



The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

*Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project*

*Contract No. ENPI/2011/279-666*

## **EIGHTH PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Final Draft**



The project is financed  
by the European Union



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

## 1.1 PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title : **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project**  
 Project Number : Contract No. ENPI/2011/279-666  
 Countries : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

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*“The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the Contractor and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union*

## 1.2 ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BMI</b>	Benthic Macro-invertebrates
<b>BUVRs</b>	River basin authority, Ukraine
<b>CA</b>	Contracting Authority
<b>CBC</b>	Cross-border cooperation
<b>CIS</b>	Common Implementation Strategy
<b>CWME</b>	Country Water Management Expert
<b>DBA</b>	Danube Basin Assessment
<b>DBMP</b>	Danube Basin Management Plan
<b>EaP</b>	Eastern Partnership
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EQR</b>	Environmental quality ratio
<b>ENP</b>	European Neighbourhood Policy
<b>ENPI</b>	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
<b>ENVSEC</b>	Environmental and Security Initiative
<b>EPIRBP</b>	Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (This Project)
<b>ESCS</b>	Ecological Status Classification System
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUWI</b>	European Union Water Initiative
<b>GW</b>	Ground waters
<b>GLC</b>	Gas-Liquid Chromatography
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<b>JFS</b>	Joint Field Survey
<b>JSC</b>	Joint Steering Committee
<b>MAD</b>	Maximum allowable discharge
<b>MAC</b>	Maximum Allowable Concentrations
<b>MNP</b>	Ministry of Nature Protection
<b>MENR</b>	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
<b>MNREP</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Republic of Belarus
<b>NCC</b>	National Coordination Committee
<b>NEA</b>	National Environmental Agency
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>NKE</b>	Non Key Expert
<b>NPD</b>	National Policy Dialogue
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>QA</b>	Quality Analysis
<b>QC</b>	Quality Control
<b>PoM</b>	Programme of Measures
<b>PWH</b>	Protocol of Water and Health
<b>RBMP</b>	River Basin Management Plan
<b>RSC</b>	Regional Steering Committee
<b>SAWR</b>	State Agency for Water Resources, Ukraine.
<b>SW</b>	Surface waters
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>WB</b>	Water body
<b>WFD</b>	EU Water Framework Directive
<b>WRMA</b>	Water Resources Management Agency

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## 1.4 PROJECT SYNOPSIS

**Project Title:** Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (**EPIRBP**)

**Contracting Authority:** European Commission – Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid

**Project Starting Date** 30 January 2012

**Project Duration:** **57 months**, end date: 31 October 2016

### Brief Description of the Project:

*Reinforces current actions in environmental protection and water resources management, supported by previous EU funded trans-boundary projects in the region in terms of cooperation as well as convergence towards the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), by joint development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in selected pilot river basins of the wider Black Sea region.*

**Countries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

**Budget:** €8.5 million

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the project is to improve water quality in the trans-boundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus.

The specific objectives of this contract are:

- to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater; and
- to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins/sub-river basins according to the requirements of the WFD.

### Results to be achieved by the Consultant:

The main results required to attain the Project objectives are:

1. Increased capacities of the respective national authorities for hydro-biological, chemical and hydro-morphological monitoring of water quality including groundwater; quality assurance procedures in laboratories in place; and
2. Increased technical capacities by means of development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans for selected rivers.

### Actions in brief/Milestones:

#### *Result 1 - Increased capacity for WFD compliant monitoring:*

- *Assessment of current data and assessment tools availability by June 2012;*
- *Surveys to assist development of ecological monitoring status systems undertaken by September 2014;*
- *WFD-compliant monitoring programmes designed for pilot basins by November 2014;*
- *Determination of threshold values for classifying different water body types by June 2015;*
- *Training programme on laboratory QA/QC delivered by December 2013;*
- *Training programme on Biological and Hydro-morphological monitoring delivered by July 2015; and*
- *Final proposals for ecological status monitoring systems, by November 2015*

#### *Result 2 - RBMPs are developed for all pilot basins:*

- *Pilot basins are formally accepted by July 2012;*
- *River Basin Districts are mapped and characterised by July 2013;*
- *1<sup>st</sup> JFS and Kura III surveys undertaken by October 2013;*
- *Water bodies are defined and classified according to the WFD methodology by October 2013;*
- *Pilot projects contracted by July 2014 in all six countries;*
- *At Risk assessments undertaken and 2<sup>nd</sup> JFS and Kura III surveys undertaken by October 2014*
- *Programmes of Measures are developed by November 2014;*
- *Draft River Basin Management plans produced by January 2015;*
- *Gap-filling and 3<sup>rd</sup> JFS and Kura III surveys undertaken by October 2015 ; and*
- *Pilot projects implemented and RBMPs adopted by July 2016*

## 1.5 SUMMARY OF PROJECT PROGRESS FOR THE MONTHS 49 - 54 OF THE PROJECT

The project is now in the extension period and focus has been on implementation of the extension activities, which include refinement and assistance with adoption of the of the River Basin Management Plans, surface and ground water surveys, targeted training and implementation of further selected measures. The project team has consulted closely with the EUWI+ implementation partners and provided background information on\_WFD implementation status in the beneficiary countries. The team has also provided commentary on the draft EUWI+ project documents.

### *Activity 0: Project Management Activities*

#### *Task 0.1: Planning, monitoring and reporting*

Project continues to be implemented to programme and budget and will be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Transition to the EUWI+ project will be marked by a joint final EPIRB Regional Steering Committee and EUWI+ high level meeting in Kiev on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>st</sup> September, for which logistical planning has begun. The three months EUWI+ inception phase is expected to commence in October and will be initiated by missions by the implementing partners to consult with the country stakeholders. The EPIRB project will provide work closely with EUWI+ during the transitional period including on the organisation of the meeting in Kiev, if the time allows such an overlap of 'joint' implementation.

The present Progress Report, Report 8, will be the last full 6 months report describing the project activities and outputs. The final three months of the project (Aug/Sept/Oct) will be covered by a report annexed to the final project report describing the full project outputs and outcomes, lessons learnt and next steps.

