decision-making based on such examination
- Processing appeals or continuous communication with complainants with the purpose to resolve issues amicably
- Publishing responses to complaints, unless otherwise is requested by complainants due to privacy or other concerns (see above 4.2)
- Organization and implementation of information materials and awareness campaigns
- Reporting and feedback on GRM results

### **World Bank Grievance Redress System**

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit [www.inspectionpanel.org](http://www.inspectionpanel.org).



## **12. Public Consultations**

### **12.1. Public Consultations**

The environmental legislation of Moldova and international agreements regulating public consultation and coordination, as well as information availability to public are listed below:

- The Law on the transparency on decision making process (2007) ensures citizen's right to obtain information concerning the activities that may cause environmental and social impacts;
- UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998; the Republic of Moldova has joined to the Convention in 1998).

### **12.2. ESMF Disclosure**

The present draft ESMF was publicly disclosed and the consultation meeting with stakeholders was carried out on 03 December 2019. Participants from the beneficiary state agencies, local authorities, organizations involved in environmental sector and other stakeholders were invited to attend the public consultation meeting. The comments and suggestions made during the consultation meeting were taken into account in the final version of the ESMF. Minutes of stakeholder consultation meeting were developed (including questions raised and responses provided) and included in the final version of ESMF – see Annex 6. In further stages of MHEP implementation, the site-specific EMPs will be publicly disclosed, and beneficiary HEIs and colleges will be consulted on the environmental and social implications of the individual project activities prior to tendering of works.

## Annex 1 Environmental Screening Checklist

*(to be completed for each sub-project)*

1. **Subproject name**
2. **Brief description of sub-project** (to include nature of the sub-project, cost, physical size, site area, location)
3. **Proposed activities** (in Yes/No terms)

Types of activities	Yes	No	Comments
Small scale refurbishing activities inside the educational institution premises (e.g. walls repainting, tiling, installation of cable ducts, new water-pipes, new laboratory installations)			
Replacement of the asbestos roofs			
Major refurbishing activities involving removal/reconstruction of walls (especially when containing asbestos isolations or sheets)			
Renovation works involving generation of comparatively large waste quantities (e.g. replacement of floor, exchange of ventilation and or electrical systems, replacement of doors and/or windows)			
Refurbishing activities including replacement of ceramics; remodeling of the existing offices involving potentially hazardous materials like residues from paints, solvents, enamels, and the replacement of larger quantities (several 10 <sup>2</sup> s) of windows and doors			
Water supply and sanitation networks			
Public toilets			
Construction of new small-scale laboratory facilities / boilers			
Insulation of building envelope (walls, ceilings, roofs)			
Repair/replacement of external doors and windows, window optimization			
Fuel switching			
Reflective surfacing of walls behind radiators			
Pipe insulation			
Installation of solar panels for water heating			

*Beneficiary:*

*Signature:*

*Date:*

**Annex 2 Site Specific Environmental & Social Management Plan (ESMP) Checklist for  
Construction and Rehabilitation Activities**

**Site Specific ESMP Checklist for Construction and Rehabilitation Activities**

<b>PART 1: INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
Country/City/Region				
Project title				
Scope of project and activity				
Institutional arrangements (Name and Contacts)	WB Project Team leader	Project Management	Local Counterpart and/or Recipient	
Implementation arrangements (Name and Contacts)	Supervision	Local Counterpart Supervision (if any)	Local Inspectorate Supervision (if any)	Contacto
<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>				
Name of site				
Description of site location				
Who owns the land?				
Geographic description				
<b>LEGISLATION</b>				
Identify national legislation & permits that apply to project activity				
<b>PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS</b>				
Identify when / where the public consultation process took place				

**PART 2: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING**

Will the site activity include/involve any of the following potential issues and/or impacts:	Activity and examples of potential issues and/or impacts	Status If Yes for any	Additional references
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building rehabilitation</li> <li>2. Site specific vehicular traffic</li> <li>3. Increase in dust and noise from demolition and/or construction</li> <li>4. Construction waste</li> </ol>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>B</b> below
	Individual wastewater treatment system  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effluent and / or discharges into receiving waters</li> </ol>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>C</b> below
	Historic building(s) and districts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk of damage to known/unknown historical or archaeological sites</li> </ol>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	See Section <b>D</b> below

