

Minutes
of 3rd meeting of the Coordination Committee
of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management
in the Republic of Moldova
(the 25th NPD meeting under the EUWI in Moldova)

11 April 2017

VisPas Hotel, Conference Room, 26, A. Lapusneanu Str., Chisinau

Objectives of the meeting: The main objective of the meeting was to discuss national priorities and draft 4-year Work plan under the „European Union Water Initiative Plus” for the Eastern Partnership countries (EUWI+) project funded by the European Union. Other objectives were to discuss: the challenges that the Republic of Moldova is facing in harmonizing its water policy with relevant directives of the European Union, in accordance with the Association Agreement signed in 2014; the on-going activities related to management of water resources and development of water supply and sanitation systems; as well as the synergies between projects in the areas concerned, implemented in the Republic of Moldova with support from the European Union, international financial organizations and bilateral donors.

Agenda of the meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova is attached to these minutes.

Participation:

About 55 persons participated in the 3rd meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova: committee members, representatives of central public authorities, representatives of civil society and expert community, international organizations and bilateral donors.

The List of participants is attached these minutes (Annex 2).

The meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova was chaired by Mr. Igor Talmazan, deputy minister of environment – vice president of the Committee. He appreciated the continuity of the policy dialogue process during the last 11 years and its vital role in adequate coordination between national and international stakeholders in order to ensure the fulfilment of country’s obligations according to the Association Agreement signed with European Union. Mr. Talmazan also stressed that the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management became an important platform in the Republic of Moldova to discuss various issues related to promoting and implementing the state policy related to water resources management and development of the water supply and sanitation sector.

Mr. Marco Gemmer, Head of Operations, the European Union Delegation to Moldova, welcomed the presence of a large number of participants and stressed the importance of presence of representatives of civil society that showed a good cooperation between all stakeholders involved in water resources management and protection. Moreover, Mr. Gemmer pointed out the importance to maintain a constant dialogue for the implementation of cooperation objectives of the Republic of Moldova with European Union, in particular in order to implement the provisions of the Association Agreement.

Discussions:

The 3rd meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova was structured in 4 thematic sessions.

Session 1. In this session, the priorities of the Republic of Moldova and draft 4-year work plan under the „European Union Water Initiative Plus” (EUWI+) project were discussed. It will support the Republic of Moldova in approximation of its legislation with requirements of Water Framework Directive and other European directives, in implementation of the multilateral treaties to which Moldova is Party, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to 2030, improvement and further implementation of the Management Plans for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea Hydrographical District, strengthening the monitoring of surface water and groundwater.

The Implementation partners of the EUWI+ Project presented the draft 4-year Summary Workplan for Moldova under the project. The activities planned to achieve the Results 1, 2 and 3 of the project were presented by representatives of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and of the Consortium of EU-MS (Austria and France).

It was noted that a well-structured and extensive list of country needs and priorities was provided by Moldova in February 2017. The proposals were reviewed by the Implementing partners and each proposed intervention has been assessed in terms of its value added and *implementability* under the project.

Following the discussions during this session it was proposed that additional comments and proposals by stakeholders should be sent in writing by 24 April 2017 while the EUWI+ Implementing partners shall finalise the draft Work Plan based on comments received, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment.

The workplan, approved by the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Moldova will be presented at the annual Regional Steering Committee meeting of the EUWI+ Project, which will meet for the first time in Brussels on 15th and 16th May, 2017.

Session 2. During this session, the representative of the Ministry of the Environment presented a comprehensive report on the implementation in 2016 of the national Strategy on water supply and sanitation for 2014-2028.

The representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions presented a report on the status of development of new norms for design and construction of small systems for water supply and sanitation in the Republic of Moldova.

Another topic for discussion was related results of the work on establishing a sound Economic Regulatory System for Water Supply and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova, implemented with the support from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to assist the Government of Moldova in establishing a sound economic regulatory system for WSS, including assessment of affordability of investment programmes and of the need for targets support to vulnerable households.

In the project report, 3 scenarios were identified of how the further develop the economic regulatory system in WSS sector: (1) “De-bottlenecking”, (2); “Back to the drawing board” and (3) Completing and reorganising the system.

