



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Prut Pilot Basin - Stakeholder Consultation Meeting (9:00-14:45)

29 July, 2014

Labour Institute
Zimbrului Street 10, Chisinau, Moldova
<http://www.institutulmuncii.md/>
Auditorium #5 – for the PC general meeting
Auditorium #5 and #8 for the PC WG meetings and NCC Meeting

Agenda

Agenda of the Prut Pilot Basin Stakeholder Consultation meeting is attached to the minutes (Annex 1).

Participants

Signed List of Participants from the meeting is attached to the minutes (Annex 2).

Objectives:

- to present the necessary background information and the preliminary overview of the important water management issues for the Prut pilot basin;
- to collect stakeholders' feedbacks concerning the identification of the most important water management issues;
- to support the development of the RBMP by discussing on the preliminary identified significant water management issues for the relevant pilot river basin.

Summary of discussions

Welcome – Opening remarks

Mr. Andrei Ursache, Division Head, Ministry of Environment opened the meeting. In his opening remarks Mr. Ursache welcomed the participants and highlighted the efforts and progress made in Moldova regarding the legislative developments and water management and the importance of the RBMP approach. He also referred to the obligations Moldova committed under the EU Association Agreement, including the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Mr. Tim Turner, EPIRB Team Leader stressed the importance and uniqueness of the meeting, involving two countries with shared problems. He emphasized that this is the first step of the consultation process, having a year for the development of the RBMP. He expressed his specific appreciation to the Ukrainian colleagues for their participation, taking in consideration the current political situation in Ukraine.

The opening remarks were followed by the round of introduction of the participants.

I. INFORMATION SESSION: SETTING THE SCENE

The first session of the meeting, focusing on providing background information on the project and on the identified important water management issues, was chaired by Mr. Victor Bujac, EPIRB Country Water Management Expert (CWME).

Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy, Senior Expert/Consultant, REC, introduced the purpose and spoke about the importance of the public/stakeholder involvement and the first project consultation meeting. She made



reference to the requirements of international agreements, national laws and the WFD concerning public information and consultation, and the phases when participation of the stakeholders is needed as a minimum in form of consultations and active involvement. *(For more information see Annex 3)*

Mr. Tim Turner presented the overview of the EPIRB project, main activities and the results achieved in the last six months. In his presentation, Mr. Turner mentioned the planned activities in the next few months, such as the 1st meeting of the EPIRB project and Prut working Group and the 2nd tripartite meeting on the data collection for the Danube RBMP, involving Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and ICPDR.

Mr. Bejan Iurie, Consultant, Senior Scientific Researcher at IEG, provided an overview concerning the approaches, criteria applied and results of the analysis of pressures and impacts and preliminary risk assessment in the Prut Pilot Basin, Republic of Moldova. *(For more information see Annex 3)*

Ms. Marta Korchemlyuk, Consultant, NGO "MAMA-86-Yaremche", described in her presentation the approach applied and the result of the pressures and impact analysis for the Prut pilot basin in Ukraine. Also, she mentioned difficulties and obstacles encountered, such as the issue of data gaps. *(For more information see Annex 3)*

During the Q&A session participants were interested about the existence of a trilateral legislation framework for the coordination between the countries in the Prut basin, the project targeting only two countries. Mr. Tim Turner explained that the tripartite meetings held in the framework of the project have the objective to coordinate with the countries of the Prut basin. Furthermore, Ukraine and Moldova signed the EU Association Agreement and as such, they are required to implement the EU WFD requirements and to develop RBMP. The project intends to assist Ukraine and Moldova to develop RBMP in line with the general requirements, using the methodology applied by Romania, in order to ensure that the plans can be assembled. This is a process, having some of the steps running in parallel: developing and understanding the methodology at national level, bringing people together at bilateral level and finally at trilateral level.

