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led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

**6-month Progress Report
(1 February – 31 July 2015)
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:	The fifth NCC meeting was held in Gyumri, Armenia on March 26, 2015. The objective of the meeting was to report to the NCC members and receive a feedback on the results of the project implementation to the date and plans up to the end of the project.
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Team Leader visited Armenia on April 16-18, 2015, and hold coordination meetings with representatives of the Water Resources Management Agency, Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre (both under the Ministry of Nature Protection) and Armenian State Hydro-meteorological and Monitoring Services of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of Armenia.
Activity 0.4:	CWME for Armenia participated in the seminar on Development of Methodology for Calculation of Ecological Flow of Rivers in Armenia, organized by USAID Clean Energy and Water Program on July 9-10, 2015 in Aghveran, Armenia.
Activity 1.3.1:	Proposal for WFD compliant monitoring for Akhuryan RBD of Armenia was prepared and submitted to the corresponding surface and groundwater monitoring institutions in Armenia.
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 2.4.2:	Groundwater field survey was successfully conducted in selected 10 locations of Akhuryan and Metsamor River basins on April 20-25, 2015. One of the main objectives of the field survey was to re-visit the locations, where high Arsenic concentrations were observed during the surveys of 2013 and 2014, and try to identify the extent of spreading. The results of the 2015 analysis showed that the elevated concentrations of Arsenic have local spreading.
Activity 2.4.2:	The sixth round of Debed River Basin joint field survey was conducted on April 13-17, 2015. During the JFS hydrobiological, hydromorphological and chemical-physical quality elements were analysed at selected 16 locations by the specialists of 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 2.4.2:	The third round of Akhuryan JFS for surface water bodies in Akhuryan RBD was held on June 22-27, 2015. The joint field survey included also gap-filling survey in selected locations.
Activity 2.5.2:	Draft RBMP for Akhuryan RBD in Armenian and English languages was prepared and presented during the Public Consultation Meeting held in Gyumri, Armenia on March 26, 2015.
Activity 2.5.2:	Comments on draft basin management plan for Akhuryan River Basin District were obtained. Analysis of obtained comments was made, including the comparison of the draft plan with 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. Based on the received comments, Terms of Reference for additional tasks for RBMP revision was prepared.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 2.6.2:	The pilot project on “Improvement of water resources management and ensuring efficient water use through development of a system for an automated, centralized, on-line control of actual water use in Metsamor (Sevjur) River basin of Akhuryan RBD of Armenia” was successfully completed in May 2015. The project included development of a special computer program for the on-line water use control system and its integration with the State Water Cadastre Information System. The procured digital water meters were installed in the selected fish farms in Jrrat, Metsamor and Araks communities Metsamor River Basin, and 3 computer units with corresponding training on the use of the system were delivered to the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia. Final report on the pilot project completion was prepared, which also includes economic assessment of introduction of the system in the entire Metsamor River basin.
Activity 2.6.2:	Within the pilot project on refurbishment of groundwater monitoring in Ararat Valley of Armenia, the construction works in groundwater observation well in Aknashen village were successfully completed in the period of February-April, 2015.
Activity 2.7.2:	The third Public Consultation meeting was held in Gyumri, Armenia on March 26, 2015. The objectives of the public consultation meeting were to present the draft RBMP and the planned Program of Measures for the Akhuryan RBD; to discuss and receive feedback, comments and proposals on the draft RBMP; and to promote public participation and support finalization of the RBMP.
Activity 2.7.2:	As part of increasing public awareness, brochure on significant water management issues in Akhuryan RBD was prepared and published in Armenian and English languages in March 2015.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader will visit Armenia to have coordination meetings with beneficiary organizations and discuss the process of formal adoption of draft RBMP for the Akhuryan RBD with the national authorities.
Activity 2.4.2:	The seventh round of Debed River Basin joint field survey will be conducted in October 2015.
Activity 2.5.2:	Draft basin management plan for Akhuryan RBD will be revised and finalized, taking into consideration the comments from beneficiary organizations and the public.
Activity 2.6.2:	Within the pilot project on refurbishment of groundwater monitoring in Ararat Valley of Armenia, it is expected that the procurement and installation of groundwater monitoring equipment for the newly constructed Aknashen observation well will be organized in August-September 2015.
Activity 2.7.2:	Fourth public consultation meeting is tentatively planned to be held in Gyumri, Armenia in October 2015. The objective of the meeting will include presentation of the revised draft final RBMP for Akhuryan RBD and obtaining stakeholder feedback on the revised draft.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
The initial draft proposal for WFD compliant monitoring for Akhuryan RBD of Armenia, prepared by EPIRB project, was carefully studied by the Ministry of Nature Protection, and since 2015 the groundwater monitoring network in Akhuryan RBD is officially expanded, to include the new sampling locations proposed by the project.
The pilot project on “Improvement of water resources management and ensuring efficient water use through development of a system for an automated, centralized on-line control of actual water use in Metsamor River basin of the Akhuryan RBD of Armenia” was successfully completed and a letter from the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia was sent to the EPIRB project on May 29, 2015, stressing the importance of the pilot project in ensuring transparency and tightening up policing in water sector.