During this reporting period National Coordination Committee (NCC) meetings were held in all six countries in the period February – April 2016 (see a summary table below). These meetings gather a wide range of stakeholders from the beneficiary governments, as well as representatives of the non-governmental community. All the meetings in Eastern Europe were attended by the Team Leader (TL) and in the Caucasus countries – by the Deputy Team Leader (DTL). The Georgian NCC meeting was held in conjunction with the EUWI National Policy Dialogue. The NCC meetings gave the opportunity for the beneficiaries to ask questions about the project progress, particularly the extension activities, refine the selection of additional selected measures and be informed about the follow-on project. The beneficiaries had received the draft version of the 7<sup>th</sup> Progress Report and the associated technical documents including the Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) report. There were questions regarding the implementation of the pilot projects and the final 2016 surveys which had been scheduled early to avoid the dry summer period. There was a lot of interest in the follow-on project but unfortunately, at the time, the information about the EUWI+ project was limited. The Team Leader promised to inform the countries through the Country Water Management Experts (CWMEs) as soon as any news was available. There was general discussion about the country priorities and the TL/DTL recommended that the beneficiaries discuss their needs with the EU delegations. The participants were informed about the tentative timing of the Final Steering Committee Meeting (SCM). The project team invited the beneficiaries to speed up the adoption of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

The NCC meetings were well attended and discussion ranged widely, particularly in the three association agreement countries. The discussion showed that implementation is still hindered by a lack of coordination and sometimes clarity of water resource management mandates, which need to be resolved. The slowness in the development of legal and policy framework is also holding back national implementation/approximation of the European Union's Water Framework Directive (WFD), where relevant. The NCC meeting reports were reviewed and sent to the stakeholders and are contained in Annex 0.4.

Table 1. Overview of NCC meetings held in the reporting period

Country	Dates and venue	Link to the summary record
Armenia	<u>Date:</u> 31 March 2016 <u>Venue:</u> “Ani Hotel Plaza”, Yerevan, Armenia	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Yerevan_6th_NCC_March_31_Proceedings_%28trt%29.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Yerevan_6th_NCC_March_31_Proceedings_%28trt%29.pdf?download=1</a>
Azerbaijan	<u>Date:</u> 15 March 2016 <u>Venue:</u> Caspian Plaza, 52, J. Jabbarly str. Baku, Azerbaijan	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_NCC_meeting_in_Az_March_15_2016.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_NCC_meeting_in_Az_March_15_2016.pdf?download=1</a>
Belarus	<u>Date:</u> 3 March 2016 <u>Venue:</u> Hotel «Gubernskaya» Leninskaya str., 56/6 Mogilev 212030, Belarus	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_basin_council_3_march_2016.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_basin_council_3_march_2016.pdf?download=1</a>
Georgia	<u>Date:</u> 5 April 2016 <u>Venue:</u> Hotel “Ambasadori”, 13. Ioane Shavteli str., Tbilisi 0105, Georgia	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_5th_NCC_Meeting_Report_Tbilisi%2C_05_April_2016.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_5th_NCC_Meeting_Report_Tbilisi%2C_05_April_2016.pdf?download=1</a>
Moldova	<u>Date:</u> 24 February 2016 <u>Venue:</u> Labour Institute, Zimbrului Street 10, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_of_4th_NCC_in_Chisinau_on_24_February_2016_Eng.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_of_4th_NCC_in_Chisinau_on_24_February_2016_Eng.pdf?download=1</a>
Ukraine	<u>Date:</u> 12 February 2016 <u>Venue:</u> Aarhus Centre in the building of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Vasilya Lipkivs’kogo Street 35, Kyiv, Ukraine	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_of_the_5th_NCC_in_Kiev_on_12_February_2016_Eng.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Annex_0.4_Minutes_of_the_5th_NCC_in_Kiev_on_12_February_2016_Eng.pdf?download=1</a>

The project continues to submit national and regional monthly progress reports to the EU Delegations and National Coordination Council members for informative purpose. The country specific activities during the reporting period are contained in Annex 2.6 of this report. There was no need for a formal endorsement from the beneficiaries or EU delegations on the monthly reports. Informal clarifications and questions were responded to by the CWMEs.

The regional monthly report has been also sent to DG NEAR for information.

Other reports, prepared during the 8<sup>th</sup> reporting period can be seen in the download section of the project website ([Annexes to 8<sup>th</sup> Progress Report](#)) and include:

- Annex 0.4: NCC meeting reports
- Annex 1: Country reports
- Annex 1.2.: 3rd and 4th River Prut RBMP WG meetings
- Annex 1.3: ESCS final report
- Annex 1.4: GIS database report /GIS Training report  
WFD/MSFD Coastal Monitoring Training report  
Final WFD strategies
- Annex 1.5: Priority substances and gap filling report
- Annex 2.3: Draft final RBMPs
- Annex 2.4: 2016 Surface Water Survey Report

## 2016 Groundwater Survey Report

## Annex 2.6: Pilot project reports

There were minor adjustments to the programming of the training events and completion of the finalisation of the RBMPs. These changes include:

- Workshop on WFD and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in Batumi, Georgia scheduled for May 2016 was moved to 15/16 June to avoid conflict with EMBLAS Phase II Project's surveys and the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Batumi.
- Training on WISE GIS database was delayed until 25th/26<sup>th</sup> July in Minsk.
- The finalisation and adoption of the RBMP varies in the six countries and has been extended to the end of September.

The Team Leader and Project Director attended the Clima East Steering Committee meeting in Brussels on 21<sup>st</sup> March to discuss collaborative activities and to discuss the Project finalisation activities with the new EC Task manager. On May 12/ 13<sup>th</sup> the Team leader attended the EUWI – EECCA working group meeting at OECD offices in Paris to discuss issues relating to the new EUWI+ project and transition from the EPIRB project. The Team Leader submitted a report to the EUWI+ implementing partners on the status of WFD implementation in the in the countries under the EPIRB project. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia 8-10 June) at a side event organised by the Austrian Government the Project Director delivered a presentation of the project outlining lessons learnt and next steps.

During the reporting period the project team has also consulted with the following regional projects:

- **Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS) project.** There have been exchanges between the two projects regarding the technical content and timing of EMBLAS surveys and the EPIRB coastal zone monitoring training. The dates of the coastal zone monitoring training were moved to June in order to avoid conflicts with the EMBLAS surveys. EMBLAS were invited to the training but were unable to attend but were sent a copy of the training materials and report as well as ToR for the pilot coastal monitoring to take place in August 2016.
- **European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) project.** A joint study of the use of economic instruments to improve water governance in Georgia was contracted under the pilot measures and implemented during the reporting period with EPIRB providing the national consultancy input. The project also held a joint National Consultation and National Policy Dialogue meeting in Georgia in April – see above.
- **UNDP/UNECE -GEF TDA SAP River Dniester project.** Currently in its development phase the EPIRB has been in discussions with UNECE on development of an umbrella plan between Moldova and Ukraine for the Dniester River following the River Prut model. It is envisaged that these discussions will continue in the EUWI+ inception phase commencing October 2016. There has been no communication with the UNDP-GEF Kura project, which is scheduled to commence in autumn 2016.
- **EU Clima East Project.** The project has been in consultation with Clima East regarding the review of the RBMPs for adaptation for climate change. Unfortunately due to administrative constraints it has not been possible to engage an international consultant to review and make recommendations for selected RBMPs as planned in the existing time available. It is hoped that the proposed linkage can be undertaken as part of the EUWI+ activities.
- **SEIS activities:** the team discussed different scenarios to SEIS in terms to secure hosting of the EPIRB web-GIS data by one of their data infrastructures. However, any such decision would require additional human and time resources to be allocated on behalf of EEA, thus no further communication was possible until the start of SEIS II. Meanwhile, in order to keep EPIRB project data collected, a decision was taken to hire web server for 1 year (until June 2017).

