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Operation Number (Serapis N°) 2017-0017

**MOLDOVA ENERGY EFFICIENCY
GRANT AGREEMENT**

between the

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

and the

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Chisinau, 13 September 2022
Luxembourg, 16 September 2022

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THIS INVESTMENT GRANT AGREEMENT IS MADE BETWEEN:

the **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**, represented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova, whose registered office is located at Piata Marii Adunări Naționale 1, MD-2012, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, represented by Andrei SPINU, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova (the "**Beneficiary**")

of the first part, and

the **EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK**, a financial institution established by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, whose head office is located at 98-100, boulevard K. Adenauer, L-2950 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, represented by Roger STUART, Head of Division, and by Stella RENITA, Senior Loan Officer (the "**Bank**"),

of the second part,

each individually a "**Party**" and together the "**Parties**".



**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Republic of Moldova, represented by its Ministry of Finance (the "**Borrower**") has undertaken operations (each a "**Sub-Project**", and together the "**Project**" or the "**Sub-Projects**") to support sustainable energy efficiency improvements targeting public buildings owned by public entities and public institutions representing local public authorities and central public authorities in various cities in the Republic of Moldova, as further described in the technical description (the "**Technical Description**") set out in Annex 1.

Pursuant to a finance contract entered into between the Borrower and the Bank (the "**Finance Contract**") on 10 December 2021, the Bank has made available to the Borrower a loan in a maximum principal amount of EUR 30,000,000 (thirty million euros) (the "**Loan**"), in order to partially finance the Project. The Energy Efficiency Agency (the "**Promoter**"), an administrative body acting under the aegis of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the "**MoIRD**") and the Bank have executed or will execute a project implementation agreement (the "**Project Implementation Agreement**") for the purposes of implementing the Project.

The Borrower will carry out the Project through the MoIRD. The MoIRD will have general supervision of, and responsibility for, the implementation of the Project. The Project will be implemented through the Promoter and MEPIU. The Promoter and the MEPIU (as defined below) will form the project implementation unit (the "**PIU**"), a non-institutionalised platform with the Promoter acting as a leading institution. The PIU is assigned with the Project implementation. The Moldova Energy Projects Implementation Unit (the "**MEPIU**"), a public institution created on the basis of Government Decision no. 1276 of 21 December 2000 will carry out the fiduciary aspects of the Project. A steering committee (the "**Steering Committee**") will also be established for the supervision of the implementation of the Project, comprising of the representatives of, *inter alia*, the MoIRD, the Ministry of Finance, EIB and EBRD, the EU Delegation in Chisinau and/or others.

- B. In connection with the Project, the support of the Bank was requested to obtain non-reimbursable funding to cover part of the costs of the Project.
- C. The Bank and the European Commission have, together with other international finance institutions, entered into the "Co-operation within the framework of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility" framework arrangement, in force as of 21 December 2009, which, in September 2017, became an integral part of the European Fund for Sustainable Development as the Neighbourhood Investment Platform ("**NIP**"), a financing instrument of the European Union aimed at supporting the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in their efforts towards better governance and economic and social development. At the request of the Bank, the operational board of the NIP agreed to provide non-reimbursable funding to cover part of the costs of the Project to be made available through the general budget of the EU (the "**NIP Grant**"). The NIP Grant consists of:
- (1) an investment grant element up to a maximum amount of EUR 12,400,000 (twelve million four hundred thousand euros) to partially finance refurbishment works and energy efficiency measures, as well the development costs for detailed audits, designs, supervision and certification services (the "**Grant**"); and
 - (2) a (i) technical assistance grant element to ensure overall successful project implementation and safeguarding the investment of the Borrower and (ii) an element to finance the visibility component of the Project.
- D. The Beneficiary is duly authorised to receive the Grant that will be used specifically for the implementation of the Project, represented by this investment grant agreement (the "**Agreement**"), on the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement. On 29 December 2020, the Bank and the European Union, acting through the European Commission, entered into a contribution agreement for the management and implementation of the Grant (the "**Contribution Agreement**"), which was amended on 3 May 2022.
- E. This Agreement is entered into based on (i) the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement dated 7 and 8 May 2014 and entered into between the European Union represented by the European Commission and the Bank (the "**FAFA**") and (ii) the Contribution Agreement.



- F. The Bank supports the implementation of international and EU standards in the field of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and promotes tax good governance standards. It has established policies and procedures to avoid the risk of misuse of its funds for purposes, which are illegal or abusive in relation to applicable laws. The EIB Group statement on tax fraud, tax evasion, tax avoidance, aggressive tax planning, money laundering and financing of terrorism is available on the Bank's website and offers further guidance to EIB contracting counterparties.¹

¹ <http://www.eib.org/about/compliance/tax-good-governance/index.htm?f=search&media=search>



NOW THEREFORE it is hereby agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1
Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1. Wherever used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings opposite them:
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| "Agreement" | has the meaning given to it in Recital D. |
| "Borrower" | has the meaning given to it in Recital A. |
| "Confidential Information" | means any document, information or other material, provided in connection with or pursuant to this Agreement, and which is, cumulatively, in written or other permanent (including electronic) form, and clearly and conspicuously identified as "Confidential Information". |
| "Contractor" | means the natural or legal person, or an association thereof – whether formal or informal – with which the Promoter and the MEPIU concludes a Contract for the delivery of the Works and/or Services. |
| "Contract" | means an agreement entered into between the Promoter and the MEPIU and a Contractor pursuant to a public procurement procedure, as prescribed in Article 5 (<i>Design and Procurement</i>) and under which such Contractor delivers the Works and/or Services. |
| "Contribution Agreement" | has the meaning given to it in Recital D. |
| "Effective Date" | means the date of signature of this Agreement by the last Party. |
| "EBRD Loan" | means the loan provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in a total amount of up to EUR 30,000,000 (thirty million euros) for the purposes of financing the Project, pursuant to a loan agreement made or to be made between the Borrower and EBRD. |
| "EU" | means the European Union. |
| "Execution Period" | means the period starting on the Effective Date and ending on the Termination Date. |
| "FAFA" | has the meaning given to it in Recital E. |
| "Final Beneficiary" | a natural or legal person, other than the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU, Contractor or Service Provider, who is an intended recipient of support under this Agreement. |
| "Finance Contract" | has the meaning given to it in Recital A. |
| "Force Majeure" | means any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Parties' control, which is not attributable to error or negligence on their part or any of their agents, employees or contractors, proves insurmountable in spite of all due diligence, and prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their contractual obligations. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making them available, labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as Force Majeure. |
| "FX Rate" | means the foreign exchange reference rate displayed by the European Central Bank from time to time on its website and which is based on the daily consultation procedure between central banks within and outside the European System of Central Banks or, if such rate is not or no longer available at the relevant time, the relevant foreign exchange reference rate displayed by the relevant national central bank, or if such rate is not or no longer available at the relevant time, or economically unreasonable at the relevant time as solely determined by the Bank, any replacement to such rate such as determined in a |



	reasonable commercial manner by the Bank, or the relevant third party (as solely determined by the Bank) which may include an actionable quotation for a currency exchange rate as of the relevant day of such conversion obtained by the entity conducting the conversion from an independent leading dealer in the relevant currency selected by the latter in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner.
"Grant"	has the meaning given to it in Recital C.
"Grant Disbursement Account"	means the euro-denominated treasury account opened in the name of the Beneficiary, at the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova, for the purposes of receiving the Grant prior to such funds being used by the Beneficiary for the purposes of implementing the Project. The Grant Disbursement Account shall be separate from any other accounts, audited independently and separately, and not subject to any enforcement, attachment, or any similar proceedings.
"Grant Maximum Amount"	means EUR 12,400,000 (twelve million four hundred thousand euros).
"Intellectual Property Rights"	means any copyright and related rights, rights in designs, database rights, rights in computer software, domain names, trademarks, service marks, patents, trade names or any applications for any of the foregoing, rights in confidential information (including know-how and trade secrets) or similar rights or obligations, moral rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications (or rights to apply) for, and renewals or extensions of, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which may now or in the future subsist in any part of the world.
"Loan"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"MEPIU"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"NIP"	has the meaning given to it in Recital C.
"NIP Grant"	has the meaning given to it in Recital C.
"Personal Data"	has the meaning given to it in article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1).
"Procurement Plan"	has the meaning given to it in the Guide to Procurement.
"Project"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"Project Implementation Agreement"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"Promoter"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"Sanctioned Persons"	means any individual or entity (for the avoidance of doubt, the term entity includes, but is not limited to, any government, group or terrorist organisation) who is a designated target of, or who is otherwise a subject of, Sanctions.
"Sanctions"	means the economic or financial sanctions laws, regulations, trade embargoes or other restrictive measures (including, in particular, but not limited to, measures in relation to the financing of terrorism)



enacted, administered, implemented and/or enforced from time to time by any of the following:

- (a) the United Nations, and any agency or person which is duly appointed, empowered or authorised by the United Nations to enact, administer, implement and/or enforce such measures;
- (b) the European Union, and any agency or person which is duly appointed, empowered or authorised by the European Union to enact, administer, implement and/or enforce such measures.

