

Trilateral Prut Cooperation Within the ICPDR Framework



International Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

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zum Schutz der Donau



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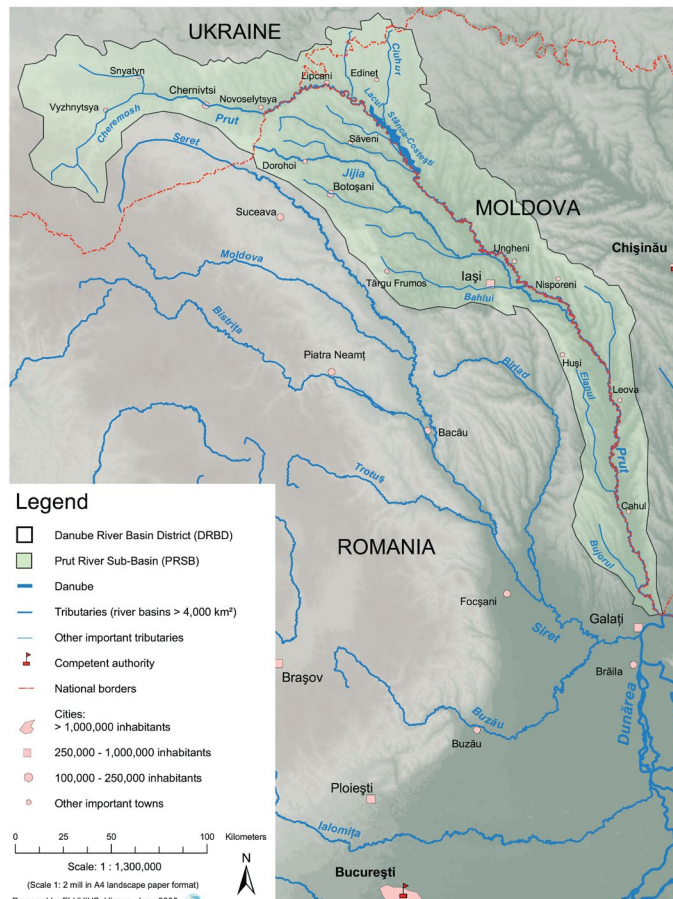
Prut River Basin



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Prut River Basin Overview Map Sub-basin of the Danube River Basin District

UNDP/GEF DRP Support to the development of the Prut River Basin Management Plan (WFD) - DRB pilot project



- Besides the sub-basin of the Sava and Tisza, the Prut River Basin is a key one in the DRB:
 - Length Prut River: appr. 950 km
 - Sub-basin size: appr. 27.500 km²
- Shared by MD, RO and UA
- So far, no transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan is in place
 - Would be of importance in general and also to feed into the Danube RBM Plan

Trilateral Prut Basin Cooperation

In May 2023, the ICPDR PS was approached by the *EU4Environment Programme* and *UNECE* regarding very positive developments regarding the Prut River Basin:

- On-going activities by three countries to reinforce intensified trilateral cooperation under a MoU to tackle transboundary challenges most effectively
- A related Prut Basin Expert Group is considered under ICPDR umbrella (similar format/set-up to Tizsa Group)
- The ICPDR Standing Working Group was informed in its 21st meeting

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The ICPDR Standing Working Group was informed in its 21st meeting and the StWG

- encouraged the three Prut countries (MD, RO and UA) to continue their efforts to reinforce a trilateral cooperation in the Prut Basin towards the signing of a declaration on trilateral cooperation.
- asked for an update at OM-26 addressing the status regarding the Terms of Reference and the possible creation of a Prut Basin Expert Group in order to discuss the possible role of the ICPDR

On 20 October 2023/Kiev: Declaration Regarding Cooperation on the Management of International Water Issues in the Prut River Basin signed by MD, UA & RO Ministers.

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Focus of the Declaration:

- Improved water governance;
- ;
- Harmonized and synergized control systems;
- Increased public participation and common awareness rising activities;
- Improved participation into EU Programmes

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Discussions and resolutions – ICPDR 26th Ordinary Meeting (Dec 23):

- a) congratulates the three countries sharing the Prut Basin (MD, RO and UA) for signing the Prut Declaration in October 2023;
- b) welcomes the tentative objectives of the signed Declaration including the possible establishment of a Prut Expert Group under ICPDR umbrella;
- c) asks the Prut countries of MD, RO and UA together with the ICPDR Secretariat and within the frame of the RBM EG to initiate the development of Terms of Reference for a Prut River Basin Expert Group using the ToRs of the Tisza River Basin as an example.

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Current activity :

- Joint development of Terms of References for an ICPDR Prut Expert Group
- Similar set-up like the Tisza Group

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Draft Road Map for ToR Development / ICPDR Prut Expert Group :

- Discussion of first draft Terms of Reference for a Prut Expert Group
 - Online call on Tuesday, **2 April 2024** at 14:00 Vienna time
 - RBM EG experts (MD, RO, UA), ICPDR ES, RBM EG Chairperson
- Preparation of second draft ToR Prut will be provided by **5 April 2024**
- Comments by MD/RO/UA by **17 April 2024**
- Draft ToR Prut will be shared with RBM EG for discussion at the 59th RBM EG meeting (**25 – 26 April 2024** in Timisoara)
- Fine-tuning of the draft ToR Prut after the RBM-59 meeting
 - Call will be organized if needed
- Submission of the final ToR to the ICPDR StWG Meeting in Bratislava (**25 – 26 June 2024**) for approval/adoption

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Note:

Ensuring exchange with the UNECE and the EU4EnvWD
is of course seen as very important