

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

#### **on the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Moldova**

##### **1. Preamble**

The National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), as well as on Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) is the main mechanism for the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) in the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Under NPDs, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) leads the work on IWRM while the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) leads the work on WSS.

The NPD in the Republic of Moldova started in 2006. In September 2007, the first meeting of the Steering Committee was held and several activities have been implemented thereafter.

##### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MoU") is to frame the activities of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter "the Parties") in implementation of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) in the Republic of Moldova.

###### (a) Overall objective

The overall objective of the NPD in the Republic of Moldova is to assist in implementing the programmes of work of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health. Activities under the NPD would also help Moldova in achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to IWRM and WSS.

###### (b) Specific objectives and activities

The NPD in the Republic of Moldova provides a platform for developing and implementing policy packages on IWRM and WSS, focused on achieving the following objectives:

- Sustainable use of water resources taking into account the challenges of climate change;
- Achieving safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation;
- Protection of water ecosystems;
- Prevention, surveillance and decrease of water borne diseases.

These objectives will be achieved through the following activities:

- Harmonization of the water legislation with relevant EU directives and with principles of IWRM;
- Strengthening bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries on the management of transboundary watercourses;
- Support to basin administrations and basin councils;
- Implementation of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health;

- Conducting training courses in the area of water resources management.

These specific objectives will be achieved through conducting different research activities and assessments and by the preparation of projects and proposals in the abovementioned areas.

### **3. Methods of work**

#### (a) Responsible organization in Moldova

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova is the responsible organization involved in the NPD process. For all institutions taking part in NPD activities, the Ministry will be the main contact organization in Moldova. UNECE will act as a strategic partner, providing methodological support and promoting the NPD process in the Republic of Moldova.

#### (b) NPD Steering Committee

The NPD Steering Committee (hereinafter "SC") is an advisory and consultative body with regard to conducting NPD in the Republic of Moldova.

The SC will monitor the overall progress of the NPD process and discuss its annual workplan and documents developed in the framework of NPD. Moreover, the SC will approve reports on the work conducted for submission to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, proposing general guidelines for operations. The SC is established with a ministerial order.

The SC is being chaired by the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova.

### **4. Financing of NPD work**

The present MoU entails no financial obligations for one Party with regard to the financing of activities by the other Party in the framework of NPD, although such financing could take place on the basis of separate agreement (bilateral or multilateral). Some of the NPD activities are expected to be financed by UNECE as part of the implementation of project "European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+ 4 EaP)" under European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

### **5. Settlement of disputes**

The Parties shall make their best efforts to settle, in good faith and through direct negotiations, any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of the present MoU or any breach thereof.

### **6. Privileges and immunities**

The provisions set forth herein the present MoU or related to it will not influence any of the privileges or immunities of either of the Parties. The Parties will avoid all actions that may negatively affect the image and/or status of UNECE.

### **7. Duration**

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of signature and will initially be valid for a period of four (4) years. Depending on the results and the willingness of the Parties to continue cooperation, the duration of the MoU may be prolonged.

## **8. Termination**

If either of the Parties concludes that the MoU can no longer be effectively or correctly executed, it must consult the other Party. If it is found impossible to reach a consensus, either of the Parties can terminate the present MoU through a prior written notification one (1) month before the envisaged date of the MoU termination without any reimbursement claim.

## **9. Amendments**

Any amendment to the present MoU and possible Annexes shall be made on the basis of a mutual written agreement by both Parties. Amendments constitute an integral part of the MoU. In the case of discrepancies or conflicts between the present MoU and its Amendments, the MoU has prevalence.

This Memorandum does not constitute an international treaty and is not intended to create any legal obligations under international law.

Signed in Budapest, «17» November 2015

For the Ministry of Environment of the  
Republic of Moldova

For the United Nations Economic Commission  
for Europe

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Andrian Delinschi  
Deputy Minister

Christian Friis Bach  
Executive Secretary