"Records"	has the meaning given to it in Annex 4 (<i>Records</i>).
"Relevant Party" or "Relevant Parties"	means the Bank, the agents of the Bank, the European Court of Auditors, the European Commission, agents of the European Commission (including OLAF and external agents engaged by the European Commission), the European Public Prosecutor's Office, any other European Union institution or European Union body which is entitled to verify the use of the Grant and any other duly authorised body under applicable law to carry out audit or control activities.
"Services"	means the services for the construction supervision financed from the Grant to support the construction of the Project as further described in Annex 1 (<i>Description of the Project</i>).
"Sub-Project"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"Technical Description"	has the meaning given to it in Recital A.
"Termination Date"	means the sooner of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the date on which the Contribution Agreement is terminated; or (b) the date falling 72 months (seventy-two months) as from the signing date of the Contribution Agreement, or any other later date as agreed in writing between the Bank and the European Union in accordance with the Contribution Agreement.
"Union Emblem"	means the logo of the European Union with the twelve yellow stars on a blue background as being used by all the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union in accordance with <i>The Interinstitutional style guide</i> of the Publications Office of the European Union and <i>The Use of the EU Emblem in the Context of EU Programmes and in Non-EU Countries – Guidelines for beneficiaries and other third parties</i> as developed by the European Commission and as updated from time to time. These guidelines are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/pdf/ue-emblem_en.pdf
"Works"	means the works and supplies relating to Component 1 of the Project financed by the Grant as further described in Annex 1 (<i>Description of the Project</i>).

- 1.2. Unless indicated otherwise, capitalised terms used but not defined herein, shall have the respective meanings given to them in the Finance Contract.
- 1.3. In the event that a different meaning is given to a capitalized term in a particular Annex, such definition will have the meaning given to it in that Annex solely for the purposes of that Annex.
- 1.4. The headings used in this Agreement, and any references made to the said headings, are for convenience of reference only and will not be taken into consideration in the interpretation of this Agreement.



- 1.5. Except where the context requires otherwise, references to specific Recitals, Articles, Annexes, and other divisions of this Agreement are references to such Recitals, Articles, Annexes to, or divisions of this Agreement.
- 1.6. References to any law, including any statutes or legal acts specifically referred to herein, whether or not amendments or successors to such laws are referred to herein, are to be construed as references to that law as amended from time to time, or to any law covering the same or similar subject matter replacing, extending, consolidating or amending the same from time to time. They will also be deemed to include all regulations, by-laws, ordinances and orders made under or pursuant to that law.
- 1.7. References to a public organisation will include its successors, and if a public organisation ceases to exist or ceases to perform its functions without a successor, references to such public organisation will be deemed to include a reference to any public organisation or any organisation or entity which has taken over either or both the functions and responsibilities of such public organisation.
- 1.8. General words introduced or followed by the word "other" or "including" or "such as" or "in particular" will not be given a restrictive meaning because they are followed or preceded (as the case may be) by particular examples intended to fall within the meaning of the general words.
- 1.9. Unless the context otherwise requires, wherever used herein the plural includes the singular, the singular includes the plural, and each gender include all other genders.
- 1.10. Whenever a document is required to be "certified", such requirement will mean that the relevant document is certified as a true and complete copy of an instrument in full force and effect, and un-amended as of the date of the relevant copy.

ARTICLE 2 Subject

- 2.1. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the rights and obligations of the Parties in relation to the use of the Grant for the implementation of the Works and/or Services.
- 2.2. The Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter, the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall:
 - (a) implement Component 1 of the Project supported by the Grant in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, the Finance Contract, the Project Implementation Agreement, including the time schedule and the description of the Project as per Annex 1 (*Description of the Project*) of this Agreement and the estimated budget as per Annex 2 (*Estimated cost of the Project*) of this Agreement; obtain the Bank's prior written approval to any material changes to the Project's design, implementation schedule, cost, plans and expenditures programme;
 - (b) implement the Works and/or Services and the related Contracts financed by the Grant under its responsibility and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, with a view to achieving the objectives laid down in Annex 1 (*Description of the Project*);
 - (c) use the Grant exclusively for the financing of Component 1 of the Project, and in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement. In so doing, the Beneficiary, the Promoter and the MEPIU shall fulfil its obligations with the requisite care, efficiency, transparency and diligence, in line with the principle of sound financial management and with the best practices in the field;
 - (d) make every effort to mobilise all the financial, human and material resources required for the full implementation of the Project;
 - (e) comply with the applicable environmental and social legislation, including multilateral environmental and human rights agreements and treaties as appropriate, and with the Environmental and Social Standards when implementing the Contracts and the Project supported by the Grant;
 - (f) comply with the Guide to Procurement when procuring all Contracts financed by the Grant;
 - (g) fully cooperate in the protection of the European Union's financial interests;
 - (h) provide for the right of the European Commission to comprehensively exercise its competences;



- (i) dedicate the Grant Disbursement Account to the Project to the exclusion of any other activity of the Beneficiary;
- (j) not create or permit to subsist any charge, pledge, lien or other security interest securing any obligation of any person or any other agreement or arrangement having a similar effect over the Grant Disbursement Account; and
- (k) promptly inform the Bank of:
 - (i) any action or protest initiated or any objection raised by a third party or any genuine complaint received by the Beneficiary or any Environmental or Social Claim that is to its knowledge commenced, pending or threatened against it;
 - (ii) any non-compliance by it with an Environmental and Social Standard; and
 - (iii) any suspension, revocation or modification of an Environmental or Social Approval.

2.3. The Beneficiary confirms that:

- (a) all Authorisations required or desirable to lawfully enable the Beneficiary to enter into, exercise their rights and comply with their obligations in the Agreement have been obtained and are in full force and effect;
- (b) the Promoter is duly incorporated and validly existing as a state agency under the laws of Republic of Moldova and, has power to carry on its activities as it is now being conducted and to own its property and other assets;
- (c) the Promoter is a 100% state owned entity directly subordinated to MoIRD;
- (d) the MEPIU is public entity subordinated to MoIRD, responsible for the implementation of the projects financed by IFIs in the energy sector;
- (e) it shall comply with the undertakings set out in Article 2.2 (*Subject*) above throughout the term of this Agreement; and
- (f) it shall ensure that it is managed and maintained in accordance with best practices in order to ensure that the Beneficiary is always in a position to comply with the obligations set out in this Agreement and with any law or regulation applicable to it.

ARTICLE 3 Entry into Force and Duration

- 3.1. The Agreement is effective from the Effective Date according to the provisions of the Article 32 (*Effectiveness of this Agreement*), and shall remain valid for as long as any rights, obligations or liabilities arising out of its provisions remain outstanding, unless it is otherwise terminated in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 (*Termination*).
- 3.2. The Execution Period shall end no later than the Termination Date.

ARTICLE 4 Financing of the Works and/or Services

- 4.1. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be up to EUR 76,905,000 (seventy-six million nine hundred five thousand) net of any taxes, as further detailed in Annex 2 (*Estimated Cost of the Project*). The final cost of the Project shall be determined after the completion of the Works and/or Services, on the basis of the final invoices submitted by the Contractors, as paid by the Beneficiary or the Borrower, as applicable, and accepted by the Bank in accordance with Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*).
- 4.2. Under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Bank undertakes to make available to the Beneficiary a Grant in a maximum amount up to the Grant Maximum Amount, to be used for financing the Works and/or Services.



- 4.3. The Beneficiary acknowledge that the Grant Maximum Amount is a maximum amount which may be reduced by the Bank, at its sole discretion, by any amounts necessary to cover, among others, any additional or increased cost which is incurred or suffered by the Bank in order to fund or perform its obligations under this Agreement including, but not limited to, the management by the Bank of the Grant (including, but not limited to, any costs incurred by the Bank as a result of the mandatory investment of the Grant in the unitary funds established by the Bank in accordance with the FAFA prior to payment to the Beneficiary).
- 4.4. The Bank states that the Grant is provided by the EU under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform through the resources of the general budget of the European Union.
- 4.5. The Grant shall be used exclusively to cover eligible costs incurred in respect of Component 1 of the Project, as specified in Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*).
- 4.6. Pursuant to the provisions of the Contribution Agreement, if at the end of the Execution Period, the final amount of the eligible costs of the Works and/or Services, determined in accordance with Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*), is lower than the Grant Maximum Amount, the difference shall be returned by the Bank to the European Commission.
- 4.7. The Grant shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for either the Borrower or the Beneficiary or the MEPIU or any Final Beneficiary.
- 4.8. For the avoidance of doubt, all equipment and assets purchased by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU using the Grant shall belong to the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU or Final Beneficiaries, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 5 Design and Procurement

The Beneficiary undertakes and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU undertake to purchase equipment, secure the Services and order the Works for the Project by acceptable procurement procedures complying, to the Bank's satisfaction, with its policy as described in the Guide to Procurement and with the terms of the Finance Contract.

