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led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

**6-month Progress Report
(1 August 2015 – 31 January 2016)
for
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,
Moldova and Ukraine**



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ARMENIA

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Regional Steering Committee meeting was held in Chisinau, Moldova on November 25, 2015. Three representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia participated in the meeting.
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader visited Armenia on September 23-24, 2015 to discuss extension activities and adoption timetable of the RBMPs for Akhuryan RBD. Meetings were held with the representatives of the Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Centre (Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations), Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre, Water Resources Management Agency (Ministry of Nature Protection), State Committee on Water Systems (Ministry of Agriculture) and EU Delegation to Armenia.
Activity 0.4:	EPIRB Project CWME for Armenia participated in the Presentation of the Basin Management Plan for Southern RBD of Armenia, organized by USAID Clean Energy and Water Program on August 7, 2015 in Armenia, Yerevan. EPIRB Project CWME for Armenia participated in the 14 th Meeting of the Steering Committee on NPD in Water Sector of Armenia held on December 14, 2015, and delivered presentation on EPIRB project activities in Armenia.
Activity 1.3.1:	Draft report entitled "Towards the introduction of WFD-compliant monitoring and assessment of water bodies: Monitoring Strategy for Armenia" was translated into Armenian and corresponding comments were solicited from the beneficiaries.
Activity 1.3.2:	Training on WFD compliant hydro-biological monitoring for the specialists from the South Caucasus countries was organized in Tbilisi on June 10-12, 2015. The training included 2-day discussions and presentations, as well as 1-day practical work in the field. From Armenia the representatives of the Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection participated in the training.
Activity 1.3.3:	Draft monitoring strategy for Armenia "Towards the introduction of WFD-compliant monitoring and assessment of water bodies" was prepared.
Activity 1.4.1:	Draft reports "Initial Development of the Ecological Status Classification of WFD River Water Body Typologies" and "Ecological Status Classification Schemes for the Debed River basin" were prepared and corresponding comments were solicited from the beneficiaries. Training on the Ecological Status Classification System was held in Chisinau, Moldova, on November 24, 2015. Representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia participated in the training.
Activity 2.2.3:	Water body delineation/typology and GIS database training was conducted in Tbilisi, Georgia on December 14-15, 2015. Two representatives from the Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations participated in the training from Armenia.
Activity 2.4.2:	The seventh round of the Debed SW joint filed survey was held on October 12-16, 2015. The survey included assessment of hydrobiological, hydrochemical and

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
	hydromorphological quality elements in 16 sampling points of Debed River Basin of Armenia. Experts from the Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia were participating in the field works. The results of the analysis were officially obtained in December 2015.
Activity 2.4.2:	The official results of the analysis of hydrobiological, hydromorphological and chemical quality elements of the 3 rd round of SW surveys in Akhuryan RBD, conducted on June 22-27, 2015, were obtained from the Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the Armenian State Hydro-meteorological Monitoring Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia.
Activity 2.5.2:	Works continued on revising draft basin management plan for the Akhuryan RBD and making it compliant to the requirements of the outline of the model river basin management plan, approved by the Government of Armenia Protocol Session Resolution No 4 on February 3, 2011. The following chapters were added in the draft plan: Environmental Flows; Water and Climate Change; Current and Perspective Water Supply and Demand; and Financial Deficit. Final draft version of the plan was prepared in English and Armenian languages in January 2016.
Activity 2.6.2:	<p>Pilot project on refurbishment of groundwater monitoring in Aknashen village of Ararat Valley of Armenia was successfully completed. The total cost of the project, including drilling of the well, installation of automated equipment, connection to the telemetry and testing, amounted to EUR 38,522.</p> <p>The installation and training on the use of groundwater monitoring equipment for the newly constructed Aknashen observation well in Ararat Valley was organized on September 14-15, 2015. The official hand over and launching ceremony took place on September 14, 2015 in Aknashen, Armenia with participation of the First Deputy Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the International Aid/Cooperation Officer of the EU Delegation to Armenia.</p> <p>Contract was signed with the Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection for Preparation of design and contract documentation and site supervision for refurbishment of 8 (eight) groundwater monitoring springs in the Akhuryan Catchment of Akhuryan RBD of Armenia. In January 2016 the Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia submitted detailed design documents.</p> <p>Contract was signed with the Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia for preparation of design documentation and site supervision for rehabilitation of Akhuryan-Akhurik transboundary hydrological observation post in Akhuryan River Basin District of Armenia, and preparation of technical specifications of the gauging equipment to be installed.</p>

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	The sixth NCC meeting for Armenia is tentatively planned to be held on March 23, 2016 in Yerevan. EPIRB Project Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader will visit Armenia to participate in the NCC meeting and have additional coordination meetings with beneficiary organizations.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 2.4.2:	The eight round of Debed River Basin joint field survey will be tentatively conducted in April 2016.
	The fourth round of surface water field survey of Akhuryan River Basin District will be tentatively conducted in May 2016.
	The fourth round of groundwater field survey will be tentatively conducted in June 2016.
Activity 2.5.2:	Draft basin management plan for Akhuryan RBD and the executive summary will be finalized, and formal adoption procedures will be prepared and shared with beneficiaries.
Activity 2.6.2:	Pilot project on refurbishment of 8 (eight) groundwater monitoring springs in the Akhuryan Catchment of Akhuryan RBD of Armenia will be completed, including the construction works.
Activity 2.6.2:	Pilot project on rehabilitation of Akhuryan-Akhurik transboundary hydrological observation post in Akhuryan River Basin District of Armenia will be completed, including construction works and installation of the gauging equipment.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
Pilot project on refurbishment of groundwater monitoring in Aknashen village of Ararat Valley of Armenia was successfully completed. The First Deputy Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the International Aid/Cooperation Officer of the EU Delegation to Armenia attended the official handover ceremony on September 14, 2015.