In addition, through the CWMEs, the project has continued to maintain contacts with a number of other key donor projects in participating countries.

**Task 0.2: Risk management**

Potential constraints, risks and assumptions have been assessed and respective corrective measures undertaken where necessary. In the final six months of practical implementation the project team focused on the adoption of the RBMPs, execution of the 2016 surveys, and finalisation of the selected measures. The latter proved difficult with certain contractors under performing and final products being rejected and subject to revision.

**Task 0.3: Quality management**

The Quality Management is a continuous process and it is done throughout the whole life cycle of the project. The team experts reviewed all produced outputs, commented and accepted the final drafts before being circulated.

**Task 0.4: Stakeholder management**

As reported above, the final NCC meetings were held in the six countries during the February to April three month period. The project team were in constant communication with the beneficiaries and the Team Leader undertook missions to all six countries during the reporting period (see the detailed table of held NCC meetings above). The purpose of the missions was to ensure that issues arising from the NCC meetings were addressed and that the contracts for the selected measures were proceeding smoothly.

The project was constantly supported by the assistance of the national Country Water Management Experts (CWMEs) (note: in the case of Georgia – DTL assumed the role of local coordinator ; in the case of Ukraine – a RBME was nominated after the inception period, as country participated in the project with two pilot basins). The role of the CWMEs was crucial as they ensured the liaison with project partners and key stakeholders. Apart from providing support to the project team, they also provided local background information needed for achieving project goals;

**RESULT 1: Increased capacity for WFD compliant monitoring****Activity 1.1 Review national monitoring systems and tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities**

**Status:** Completed

**Activity 1.2 Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the UNECE Water and Danube River Protection Water Conventions****Task 1.2.1: An analysis and report on the Ukraine's and Moldova's obligations under the ICPDR convention**

**Status:** On-going

Following the third River Prut Working Group (WG) meeting in Chisinau in November 2015 (meeting report Annex 1.2 to 7<sup>th</sup> Progress Report) it was agreed as a first step to development of a composite plan that the Moldovan and Ukrainian plans would be compared and contrasted with the Romanian plan. In particular the plans would be reviewed in terms of the typology, delineation and pressure and impacts assessment along the main river stem. Contracts were issued to the main RBMP consultants in the two countries and the draft assessments, guided by Birgit Vogel, the Project's RBMP Non-Key Expert. The assessments were prepared during the reporting period and presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> River Prut WG meeting held in Vienna on the 21<sup>st</sup> July. The WG was hosted by the Austrian Environment Ministry (UBM) and was attended by representatives from the three riparian countries. The results of the RBMP comparative assessments show that a significant amount of work is required to bring the plans in line and a decision by the beneficiaries whether to continue along this route or develop a separate umbrella plan is required. The meeting reports are included in Annex 1.2. Any future decision for supporting the countries in preparing a composite RBMP relies to the national countries' priorities through new tasks of EUWI+ project.

**Task 1.2.2: An analysis and report on the Beneficiaries' obligations under the UNECE Water Convention**

**Status:** On-going

As reported above, the project has been in communication with UNECE Regional Advisor on the Environment regarding coordination with UNDP/UNECE GEF transboundary waters projects on the river Kura, which is about

to commence, and river Dniester, which is under development. The role of the project staff was liaison between the countries national co-ordinators and the UNECE Secretariat and facilitation of future dialogue. Development of international RBMPs is envisaged under both projects however not compliant with the WFD. Further discussions will be required under the EUWI+ project in order to establish a joint project implementation.

### **Activity 1.3 Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes, including hydro-biological and hydro-morphological elements and groundwater**

#### **Task 1.3.1: WFD-compliant monitoring programmes designed for the pilot basins**

**Status:** Task completed during reporting period 5

#### **Task 1.3.2: Training courses in WFD-compliant monitoring prepared and presented**

**Status:** Completed

Regional training was delivered on WFD coastal monitoring by a team of Bulgarian experts and led by the NKE Bill Parr in Batumi Georgia on 14-16<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The training was a mixture of practical and theoretical sessions and was attended by experts from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine. Participants were selected by the country beneficiaries and their profiles were reviewed by the CWMEs to ensure that they were suitable. In total 12 specialists have been trained (4 people from each 3 countries). During the training the team developed the coastal WFD monitoring plan for the Chorokhi basin coast and transitional waters, which is to be trialled as part of a coastal monitoring pilot contract (see Task 2.6 ). The training report is contained in Annex 1.3. It is hoped that the pilot monitoring programmes will be established in Georgia, Ukraine and possibly Azerbaijan under the EUWI+ project in conjunction with the development of coastal RBMPs.

Following on from the regional training on GIS, delineation and typology in Tbilisi in December 2015, a second advanced regional training on GIS was delivered in Minsk on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. Participants were selected by the country beneficiaries and were reviewed by the CWMEs to ensure that their profiles were suitable. The invited participants to this training were mainly 2 GIS, IT and hydrologists specialists from each country, this total of 20 specialists have been trained (as a host country, Belarus sent more trainees). The participants were given detailed training in the Water Information system for Europe (WISE) and, presented the results of the project WISE database developed by the project consultant Lubomir Filipov. The training report is contained in Annex 1.4. The participants reported back to the beneficiary institutions to continue using this portal for data collection and visualization of data. Some good examples are Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine.

#### **Task 1.3.3: Country specific ongoing monitoring programmes are designed**

**Status:** Finalised

The National Monitoring Strategies (Road maps) towards the introduction of the EU WFD compliant monitoring and assessment of surface water bodies were drafted in the beginning of 2015 and were presented to the countries in national languages. The strategy is a living document and should be updated continuously.

All strategies are WFD-compliant. The countries reviewed them and they could use them upon the needs. There was no requirement for official approval. A summary table is presented below

Country	Date of initial publishing	Responsible Body	Link to the final versions
Armenia	February 2015	- Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre (EIMC)	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Armenia.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Armenia.pdf?download=1</a>
Azerbaijan	February 2015	- MENR - The laboratory of the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Centre in Baku	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Azerbaijan_0.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Azerbaijan_0.pdf?download=1</a>
Belarus	February 2015	- The Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Control of radioactive contamination and Environmental Monitoring (no macrophytes and fish)	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Belarus_0.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Belarus_0.pdf?download=1</a>

Georgia	February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEA</li> <li>- Black Sea Monitoring Division Laboratory in Batumi</li> </ul>	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Georgia_0.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Georgia_0.pdf?download=1</a>
Moldova	November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Moldova_0.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Moldova_0.pdf?download=1</a>
Ukraine	November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State Agency for Water Resources (Water Basin Administration)</li> <li>- State Hydrometeorological Services</li> <li>- Sanitary and Epidemiological Services of the Ministry of Health</li> </ul>	<a href="http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Ukraine_0.pdf?download=1">http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/system/files_force/Monitoring%20Strategy%20Ukraine_0.pdf?download=1</a>

**Activity 1.4 Assist in the development of WFD-compliant tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities (ecological, chemical, hydro-morphological classifications)**

**Task 1.4.1: Determine threshold values and Ecological Quality Ratios for determining water body status for each type of water body**

The final Ecological Status Classification System for upper river catchments was delivered after further country consultation and is presented in Annex 1.4.

