

WATER GOVERNANCE IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

Republic of Moldova



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The country's main water arteries are transboundary and can be divided into three main river basins of regional and international importance:



- The Dnestr (called Nistru) basin. It covers about 57% of the country. The Dnestr rises in Ukraine and forms the border between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in parts of the north, northeast and southeast before flowing back into Ukraine, where it continues for some 20 km before reaching the Black Sea .
- The Danube (Prut) basin. It covers about 35% of the country. The Prut River, a tributary of the Danube, rises in Ukraine and forms the border between the Republic of Moldova and Romania before flowing into the Danube just after crossing the border into Ukraine. There are a number of small seasonal tributaries of the Danube in southern Republic of Moldova that flow into the Danube after having crossed the border to Ukraine.
- The southern basins. In the south of the country, between the Dnestr and the Danube basins, several other rivers rise and flow across the border into Ukraine and then into the Black Sea. Their basins cover about 8% of the country.

International Cooperation



- The best way to protect and manage water is by close international co-operation between all the countries within the river basin – bringing together all interests upstream and downstream.
- The Republic of Moldova belongs to the group of countries located in the Black Sea Basin. It maintains close mutually advantageous commercial ties with these countries as well as the countries located in the Danube Basin.
- Agreements signed with neighboring countries.
- 18 Conventions ratified, related to environmental issues, including **Water related treaties:**

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (*Helsinki, 1992*)



- *Republic of Moldova ratified the Water Convention in 1994, and the Protocol on Water and Health in 2005.*
- The Water Convention is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters.
- As part to Convention, the Republic of Moldova is obliged to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, to use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.
- Under the Protocol on Water and Health (1999) a list of targets and target dates for the implementation of the Protocol was elaborated and approved.

Convention on co-operation for the protection and sustainable use of the Danube river (*Sofia, 1994*).



- *Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention in 1999.*
- The Danube River Protection Convention forms the overall legal instrument for co-operation on transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin. It aims to ensure that surface waters and groundwater within the Danube River Basin are managed and used sustainably and equitably.
- The Republic of Moldova contributes to the Danube river basin **management plan** elaboration process.

Association Agreement RM - EU environmental activities



- (2014-2017) – *transposition of 41 European acts (32 Directives and 9 Regulations)*

- (2017-2024) – *implementation of legislation harmonized with Environmental Acquis Communautaire*

Water quality and resource management – 5 Directives transposition period - 3 years

- ✓ **Directive 2000/60/EC** establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy;
- ✓ **Directive 2007/60/EC** on the assessment and management of flood risks;
- ✓ **Directive 91/271/CEE** concerning urban waste water treatment;
- ✓ **Directive 98/83/EC** on the quality of water intended for human consumption;
- ✓ **Directive 91/676/CEE** concerning the protection of waters against pollution by nitrates from agricultural sources.

Water quality – first results achieved in the transposition process:



- ✓ Water Law (2011), and the mechanism of its implementation -18 normative acts (2013);
- ✓ Strategy of Water Supply and Sanitation and Action Plan for 2014-2028 (2014);
- ✓ Law on public service of water supply and sewer (2013);
- ✓ The boundaries of 2 districts of hydrographic basins, as well as of basins and sub-basins have been established and adopted;
- For the district Nistru and district Dunarea–Prut and the Black Sea, were initiated the procedure of elaboration of the management plans;
- ✓ A feasibility study on flood risks and hazard and risk maps are being developed, as well as flood risk management plans (EU support);
- ✓ The institutional potential of the Ministry has been consolidated with 14 units (3 units for the Water Management Division) and the institutional potential of the Agency „Apele Moldovei” has been consolidated by 12 units.

Water Law (1)



- Water Law nr.272 of 23 December 2011; in force from 26 October 2013.
- This law is partially harmonized with European directives, in particular with the EU **Water Framework Directive** (WFD) which establishes a legal framework to protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems; prevent their deterioration and ensure long-term, sustainable use of water resources.
- The new Water Law provides a legal framework for the management, protection and efficient use of surface and ground waters based on the evaluation, planning and decision making in a participatory manner;
- It regulates and comes with a new approach to water management based on relevant international policies and recommendations.
- It also puts in place new water management principles like participation, pollution prevention, polluter-pays principle, precaution, sustainable water use.

Water Law (2)



- According to the Water law, the Ministry of Environment is in charge of developing water quality management policies and legislation.
- Water Framework Directive's (WFD) principles were partially transposed into the Water Law and the normative acts that contributes to the implementation of this law.
- According to the WFD principle of integrated management of water, Management Plans for each river basin district established in the Republic of Moldova will be developed.



