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**Environmental Protection of  
International River Basins Project**  
Contract No. 2011/279-666

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A project implemented by a Consortium led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

## **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRBP)**

### **Minutes of the Inception Meetings in Moldova**

**Date: 29th of March 2012, 11 am, Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Republic of Moldova  
9 Cosmonautilor Street, Room #604, Chisinau**

#### **Agenda:**

- Project Presentation
- Pilot region selection criteria
- Questions and answers section

#### **Participants:**

##### **Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova**

- **Lazar Chirica**, Vice Minister
- **Maria Nagornii**, Head of Department, Dpt. of Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation
- **Leu Daniela**, Head of Department, Dpt. of Geology, Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources (subordinated to MoE)
- **Stasev Stefan**, Chief Inspector, State Ecological Inspectorate, State Ecological Expertise Department
- **Celac Diana**, Senior Adviser, Water Resources Division (Ms Celac is responsible for the implementation of the UNECE Water Convention in Moldova)
- **Staver Viorica**, Senior Advisory Officer, Division of International Cooperation and European Integration

##### **Human Dynamics**

- **Andriy Demydenko**, Team Leader
- **Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader
- **Tumennasan Dolgor**, Project Director
- **Ivelina Dilovska**, Project Director

#### **Summary of Discussion**

##### **Official welcoming**

Mr Demydenko started the meeting with explaining the role and duration of the inception phase of the EPIRB project. His presentation is attached to the minutes as Annex 1.

Mr Demydenko emphasized the importance of selection of pilot basins. The Prut basin is the suggested trans-boundary pilot basin for Moldova in cooperation with Ukraine. Ukraine has no objections regarding the Prut basin; however, during the kick-off meeting in Ukraine it was mentioned that the Dniester basin is also of interest for this country. Selection of joint pilot basin should be made during the inception phase.



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Additionally, during the inception phase each country should delegate representatives to the Regional Steering Committee and National Coordination Committee. Preferably, the members have to represent main direct project beneficiaries which are water management and monitoring agencies, basin organisations, etc., especially those representing the pilot basins etc. This is essential in order to ensure ownership of RBMP.

Mr Jincharadze presented the selection criteria for the pilot basins (attached to these minutes as an Annex 2).

Mr Chirica explained that Moldova opted for selecting the Prut basin as a pilot region as it corresponds to the criteria mentioned by Mr Jincharadze. Additionally, there is a joint Moldova-Czech Republic project on setting up 10 new automatic monitoring stations beginning from the upper reaches until the outfall of the Prut River (it is on the border with Romania). Moreover, there is another joint Ukraine-Romania project regarding automatic monitoring stations in the upper reaches of the Prut River. By now, the Prut River is very well explored. The Ministry has another project dealing with the construction of new monitoring systems at the main channel inflows of the Prut River (such as Chugur, Dradishte, Lapushnista, etc.). Finally, in June 2010, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Romania signed an Agreement regarding cooperation in the area of protection and sustainable use of the Prut River and Danube River waters. A similar Agreement is going to be signed by Moldova and Ukraine concerning the Dniester River. The Vice Minister believes that very soon there will be a trilateral water project between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova on the Prut River basin management.

Ms Maria Nagornii added that the above mentioned project between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova is a trans-boundary project for the establishment of a River Basin Commission and RBMP elaboration on the Prut River within the framework of Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) program. This project is in the discussion phase now and only a Concept Note is available at this point in time. In this regard, Ms Nagornii stated that there is no SBS funding available for RBMP development in Moldova; however, there are some other projects that could be used for RBMP elaboration.

Mr Demydenko thanked for the information about the CBC project and underlined that the main task of the EPIRB project is to coordinate all water management projects in the wider Black Sea region particularly in order to avoid the duplication of work.

Mr Chirica added that as a pilot region the Prut River basin is more interesting for Moldova than the Dniester River basin, as Moldova and the USA already have a bilateral project in the basin of the Dniester River with the pilot regions in two inflows of the Dniester – Byk and Botna. Nonetheless, Moldova wants to use Prut for navigation, which is another argument for choosing Prut as a pilot basin. Mr Chirica informed that very soon the Law on Water will be adopted in Moldova (and published in the media). At the moment, it has already passed through Parliament in December 2011. The Law on Water will substitute the Water Code of Moldova. The Law will have a clear cut delimitation of the river basins. In accordance to the Law, two separate River Basin Management Committees will be established, one for the Prut River and another one for the Dniester River (at present there is a joint Basin Administration for both rivers).

