

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on cooperation in the field of protection and sustainable development of the Dniester River Basin





- fifth biggest in the Black sea region.
- over 7 M people populate its basin and another 3,5 M living outside the basin use its water for potable aims.
- Dniester is the river with the largest total area of the river basin in Moldova, serving as a drinking water supply sources for main towns located on its banks including Chisinau, the capital town of Moldova.

The Dniester River is a transboundary watercourse, one of the largest Eastern European rivers. It rise in the Ukrainian Carpathians, flows through the Republic of Moldova and reaches Ukraine again near the Black Sea.



The Dniester process



- Basin-wide management of the Dniester began to develop as of 2004, with the support of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and Lakes (Water Convention). MD and UA are parties to the Convention.
- “Dniester process has been jointly managed by OSCE, UNEP and UNECE as part of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).
- Three projects – Dniester-I, II and III have been implemented.
- As a result, on 29 November 2012 the bilateral **Treaty on Cooperation on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin** was signed, during the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention MOP in Rome.
- The signing of the Treaty is the result of eight years of step-by-step development of cooperation involving a broad range of stakeholders from both countries, including the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.
- The Treaty is a pioneering example for the region in the post-Soviet era. It significantly broadens the existing cooperation arrangements to cover the entire river basin and all sectors important for the management and protection of the shared waters.

The Dniester Treaty



The Treaty has already been ratified by the Republic of Moldova in January 2013 and its ratification by Ukraine is expected in the nearest future.

With the entry into force of the Dniester Treaty, the cooperation and coordination between the two counties will be improved and oriented to realizing specific actions towards reduction of pollution in the Dniester River basin.

The Dniester treaty is a really good quality document, which could be used by others as an example of a transboundary river basin agreement.

The Dniester Treaty



The new Treaty identifies principles and provides a framework for cooperation on water pollution prevention and control, water flow regulation, conservation of biodiversity and protection of the Black Sea environment. It also addresses the monitoring of data exchange, public participation and cooperation in emergency situations.

A bilateral Dniester Commission is planned to be established, to facilitate sustainable use and protection of the Basin and encourage countries to develop and implement joint and coordinated Dniester River basin management plans.

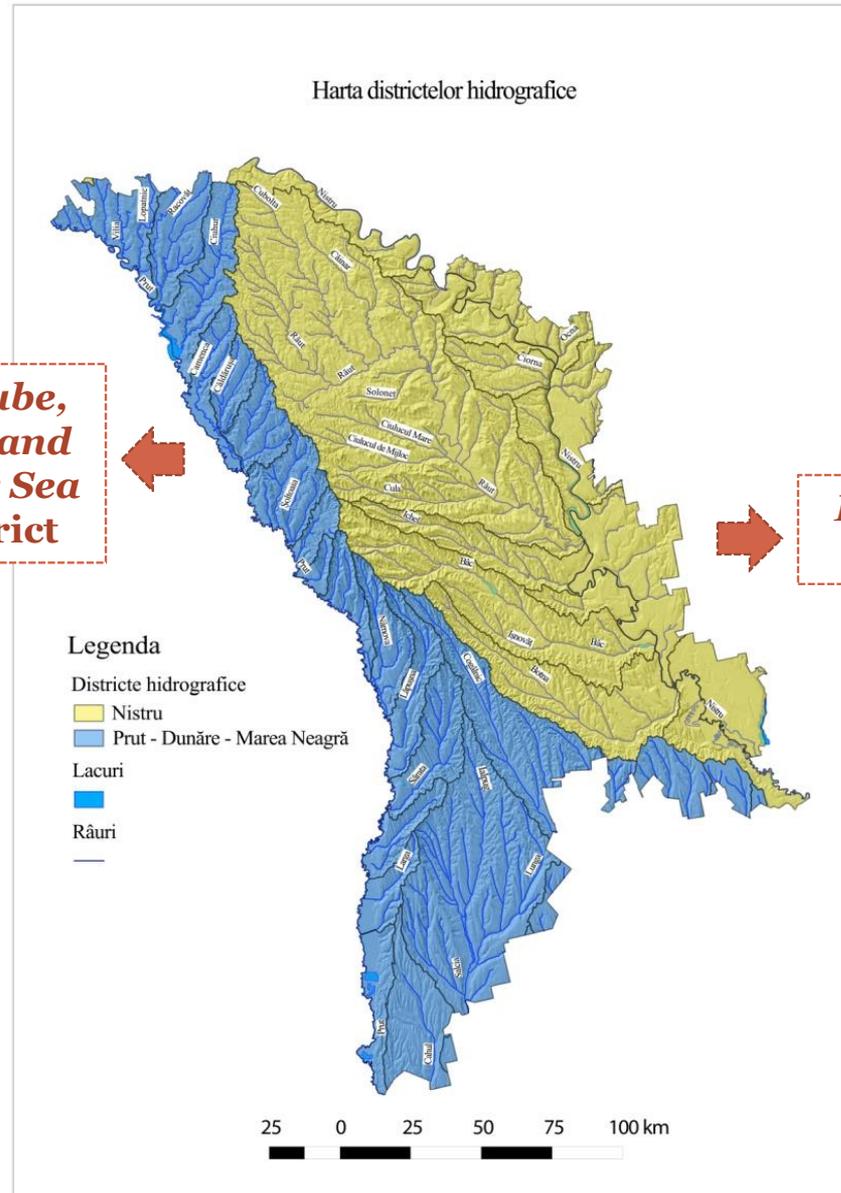
The Republic of Moldova, according to the new Water law, which is partially harmonized with EU water related directives in particular with Water Framework Directive, already elaborated a draft **Management Plan for the Dniester river basin district** (for the Moldovan part).

The draft Management Plan for the Dniester river basin district in Moldova, will refer to:

- Evaluation of water quality and quantity;
- Evaluation of the risks of water scarcity, droughts, floods, pollution and the damage of dams for the districts, evaluation of costs for prevention, reduction or mitigation of such risks;
- Identification of areas under the risks of pollution from diffuse sources;
- Analysis of the existing protected areas, identification of the necessity of identification of new areas or modification of the existing ones;
- Priorities for special water usage, measures for mitigation of risks, existing and future standards.

***Danube,
Prut and
Black Sea
District***

***Dniester
District***



Projects in the Dniester basin



- An ongoing project (MD, UA) - **“Adaptation to Climate Change in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin”** - the Dniester component of the project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus” under the ENVSEC initiative is implementing with funding from the EU and the Austrian Development Agency.
 - the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Dniester basin and Strategic Framework Implementation Plan were elaborated.
 - successful implementation of these documents will help to reduce negative climate change impacts and will facilitate sustainable development in the Dniester River Basin.

- New GEF Project (MD, UA) **“Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin”** has been approved.
 - the objective of the project is to support countries in promoting the integrated water resources management in the Dniester river basin and to strengthen sustainable development in the region.
 - the project is expected to start early in 2017. Implementation period 3 years.

- New project (MD) – **“Strengthening institutional capacities in the field of water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova”** is about to be officially launched and will be implemented with the support of Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and Austrian Development Agency.
 - 3 components: 1) water supply and sanitation; 2) integrated management of water resources, support to functioning of river basin Committees and implementation of River basins management plans; 3) water informational systems.

THANK YOU!