ARTICLE 6 Changes to the Contracts

- 6.1. Before enacting any modification of a Contract, waiving any conditions stipulated in any Contract, or making any other changes to a Contract, as well as on any decisions to suspend, cancel, rescind or otherwise terminate a Contract, the Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU shall inform the Bank of the proposed extension, modification, substitution, waiver, change, or decision, and the reasons thereof, at least 30 (thirty) calendar days in advance of the date when such changes are intended to become applicable.
- 6.2. If the Bank determines that the proposal is inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement, the Finance Contract or would not be otherwise admissible in the light of the provisions of the Contribution Agreement, it shall promptly inform the Beneficiary, and state the reasons for its determination. If the proposal is deemed acceptable by the Bank, it shall communicate in writing to the Beneficiary its agreement to proceed.
- 6.3. The Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU shall proceed to the signature of the relevant Contract amendment instrument or, as the case may be, to the communication to the Contractor of the notice to suspend, cancel, rescind or terminate the Contract, only after receiving the Bank's agreement to proceed, as specified in Article 6.2 (*Changes to the Contracts*).
- 6.4. A certified copy of all amendments to the Contract thus enacted or notices serviced to the relevant Contractor shall be supplied to the Bank within 30 (thirty) calendar days of their enactment or issuance.



ARTICLE 7
Payment of the Grant

- 7.1. The Grant supporting the Project will complement the financing package made available, amongst other, through the loan granted by the Bank via the Finance Contract and the EBRD Loan. The Grant shall be used to finance, alongside, amongst others, the loan granted by the Bank and EBRD Loan, the costs of the Project in accordance with Annex 1 (*Description of the Project*).
- 7.2. Subject to:
- (a) the provisions of Article 4 (*Financing of the Works and/or Services*) above;
 - (b) the fulfilment of the conditions precedent specified in article 1.4 of the Finance Contract; and
 - (c) the fulfilment of the conditions precedent specified in Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*);
- the Bank will disburse the Grant in euros into the Grant Disbursement Account.
- 7.3. To the extent practicable and reasonable at the time of the relevant disbursement, the disbursement under this Agreement is made *pari passu* and pro rata with the disbursements under the Finance Contract.
- 7.4. For the purpose of implementing the Contracts, the Beneficiary may carry out a conversion of any amount corresponding to the Grant. For all amounts that are not in euros, the FX Rate shall be applied for the conversion of such amounts to euros.
- 7.5. No disbursements shall be requested or made unless and until the following conditions are met, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank:
- (a) this Agreement has been duly signed by the Parties;
 - (b) the Bank has received evidence that the execution of this Agreement by the Beneficiary, has been duly authorised and that the persons signing this Agreement on behalf of the Beneficiary are duly authorised to do so, together with the specimen signature of each such persons;
 - (c) the conditions precedent in article 1.4 of the Finance Contract have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Bank;
 - (d) the Beneficiary has provided the Bank with a certificate duly signed by a legal representative of the Beneficiary and confirming that the conditions specified in Article 8.1 (*Eligible Costs*) are met; and
 - (e) the Bank has received a legal opinion in the English language, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank, issued by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova confirming that:
 - (i) the execution of this Agreement by the Beneficiary has been duly authorised and the persons signing this Agreement on behalf of the Beneficiary are duly authorised and have the capacity to do so;
 - (ii) the Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of the Beneficiary, enforceable in accordance with its terms;
 - (iii) this Agreement is duly ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the applicable laws of the Republic of Moldova;
 - (iv) the Beneficiary has obtained all necessary Authorisations required in connection with this Agreement and the Project; and
 - (v) the application of the public international law as the proper law of the Agreement and the submission by the UNCITRAL Rules.



- 7.6. The first tranche of the Grant shall be disbursed by the Bank within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days from the date on which:
- (a) the Bank has received a request in this regard from the Beneficiary and the MEPIU, substantially in the form included as Annex 3 (*Model Request for payment*), for approval of the request for payment and confirmation of all elements and statements contained therein;
 - (b) the conditions specified in Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) have been duly met;
 - (c) the Beneficiary and/ or the Promoter and/ or the MEPIU submitted and the Bank accepted all the reports which were due pursuant to Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*) prior to the date of the request for payment; and
 - (d) the Bank is satisfied that all the conditions precedent for the disbursement of the first tranche under article 1.4 of the Finance Contract have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- 7.7. The disbursement of each tranche other than the first tranche, up to the Grant Maximum Amount specified in Article 4.2 (*Financing of the Works and/or Services*), shall be made by the Bank within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days from the date on which:
- (a) the Bank has received a request in this regard from the Beneficiary, substantially in the form included as Annex 3 (*Model Request for Payment*) for approval of the request for payment and confirmation of all elements and statements contained therein;
 - (b) the conditions specified in Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) continue to be met; and
 - (c) the Bank is satisfied that all the conditions precedent for the disbursement of the corresponding tranche under article 1.4 of the Finance Contract have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- 7.8. If the final amount of the eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU under the Contracts is lower than the total amount of the Grant already disbursed by the Bank in accordance with this Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*), the amount of the Grant disbursed in excess of the final amount of eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and/ or the MEPIU shall be recovered by the Bank pursuant to Article 20 (*Recovery*) and shall be returned to the European Commission.
- 7.9. In relation to the foregoing, the Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU shall:
- (a) ensure that the invoices submitted by the Contractors for payments under the Contracts include, as a minimum, the following information:
 - (i) the name and address of the Contractor;
 - (ii) the title and any unique identification code of the Contract;
 - (iii) the amount requested for payment, in euros equivalent applying the FX Rate, quoting separately the amount corresponding to any taxes, customs and duties that may be payable;
 - (iv) an identification of the Works and/or Services delivered that are covered by the payment requested or a clear identification of the payment requested as an advance payment, as applicable.
 - (b) ensure, and include terms to this effect in each Contract, that if the terms and conditions for payment of the Contractor agreed in the Contract include categories or items of expenditure that are paid to the Contractor at actual cost, when such expenditure is incurred by the Contractor in a currency other than Euro the amount of such expenditure to be claimed for payment under this Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) shall be calculated by converting into Euro the amount actually incurred by the Contractor in a different currency, at the FX Rate applicable on the date of the relevant invoice issued to the Contractor.
- 7.10. For any disbursement, including the first tranche, the Bank reserves the right to request any additional information or documents related to the payment as it may deem necessary for establishing the eligibility and payability of the amounts requested. For the avoidance of doubt, the request for payment shall not be admissible if one or more of the essential requirements, as defined in this Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*), are not met.



- 7.11. The Bank may suspend the time limit for payments specified in Articles 7.6 and 7.7 (*Payment of the Grant*) by notifying in writing the Beneficiary that:
- (a) the amount indicated in the request for payment is not due, or
 - (b) supporting documents to the Bank's satisfaction have not been supplied, or
 - (c) it thinks it needs to conduct further checks, including on-the-spot checks, to make sure that the expenditure declared is eligible, or
 - (d) it is necessary to verify whether suspected or alleged substantial errors, irregularities or fraud have occurred in the award or implementation of any Contract; or
 - (e) the European Union requests the Bank to suspend all its disbursements pursuant to the FAFA or the Contribution Agreement; or
 - (f) the European Commission deliver a recovery notice to the Bank pursuant to the FAFA or the Contribution Agreement; or
 - (g) the Agreement is terminated pursuant to the FAFA or the Contribution Agreement; or
 - (h) the European Union requests the Bank to reimburse part or all amounts already disbursed to the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and/or MEPIU pursuant to the FAFA.

Such suspension shall take effect on the date when the notification is sent by the Bank to the Beneficiary. Without prejudice to Article 23 (*Termination*), the time limit for the payment shall start running again on the date on which the reason for suspension of payments is addressed to the satisfaction of the Bank.

- 7.12. The Beneficiary shall grant and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU grants the Bank or its authorised representatives the assistance and access rights specified in Article 15.2 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*) for the purposes of undertaking the verifications and controls referred to in Article 7.10 (*Payment of the Grant*), points (iii) and (iv).
- 7.13. The disbursements made by the Bank pursuant to this Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) shall not imply recognition of the regularity, or of the authenticity, completeness and correctness of the documents and information provided by the Beneficiary, as applicable, in support of the requests for payments it submits to the Bank.

