UKRAINE

Improving water quality and promoting efficient water management

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASINS

The project is funded by the European Union

This project is implemented by a consortium led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG

About the EPIRB project

Where?

The Environmental Protection of International River Basins (EPIRB) project aimed to improve the quality of water in transboundary river basins in the wider Black Sea region and Belarus, including Ukraine.

Why?

The project strengthened cooperation on environmental protection and water resources management and promoted the principle of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

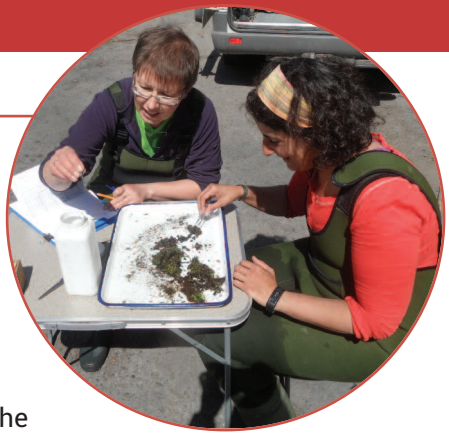
How?

The project built capacities through a learning-by-doing approach and the co-development of river basin management plans (RBMPs) for selected pilot basins.

What?

The project has strengthened the capacities of national authorities for monitoring the quality and quantity of water, including groundwater, and improved the availability and quality of datasets on the status of transboundary river basins. Five RBMPs have been developed for selected river basins/sub–river basins in line with the requirements of the WFD.

MONITORING



Building capacity for WFD-compliant monitoring and improving the availability and quality of data

One of the key areas of EPIRB support was the training of specialists on WFD-compliant monitoring through both formal and informal courses, as well as practical on-site trainings during field surveys. Joint field surveys (JFS) included surveying, monitoring, sampling, equipment programming and evaluation. The information obtained was used to fill in data gaps, improve the classification of water bodies, and assess the degree to which designated uses have an impact on water.

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Increasing knowledge on the development and implementation of RBMPs

The draft RBMPs for the Prut and Upper Dnieper River Basins in Ukraine was developed following a detailed planning exercise carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the State Agency of Water Resources (with its relevant regional subsidiaries), the State Service for Geology and Mineral Resources, and key beneficiary institutions. Stakeholders were involved at various stages of the planning process through a variety of communication channels.

The final draft plans describe the river basins and investigate the pressures that pose a threat to their water environment. The plans demonstrate the impact of these pressures on the state of the waters; identify possible improvements; and recommend specific actions to ensure that the combined efforts achieve the improvements needed in the Prut and Upper Dnieper River Basins.

PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Preparation of draft legislation based on IWRM principles and in accordance with WFD requirements

The new legislative act elaborates the transition from an administrative-territorial management model to a basin model. The draft act has been submitted for adoption and implementation at national level.

Creation of basin institutional structures as a platform for the implementation of IWRM principles

The pilot was carried out to ensure the sustainability of EPIRB project results in the Upper Prut pilot river basin, including the implementation of the Prut RBMP. It resulted in regulations on the Prut River Basin Council; on the Secretariat of the Prut River Basin Council; on information interoperability within the Prut River Basin; and on the Scientific and Technical Prut River Basin Council. An agreement on cooperation in the use and protection of the water resources of the Prut River Basin was also elaborated. These will become the working documents of the Prut River Basin Council, which will implement the Prut RBMP following the adoption of the upgraded Water Code of Ukraine.

Water body identification in the Upper Dnieper River Basin

The study focused on the Pripyat River in the western part of the Upper Dnieper, which is the largest tributary of the EPIRB pilot basin in terms of area, length and water volume. The goal was to help beneficiaries to identify water bodies in the selected basin (i.e. bodies with a catchment area of over 10 km^2, lakes with an area over 0.5 km^2, artificial and significantly modified water bodies with a catchment area of over 0.5 km^2, and canals over 10 km in length) using GIS analysis and other tools. Presented in GIS layers and thematic maps, as well as a database, this effective information support system will improve monitoring control and connection with all Dnieper River Basin stakeholders.

PILOT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Investigation of illegal discharges of wastewater in the Carpathian National Nature Park

The park is situated on the north-eastern slopes of the Ukrainian Carpathians. It provides a habitat for several protected species and has special environmental, recreational, historical, cultural, scientific, educational and aesthetic values. There are about 1,000 protected rivers and streams, 85 natural sources of groundwater and two natural lakes of glacial origin in the park's territory. As part of the pilot project, the impact of wastewater as a major pressure on the ecological status of waters was investigated in the Upper Prut River Basin in Ukraine and a detailed programme of measures to address the problem was prepared, comprising a wastewater treatment and control strategy for the Upper Prut and Carpathian National Nature Park.

Field survey of municipal wastewater treatment discharges in the Carpathian National Nature Park and the design of WFD-compliant monitoring programmes

Wastewater treatment plants in all settlements in the Prut River Basin are point sources of pollution. They were all constructed 50 to 60 years ago and are inefficient, not having been designed to remove modern pollutants. Wastewater discharges are not controlled in the Carpathian National Park, and there is no official monitoring. A survey of municipal wastewater discharges was therefore carried out, existing monitoring plans were reviewed, and a new programme designed in compliance with the WFD. The information obtained will be used to strengthen the observance of ecological standards.

EPIRB at a glance

- Duration: **2012–2016**
- Funded by: **European Union**
- Geographical coverage: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine**
- Partners: **Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG (lead); Regional Environmental Center (Hungary); H.P. Gauff Ingenieure GmbH & Co. KG–JBG; CES Consulting Engineers Salzgitter GmbH; Crimean Republic Association Ekologiya i Mir (CRAEM); Ukrainian national environmental NGO "Mama-86"**

Browse — The EPIRB website contains a wealth of information about the river basin management planning process and the different water monitoring techniques.

Our joint field survey reports, manuals, assessment reports and technical guidelines will tell you more about the monitoring of water, including groundwater. — **Read**

Discover — The results of the EPIRB project are available at **www.blacksea-riverbasins.net**

The European Union is made up of 28 member states who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.