	<p>Hazardous or toxic materials<sup>13</sup></p> <p>1. Removal and disposal of toxic and/or hazardous demolition and / or construction waste <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Storage of machine oils and lubricants</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>See Section <b>F</b> below</p>
	<p>Traffic and Pedestrian Safety</p> <p>1. Site specific vehicular traffic</p> <p>2. Site is in a populated area</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>See Section <b>I</b> below</p>

<sup>13</sup> Toxic / hazardous material includes and is not limited to asbestos, toxic paints, removal of lead paint, etc.

<b>PART 3: MITIGATION MEASURES</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>GOOD PRACTICES MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST</b>
A. General conditions	Notification and Worker Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities</li> <li>b) The public has been notified of the works through appropriate notification in the media and/or at publicly accessible sites (including the site of the works)</li> <li>c) All legally required permits (to include not limited to land use, resource use, dumping, sanitary inspection permit) have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation</li> <li>d) All work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment.</li> <li>e) Workers' will comply with international good practice (always hardhats, as needed masks and safety glasses, harnesses and safety boots)</li> <li>f) Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.</li> </ul>
B. General Rehabilitation and /or Construction Activities	Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) During interior demolition use debris-chutes above the first floor</li> <li>b) Keep demolition debris in controlled area and spray with water mist to reduce debris dust</li> <li>c) Suppress dust during pneumatic drilling/wall destruction by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site</li> <li>d) Keep surrounding environment (sidewalks, roads) free of debris to minimize dust</li> <li>e) There will be no open burning of construction / waste material at the site</li> <li>f) There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites</li> <li>g) The debris will be transported in a safety manner and in a covered transport</li> </ul>
	Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit</li> <li>b) During operations the engine covers of generators, air compressors and other powered mechanical equipment should be closed, and equipment placed as far away from residential areas as possible</li> </ul>
	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The site will establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures to prevent sediment from moving off site and causing excessive turbidity in nearby streams and rivers</li> </ul>

	Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities.</li> <li>b) Mineral construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and stored in appropriate containers.</li> <li>c) Construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors</li> <li>d) The records of waste disposal will be maintained as proof for proper management as designed.</li> <li>e) Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials (except asbestos)</li> </ul>
C. Individual wastewater treatment system	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The approach to handling sanitary wastes and wastewater from building sites (installation or reconstruction) must be approved by the local authorities</li> <li>b) Before being discharged into receiving waters, effluents from individual wastewater systems must be treated in order to meet the minimal quality criteria on wastewater treatment</li> <li>c) Monitoring of new wastewater systems (before/after) will be carried out</li> </ul>
D. Historic Buildings	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If the building is a designated historic structure, very close to such a structure, or located in a designated historic district, notify and obtain approval/permits from local authorities and address all construction activities in line with local and national legislation</li> <li>b) Ensure that provisions are put in place so that artifacts or other possible “chance finds” encountered in excavation or construction are noted, officials contacted, and works activities delayed or modified to account for such finds.</li> </ul>
E. Toxic Materials	Asbestos management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) If asbestos is located on the project site, mark clearly as hazardous material</li> <li>b) When possible, the asbestos will be appropriately contained and sealed to minimize exposure</li> <li>c) The asbestos prior to removal (if removal is necessary) will be treated with a wetting agent to minimize asbestos dust</li> <li>d) Asbestos will be handled and disposed by skilled &amp; experienced professionals</li> <li>e) If asbestos material is be stored temporarily, the wastes should be securely enclosed inside closed containments and marked appropriately</li> <li>f) The removed asbestos will not be reused.</li> </ul>
	Toxic / hazardous waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) (a) Temporarily storage on site of all hazardous or toxic substances will be in safe containers labeled with details of composition, properties and handling information</li> <li>b) (b) The containers of hazardous substances should be placed in an leak-proof container to prevent spillage and leaching</li> </ul>