Mr. Victor Bujac confirmed the existence of bilateral agreements between Moldova-Ukraine and Moldova-Romania, however he indicated the lack of a trilateral agreement between the three countries. He added, that the new water law in Moldova includes the principles of RBMP. In the framework of the ICPDR the different WGs give the opportunity to exchange information among the countries. The 2nd Danube RBMP is under development and will be finalized by the end of this year.

Participants were concerned about the lack of a common approach, having all the RBMPs developed and implemented at national level. Mr. Tim Turner explained that the WFD provides the common approach, implemented at national level through the Association Agreements. The question of developing a Working Group under the ICPDR or a separate Commission for the Prut River depends on the involved countries. However, he drew attention to the main problem: the possible financial implications of a new Commission.

II. WORKING SESSION

Ms. Imola Koszta, REC Expert held a presentation focusing on the significant water management issues in the light of the WFD. On the other hand, she made an introduction and set the basis for the working group discussions. *(For more information see Annex 3)*

The WGs addressed the below questions:

1. *Do you agree that these are the key causes of water management problems at national level?*



2. *Which of the identified issues can be considered relevant in transboundary context?*
 3. *Are there other significant water management issues that have not been considered at (i) national level and (ii) transboundary level?*
 4. *Which are the top 3 SWMIs facing the Prut Basin at (i) national level and (ii) transboundary level? (Please rank them, 1 being the highest priority and 3 the lowest).*
 5. *How do you think these issues could be tackled / addressed at (i) national level and (ii) transboundary level?*
-

III. BUILDING COMMON UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Victor Bujac, reported back to the plenary on the results of the discussion from Group A, Pollution (Point sources and Diffuse Sources):

1. The working group agreed with the main causes of water management problems presented in Prut river basin catchment area that are important at the national level for Moldova and Ukraine parts of the pilot basin.
2. Looking at the transboundary context, the working group identified the point sources as one of the main significant water management problems, as well as the diffuse sources of pollution, such as organic pollution and nutrient pollution due to:
 - partially treated or untreated wastewater (from communities and industry);
 - run-off from agricultural lands (livestock farming and crop production);
 - lack of adequate awareness of the population.
3. For both countries towns and rural localities without waste water treatments plants and collectors of sewage domestic waters are considered as a main water problem. For Ukrainian part of the Prut river basin, the group indicated in addition the touristic rural zones without sewage collector and treatments plants. As for the north part of Moldova, in rayons Briceni and Edinet, run-off from livestock farming and chemical deposits of applying fertilizers and pesticide in the south part of the river basin pose a considerable pressure on water bodies. The Working Group indicated as additional important pollutants / sources of pollution as other significant water management issues that have not been considered at (i) national level and (ii) transboundary level:
 - phenols and detergents - not detected during monitoring;
 - hazardous substances coming from industrial waste dumping sites (non-organized), legal and illegal landfills, open cut mines;
 - non-controlled rural wastewater discharge in surface water and groundwater; and
 - problems posed by the nature of data in the statistic reports and at the local authorities, as these are based only on administrative boundaries and not on the river catchment area.
4. The following 3 significant issues were considered as of top priority in the basin according to the order presented below:
 - i. Sufficient information from both countries on point sources of pollution, such as waste water treatment plants and level of the treatments. Incomplete database concerning water use, quality and quantity of waters (monitoring) and inspection results and data exchange between transboundary countries. Insufficient legislation on water management concerning abstractions, lack of basin approaches and consideration of local features. Lack of secondary legislation concerning the implementation of WFD, Nitrates Directive and the Urban Waste Water Directive, which should be developed in both countries similarly to Romania.
 - ii. Fertilizers' use and pollution sources related to agricultural activities.
 - iii. Quarries and their impact on water sources



5. The issue of waste water problem should be solved at national level as it has an impact also on transboundary level. To address agricultural diffuse pollution, sanitary protection zones for water abstraction points and development of water protection zones and strips on small tributaries and artificial water bodies as reservoirs and ponds were suggested. Floods and the issue of landfills are common problems to both countries and should be covered. The issues identified above could be addressed by the central and local government, namely: Ministry of Environment, State Ecological Inspectorate and local authorities, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and Regional Development Agencies. As well it is important to develop monitoring programmes for surface and ground waters compliant with WFD. A working group should discuss the collected information and an assessment should be done.

Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna, EPIRB CWME Ukraine, presented to the plenary the results of the discussion from Group B, Hydromorphological alterations:

1. The working group agreed that with the presented key causes of water management problems (linking with hydromorphological alterations) taking place at national level for Moldova and Ukraine parts of the pilot basin.
2. In transboundary context the working group identified the flooding problems.
3. In addition to the presented SWMIs the working group indicated the below:
 - climate change as a driver for all water problems in basin (flood, drought etc.);
 - overgrown vegetation in the riverbed;
 - reduced buffer capacity of the catchment area / reduced water accumulation potential of a territory.
4. The following 3 significant issues were considered as of top priority in the basin according to the order presented:
 - i. Impoundment (it's more typical for lower part of Prut basin in Ukraine and for all part of Prut basin in Moldova);
 - ii. Morphological alterations (caused by hydro-engineering facility for flood protection, sand and gravel abstraction);
 - iii. Water abstractions.
5. The issues identified above could be addressed by amelioration activities, afforestation measures and restoration of natural environment. The group proposed introduction of an indicator concerning water quantity in order to ensure the e-flow in the critical periods. The central and local government, namely: Ministries of Environment in Moldova and Ukraine, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and Regional Development Agencies in Moldova, State Water Agency in Ukraine, Hydromet Services in Ukraine, Forestry Agency of Ukraine, local communities in both countries could play a key role in the introduction of these measures.

In the discussion session participants emphasized the importance of joint efforts and cooperation to tackle the problem of floods. Mr. Ilya Trombitsky draw attention to the close relation between floods and quality of forests and that more attention should be put on afforestation measures and the water retention capacity of these territories.

Mr. Tim Turner was interested about plans for construction of HPPs in Ukraine. Ms. Marta Korchemlyuk indicated that currently there are four HPPs, out of which two were in place in the 1960s. There are plans



for twenty new HPPs, however the construction works have been suspended in 2012 as the mini HPPs have been prohibited.

Participant from Ukraine was interested about EU's approach in the construction of HPPs, how does it fit to the requirements of the WFD. Mr. Tim Turner explained that the e-flow depends on the nature of the river (low-land, up-land) and there is no specific ban in place for construction of HPPs. Referring to the planned HPPS in Ukraine, he pointed out that Moldova and Romania should be involved in the preparations and the EIS, mainly concerning the downstream impacts.

Ms. Imola Koszta informed the participants that the draft report will be uploaded on the project website and comments are welcomed in the coming period. She draw attention to the Communication Strategy and Plan, the project Newsletter and the recently developed e-learning on Groundwater Sampling.

Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy thanked the participants for the comments provided and informed them that the comments will be taken into account by the RBMP consultants and in case there are any further comments these are more than welcomed and should be sent by e-mail. She also asked for support and suggestions on how to reach out to local communities, local stakeholders at the basin level and reminded that the next consultation meeting will be held on the draft RBM plan, next year.

Mr. Tim Turner expressed his gratitude to the participants and draw attention to the next meeting, to be held in the coming year. By this time both of the draft RBMPs will be read and the discussion will focus also in the compilation of the two reports and suggested to have the meeting in Ukraine. He encouraged the stakeholders to follow closely the development of the plans and to share with the project team their views and any remarks/issues which they would like to have included in the plan.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING (15⁰⁰-18⁰⁰)

EPIRB 2nd National Coordination Committee for Moldova *and*

Prut Pilot Basin - Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

29 July, 2014

Venue: Labour Institute
Zimbrului Street 10, Chisinau, Moldova
<http://www.institutulmuncii.md/>
Polyvalentnii Hall

Workshop background and objectives

EPIRB 2nd National Coordination Committee Meeting for Moldova and working group for Prut pilot area - Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was held on June 29 in Chisinau, Moldova. The objectives of the meeting were the following:

- to report to the NCC members and other national and international stakeholders on the results of the project implementation to the date;
- to present planned activities for the next reporting period and up to the end of the project;
- to discuss proposed Pilot Projects in Moldova to address selected Programme of Measures of RBMP implementation;
- to present the necessary background information and the preliminary overview of the important water management issues for the Prut pilot basin;

Agenda

Agenda of the EPIRB 2nd National Coordination Committee for Moldova and Prut Pilot Basin Stakeholder Consultation meeting can be found in Annex 1.

