

Report of the first training under the UNECE capacity-building programme in follow-up to the Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Moldova

Title: Supporting innovation with policy, legislation and local regulation

Date: 13 December 2022, 9.30-13.00 (GMT+2)

Format: Online on Zoom

Background: Following the publication of the [Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Moldova](#) in 2022, the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) of the Republic of Moldova requested support from UNECE to convert some of the recommendations from the Review into a Roadmap on Innovation and Technology Transfer. This Roadmap (available in [English](#) and [Romanian](#)) was finalized in October 2022 following consultations with several relevant local stakeholder groups.

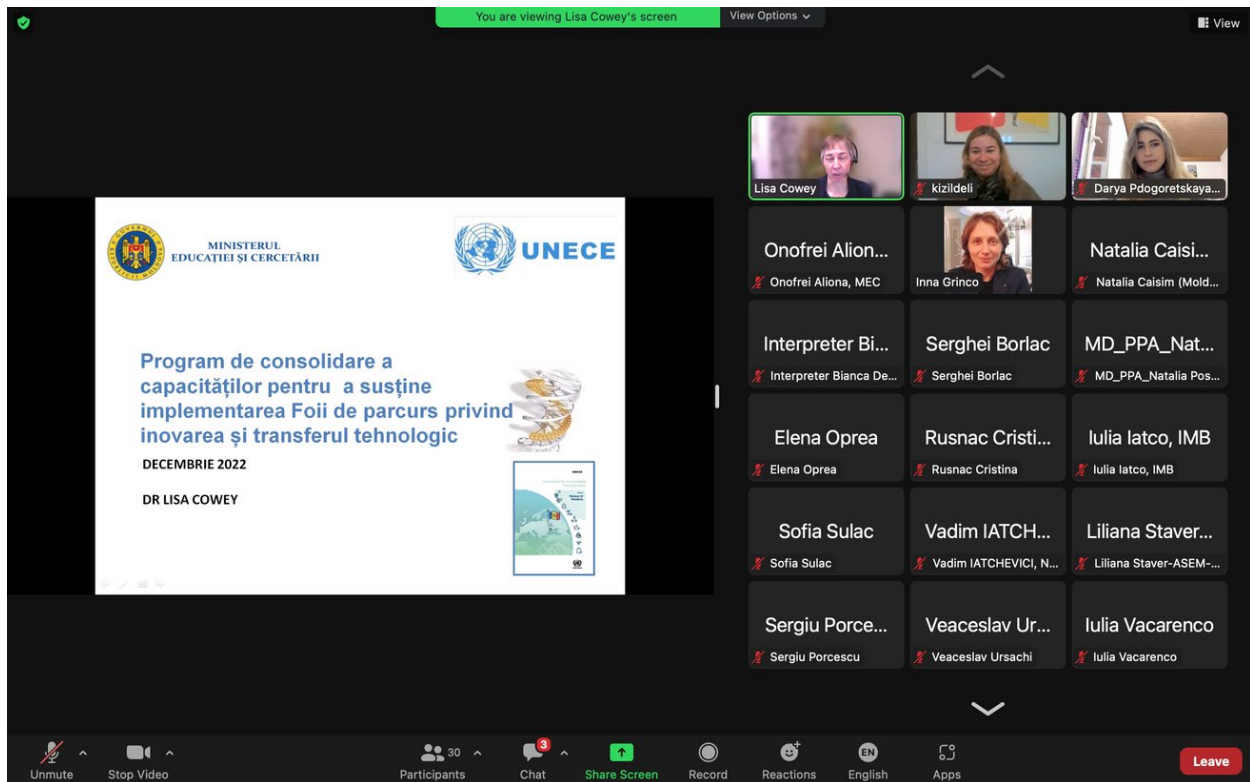
This follow-up online training was organized by UNECE and MER to support the implementation of specific measures under the Roadmap. Specifically, it discussed practical ways to address the Roadmap's Strategic Goals (SGs) 1 and 5:

SG1: Technology Transfer represented on the National Innovation Council (NIC)

SG5: PROs have adopted a clear intellectual property policy

The training was delivered by Ms. Lisa Cowey, author of the Roadmap, with support from Mr. Sergiu Porcescu, local expert.

Participants: 30 attendees, representing the Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health, National Agency for R&D, National Agency for IPR, Entrepreneurship Development Organization, Public Procurement Agency, Diaspora Relations Bureau, Academy of Sciences, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, State University of Moldova, Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Institute of Power Engineering, Academy of Economic Studies, State University from Comrat, Start-Up Moldova Foundation.



Summary of the discussions:

The training was split into three sessions, each of which featured an explanation of the issue by the trainer and presentation of case studies from the UNECE region, followed by interactive group exercises. (For the session structure, see Annex I.)

1. The first session explored **how to shape the innovation landscape through clear and appropriate legislation and governance**. The trainer covered different innovation landscapes, relevant legislation and policy, and examples of national legislation that have shaped these issues. During the interactive group sessions, the participants mentioned that in the Republic of Moldova there are legal provisions concerning ownership rights on employee's inventions (Law N.50 from 2008, GD 1609 on the approval of the Regulation on objects of property created in the exercise of official authority). However, representatives from the Public Research Organisations (PROs) claimed that these are not working in practice and are not reflected in the individual labour contracts.
2. The second session was dedicated to **the importance of regulating intellectual property (IP) ownership and planning for technology transfer at PROs**. The trainer explored the topics of translating national law into institutional policy, the coverage of IP policy support and good practice resources from the EU and WIPO. During the group exercises on rights and responsibilities, both researchers and PROs reflected on the ownership of IP objects. Participants mentioned that the researchers are entitled to be duly remunerated after their invention is used for commercialisation and that the PROs have the exclusive rights to their employees' inventions

and their commercialisation. A critical factor is the existence of a well-developed technology transfer office within PROs, which could lead this process.

3. Session 3 reflected on **the role of a National Innovation Council (NIC)**. The historical rationale for an NIC, types and structural characteristics, their influence and impact, recent trends and resources were presented. During the group activity on structuring an NIC for the Republic of Moldova, participants elaborated on the Council's potential mandate (inter-ministerial, with coordination tasks) and its composition (representatives of the ministries, agencies and wider scientific community). The need to have a dedicated secretariat for the NIC, with a budget to cover its activity, was emphasised.

10 minutes	Welcome and introduction to the training session and participants
60 minutes	<p>Session 1: Shaping the innovation landscape through clear and appropriate legislation and governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of national legislation • Landmark legislation (examples) • Group activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National status ○ Pros and cons of employer/ employee ownership of inventions • Other issues • Feedback and discussion
10 minutes	Short break
60 minutes	<p>Session 2 The importance of regulating IP ownership and planning for technology transfer at Public Research Organisations (PROs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translating national law into institutional policy • IP Policy main issues • Group activity: Roles and Responsibilities of Researchers and PROs • The WIPO Universities initiative • EU Principals of Knowledge Valorisation • Feedback and discussion
10 minutes	Short break
60 minutes	<p>Session 3: The role of a National Innovation Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Innovation Councils – history and main structural elements • Group activity – structuring the Moldova NIC • Feedback and discussion • Influence, impact and recent trends • Examples and case studies • Feedback and discussion
10 minutes	Summary and plans for January trainings