ARTICLE 8 Eligible Costs

- 8.1. In order to be considered eligible for payment under the Grant, the costs covered by the requests for disbursement submitted by the Beneficiary pursuant to Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) must:
- (a) relate to the Works and/or Services actually provided by a Contractor in accordance with the terms of the relevant Contract. For the avoidance of doubt, the following costs are eligible: (i) the costs of any ancillary services strictly linked to the Works and/or Services (such as testing, commissioning, end-user training, etc.) and procured as part of the Contracts and (ii) the costs incurred by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable for the expenditure verification certificates to be provided to the Bank pursuant to Article 9.4 (*Information and Reporting*) of this Agreement;
 - (b) be incurred by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable during the Execution Period and necessary for the implementation of Component 1 the Project. For the purposes of this Agreement, a cost shall be considered as "incurred" by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable when the Works and/or Services, or part thereof, to which it corresponds are implemented by a Contractor during the Execution Period and accepted by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable and considered eligible by the Bank, after approval of relevant operational and financial reports submitted to the Bank by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable on the implementation of the Works and/or Services financed by the Grant, thus excluding any payments to a Contractor made in the form of advances;
 - (c) comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;



- (d) be necessary and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding value for money and cost-effectiveness and be included in the estimated budget for the Project agreed between the Parties; and
 - (e) be identifiable and verifiable, and in particular be recorded in the accounting records of the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable and be determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the Republic of Moldova and to the usual cost accounting practices of the Beneficiary.
- 8.2. The Beneficiary shall comply and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU complies with the conditions specified in Article 8.1 (*Eligible Costs*) before submitting any request for payment to the Bank.
- For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to Article 8.1 (*Eligible Costs*), point (b), the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable may have commenced the procurement procedure to award a Contract, and such Contract with the relevant Contractor may have been signed by the Promoter or the MEPIU, before the start of the Execution Period, provided that the Works and/or Services for which costs are claimed for payment from the Grant are delivered to and accepted by the Beneficiary or the Promoter and the MEPIU, as applicable during the Execution Period (thus excluding any Works and/or Services which may be delivered before the start, or after the end of the Execution Period).
- 8.3. The Beneficiary shall keep and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU keep full, accurate and systematic Records on the implementation of each Contract and the use of the Grant, in such form and detail as is necessary and sufficient to establish accurately that the activities have been carried out and the cost identified in its reports to the Bank have been duly incurred for the implementation of Component 1 the Project and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- Such Records shall enable the income and expenditure related to the Works and/or Services to be easily traced, identified and verified, and shall be kept by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable for a period of five (5) years following the Termination Date and in any case until any on-going audit, verification, appeal, litigation or pursuit of claim, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or a Contract has been disposed of. They shall be easily accessible and filed so as to facilitate their examination.
- 8.4. The Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter or the MEPIU shall provide the Bank with all necessary verifiable information and supporting documentation (including, if so requested by the Bank, a financial audit certificate produced by an independent auditor agreed by the Bank) for the Bank to satisfy itself that any Works and/or Services which are co-financed by the Grant have been delivered, and that expenditure declared by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, as applicable in connection with Component 1 the Project has actually been paid and complies with the conditions for the award and use of the Grant.
- 8.5. For the avoidance of doubt, all bank charges related to the use of the Grant Disbursement Account are not considered eligible for payment under the Grant and shall be borne by the Promoter and the MEPIU.

ARTICLE 9 Information and Reporting

- 9.1. The Beneficiary shall cooperate and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU cooperates at all times with the Bank and the Contractors in relation to the provision of the Works and/or Services. In particular, the Beneficiary shall use and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU uses their best endeavours to ensure that the Contractors' employees and their dependants obtain the visas and permits, including work and residence permits, required in accordance with the applicable laws of the Republic of Moldova, it being understood that the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and the MEPIU shall have no obligation to cover the costs thereof, and that the responsibility for submitting a visa application, with associated supporting documents, to the visa issuing authority of the Republic of Moldova rests solely with the Contractors.
- 9.2. The Beneficiary and the MEPIU shall provide the Bank with full information on the implementation of this Agreement and the Works and/or Services. To this end, the Beneficiary and the MEPIU shall provide annual progress reports and a final implementation report, consisting of a narrative section and a financial section. The reports shall be drafted in English and financial information shall be consolidated in euros. Each report shall be in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank.



- 9.3. Each annual progress report must provide a full account of the achievements of the Project within the twelve (12) months reporting period and the status at end of that period.

The narrative section shall consist of, at least:

- (a) the status of any ongoing procurement activities;
- (b) progress of Works and/or Services and Contracts;
- (c) an update on environmental and social aspects;
- (d) an update on ongoing sector reforms, if any;
- (e) any particular operational challenges faced and measures taken to overcome them, any changes in the implementation of the Project;
- (f) any communication activities and measures undertaken to ensure the visibility of the EU's contribution to the Project;
- (g) an overview of the use of the Grant broken down by components of the Works and/or Services;
- (h) the work plan and cash flow forecast for the next twelve (12) months;
- (i) an update on the overall Project completion date and estimated Project final cost; and
- (j) an update on progress indicators, if measurable at that stage; the main indicators that will be monitored at the Project level are listed in Annex 5 (*Progress Indicators*).

- 9.4. The financial section shall consist of:

- (i) an updated financing plan (including the latest figures available);
- (ii) an updated disbursement forecast; and
- (iii) an overview of expenditure, listing eligible costs, determined in accordance with Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*), incurred in the period covered by the report and claimed for payment from the Grant, in the currency of expenditure and in its equivalent Euro amount, calculated in accordance with Article 7.7 (*Payment of the Grant*), and indicating for each item of expenditure its title, amount, relevant category of expenditure specified in Annex 2 (*Estimated cost of the Project*), and the reference of the document evidencing it.

Should the disbursement forecast change substantially, the Beneficiary shall directly or through the Promoter or the MEPIU send an updated forecast to the Bank. If the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU determines that the forecast budget and, on its basis, the amount of pre-financing already paid by the Bank for any twelve (12) month period may be insufficient to cover the needs of the Project for the remaining part of that twelve (12) month period, this updated forecast shall be accompanied by a financial statement which shall demonstrate the necessity for further pre-financing (by demonstrating that 80% of the immediately preceding disbursement and 100% of all other disbursements have been effectively employed by the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU for the implementation of the Project or are subject to a legal commitment with Contractors).

- 9.5. The final implementation report shall provide a detailed description of the activities carried out, the results and impact of the Project covering the whole implementation period.

The narrative section shall consist of an overview of at least:

- (i) the procurement activities;
- (ii) Works and Contracts;
- (iii) environmental and social aspects;
- (iv) the status of any ongoing sector reforms;
- (v) any particular operational challenges faced and measures taken to overcome them, any changes in the implementation of the Project;
- (vi) communication activities and measures undertaken to ensure the visibility of the EU's contribution to the Project;
- (vii) the use of the Grant and other project financing sources broken down by components of the Works and/or Services;
- (viii) Achievement of progress indicators (see Article 9.3).

The financial section shall consist of:

- (i) final financing plan;
 - (ii) an overview of expenditure, listing eligible costs, determined in accordance with Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*), incurred in the project period and claimed for payment from the Grant, in the currency of expenditure and in its equivalent Euro amount, calculated in accordance with Article 7.7 (*Payment of the Grant*), and indicating for each item of expenditure its title, amount, relevant category of expenditure specified in Annex 2 (*Estimated cost of the Project*), and the reference of the document evidencing it.
- 9.6. The annual progress reports must be submitted to the Bank no later than 10 February of each year. The final implementation report must be submitted to the Bank no later than 5 (five) months after the end of the Execution Period.
- 9.7. The Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter and the MEPIU shall provide annually an externally audited financial statement of expenditure of the previous calendar year. Such financial statement shall be audited by an external auditor acceptable to the Bank and shall be submitted no later than 30 June each year and for the first time by 30 June 2023 at the latest.
- 9.8. The Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter and the MEPIU shall provide the Bank with a biennial expenditure verification report related to the Grant, such report to be prepared by an independent external auditor. The selection of the independent external auditor and its terms of reference concerning the expenditure verification report related to the Grant shall require the prior written approval of the Bank. The Beneficiary and the Promoter and the MEPIU shall fully cooperate with such external auditor and facilitate its work. The auditor shall examine whether the costs declared and claimed for payment from the Grant pursuant to Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) are real, accurately recorded and eligible according to this Agreement.
- The Beneficiary acknowledges and shall inform the Promoter and the MEPIU that (i) the first expenditure verification report shall cover the period from the Effective Date to 31 December 2023 and is due on 25 March 2024, and (ii) the subsequent expenditure verification reports shall cover each a period of two (2) calendar years (or less, in the case of the last expenditure verification report) and shall be provided by 25 March of the calendar year following the last year covered by the expenditure verification report.
- 9.9. All reports shall be provided by the Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter and the MEPIU to the Bank in paper and electronic format.
- 9.10. If the Beneficiary fails to submit to the Bank, by the deadlines indicated in Article 9.3 (*Information and Reporting*), any of the reports due, and fails to furnish an acceptable and sufficient written explanation of the reasons why it is unable to comply with this obligation, the Bank may terminate the Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 (*Termination*), and recover any amounts of the Grant already disbursed under this Agreement and not substantiated, including through assigning its rights to recover to the European Commission, in accordance with Article 22 (*Assignments*).
- 9.11. The Beneficiary shall inform and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU informs the Bank without delay of any circumstances likely to hamper or delay the implementation of the Works and/or Services.
- 9.12. The Bank may request clarifications, alterations or additional information or documents in relation to any of the reports submitted by the Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter and the MEPIU pursuant to this Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*), which must be supplied by the Beneficiary directly or through the Promoter and the MEPIU within fifteen (15) calendar days of such request.

ARTICLE 10

Ownership of Results and Intellectual Property Rights

- 10.1. Subject to any pre-existing Intellectual Property Rights of any individual or legal entity, including any of the Parties, the Intellectual Property Rights in new materials compiled or prepared by the Contractors in the performance of the Contracts, including all reports and relevant data and information such as maps, diagrams, plans, databases, other documents and software, supporting records or material, shall vest in the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and the MEPIU.