AZERBAIJAN

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	Meetings have been conducted at EU mission in Baku, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and Water Resources State Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations and also with other beneficiaries to discuss project activities and identify new pilot project to be implemented in Azerbaijan by support of EPIRB project on August 19, 2015.
Activity 0.1:	CWME met on September 10, 2015 with Period Company regarding implementation of new pilot project
Activity 0.1:	Meetings of EPIRB project TL and DTL at EU mission in Baku, the MENR and Water Agency and also with other beneficiaries to discuss project activities on September 16-17 2015
Activity 0.1	Work on provision of participation of representatives of beneficiary organization in the Training organized by EPIRB Project in Tbilisi, Georgia on 14-15 December, 2015
Activity 0.4:	CWME met on August 20, 2015 with Sadig Consulting Company to discuss issues related to extension of work under RBMP contract

Activity 0.4	CWME met on September 01, 2015 with Sadig Consulting Company to reflect comments of stakeholders into draft Central Kura RBMP
Activity 0.4	Meeting with beneficiaries to discuss the revision of Central Kura basin district draft RBMP on October 01, 2015
Activity 0.4	Work with beneficiary and other stakeholders on November 27, 2015 to improve water legislation in Azerbaijan according to WFD
Activity 0.4	EPIRB project Flow Newsletter 7 has been delivered to beneficiary and main stakeholders on December 08, 2015
Activity 0.4	Work with beneficiaries to adopt EPIRB project developed mechanism on application of EU EFD and UWWTD on December 14, 2015
Activity 0.4	Work with Environmental monitoring Department of MENR to develop Water Classification System using EPIRB project Ecological classification methodology, January 19, 2016
Activity 0.4	Work during February-March 2016 with beneficiaries to conduct next NCC meeting on March 15 , 2016
Activity 0.4:	Work with beneficiaries on March 10 2016 to discuss project support to finalize National Water Strategy by support of EPIRB project
Activity 0.1:	Meetings of EPIRB project TL at EU mission in Baku, the MENR and Water Agency and also with other beneficiaries to discuss project activities on March 14, 2016
Activity 1.3.2:	Participation in EPIRB project 4th ESCS meeting on November 24,2015 in Chisinau, Moldova
Activity 2.4.2:	Meeting with beneficiaries and Azecolab laboratory on August 07 2015 to analyse water monitoring samples conducted in Central Kura in early July 2015
Activity 2.4.2:	Meeting with beneficiaries on September 30, 2015 to discuss issues on conducting of water monitoring in Alazan(Ganikh) river basin during October 05-09, 2015
Activity 2.4.2:	Conducting of water monitoring in Alazan(Ganikh) river basin during October 05-09, 2015
Activity 2.4.2:	Meeting with Azecolab laboratory was conducted on November 2, 2015 to get results of analyze SW ecological monitoring in Ganik (Alazan) river basin conducted during October 05-09, 2015
Activity 2.4.2:	Work with beneficiaries to use EPIRB project classification system on ecological status assessment based on SW monitoring results during December 04, 2015
Activity 2.4.2:	Conducting of surface water monitoring in Ganikh -Alazan river basin during March 28-April 02 2016

Activity 2.5.2	Relevant Programs of Measures identified in Central Kura Basin district RBMP have been discussed on August 18, 2015 with stakeholders to implement as pilot projects
Activity 2.5.2	Participation in EPIRB project 4th RSC meeting on November 25, 2015 in Chisinau, Moldova
Activity 2.6.2. <i>Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Period LLC to finalise Zayanchay and Goshgarchay IWRM and RBMP report • Work with IQLIM LLC to implement project on application of EU Flood Directive in Zayanchay river basin • Work with Sadig Consulting Company to finalize Central Kura RBMP report • Work with beneficiaries to adopt EPIRB project developed mechanism on application of EU EFD and UWWTD • Work with beneficiaries in relation to rehabilitation of Gazakh regional Laboratory of MENR by support of EPIRB project • Work with beneficiaries in relation to rehabilitation of Ground Water Monitoring Network of MENR in Central Kura Basin District by support of EPIRB project
Activity 2.6.2	Work on January 26 and February 12 2015 with contractors implementing PoM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IQLIM LLC to submit report on application of EU Flood Directive in Zayanchay river basin • Sadig Consulting Company to finalize Central Kura RBMP report • "Period" LLC to respond to comments on Zayanchay IWRM and RBMP report
Activity 2.7.	Meetings with representatives of Central Kura and Environmental NGOs to increase Public awareness on project activities on August 12 , 2015