		<p>c) (c) The wastes are transported by specially licensed carriers and disposed in a licensed facility.</p> <p>d) (d) Paints with toxic ingredients or solvents or lead-based paints will not be used</p>
F. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	Direct or indirect hazards to public traffic and pedestrians by construction activities	<p>(a) In compliance with national regulations the contractor will insure that the construction site is properly secured and construction related traffic regulated. This includes but is not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signposting, warning signs, barriers and traffic diversions: site will be clearly visible and the public warned of all potential hazards</li> <li>- Traffic management system and staff training, especially for site access and near-site heavy traffic. Provision of safe passages and crossings for pedestrians where construction traffic interferes.</li> <li>- Adjustment of working hours to local traffic patterns, e.g. avoiding major transport activities during rush hours or times of livestock movement</li> <li>- Active traffic management by trained and visible staff at the site, if required for safe and convenient passage for the public.</li> <li>- Ensuring safe and continuous access to office facilities, shops and residences during renovation activities, if the buildings stay open for the public.</li> </ul>



**Annex 3. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)  
content and format**

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for subprojects should outline the mitigation, monitoring and administrative measures to be taken during project implementation to avoid or eliminate negative environmental impacts. For projects of intermediate environmental risk (Moderate and significant risk projects), ESMP may also be an effective way of summarizing the activities needed to achieve effective mitigation of negative environmental impacts (description of Environmental and Social Management Plan is provided below).

For each phase, the preparation team identifies any significant environmental impacts that are anticipated based on the analysis done in the context of preparing an environmental assessment.

For each impact, mitigation measures are to be identified and listed. Estimates are made of the cost of mitigation actions broken down by estimates for installation (investment cost) and operation (recurrent cost). The ESMP format also provides for identification of institutional responsibilities for operation of mitigation devices and methods.

To keep track of the requirements, responsibilities and costs for monitoring the implementation of environmental mitigation identified in the analysis included in an environmental assessment for Moderate Risk projects, a monitoring plan may be useful. A **Monitoring Plan format** is provided below. Like the ESMP, the project cycle is broken down into two phases (construction and operation). The format also includes a row for baseline information that is critical to achieving reliable and credible monitoring.

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(sub-project, location, description)

<b>Environmental and Social Elements</b>	<b>Impacts</b>	<b>Proposed mitigation measures<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>Institutional responsibility for mitigation</b>	<b>Cost of mitigation activities<sup>15</sup></b>
<b>Construction period</b>				

<sup>14</sup>Activities requiring financial expenses are to be included in Bill of Quantities.

<sup>15</sup> Cost of mitigation activities is defined by a contractor in relevant items in bidding documents.

<b><i>Physical Environment</i></b>				
Soils	Solid Waste	Establish a well-planned method of solid disposal of debris/garbage at the camp site	Contractor and Project Engineer	Costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor
Water Resources	Water Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate erosion control measures during construction at the site</li> <li>- No oils and fuels should be stored on the construction site</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- small works</li> <li>- Maintenance, re-fueling and cleaning of equipment should NOT be done at construction site by the contractor – but in a licensed garage outside the site area</li> <li>- The design will incorporate oil sumps at the parking areas to isolate oil spills from parked vehicles that might spill to the storm drains</li> <li>- No solid waste, fuels or oils shall be discharged on land surface, into drains or streams</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor  Environmental and Health officer/consultant	Costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor & Maintenance costs
Air Quality	Air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speed control of vehicles accessing the site</li> <li>- Construction of bumps along the road near the construction site</li> <li>- Regular watering of access roads and work site</li> <li>- Proper maintenance of construction equipment per the manufacturer requirements</li> </ul>	Project Engineer, Contractor, Traffic police	Equipment - costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor equipment
<b><i>Biological Environment</i></b>				
Fauna and Flora				
<b><i>Social Environment</i></b>				
Aesthetics and				