Deliverables

For the first time in Armenia, draft river basin management plan was prepared for one of the river basin districts of Armenia, which is WFD compliant and incorporates both surface and groundwater bodies.

AZERBAIJAN**1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.**

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	On January 12 2015 prepared within the EPIRB project supported pilot project Proposals on Mechanism of Application of EU EFD in Azerbaijan have been submitted to MENR for review and consideration of adoption in the future
Activity 0.1:	Fourth NCC meeting was held in Baku, on February 27 2015 to discuss with main stakeholders and beneficiary organizations the status of ongoing and planned project activities .
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Team Leader visited Azerbaijan during April 22-24, 2015 to discuss project activities with EU Mission in Baku and with main beneficiary on April 22, 2015 and to attend Public Consultation meeting in Ganja on April 23 2015 devoted to discussion with public of Draft RBMP for Central Kura Basin District
Activity 0.4:	CWME for during May 2015 together with Sadig Consulting Company collected comments from main stakeholders and incorporated them into Draft RBMP for Central Kura Basin District.
Activity 1.3.1:	Prepared by EPIRB project KEs/NKEs draft GW/SW monitoring programs have been finalized according to comments of key beneficiary and main stakeholders.
Activity 1.3.2:	Specialists of National Environmental Monitoring Department and Laboratory of MENR and representative of National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan attended training on WFD compliant hydro-biological monitoring in Tbilisi on June 10-12, 2015.
Activity 1.3.3:	Draft monitoring strategy for water quality monitoring and assessment of water bodies was prepared.
Activity 2.4.2:	JFS was conducted in Ganikh (Alazan) river basin during April-6-11 ,2015 by specialists of Environmental Monitoring Department and National Hydrometeorology Department of MENR .
Activity 2.4.2:	Groundwater field survey GW monitoring in Central Kura Basin District during 04-08 May 2015.
Activity 2.4.2:	The third round of JFS in Central Kura Basin District was conducted according to developed by EPIRB project KEs/NKEs draft GW/SW monitoring programs during June 29-July 4, 2015
Activity 2.5.2:	Draft RBMP for Central Kura Basin District in Azeri and English languages was prepared and presented during the Public Consultation meeting in Ganja on April 23 2015
Activity 2.5.2:	From different stakeholders at national and Basin District level comments on Draft Central Kura Basin Distract RBMP have been collected and draft RBMP is being updated accordingly
Activity 2.6.2:	As result of the pilot project on mechanisms for Application in Azerbaijan of Basin approach according to requirements of EU WFD and EU UWWTD have been developed and submitted to beneficiary for comments and adoption in the future.
Activity 2.7.2:	The Public Consultation meeting was held in Ganja on April 23 , 2015 to discuss main content of the draft RBMP and the planned Program of Measures for the Central Kura RBD, increase public awareness and participation in river basin planning and get feedback and comments on Draft RBMP
Activity 2.7.2:	Different project newsletters have been prepared and presented to public and main stakeholders during January -June 2015.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	Meetings will be conducted with beneficiary and main stakeholders, EU Mission in Baku and contractors implementing pilot project during visit of EPIRB Project Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader to Azerbaijan on September 16-17 2015 to discuss status of adoption of Central Kura Basin District RBMP and other results of pilot projects (including proposals on application for EU Directives in Azerbaijan).
Activity 2.4.2:	Ganikh/Alazan River Basin joint field survey will be conducted during October 5-10 2015.
Activity 2.5.2:	Central Kura Basin District RBMP will be finalised and submitted to beneficiary for adoption
Activity 2.6.2:	It is planned to implement pilot project related to application of EU Flood Directive in the Central Kura Basin District.
Activity 2.7.2:	Next public consultation meeting is planned to be conducted in Ganja in the end of 2015 to discuss final Draft of Central Kura Basin District RBMP and to finalise it.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
WFD compliant Draft RBMP is prepared for Central Kura Basin District and is expected to be adopted by beneficiary after finalisation
Developed by project for Azerbaijan WFD compliant water monitoring program is being tested during field water monitoring conducted by support of EPIRB project in Central Kura and Ganikh/ Alazan river basin
Mechanisms for application of EU WFD compliant basin approach and EU UWWTD in Azerbaijan have been developed within the pilot projects supported by EPIRB project and submitted to beneficiary for review and adoption