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- 10.2. Without prejudice to Article 10.1 (*Ownership of Results and Intellectual Property Rights*) and subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements, the Beneficiary hereby grants and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU grants to the Bank and to the European Commission an irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual licence, with rights to grant sub-licences, in any new Intellectual Property Rights. In particular, the Bank and the European Commission shall have the right to use freely, including to store, modify, translate, display, reproduce by any technical procedure, publish or communicate by any medium, all documents, including any reports pursuant to Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*), deriving from this Agreement and the Contracts, whatever their form. To this effect, the Beneficiary shall ensure that it has the right to use the relevant pre-existing Intellectual Property Rights, including granting such license as foreseen by this Article 10 (*Ownership of Results and Intellectual Property Rights*).
- 10.3. In case a recognisable individual is depicted in a photograph or film produced in connection with the implementation of this Agreement, the Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in the final implementation report submitted to the Bank in accordance with Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*) a statement from such individual whereby he gives permission for such use of his image, it being understood that such requirement shall not apply in case of photographs taken or films shot in public places where random members of the public are identifiable only hypothetically, or of photographs taken or films shot of public persons acting in their public capacity.
- 10.4. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in each Contract provisions requiring the Contractor to comply with the obligations specified in this Article 10 (*Ownership of Results and Intellectual Property Rights*), as necessary.
- 10.5. The equipment and supplies paid for by the Grant shall be the property of the Promoter and the MEPIU. The documentary proof of such property shall be kept for verification along with the documents mentioned in Article 8.3 (*Eligible Costs*).

ARTICLE 11 Visibility and Transparency

- 11.1. The Beneficiary shall cooperate and coordinate and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU cooperate and coordinate the communication and visibility activities planned and implemented in relation to Component 1 the Project at all times with the Bank and the Contractors. For this purpose, the Beneficiary and the Promoter will be guided by the "EU Communication and Visibility requirements in EU-financed external actions"² as well as the EIB Use of logo guide and/or any other succeeding document and/or specific communication strategy/plan developed for this Project.
- 11.2. The Beneficiary shall document and report and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU document and report all communication and visibility activities implemented in relation to Component 1 this Project.
- 11.3. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall take all appropriate measures to publicise the fact that the Project and the Contracts have received funding from the European Union. Information given to the press, to the Contractors, all related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, shall acknowledge that the Project and the Contracts are carried out "*with funding by the European Union*" and shall display in an appropriate way the Union Emblem as well as the Bank's logo.
- 11.4. Where equipment or vehicles and major supplies have been purchased using funds provided by the EU, the Beneficiary shall, and shall require Contractors, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries to, include appropriate acknowledgments on such vehicles, equipment and major supplies as well as ensure EU and Bank visibility through outdoor promotion (display project boards, billboards, commemorative plaques etc.)
- 11.5. The Parties agree to extend an invitation to the Bank, the European Commission and to the Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Moldova to participate in any and all events any of them may organise in relation to this Agreement, the Contracts or the Project, over the duration of this Agreement. Such events may include any regular or technical working meetings between the Parties in the context of the Project supported by the Grant.

² https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2018-06/visibility_requirements-near_en.pdf



- 11.6. Where high-level visits are planned, the Parties will inform each other and consider coordinating these visits and agreeing on joint messages.
- 11.7. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in each Contract provisions requiring the Contractor to respect the same visibility requirements as specified in Article 11.1 (*Visibility and Transparency*), and to include the following texts in each report or any other deliverable it submits pursuant to such Contract:
- (a) *"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union in the framework of the Neighbourhood Investment Platform and through the general budget of the European Union."*
 - (b) *"Disclaimer: The authors take full responsibility for the contents of this report. The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the European Union or the European Investment Bank. The European Union, the European Investment Bank, their members, governing bodies, employees or agents, accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising from the interpretation or use of the information, or reliance upon views contained herein, or from the use by third parties of results or methods presented in this report."*
- 11.8. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include, in its regular reports to the Bank submitted in accordance with Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*), information on measures implemented to ensure the visibility of the European Union's financial contribution, and communicate to the Bank any other progress and situation reports, publications, press releases and updates relevant to this Agreement, as and when they are issued.
- 11.9. Subject to the applicable rules on confidentiality, security and protection of personal data, the Beneficiary authorise and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary authorises the Bank and the European Commission to publish, on an annual basis, the following information in relation to this Agreement: the title, nature and purpose of this Agreement and the Project, the name, address and country of the Beneficiary, the Promoter and the MEPIU, the Final Beneficiaries and the Grant Maximum Amount. To this effect, the Beneficiary shall provide and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU provide the relevant information to the Bank within ten (10) calendar days following the signature of this Agreement by the Parties or of a request made in this regard by the Bank.
- 11.10. Upon a duly substantiated request by the Beneficiary, the Bank may agree to forego such publicity, if the disclosure of the above information would risk threatening the Beneficiary's safety or harming its legitimate interests.
- 11.11. If the Beneficiary or the Borrower or the Promoter or the MEPIU or the Final Beneficiaries publishes on their website any information in relation to this Agreement or the Contracts, the Beneficiary shall, or shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter or the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall, as the case may be, provide the Bank with the address of such website and hereby authorises the publication of such address on the Bank's website.

ARTICLE 12 Conflict of Interests

- 12.1. The Beneficiary undertakes and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary undertakes to take all necessary precautions to prevent, mitigate or end any conflict of interests arising out of or in connection with this Agreement. There is a conflict of interest where the impartial and objective exercise of the functions of any person implementing this Agreement is compromised (i) for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with another third party or (ii) by virtue of that person's duties and tasks as a member of staff towards his employer. The Beneficiary shall inform and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU inform the Bank without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to any such conflict, during the period of validity of this Agreement.
- 12.2. The Bank reserves the right to verify that any measures put in place by the Beneficiary and the Promoter and the MEPIU to prevent, mitigate or end conflicts of interests are adequate, and may require additional measures to be taken if necessary.
- 12.3. If the Beneficiary fails to comply with the obligations set forth in this Article, the Bank may terminate this Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 (*Termination*).

- 12.4. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in each Contract provisions requiring the Contractor to comply with any obligations or additional measure specified in this Article 12 (*Conflict of Interests*), as necessary.

ARTICLE 13 Confidentiality

- 13.1. The Parties warrant that they will keep Confidential Information, and all documents containing, or referring to, any Confidential Information, under their effective control and using the same standard of care they use to keep their own confidential information confidential, and that they will not use or reproduce any document containing, or referring to, any Confidential Information, nor allow any other person to use or reproduce any such document, except to the extent necessary to enable it to exercise its rights or perform its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or with the prior agreement in writing of the owner of the Confidential Information.
- 13.2. The obligations specified in Article 13.1 (*Confidentiality*) shall not be regarded as being breached to the extent that:
- (a) disclosure of or access to Confidential Information is authorised or required by law, or any rule, regulation or treaty or by any order of a court having competent jurisdiction in the matter, which are applicable to the disclosing Party;
 - (b) the Confidential Information is disclosed by a Party in order to protect its interests in the course of any legal or arbitration proceedings to which it is a party;
 - (c) the Confidential Information is disclosed or access to Confidential Information is granted pursuant to the obligations specified in Article 15 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*);
 - (d) the Confidential Information is disclosed by the Bank to the European Commission pursuant to the Contribution Agreement or to the European Court of Auditors;
 - (e) the information designated by the Beneficiary and/or the Promoter and the MEPIU as confidential is, in accordance with the Bank's transparency policy (as at the time of disclosure), accessible upon request or published in summary format on the Bank's website.
- 13.3. Where any Party discloses Confidential Information to a third party pursuant to Article 13.2 (*Confidentiality*), with the exception of letter (e) therein, the disclosing Party shall notify the receiving third party that the information is Confidential Information.
- 13.4. Where a Party discloses Confidential Information to a third person pursuant to Article 13.2(c) (*Confidentiality*), that Party will give written notice to the other Party immediately upon becoming aware of any such requirement to disclose information and the other Party is entitled to argue in any such circumstances against the disclosure of any Confidential Information.
- 13.5. The Parties shall preserve the confidentiality of the Confidential Information until at least 7 (seven) years after the end of the Execution Period.
- 13.6. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in each Contract provisions requiring the Contractor to comply with any obligations specified in this Article 13 (*Confidentiality*).

ARTICLE 14 Evaluation

- 14.1. If the Bank or the European Commission carries out an evaluation of, or a monitoring mission for, the Grant or the Component 1 of the Project, the Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall provide the representatives of the Bank or the European Commission, or persons authorised by them, with any document or information which will assist with the mission, and shall grant them the access rights specified at Article 15 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*), subject to Article 13 (*Confidentiality*).
- 14.2. If a Party carries out or commissions an evaluation of the use of the Grant or the Works and/or Services, it must provide to the other Party a copy of the corresponding evaluation report. The Bank reserves the right to provide a copy of such evaluation report to the European Commission, representing the European Union as a donor.



