



United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC
Agenția Elvețiană pentru
Dezvoltare și Cooperare



Republic of Moldova

STATEMENT

on Common Understanding of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation regarding the Project “Implementation of Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova”

Parties

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova (MoE), the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova (MoH), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, acting through the Swiss Cooperation Office Representation of the Embassy of Switzerland to Moldova (SDC), hereinafter jointly called “the Parties”, have signed the present document upon the following:

Objective

The objective of the present document is to establish a common understanding among the Parties regarding the implementation of the Phase-2 of the UNECE-SDC Project according to the provisions of the Agreement No. 81015455 between SDC and UNECE and the related project document on the implementation of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova.

Background

In the previous phase (2009-2010), SDC and UNECE provided assistance to Moldova in developing a broad roadmap with 34 targets and relevant target dates, which was formally approved by the Ministers of Health and Environment on 20 October 2010. The Government of Moldova is now internationally liable for making progress towards implementation of these targets under the Protocol on Water and Health. The process of setting targets has strengthened cross-sectorial cooperation in Moldova and this experience has gained international recognition at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Bucharest, 23-25 November 2010) and is being replicated in Georgia, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

The Phase-2 of the Project will focus on setting up the necessary frame conditions for complying with the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health. It will support the elaboration of an action plan based on the roadmap developed in Phase-1 and strengthen the capacity to implement the measures under the action plan. Additionally, it will put a strong focus on mobilising resources to safeguard the implementation of these measures.

Common Understanding

Against this background, the Parties are committed to joint action and have reached the following common understanding:

1. The overall goal of the project is to contribute that the population of Moldova, in particular the poor and vulnerable, benefit from improved access to safe water and sanitation, reduced water-related diseases incidence and improved water management, through the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. The specific goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to implement the targets and target dates established under the Protocol on Water and Health and approved by Ministerial Order No. 91/704.
2. The outcome of the project will provide frame conditions and adequate capacity 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. Altogether eight outputs are to be achieved (see the project's Log Frame in annex II).
3. The duration of the project is 3 ½ years, starting in July 2012 with preparatory activities of UNECE, and followed by joint or individual activities of the Parties on the eight project's outputs (see the project's Log Frame in annex II). Annual work plans, subject to approval by the Steering Committee (see below), will be drawn up by UNECE.
4. A Steering Committee with multi-stakeholder representation will be established by joint Order of the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Health. The terms of reference of the Steering Committee will be regulated in an annex to the joint Order.
5. The Minister of Environment and the Minister of Health will co-chair the meetings of the Steering Committee. The project's contact points in the MoE and MoH (see the explanatory notes to the project in annex I) will act as co-secretaries of the Steering Committee. MoE and MoH will be responsible for ensuring participation of the relevant ministries and other governmental agencies in the Steering Committee meetings.
6. Responsible representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, UNECE and SDC will hold consultation meeting at least once per year to address specific challenges and evaluate achieved progress.
7. In order to assist the Parties in project implementation, specific expert group and working groups will be established (annex I).
8. Consultations of the Parties will be held regularly, most appropriately in conjunction with the Steering Committee meetings.
9. The project will be financed by SDC, including activities falling under items 6, 7 and 8 above. The other Parties will provide in-kind contributions. Local in-kind contributions by the MoE and the MoH will include staff time of ministerial and agencies' staff and other related expenditures (see annex III).
10. Annexes I, II and III constitute an integral part of Statement of Common Understanding.
11. This Statement of Common Understanding isn't an international treaty and according to the Convention on the Law of Treaties (Vienna, 1969) it doesn't contain the rights and obligations, regulated by the international Law.

Deviation

Any deviation from the activities, time frame and/or budget specified in the approved project document is to be brought to the attention of UNECE and SDC within 10 days by written notice. Any substantial changes to the project are subject to approval by SDC.

Entry into effect, modification and termination

This Statement on Common Understanding enters into force upon signature and terminates upon completion of the project on 31 December 2015.


This Statement may be modified and prolonged by mutual consent between the Parties. Any such modification may take effect upon signature of the Parties.

Done in Chisinau, at 21 November 2012, in duplicate in the Romanian and English languages, both two texts being authentic. In case of divergent interpretations of the Romanian and English texts, the English text will be of reference.



Gheorghe ȘALARU
Minister of Environment of the Republic of
Moldova

Andrei USATÎI
Minister of Health of the Republic of
Moldova



Georgette BRUCHEZ
Director of Cooperation
Swiss Cooperation Office Representation of
the Embassy of Switzerland in Moldova



Marco KEINER
Director, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe

Annex I

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROJECT

I. PROJECT'S OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

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.