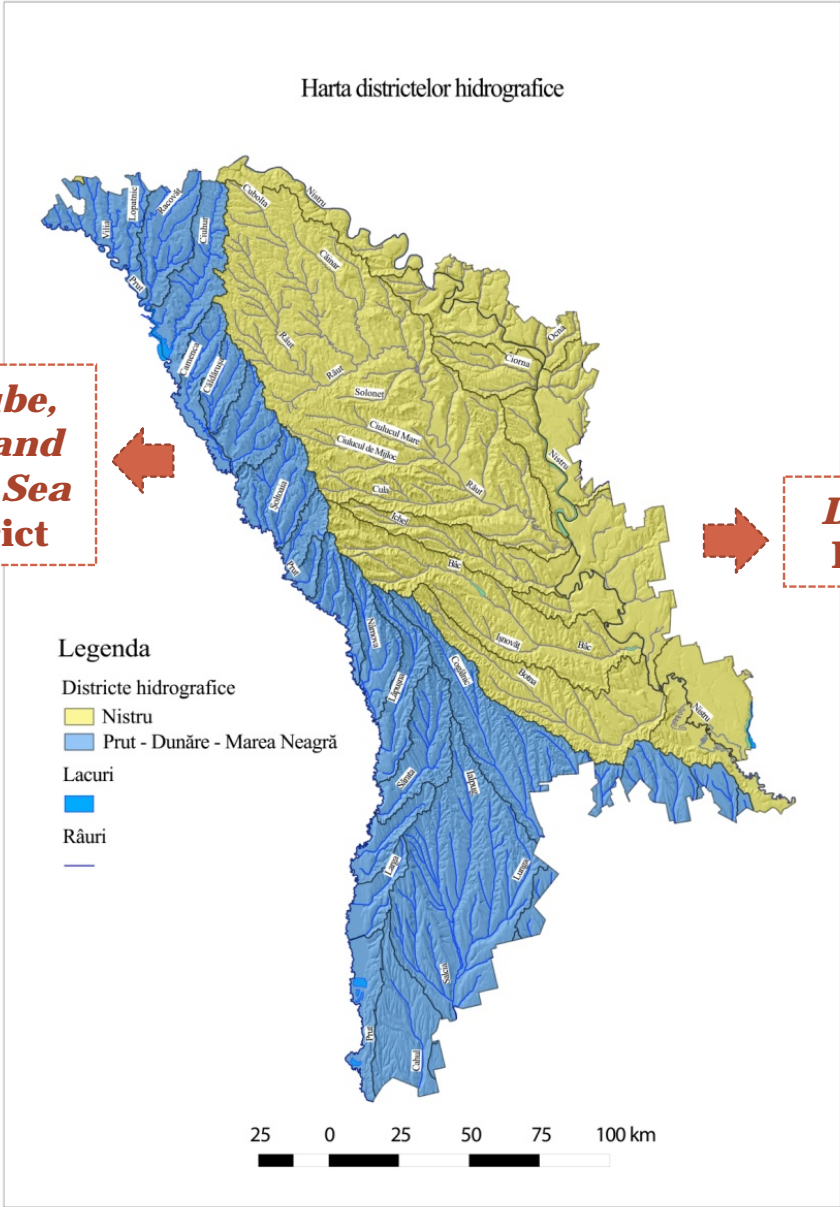
In line with the Water Law, two hydrological districts Dniester and Prut-Danube and the Black were established and approved (Government Decision 775 from 04.10.2013).

For each district a Committee with a consultative role was established (Government Decision 867 from 1 November 2013 .

The Committees main role is to consult the elaboration of the Management Plans.

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

***Dniester
District***



Management Plans will refer to:



- a) Evaluation of water quality and quantity;
- b) 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;
- c) Identification of areas under the risks of pollution from diffuse sources;
- d) Analysis of the existing protected areas, identification of the necessity of identification of new areas or modification of the existing ones;
- e) Priorities for special water usage, measures for mitigation of risks, existing and future standards;
- f) Other relevant aspects.

Outline for elaboration of management plans



Activities done



- General description of the hydrological districts;
- Identification, delineation and classification of water bodies (surface and ground waters);
- Analysis of the pressures and impacts on the quantity and quality of water bodies;
- Evaluation of the national monitoring network;
- Economic analysis;
- Elaboration of the draft of the Program of measures.
- Public consultation – first round (6 months).

Management Plans - Public consultations



- Development of the river basin management plans involves a coordinated effort across a wide range of organisations. A key requirement of the Directive is public participation and a number of major public consultations have contributed towards development of the plans.
- The first round of public consultation on the elaboration of the Management Plans took part in Moldova in the period from November 2013 to May 2014.
- To the public has been explained the importance of the elaboration of such plans, benefits and opportunities for public authorities, NGOs, water users, general public. Meetings were held in Chisinau.
- For the second round of public consultation meetings will be held in different locations in Moldova. At those meetings will be presented the first draft of the Management Plans and proposed measures to be included in the Program of measures.

THANK YOU!

