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**UNECE-SDC project
on the implementation of targets set under
the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova**

Overview of the project progress in 2015

**6th meeting of the Steering Committee
Nataliya Nikiforova
(Chisinau, 13 November 2015)**

Overall objective and outcome

Overall objective/impact:

The population of Moldova, in particular the poor and vulnerable, benefit from improved access to safe water and sanitation, reduced water-related diseases and a protected environment, through the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Outcome:

Frame conditions and adequate capacity are in place for national and local authorities, as well as water operators and water users associations to implement measures towards the water and health targets set under the Protocol.



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Outputs/project components

- Output 1:** Action plan for achieving the targets drawn up and approved by Governmental Decision
- Output 2:** Strategy/plan to mobilise resources developed and implemented
- Output 3:** Materials developed and training conducted to build the institutional capacities of the Apa-Canal Operators and Water Users Associations
- Output 4:** Norms and standards for small water operators established
- Output 5:** Clearing House on the Protocol on Water and Health established & functioning
- Output 6:** Public Awareness raising campaigns conducted
- Output 7:** Partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making on the improvement of the legal, strategic and managerial frameworks for water and health established and functioning
- Output 8:** Promotion of the Moldovan experience through regional dialogue

National Programme on implementing targets set under the Protocol - progress

- National Programme on implementing targets set under the Protocol – first document jointly developed by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health
- Comprehensive structure comprising actions, timeline (2016-2025), responsibilities, outcomes, risks, etc.
- Annex I – revised targets; Annex II – detailed action plan; Annex III – financial strategy
- Performance indicators in place (i.e. sampling, n^o outbreaks, WSPs, legislation)
- Final draft of the National Programme on implementing targets under the Protocol sent for consultation to the relevant ministries (comments received from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, etc.) and available online on the Ministry of Health website
- English version available for comments (international expert, joint secretariat, SDC, etc.)

National Programme on implementing targets set under the Protocol – approval timeline

- Addressing comments by different ministries (including Ministry of Finance) – Nov-Dec 2015
- Submission for legal review (Ministry of Justice), State Chancellory – Jan-Feb 2016
- Translation into Russian and submission for Government approval – March 2016 (approx. 1 month)
- Publication in the Official Bulletin – April 2016
- Producing a publication in 3 languages as well as possibly a simple summary for outreach to Moldovan citizens – May 2016
- Promotion of the National Programme at national level (organization of a national forum, involving high-level politicians, local authorities, water operators, media, NGOs, civil society, vulnerable groups) as well as at local level – June 2016 and beyond

Trainings for water operators and water users associations

- International Water Association (IWA) contracted to conduct the trainings for water operators in the Republic of Moldova and to develop the train-the-trainer materials
- Priority topics discussed and agreed upon at the consultation meeting with the Moldovan government officials and experts
- Three trainings conducted: EU Directives implementation, Risk Management (including Water Safety Plans approach) and Regionalization of water operators
- Train-the-trainer manual currently being developed by IWA with involvement of international experts – expected to be finalized by December 2015
- Conclusion meeting planned for the first week of December 2015, future training needs will be discussed

Norms and standards for small scale supplies

- WECF contracted to support norms and standards development for small water operators in collaboration with relevant ministries



- Bridging the gap between urban and rural - focus on settlements with less than 2000 inhabitants (not covered by EU)

- **Norm on small water supplies** – to be approved by government decision

- **Hygienic norm on living environment** - to be approved by government decision

- **Code of practice for construction and operation of constructed wetlands** – to be approved by Ministry of Regional Development

- **Code of practice for construction and operation of ecosan toilets** – to be approved by Ministry of Regional Development in cooperation with ministries of environment and health. Regulation on management of products of ecosan toilets

- **Amendments of SNIPs for design of water and wastewater systems** - – to be approved by Ministry of Reg Development in cooperation with ministries of env and health

Norms and standards for small scale supplies – possible future needs

Sanitary Regulation on Drinking Water Quality Surveillance, Draft is developed (partially under this assignment as well). The regulation covers all water supplies and also small systems.

Code of practice for individual and small collective wastewater systems - septic tanks, anaerobic baffled reactors, pond systems

Standard for effluent of wastewater treatment systems, adapted for small systems

Implementation of the new regulations

Awareness raising and capacity building among professionals

Clearing House and Awareness raising campaigns

- Clearing House serves as a hub for information on water and health issues and a resource and training center for governmental officials, non-governmental organizations and the general public
- Promotion material on the Protocol on Water and Health developed and distributed by SEAM

Clearing House and Awareness raising campaigns

– possible future needs

Promotion of the Protocol to the Moldovan citizens at the national level (through mass media, adapted promotion material)

Development of 2 social video spots (Officials perspective/Water and Health practical info) promoted on national TV

Active involvement of press, social networks, existing information platforms

Partnerships and platforms for policy dialogue and decision-making

- Steering Committee continued to be the main decision-making body under the project in line with the MoU signed by UNECE, SDC, and the Ministries of Health and Environment in November 2012.
- The 5th and 6th Steering Committee meetings (held in May and November 2015) allowed dialogue between different ministries, governmental agencies, academic institutions, civil society and other stakeholders.
- To ensure synergies with the NPD process on integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation and to involve a wider range of stakeholders, the Steering Committee meetings were held jointly with OECD.

Promotion of the Moldovan experience through regional dialogue

The experience of the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health was shared by national experts representing the Ministries of Health and Environment at:

- 8th meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting (Geneva, 2 July 2015)
- 8th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 21-22 October 2015)

Collection of good practices and lessons learned in setting targets and reporting (led by Switzerland)

Case studies to be proposed by 30 November 2015.

Workshop on collecting good practices on target setting and reporting (Geneva, 29 February–1 March 2016)

Submission to 9th Working Group meeting and subsequently to MOP-4

Possible topics identified: equitable access target, public involvement, developing national action plans, publication and adoption of targets

Thank you for your attention!

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