

# Dniester implementation plan and links with national adaptation strategy, river basin management plan and INDC

6th Workshop on Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins  
13 - 14 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

**Diana Celac**

Deputy Head of the Water Management Department,  
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova



## **Dniester River Basin = pilot region for transboundary adaptation to climate change & security risks**

The transboundary nature of the Dniester River basin entails that risks and challenges are shared and that solutions need to be coordinated.

The Dniester River is expected to be heavily affected by climate change leading to warmer and wetter winters and hot, dry summers.



Measures to adapt to climate change carried out in the basin are supported by UNECE, the OSCE, the European Union and the Government of Austria.

Project “**Climate Change and Security in the Dniester River Basin**”, implemented in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, is an integral part of the larger scale project “Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus”.

### **MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- ***Strategic framework for basin wide adaptation to climate change***, elaborated and endorsed by deputy ministers of environment from both countries;
- The draft ***Implementation Plan for the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin***, (to be finalized);
- ***Resource Mobilization Strategy*** (to be elaborated);
- Implementation of selected Climate change adaptation measures (ex. ***Modeling of flood-prone areas, Public awareness and education: Dniester Art Contest “Colors of the Dniester”***);
- Sharing of Dniester example and highlighting of benefits of transboundary co-operation.

- The draft ***Implementation Plan for the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin*** is considering the appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and raising funds for the practical implementation of proposed adaptation measures.
- It will become an integral and essential part of the methodological foundation for the Dniester basin's adaptation to climate change.
- According to the Implementation Plan, the total cost of development and implementation of adaptation measures in the Dniester River basin, is estimated at approximately 200 million euros.
- Half of the costs are associated with flood protection measures, a quarter - to the protection and restoration of valuable ecosystems of the basin. About 85% of the total funding is intended for activities in the short-term (3 - 5 years) and medium term (up to 10 years), and the rest - for the long-term action.
- As estimated, about 10% of the cost of necessary measures are covered by some parallel processes – other ongoing and future programmes and projects.

# **Dniester River Basin Management Plan (moldovan part)**

- Legal basis: Water Law (2011) partially harmonized with WFD; AA RM-EU (2014).
- Expected approval – end of 2016.
- Dniester RBMP contains a comprehensive analysis of the status and management options for the river system.
- A separate chapter is dedicated to climate change aspects.
- Programme of measures is established for achieving the environmental objectives in line with WFD.
- In particular, there are measures for preventing further deterioration of surface and groundwater; for gradual reduction of pollution of surface and groundwater; for protection and improvement of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, as well as wetlands in the basin.
- Climatic aspects and proposed adaptation measures in the basin were taken into consideration when elaborating the RBMP and its Programme of measures.

# Adaptation strategy to climate change in the Republic of Moldova until 2020 and Action Plan for its implementation

- Approved by the Government on 10 December 2014, is an umbrella strategy that creates the enabling environment for specific sectors and ministries to “mainstream” climate change adaptation and risk management in their existing and future strategies.
- For the water sector of the Republic of Moldova the Strategy identifies priority risks, mostly linked with: reducing the availability of water; high risk of drought and water shortages; increasing the frequency and intensity of floods; increase in demand for water (irrigation needs).

**Specific Objective 3: Assure the development of climate resilience by reducing at least by 50% the climate change vulnerability and facilitate climate change adaptation in six priority sectors (agriculture, water resources, forestry, human health, energy and transport) by 2020.**

**Action 3.2: Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Water Resources Sector,** specifies among **Measures to be taken at river basin level to assure climate change adaptation:**

**- set water quality targets and apply water quality criteria to prevent, control and reduce the transboundary impact, coordinate the regulations and issue clearances!**

- Since both of Moldova’s main rivers, Prut and Nistru or Dniester are transboundary rivers, it is important for the country to engage in transboundary policy. Especially, since the water source for the capital city Chisinau is taken from the Dniester River, a transboundary water body that can be affected by pollution and drought problems, when it comes to preventative strategies towards the effects of climate change, collaboration between the countries is needed.
- **The implementation cost of the Republic of Moldova’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy until 2020 and the Action Plan on its implementation is estimated at about US\$ 200 million.**
- The cost of inaction could be devastating, given the fact that natural disasters alone cause the country an average loss of about US\$ 61 million each year.

- **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)** - developed and submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), held in Paris in December 2015;
- Republic of Moldova has included in Annex 1 to INDC the information on adaptation, contained as well in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy up to 2020 (2014).
- There are plans to conduct various Studies regarding the evaluation of the vulnerability to climate change of key sectors of the national economy.
- A Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) of the Republic of Moldova for the period up to 2030 is under development.
- The National Action Plan for climate change mitigation in five key sectors of the economy of Moldova is under development.

## Financing climate change adaptation interventions

- The Adaptation strategy to climate change in the Republic of Moldova as well as the **Plan for Implementation** of the Strategic Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Dniester Basin and the funds mobilization strategy which are currently being finalized provide an overview of the various funding opportunities at international to local level to practically undertake the adaptation measures.
- **gaps and barriers:**
  - There is no integration of climate change adaptation measures into the national budget;
  - No dedicated budget to specific climate change adaptation activities;
  - No financial strategy developed for adaptation to climate change;
  - No climate indicators incorporated into planning and budgeting framework;
  - No contingency budget in specific sectors for adaptation interventions.

## Financing climate change adaptation interventions

- To support climate change adaptation initiatives, both domestic financial resources as well as international ones are required.
- Domestic financing can be secured both from the state budget and from other financial mechanisms (special funds: *National Ecological Fund, National Fund for Regional Development* etc.).
- Foreign assistance and investments is envisaged to play the most important role in promoting climate change actions in all economic sectors and in catalysing the specific investments that will be needed to assure climate change adaptation in the Republic of Moldova.
- In this context, the international financial support is needed to implement in full extent the appropriate national and sectorial policies and strategies, or to resolve specific issues in the fields where the climate change impact is significant.



THANK  
YOU!