Output 1: Action plan for achieving the targets under the Protocol on Water and Health drawn up and approved by Governmental Decision,

Output 2: a Strategy/plan to mobilise resources towards the Action Plan developed and implemented, as a component of Action Plan

Output 3: Materials developed and training conducted to build the institutional capacities of the Apa-Canal Operators and Water Users Associations (on correct management of water supply and sanitation systems, water safety plans, response plans under extreme weather events, and operation of small water and sanitation systems)

Output 4:

4.1. Norms and standards for small water operators established

4.2. Norms and standards for small sanitation systems established

Output 5: Clearing House on the Protocol on Water and Health established and functioning (regular information and reports on the quality of drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the Protocol)

Output 6: Public awareness raising campaigns conducted with a holistic approach addressing water, health, and environment issues

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 functioning¹

Output 8: Moldovan experience on implementing the Protocol promoted through regional exchanges within east-east cooperation

II. IMPLEMENTATION

Gender approach

Based on the respective guidelines of the World Health Organization² and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, a gender sensitive approach to water management, water supply, sanitation and health will be followed under the second UNECE-SDC project to promote the integration of gender as a social determinant into policy development, water-and-health services, resource allocation and project and programme planning, monitoring and implementation.

¹ This falls under the sole responsibility of UNECE

² <http://www.who.int/gender/en/>

Contact persons

The contact persons for activities regulated in this Common Understanding are:

- For the Ministry of Environment
Ms. Serafima Tronza, Head of Department on Water Management
- For the Ministry of Health
Ms. Svetlana Cotelea, Head of Public Health Department
- For the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Mr. Andrei Cantemir, National Program Officer
- For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Expert Group

An Expert Group, chaired by UNECE, will be established to facilitate overall project management by UNECE. This Expert Group is responsible for substantive work under the project and the components: Action Plan, resource mobilization plan/strategy, institutional capacity, norms/standards, Clearing House, awareness raising, and promotion of the Moldovan experience through a regional dialogue. This includes guidance on the preparation of documents, including documents for decision-making by the Steering Committee and the follow up of these meetings.

Meetings of the Expert Group will be organized every three months, either as stand-alone meetings or in conjunction with Steering Committee meetings or other events.

Members of the Expert Group include the team leaders, who are responsible for the project components: Action Plan, resource mobilization plan/strategy, institutional capacity, norms/standards, Clearing House, and awareness raising. UNECE will be responsible for the implementation of the component "Promotion of the Moldovan experience through regional dialogue on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health," identifying counterparts from other countries where target setting is ongoing and facilitating their visit to the Republic of Moldova and vice-versa. The Expert Group also includes representatives of Eco-TIRAS (see below) as well as the focal points for the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health.

The Expert Group may invite other stakeholders as appropriate to carry on the project components' activities. Notably, a representative of SDC will be invited to participate.

Technical working groups

For the project components: Action Plan, resource mobilization plan/strategy institutional capacity, norms/standards, Clearing House, awareness raising, small technical working groups will be established, which are each chaired by one team leader (who will become a member of the Expert Group). An exception is the technical working group on the Action Plan and resource mobilization plan/strategy institutional capacity, which will be co-chaired by one representative of the Ministry of Environment and one representative of the Ministry of Health.

It is the sole responsibility of the team leaders to organize and conduct meetings of the thematic working groups as often as required, observing the budget for the respective project components.

The organization of meetings of the technical working groups and arrangements as to meeting logistics do not fall under the responsibility of Eco-TIRAS and shall be covered as in-kind contributions by the Ministries of Environment and Health.

Technical working group on the project components Action Plan and resource mobilization plan/strategy

The technical working group for the two project components Action Plan and resource mobilization plan/strategy will be co-chaired by two contact persons from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health.

Other technical working groups

The team leaders for the other technical working groups on institutional capacity, development norms/standards, Clearing House, and awareness raising will be nominated by the contact persons from the Ministries of Environment and Health no later than 15 January 2013.

Involvement of Eco-TIRAS

Apart from its substantive work on some of the project components' activities outlined above, UNECE has concluded a grant agreement with Eco-TIRAS to provide services to the organization of Steering Committee meetings and Expert Group meetings.

The organization of meetings of the thematic working groups does not fall under the responsibility of Eco-TIRAS and shall be covered as in-kind contributions by the MoE and MoH.

III. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In-kind contributions by the MoE and MoH include:

- Staff time of ministerial and agencies' staff;
- Expenditures related to the provision of meeting rooms and facilities for meetings of technical working groups;³
- Expenditures related to data collection, monitoring and data evaluation;
- Internal travel costs of representatives of official bodies (e.g. ministries, agencies) to Steering Committee and other meetings;
- Expenditures for such hardware as computers that may be needed for governmental staff;
- Expenditures for communication; and
- Expenditures for office rent, insurance, security and other related purposes.

³ Interpretation services for these meetings as well as meeting facilities for other meetings are excluded; they are covered under the grant agreement between UNECE and Eco-TIRAS.