Ms Nagornii asked how the project experts and consultants will be selected in Moldova.



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Mr Dolgor first explained the project background and the management structure in details. Further, he informed that Moldova will have a Country Water Management Expert who will be selected based on open competition and considering transparency principles. The CWM Expert will be responsible for ensuring a permanent liaison between the Government and other stakeholders on one side and the project on the other. The Consultant will send an official letter to the Ministry of Environment of Moldova regarding the candidacy of CWM Expert for “no-objection” statement. The selected expert will then be formally approved by the European Commission.

Mr Chirica agreed with “no objection” approach.

Mr Nagornii asked about the establishment of the Steering Committee.

Mr Demydenko explained that there would be three Steering Committees. One Joint Steering Committee will be created when the Component B (Black Sea component) of the project will be launched, in addition to the already functioning Component A (represented by this project). The second one is a Regional Steering Committee: the government of the beneficiary country will decide regarding the members of this committee. This committee will include representatives from the European Commission as well. Finally, each beneficiary country will have its own National Coordination Council. Good practice would be to compose it of the main water stakeholders and in addition include a representative from the Consultant. The Consultant will provide technical and information support to ensure the successful work of all committees.

Mr Jincharadze added that there will be official correspondence between the Consultant and the MoE regarding the pilot basin selection and the composition of committees.

Mr Demydenko also pointed out that the comments/remarks to the ToR should be preferably made in written form. The deadline for all suggestions is mid-June 2012.

## **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRBP)**

**Date: 29th of March 2012, 2:30 pm, State Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of  
Moldova  
134 Grenoble Street, Chisinau**

### **Agenda:**

- Project Presentation
- Questions and answers section

### **Participants:**

#### **State Hydrometeorological Service**

- **Elina Plesca (Pleşca)**, First Deputy Director
- **Gavril Gilca (Gîlcă)**, Chief of the Department, Environment Quality Monitoring Department



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## Human Dynamics

- **Andriy Demydenko**, Team Leader
- **Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader
- **Tumennasan Dolgor**, Project Director
- **Ivelina Dilovska**, Project Director

## Summary of Discussion

After Mr Demydenko did a brief presentation of the project, Mr Jincharadze continued with project presentation. He also stated that during the Inception meeting (mid-July) the Consultant will present the Technical Proposal with a detailed plan of project activities and the timeframe of the work of different project experts. He also mentioned that the project has some other important components, which could be very useful for Moldova. For example: assistance in preparing the reports needed for international agreements (Danube Convention and Transboundary Water Convention), assistance in preparation of the legislative acts in accordance with the WFD standards, provision of services of the analytical quality control of monitoring (if such services are needed), intensive staff trainings in the field (for the pilot basins), and assistance with the preparation of the RBMPs.

Ms Plesca said that the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) is responsible for two parts of water monitoring regime in Moldova: 1) hydrological monitoring and 2) chemical and hydrobiological monitoring of the surface waters. As all agencies in Moldova responsible for water resources management and monitoring are subordinated to the MoE, this will simplify the work of the projects with those agencies. In Ms Plesca's view, the EPIRB project can serve as the transition instrument from the old monitoring system to the new one, based on the WFD regulations. As the SHS work product sample Ms Plesca provided a hard copy of the 2010 annual monitoring report to the Human Dynamics Delegation.

Mr Gilca presented the history of monitoring in Moldova noting the significant help of Romania in 2006 with Prut basin water objects classification, typology determination and first allocations of GIS layers. Moreover, the SHS obtained the accreditation for the ISO 17025 Standards in 2006. He told that at present Moldova tries to make a steady transition from the chemical standards of monitoring (former Soviet Union Standards) to the hydrobiological indicators used in the EU 5-class system. This work is done in cooperation with Romania. Currently monitoring in Moldova is conducted based on 7 groups of hydrobiological indicators. However, these are still applied to the old classification system and do not correspond to the WFD standards. The initial work on transition to the EU classification is planned for 2012. Mr Gilca mentioned the need for international calibration of the data to enable its use for the project purpose. He informed that with the help of international financial assistance Moldova has very good laboratory base equipped with modern chromatographs. He also informed that there are plans to set up an automatic monitoring station at the Dniester River with the support of foreign colleagues.