BELARUS

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1.	Financial report including documents of the SW survey were prepared and was sent to project office
Activity 0.4.	Contract with chemical laboratory for providing laboratory analyses of the 25 samples taken during the SW survey was prepared and signed. All field equipment for SW survey was prepared and checked
Activity 2.4.1.	SW survey was executed in the period 10-14 August. 25 surface water bodies were surveyed and samples were taken and delivered to chemical laboratory. 2 samples of the surface water and bottom sediments were taken and delivered to chemical laboratory for verifying the presence of priority substances in the river Upper Dnieper basin. 25 hydrobiological samples were taken and delivered to biological laboratory
Activity 2.5.2.	CWME attended meeting with deputy head of NCC Mr. S. Zavyalov regarding the determination of the adoption process for RBMP Upper Dnieper basin according to the national water legislation. Russian version of the comments to draft RBMP Upper Dnieper basin were reviewed by CWME. Report with revised list of content for RBMP consistent with WFD and national legislation requirements and a workplan outlining the contractor's approach and methodology for execution of the national elements was prepared.

Activity 2.6.2.	CWME meet with local experts involved in the GW pilot project regarding development GW mathematical model for Minsk aquifer. 5 GW samples were taken and delivered to chemical laboratory
Activity 2.7.2.	Text of Minutes Public Consultation meeting in Minsk prepared by Regional Environmental Centre were reviewed and corrected

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.4.	Organizational support will be provided by CWME for visit KE5 and providing GW Surveys 21-23 October 2015. Project of contract for laboratory analyses of 10 samples GW will be prepared. Organizational support will be provided by CWME for visit TL to Belarus 13-14 October, including organisation of meetings with main beneficiaries and the pilot project contractors.
Activity 2.4.1.	Technical report with results of SW surveys to be delivered in September. Contract for providing laboratory analyses of the 10 samples GW taken during GW survey will be prepared. GW survey to be executed in 21-23 October.
Activity 2.5.2.	Consultations with local experts will be held for preparation final version of RBMP Upper Dnieper basin
Activity 2.6.2.	Phase 3 of the pilot project 3 "Detailed assessment sources of pollution of potable GW sources in the well field "Novinki" on the territory of Minsk" will be continued.
Activity 2.7.2.	Organizational support will be provided for stakeholder consultations regarding received feedbacks of RBMP Upper Dnieper basin and PoM.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
Report with revised list of content for RBMP consistent with WFD and national legislation requirements and a workplan outlining the contractor's approach and methodology for execution of the national elements was prepared and submitted to project office.