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPIRB Project Team Leader will visit Azerbaijan in April- May and July 2016 to attend National workshop on Development of National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan and also meet with beneficiary organizations to discuss the progress of pilot projects and proposals for their extension.
Activity 2.4.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next round of survey for GW in the Alazan(March 28-April 02, 2016) and Central Kura BD(April 11-16, 2016) river basin will be conducted • Ground Water Monitoring will be conducted in June 2016 in Central Kura basin district
Activity 2.4.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Azecolab laboratory will be carried during April-June to analyse of results of above field monitoring
Activity 2.4.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Expert Paul Buij will visit Azerbaijan in July to work with beneficiary organizations and laboratories
Activity 2.5.2 Development of national and basin-wide Programmers of Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBMP for Central Kura will be finalised and adopted by beneficiaries • Work will be carried with beneficiaries on adoption of mechanism of application of EU Directives(EFD and UWWTD) developed by support of EPIRB project

<p>Activity 2.6.2. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects:</p>	<p>Finalizing of selected below PoM and submission to beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Period LLC development of Zayanchay and Goshgarchay IWRM and RBMP • By IQLIM LLC project on application of EU Flood Directive in Zayanchay river basin • By Period LLC to assist beneficiaries to finalize National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan • By Azsan project on rehabilitation of Gazakh regional Laboratory of MENR by support of EPIRB project • By EKVATOR LLC on rehabilitation of Ground Water Monitoring Network of MENR in Central Kura Basin District by support of EPIRB project
<p>Activity 2.7.2</p>	<p>Awareness work will be further carried with public on implementation of Central Kura BD RBMP</p>

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
<p>WFD compliant monitoring program ESQS prepared by EPIRB project, is being reviewed by beneficiaries for use by National Environmental monitoring Department of MENR in their work/</p>
<p>Below 5 pilot projects are selected and being implemented in Azerbaijan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Period LLC development of Zayanchay and Goshgarchay IWRM and RBMP • By IQLIM LLC project on application of EU Flood Directive in Zayanchay river basin • By Period LLC to assist beneficiaries to finalize National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan • By Azsan project on rehabilitation of Gazakh regional Laboratory of MENR by support of EPIRB project • By EKVATOR LLC on rehabilitation of Ground Water Monitoring Network of MENR in Central Kura Basin District by support of EPIRB project
<p>In the extension period Draft Central Kura RBMP will be finalised and work is ongoing with beneficiaries for its adoption. Work with beneficiaries is ongoing on adoption of mechanism of application of EU Directives (EFD and UWWTD) developed with support of EPIRB project.</p>

BELARUS

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
<p>Activity 2.5.2:</p>	<p>Revised draft RBMP consistent with WFD and national legislation including updated risk assessment in line with the data from the JFS II and JFS III, gap filling and pilot project conclusions was completed in January 2016.</p>
<p>Activity 2.6.2:</p>	<p>Pilot project 2 “Flood risk assessment and mapping of the Upper Dnieper basin, including determination most at risk areas, field surveying of critical sites, mapping and initial design of protection measures” was completed in August 2015. Preliminary programme of measures for the Dobrush watercourses to improve the flood situation was included in the PoM.</p> <p>Pilot project 3 “Detailed assessment sources of pollution of potable GW sources supplying the “Novinki” region in the territory of Minsk” was completed in December 2015. Final report, including elaboration of potential pollution</p>

	<p>pathways and identification of protection measures to be implemented, was included in the PoM.</p> <p>ToR for new pilot project “Preliminary assessment of the impact planned construction hydropower stations on the hydrological regime and preparation necessary amendments to RBMP of Upper Dnieper” was submitted to project office.</p>
Activity 2.7.2:	-

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 2.4.1:	Field surveys will provide on May 2016 for SW and GW bodies in the Upper Dnieper basin.
Activity 2.5.2:	Final draft RBMP and summary document will completed to 29 February 2016. Report with results of adoption procedures will completed to 25 April 2016.
Activity 2.6.2:	New pilot project “Preliminary assessment of the impact planned construction hydropower stations on the hydrological regime and preparation necessary amendments to RBMP of Upper Dnieper” will be implemented (in case of contracting)
Activity 2.7.2:	Assistance to beneficiary in complying with national approval procedures and distribution Summary RBMP document will be provided. NCC and Dnieper basin council meeting will be provided on February (or March) for approval RBMP of Upper Dnieper.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
Revised draft RBMP consistent with WFD and national legislation including updated risk assessment in line with the data from the JFS II and JFS III, gap filling and pilot project conclusions
Programme of protected measures for potable GW sources supplying the “Novinki” region in the territory of Minsk
Preliminary programme of measures for the Dobrush watercourses to improve the flood situation

Plan of action

1. Providing field surveys for SW and GW bodies in the period May 2016. Preparation hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological results after laboratory analyses.
2. Preparation the revised list of content for RBMP consistent with WFD and national legislation to the end of August 2015.
3. Elaboration workplan for implementation new pilot project “Preliminary assessment of the impact planned construction hydropower stations on the hydrological regime and preparation necessary amendments to RBMP of Upper Dnieper”. February -March 2016.
4. Preparation final draft RBMP elaborated comprising all received comments and summary RBMP document to the end of February 2016.
5. Preparation final report on steps undertaken for the country adoption procedure. April 2016.
6. Providing fourth NCC and first Dnieper basin council for approving prepared final draft RBMP of Upper Dnieper basin. February – March 2016.