ARTICLE 15
Verifications, Controls and Audits

- 15.1. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall allow any Relevant Party and any external auditor authorised by the preceding, (i) to verify, by examining the original documents (including the right to make copies thereof) and by means of on-the-spot checks, the implementation of the Component 1 of the Project and the execution of the Contracts in order to protect the financial interests of the European Union, with a view to establishing whether there has been any Prohibited Conduct affecting the financial interests of the European Union in connection with the Component 1 of the Project; and (ii) to conduct a full audit, if necessary, on the basis of supporting documents for the accounts, accounting documents and any other document which is relevant to the financing of the Works and/or Services. Such verifications, controls or audits may take place up to five (5) years after the Termination Date.
- 15.2. Pursuant to Article 15.1 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*), the Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall provide the Relevant Parties and any external auditor authorised by the preceding, or ensure that they are provided, with all necessary access and assistance for this purpose. Access given in accordance with this Article 15 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*) shall be on the basis of confidentiality with respect to third parties, without prejudice to the obligations of public or European Union law to which these institutions or bodies and their staff, agents or authorised representatives are subject.
- 15.3. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall procure, including by foreseeing terms to this effect in each Contract, that the rights granted in accordance with this Article 15 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*) shall be equally applicable to each Contractor.
- 15.4. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall acknowledge that the Bank may be obliged to divulge such information relating to the Borrower, the Beneficiary, this Agreement and the Contracts to any competent European Union institution or body, in accordance with the relevant mandatory provisions of European Union law.

ARTICLE 16
Protection of Personal Data

- 16.1. The processing of Personal Data shall be carried out by the Bank in accordance with the FAFA and the applicable European Union legislation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of Personal Data by the European Union institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.
- 16.2. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. The Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Borrower, the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall limit access to and use of Personal Data to that strictly necessary for the performance, management and monitoring of this Agreement and the Contracts, and shall adopt all appropriate technical and organisational security measures necessary to preserve the confidentiality and limit access to such Personal Data.

ARTICLE 17
Integrity Commitment

- 17.1. The Beneficiary warrants and undertakes that it has not committed, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary has not committed, and no person to their present knowledge has committed, and that they, and any other person with their consent or prior knowledge, shall not commit any Prohibited Conduct nor any illegal activity related to the Financing of Terrorism or Money Laundering in connection with the Project, any tendering procedure for the Project, or any transaction contemplated by this Agreement or in connection with the Grant.



- 17.2. The Beneficiary represents and warrants to the Bank that to the best of its knowledge, no funds invested in the Project by the Borrower or the Beneficiary are of illicit origin, including products of Money Laundering or linked to the Financing of Terrorism.
- 17.3. For this purpose, the knowledge of any official of the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU or the Final Beneficiaries will be deemed the knowledge of the Beneficiary, as the case may be. The Beneficiary undertakes to inform the Bank if it should become aware of any fact or information suggestive of the commission of any such act and shall facilitate any investigation that any Relevant Party or any person authorised by the preceding may make concerning such act or behaviour.
- 17.4. The Beneficiary undertakes to, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, take such action as the Bank shall reasonably request to investigate or terminate any alleged or suspected occurrence of any Prohibited Conduct.
- 17.5. The Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU shall ensure that all Contracts include the necessary provisions as set out in article 3.6 (*Prohibited Conduct – Covenant of Integrity*) of the Guide to Procurement in order to, among others, obtain a signed covenant of integrity and enable the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU, any Relevant Party or any person authorised by the preceding to investigate or terminate any alleged or suspected occurrence of any Prohibited Conduct in connection with the Project, this Agreement or the Grant.
- 17.6. The Beneficiary shall not, and shall ensure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall not, enter into a business relationship with any Sanctioned Person or make any funds available to or for the benefit of, directly or indirectly, any Sanctioned Person in relation with the Project.
- 17.7. The Beneficiary undertakes and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU undertakes to take within a reasonable timeframe appropriate measures in respect of any of their agents, officials or employees who becomes a Sanctioned Person or is the subject of a final and irrevocable court ruling in connection with Prohibited Conduct perpetrated in the course of the exercise of their professional duties in order to ensure that such member is excluded from any activity of the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU or each Final Beneficiary in relation to the Grant, this Agreement and to the Project.
- 17.8. Failure of the Beneficiary to comply with these obligations may entitle the Bank to terminate this Agreement, in accordance with Article 23 (*Termination*).

ARTICLE 18 Force Majeure

- 18.1. The Party faced with Force Majeure will inform the other Party without delay, stating the nature, probable duration and foreseeable effects of the problem, and the measures taken or to be taken to minimise damage.
- 18.2. A Party will not be held in breach of its obligations under this Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling them by Force Majeure.

ARTICLE 19 Suspension

- 19.1. The Beneficiary may, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries may, suspend the implementation of all or part of the Contracts, and the Bank may request the Beneficiary to do so and ensure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries do so, if circumstances (including Force Majeure) make it too difficult or dangerous to continue. If the decision to suspend implementation belongs to Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU or the Final Beneficiaries, it shall inform the Bank without delay and provide all the necessary details. If a decision to suspend implementation is taken, the Bank or the Beneficiary may terminate this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 (*Termination*). If this Agreement is not terminated, the Beneficiary shall, and shall ensure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall, take all necessary measures to minimise the time of suspension and shall resume implementation once circumstances allow, and shall inform the Bank accordingly.



- 19.2. The Bank may also suspend the implementation of this Agreement in the following cases: (i) in the event of *Force Majeure*; (ii) when necessary in order to verify if the execution of the Works and/or Services, the Contracts or the Project has been affected by substantial breaches, errors, irregularities or fraud; (iv) upon the adoption by the European Union of a decision identifying a violation of human rights which prohibits the Bank from performing its obligations under this Agreement; and/or (iii) upon the European Commission suspending the implementation of the Contribution Agreement. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall, provide any information, clarification or document requested by the Bank in respect of the verifications referred to in point (ii) within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of such request. If such verifications indicate that the execution of the Works and/or Services or the Contracts has been affected by substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, or breach of obligations by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU or any Final Beneficiaries or any Contractor, the Bank reserves the right to terminate this Agreement in accordance with Article 23 (*Termination*) and recover any amounts already disbursed to the extent that such disbursement was affected by such substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations. Article 25 (*Liability and Indemnity*) shall apply accordingly.

ARTICLE 20 Recovery

- 20.1. If any amount of the Grant is unduly disbursed by the Bank, or if recovery is otherwise justified in accordance with this Agreement, including as a result of any verifications, controls or audits carried out pursuant to Article 7.10 (*Payment of the Grant*) or Article 15 (*Verifications, Controls and Audits*), the Beneficiary shall repay such amounts to the Bank, within thirty (30) calendar days from receiving the debit note from the Bank requesting such repayment. The Beneficiary shall make payments of such amount requested by the Bank to the Bank in Euro, into the account notified by the Bank in its written request, without taking into account any FX rate applied at the time of the initial payment of the Grant by the Bank to the Beneficiary. For the avoidance of doubt, any amount unduly disbursed by the Bank, or unused or misused by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU, and transferred back to the Bank shall be denominated in EUR and equal to the corresponding amount denominated in EUR initially paid by the Bank to the Beneficiary.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Bank may, in particular, proceed to recover any amounts of the Grant it disbursed, pursuant to Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*), in excess of the final amount of eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary and/ or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU, as applicable, determined in accordance with Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*).

- 20.2. The written request from the Bank as to the aggregate amount due to be repaid by the Beneficiary shall, save in the case of manifest error, be conclusive evidence of the amount due, and any bank charges, any foreign exchange cost or loss or other taxes whatsoever incurred by the Beneficiary and/ or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU, as applicable, for the repayment of the amounts due to the Bank shall be borne entirely by the Beneficiary.
- 20.3. Without prejudice to the rights of the Parties to agree to repayments in instalments, if the Beneficiary fails to repay any amount by its due date, the sum shall bear interest at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its principal refinancing operations, as published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union on the first day of the month in which payment was due, increased by three and a half percentage points. The interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the day following expiry of the time limit for repayment, inclusive, up to the day of payment, exclusive. Any partial payment shall first cover the interest.

ARTICLE 21 Amendments

- 21.1. Any amendments to this Agreement, including its Annexes, must be set out in writing in an instrument signed by the Parties, and shall become effective on the terms set out in the relevant amendment agreement. The provisions of such amendments, executed in accordance with this Article 21 (*Amendments*), shall govern and take precedence only over those specific provisions of this Agreement that are expressly amended thereby.
- 21.2. No amendments are permitted to the extent they may have the purpose or the effect of making changes to this Agreement that would call into question the award of the Grant.



- 21.3. Changes of address or of contact details may simply be notified to the other Parties in writing, in accordance with Article 26 (*Notices and Other Communications*).

ARTICLE 22 Assignment

- 22.1. A Party may not assign or transfer to a third party, or otherwise dispose of, any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Parties.
- 22.2. By exception from the preceding, the Bank may, at its sole discretion, assign to the European Commission the right to recover any amounts of the Grant unduly disbursed.