**Status:** Completed

**Task 1.4.2: Draft guidelines on assessing the status of each water body.**

The contract for the extension of the Chorokhi RBMP in Georgia was issued and work began on the baseline assessment, Pressures and Impacts assessment and development of Programme of Measures. A public consultation meeting was held in June and the draft plan will be issued in August. The final plan will be annexed, not part of, the main RBMP. The DTL and the Senior NKEs provided technical support to the contractor in preparation of coastal plan but final approval was given by the beneficiary. A representative of the contractors' team attended the Coastal Monitoring training held in Batumi and provided input into the coastal monitoring programme design. The final monitoring programme design was prepared by the project coastal monitoring expert in conjunction with the NEA Department of fisheries and Black Sea monitoring in Batumi. It is hoped that results from the coastal monitoring can be incorporated into the plan.

**Status:** On-going

**Task 1.4.3: Prepare a web-based database system**

WISE compatible web-based GIS/Database system was established on an 'open source' server environment. Initial setup and testing of the system was performed on the virtual 'cloud' system. Currently the system is physically located on the following cloud based virtual server infrastructure: <https://leaseweb.com/>.

The catalogue of the EPIRB GIS/DB web services was created based on the International ICPDR data templates and it includes 95 web-layers and 37 web-maps for the moment. The web services are available at: <http://185.17.144.169/>. At the moment hosting of the cloud base system is pre-paid for one year, but the project envisages further discussion of the system ownership and possible transfer with the follow on water project.

The detailed Users Guide documentation on step by step instruction on the system usage, screen shots and explanation is available for download from the system and was distributed to the project beneficiaries after the two day Web-GIS training in Minsk on 25-26 July 2016. The detailed documentation and procedures for transferring the web based GIS to other party was provided in the form of administration guide and is uploaded on the server for admin level users. The document contains all the credentials for successfully system backup and restore to another server.

The draft project WISE database was distributed to the countries ahead of the GIS/WISE training in Minsk in July. The draft final report is given in Annex 1.4.

The below screenshot of the Web GIS portal gives information about the layout of the portal and the different documents, which could be downloaded (e.g. User Guide, maps, layers info, etc.)

This portal would be used by national water agencies/departments to populate their water data from other basin districts and they shall update, once new information is available.

This task is to be followed on by EUWI+ project.

The screenshot displays the 'Explore Documents' interface of the EPIRB Web GIS portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EPIRB logo and tabs for 'Layers', 'Maps', 'Documents', 'People', and 'Groups'. A search bar and a 'Sign in' link are also present. Below the navigation, the main heading is 'Explore Documents' with an 'Upload Documents' button. A 'Cart' section on the left indicates that resources can be added to the cart. A 'Filters' section allows users to filter by 'TEXT' and 'DOCUMENT TYPE', with 'Image' (38) and 'Presentation' (2) selected. The document list shows three items:

- EPIRB Web GIS Training 2016.07.25- 26**: A PDF document by 'epirbgeonode' dated 29 Jul 2016, with 2 views and 0 likes.
- EPIRB User Guide Eng**: A PDF document by 'epirbgeonode' dated 29 Jul 2016, with 18 views and 0 likes.
- Prut Pilot Basin (Ukraine): Surfswace water monitoring stations**: A map document by 'epirbgeonode' dated 20 Jul 2016, with 5 views and 0 likes.

### **Activity 1.5 Support the analytical quality control and quality assurance procedures**

**Status:** On-going

#### **Task 1.5.1: QA/QC procedures assessed and improved**

The NKE Chemist Paul Buijs visited the Georgian participating laboratory to discuss the 2015 and 2016 survey results and provide QA/QC advice on 24-29 July. A similar visit to the participating laboratory in Azerbaijan had to be cancelled because of visa problems and instead the Team Leader met with the Head of the laboratory and reported back to Paul Buijs. A final mission will be undertaken by Paul Buijs in September and the results of all three missions will be incorporated into the Final Report. The mission reports and review of the gap-filling surveys are given in Annex 1.5.

**Status:** On-going

#### **Task 1.5.2: Training courses on QA/QC procedures designed and held**

**Status:** Completed in reporting period 3

### **Activity 1.6 Assess the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training**

**Status:** Completed in reporting period 3

#### **Task 1.6.1: Assessment and optimisation of laboratory analytical capacity**

**Status:** Completed in reporting period 2

#### **Task 1.6.2: Assessments of the capacity building needs of the physiochemical monitoring programme**

This task was completed in reporting period 2.

**Status:** Completed

**Status of the level of implementation of project Result-1:**

Activity No.	Assessment so far (see annex 6 for detail at national level)	Objectives and aims for next reporting period	Objectives set from previous reporting period
<b>Result 1: Improved data availability and quality</b>			
1.1	Reviews of the national monitoring systems for SW and GW completed in the Inception phase.	n/a	n/a
1.2	<p>Regional Meeting Minsk to discuss support activities</p> <p>Coordination meeting held with ICPDR Secretariat to discuss information for Danube Basin</p> <p>Agreement reaches on next steps in the development of an umbrella plan</p> <p>Training in Danube GIS for Moldova and UA</p> <p>Draft River Prut Pressures at Impacts and At Risk assessments in Moldova and Ukraine (see 2.3)</p> <p>Support to Moldova and UA submission for Danube Basin Assessment and RBMP.</p> <p>Agreement on steps for development of a tripartite composite plan for the River Prut.</p> <p>Comparison of the RBMP in UA, Moldova and Romania</p> <p>Coordination with UNECE and OCED on EU WI activities</p>	Agreement on establishment of a permanent River Prut WG under ICPDR and timeline for development of an umbrella plan.	<p>Contracts to be issued to UA and Moldova to review the River Prut plans and make them consistent.</p> <p>Mini workshops to be held in each country and the fourth tripartite meeting to be held in June 2016.</p> <p>Continued coordination with the EUWI and UNECE Water Convention regarding future workplans and activities.</p>
1.3	<p>Regional monitoring and classification workshop – Chisinau, Moldova</p> <p>SW and GW 2013, 2014 2015 and 2016 surveys analysis and reporting</p> <p>Guidelines for GW monitoring and classification at sub-regional level</p> <p>Draft guidelines for SW ecological monitoring and classification systems</p> <p>Guidelines for SW hydro-morphological and chemical status monitoring and</p>	<p>Finalisation of the ESCS report.</p> <p>Finalisation of the pilot coastal plan and its incorporation in the Chorokhi RBMP</p>	<p>Implementation of 2016 GW and SW surveys</p> <p>2016 SW and GW survey report</p> <p>Final guidelines for Ecological Status Classification system</p> <p>Implementation of coastal pilot to test application of the WFD in the coastal zone</p> <p>Training in biological monitoring in the coastal zone</p>