GEORGIA

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.4:	<p>RBMP Extension missions to the Caucasus countries took place on September 15-25 2015. During the meetings with project beneficiaries, RBMP contractors and partners in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia TL and DTL discussed the project progress and planned activities for the extension period, as well as RBMP adoption procedures and timetables in each country. In Georgia, the meetings were held in the National Environmental Agency (NEA), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP), MENRP Environmental Information and Education Centre and UNDP-Georgia. DTL also participated in the RBMP Extension missions to Ukraine and Moldova on October 5-9 2015. TL and DTL met with the project key beneficiaries, water agencies, hydrogeology expeditions, RBMP contractors and partners in Ukraine and Moldova.</p> <p>Mr Jincharadze participated in the national stakeholders workshop organised by USAID Governing for Growth in Georgia (G4G) on 21 October 2015, dedicated to the challenges of Planning and Implementing Water Allocation Schemes in Georgia; Mr. Jincharadze also attended international conference organised by Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP), National Environmental Agency (NEA) and UNDP-Georgia on 29 October 2015, dedicated to best international practices in establishing Early Warning System (EWS) for floods and other natural disasters.</p> <p>The 4th EPIRB Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was held on 25 November 2015, in Chisinau, Moldova. Representative of Water Resources Management Service - Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, as well as Environmental Directorate of Adjara AR and the National Environmental Agency of Georgia, participated in the RSC meeting. The meeting discussed progress made over the last year and the project plans for the extension period until the end of October 2016.</p>
Activity 1.3:	<p>The regional training on Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) for the Assessment of Surface Water Bodies was held on 24 November 2015, in Chisinau, Moldova. From Georgian side, the training was attended by NEA's Hydro-biology expert Mr Irakli Kordzaia and Head of Pollution Monitoring Department, Ms Marina Arabidze.</p> <p>The draft Terms of Reference to include assessment and monitoring of coastal waters for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot district of Georgia, in line with the EU WFD and Georgian legislation, was developed by the project team. This new assignment will expand further to include a study on coastal zone of the pilot area north of Batumi; design the coastal survey manual and the coastal monitoring programme and conduct on-site sampling training for the NEA's Black Sea Monitoring Centre. The results of the coastal survey will be included in the final draft RBMP for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot district.</p>
Activity 2.2.5:	<p>Training course to introduce the methodology and process of delineation and typological classification of surface water bodies, by using GIS tools was held on 15-16 December 2015, in Tbilisi, Georgia. Representatives of designated beneficiary institutions from each EPIRB country, including hydrologists and</p>

