



**SDC-UNECE project
on the implementation of targets set under
the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova**

**Overview of the project progress in 2014,
challenges and lessons learned**

5th meeting of the Steering Committee

20 May 2015

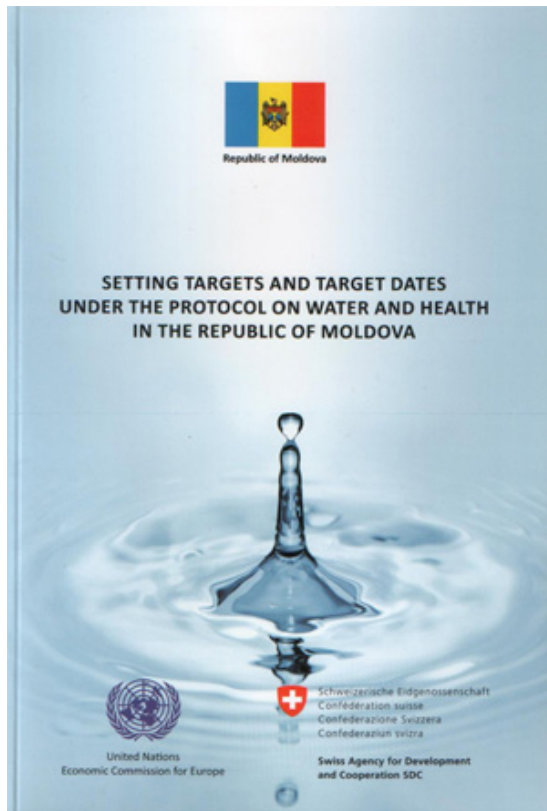
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Background: 1st UNECE-SDC project ...setting of targets on water and health



- Republic of Moldova became a Party to the Protocol on Water and Health in December 2005
- In 2009-2010, in the framework of the 1st UNECE-SDC project, the Republic of Moldova established targets with target dates and a first set of measures
- **Ministerial Order 91/704 of 20 October 2010 on the Approval of the Targets and Target Dates to implement the Protocol on Water and Health:**
 - Conditioned by the assumption of having reasonable access to sources of finance, institutional capacities and human resources
 - Instructed Steering Committee to further develop measures for the achievement of the targets and include them in the new Action Plan for Environment and Health for submission to the Government



2nd UNECE-SDC project:

Overall objective/impact and outcome

Overall objective/impact:

The population of Moldova, in particular the poor and vulnerable, benefit from improved access to safe water and sanitation, reduced water-related diseases and a protected environment, through the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Outcome:

Frame conditions and adequate capacity are in place for national and local authorities, as well as water operators and water users associations to implement measures towards the water and health targets set under the Protocol.



Outputs/project components

Output 1: Action plan for achieving the targets drawn up and approved by Governmental Decision

Output 2: Strategy/plan to mobilise resources developed and implemented

Output 3: Materials developed and training conducted to build the institutional capacities of the Apa-Canal Operators and Water Users Associations

Output 4: Norms and standards for small water operators established

Output 5: Clearing House on the Protocol on Water and Health established & functioning

Output 6: Public Awareness raising campaigns conducted

Output 7: Partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making on the improvement of the legal, strategic and managerial frameworks for water and health established and functioning

Output 8: Promotion of the Moldovan experience through regional dialogue

Timeframe: 3 ½ years

Project component	Months						
	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36	37-42
Action Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Resource mobilization strategy/plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Institutional capacity				X	X	X	X
Norms/standards				X	X	X	X
Clearing House	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Awareness raising			X	X	X	X	X
Enabling project environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Promotion of the Moldovan experience			X	X	X	X	X



Outputs 1 and 2: Action Plan and Financial Strategy

- *Action Plan and the resource mobilization strategy combined into National Programme on implementing targets set under the Protocol.*
- *A working group on national experts with support of an international expert worked on the basis of the draft extended outline of the action plan prepared in 2013.*
- *1st draft of the action plan presented to the 3rd SC meeting together with donor mapping, overview of existing policies in the water supply and sanitation sector as well as organizational scheme of water supply and sanitation sector.*
- *Action plan updated and revised based on SC feedback. Resource mobilization strategy towards the implementation of the Action Plan was also elaborated.*
- *First draft of the National Programme on implementing targets under the Protocol comprising actions, responsibilities, timelines and financial resources for the implementation of the targets presented to the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee*