Activity No.	Assessment so far (see annex 6 for detail at national level)	Objectives and aims for next reporting period	Objectives set from previous reporting period
	<p>classification systems at sub-regional level</p> <p>Guidelines for SW chemical status monitoring and ecological classification systems at sub-regional level</p> <p>Training in hydro-biological and ecological monitoring classification system at sub-regional and regional levels</p> <p>Guidelines for implementation of the WFD in coastal and transitional waters</p> <p>Implementation of GW and SW surveys</p>		
1.4	<p>Draft National long-term strategies for the development of compliant WFD monitoring programmes developed in all six countries.</p> <p>Development of WISE database for the storage of RBMP data from the pilot river basins</p> <p>Training in GIS and WISE database development and use</p>		<p>Training in WISE compatible database to be delivered in July 2016.</p> <p>National long-term WFD compliance strategies finalised in all six countries.</p>
1.5	Support the analytical quality control assurance procedure (4 missions) and provide training on analytical quality control.	Final QA/QC mission to Moldova	Laboratory training in QA/QS in selected participating laboratories (Feb-July 2016)
1.6	Assess the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and capacity building.	None	None

**RESULT 2: RBMPs are developed for all pilot basins****Activity 2.1 River Basin Analyses are undertaken****Task 2.1.1: Selection and confirmation of the pilot basins****Status:** Completed in reporting period 1.**Task 2.1.2: River Basin Analyses for the selected pilot basins****Status:** Completed in reporting period 2.**Activity 2.2 Water body identification and typology****Task 2.2.1: Determination of River Basin Districts****Status:** Completed in reporting period 2**Task 2.2.2: Preliminary identification of water bodies****Status:** Completed in reporting period 2**Task 2.2.3: Typology of water bodies****Status:** Completed in reporting period 2**Task 2.2.4: Final identification of water bodies****Status:** Completed in reporting period 4**Task 2.2.5: GIS mapping of water bodies****Status:** Ongoing**Activity 2.3 Analysis of baseline situation and RBMP development progress**

During the reporting period, the final draft RBMPs were completed in all six countries, taking into account comments from the public consultations and the key stakeholders, as well as incorporating the results of the 2015 surveys (see Annex 2.3).. The RBMPs were reviewed by the project team and the national contractors were asked to improve the structure formatting and also analytical part. The main concerns raised by the team were the poor analytical skills and final conclusions, programme of measures proposed. Improved versions of the plans were re-submitted taking into consideration the team comments. The summary documents are in preparation in the final reporting period.

In general the RBMPs are structurally good, meeting the requirements of the WFD, although the terminology was not always consistent. There was a tendency for the plans to be overly technical and some of them would have benefitted a lot of material being annexed. The economic analysis section is weak in all of the plans, due to a basic lack of water resource and allocation data, both at the national and basin level. Additional studies are being undertaken in Armenia as a pilot project to develop a more in depth economic analysis methodology.

The project has invited the beneficiaries to acknowledge their acceptance of the draft RBMPs (Annex 2.3) and outline the process for adoption. The adoption process in each country is different and is described in National reports. A table summarizing the RBMPs and their final status will be presented in the Final Report. The adoption process will continue until the end of the project. The project has put in a lot of effort into the production of brochures for each of the basin plans for general public distribution; both in paper and digital form (see section 2.7).

In the development of the RBMP the project team has initiated a series of workshops at key stages and guided the production of the documents. Each reporting stage has been reviewed and commented by the team but the final documents were approved by the beneficiaries and were structured and formatted in accordance with their internal requirements. In this respect the final documents are owned not by the project but by the beneficiaries who take responsibility for their content and structure.

**Task 2.3.2: Identification of gaps in data availability****Status:** Completed in reporting period 3.**Activity 2.4 Joint field surveys to cover the gaps**

**Task 2.4.1: Survey design manuals for a joint field survey for each basin/sub-basin**

**Status:** Completed in reporting period 5

**Task 2.4.2: Joint field surveys are conducted**

**Status:** Completed

During 2016 the following ecological and priority substances surveys were undertaken:

- SW surveys: Azerbaijan 29 March- 1 April and 12-15 April; Georgia 4-8 April and 18-21 April; Moldova 4-8 April; Armenia 12-15 and 26-28 April; Belarus 11-15 April; and Ukraine 18-23 April and 25-27 April.
- GW surveys: Georgia 12-14 April and 23-24 May; Azerbaijan 1-3 June; Armenia 14-17 June, and Moldova 20-24 June

The 2016 draft survey reports were distributed to the countries in July 2016 and are contained in Annex 2.4.

The results have been used to fill knowledge gaps regarding the ecological status of water bodies in the pilot basins (both general conditions and selected priority substances). The surveys also help establish a base-line and build reference site passports for the ESCS developed under the project for upper river catchments (upland river ecosystem). Some countries included these survey points into their regular monitoring plans and they going to continue.

KE3, Romina Alvarez and NKE Peter Roncak accompanied all the SW surveys to ensure monitoring protocols were followed correctly. The GW KE5, Bernardas Paukstys, accompanied the GW surveys with the exception of Azerbaijan due to visa reasons and covered by the CWME. During the surveys the KE5 also monitored the implementation of GW infrastructure pilot projects in Armenia and Moldova.

**Task 2.4.3: Water body classifications updated**

**Status:** Completed – reporting period 5

**Activity 2.5 Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures****Task 2.5.1: Pressures and threats identified – reporting period 5.**

**Status:** Completed during reporting period 7

**Task 2.5.2: Programmes of Measures prepared –reporting period 5****Activity 2.6 Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects****Task 2.6.1: Selection of Measures**

**Status:** Completed in reporting period 7

The selected measures to be implemented under the extension, with a value of 20k per country, were contracted and now under implementation and will be finalised in September 2016.

**Task 2.6.2: Implementation of selected measures**

**Status:** On-going

The implementation of the selected measures continues and will be completed by the end of September. Full details of the (selected measures) are reported in Annex 2.6.

**Activity 2.7 Public involvement and awareness raising activities****Task 2.7.1: Develop a communication strategy for each basin**

**Status:** On-going

The Public involvement and awareness raising measures are reported in Annex 2.7 SEE REC report.

**Task 2.7.2: Awareness building activities are undertaken throughout the project**

**Status:** On-going

Within the *Task 2.7.2: Awareness building activities are undertaken throughout the project* - the activities continued to focus more on the project results rather than the project itself.