Ms Plesca asked a question about the participation of Romania in the project.

Mr Demydenko mentioned that Romania already participates in the work of trilateral Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) project (Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania) regarding the establishment of Trilateral Commission on the Prut River. If Moldova will decide that it is required for the management structure of the RBMP implementation to include participation of Romania, there will be no objections from the project.



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Mr Gilca stated that article 1.3 in the ToRs corresponds to the work planned by Moldova in the water sector for 2012 and asked for project assistance in implementing activities stated in this article.

The final discussion was related to the composition of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and the National Coordination Council (NCC). Ms Plesca said that the final decision about the composition remains with the MoE, but the SHS could delegate two specialists into the NCC – one hydrologist and one surface water monitoring specialist. Mr Demydenko explained that the main function of the Consultant is to provide coordination and information support to the work of the RSC and the NCC. He suggested applying the organizational model used in the National Policy Dialogs project within the framework of the EU Water Initiative. He continued that as there are no Transboundary Basin Commissions in the beneficiary countries of the project then it is Consultant's obligation to create the coordination framework for the project. As the EPIRBP is more technical project and the CBC project is more political then there is a room for joining the forces of both projects.

### **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRBP)**

**Date: 30th of March 2012, 10:00 am, National Environmental Center  
45 Banulescu Bodoni Street, Room #404, Chisinau**

#### **Agenda:**

- EPIRB Project Presentation
- NEC projects presentations in Cubolta River and Byk River basins

#### **Participants:**

##### **National Environmental Center (NEC)**

- **Ina Coseru**, Head of **National Environmental Center**
- **Iuliana Cantaragiu**, Project Expert

##### **Human Dynamics**

- **Andriy Demydenko**, Team Leader
- **Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader
- **Tumennasan Dolgor**, Project Director
- **Ivelina Dilovska**, Project Director



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## Summary of Discussion

Mr Demydenko briefly stated project tasks, ToR, management structure of the project, the RSC and NCC functions and what outcomes the Consultant expects at the end of the inception phase. He continued that as the National Environmental Center (NEC) already has some experience in river basin management planning, the Consultant would like to establish good working relations on sharing the RBMP experience and organize the exchange of information. If NEC has any comments to ToR and/or plans to take part in the work of the NCC, then Consultant would like to receive them by the end of June or earlier, if possible.

Mr Jincharadze inquired about the methodology that the NEC uses in its monitoring work, and whether the monitoring reports, especially for the ground waters monitoring are available.

Ms Coseru replied that the first pilot project NEC started in the Cubolta River basin in 2008. The Cubolta River is the left tributary of the Reut River, and the Reut River is the right tributary of the Dniester River. The main partner of this project was the State Agency "Apele Moldovei" due to its experience in developing the regulations for the functioning of basin committees. Thus, the representatives from the Apele Moldovei, representatives from five district administrations located in the Cubolta River Basin and from some local water organizations formed the Basin Committee. The Cubolta River basin management plan was elaborated together with Apele Moldovei and with the participation of Mr Victor Bujac, the key person in the management plan development. This committee plays an advisory role only. The problems, especially the ones associated with sewage water, caused pollution of the Cubolta River and being reported to the MoE are not yet solved. In 2010 the small grants program (financed by the US) was launched in order to help to reduce problems associated with the sewage waters and some other problems.

Mr Demydenko said that he knows that the NEC succeeded in the biological monitoring and asked regarding achieved results.

Ms Coseru replied that using the US methodology on classifying the water invertebrates, which was adjusted for Cubolta River, the NEC and the Moldavian entomologists from the Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova developed Guidelines for the Biological Monitoring. The classification used in the Guidelines, was simplified as it was presented to the pupils in the schools. In addition, two trainings on biological monitoring were conducted in the town Novoselitsa in Chernivtsi Region (Ukraine) for the Romanian and Ukrainian speaking audience.