GEORGIA

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 1.3: <i>Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes</i>	Surface Waters Monitoring Programme for the Chorokhi-Adjaristskali pilot basin was drafted by a team of the EPIRB KE/NKE Experts. The Programme includes hydrobiological, hydromorphological and physico-chemical elements of monitoring and is designed as a guidance document to assist the project beneficiaries and partners in Georgia for implementation of the first six-year monitoring cycle of RBMP in the Chorokhi-Adjaristskali Basin District. Draft National Monitoring Strategy towards the introduction of the EU WFD compliant monitoring and assessment of surface water bodies for Georgia was developed by the EPIRB senior non-key monitoring expert. The document contains a detailed description of the WFD technical requirements and current status and needs for its implementation

	<p>in Georgia.</p> <p>The Project internal technical meeting was held on 19-21 May 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The main objective of the meeting was to design and select sampling locations for the 3rd Joint Field Survey (JFS-III) in the pilot basins. Besides this, the team of Key and Non-Key Experts worked on draft concept of Ecological and Chemical Status Monitoring Programmes, as well as Gap-filling guidelines for screening Priority Substances and Certain Other Pollutants in each EPIRB pilot basin during the upcoming JFS-III.</p>
Task 1.3.2: <i>Training courses in WFD - compliant monitoring</i>	<p>Three-day training course in hydro-biological sampling methodology, sampling techniques and laboratory analysis for identification of macro-invertebrate fauna and macrophytes was held on 10-12 June 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The training course was conducted in the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and included theoretical workshop, as well as field sampling that took place on the Bazaleti Lake and the Aragvi River, following a lab identification exercise. Nine participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, representing national monitoring laboratories and academic sector, participated in the training.</p>
Activity 2.4: <i>Joint field surveys to cover data gaps</i>	<p>The 6th round of the Kura Joint Field Survey for Georgian part of the Khrami-Debed (GE/AM) and the Alazani (GE/AZ) transboundary pilot basins was held on 20-24 April 2015. Water samples for physico-chemical and biological quality elements from 16 monitoring locations were collected, and hydromorphological assessment conducted by the NEA monitoring team led by EPIRB senior monitoring expert.</p> <p>The 3rd Groundwater Joint Field Survey for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin of Georgia was held on 27-30 April 2015. The team of NEA and EPIRB experts collected ten samples from groundwater springs and wells for control checking of the GWBs status in the pilot area. Collected samples were later analysed in the NEA laboratory for the following elements: NO₃, Fe, As, Hg, Cd, Pb, Zn, Cu, Cr. In addition, five control samples were analysed in Lithuania specifically for Arsenic concentration. Results of the study will be included in the final GW monitoring programme and RBMP.</p> <p>The 3rd Joint Field Survey for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin of Georgia was held on 15-20 June 2015. EPIRB KE3 (ecology-biology expert), DTL/KE2 (river basin management expert) and the NEA-Georgia's field monitoring team participated in the Survey (JFS-III). Main objective of the JFS-III was to assess Ecological Status of the type specific 'reference sites', as well as to examine physico-chemical, biological and hydromorphological elements of surface water bodies identified as 'possibly at risk'. The team collected water samples from 25 locations for physicochemical and biological analysis. In addition, as part of the Gap-filling exercise, three (x3) sites were screened for extent of the 'Priority Substances and Other Certain Pollutants' in water and sediments at the Black Sea coast proximity, around city of Batumi.</p>