	GIS/IT practitioners participated in the training.
Activity 2.4:	The 7 th round of the Kura Field Survey for Georgian part of the Khrami-Debed (GE/AM) and the Alazani (GE/AZ) transboundary basins was conducted on 19-24 October 2015 . Water samples for physicochemical and biological quality elements from 16 monitoring locations were collected and hydromorphological assessment conducted in these locations. The NEA hydro-biology, chemical and hydrological experts participated in the survey.
Activity 2.5:	<p>Works continued to finalize the draft River Basin Management Plan for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin based on the comments received after the Public Consultation meeting in Batumi, as well as field survey results. To finalize the document EPIRB has signed an extension contract with the contractor in Georgia that includes the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and incorporation of stakeholder comments arising from the public and internal consultation processes; - Incorporation of 2014 and 2015 JFS results in the final RBMP; - Incorporation of national pilot project results in the final RBMP; - Conducting further public consultation events, if needed; - Preparation of a non-technical summary for the use of general public; - Assisting beneficiary institutions in complying with national RBMP approval procedures. <p>For the reporting period, the contractor has delivered updated WB 'at risk' classification maps with the 2015 field survey data on hydromorphology, as well as updated draft document reflecting the RBMP extension period, including responses to stakeholder comments. The document is currently being reviewed by the project Key Experts. The report on steps undertaken for the country adoption procedure, adaptation to Climate Change and the summary brochure designed for public distribution will be available by February-March 2016.</p>
Activity 2.6:	<p>Official launching and hand-over ceremony of newly established hydrological monitoring stations took place on 04 September 2015 in Batumi, Georgia. The above work was implemented as part of the River Basin Management Plan implementation process through the selected Programme of Measures and aimed to assist the Georgian counterparts or establishing EU WFD compliant Monitoring Network and strengthening their capacity for data collection, analysis and processing in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali Basin District of Georgia. A Memorandum of Understanding on transfer of equipment was signed by the EPIRB DTL Mr Zurab Jincharadze and NEA Head Ms Tamar Bagratia, after which short briefing was organized for local media, Environmental Directorate, NGOs and other project stakeholders.</p> <p>The Scope of Works and Terms of Reference for the following extension phase Georgian pilot projects were drafted by the EPIRB team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Economic instruments and revenue generation for efficient water resources management, including establishment of a new tariff policy for water abstraction licences and wastewater discharge permits in Georgia (to be implemented in collaboration with OECD); and 2) Establishment of new monitoring stations with modern automatic equipment for Groundwater Springs in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.4:	The last Project NCC meeting for Georgia is planned to be conducted on 18 March 2016, in Tbilisi. EPIRB Team Leader and the key project beneficiaries, NGOs and pilot basin stakeholders are expected to attend the meeting, which will discuss the achieved results and steps for adoption of the draft RBMP by the government of Georgia.
Activity 1.3:	<p>Marine biological monitoring training of sampling and identification of macroinvertebrates and macrophytes (seaweeds and seagrasses) in coastal waters is tentatively planned to be conducted in April-May. The monitoring training (2 days) will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field work (sample/data collection, preliminary processing and taxonomic identification as required) - Laboratory-based sample processing (sorting, identification, etc.) - Use of biological indexes in analyzing results. <p>The field part of the training will be followed by the WFD/MSFD implementation training (1 day) will consist of a series of Powerpoint presentations, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFD/MSFD application – what is required - Delineation of WFD coastal water bodies - Shared approaches the WFD and MSFD - Identification/development of reference and baseline conditions - Classification scheme (high, good, moderate, poor, bad) development, boundary-setting and environmental targets - Alternative approaches for monitoring marine macrophyte community status - Alternative approaches for monitoring marine macroinvertebrate community status - Intercalibration exercises.
Activity 2.4:	The last, 8 th round of the Kura Field Survey for Georgian part of the Khrami-Debed (GE/AM) and the Alazani (GE/AZ) transboundary basins and the 4 th Joint Field Survey (JFS) of Surface Waters, as well as the Coastal Monitoring Survey (CMS) for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali Basin District of Georgia is tentatively planned for April-May 2016.
Activity 2.5:	<p>New contract for the coastal extension will be signed by a Georgian contractor to include assessment and monitoring of coastal waters in the draft Chorokhi-Adjaristkali RBMP of Georgia. The new study will build on the results and outcomes of the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali draft RBMP and will expand further to include Coastal Zone of the pilot area north of the Chorokhi estuary. The assignment will include the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop RBMP extension sections for the adjacent coastal strip: delineation of Coastal Water Bodies, Identification of Pressures & Impacts; - Compile the coastal monitoring plan elaborated by the project team and international marine biology expert, into the final draft RBMP; - Assist the project team in conducting a Monitoring Survey in the coastal

	<p>area adjacent to the freshwater/terrestrial pilot area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate results of the Coastal Monitoring Survey in the final RBMP; - Organize 2-3 small Public Consultation meetings in the pilot region and incorporate comments and discussion results in the final document.
Activity 2.6:	<p>The Project will hire local consultants to implement the extension phase pilot projects. More specifically, objectives of a pilot project on 1) Economic Instruments will be the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the status of economic instruments for water resource management in Georgia, including analysis on economic instruments in practice for water abstraction charges, pollution charges, water tariffs, payment for watershed services, etc.; - Quantitative estimates (e.g. on revenue generation potential, on potential savings on investment and operation costs, on affordability of different categories of users; - Assess necessary steps for water management reform, e.g. i) changes in relevant codes, to implement economic instruments and to earmark revenues; ii) changes in the regulatory framework, to ensure compatibility between economic instruments and other elements of water policies; iii) conditions for effective implementation, including required organizational and institutional changes. <p>Another pilot project will focus on assisting the Key Beneficiary - NEA and Environmental Directorate of Adjara AR, in establishing groundwater monitoring network in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot Basin District of Georgia. In particular, this will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection and survey of potential monitoring points (springs), cost estimation for construction of weirs, detailed design drawings, Procurement list of necessary equipment (sensors, data loggers) and construction material; - Construction of 5-7 spring monitoring weirs and installation of purchased sensors, data loggers and all other devices; - Field check, adjustment of sensors/data loggers and certification. <p>The work is expected to start in April 2016 and last for about three months, finalising at the end of June 2016.</p>

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
<p>Pilot project on Design and Construction of Hydrological Monitoring Stations in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot Basin District was accomplished successfully. There are three main beneficiaries of the pilot project: 1) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, 2) Directorate of Environment and Natural Resources of Adjara Autonomous Republic and 3) National Environmental Agency of Georgia - NEA.</p> <p>The result of the pilot project is a construction and installation of four (x4) primary hydrological monitoring stations with radar type automated gauges and two additional (x2) stations with automated radar type gauges and precipitation measuring equipment for specific flood risk assessment.</p> <p>The final installation, testing and integration of the installed stations to NEA Telemetry was conducted in August 2015. Official launching of the rehabilitated stations and handover ceremony was held on September 4th, 2015 in Batumi, Georgia, where the EPIRB Deputy Team Leader and the NEA Head signed Memorandum of Understanding on transferring constructed stations and installed equipment to the</p>

beneficiary institution (NEA).