As part of this process different channels and events were used to increase visibility of the project achievements and to encourage uptake and use of project deliverables, e.g.:

- Exploring possibilities for re-submission of the already prepared article for the « INBO NEWSLETTER, published regularly by International Network of Basin Organizations;
- Preparation of the news article “Three into one - Moldova, Romania and Ukraine work together to manage the Prut River Basin”
- Submission of photo selection for the website in order to visualise better recent activities within the project.
- Disseminating project printed materials (In the Flow newsletter, Key Water Issues brochure) at different REC events.

The 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the project Newsletter, entitled “In the Flow”, was finalized; printing and delivery to the countries will be done during August 2016. The 8<sup>th</sup> issue focused on groundwater protection and related EPIRB project achievements, provided information on the draft RBMPs adoption processes in the different beneficiary countries, as well as highlights of successful pilot projects and the EPIRB project elements related to the marine environment. The newsletter will be printed in 1000 copies: 350 EN and 650 RU (100 for each beneficiary country, exception Ukraine receiving 150, having 2 pilot basins), will be sent to the Regional Project Offices for dissemination.

Development of the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter has also commenced and finalization is planned for September 2016.

The text as well as the design of the brochure on draft RBMPs, “layman’s report” has been prepared. Review of the files is currently on-going, after which translation to national languages will commence. Similarly to the ‘Key Water Issues’ brochure, each pilot basin will have on brochure, the transboundary basin brochures will encompass info for both countries, as such raising awareness on the transboundary aspects. The brochures are meant for the last stage of dissemination, including the after-project dissemination.

Based on the request received from the Lead Partner, development of a final leaflet has commenced. The leaflet will aim to present the success stories of the project activities in the countries. These will be project oriented country specific leaflets (6 leaflets, A5 size, 6 pages) prepared in similar style and presenting the project successes.

The project website is one of the key communication and information facility for the EPIRB project so it is important that it is user-friendly, attractive and informative. Article for the website related to international events was prepared, namely: World Water day 2016 and ICPDR Ministerial meeting and endorsement of the Danube RBMP and Flood Risk Management Plan. According to the statistical data of the project website the amount of all direct downloads increased compared to the previous period, as well as the number of returning visitors. For further details please check Annex 1.

The number of views of the so far developed videos has further increased, reaching:

1. **“Groundwater Sampling Guide – Specific to the EPIRB project” video**
  - EN : more than 1350 views + 7 Likes
  - RU: more than 330 views
2. **„Biological Sampling Guide – Specific to the EPIRB project” video**
  - EN : more than 275 views + 5 Likes
  - RU: more than 80 views + 1 Like
3. **“Hydromorphological Assessment – Specific to the EPIRB project” video**
  - EN: more than 70 views + 1 Like
  - RU: more than 55 views

The content of the video e-learning on physico-chemical sampling was developed, visual design, recording and compilation is planned for the next reporting period.

The Beneficiaries participated in the Public Consultation meetings, they also provided comments on the RBMPs. Staff of the beneficiary institutions took part in the e-learning video, interviews, written articles, etc.

**Status of the level of implementation of project Result-2:**

Activity No.	Assessment so far (see annex 6 for detail at the country level)	Objectives and aims for next reporting period	Objectives set from the previous reporting period
<b>Result 2: RBMP Production</b>			
2.1	Selection of pilot river basins and sub-basins	n/a	n/a
2.2.	Water body delineation and typology (System A) Harmonisation of GIS to Danube GIS format in the River Prut (draft) Revised and rationalisation water body delineation based on risk assessment (see 2.3)	Following comparison studies harmonisation of delineation methodologies between the tree plans found not to be practical and a umbrella plan approach has been suggested.	Harmonisation of River Prut delineation to Romanian system - part of composite River Prut plan (see task 1.2). Delayed from reporting period 6
2.3.	ToR for RBMP compliant with WFD and national requirements Tendering and appointment of implementers Inception reports approved Pressures and Impacts assessments Draft water body at risk assessments Finalisation of water body at risk assessments Design of surveillance and operational monitoring programmes (SW and GW) Establishment of Environmental Objectives Programme of Measures and Economic Analysis (2.5) Preliminary draft RBMP translated and disseminated at the basin and national levels Training in water body delineation and typology Establishment of River Basin Councils in Belarus and Ukraine	Finalisation of RBMP summary documents and brochures.  Adoption of the RBMP at national and regional level	Publication of final draft RBMP and summary document –delayed from reporting period 6  Adoption of RBMPs at the national and regional level.
2.4.	SW and GW Surveys for 2013, 2014 2015 and 2016 implemented and reported.		2016 survey designed and surveys implemented  Final draft of the ESCS concept distributed

Activity No.	Assessment so far (see annex 6 for detail at the country level)	Objectives and aims for next reporting period	Objectives set from the previous reporting period
	Final ESCS concept prepared and training on development delivered		
2.5.	See Activity 2.3		
2.6.	Development of selection criteria for pilot projects Selection of pilot projects Drafting of Terms of Reference and appointment of implementers	Completion of pilot projects and inclusion of results in final project report in October 2016.	Completion of pilot projects and inclusion of results in final project report in October 2016.
2.7.	Development and maintenance of web-site Development of project news sheet 'In-flow' and 8th monthly issue Final Basin Communication Strategies and Plans Publication of RBMP timetable and overview Second public consultation meetings in the seven pilot basins	Publication of the 8 <sup>th</sup> issue of In-Flow magazine Finalisation of RBMP brochures. Number of awareness materials: published brochure on RBMPs in each pilot basin in national languages Number of project website visits	Receipt and record of comments on the preliminary draft RBMP Publication of draft final RBMP and summary leaflet Publication of 8 <sup>th</sup> issue of In-Flow The recurring users of the website are more compared to the previous period, more people visit the site subsequently and download files

### Summary of Implementation:

The project is nearing completion with more than 95% of activities from the original contract and the extension complete. The project activities can be summarised as follows:

#### Result 1: Increased capacity for WFD compliant monitoring

Result 1 is more than 95% complete.

Activity 1.1, Review national monitoring systems and tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities is 100% complete.

Activity 1.2, Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the UNECE Water and Danube River Protection Water Conventions is 95% complete. Comparison of the River Prut plans has shown marked differences between the Romanian and Moldovan and Ukrainian plans, too great to be easily resolved and it is to be recommended that a new umbrella plan be developed as part of the EUWI+ project.

Activity 1.3, Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes is 100% complete.

Activity 1.4, Assist in the development of WFD-compliant tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities (ecological, chemical, hydro-morphological classifications) is 90% complete.

The concept paper for the Ecological Status Classification system is finalised and available on the web=site and data from the RBMP pilot basins has been loaded onto WISE compatible GIS database. Training on WISE was delivered in July 2016 and the final report will be issued in August.