Participants:

Signed List of Participants from the meeting can be found in Annex 2.

Participants

NCC Members and Representatives of the Ministry of Environment (MoE)

- **Mr. Lazar Chirica**, vice minister of Ministry of Environment
- **Mr. Andrei Ursache**, head of section for water resources, soil, subsoil, Ministry of Environment
- **Mrs. Diana Celac**, Chief Specialist, section for water resources, soil, subsoil, Ministry of Environment

Governmental Institutions

- **Mr. Boris Iurciuc**, head of geological fund, Agency of Geology and



- **Mr. Victor Jeleapov**, hidrogeolog, State Enterprise “Moldavian Hydrogeology Expedition”
- **Ms. A.** hidrogeolog, State Enterprise “Moldavian Hydrogeology Expedition”
- **Mr. Valeriu Holban**, head of department, State Ecological Inspectorate.
- **Mrs. Natalia Zgircu**, chief of chemical laboratory, biologist, Department of Environment Quality Monitoring, State Hydrometeorological Service.
- **Mr. Alexandru Tabacaru**, specialist geodesy & GIS Basin Water Management Authority of Water Agency.

Academy and scientific sector

- **Mr. Iurie Bejan**, vice director, Institute of Ecology and Geography of Academy of Science of Moldova, provider of RBMP for pilot river basin
- **Mr. Nicolae Boboc**, chief of landscape division, Institute of Ecology and Geography of Academy of Science of Moldova.

Non-Governmental and Private Organizations, synergy projects

- **Mr Ilya Trombitsky**, executive director, NGO “Eco-tiras”
- **Mr. Sergiu Budesteanu**, deputy team leader Irrigation Sector Reform Activity (ISRA) of “Compact” programme

EPIRB team:

- **Mr Tim Turner**, team leader (TL)
- **Mr Victor Bujac**, Country Water Management Expert (CWME)

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe – REC

- **Ms Imola Koszta**, NKE Expert
- **Ms Magdolna Toth Nagy**, Senior Expert, project consultant,

Summary of discussions – brief overview

Welcome

The 2nd NCC meeting was opened by **Mr. Lazar Chirica**, vice minister of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova. He welcomed the participants and emphasized importance of the project in light of signing EU Association Agreement by Moldova, where harmonization of Water Framework Directive, Basin Management principles are considered as key tool for reforming water management sector in the country. It was outlined that proposed an ambitious work to develop river basin management plan for the river Prut, also believe that work should be viewed in broader perspective, as proposed measures should be both expected result as the Prut basin and Danube basin and especially the environment of the Black Sea. Therefore stakeholder expectations are to expand this cooperation by launching new EU projects and the involvement of new partners, such as Romania - the country with the use, water resources of the river Prut.

Welcoming remarks on behalf of the EPIRB Project and Hyman Dynamics were made by **Mr Timothy Turner**, Project Team Leader.

In his introductory notes, **Mr Victor Bujac**, Country water management expert, outlined the workshop objectives and expected outcomes of the second NCC meeting and working group nominated by the



ministry order. After approval of the Agenda the meeting moved on to the information session on the project status and on-going activities within EPIRB project.