Landscape				
Human Communities	Disruption of Public Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design to incorporate existing public utilities and avoid disturbing the same</li> <li>- Contractor to generate utility management plan</li> <li>- Contractor to minimize damage to public utilities</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor Utilities providers	Budget under provisional sums of Utilities
Traffic	Traffic safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor to prepare a Traffic Management Plan for approval to address the following issues;</li> <li>- Initiation of a safety program and measures by creating awareness and educational campaigns for workers and local communities</li> <li>- Installation of appropriate road signage, speed signs, and other warning signs at the site and access roads</li> <li>- The contractor's vehicles and equipment must be in proper working condition and have registration plates, and numbering.</li> <li>- The contractor ensures proper driving discipline by its employees, and sanctions those in breach.</li> <li>- Excavated sites, embankments, and dangerous locations are protected</li> <li>- Maintain a log detailing every violation and accident on site or associated with the project work activities, including the nature and circumstances, location, date, time, precise vehicles and persons involved, and follow-up actions with the police, insurance, families, community leaders, etc. (including during operation stages)</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor	Costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor
Resettlement				
Income losses	Disruption of Businesses or livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have a Resettlement Action Plan to temporary solve disruption of small business located nearby (if any)</li> </ul>	The Proponent	

Health and safety	Noise Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular Sensitization of workforce and residents on potential noise levels</li> <li>- Controlled operation of construction plant and equipment</li> <li>- No blasting shall be done on site</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor	Costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor
Historical and Cultural Sites				
Safety and health of staff and population	Social Issues - employment	Utilization of local skilled and unskilled workers	Contractor, Project Engineer	No direct costs to, costs build in the planning and administration costs of the contractor
	Workers and commuters	Contractor to provide clean and adequate sanitation facilities for the workers at all times	Contractor, Project Engineer	
	Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide medical and insurance cover for all workers</li> <li>- Provide adequate and right safety tools, and enforce use to all workers</li> <li>- Ensure provisions of first aid for staff</li> <li>- The site shall be fenced off and provided with security at the access gates to reduce potential accidents and injuries to the public</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor  Environmental and Health officer/consultant	
	Health and Sanitation	Contractor shall always also provide clean drinking water at the construction site for his workers		
<b>Operation period</b>				
<b><i>Physical Environment</i></b>				
Soils	Soil erosion	Regular cleaning and proper maintenance/repair of drainage structures	Contractor	Normal maintenance budget
	Solid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of disposal bins at designated areas Regular collection and disposal of garbage by the project proponent</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean storm water drains to minimize clogging</li> <li>- Provision of separate collection bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste at the new facility.</li> </ul>		
Water Resources	Water Resources Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor water wastage and usage during operational stages</li> <li>- Install pressure taps that minimize and time usage " Repair damaged taps and toilets to minimize waste</li> </ul>	Project Engineer and Contractor	Normal maintenance budget
	Water Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor oil spills and other leakages at the at garages, parking lots, and delivery areas</li> <li>- Regular cleaning of oil sumps and storm water drains</li> </ul>	Ecological Inspectorate	
Air Quality				
<b><i>Biological Environment</i></b>				
Fauna and Flora				
<b><i>Social Environment</i></b>				
Aesthetics and Landscape				
Human Communities				
Historical and Cultural Sites				
Safety and health of staff and population	health and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project proponent to provide clean and adequate sanitation facilities for the commuters</li> </ul>		No direct costs
	Security and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper design incorporating lighting to enhance security</li> <li>- Sensitize the construction workers, locals, and security to be on the lookout on suspicious activities near the project site</li> </ul>	Contractor, Project Engineer	No direct costs

#### **Annex 4. Environmental guidelines for civil works contracts**

The contractors are required to use environmentally acceptable technical standards and procedures during the implementation of construction of works. All construction contracts will contain the following requirements:

