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MINISTERUL MEDIULUI  
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## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Moldova and a thematic workshop on Nature Based Solutions

**Date:**  
25-26  
April  
2023

**Venue:**

Radisson Blu, 77 Mitropolit Varlaam str.

<https://lcmagency-eu.zoom.us/j/82546982009?pwd=RGp6ejllbThzL1l0L2kvYlpzRnNEUT09>  
Meeting ID: 825 4698 2009  
Passcode: LCM2023

**Time:**

25 April: 09:00-18:00  
26 April: 09:00-13:00  
26 April (pm):  
Optional site visit  
(registration required)

### AGENDA

DAY 1 - 25 APRIL

7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Moderator: Ms Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova

Local Time	Item	Speaker
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:30-10:00	<b>Opening and welcoming statements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tour de table - Introduction from members of Steering Committee</li> <li>Adoption of agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>Adam Grodzicki, Deputy Head of Cooperation Section EU Delegation to Moldova</li> <li>Alexander Zinke, EU4Environment Water and Data Programme</li> </ul>
10:00-11:30	<b>Thematic session 1: Dialogue on water resources management</b>  The session is devoted to discussion of the planning and progress on River Basin Management Planning, Water Monitoring including COVID monitoring, Economic Instruments, Mobilising Finance, Water and Health,	National authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria Gratii, Head of IWRM Policies Dept., MoE (8 min)</li> <li>Radu Cazacu, Deputy Head of Apele Moldovei (5 min)</li> </ul>

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	<p>Legislative developments and Transboundary cooperation in the recent two years.</p> <p>The discussion will build around key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What is the progress made so far in IWRM / WFD implementation?</li> <li>– What needs to be done next?</li> <li>– What are the current challenges for implementation?</li> <li>– How can transboundary cooperation on water advance during war time?</li> <li>– Results of the UN 2023 Water Conference and its meaning for future of the water sector in the Republic of Moldova</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mihai Grigoras, Head of the State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova (5 min)</li> <li>– Gavril Gilca, Director of Environmental Agency (5 min)</li> <li>– MoH (5 min)</li> </ul> <p>UBA, OiEau, UNECE, OECD (in total 15 min)</p>
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00-13:00	<p><b>Thematic session 2: Dialogue on environmental statistics and open data</b></p> <p>Session to include progress on Environmental Data and open data issues, including water accounts, environmental data, air quality, waste, land cover mapping and international co-operation.</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What is the progress made so far in each topic?</li> <li>– What still needs to be done on top of planned work?</li> <li>– What are the challenges for implementation?</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Johannes Mayer, UBA and OiEau (15 min)</li> </ul> <p>National authorities (8 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Marina Lungu, Head of the Reference Laboratory, Environmental Agency</li> <li>– Eugen Belii, AAM</li> <li>– Svetlana Zaharkina, IDNGEOCAD</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Thematic session 3: Donor coordination Part 1 on challenges and opportunities for the water and environment sector</b></p> <p>The session will include presentations and a dialogue with relevant projects and donors active on water, environment, climate and DRR in Moldova.</p> <p>Keynote speech: Financing needs for the RBMP implementation and WSS implementation</p> <p>Roundtable, with the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What are your ongoing and future activities?</li> <li>– What are the challenges you would like to raise with the government?</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and discussion</p>	<p>Keynote speech (5 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Viorel Miron, Head of DPBS basin committee</li> <li>– Ana Jeleapov, Head of Dniester basin committee</li> </ul> <p>International partners (5 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– EU Delegation to Moldova</li> <li>– Diana Celac, Water and Environment programme manager, ADA</li> <li>– Inga Podoroghin, UNDP</li> <li>– Ludmila Gofman/Nadejda Chilaru tbc, PM, Dniester Project</li> <li>– Dorin Andros/Corneliu Busuioc tbc World Bank, the Security of water supply and</li> </ul>

		<p>sanitation project in the Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– FAO</li> <li>– SIDA</li> </ul>
15:00-16:00	<p><b>Thematic session 3: Donor coordination Part 2</b> on challenges and opportunities for the water and environment sector financing.</p> <p>Roundtable, with the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What are your ongoing and future activities?</li> <li>– What are the challenges you would like to raise with the stakeholders?</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and discussion</p>	<p>International partners (5 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– World Bank</li> <li>– EIB</li> <li>– EBRD</li> <li>– AFD</li> </ul>
16:00-16:30	Closing remarks and meeting summary	<p>Chair to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– closing statement, key messages, decisions, next steps, and future NPDs</li> <li>– an introductory overview of Day 2</li> </ul>
16:30	Networking Cocktail	

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DAY 2

THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON POTENTIAL OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN MOLDOVA

