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PRESS RELEASE

6th meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Water in the Republic of Moldova

Organised in the frame of the European Union Water Initiative +

Chisinau, 19 November 2020. The 6th meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Water focused on recent progress in modernising national water policy in the country, extending access to water supply and sanitation, and enhancing transboundary cooperation. As the European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) programme is in its final phase of implementation, the National Policy Dialogue meeting offered an opportunity to address the remaining tasks in conjunction with the priorities and activities of the country-specific work programme. It was also an occasion to discuss the next steps towards ensuring sustainable results and to reflect on future priorities for the Republic of Moldova in the water sector beyond 2020. Participants discussed how different deliverables and outputs of the project will contribute to protecting the environment and water resources and bring practical benefits for citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

The meeting was organised in the frame of the EUWI+ programme, which supports the Republic of Moldova in its journey towards sustainable water management including through technical, financial and capacity-building support. The Republic of Moldova is aligning its water sector with the best international practices in order to attract further investments in the water sector. This includes approximation towards ground-breaking European Union approaches, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, aimed at protecting people's health and the natural environment. Since the Republic of Moldova shares its river basins with Romania, an EU-member state, and Ukraine, transboundary cooperation plays a key role in the country. Over the past 4 years, EUWI+ has supported a combination of policy reform and capacity development at both national and basin scales, with activities tailored to ensure sustainable results.

Mr **Gintautas Baranauskas**, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Moldova, stated:

"The European Union has provided support to the Republic of Moldova, alongside other Eastern partner countries, to improve water policies and practices, including in a transboundary context. Sustainability of the results achieved and ownership of this work are crucial. Together, we will continue focusing on benefits for people and the environment as part of our post-2020 cooperation agenda. The EU support for the development of the water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova is a proof of our engagement to unlock investments that increase people's wellbeing. Policy reforms and better governance, including in the water sector, are making such support possible."

Mr **Dorin Andros**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) said:

"This meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss the latest issues in the field, involving all relevant institutions and development partners, who share with us the EU's best practices in water and sanitation management. Today, we have the opportunity to outline the following tasks that will aim to ensure the sustainability of results. The hydrological drought and this year's floods have shown us that the water resources management system needs to be streamlined and adjusted to the needs and specific features of the country. To achieve this, complex evaluations and analyses have been launched in order to prevent and reduce the consequences, as well as to strengthen the relevant tools for managing and responding to the risks of meteorological phenomena."

Mr **Alisher Mamadzhonov**, Environmental Affairs Officer at the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) said:

“Recent examples of cooperation on flood prevention and response with Romania and Ukraine clearly illustrate the practical benefits of transboundary water cooperation. Moldova’s recent report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 also demonstrates the high level achieved in cooperation with neighbours. The level of political and technical cooperation should be further enhanced in the light of bilateral agreements and the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Water Convention.”

Mr **Alexander Zinke**, team leader of the EUWI+ consortium of the Environment Agency Austria and the International Office of Water from France , said that he valued the significant progress achieved in the project:

“With the new River Basin Management Plan and training courses, modern laboratory equipment and pilot surveys of surface and groundwater bodies, a new level in water management is currently being reached in Moldova through excellent cooperation with MARDE, the Environment Agency Moldova and the Agency Apele Moldovei.”

Background info

National Policy Dialogues

Established within the European Union's Water Initiative, National Policy Dialogues provide a platform for key stakeholders to identify, prepare, and implement reforms in the field of water policy. NPDs also aim to help coordinate donor activities and enhance international cooperation. This event was organised by the European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries (EUWI+), a project funded by the European Union to strengthen integrated water resources management and support the alignment of Moldovan water legislation with the EU Water Framework Directive.

EUWI+ project

Launched in September 2016 for a duration of 4 years, the [European Union Water Initiative plus for the Eastern Partnership \(EUWI+\)](#) is one of the biggest policy dialogue and technical support commitments of the European Union to the water sector in the Eastern Partner countries. The programme supports the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to align their legislation with European Union policy on water management, with a focus on transboundary rivers. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EUR 23.5 million) and Austria and France (EUR 1.0 million). It is implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and an EU member states consortium comprising the Environment Agency Austria (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France).

For more information and to access documents discussed during the NPD, please visit:

euwipluseast.eu