- a) Take precautions against negative influence on environment, any environmental damage or loss through prevention or suppression measures (where it is possible) instead of liquidation or mitigation of negative consequences.
- b) Observe all national and local laws and rules on environmental protection. Identify officers responsible for the implementation of activities on environmental protection conforming to instructions and directions received from the construction and design or environmental protection agencies.
- c) Store and dispose of construction waste consistent with national regulations and the subproject (site-specific) EMP.
- d) Minimize dust emission to avoid or minimize negative consequences influencing air quality.
- e) Provide pedestrian crossing and roads and access to the public places.
- f) Provide markets with light and transient roundabout connections to assure safety and convenience.
- g) Prevent or minimize vibration and noise from vehicles during explosive activities.
- h) Minimize damages and assure vegetation recovery.
- i) Protect surface and underground water from soil pollution.
- j) Environmental guidelines for civil works contracts.

## Annex 5. Requirements and measures when handling asbestos

### Organizational measures

Before starting work and even before submitting a tender for work with materials containing asbestos, an employer must take a number of different steps. By planning and preparing the work procedures carefully, an employer can avoid exposing workers to risks, e.g. as a result of improvisation or disruption of the work process, and thus provide the basis and the necessary conditions for safe completion of the work.

The most important measures are:

- the notification to the authorities,
- the risk assessment and
- the work plans.

In addition, employees must be given the opportunity to have a medical examination. Moreover, before starting with demolition and refurbishment work the companies should give proof of their expertise.

The more conscientiously the employers and their workers observe these rules, the smoother and therefore the more economically the work can be carried out.

### Working instructions

Working instructions are an indispensable component of staff training. They point out the risks to the workers and explain to them the protective measures required.

Whilst the work plan is primarily addressed to supervisors, the working instructions are intended for the workers themselves, identifying the risks, the corresponding protective measures and their expected behavior. Information relating to their workplace and tasks enables workers to act safely in full awareness of the risks.

Working instructions should be concisely and clearly formulated, so that all employees can understand them. They should be displayed at the place of work where they are clearly visible. The staff should observe the working instructions of the employer. The instructions must give information on:

- the type of work and specific tasks;
- the hazardous materials containing asbestos;
- personal protective equipment;
- necessary protective and hygienic measures;
- what to do in the case of breakdowns, accidents and other emergencies;
- how to deal with waste

For simple tasks this information can be included in the work plan, which then replaces the working instructions.

**Moldova Higher Education System Project**  
**Public consultations of Environment and Social documents**

Minutes of the meeting

- Date:** 3 December 2019;
- Location:** Government of Moldova building;
- Chairperson:** Ms. Nadejda Velisco, Head of higher education policies department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of Moldova (MoECR);
- In attendance:** List presented in Annex A.

The *objectives of this meeting* were to: (i) consult the Environment and Social documents related to the Moldova Higher Education Project, (ii) update on project preparation process in the light of cost efficiency requested by the Ministry of Finance and new addition of the labor market monitoring system in the Project activities upon request of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, and (iii) identify if any additional improvement suggestion might be needed at this stage of Project preparation.

**Introduction**

Mr. Velisco informed the audience that MoECR and the World Bank are at appraisal stage in preparing the higher education project for Moldova (MHEP). In order to address the potential impact of MHEP, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR), which contains the national and the World Bank's requirements on Environmental Impact Assessment for the activities and sub-projects to be financed. The main goal of the ESMF is to identify potential environmental and social risks and opportunities and provide guidance on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential negative environmental and social risks and impacts caused by implementation of the Project, as well as leverage positive opportunities when possible. Ms. Velisco explained that the document provides a summary of environmental and socioeconomic conditions and how the proposed sub-projects could affect the environment and people. In addition, Ms. Velisco pointed out that the Framework serves as guidance in identifying and assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of subprojects, in preparing plans and documents that will summarize necessary mitigation measures to minimize or prevent them, and to provide guidance on environmental and social monitoring and reporting. Documents were published on the MoECR's website on November 20, 2019.