Activity 2.5: <i>Development national and basin-wide program of measures</i>	<p>Georgian RBMP contractors – Consortium of REC Caucasus and Greentecs, LTD completed working on the draft River Basin Management Plan for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin. English and Georgian versions of the Draft RBMP were uploaded on the EPIRB website, as well as the MoE Georgia's official website. The draft RBMP is open for public comments until the end of August and will be finalized in autumn 2015.</p>
Activity 2.6: <i>Implementation of selected measures for pilot projects</i>	<p>EPIRB project team developed tender documents for a pilot project to design and construct of hydrological monitoring stations in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali basin. The tender documents included - detailed terms of reference, the scope of works, bill of quantities, budget template and instruction to tenderers. Based on the competitive bid procedures and further evaluation of their technical and financial proposals of three selected companies, the ELKO Ltd was awarded a contract of total EUR 54,486 for design and construction six automated hydrological stations at the following in locations of the pilot basin:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chorokhi River at village Erge - Adjaristskali River at village Maghlakoni - Machakhela River at village Adjarisaghamarti - Kintrishi River at village Kokhi - Adjaristskali River at town Keda - Adjaristskali River at town Shuakhevi <p>For the moment the company has completed designed of the stations and procurement of the following equipment: automated data-loggers, solar panels, battery chargers, GSM modems with antenna, water-level sensors, precipitation sensors, cables and other accessories. The company has conducted preliminary testing of the delivered equipment and is ready to construct necessary infrastructure for the further installation of the stations. Construction/upgrade of necessary infrastructure and installation of the stations will take place in August 2015. The pilot project beneficiary – NEA’s Hydromet Department and the EPIRB KE2/DTL will oversee the installation and handing over the gauging stations on-site.</p> <p>Another Pilot Project Contractor - the National Water Partnership of Georgia completed working on the development of secondary legislation for supporting the new Water Code of Georgia. Georgian and English versions of draft bylaws (normative acts) were submitted to EPIRB and the key project beneficiary – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.</p>
<p>Activity 2.7: <i>Public involvement and awareness raising activities</i></p>	<p>A brief brochure on Significant Water Management Issues in the Chorokhi-Adjaristskali Basin was published in English and Georgian as part of the public awareness rising company distributed to the Project beneficiaries and stakeholders.</p> <p>A Public Consultation Meeting was held in Batumi on 24 March 2015 aimed to discuss results of the draft River Basin Management Plan for the Chorokhi-Adjaristskali pilot basin. The key project beneficiaries, basin stakeholders, local and central NGO representatives, local media, EPIRB experts and representatives of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe attended the meeting. Comments on the draft RBMP will be reflected in the final document that is envisaged to be finalised and submitted for Government adoption in Autumn, 2015.</p>