ARTICLE 23 Termination

- 23.1. If any Party believes that the Agreement can no longer be executed effectively and appropriately, it will consult the other Parties. Failing agreement on a solution, a Party may terminate the Agreement by serving a sixty (60) calendar days' written notice to all Parties, without prejudice to any other rights or powers of any Party under this Agreement.
- 23.2. If for any reason whatsoever the Contribution Agreement or the Finance Contract is terminated or ceases to be valid and in full force and effect, the Bank reserves the right, upon serving a thirty (30) calendar days' written notice to the Beneficiary, with a copy to the Borrower and the Promoter and the MEPIU, to terminate this Agreement and inform the Beneficiary of the terms of such termination, without any liability for the Bank.
- 23.3. In addition to any other cause for termination foreseen in this Agreement, the Bank may, after serving a seven (7) calendar days' written notice to the Beneficiary, with a copy to the Borrower, terminate this Agreement without any liability for the Bank, if any of the following situations occurs:
- (a) the Beneficiary fails, without justification acceptable to the Bank, to fulfil any of the obligations incumbent on it and, after being given written notice to comply with those obligations, still fails to do so or to provide adequate explanations within thirty (30) calendar days of transmittal of such notice;
 - (b) the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the Beneficiary and/ or the Promoter and/ or the MEPIU, commits or is found guilty of gross professional misconduct, or is subject to proceedings alleging any offence concerning its professional conduct, or has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, Money Laundering, Financing of Terrorism or any other illegal activity detrimental to the European Union's financial interests, or is subject to an allegation (other than allegations which are, in the reasonable opinion of the Bank, frivolous or vexatious) in respect of participation in a criminal organisation, fraud, Prohibited Conduct, Money Laundering or the Financing of Terrorism;
 - (c) the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU provides false reports or makes false or incomplete statements of a material nature;
 - (d) the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU undergoes any legal, financial, technical or organisational changes that are apt to affect this Agreement substantially, or to call into question the decision of the European Union to provide the Grant;
 - (e) the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU fails to maintain the Records as specified in Article 8.3 (*Eligible Costs*); or
 - (f) upon the termination of the Contribution Agreement.
- 23.4. Upon termination of the Agreement pursuant to this Article 23 (*Termination*), the Beneficiary shall and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU shall take without undue delay all steps necessary to bring the activities to a close in a prompt and orderly manner, and to reduce further costs to a minimum.



- 23.5. Without prejudice to Article 20.1 (*Recovery*) and subject to Article 8 (*Eligible Costs*), the Beneficiary shall be entitled to receive only the part of the Grant corresponding to costs incurred, in accordance with this Agreement, for Works and/or Services executed up to the date of termination, thus excluding any costs relating to existing commitments that are due to be performed after such date of termination.
- 23.6. Without prejudice to Article 20 (*Recovery*) and subject to Article 23.4 (*Termination*), in the event of termination of the Agreement for reasons not imputable, directly or indirectly, to the Beneficiary, the Bank may agree to reimburse any unavoidable reasonable eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary and/ or the Promoter and/or the MEPIU during the notice period.

ARTICLE 24 Charges and Expenses

- 24.1. The Beneficiary shall pay and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU pay any taxes, duties, fees and other impositions of whatsoever nature, including stamp duty and registration fees, which may arise out of the execution or implementation of this Agreement in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Moldova.
- 24.2. The Beneficiary shall bear and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU bear any charges and expenses, including professional, banking or exchange charges, which it may incur in connection with the preparation, execution, implementation and termination of this Agreement or any related document, including any amendment thereto, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Moldova.

ARTICLE 25 Liability and Indemnity

- 25.1. The Bank or the European Union cannot under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever be held liable for damage or injury sustained by the staff or property of the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU, the Final Beneficiaries or the Contractors while the Contracts are being executed, or as a consequence of any Contract, including when such damage or injury is the result of any act or omission of a Contractor, or of the failure of a Contractor to execute the Works and/or Services in accordance with the relevant Contract.
- 25.2. The Bank shall not be liable for any loss or damage, including reasonable counsel fees and expenses, resulting from its actions or omissions to act hereunder, except for any loss or damage arising out of its own gross negligence or wilful misconduct.
- 25.3. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and the Final Beneficiaries shall, discharge the Bank of any and all liability arising from any claim or action brought as a result of an infringement of any applicable laws, rules or regulations by the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU, the Final Beneficiaries, their contractors, employees, or individuals for whom the Beneficiary, the Promoter, the MEPIU, the Final Beneficiaries their contractors or their employees are responsible, or as a result of a violation of a third party's rights, including Intellectual Property Rights.
- 25.4. Without prejudice to any other rights of the Bank under this Agreement, the Finance Contract or under any applicable law, the Beneficiary shall indemnify and hold the Bank harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, expenses (including reasonable counsel fees and expenses) and liabilities of any kind which the Bank may sustain or incur as a result of any act or omission committed by the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU or from the failure of the Beneficiary or the Promoter or the MEPIU to comply with any of its obligations as set out in this Agreement.
- 25.5. The Beneficiary shall, and shall procure that the Promoter and the MEPIU and each Final Beneficiary shall, include in each Contract provisions requiring the Contractor to acknowledge and agree on the liability and indemnity provisions set out in this Article 25 (*Liability and Indemnity*).



- (ii) if the presiding arbitrator is not chosen by the two arbitrators within 30 days of the date of appointment of the later of the two arbitrators to be appointed by the Parties, he shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (the "PCA");
 - (iii) no arbitrator shall be of the same nationality as any Party (and for the purposes of this Article, the nationality of the Bank shall be deemed to be Luxembourg);
 - (iv) neither Party shall be required to give general discovery of documents, but may be required only to produce specific, identified documents which are relevant to the dispute;
 - (v) the tribunal shall not take or provide and the Beneficiary shall not seek from any judicial authority, any interim measures or pre-award relief against the Bank; and
 - (vi) the Parties agree to waive any right of appeal against the arbitration award.
- (b) The appointing authority shall be the Secretary-General of the PCA.

ARTICLE 28
Non-waiver

- 28.1 No failure or delay by the Bank in exercising any of its rights under this Agreement will be construed as a waiver of such right.
- 28.2 Nothing in this Agreement will be deemed to be a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the Bank, its Governors, Directors, Alternates, officers, employees or experts performing missions for the Bank.

ARTICLE 29
Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the agreement between the Parties with respect to its subject matter, and supersedes all prior agreements between the Parties, whether express or implied, with respect to the same matter.

ARTICLE 30
Invalidity

If, at any time, any provision of this Agreement is or becomes illegal, invalid or unenforceable in any respect under any law of any jurisdiction, neither the legality, validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions nor the legality, validity or enforceability of such provision under the law of any other jurisdiction will in any way be affected or impaired.

ARTICLE 31
English Language

This Agreement is drawn up in the English language. If this Agreement is translated into another language, the English language text shall prevail.



ARTICLE 32

Effectiveness of this Agreement

This Agreement shall become effective on the date (the "Effectiveness Date") specified in a letter from the Bank to the Beneficiary confirming that the Bank has received (i) the evidence that this Agreement was duly ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the applicable laws of the Republic of Moldova and (ii) the legal opinion of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova referred to in Article 7.5. (b) in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank, and such letter shall be conclusive evidence that this Agreement has become effective.

If the Effectiveness Date does not occur on or prior to the date falling 24 (twenty-four) months after the date of this Agreement, this Agreement shall not enter into force and no further action shall be necessary or required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of several loops and a final flourish.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on their behalf in four (4) originals in the English language, each page of which has been initialled by a representative of each Party).

At Chisinau, this 13 September 2022

At Luxembourg, this 16 SEPTEMBER 2022

Signed for and on behalf of
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Signed for and on behalf of
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Andrei SPINU

Minister of Infrastructure and Regional
Development and Deputy Prime Minister of
the Republic of Moldova

Roger STUART

Head of Division

Stella RENITA

Senior Loan Officer



Annex 1 Description of the Project

The Project is the first nation-wide energy efficiency undertaking in Moldova. It is expected to be co-financed by the EIB and the EBRD as well as to benefit from an EU grant from the Neighbourhood Investment Platform.

The main building categories targeted in the Project will be public buildings (schools, kindergartens, hospitals, municipal/governmental buildings frequently used by citizens) owned by the State and/or municipalities (or Local Public Administrations – LPAs). The Project will modernize them, improving energy efficiency (EE) and also promote related visibility. Appropriate thermal refurbishment and renovation of buildings will be performed to the benefit and well-being of citizens.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Project is to improve energy efficiency in public buildings, both municipal and state owned, across the Republic of Moldova.

The specific objectives of the Project are (i) the implementation of energy efficiency measures, focusing on improvements to the building envelope, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, (ii) the implementation of lighting, heat distribution systems and the integration of renewable energy sources, wherever technically appropriate, (iii) a significant impact on energy efficiency and savings, (iv) the contribution to improved building environments, CO₂ emission reduction and thus climate change mitigation, and (v) building consolidation works (walls, basement, etc.) strongly recommended for health and safety considerations.

The Project aims to improve energy efficiency in public buildings, both municipal and state owned, across the country. The proceeds of the EIB and EBRD loans and the EU investment grant will finance energy efficiency measures, focusing on improvements to the building envelope, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. The programme will also include lighting, heat distribution systems and the integration of renewable energy sources.