## **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRBP)**

**Date: 30th of March 2012, 11:30 am, Agency "Apele Moldovei" (Agency of MoE)  
5 Gheorghe Tudor Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Chisinau**

### Agenda:

- Project Presentation
- Pilot region selection criteria
- Questions and answers section



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## Participants:

### Agency “Apele Moldovei”

- **Adam Marin**, Director
- **Ivan Cuceinic**, Chief of Water Management Department
- **Dumitru Proca**, Chief of Water Management Division

### Human Dynamics

- **Andriy Demydenko**, Team Leader
- **Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader
- **Tumennasan Dolgor**, Project Director
- **Ivelina Dilovska**, Project Director

## Summary of Discussion

Mr Demydenko started the meeting by saying that the visit to Moldova relates to the inception phase of the project and the end of the phase is mid-July. The purpose of the mission and the main tasks of the inception phase in general and particularly in Moldova are the following: 1) present the project to the key beneficiary of the project (MoE), the main water stakeholders – Agency “Apele Moldovei” and State Hydrometeorological Service, and other organizations taking part in water resources management and monitoring; 2) collect all remarks, questions, suggestions related to the ToR of the project from all interested parties; 3) get a joint decision of the beneficiary counties on the selected trans-boundary pilot basins; and 4) initiate the creation of the Regional Steering Committee and National Coordination Council. The project team will assist organizations involved in the project to draft River Basin Management Plans and to implement them in the selected pilot basins, as there are no funds to perform the project activities beyond that scope. Mr Demydenko made it clear that it would be responsibility of the organizations/agencies to develop such plans and implement them. The role of the project team is only to provide any possible assistance on this matter.

Mr Cuceinic explained that the Prut River basin was chosen as a pilot region, because Moldova already has a project financed by Millennium Challenge Corporation in the Dniester River basin and two sub-river basins (Byk and Botna) aimed at the preparation of the RBMPs. Moreover, Moldova is interested in harmonizing the RBMPs that will be created for the Prut River basin with Romania.

Mr Cuceinic asked whether the Consultant will only coordinate the work of the project or would perform any other activities as well.

Mr Demydenko replied that all project activities are listed in the ToR in the section 4.2 called “Specific activities”, briefly explained several of them and summarized that there will be two main blocks of interrelated activities: 1) improving the monitoring potential in the trans-boundary pilot basins, including the ground waters in accordance to the WFD principles and 2) providing assistance in RBMPs implementation.

Mr Demydenko outlined the budget of the project, particularly, what is considered as Incidental Expenses.





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Mr Marin asked what will happen if Ukraine and Moldova will select different pilot basins.

Mr Demydenko replied that such situation is not possible. There should be a joint decision of two countries about one pilot basin.

Mr Marin informed that very soon Ukraine and Moldova will sign an agreement on the Dniester basin and asked whether it would be possible if the countries decide to apply that agreement to the Prut basin.

Mr Demydenko said the Consultant has no objections with this respect.

Mr Cuceinic asked what types of monitoring could be financed within the framework of the project and asked for the assistance in developing GIS maps (as they are needed to make decisions on water resources management issues and will help in hydrological modelling).

Mr Demydenko replied that the biological and hydromorphological indicators are the basis for EU water standards classification (based on 5-classes as stated in the WFD) and this is the reason why the project will mainly finance these two types of monitoring. However, the chemical quality indicators will be also used to certain extent. The project will have funds to finance research, for instance, cross section research, equipment rent, trainings of laboratory personal, some laboratory analysis, creation of monitoring databases and GIS maps. However, the project will not finance, for example, hydrological modelling, due to its high costs, even though it is very important for RBMP. Mr Demydenko mentioned SEIS project that may help with the databases formats if it is needed.

Mr Marin thanked for the meeting and suggested to the Consultant to send the official request to the MoE for ToR comments/questions. After that the Agency "Apele Moldovei" and the State Hydrometeorological Service will provide their comments/suggestions to the final document of MoE.

### **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRBP)**

**Date: 30th of March 2012, 1:30 pm, Irrigation Sector Reform Project, Millennium Challenge Corporation  
28/8 Petru Movila Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Chisinau**

#### **Agenda:**

- EPIRB Project Presentation
- ISRP Project Presentation
- Questions/answers and exchange of opinions section

#### **Participants:**

**Irrigation Sector Reform Project (ISRP)**





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- **Ludmila Gofman**, Deputy Team Leader

### **Human Dynamics**

- **Andriy Demydenko**, Team Leader
- **Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader
- **Tumennasan Dolgor**, Project Director

## **Summary of Discussion**

Mr Demydenko started the meeting by saying that it is important for the Consultant to establish good working relations with all interested parties of the project including the Irrigation Sector Reform Project (ISRP), financed by the Millennium Challenge Account in Moldova and implemented by the Mott MacDonald Consortium and made a short presentation of the project.