Output 3: trainings for water operators and water users associations

- *International Water Association (IWA) contracted to develop the training materials and to conduct the trainings for water operators in the Republic of Moldova.*
- *Priority topics discussed and agreed upon at the consultation meeting with the Moldovan government officials and experts (back to back with the 3rd SC).*
- *Two trainings conducted: on operation and maintenance manual for water utilities and on the EU Drinking Water and Waste Water Directives as well as on the Water Safety Plans (WSPs).*
- *Study visit to a large water utility in Iasi, Romania organized at request of participants to learn best practices and exchange experience.*

Output 4: norms and standards for small scale supplies

- NGO Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) contracted to support development of relevant norms and standards for small water operators in collaboration with the relevant ministries.
- 3 consultation meetings held with the consultative group formed by government representatives, academia and independent experts.
- Priority topics identified in 2014.
- Norms and standards agreed to be developed: norm on small drinking water supply; drinking water and hygiene norm; code of practice on the construction of natural systems (constructed wetlands and ponds) for rural wastewater treatment; code of practice on construction of Ecosan toilets; change of construction norms related to quantities of water consumption and wastewater treatment.

Outputs 5 and 6:

- *In 2014, the Clearing House served as a hub for information on water and health issues and a resource center for governmental officials, non-governmental organizations and the general public*
- *A number of activities at local level held in Cauceni, Criuleni and Hancesti.* -
- *Promotional materials on the Clearing House disseminated (incl. booklets for schools, hospitals, kindergartens)* -
- *A number of public requests were received.* -
- *Recent renovation to turn the Clearing House into a training center.* -
- *A number of awareness raising campaigns and workshops on the implementation of the Protocol were held in 2014 by Eco-Tiras with support of the Ministries of Environment and Health. Promotion material on the Protocol on Water and Health distributed.*

<http://cnsp.md/centrul-de-informare-protocolul-apa-si-sanatatea>

Output 7: Partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making

- Steering Committee continued to be the main decision-making body under the project in line with the MoU signed by UNECE, SDC, and the Ministries of Health and Environment in November 2012.
- The 3rd and 4th Steering Committee meetings (held on 22 May and 7 November 2014, respectively) attended by around 40-45 participants (about 45% of them women) representing a wide range of governmental agencies, academic institutions, civil society and other stakeholders.
- To ensure synergies with the process of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation and to involve a wider range of stakeholders, the Steering Committee meetings are held jointly with OECD.

Output 8: Partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making

The experience of the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health and particularly target setting and reporting was shared by national experts representing the Ministries of Health and Environment at:

- national workshops organized for Kazakhstan (Burabay, April 2014),
Turkmenistan (Ashgabat, October 2014) and Serbia (Belgrade, December 2014)
- meetings of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting and the Working Group on Water and Health held respectively in July and November 2014 in Geneva.

Transfer of Moldovan experience, particularly with regard to intersectoral cooperation and public participation, appreciated by the international community.



Equitable access to water and sanitation

- Equitable Access Score-card, a self-assessment tool regarding equity in access to water and sanitation developed under the UNECE which is designed to help governments and other institutions interested in mapping the situation at national and/or local level, was successfully applied in 2014.
- Implemented by the NGO Solidarity Water Europe in Moldova (SEAM), funded by SDC, with financial, in-kind and expert support from UNECE.
- Results available in English and Moldovan at <http://seam.md/media/publicatii/>.

Financial expenditures in 2014

- Expenditures in 2014 in line with the UNECE-SDC Agreement -
- Financial audit carried out by the UN Financial Department after 31 December 2014 -
- Subsequently financial and substantive reports submitted to SDC and formal approval received -

Lessons learned and challenges

Challenges for project implementation:

- **Political context:** Parliamentary elections in November 2014, continued support
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation:** needed under each project component, significant coordination efforts required from UNECE to ensure smooth and effective cooperation between the relevant ministries
- **Capacity and resource constraints:** limited human and financial resources capacity in the relevant institutions. Problem solved by involving knowledgeable international and national experts and providing direct expert support from UNECE

Lessons learned

- **Cross-sectoral cooperation** between the relevant ministries crucial for the project success
- **Integration and coordination** with other processes and policies at national level is needed

www.unece.org/env/water

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