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
<p>Task 2.2.5: <i>GIS mapping of water bodies</i></p>	<p>Organise two-three days of training course for all six beneficiary countries in i) delineation, typology and GIS mapping of surface water bodies; as well as in ii) using, maintenance, and update of a web-based EPIRB GIS database system, to be held in mid-December, in Tbilisi, Georgia.</p>
<p>Activity 2.5: <i>Development national and basin-wide program of measures</i></p>	<p>The draft River Basin Management Plan for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin to be finalized based on the comments received after the Public Consultation meeting in Batumi, as well as filed survey results. This activity will be a continuation of previous phases of the basin management planning and will include the following:</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>Activity 2.6: <i>Implementation of selected measures for pilot projects</i></p>	<p>Construction and installation of six automated hydrology stations to be completed in the pilot basin. The NEA’s Hydrometeorology Department and EPIRB DTL/KE2 will oversee and inspect the proper installation and final compatibility check of the devices to the NEA telemetry system.</p>

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
Final draft of the Governmental Resolution on Defining Basin Districts for Integrated Management of River Basins, GE and EN
Final draft of the explanatory note on the Governmental Resolution on Defining Basin Districts for Integrated Management of River Basins, GE
Map of the basin districts of Georgia, GE
Final draft of the Governmental Resolution on the Defining Rules for Identification of Water Bodies and their Borders (delineation of water bodies), GE and EN
Final draft of the explanatory note on the Governmental Resolution on the Defining Rules for Identification of Water Bodies and their Borders (delineation of water bodies), GE
Final draft of the Governmental Resolution on Defining and Approval of the Procedure for Development, Review and Adoption of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), GE and EN
Final draft of the explanatory note on the Governmental Resolution on Defining and Approval of the Procedure for Development, Review and Adoption of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), GE
Final draft of the Ministerial Decree on the on the Establishment of the River Basin Councils and Approval of their Charter, GE and EN
Economic Analysis and Prioritization of Programme of Measures in the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali pilot basin, EN and GE
Chorokhi-Adjaristkali River Basin - Key Water Issues, EN and GE
River Basin Management Plan for the Chorokhi-Adjaristkali (Final Draft), EN and GE

MOLDOVA

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1:	The working meeting was held at the Ministry of Environment on March 11, 2015. The objective of the meeting was to report to the all stakeholders and receive a feedback on the results of the project implementation and planned activities in current year.
Activity 0.1:	EPIRB Project Team Leader visited Moldova on July 28-31, 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.
Activity 0.4:	CWME for Moldova took part in the seminar on Development RBMP for Dniester River, organized by Compact Program, ISRA project on July 29, 2015 in Chisinau. He visited and communicate cu relevant project which took place in Moldova in water management and flood protection (East- Avert etc).
Activity 1.3.1:	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:	Training on WFD compliant hydro-biological monitoring for the specialists from the Eastern Europe countries (Belorussia, Ukraine and Moldova) was organized in Chisinau on July 15-17, 2015. The training included 2-day discussions and presentations, as well as 1-day practical work in the field on lake Ghidighici water reservoir and Bic river. From Moldova the representatives of the Environmental Monitoring Centre of SHS participated in the training.
Activity 2.4.2:	Surface waters field survey was successfully conducted in selected 21 locations of Prut River basin on July 20-24, 2015. One of the main objectives of the field survey was to re-visit the locations, where priority substances in high concentrations were observed during the surveys of 2013 and 2014, and try to identify the extent of spreading.

<p>Activity 2.5.2 Development of national and basin-wide Programmers of Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings and communication with Institute of Ecology and Geography on finalizing economic analyses and the Programme of measures (phase 2) and on revising draft of the Prut River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) after EPIRB project experts and preparing RBMP in Romanian language. • Draft of RBMP was sent for comments for members of Working Group and Ministry of Environment (MoE). • Preparing executive summary of RBMP. • Programme of measures was send for Ministry of Environment, working meeting was hold on 11 of March regarding contenting of the PoM. • Programme of measures was discussed other stakeholders. • Revised draft of RBMP for the Prut river basin was published on State Water Agency webpage for public consultation. • Second RBMP public consultation meetings held in Moldova (Chisinau) and Ukraine (Yaremche, river basin Prut) on 5th and 26th May and were attended by representatives from stakeholders, contractors and CWME both countries. • 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 2 of July 2015.
<p>Activity 2.6.2. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing design for pilot project on improving monitoring of the ground waters in the Prut pilot basin. • Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources examines design report for GW Monitoring system in the pilot area. • Communication with working team of SHS on revising pressure, impact, and baseline situation report for Beleu Lake from Low Prut. • Assistance and communication within Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) for the preparation of the data collection report for initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin. • Developing data collection report for initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin within BWMA • Communication with “Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova” regarding finalizing 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. • Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources approved design report for GW Monitoring system in the pilot Prut area. • Working team of SHS prepared report for pilot project on the first filed expedition results for Beleu Lake from Low Prut. • Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) drafted and sent to the project experts the data collection report for initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin • 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”. • Working team of SHS is preparing the second filed expedition results for Beleu Lake from Low Prut. • Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) visited pilot area for the data collection report of initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin. • Communication with “Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova” regarding implementing pilot project on “Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin”. • Working team of SHS performed all planned field expeditions for Beleu Lake from Low Prut and prepared Monitoring WFD compliant . • Basin Water Management Authority (BWMA) updated the data collection

	report for initial developing of the water management information system for Prut river basin.
Activity 2.7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing public consultation (PC) with stakeholders and Basin Committee for Danube-Prut and Black Sea District meeting on first draft of RBMP. First PC was organized within REC (Hungary) on 5 of May in Chisinau, Institute of Labor.

