

Moldova - Aarhus Convention: Key Challenges and Recommendations

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Access to Environmental Information - Main Challenges

- ▶ Outdated or missing environmental data (last State Report 2015-2018). After that - annual intermediate reports.
- ▶ Public authorities neglect procedures for providing information.
- ▶ PRTR register created but partly non-functional and not updated.
- ▶ Websites of institutions lack transparency and usability.
- ▶ Information often subject to fees (violating Aarhus principles).
- ▶ No 24/7 hotline or quick response to citizen complaints and emergency signals. No 24/7 urgency environmental service.
- ▶ The National report 2021-24 is based on legislation, but not practices of implementation.

Public Participation - Main Challenges

- ▶ Weak legal basis and poor enforcement of participation rights.
- ▶ Public and NGO opinions often ignored in decision-making. Legal initiatives of MPs and fast laws adoption out of PP.
- ▶ Laws adopted without proper consultation or transparency.
- ▶ 83% of draft laws not published within legal deadlines.
- ▶ Very low NGO and citizen engagement in consultations.
- ▶ State of emergency further limited public involvement.
- ▶ National implementation report is based on laws, and not on implementation (example - Law GMO 152/2022, art.28)

Access to Justice - Main Challenges

- ▶ Excessive length of court proceedings (up to 7 years).
- ▶ High costs for expert assessments and lack of specialists.
- ▶ Judicial crisis (2023) - massive resignations of judges.
- ▶ Court fees introduced, including cases of public interest protection, discouraging citizens from suing.
- ▶ Limited exemptions for environmental rights cases.
- ▶ Low public trust in judiciary and enforcement delays.

Recommendations - Strengthening Implementation

- ▶ Adoption a National Action Plan for Aarhus Convention (2026-2028).
- ▶ Align legislation with EU and Aarhus requirements.
- ▶ Improve access to data - update and publish State of Environment reports, access to metadata and a primary data.
- ▶ Build institutional capacity and provide staff training.
- ▶ Exempt environmental cases from court fees.
- ▶ Promote open data and transparency through integrated online portals.
- ▶ The Aarhus Implementation National report should analyse not only the legislation, but its implementation practices.

Thank you for attention!
