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MINISTERUL MEDIULUI
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER AND DATA NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

THEMATIC SESSION 1: DIALOGUE ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA PROGRAMME

25 April 2023

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umweltbundesamt
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

 Austrian
Development
Agency

 **OiEau**
International Office
for Water

 **OECD**
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

 **UNEP**

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THEMATIC SESSION 1

- Towards sustainable management of water resources, Moldova has a number of priority areas that are interlinked:
 - **Social**, including equitable access to water supply and sanitation, public health, affordability of service
 - **Environmental**, including tackling pollution, addressing sustainable water use and the impacts of climate change
 - **Economic**, including levels and application of taxes and subsidies
 - **Legislative**, including progressing alignment with relevant EU directives
- EU4Environment Water and Data aims to support Moldova in making progress against these priorities with a number of key activities:

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- How can field **monitoring**, lab analysis and data interpretation improve?
- **River Basins** are the unit to guide progress, prioritise and address water management challenges. What can Moldova do to progress on **organisation** and **planning** at River Basin scale?
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- How can Moldova promote **cross-sectoral policy coherence** and **long-term planning** to address its water management challenges?
- What are the next steps to advance **transboundary cooperation** on water?
- What are key take aways for Moldova from the **UN Water Conference**?
- How can EU4WD support establishing **wastewater-based epidemiology** as a new water and health surveillance and decision support tool?

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DANUBE PRUT AND BLACK SEA (DPBS) RBMP, DEVELOPED WITH EUWI+ PROJECT SUPPORT, HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ADOPTED ON 29 JUNE 2022. THE PRIORITY IS TODAY TO PUSH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM OF MEASURES.

- Implementation shall be programmed in each sector at local scale. An example has been set up with the development of a WSS master plan for Nirnova basin under EUWI+.
- Important investments for water supply has followed the master plan or are engaged.
- Consultant has been hired to develop necessary information for a selection procedure for a intermunicipal WSS operator to manage in viable economic conditions the water supply investments in the south part of the Nirnova sub-basin.

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TIME FOR A NEW STEP FOR CLOSER INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION FOR PRUT BASIN MANAGEMENT?

- The **Prut River** is one of the 3 **longest tributary of the Danube** (Prut, Sava and Tisza between 950 and 1000 km).
- It covers an area of 27.540 km², almost equally shared between Romania (10.990 km² or 40 %), Ukraine (8.849 km² or 32%) and Moldova. (7.701 km² or 28%).
- Has always marked important country borders. Today 31 km separate Romania and Ukraine and on 711 km, it forms the border between Romania and Moldova.
- The three countries, have associated to the Prut basin other Danube sub-basins in their district. RO RBMP with Siret and Prut river sub-basins, UA draft RBMP Siret and Prut, MD Danube delta and Black Sea.
- Transboundary cooperation is under the umbrella of ICPDR (Sofia Convention for the Protection of the Danube, 29 June 1994), but follows as well country specific bilateral agreements ruling action in the vicinity of the boarder but not the full basin area: RO-UA (Galati, 30 October 1997); MD-RO (Chisinau, 28 June, 2010); MD-UA (Chisinau, 23 November 1994).
- The countries of the Prut Basin (Ukraine, Romania, Moldova) are closing transboundary co-operation to WFD standards, aiming to achieve integrated water resources management of the Prut river Basin first through the harmonization of country specific RBMP in the 3 national river basin districts.

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TIME FOR A NEW STEP FOR CLOSER INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION FOR PRUT BASIN MANAGEMENT?

To reinforce RBMP harmonisation and integration at Danube and EU scale what about:

- 1. SIGNING ON NEXT DANUBE DAY (29/6/2023) A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TOWARDS A MORE INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PRUT RIVER?**
- 2. DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ICPDR PRUT WORKING GROUP IN CHARGE OF WORKING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NEW AGREEMENT?**
- 3. PROVIDE TO ICPDR HARMONISED INFORMATION ON THE PRUT AS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT DANUBE SUB-BASIN**

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WATER MONITORING

- Extend monitoring **networks, frequency, parameters and interpretation** based on EUWI+ *Monitoring Development Plans*

➤ SURFACE WATER:

- October 2022: ecological survey postponed to spring 2023
- 2023: **survey** with EAM under preparation
- **Trainings** on
 - 1) **Phytobenthos** (sampling, lab treatment, and identification);
 - 2) **Benthic invertebrates** (improved taxonomic resolution);
 - 3) **Data interpretation** (chemical & biological data)

➤ GROUNDWATER:

- 27-30 June 2022: Workshop on groundwater body (GWB) delineation and data interpretation
- 18-28 Oct 2022: GW survey in the DPBS RBD
- Sep 2023: Workshop on the development of a tailored methodology for the assessment of GW quantity and quality status of

➤ Monitoring and assessment of **transboundary waters**:

- Currently ^{Implementing partners} on hold due to war in UA and limited ^{Co-funded by} EAM capacities.