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 and Deputy Team Leader will visit Moldova in October 7-9, 2015 to have coordination meetings with beneficiary organizations and 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 Prut river basin will be organised from 28 of September to 2 of October 2015.
Activity 2.5.2 Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP is revised by contractor in accordance with PC comments and stakeholders objection and proposals. Field Survey - 3 on SW from 2015 results are analysed and incorporated in RBMP from Prut pilot area. A draft of RBMP for Danube Delta and Black Sea rivers are prepared with Prut river basin and presented to main beneficiary Ministry of Environment. A brochure on developing RBMP for public consultations is prepared.
Activity 2.6.2. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with working team of SHS for preparing on third field expedition for Beleu Lake from Low Prut. Tender for implementing GW pilot project was organized. New modern equipment for ground water monitoring was purchased by EPRB project. Pilot project <i>"Refurbishment of groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of factors influence groundwater quality in Prut in the Prut river basin"</i>. Hand - over ceremony will be organized at the Ministry of Environment on 28 of September. New modern equipment will be 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. Basin Water management Authority prepared GIS layers on water intake and discharge point in the Prut river basin and placed them on geoportal www.gis.mediu.gov.md State Hydrometeorological Service executed all planned four JFS and prepared report with the monitoring WFD compliant programme of monitoring for natural lake Beleu from Lower Prut.
Activity 2.7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brochure on developing RBMP for public consultation is prepared. Additional public consultation will be hold in three towns in the pilot area (Edinet, Ungheni and Cahul).

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
The initial draft proposal for WFD compliant monitoring for the Prut river basin, prepared by EPIRB project, was studied by all stakeholders and included in programme of Monitoring for surface waters by State Hydrometeorological Service and ground water by Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova.
The pilot project on <i>"Refurbishment of the groundwater monitoring network for the assessment of the factors influencing ground water quality in the Prut river basin"</i> is successfully implemented. In the frame of the current pilot activities in Moldova the project helped to purchase and install modern monitoring equipment in the national groundwater monitoring network on 15 wells with modern electronic water level, temperature and conductivity

Deliverables
<p>meters and in one monitoring well telemetric station will be installed for the transfer of field measurements to the to the databases of the responsible on groundwater monitoring institution – SE “Hydrogeological Expedition from Moldova” (EhGeoM). The total cost of the pilot project, including designing, purchasing modern equipment, installation of automated equipment, connection to the telemetry and testing, will amount to 29 870 EUR. Also local experts will be trained during filed survey on ground water in Autumn 2015.</p>
<p>For the first time in Republic of Moldova , draft river basin management plan was prepared for Prut, which is WFD compliant and incorporates both surface and groundwater bodies. Also public consultation has been hold in Chisinau and regions of the Prut pilot area.</p>
<p>Proposals for pilot projects extension are discussed with main beneficiary MoE and all stakeholders.</p>