MOLDOVA

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Communication with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and National Consulting Committee (NCC), members of working group about current and planned activities of the EPIRB project in the current year. • Monthly and regional reports on EPIRB activities in the country were regularly sent to all stakeholders and EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova. • 6th Progress report issued to MoE and all stakeholders. • Handover ceremony with participation of EUD Ambassador and minister of environment of RM was organized on 28 of September at the MoE. • EPIRB Project Team Leader and Deputy Team leader visited Moldova on October 7-9, 2015, and held coordination meetings with representatives of main beneficiary the Ministry of Environment, State Water Agency, State Hydrogeological Service, Agency of Geology and Hydrogeology Expedition to discuss with stakeholders pilot project activities, extensions and adoption timetable of RBMP. • 4th Regional Steering Committee was organised on 25 of November in Chisinau. • The working meeting was held at the State Water Agency „Apele Moldovei” on December 17, 2015. The objective of the meeting was to report to the stakeholder, member of working group, receive a feedback on the results of the project implementation, also final report on the pilot project on “Developing Initial Water Resource information system for Prut pilot river basin” in current year, and planned activities in the next project period. •
Activity 0.4. Stakeholder management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country water management expert (CWME) for Moldova took part in the seminar on “CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN” as part of the project Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, organized by OSCE/UNECE/ADA on November 22, 2015 in Chisinau. • CWME continue communication cu relevant projects, which took place in Moldova in water management and flood protection (Betta-Studio, East-Avert etc).
Activity 1.2: Support the implementation of country obligations under the Danube and Water Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trilateral Meeting of (Ro-MD-UA) Prut working group was held on 26 of November in Chisinau. The meeting agreed the next steps in the development of the composite River Prut RBMP following a review of the differences between the plans by the WFD expert. The following key conclusions achieved during the workshop can be summarised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will provide support to all three countries (MD, UA, RO) and the River Prut WG until September 2016 including technical support from the EPIRB project team experts; - In parallel, the comparison results should be reflected in the final MD

	<p>and UA RBMPs as part of a chapter on harmonisation efforts in the Prut River Basin District;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was highlighted that technical and harmonisation approaches that have been used in the ICPDR framework shall be taken into account; - In addition, the EPIRB Project team will have to discuss and decide if and how GIS can be used to compare results of the three RBMPs, applying the most effective and best possible solution; - It has been concluded that communication exchange between the ICPDR, the EPIRB Project and the Prut WG needs to be ensured and take place on a regular basis.
Activity 1.3.1. <i>Development of WFD compliant systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for WFD compliant monitoring for Prut river basin was prepared and submitted to the corresponding surface and groundwater monitoring institutions
Activity 1.3.2. <i>Training courses in WFD-compliant monitoring prepared and presented</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional training on assessment of ecological status of water bodies was organized on 24 of November in Chisinau.
Activity 1.4. <i>Assist in the development of WFD-compliant tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 MD GIS experts from SHS and Water Agency participated at the GIS workshop for delineation, typology on 14-15 of December in Tbilisi, Georgia. • Continue communication and exchange of information with partner projects, Betta-Studio, EAST- AVERT and others (Austrian Development Agency etc.) on water and flood management
Activity 2.4.2. <i>Joint field surveys to cover the gaps Joint field surveys are conducted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Survey on GW from 2015 in the Prut RB was drafted by k-expert on GW and sent to stakeholders. • Project experts send to stakeholders report on results of the filed survey on surface waters from 2015.
Activity 2.5.2 <i>Development of national and basin-wide Programmers of Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional public consultations with MoE and RBMP contractor on draft of RBMP were organized in Prut River Basin regions (towns: Edinet, Ungheni and Cahul). • Regular meetings and communication with Institute of Ecology and Geography on finalizing Programme of Measures and on revising draft of the Prut River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). • Second draft of RBMP was sent for comments for members of Working Group and Ministry of Environment (MoE). • Updated Programme of measures (PoM) was send for Ministry of Environment, working meeting was hold on 13 of December regarding contenting of the PoM and preparing chapters on climate adaptation and flood management . • Revised draft of RBMP for the Prut river basin was published on State Water Agency webpage for public consultation. • Addendum contract on additional assistance in development of final draft River Basin Management Plan for the River Prut basin in Republic of Moldova was signed with RBMP contractor (IEG) on 11 of January 2016.

