**PRESS RELEASE**

**International Seminar on the Reduction of Plastic Waste Pollution, organized in Bucharest**

The Romanian Ministry of Environment, as Program Operator for the RO-Environment Program financed through the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021, and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, representing the Donor States, organized the international seminar **"How to combat plastic waste pollution in Europe?**", in Bucharest on 22 May 2019.

Organized in collaboration with Innovation Norway, the Norwegian Environmental Agency and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the seminar aimed to identify solutions and opportunities for the development of technologies in the field.

Given the importance of plastic and micro-plastic materials at national, regional and global level as well as the concern of politicians, civil society and science to reduce pollution with plastics and microplastics, the meeting brought together experts from authorities with responsibilities in this particular field from Romania, Norway and the European Union and representatives of the private sector and of civil society with relevant activity in the fight against pollution with plastics.

Attending the event, Her Excellency Ms Lise Kleven Grevstad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Romania, stressed in her address that Norway supports EU initiatives in the field of plastics, considering that EU-level efforts can have a significant impact on the whole region. Furthermore, Her Excellency also noted that during the Presidency of the EU Council, Romania included the issue of reducing plastic waste on the list of priorities. Referring to Norway's financial support to EU Member States, Her Excellency stated: *”The EEA and Norway grants provide great opportunities for development of co-operation between Romania and Norway both between authorities, research institutions and business partners. In relation to plastic pollution, the environment program, the innovation and business program and the research programme are highly relevant”.*

At the same time, the European Commission representative, Deputy Director- General Joanna Drake spoke about the European Union's plastic waste strategy and Mr. Alberto Arroyo Schnell from IUCN presented a series of actions undertaken to reduce plastic production.

For the representatives of the Romanian business sector with activities in the field of plastic waste management, the seminar was a good opportunity to benefit from the experience of the Norwegian counterparts. The Norwegian experts presented examples of good practices from Norway and showed willingness to collaborate with the Romanian partners so as to apply and implement the good practice principles in Romania by carrying out joint projects in this sense.

More than 70 participants attended the seminar.

For details on EEA and Norway Grants, visit www.eeagrants.org, www.eeagrants.ro.