Ms Gofman made a presentation of the ISRP. She said that the US Government and the Government of Moldova signed the Compact Program and that the ISRP is the part of this program. There are two main objectives of the ISRP: 1) ensure the transfer of the irrigation management from the state to the water users associations, and 2) provide support to the Government of Moldova in implementing the river basin management. The Compact Program will be implemented in accordance to the Water Law of Moldova that already passed the second readings in the Parliament (on December 23, 2011) and very soon it will be officially adopted and published in the Official Monitoring magazine of the Republic of Moldova (most likely in April). The ISRP will be in charge of the development of the regulations under this Law and the regulations will provide the mechanisms for the Law implementation. The Law will be effective in one and a half year after its publication in the Official Monitoring magazine. Within the framework of the project the real time (automatic) monitoring equipment for the water level for the Dniester River and its several tributaries will be installed. It is planned to work with the State Hydromet Service of Moldova on conducting hydrological surveys and to the aforementioned equipment. This will be done only for the quantity (flow) analysis.

Ms Gofman informed that the MoE insists on installing two automatic stations for water quality monitoring at the Dniester River (upstream and downstream, before entering Ukraine). However, the ISRP does not support this idea as there will be no added value to install those stations. Nonetheless, 10 stations for monitoring the levels and the temperature of the Dniester River and its several tributaries will be installed within the framework of the ISRP. The other important activity is to provide support on improving data management. It is planned to set up three common information platforms including the provision of software and hardware for the platforms. The first common platform will provide an opportunity for all water users to apply for data electronically. Thus, all the institutions involved into the authorization process will be linked to this common platform and the whole process will be automatic. The second common platform is the river basin management platform. The institutions that own the information about the water resources (quantity and quality data) will be linked to this platform. The third common platform is a public platform and will contain the information available from the first two platforms. Establishing of the Dniester River basin district committee is another project activity and relates to the river basin management planning. According to the new Water Law two district committees have to be established - one for Dniester River and another for the Prut River. The ISRP will be only working with the Dniester River basin district committee and the equipment will be provided only for the Dniester River basin. This district



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committee will be working only at the territory of Moldova. There are no transboundary activities planned during the RBMP implementation. For the district river basin management planning the water bodies will be identified. Besides the work on establishing two water bodies in two pilot areas, Byk and Botna tributaries, has already started. Based on the experience of these tributaries the ISRP will develop methodology for the identification, delineation, and classification of the surface water bodies and ground water bodies.

Mr Jincharadze asked whether this methodology will be based on EU Directives.

Ms Gofman replied that the new Water Law follows the main principles stated in the EU Directives, not all of them, but the main ones. As the work of the ISRP is based on the new Water Law, it is envisaged that the project activities will be implemented in accordance with the requirements stated in the EU Directives. The ISRP will use the system of water quality standards for the classification elaborated by the international expert Mr Paul Buys. The standards and methodology being used for identification of water bodies are developed in accordance with the simplified approach to the EU standards and it will be tested (standards and methodology) in the two pilot areas. Ms Gofman passed to the HD Delegation the institutional and monitoring review report for 2011 prepared by the ISRP. She believes the report contains very useful information for the start up point of the EPIRB project in Moldova. Ms Gofman informed that she could provide unofficial translation in English of the Water Law to the HD Delegation too.

Ms Gofman promised to share with the EPIRBP the Guidelines for the selection of water quality monitoring parameters elaborated by the ISRP and added that the guidelines also refer to the weaknesses of the laboratory capacities in Moldova. She continued that the project has difficulties in obtaining inputs and feedbacks from the water institutions in Moldova. For example, the recommendations developed by the ISRP for the Institutional Reform were supposed to be implemented by the end of 2011; however, these are not implemented yet. Ms Gofman could send the recommendations elaborated in the framework of the project to Human Dynamics as well.

At the end of the meeting the parties agreed on exchanging available information on the projects and reports.