I. PROJECT PROGRESS STATUS

Mr Victor Bujac, CWME presented detailed results and specific project activities as well implementation in Moldova for the reporting period since the last NCC meeting in November 2013. He emphasized activities and results related to the designing Monitoring Programmes for surface and groundwater, as well as drafting River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Prut pilot basin. **CWME** also informed the audience about upcoming activities and plans for the next reporting period, including the 2nd phase of Joint Field Survey in the basin, as well as data 'gap filling' exercise to obtain missing monitoring data. This activity will be conducted after identification and mapping surface water bodies according to the Risk Assessment criteria of being 'at risk', 'possibly at risk' and 'not at risk'.

Further, CWME briefly presented selected Pilot Project proposals for Moldova that should become an initial step for implementation of Programme of Measures (PoMs) once the RBMP is finalized and adopted by the Government.

Mr. Iurie Bejan, deputy director of Institute of Ecology Geography of the Academy of Science informed about deliverables and finding executing by RBMP provider for Prut pilot area as well highlighted preliminary results of Pressure and Impact report for water bodies. He mentioned about format of presenting results on identified water bodies "at risk", 'possibly at risk' and 'not at risk' and feedbacks and recommendation from project experts.

After discussing informing plenary continued in working session on presenting pilot projects for Prut river basin as well informing stakeholders on the next planned activities for August 2014 – February 2015.

II. Working SESSION ON PILOT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The following plenary session, chaired by **Mr. Lazar Chirica, viceminister** summarised and commented presented project activities. The NCC made recommendations for the next reporting period strategy, emphasizing importance of project assistance in implementing secondary legislation for a new Water Law of Moldova, as well as good practice and skills the beneficiary institutes will gain from drafting first WFD complaint RBMP for the Prut pilot basin in cooperation with transboundary countries first of all Romania being a member of EU.

Mr Victor Jelepov, hydrogeologist, Hydrogeology Expedition of Moldova, Ministry of Environment informed about stakeholders about implementing programme of measures Pilot project 1 for Ground waters. He mentioned about importance of improving ground water monitoring as well activities done for implementing design for drilling new borehole, as well installing telemetric equipment for temperature, salinity in the boreholes where high salinity is observed for Baden - Sarmatia aquifer. After producing design works and technical and ecological expertizes it will be organised tender for implementing nominated pilot project.

Next pilot project on Surface water monitoring for natural lake Beleu in low Prut reservation was presented **by Ms. Natalia Zgicru, chief of chemical laboratory of the State Hydrometeorological Service**. She outlined



main project objectives for conducting baseline surveys for this natural lake of Low Prut River which is situated in a protected area; filling of data gaps; Identification of pressures and risks and Designing of a surveillance monitoring programmer according to the provisions of the new water law and regulations and Water Framework Directive 2000/60/CE complaint including hydromorphological, hydrochemical and hydrobiology aspects.

Mr. Alexandru Tabacaru, head of Project management Division of Basin Water Authority presented third concept of the pilot project on the initial development of water resource management information system including GIS mapping of water abstraction and wastewater discharge. The project's Objectives are to provide precise geographical referenced data regarding the intake and discharge points in the River Prut Basin to the target groups, to make all the information available at all time online at www.gismediu.gov.md, also contributing to developing the Prut River Basin Management Plan and maintain a strict ecological control of these points. Additionally he described similar activities in synergy project for Botna river.

After discussing stakeholders approved importance of implementing such pilot projects in the Prut pilot area.

Mr Tim Turner, TL presented planned activities for next period August 2014 – January 2015. As well he mentioned about Danube secretariat ICPDR and trilateral Ro MD and UA meeting and Prut Working group at the end of August, second round of Joint Field services for ground and surface waters in the Prut area and third RBM workshop and steering meeting at Minsk, and drafts river basin management plans to be prepared in the January 2015. All these activities will be send to stakeholders in the next progress report. For finalising drafts of analyses on pressure and impact on water bodies it will be forward soon new guidelines.

After discussions and proposals from stakeholders **Mr. Victor Bujac, CWME** also thanked the participants their contribution and added that the draft report will be published on the project website as well as distributed to the participants. Translation to Romanian language of the reports will be available after they are finalized. He highlighted that this meeting was very important for all stakeholders and team project as well.