



Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project

Contract No. 2011/279-666



The Project is funded by the
European Union

The Project implemented by the Consortium
headed by the Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 13, 2013

EPIRB Team Mission and meeting with Project Beneficiary - the Ministry of Environment

7 Cosmonautilor St., Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Agenda

Informing about objectives of the Team Mission in Republic of Moldova on March 13-15, 2013

Participants

NSC members and officials of the Ministry of Environment (MoE)

- **Mr Gheorghe Salaru**, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova
- **Ms Valentina Tapis**, Deputy Minister of Environment, focal point for implementing the EPIRB Project
- **Ms Serafima Tronza**, Head of Water Management Department, MoE
- **Ms Nadejda Chilaru**, Consultant, Water Management Department, focal point for the UNECE Water Convention
- **Mr Adrei Ursache**, Head of Division of Water Resources, Soil and Subsoil, MoE
- **Ms Diana Celac**, Consultant for the Division of Water Resources, Soil and Subsoil, MoE, Secretary of the Working Group (National Steering Committee) for the EPIRB Project

Human Dynamics/EPIRB Team

- **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader (KE2)
- **Ms Tatjana Kolcova**, Hydromorfology Expert (K4)
- **Mr Bernardas Paukstys**, Hydrogeology Expert (K5)
- **Mr Victor Bujac**, CWME

Summary of Discussions

The EPIRB/MoE meeting was opened by **Ms Valentina Tapis**, Deputy Minister of Environment.

She explained that the general objective of the Project is to apply the principles promoted by the Framework Water Directive of the European Union, 2000/60/UE, by elaborating the Management Plans for the basins of the international rivers, selected as pilot basins by the beneficiary countries. According to the Terms of Reference of



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the Project, each of the countries has selected a pilot basin, for which a Basin Management Plan is being developed. The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have agreed to select the hydrographic basin of the Prut River.

The welcoming remarks were made by **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader of the "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" (EPIRB) Project, an EU funded project, implemented by the Human Dynamics Consortium, where they focused on the overall objectives of the mission of the EPIRB Project team and expected outcomes thereof. It was announced that on March 14 the Workshop "Development of the Prut River Basin Management Plan and Aspects of Establishing the Transboundary Basin Advisory Bodies" will take place.

The Ministry of Environment was informed by **Mr Zurab Jincharadze**, Deputy Team Leader, about the planned visits to a number of the beneficiary institutions, namely: the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS), Water Agency "Apele Moldovei", Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources (AGMR) and State Enterprise "Moldavian Hydrogeological Expedition" (SE "MHE") regarding Activities 2.2 and 2.3 and the start of delineation of surface and ground water bodies, identifying them and organizing joint field surveys in the pilot region to take place in May-July 2013 for covering the gaps in the classification of water bodies under of Framework Water Directive.

Ms Tatjana Kolcova, the Hydromorphology Expert (KE4), informed about visiting the Department of Hydrology of the State Hydrometeorological Service and the Agency "Apele Moldovei" with the aim to find out the hydrological information for delineation of water bodies and development of GIS layers.

Mr Bernardas Paukstys, the Hydrogeology Expert (KE5), also informed about visiting the beneficiary institutions, starting delineation of ground waters and meeting with the GIS experts and hydrogeologists from the AGMR and the Moldavian Hydrogeology Expedition.

Mr Victor Bujac, a CWME, added that a local GIS company and/or an NGO would be contracted by the Project for development of GIS services and the baseline situation for the Prut River basin. It is important to have access through the beneficiary institutions to the data and relevant information that identifies water bodies in the pilot river basin.

Mr Gheorghe Salaru, the Minister of Environment, proposed to hold, on March 15, a joint press conference with **Andriy Demydenko**, the Team Leader, to inform the stakeholders and broad public about the achievements under the Project and plans for 2013 and the whole project period.

Ms Valentina Tapis asked to present the Progress Report on the Project, after it is approved by the EU, to the MoE and further inform the beneficiaries, on the permanent basis, about the ongoing process and deliverables of the Project.



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Ms Diana Celac proposed to consult with Romania, as an EU member-country, about its experience in development of the management plan and creation of the transboundary water council or committee for the Prut River basin.

Ms Nadejda Chilaru, the focal point of the UNECE Convention, informed the Project Team that the MoE is preparing proposals for a draft report on Activity 1.2 on supporting the country's obligations of under the Framework Water Convention, Water & Health Protocol and the Danube Convention.

Mr Zurab Jincharadze, the DTL, informed the Minister of Environment about organising the workshop on March 14; and **Andriy Demydenko**, the Team Leader, told the MoE about the Progress Report and the meeting in Brussels. After holding the workshop, the minutes of meeting will be handed over to the MoE and distributed among all the stakeholders.