Whereas most stakeholders opted for the third option, the Ministry of Environment was in favour of the more fundamental reform option number two. There was consensus that the second option shall remain open; meanwhile policymakers shall be encouraged to make progress under the third option. Based on that, 19 recommendations have been formulated under the following seven objectives: (I) A tariff that gives incentives to perform; (II) More decisive regionalisation of services; (III) The nurturing of sustainable business models;

(IV) An optimal mix of the ‘3Ts’ of tariffs, taxes and transfers, based on an up to date sector strategy; (V) Improving the use of economic instruments to achieve set WSS policy objectives; (VI) The use of external finance to bridge the projected funding gap; and (VII) Well targeted WSS related social protection measures.

The participants of the meeting generally supported the final recommendations of the work on Improving the Economic Regulatory System for Water Supply and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova and requested the experts to finalise the Final Report and to present it at the next Committee meeting.

Session 3. The session was dedicated to implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova and the links between the national targets established on water and health and the Sustainable Development Agenda to 2030.

The representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment presented the National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 and identified specific measures that could be implemented with the support of the EUWI+ Project in the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, the links between the Protocol on Water and Health and Sustainable Development Goals were presented as an instrument for their implementation at national level.

It was mentioned, that the National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025, at this stage, represents an instrument for cooperation between stakeholders in line with social and economic development of the country, as well as the environment protection and protection of human health. The idea promoted by the approved Programme allows the responsible authorities, including the Government, to stress the attention on the importance of this document for eventual future risks that could affect the human health associated to water scarcity and other emerging challenges associated with water and functioning of water ecosystems.

The participants of the meeting stressed the importance of implementing the National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 and agreed on the necessity to implement selected measures with the support of the EUWI+ Project.

Session 4. This session served as platform for identifying and (or) strengthening the synergies between various projects in the areas concerned, implemented in the Republic of Moldova with the support from the European Union, international financial organizations and bilateral donors (Switzerland, Austria, Germany).

The participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude and addressed sincere thanks to the European Union, International Financing Institutions and bilateral donors for their continuous support in implementing the projects aimed at improving the management of water resources and development of water supply and sanitation systems in the Republic of Moldova.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting:

The members of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova and invitees to the meeting:

1. Generally supported the 4-year draft Work Plan for implementing the EUWI+ project in Moldova, requested additional comments by stakeholders in writing by 24 April 2017, and invited the EUWI+ implementing partners to finalise the draft Work Plan based on comment received by 28 April 2017.

2. Recommended the Ministry of Environment to approve the Work Plan upon its completion and present it at the first meeting of the regional EUWI+ Steering Committee to be held in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017.
3. Supported the proposal on establishing dedicated Working groups to help implement specific activities under the Work Plan (Action Plan for WSS Strategy, dedicated Water Fund, National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025).
4. Stressed the importance of implementing the National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025 and invited the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health to finalize a list of selected measures that can be supported by the EUWI+ project and present them at the next NPD CC meeting. Agreed that the NPD Coordination Committee will supervise the implementation of the National Programme for Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2025, until a dedicated Steering Committee is established.
5. Generally supported the final recommendations of the work on Improving the Economic Regulatory System for Water Supply and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova and agreed that eventual additional comments would be presented in writing by 28 April, 2017. The comments should be addressed to the Ministry of Environment (sent to Ms. Diana Celac, acting as Executive Secretary of the NPD Coordination Committee, at: celacdi@gmail.com). Invited the OECD to complete and disseminate the Final report by October, 2017.
6. Invited the OECD to support finalisation of drafting new norms for design and construction of small-scale WSS systems with a view of submitting them for consideration to the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction in H2, 2017.
7. Invited the EU MS consortium of Austria and France to support the implementation of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for the Danube-Prut and the Black Sea River Basin District and strengthen the monitoring of surface and groundwaters;
8. Agreed that next meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management would be held in October-November 2017.