<p>Activity 2.6.2. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources approved design report for GW Monitoring system in the pilot area. • New modern equipment was installed on 15 monitoring wells during filed survey on GW. Local expert's in hydrogeology from Agency of Geology and Hydrogeology Expedition from Moldova are trained. • SE "Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova" presented updated bill of quantity on drilling new borehole in the Prut RB. • Working team from SHS revising pressure, impact, and baseline situation report for Belevu Lake from Low Prut. • Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) issued final report for pilot project "Initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin". • Communication with "Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova" regarding finalizing design for pilot project on <i>Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin</i>. • Working team of SHS prepared report for pilot project on the fourth field expedition results for Belevu Lake from Low Prut. • Communication with key expert in GW and HD regarding implementing design for pilot project on "Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin". • Updated ToR on implementing pilot project on "Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin" were issued. • Meeting with working team of SHS on implementing extension pilot project "Baseline monitoring and design of WFD compliant surveillance monitoring programme for Lake Belevu Protected Area in the Lower Prut for supporting implementing RBMP in the Prut River Basin". • Meeting with SE "Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA)" on discussion draft of ToR and contract on implementing extension pilot project "Further developing of the water resources management information system for supporting implementing RBMP for the Prut river basin".
<p>Activity 2.7. Public involve and awareness raising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing additional public consultation (PC) with stakeholders meeting on the final draft of RBMP. • Dissemination for stakeholders of seventh New letter „In FLOW”.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
<p>Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPIRB Project Team Leader will visit Moldova in February-March, 2016 to have coordination meetings with beneficiary organizations and discuss the progress of pilot projects. • 4th NCC meeting will be hold in the end of February- beginning of March.
<p>Activity 1.2. Support the implementation of country obligations under the Danube and Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of the RBMPs will be initiated and supported by two further River Prut Working Group meetings in 2016, at which the comparative results will be presented and discussed with local experts from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. • Related TORs will be approved in detail and the work contracted to

Conventions.	national consultants.
Activity 2.4.2. Joint field surveys are conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next round of survey for SW and GW in the pilot river basin will be organised in April-May 2016.
Activity 2.5.2 Development of national and basin- wide Programmes of Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor in accordance with public consultation comments and stakeholder's objections and proposals revised draft of RBMP for Prut RB. RBMP contractor presents report on steps undertaken for the national adoption procedures of river basin management plan. Additional draft of ToR for developing RBMP for Danube Delta and Black Sea rivers sub basins are prepared
Activity 2.6.2. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finlay field expedition for Beleu Lake in Low Prut will be conducted. Tender for implementing GW pilot project will be organized. New modern equipment for ground water monitoring will be equipped on new monitoring well. Pilot project "Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin". Hand - over ceremony will be organized at the Ministry of Environment on 28 of September. During filed survey on GW New modern equipment including telemetric station with solar battery were installed on monitoring wells. Local experts in hydrogeology are trained. Basin Water management Authority prepared GIS layers on water intake and discharge points in the Prut river basin and placed them on geoportal www.gis.mediu.gov.md State Hydrometeorological Service executed all planned survey and prepared report with the results of baseline monitoring and draft of WFD compliant monitoring programme for natural lake Beleu from Lower Prut.
Activity 2.7. Public involve and awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft of summary brochure for public consultation was prepared. Dissemination for stakeholders of 7th New letter „In FLOW”.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
The final draft for WFD compliant monitoring for the Prut river basin will be discussed with beneficiaries and included in Programme for Monitoring of Surface Waters by State Hydrometeorological Service.
The pilot project on "Refurbishment of the groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of the factors influencing ground water quality in the Prut river basin" is successfully implemented. In the frame of the current pilot activities in Moldova the project helped to purchase and install additional modern monitoring equipment for the new monitoring well in Petresti, Ungheni district.
Final draft of RBMP is prepared for Prut RB an passed to Ministry of Environment, which is WFD compliant and incorporates both surface and groundwater bodies. In addition, Danube Delta and Black Sea sub basin analyses and RBMP is the process of developing by Institute of Ecology and Geography.
SE "Basin Water Management Authority" is developing extension pilot project on "Further development of Water Resource Management Information System (WRMIS) for the Lapusna subbasin as a support for implementing RBMP for Prut river basin".
Pilot projects extension are in the process of implementing and coordinated with main beneficiary MoE and all stakeholders.

Deliverables
Next round of survey for SW and GW to cover gaps in the pilot river basin will be organised.
Communication with synergy projects in water management and flood risk assessment will continue.

UKRAINE

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting:	<p>Preparing monthly reports and monthly highlights for beneficiaries and EU Delegation and 6-th months report about project results for Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.</p> <p>Regular Meetings in MENR with beneficiaries about current project activities.</p> <p>Assistance in preparing to the Ecological assessment training in Chisinau 24th of November, to the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Chisinau 25th of November.</p> <p>Meeting in Ministry of ecology and natural resources of Ukraine 12th of January with Water Agency representatives to discuss pilot project for delineation and GIS mapping of Upper Dnieper river basin in extension period and preparing meeting minutes.</p> <p>Organization and participation in the National Coordination Committee (NCC) Meeting in Kiev, 12-th of February 2016, preparing of NCC minutes.</p> <p>Meeting in State Water Agency 27th of January for preparing ToR for pilot project for identification and GIS mapping of Pripjat river basin (Upper Dnieper river basin).</p>
Activity 0.4. Stakeholder management:	<p>Preparation and organizing mission meetings of Team Leader and Deputy Team leader to Kiev (5-7 October) with main beneficiaries, others international projects and EU delegation to discuss extension activities and adoption timetable of the RBMPs. Preparing the Minute of the mission meeting TL and DTL 5 - 7 of October.</p> <p>Participating in final meeting of EU project 'Complementary support to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine for the Sector budget support implementation'.</p> <p>Participating in the kick-off meeting of the EU project in Ukraine 'Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental <i>acquis</i>' (the project is implemented by EPTISA led Consortium) and preparation of notes about it.</p> <p>Participating in the meeting with Team Leader of the new EU project "Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental <i>acquis</i>" Arunas Kundrotas with Team Leader of EPIRB project.</p> <p>Participation in the preparing process of the answer letter to Water State Agency about supporting activities on the hydrographic deliniation of the big</p>