Time	Item	Speaker
08:30-09:00	<b>Registration</b>	
09:00-09:15	<b>Opening remarks</b>	- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova - tbc - Karin Zaunberger, EC DG Environment - Tamara Kutonova, Manager of the National Policy Dialogue Programme, UNECE
09:15-09:30	<b>Scene-setting presentation</b>	James Dalton, Head of Water and Land Management, IUCN
09:30-10:15	<b>Experience from Moldova</b> - Ongoing or planned activities - Examples by NGO Biotica - Application of nature-based technologies in solving water supply and sanitation issues (ref. to Orhei constructed wetland / ApaSan)	Moderator: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova - Aurel Lozan, WB - Gabriel Margineanu, Biotica - Josu Veronica, Senior Advisor, Biodiver. Dept. MoE - ApaSan
10:15-10:40	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10:40-11:30	<b>Experience from outside Moldova</b> - Managed aquifer recharge (new EU guidance) - Example from Portugal - NBS for higher water retention and constructed wetland for water sanitation in France - Dniester cases in Ukraine	Moderator: OECD 10 min each - Andreas Scheidleder, UBA - Prof. José Saldanha Matos, Portuguese High School of Engineering - Pierre Henry de Villeneuve, OIEau - Tamara Kutonova, UNECE
11:30-12:00	<b>Moderated discussion</b> Guiding questions: - What are existing and potential Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for river basin management in Moldova? - How have existing NbS in the country been identified, developed and implemented? What are lessons learned? - What are challenges to promoting and scaling up NbS in Moldova? - What can the EU4Environment programme, together with development cooperation partners, do to support more NbS in Moldova?	Moderator: UNECE  All participants
12:00-12:15	<b>Closing remarks and next steps</b> - Possibly to highlight/agree on key priorities (e.g. types of NBS, regions, landscape) that can be included in the “roadmap” to be developed under the EU4Environment programme.	Ministry of Environment of Republic of Moldova  Representative of EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
12:15-13:15	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:15-17:00	<b>Field trip to a constructed wetland in Orhei</b> [Further information to follow, registration will be required]	

## Background

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Moldova. This meeting marks further development of the reforms in the water sector: development of secondary legislation to the Water Law and of the Information System on Water (Water Cadastre). NPD facilitates policy discussions where stakeholders meet to advance water policy reforms. NPDs are driven by the demand from the host countries and are usually chaired by heads of respective government agencies. A variety of stakeholders participate in the meetings, such as ministries and government agencies and institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations, the business community, parliamentary bodies, academia. Participants typically include international organisations and EU Member States active in water policy reforms in each country. Under the EU-funded EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme, NPDs are supported in the five Eastern Partner countries.

## Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- to provide and update on recent developments in the area of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and policy development;
- to provide an update on the implementation of the road map of 5 EU Water Directives in Moldova under the Moldova–European Union Association Agreement;
- to discuss progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment – Water and Data programme in Moldova and to receive feedback from the national stakeholders;
- to provide a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Moldova and to enhance the international cooperation with partner organisations;
- to strengthen dialogue on Nature Based Solutions (NbS) and potential application and benefits in Moldova;
- to discuss remaining challenges in the area of IWRM and next steps

## Participants

The meeting will gather over 40 participants from ministries, agencies, donors and international projects with an interest in water management in Moldova.

## About EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

This programme aims at improving people’s wellbeing in EU’s Eastern Partner Countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme’s activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens. It ensures continuity of the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes.

The programme is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The action is principally funded by the European Union, and

co-funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 12,75 million (EUR 12 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.

## Draft background notes on the NbS thematic workshop

### Background

There is an increasing interest in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) across the world, as an approach to contribute to multiple sustainability objectives, including water resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security and land use management. In 2022 at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly countries adopted a resolution on nature-based solutions ([UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#)) which includes a multilaterally agreed definition and framing of the concept. UNEA decided that 'nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits. This multilaterally agreed definition builds on earlier ones including the definition coined by the European Commission which defined NbS as "solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. (European Commission, 2021)". In so doing, NbS will contribute to protecting, sustainably managing or restoring nature, with the goal of maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services to address a variety of social, environmental and economic challenges (OECD 2020).

NbS align with the overall objectives of the EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data programme, the different mandates and expertise of the implementing partners. NbS have a great potential to have a positive impact on water quality and quantity in Moldova, slowing down runoff and increasing infiltration, favouring natural retention and clean up and creating or improving habitats, supporting biodiversity. However, there remains several gaps in Moldova to fully recognising the potential and applicability of NbS, implementing and financing them and evaluating their effectiveness.

### Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

This session aims to:

- Provide explanation (including criteria and standards), overview and benefits of what are different types of NbS compared to other water management solutions in river basins
- Exchange experience and views among Moldovan stakeholders and development partners on:
  - What existing and potential Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for river basin management exist in Moldova.
  - How existing NbS in the country have been developed and implemented.
- Enhance understanding of definition, benefits and challenges of NbS for Moldova's climate and biodiversity related targets and sustainable river basin management in terms of:
  - How NbS can be further scaled up in Moldova.
  - What challenges to scaling up are.
- Identify key priorities (e.g. types of NbS, regions, landscape) that can potentially be included in the "roadmap" to be developed under the EU4Environment Project.