UKRAINE

1. ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting:	Regular Meetings in MENR with beneficiaries about current project activities. Participation on Danube Strategy consultation on 9 of February in Odessa with presentation about Prut River Basin Management Plan in framework of EPIRB project Organization and participation in the National Coordination Committee (NCC) Meeting in Kiev, 13-th of May, preparing of NCC minutes
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. Preparing information about status of River Basin management Plans in Ukraine.
Activity 1.2. Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the Danube and Water Conventions:	Consultation with GIS experts on data collection for templates for ICPDR activities for second cycle of Danube River Basin Management Plan.
Activity 1.3. Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes, including hydro-biological and hydro-morphological elements and GW	Revise of the final versions of the 'Surface Waters Monitoring Programme in the Prut (UA) River basin' and 'Surface Waters Monitoring Programme in the Dnieper (UA) River basin' Training on the monitoring of biological elements for lakes and low-land river systems given in Chisinau 15-17 July.
Activity 1.6. Assess the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training	Organisation and participation on meeting with chemical EPIRB project expert Paul Buijs and representatives of the Ukraine laboratories about JFS chemical results and The discussions with representatives of the laboratories the ability to identify priority substances in accordance with the requirements of the WFD
Activity 2.4. Joint field surveys to cover the gaps	Revise and dissemination of Joint Field Survey Report: Surface Waters 2014 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). Preparing to the Joint field surveys III (surface waters) in July - August in Upper Dnieper and Prut pilot river basins using Joint Field Survey Manual and Recommendation of EPIRB experts
Activity 2.5. Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures	Assistance to contractor in preparation of the draft of River Basin Management Plan for Upper Dnieper and Prut river Meeting with contractors for discussing Tim Turner`s comments to the Prut RBMP`s and Zurab Jincharadze`s comments to the Upper Dnieper RBMP`s Consultation with contractors for discussing of revise processes for finalisation of the draft of Prut River Basin Management Plan according comments of participants of Public Consultation meeting in Yaremche ToR for RBMP contract extension for technical assistance to the beneficiaries during the public consultation and adoption period (June – December 2015) finalised.

Activity 2.6. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects	Assistance to contractors in pilot projects activities: i) discussion of the nearest steps on pilot project on creation of the Prut River Basin Council; ii) laboratory capacity, points for investigation pilot projects in Prut river basin on Waste Waters pollution in the territory of Carpathian National Park.
Activity 2.7. Public involvement and awareness raising activities	Participating with presentation about EPIRB project in meeting under OSCE, UNECE, INVSEC, UNEP, round table 'Preparation RBMP in Ukraine and Moldova'. Organization and participation in the PC meeting on the draft Upper Dnieper River Basin Management Plan, 29 of April, Kiev. Communication with REC on editing brochure on key issues in the Prut and Upper Dnieper River Basins and others documents and activities on PC meetings in Kiev and Yaremche. Support of the Conference "Environment Ukraine" under MENR of Ukraine (22 – 24 of April) Participating in Public Consultation meeting on draft Prut River Basin Management Plan in Republic of Moldova in Chisinau (5-th of May) Organization and participation in the Public Consultation Meeting on the draft of Prut River Basin Management Plan, 26 of May, Yaremche Revising Upper Dnieper and Prut Public Consultations working groups' protocols.

2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

Activity No.	Deliverables/outputs
Activity 0.1. Planning, monitoring and reporting:	Meetings with NCC members about progress of EPIRB project activities and planning next activities. Steering committee meeting in Minsk (November)
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 with ICPDR to discuss Prut umbrella RBMP (September)
Activity 2.4. Joint field surveys to cover the gaps	Joint field surveys III (surface waters) in July - August in Prut and Upper Dnieper pilot river basins using Joint Field Survey Manual and Recommendation of EPIRB experts, groundwater JFS – in October in Upper Dnieper
Activity 2.5. Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures	Assistance to contractor in revising Upper Dnieper and Prut RBMPs according the comments and proposals.
Activity 2.6. Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects	Assistance to contractors in pilot projects activities
Activity 2.7. Public involvement and awareness raising activities	Public Consultation meeting minutes and summary RBMP brochures - July. Collation of RBMP comments - August.

3. KEY RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS.

Deliverables
National experts participated in two meetings with the ICPDR to determine the data necessary for completing the GIS database to upgrade the Danube River Basin Management Plan. In March of this work has been completed and all the data that were available to the project EPIRB been added to this base.
Were prepared draft river basin management plans for two selected river basins – Upper Dnieper and Prut in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. Also on the requirements of the Directive have been public hearings of these RBMPs.
The project also created about 20 guides relating to all stages of preparation RBMP.