Project Description

Component 1 – Investments

Subcomponent 1.1 - Approximately 1.1 million m² of usable building surface will be refurbished under this Project. The main building categories targeted in the Project is the **public buildings**: schools, kindergartens, hospitals, municipal/governmental buildings frequently used by citizens, owned by the State and/or municipalities (or Local Public Administrations – LPAs). The current planning foresees its implementation over a period of 6 years.

Subcomponent 1.2. - Improvements to the building envelope (wall, roof, slab insulation, windows and door replacement),

Subcomponent 1.3 - Improvements to HVAC systems (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning).

Subcomponent 1.4 - Energy efficiency measures targeting lighting systems, heat distribution systems and the integration of renewable energy sources.

Component 2 – Technical Assistance

Subcomponent 2.1 - The pre-selection (and exclusion) criteria used in the pre-feasibility study in consultation with the government, EUD, and other relevant stakeholders will be further discussed and refined as a matter of priority during the feasibility study.

Subcomponent 2.2 - Provision of energy performance certificates at the end of the refurbishment works. The refurbished buildings will comply with the cost-optimum refurbishment level in line with the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings, which is transposed in Moldovan legislation through the Law no. 128/2014 on energy performance of buildings .

The principal criteria and considerations include:

- Priority will be given to buildings with a clear social and visible impact and benefits for citizens; with due consideration to the number of beneficiaries of each building;



- Representativeness of geographical regions will be ensured, with the appropriate balance between municipal state buildings, inside and outside Chisinau;
- Establishing a balance among selected building types and uses: governmental buildings, hospitals as well as municipal buildings covering various activities (e.g. kindergartens, schools, sports complexes etc.);
- Establish an appropriate balance between buildings requiring either deep- or lighter energy efficiency renovation works (see further below). Prioritisation as per energy consumption, usage, size and total useful area (e.g. large hospitals of national importance located in Chisinau) expressed in specific energy consumption kWh/m²;
- Age of buildings and last date of reconstruction;
- Excluded buildings:
 - Historical buildings used by the municipalities or the government or characterized as architectural monuments (as external interventions cannot be implemented);
 - Buildings that have already undergone extended energy efficiency interventions;
 - Buildings with too many structural issues requiring structural renovation;
 - Buildings with insufficient data (e.g. absence of electrical and/or thermal consumption data).

The Project will focus predominantly on the following areas, each building to benefit from a combination of the following according to individual needs:

- deep energy efficiency renovations: thermal refurbishment, and more specifically building envelope refurbishment, including roofs and basements, structural works, replacement of doors and windows, modernisation or new ventilation systems;
- improvements in building management control and operation;
- lighting renovations: new lighting and lighting controls;
- modernisation of heat generation/distribution systems, including boiler replacement, individual heat substation and connection/ re-connection to the District Heating (if located in Chisinau and Balti); solar water heating; solar photovoltaic power generation; heat pumps etc.

Once implemented, over time these measures are expected to generate significant energy and money savings for the final beneficiaries.

Handwritten signature



Annex 2
Estimated cost of the Project

The total Project cost (excluding VAT) is estimated at EUR 76 905 000 (seventy-six million nine hundred five thousand euros).

The estimated Project cost breakdown (excluding VAT) is shown in the table below:

Item	Cost estimate EUR (million)
Technical Assistance	2.80
Investment Costs	73.805
Communication	0.30
Total Project	76.905

The financing plan for the Project is as follows:

Source	Amount (EUR.m)
EIB Loan	30.00
EBRD Loan	30.00
Borrower own funds (in-kind contribution)	1.405
EU Contribution	15.00
Other (EPTATF)	0.5
TOTAL	76.905
Total Project	76.905

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Annex 3
Model Request for Payment

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT
[ON LETTERHEAD OF THE BENEFICIARY]

[Beneficiary]

Date: [●]

European Investment Bank
For the attention of: [contact person name]
[Name of the relevant Services]
98-100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

Subject: Moldova Energy Efficiency Neighbourhood Investment Platform Investment Grant Agreement
FI No. [X] under Contribution Agreement No. [X]

Request for payment number: [●].

Period covered by the request for payment: [●]

Dear Sir or Madam,

We refer to the Grant Agreement in caption. In accordance with Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) of the Agreement, we hereby request payment no.[●] under the Agreement mentioned above, covering the cost of the Works and/or Services delivered during the period from [date] to [date].

The amount requested is [EUR] [Please mention the FX Rate applied]

Please find attached the following supporting documents:

- Invoice no.[●] of [date] issued by [name of Contractor]
- [any other documents requested under Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*)]

The payment should be made to the following bank account: [•]

We hereby certify that the information contained in this request for payment and its supporting documentation is complete, reliable and true, that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the Agreement and the Contracts, and that this request for payment is substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be checked.

We further certify that the conditions specified in Article 7 (*Payment of the Grant*) of the Agreement continue to be met.

[For the request for payment of last tranche: We undertake to provide the Bank, within thirty (30) calendar days after the end of the Execution Period, with all supporting evidence and documentation justifying the amount and the eligibility of the costs covered by this payment request, for the purposes of establishing the final amount of the Grant.]



Yours faithfully,

Signatures of duly authorised signatories

Name:
Title:
Date:

Handwritten signature



Annex 4 Records

In relation to Article 8.3 (*Eligible Costs*), the Records may include, as applicable:

- (1) the annual progress reports and the final implementation report specified in Article 9 (*Information and Reporting*);
- (2) Accounting records (computerised or manual) from the accounting system of the Beneficiary, such as general ledger, sub-ledgers and payroll accounts, fixed assets registers and other relevant accounting information;
- (3) Proof of procurement procedures carried out, such as tendering documents, bids from tenderers and evaluation reports, including any "no objection" or agreement of the Bank required in accordance with Article 5 (*Design and Procurement*);
- (4) Proof of legal commitments, such as Contracts;
- (5) Proof of delivery of the Works and/or Services such as approved reports, time sheets, transport tickets, proof of attending seminars, conferences and training courses (including relevant documentation and material obtained, certificates) etc.;
- (6) Proof of purchase such as invoices and receipts;
- (7) Proof of payment such as bank statements, debit notices, proof of settlement by the Contractor;
- (8) Proof that taxes and/or VAT that have been paid cannot actually be reclaimed.

All Records shall be available either in the original form, including in electronic form, or as a certified copy.



Annex 5 Progress Indicators

The main indicators that will be monitored by the Bank at the Project level are the following:

Expected Results

Indicator	Units	Baseline value (X)	Expected value after the project (Y)	Expected result (=Y-X)	Comments and reference to methodology used, where necessary
		2020	2025		
Standard Outputs					
Buildings refurbished	#	0	circa150		A first selection of 139 public buildings has been proposed by the Energy Efficiency Agency. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development decided not focus on the 139 buildings and instead to prioritize 10 public hospitals of larger size
Surface of EE refurbished buildings	m ²	0.00	600 000 m ²	600 000 m ²	Based on previous EIB operation, structural repair necessary for EE are expected at 25 EUR/m ² and EE investment at 90 EUR/m ² . Non-EE investment are estimated at 35 EUR/m ² . The unit costs were increased given the increase in the construction materials due to pandemic observed across Europe
Standard Outcomes					
Energy savings	MWh	0.00	74 200	74 200	The savings are calculated extrapolating (to 1,1million m ²) on the data available for the first selection of 139 buildings representing



					refurbishment of 250,000 m ² usable building surface.
Electricity produced from renewable energy sources	GWh/yr	0.00	3.00	3.00	The renewable energy generation is building integrated
Project specific indicators (introduce other indicators applicable to this project)					
CO2 savings	ICO2/a	0	13 100	13 100	
Cross sector indicators (compulsory if they are main objectives - cf. Box 19)					
Total number of beneficiaries	Approximately 88,000				Will be defined by the feasibility study
Number of beneficiaries living below the poverty line	# (and/or %)				Will be defined by the feasibility study
Greenhouse gas emissions impact	CO2 ktons eq/yr		13	13	
Direct employment: Construction phase	# (FTE)	0.00	1 920 person years		
Direct employment: Operations and maintenance	# (FTE)	0	0		

Expected Impact:

It is envisaged that the operation will have the following positive outcomes. Implementation of the project will allow to:

- support the government's intention for energy security by reducing energy imports;
- reduce CO2 and other GHG emissions in compliance with the SEAP of the beneficiary cities;
- lower energy (reduction of energy consumption is estimated at 20 % for power and 55 % for heat);
- solving existing issues of under-heating during the winter-time period;
- extending the lifetime of the refurbished buildings.

Through this project, awareness and knowledge on energy efficiency will be enhanced, shaping the basis for further development of the energy efficiency and renewable energy market in the country.

In addition, implementation of the project will allow to:

- Improve the quality and image of buildings, as well as the quality of public services they deliver;
- Improve comfort and the quality of life for building users;
- Introduce advanced technologies in building sector;
- Support the construction sector (job creation) and thus have an impact on Moldovan economic growth.