Deputy Minister of Environment
Vice president of the Coordination Committee

Igor TALMAZAN

Secretary of the Coordination Committee

Serafima TRONZA

The minutes were drafted by Mrs. *Diana Celac*,
Local representative of the Result 1 of the EUWI+ Project in Moldova,
acting as executive secretary of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on
integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova

The minutes contain 10 pages, including the following annexes:

- *Agenda (2 pages).*
- *List of participants (4 pages).*



**3rd MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
(the twenty-fifth NPD meeting under the EUWI)**

Date: 11 April 2017

Location: *Hotel VisPas, Conference Room, 26, A. Lapusneanu Str., Chisinau*

Background: The main objective of the meeting is to discuss national priorities and draft proposals for the 4-year Work Plan on the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) for Eastern Partnership Programme in the Republic of Moldova and the status of ongoing activities related to the water resources management. The participants will also be invited to discuss and validate the recommendations on improving the economic regulatory system for water supply and sanitation in Moldova, based on analytical work carried out in support of the National Policy Dialogue process. The meeting will also serve as platform for strengthening synergies between water-related projects implemented in Moldova. The meeting will be chaired by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

09:00-09:30 Registration of participants

09:30-09:45 Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- *Mr. Igor Talmazan, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova*
- *Mr. Marco Gemmer, Deputy Head of Operations, EU Delegation to Moldova*

09:45-12:45 Session 1 – National priorities and draft proposals for the 4-year Work Plan on the implementation of the EUWI+ Project in Moldova (*moderator Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment*)

- A brief background information on the EUWI+ Project - *Mr. Andreas Scheidleder*
- Presentation of the proposed national Work Plan for 2017-2020 under EUWI+
 - Result 1 – presentation by OECD and UNECE - *Mr. Alexander Martusevich and Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov*
 - Result 2 – presentation by Consortium of EU MS - *Mr. Andreas Scheidleder*
 - Result 3 – presentation by Consortium of EU MS - *Mr. Pierre HENRY de VILLENEUVE*

Q&A, discussion

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-15:30 Session 2 – Economic regulation of water supply and sanitation in Moldova
(*moderator Mrs. Serafima Tronza, Ministry of Environment*)

- Report on implementation in 2016 of the Strategy of Water Supply and Sanitation (2014-2028) - *Mrs. Serafima Tronza, Ministry of Environment*
- Discussion of the recommendations from the draft Final Report on Economic Regulatory System for Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) in Moldova - *Mr. Dumitru Budianschi and Mr. Giel Verbeeck, consultants*
- Status of developing new norms for small-scale WSS systems in Moldova - *Mr. Gheorghe Croitoru, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Mr. Valentin Bordeniuc, local expert*
- Next steps – *Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD*

Q&A, discussion

15:30-16:20 Session 3 – Implementation of the national water and health targets (*moderator Mr. Ion Salaru, Ministry of Health*)

- Possible measures from the National Programme on implementation of the targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health 2016-2025 that could be supported by the EUWI+ project - *Mr. Ion Şalaru, Ministry of Health and Mrs. Serafima Tronza, Ministry of Environment*
- Protocol on Water and Health as a tool to implement Sustainable Development Goals at the national level - *Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE*

Q&A, discussion

16:20-16:40 Coffee/tea

16:40-17:40 Session 4 – Synergies between water-related projects implemented in Moldova
(*moderator Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment*)

- ADA-SDC project on Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova – possible links and synergies with the EUWI+ project - *Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment*
- GIZ project "Inter-municipal water management along the Dniester river" – *Mr. Mircea Ursu, GIZ*
- Portfolio of water and sanitation projects financed by EU in the period of 2017 - 2020 and implemented by GIZ in partnership with Regional Development Agencies" – *Mr. Igor Malai, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions*
- Implementation of regional Project "Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries (ENI-SEIS II EAST Project)" in Moldova - *Ms. Veronica Lopotenco, Ministry of Environment*
- Updates on other relevant water projects funded through partnerships with external actors

Q&A, discussion

17:40-18:00 Other updates, decisions and way forward

- *Decisions by the NPD Coordination Council and closure of the meeting*



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
3rd MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
 (the twenty-fifth NPD meeting under the EUWI)

11 April 2017, *Hotel VisPas, Conference Room, 26, A. Lapusneanu Str., Chisinau*

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