The coastal zone plan for the Chorokhi basin will be finalised in September and the coastal monitoring will be undertaken in August with the report at the end of September.

Activity 1.5, Support the analytical quality control and quality assurance procedures is 90% complete with reports on laboratory visits to Azerbaijan and Georgia to be reported and a final visit to Moldova to be undertaken in September. 1.6 Assessment of the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training is 95% complete depending on results from Activity 1.5.

## **Result 2: RBMPs are developed for all pilot basins**

Result 2 is approximately 95% complete.

Activity 2.1, River Basin Analyses, is 100% complete. Activity 2.2, Water body identification and typology, is 100% complete.

Activity 2.3, Analysis of the baseline situation and RBMP development is 95% complete, with summary documents to be finalised and distributed by August 2016 and adoption by September.

Activity 2.4 is 100% complete with 2016 SW and GW survey reports prepared at the end of July. Activity 2.5, Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures (PoM) is 100% complete.

Activity 2.6, Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects, is estimated 90% complete with the additional selected measures under the extension. Implementation will continue until September 2016.

The public consultation and awareness raising, Activity 2.7, is 95% complete with finalisation of the summary brochures for the RBMPs in August and production of the 8<sup>th</sup> issue of “In the Flow”.

## 1.6 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT PLANNING FOR THE MONTHS 55 – 57 OF THE PROJECT

This planning summary is for the final three months of the project with completion on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The final and fifth EPIRB Steering Committee meeting will be held in Kiev on 19/20<sup>th</sup> September in conjunction with the EUWI+ event. High level officials from the EC and the countries will be invited to the meeting which is being coordinated by the EC project manager.

During the final reporting period it is estimated that the Team Leader, KE1, and Deputy Team Leader, KE2, will each spend 15 days on project management activities. In addition the KEs and NKEs will expend 24 days and the CWMEs 32 days respectively on project management tasks. These figures include the additional inputs approved under the September addendum. The final report will be prepared at the end of September and the project offices closed by the end of October. The remaining days will be spent on technical activities recorded below.

### *Activity 1.1 Review national monitoring systems and tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities*

#### *Task 1.1.1: Summarise ongoing and completed support to the implementation of WFD-compliant monitoring procedures*

#### *Task 1.1.2: Assess the current monitoring activities in the beneficiary countries*

#### *Task 1.1.3: Conduct a legal and institutional gap analysis with respect to the WFD*

#### *Task 1.1.4: Design and establish a project website*

The website will continue to be improved and expanded. Solutions to hosting of the web-site after closure of the project are still being sought.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 1.1 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activity	Pilot/Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs,/WDs	NKEs,/WDs
1.1.4 Support to web-site	AM							KE2 - 1	CWME – 5
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
	UA								

### *Activity 1.2 Support the implementation of countries' obligations under the Danube and Water Conventions*

#### *Task 1.2.1: An analysis and report on the Ukraine's and Moldova's obligations under the ICPDR convention*

The Ukraine and Moldova comparison reports with the Romanian River Prut Basin Plan will be finalised in August and the minutes of the fourth River Prut WG will be issued in September, including recommendations for next steps. A discussion will be initiated with the ICPDR regarding the permanent establishment of the River Prut Working Group in October.

#### *Task 1.2.2: An analysis and report on the Beneficiaries' obligations under the UNECE Water Convention*

The project team will maintain close coordination with UNECE secretariat regarding implementation of the Convention and execution of the EUWI+ project and UNDP-GEF projects on the River Dniester and Kura.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 1.2 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activity	Pilot/Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs,/WDs	NKEs,/WDs
1.2 Support to Danube and UNECE Conventions	AM							KE1 - 1	CWME 5 NKE 5
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
UA									

**Activity 1.3 Develop WFD-compliant monitoring programmes, including hydro-biological and hydro-morphological elements and groundwater**

**Task 1.3.1: WFD-compliant monitoring programmes designed for the pilot basins**

**Task 1.3.2: Training courses in WFD-compliant monitoring prepared and presented**

Reports from the coastal monitoring and WISE database training will be prepared and published in August.

**Task 1.3.3: Country specific ongoing monitoring programmes are designed**

**Activity 1.4 Assist in the development of WFD-compliant tools for assessing data obtained from monitoring activities (ecological, chemical, hydro-morphological classifications)**

**Task 1.4.1: Determine threshold values and Ecological Quality Ratios for determining water body status for each type of water body, including reference conditions**

**Task 1.4.2: Draft guidelines on assessing the status of each water body**

The final Ecological Status Classification System report will be issued in August.

**Task 1.4.3: Prepare a web-based database system**

The final WISE database containing the pilot basin data will be finalized in September.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 1.3/1.4 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activities	Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs, WDs	NKEs, WDs
1.3/1.4 Monitoring and assessment programs	AM							KE1 1 KE2 10 KE3 5.5	CWME 5 NKE 6
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
UA									

**Activity 1.5 Support the analytical quality control and quality assurance procedures**

The NKE Chemist, Paul Buijs, will undertake a final mission to Moldova to visit the country's participating laboratory in September to provide QA/QC training and assess capacity and equipment needs. The final report on all QA/QC missions will be delivered at the end of September.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 1.5 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activities	Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs, WDs	NKEs, WDs
1.3/1.4 Monitoring and assessment programs	AM							KE1 1	CWME 5 NKE 5
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
	UA								

### **Activity 1.6 Assess the needs regarding laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training**

**Completed**

### **Activity 2.1 River Basin Analyses are undertaken**

**Completed**

### **Activity 2.2 Water body identification and typology**

#### **Task 2.2.1: Determination of River Basin Districts**

#### **Task 2.2.2: Preliminary identification of water bodies**

#### **Task 2.2.3: Typology of water bodies**

#### **Task 2.2.4: Final identification of water bodies**

#### **Task 2.2.5: GIS mapping of water bodies**

The tasks under activities 2.1/2.2 are now complete and results are incorporated into the draft RBMPs (see activity 2.3)

### **Activity 2.3 Analysis of baseline situation and development of the pilot RBMPs**

The final draft RBMPs have been accepted by the beneficiaries and are now under the various national adoption procedures. The summary documents and public awareness brochures (see task 2.7) will be finalised and distributed in August. The project will continue to monitor and encourage the adoption process in the countries and the development of new River Basin plans. In Moldova the combined River Prut and Danube delta plan will be finalised and in Georgia the pilot coastal plan will be incorporated in the main Chorokhi RBMP.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 2.3 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activities	Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs, WDs	NKEs, WDs
2.3 :RBMP	AM							KE1 3 KE2 3	CWME 5
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
	UA								

**Activity 2.4 Joint field surveys to cover the gaps***Task 2.4.1: Survey design manuals for a joint field survey for each basin/sub-basin.**Task 2.4.2: Surveys are conducted***Activity 2.5 Development of national and basin-wide Programmes of Measures***Task 2.5.1: Pressures and threats identified.**Task 2.5.2: Programmes of Measures prepared***Activity 2.6 Implementation of selected measures from the programme for pilot projects- not planned***Task 2.6.1: Selection of Measures**Task 2.6.2: Implementation of selected measures*

All selected measures are now contracted and are scheduled to be completed by September. The project team will continue to provide administrative and ad hoc technical support to the pilot projects during implementation. The detailed national implementation status report of the selected measures are given in Annex 2.6.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 2.6 as well as breakdown of inputs by KEs and CWMEs are tabled below:

Activities	Country	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs, WDs	NKEs, WDs
2.6: Selection of Measures	AM							KE1 3 KE2 5 KE5 5	CWME 16
	AZ								
	BY								
	GE								
	MD								
UA									

**Activity 2.7 Public involvement and awareness raising activities**

The basin plan brochures will be finalised and translated and distributed in August. The 8<sup>th</sup> issue of In-Flow will be prepared and distributed in September.