Ms. Velisco also reiterated that the proposed Project would be implemented over a period of five years, organized around three components, which she later presented, and financed by an International Development Association Credit of US\$40 million. The Project design includes systemic interventions in higher education quality monitoring capacity, financing and management, as well as a targeted program to be implemented by selected higher education institutions and pedagogical colleges to address some of their most pressing needs in labor market orientation.



## Main Questions & Answers

Rectors and directors of pedagogical colleges all welcomed the new upcoming Project, speaking about its importance for the sector of higher education and economy of Moldova. Also, the next points were raised:

- Mr. Grigore Belostecinic, rector of Academy of Economic Studies (ASEM) questioned the four priority areas selected for investments under component 2, and mainly: IT, engineering, pedagogy and medicine (health). He stated that economy has to be also a priority area and can not be neglected. Ms. Velisco replied that the four priority areas were identified as a result of an assessment conducted earlier by the MoECR. She also mentioned that all higher education institutions will benefit from systemic interventions under Component 1. Also, higher education institutions which are not primarily specialized in the 4 selected priority areas (like ASEM), but have study programs related to those areas will be eligible to apply with proposals for investments under Component 2. Also, ASEM rector asked why no funding is envisaged for international institutional accreditation. Ms. Velisco replied that for higher education sector the priority is accreditation of the master's and doctoral programs that have not yet been evaluated, and the institutional accreditation can be done only after the accreditation of all the study programs by cycles is done. And the Project is more focused on strengthening the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (NAQAER) capabilities.
- Some rectors (State Pedagogical University "I. Creanga", State University Tiraspol) asked about the rationale for financing the development and implementation of the e-Admission system. They mentioned that some individual institutions have already made some efforts (including financial ones) to develop an admission system and use it. They are not fully in line at this point with the approach proposed by the MoECR as it might represent an effort of controlling admission. Ms. Velisco replied that the new e-admission system indeed has the objective of managing the enrolment process system wide in an effort to efficientize the public spending and respond to the labor market requirements. That will also bring to quality increase in each of the institution.
- Additional question was raised regarding the implementation of the Project, mainly about who will support institutions to be in line with the environmental and social requirements. Ms. Velisco and Ms. Iordanov confirmed that all environmental and social checklists will be disseminated in advance, the institutions will have the preparation and training period for that. The Project Management Team (PMT) will have the task in guiding the institutions during preparatory period and in the process of implementing the subprojects, as well as monitoring activities related to ESMF.
- Ms. Dandara from the State University of Moldova pointed out that it would be also important to add additional profiles/areas like the research component (chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, etc.). All those areas of research need to have strong laboratories and platforms for developing and conducting research. That would in the end create a strong link between educational system and the job and development of the market. Ms. Velisco replied that the Project indeed will support more research to be conducted in the higher education institutions and those disciplines mentioned can not be approached individually, but as part of the engineering and IT priority areas identified.
- Another issue was connected with the support in identification and formulation of the social and environmental conditions for the planned equipment and small-scale civil works. Ms. Velisco confirmed that technical support and guidance will be offered by the specialist to be hired by the PMT.
- Ms. Velisco handled also other small questions raised during the meeting and responded all of them.

Related to citizen engagement, Ms. Velisco also informed that it was discussed and agreed with the World Bank team to use an application for collecting suggestions/ideas from project beneficiaries on the preparation of higher education institutions investment proposals under Component 2 (activities to be led by higher education institutions in consultation with relevant stakeholders including students and teachers). As such an application exists already from open source, the World Bank team will find out about the possibility of having its adaptation funded by the new Project and use for the purposes of the mentioned program under Component 2.

**Closing remarks:**

Moldova Higher Education System Project for supporting the higher education and VET pedagogical institutions is very important for developing the sector and economy of Moldova. The components proposed in the new Project are very welcomed and appreciated. It is very important that during implementation the principles of transparency, nondiscrimination and accountability will be applied.

Annex A. List of participants

Lista Participanților la dezbateră publică a Cadrului de management de mediu și social din cadrul proiectului "Învățământul superior din Republica Moldova" susținut financiar de Banca Mondială

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