	<p>rivers of Upper Dnieper basin in Ukraine.</p> <p>Participation in the Inception meeting of the EU project 'Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental <i>acquis</i>' in MoE and meeting with Key Water expert of project in framework of this event (14th of January).</p> <p>Preparing answer to State Fishery Agency of Ukraine about possibility support of investment project in Odessa region on development fishery enterprises.</p>
Activity 1.2. Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the Danube and Water Conventions:	Assistance in preparing to and participation 2 representatives from UA in the Joint Moldova-Romania-Ukraine working group under ICPDR support on the common Prut RBMP 26 th of November.
Activity 1.3. Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes, including hydro-biological and hydro-morphological elements and GW	Two representatives from Dnieper river basin authority of State Water Agency took part in Regional Training on delineation, typology and GIS delivered 15-16 December, Tbilisi Georgia.
Activity 1.6. Assess the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training	Organisation and participation on the consultation with chemical EPIRB project expert Paul Buijs and representatives of the Ukraine geology laboratories about the qualities JFS chemical results on priority substances in accordance with the requirements of the WFD (February)
Activity 2.4. Joint field surveys to cover the gaps	<p>Conducting SW surveys (3 – 7 of August) and Ground Water surveys in Upper Dnieper river basin (22 – 25 of September) using Survey Manual and Recommendation of EPIRB experts using Survey Manual and Recommendation of EPIRB experts.</p> <p>Help on the check the HCH results of Groundwater surveys to the Key expert 4, check the draft of hydrobiology training materials and Field Survey 2015 results Report</p>
Activity 2.5. Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures	<p>Assistance to contractor in preparation of the draft of River Basin Management Plan for Upper Dnieper and Prut river</p> <p>Draft final RBMPs received and reviewed by project team</p>
Activity 2.6. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects	<p>Assistance to contractors in pilot projects activities: consultation with contractors and MENR on pilot project results, discussion of results of investigation pilot projects in Prut river basin on waste waters pollution in the territory of Carpathian National Nature Park.</p> <p>Assistance to contractor in organising the meetings in Yaremche 29 – 30 of October for presentation and discussion of the projects results for local stakeholders in Prut river basin in the territory of Carpathian National Nature</p>

	<p>Park and organising Prut River Basin Council and participation with presentation about EPIRB project results.</p> <p>Preparing the ToRs for new pilot projects in Ukraine on identification of water objects of Pripyat, to be implemented in the extension period after consultation with beneficiaries</p>
Activity 2.7. Public involvement and awareness raising activities	Check the templates preparing by REC for collecting public comments to the Upper Dnieper and Prut River Basin management Plans.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting:	<p>Meetings with NCC members about progress of EPIRB project activities and planning next activities.</p> <p>Steering committee meeting in Kiev</p>
Activity 0.4. Stakeholder management:	Preparing monthly reports and monthly highlights for beneficiaries and EU Delegation and 6-th months report about project results for Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.
Activity 1.2. Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the Danube and Water Conventions	Meeting in Kiev with EPIRB project expert Birgit Vogel and contractors expert to discuss Prut umbrella RBMP (April)
Activity 2.4. Joint field surveys to cover the gaps	<p>Joint field surveys IV (surface waters) in April in Prut and Upper Dnieper pilot river basins using Joint Field Survey Manual and Recommendation of EPIRB experts</p> <p>Finalization of Ecologic Status Classification System for Upper Dnieper and Prut river basins.</p> <p>Creation the new DATA platform for saving of project information and supporting Ukraine activities in up-grade the Upper Dnieper and Prut RBMPs.</p> <p>The Training on monitoring of coastal zone of Black Sea in Batumi (Georgia)</p>

Activity 2.5. Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures	Assistance to contractor in revising Upper Dnieper and Prut RBMPs according the final comments and proposals and preparing road map of implementation Upper Dnieper and Prut RBMPs.
Activity 2.6. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects	Assistance to contractor in pilot project “Water Body Identification in the selected river basin of Upper Dnieper (Pripyat)” activities
Activity 2.7. Public involvement and awareness raising activities	Assistant to contractor to prepare Summary RBMPs

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
UA representatives took part in the theoretical training on the Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) and training on river basin GIS, delineation and typology.
Conducting Surface Water and Ground Water surveys in Upper Dnieper river basin. Were collected 48 samples of SW and 12 of GW for chemical and hydrobiology analyses. Draft National Monitoring Strategy towards the introduction of the EU WFD compliant monitoring and assessment of surface water bodies for all countries were developed and contains a detailed description of the WFD technical requirements and current status and needs for its implementation in the countries.
Final draft of RBMPs were revised by EPIRB project team. Pilot projects were efficiency finalised and presents to the beneficiary and local authorities.