Through the CWMEs and the EPIRB project team, the respective EU Delegations in the countries will be continuously informed about the communication and visibility activities. Close cooperation, consultation on issues relevant for the PA&PI tasks and coordination of activities in line with EU's approach is foreseen with the relevant Press and Information Officers/contact persons.

The stakeholder database will be continuously updated and amended with the relevant stakeholders for each pilot basin also in the future.

Planning of the implementation of tasks for Activity 2.7 are tabled below:

Activities	Pilot basin	2016						Inputs in report period	
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	KEs, WDs	NKEs, WDs
2.7: Public involvement and awareness raising activities	AM							KE1 1 KE2 1	CWME 10
	AZ								
	BEL								
	GEO								
	MOLD								
UA									

## 1.7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The project has completed 95% of the required activity and tasks and will be preparing a final summary report at the end of September. The project results will be presented at the fifth Steering Committee Meeting in Kiev on 19/20<sup>th</sup> which will be held jointly with the EUWI+ project meeting.

The project has proved a successful technical assistance model in the water sector and impetus for the implementation or approximation of the WFD in all six countries. The extension activities have enabled the countries to refine their plans for future development both in terms of River Basin Planning and Monitoring programme development.

As part of follow up, it is recommended that the countries establish clear strategies for WFD in the medium to long term and recognise their shortfalls both in development of the monitoring programmes and the planning procedures. The project has helped the countries to approximate to the WFD and to strengthen overall water governance and it is hoped that the countries will use this knowledge and expand it nationally. However it should be recognised that only part of the IWRM framework has been tackled and much work needs to be done on other water resource aspects and associated EU Directives, such as the Floods Directive Habitats Directive, Nitrates Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

These tasks cannot be done all at once and incremental progress should be sought, making small sustainable improvements and building on them, setting realistic targets. In all of the countries there is the need for simple water resource strategies and plans in which the various sectoral plans, including the WFD RBMPs, can be nested. This will need to be done in a careful manner and involving the main water users and stakeholders. This wider exercise will help to define the limits for the implementation of the WFD and its associated Directives in the short, medium and even long term.

Under the EPRIB project there have been a number of small but tangible steps along the path of improved water resource governance including:

- Strengthening of laboratories facilities and capacities
- Establishing water quality baselines in pilot basin through regular surveying
- Construction of regional Ecological Status Classification System for upper catchments
- Development of seven RBMPs compliant with WFD
- Undertaking the first steps to the creation of an umbrella plan for the River Prut with Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

The participating laboratories need further support to meet the ISO accreditation standards and improve capacity in analysis of priority substances. The QA/QS procedures in a number of laboratories are weak and a critical self-assessment by the laboratory managers is required before further project support takes place.

The Ecological Status Classification System for Upper catchments has been finalised but it is acknowledged that this is only a first step of what will be a long process. The countries, with the exception of perhaps Belarus and Moldova, need to strengthen their biological monitoring capacity.

The various technical guidelines produced by the project need to be applied by the countries and not left to gather dust.

The RBMPs are at various stages of adoption and the project has tried its utmost to maintain pressure on the countries to adopt their plans by the end of September; only a few countries (see National Reports Annex 1) will meet this target. The adoption of plans will need to be promoted in follow up policy dialogue.

It has become clear from the comparison exercise of the River Prut RBMPs of Romania and Ukraine and Moldova that the differences are substantial and fundamental and the composite RBMP would not be attainable without great effort. It is therefore to be proposed that instead an umbrella plan be developed under the guidance of a newly established WG under the auspices of the ICPDR and supported by EUWI+. In the meantime the existing

River Prut plans can be adopted in Ukraine and Moldova without radical change. The development of the umbrella plan could serve as a model for other transboundary plans in the region.

The coastal WFD pilot plan has been a useful exercise but needs to be expanded upon as part of the EUWI+ project. The monitoring capacity in Georgia has been shown to be limited and needs support and a second pilot in the Ukraine is recommended.

All the above activities have been supported by an integrated training programme and a principle of learning by doing. This approach needs to be continued under the EUWI+ project and the training should be targeted and specific rather than general, identifying clearly the participants.

The selected measures (or "pilot projects") have been a great success with the beneficiaries, and have helped maintain project momentum and RBMP development. In the final months, the project will make every effort to advertise the pilot projects and their concrete results.

The project has been in close contact with ICPDR, UNDP and SEIS and EMBLAS project establishing good working relationships, which should be capitalised on by the incoming EUWI+ project. The countries have unfortunately not had the opportunity to review the EUWI+ Description of Activities and there has been some frustration expressed with the slow development of the EUWI+ project.

EPIRB has provided as much assistance as possible to the EUWI+ team including producing a summary of country WFD implementation status, reviewing and input into EUWI+ Description of Activities and preparing a joint high-level meeting. It had been hoped that there would be a greater interaction between the two projects during this reporting period to ensure a smooth hand-over, but this has not been fully realised. However, in the last three months of the project the EPIRB team will work with the EUWI+ and the beneficiaries to ensure a successful transition.

Communication of information produced by the EPIRB project will be key during the final phase of the project. The emphasis will be on releasing and communicating the final deliverables of the project as well as the success stories. Furthermore, involved parties should view the dissemination as a process that reaches beyond the lifetime of the project in order to sustain the results and to ensure that information will not be lost once the project comes to an end.

## ANNEXES

- Annex 0.4: NCC meeting reports
- Annex 1: Country reports
- Annex 1.2.: 3rd and 4th River Prut RBMP WG meetings
- Annex 1.3: ESCS final report
- Annex 1.4: GIS database report
- Annex 1.5: Priority substances and gap filling report
- Annex 2.3: Draft final RBMPs
- Annex 2.4: 2016 SW survey report  
2016 GW survey report
- Annex 2.6: Pilot project reports
- Annex 2.7.: Public Awareness/Public Participation report