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WATER MONITORING - LABORATORY

- Nov 2022: **Regional training** for WFD compliance with GC MS/MS equipment on ISO 28540 - determination of 16 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in water
 - together with GC experts from **GE, AZ, AM** and **UA**
- Pre-training mission on 26-27 April 2023 to Chisinau/EAM lab.
- June - Oct 2023: ca. 5 more (**regional**) **trainings** for WFD compliance are being coordinated
 - on PAH, organochlorine pesticides, phthalates (DEHP), alkylphenols (OP, NP) and volatile organic carbons (VOCs).
- Participation in international **Proficiency Testing schemes** for:
 - Heavy metals M166 (partly **successful participation**)
 - Nutrients N165 (**successful participation**)
 - Pesticides H117 (registered)
 - Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons P24 (registered)



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WATER MONITORING – COVID-19 WASTEWATER MONITORING

New EU standard of WW-based epidemiology: early detection, representative, low cost

- 2022: Presentation of the EU concept and methods to National Agency of Public Health NAPH of the Ministry of Health
- May 2022: first **sampling** of wastewater from Chisinau WWTP and processing in the NAPH laboratory: SARS-CoV-2 **virus detected!** Some recommendations to upgrade the lab equipment.
- 2nd training on methods in Feb. 2023
- **Next steps and milestones in 2023:**
 - Need to set up a **national procedure btw health & water sectors** on **regular data** production on **wastewater epidemiology** (polio, influenza, cholera...)
 - Further **trainings on methods** incl. virus **sequencing** and **data processing**



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WATER AND HEALTH

Promotion of the implementation of **water and health goals, with emphasis on COVID-19** challenges & international commitments

- Assistance with revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (in view of COVID-19)

Recommendations for post-pandemic recovery measures related to sustainable water-management

Technical advice and capacity building for implementation of policy recommendations **related to water & health**

- 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (16 - 18 November 2022)

New publication on the Protocol in English and Russian

<https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/364655>



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WATER GOVERNANCE AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Regular **National Policy Dialogues** on IWRM

Regional **workshop on monitoring & assessment** –
October 2023

Support to:

- the Dniester Commission's WGs
- RO-MD-UKR meeting on the Prut

Review of the dams and dykes in the Isnovat river

Support in **reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2** - until 30 June 2023! Please **share a draft** with us and **coordinate with RO and UKR**



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UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE (22-24 MARCH 2023, NEW YORK):



Proposed topics for the interactive dialogues

Water for Health: Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 17);

Water for Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12);

Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and DRR (SDGs 6.5, 6.6, 7, 11.5, 13, 14, 15);

Water for Cooperation: Transboundary and International Water Cooperation, Cross Sectoral Cooperation and Water Across the 2030 Agenda (SDG 6.5, 6.b and SDGs 16, 17);

Water Action Decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the Decade, including through the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan.

More information at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

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More than 700 commitments – more are coming **until 1 May 2023!!!**

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/water>

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TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION COALITION

A catalysing framework for commitments and progress on transboundary water cooperation

Objective – “Promote and support both the sustaining and the advancement of transboundary water cooperation in the context of the Water Action Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, in light of growing risks, including those linked to climate change”



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ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND MOBILISING FINANCE

- ***Options, prerequisites and methodology for reforming the water tax in Moldova***
 - Review current water tax with view of supporting overall economic soundness of the water sector
 - Consider policy objectives of the tax and opportunities for reform
 - First step will be a questionnaire on objectives and priorities of water tax
 - Analysis of current water tax structure and performance
 - Recommendations on reform scenarios for consultation and development of methodology including pre-requisites
- ***Enabling environment survey and financing Nature Based Solutions***
 - Assess barriers to financing water
 - Analysis and linkages to OECD roundtable on financing

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