Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

UNECE Activity Report

Project "Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management in the Dniester River Basin: Phase III - Implementation of the Action Programme"

The Dniester River is a transboundary river 1380 km long, which starts in the Ukrainian Carpathians, flows through Moldova and reaches Ukraine again near the Black Sea. The Dniester is currently facing environmental problems due to pollution, the current water flow regime and illegal sand and gravel extraction. The environmental degradation of the Dniester is made worse by the frozen Transdniestrian conflict, which, inter alia, negatively impacts the use of existing infrastructure for wastewater treatment. A bilateral "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of Ukraine on the Joint Use and Protection of the Cross-Border Waters" was signed in 1994 (hereinafter "the 1994 Agreement") and a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries was instituted as a cooperative mechanism. The following specific issues are to be dealt with in the context of an agreed Action Programme adopted in 2007:

- the finalisation of the Moldovan-Ukrainian Agreement on the Dniester River basin and the set-up of an institutional mechanism for its implementation;
- improvement of transboundary communication and cooperation on sanitary-epidemiological issues;
- stronger integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policy (e.g. fisheries, hydro-power energy production, water abstraction for agriculture, etc.);
- establishment of a pilot transboundary information management system for the Dniester River basin to improve exchange of information for decision making.

The project is implemented by UNECE, UNEP and OSCE in cooperation with authorities and NGOs in the two countries and includes the following activities:

- Organization of negotiations to further promote the signing of the new Dniester River basin Agreement.
- Facilitation of activities of the sanitary-epidemiological authorities.
- Supporting meetings of a biodiversity working group to promote integration of the biodiversity concerns into water management.
- Facilitation of activities of an information working group to enable the establishment of the transboundary information management system for the Dniester Basin.
- Raising awareness on environmental issues among the broad audience in Moldova and Ukraine through establishing "The day of the Dniester".

The outcome of the project is expected to be improved transboundary cooperation on the Dniester River between Ukraine and Moldova.

Click on the link to view the project website:
http://www.dniester.org/