



Annual Meeting of the EUWI EECCA Working Group

- Geneva, 24 June 2014 -

Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova and Transition to Green Economy

**Serafima Tronza,
Department Head, Ministry of Environment of the
Republic of Moldova**



Overall Context

- **Association Agreement with the EU is being prepared; the Government has adopted 3 new Strategies:**
- **National Development Strategy «Moldova 2020»**
- **New Environmental Strategy for 2014-2023 (April 2014), promoting sustainable development and green economy (Section 2 of the Strategy)**
- **New Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Strategy for 2014-2028**
- **Weaknesses of the previous sectoral WSS Strategy (2007) and its implementation**



Role of Water Supply and Sanitation in Green Economy



Green economy concept implies:

- **Transition to inclusive and sustainable green growth and development**
- **Enhanced living standards of the population and environmental safety**

Enhanced access to, and quality of, WSS services will contribute to removing barriers to economic growth and to its inclusiveness, to higher living standards and environmental security (wastewater treatment)

- **Environmental protection and environmental management, including water and energy management**

There is ample room in the WSS sector to enhance drastically energy efficiency and reduce water losses

- **Adaptation to climate change** (very topical for Moldova)
- **Increase in share of alternative energy**
- **Wastewater treatment and proper waste management, including WWTP sediment management**

All these measures are envisaged in the Environmental Strategy

Legal and Regulatory and Institutional Framework for the Sector

- **Laws of the RM:** Water Law (2011) and eighteen sub-law regulations; Laws: on Drinking Water (1999), on Public Water Supply and Sanitation Service (2013), on Public Communal Services (2002), on State Control over Public Health (2009), and on Local Public Governance (2006).
- **Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy for 2014-2028**
- **Institutions:** Ministry of Environment, its departments and agencies: Apele Moldovei, Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, State Environmental Inspectorate; Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, National Energy Regulatory Agency (NARE), Consumer Protection Agency, etc.

Water Resources in Moldova

Water availability (renewable resources) is just about 500 m³ per inhabitant a year

- Water availability of less than 1,000 m³ is considered to have a negative impact on population's living standards and health and impede economic development. Lifting the limitation is a major objective of the sectoral Strategy.

Surface waters: annual river flow in Moldova could go down by 15-20% by 2020 due to climate change impact

Ground waters from protected aquifers: approved resources amount to about 2.14 mln m³ a year, but flourine, strontium, nitrates, hydrogen sulphide, and nitrogen (total & ammonia) concentrations are exceeded

Shallow groundwater is the main source of water supply in rural areas: pollution caused by improved wastewater collection and leachate from agricultural and municipal waste storage landfills

Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure, Service Coverage, and Investment

Total investment over five years (2009-2013) is estimated by OECD at MDL 1,910 mln (approximately EUR 120 mln), of which 68% - by donors: and just 32% from domestic sources (about 1% of the consolidated public expenditure budget).

Water supply in 2012: 742 water supply systems – most of them are publicly-owned (571), 677 systems were operational. In 2009, there were a total of 644 systems, 562 were operational.

Population coverage by centralized (piped) water supply:

77% in urban areas, 36% in rural areas.

Water abstraction: 122.5 mln m³

(75% from surface water sources)

Sanitation: 158 systems (172 in 2009), of which 110 operational ones; a total of 124 systems have wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs)

Centralized sanitation coverage:

In urban areas: 50%; in rural areas, just 1% of the population.

Total domestic wastewater discharges:

66.5 mln m³, 57% of the amount received from the population.

Impact on Public Health and Economy

- 44% of the population in Moldova have no access to safe drinking water (*inter alia*, 10-14% of samples fail to comply with microbiological requirements)
- 22-25% of cases of diarrheal diseases, 15-20% of cases of viral hepatitis A, and 100% of cases of fluorosis are caused by poor quality drinking water
 - Hence major losses for human health and economy and a barrier to inclusive economic growth
- Lack of laboratories to test regularly tap water quality

Key Goals and Objectives of New Sectoral WSS Strategy

New Strategy aims to address key challenges faced by the sector, including its governance framework and information support

***The Strategy's main goal** is to ensure, on a phased basis, access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation in all the settlements and for the entire population in Moldova*

The Strategy sets **specific objectives and targets** for the first five years and until 2028. More specifically, **by 2018:**

- **Water supply:** extend the network (+1,400 km), connect 62,000 new users, rehabilitate and put into operation 42 WTPs, etc.
- **Sanitation:** extend the network (+511 km), connect 101,000 new users, rehabilitate and put into operation 49 WWTPs, etc.

Investment needs assessment:

Total: EUR 705 mln, out of which EUR 194 mln in 2014-18



Implementation Mechanisms



WSS Strategy objectives will be achieved through:

- Decentralisation and regionalisation and improving access to WSS services (establishment of three to five regional operators)
- Improving legal and regulatory framework and governance system (including human capacity building)
- Improved planning and selection of the most reliable and cost-efficient technical solutions
- Promotion of market economy principles and private sector involvement (including public-private partnerships)
- Increasing the sector financing (from 1% to 1.2% of the consolidated budget expenditure + donors)
- Tariff policy improvement (NARE), taking into account service affordability for the population

Strategy implementation will contribute to enhancing living standards and health of the population and to green economic development of the country

Thank you!