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Press Conference, Minister of Environment & Team Leader

7, Cosmonautilor St., Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

The Minister of Environment Gheorghe Salaru: the "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" Project is a chance for the Republic of Moldova to unite at an international level the integrated efforts of managing water resources

Today, on March 15, 2013, a press conference took place at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) with the topic "The Project: Environmental Protection of International River Basins", the aim of which is in protection and efficient handling of water resources in the basins of international rivers, especially in the Black Sea region, as a continuation of the activities previously begun within the international projects implemented in the Black Sea region.

The Minister of Environment Gheorghe Salaru and the Expert Group Leader Andriy Demydenko answered reporters' questions:

The Minister Salaru informed the journalists that the Project was launched from the beginning of 2012 and will be finished in 2015; it is financed by the European Union and implemented in 6 countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The aim of the Project is the protection and efficient handling of water resources in the basins of international rivers, especially in the Black Sea region. The general objective of the Project is to apply the principles of integrated management of water resources, promoted by the Framework Water Directive of the European Union, by elaborating the Management Plans for international river basins, selected in the cross-border context by the beneficiary countries. During 2012, many actions took place in our country within the Project; the implementation team of the project and a group of international experts in hydrological monitoring came in contact with our scientific institutions, which know the current situation and existing problems regarding the water state monitoring. Subsequently, a team of international experts from the Project made a working visit to the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) aiming to assess the state of the laboratories, responsible for the water quality monitoring (biological and hydrochemical monitoring).

Andriy Demydenko, the Project Team Leader, recapitulated the undertaken activities and mentioned that in late 2012 a training workshop was held in the sphere of monitoring and assessing the status of water bodies and subsequent classification of waters from the point of view of ecological, chemical and hydromorphological condition and regarding the way of identification, delimitation and classification of water objects. Another workshop was organized by the State Hydrometeorological Service and dealt with an accreditation of laboratories and quality control; it was



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attended by experts from the laboratories involved in ecological quality control from the SHS and the State Ecological Inspectorate.

On March 13-15, 2013, an international Expert Group consisting of the implementation team of the "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" made a working visit to the Republic of Moldova, where they had an official meeting at a higher level with Mr Gheorghe Salaru, the Minister of Environment, and Ms Valentina Tapis, the Deputy Minister of Environment, who is also the National Coordinator of the Project, and with top managers and experts from the institutions subordinated to the Ministry, who take part in the Project activities. The discussions had an informal character, with reference to the Project achievements and the actions suggested for the upcoming period.

The workshop on "**Elaboration of the Management Plan of the Hydrographic Basin of the Prut River and the Aspects of Formation of the Cross-border Basin Consultative Bodies**", organized in Chisinau on March 14, was attended by the members of the working group that had been set up for coordination of the implementation of the Project, experts from Ministry subdivisions and activists of nongovernmental organizations. The emphasis was on the objectives of the Project; the organizers presented the results and highlighted the key priorities, accenting the elaboration stages of the Management Plan of the Hydrographic Basin of the Prut River. A preliminary report on the analysis of the hydrographic basin of the Prut River was presented in relation both to the Moldovan and Ukrainian sections of the basin; the report covers the first stage of creating the Management Plan of the Hydrographic Basin of the Prut River. Another issue discussed at the workshop was a possibility of setting up a cross-border basin consultative body, which would promote the principles of the Framework Water Directive of the European Union (see the minutes of the workshop attached to this document).

NOTE: The "Environmental Protection of International River Basins" Project is a regional one, financed by the European Union and implemented by the Hulla & Human Dynamics Consortium (the winner of the tender) in 6 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) since the beginning of 2012 with the implementation period of 4 years (2012-2015). The total budget is about 7.5 million euros and will cover all the beneficiary countries.

Expected Results

1. The Management Plan for the basin of the Prut River will be elaborated.
2. Besides, the Programme of Measures will be developed for the achievement of the objectives regarding the assurance of quantitative and qualitative protection of waters in this basin.
3. A priority action from the Programme of Measures will be selected according to the decision of the Republic of Moldova, under which a local pilot project will be funded by the Project (the maximum amount, which could be allocated for this small pilot project, is up to 100,000 euros).



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4. The advanced GIS equipment will be leased with the aim to identify and delineate water bodies. The Republic of Moldova has asked that this equipment, after the expiry of the lease (more than 3 years), were donated to the country.
5. Support will be offered for the achievement of the country's obligations under the international treaties, where the country is a party: the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River and the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
6. Methodologies and recommendations will be elaborated in the field of ecological, chemical and hydromorphological assessment of the status of river basins.
7. Support will be offered for the creation of a cross-border basin consultative body, which would promote the principles of the Framework Water Directive of the European Union.
8. Different initiatives will be offered to experts from the institutions under the MoE, involved in the elaboration of management plans of hydrographic basins.

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w.mediu.gov.md/index.php/serviciul-de-presa/noutati/1260-ministrul-mediului-gheorghe-salaru-proiectul-protectia-mediului-in-bazinele-riurilor-internationale-pentru-republica-moldova-este-sansa-de-a-conjuga-la-nivel-international-eforturile-managementului-integrat-al-resurselor-de-apa