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MINISTERUL MEDIULUI
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Moldova

20 March 2024

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SESSION 3. PROGRESS ON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

- Development, adoption and implementation of river basin management plans
- Water pollution – update on current progress and priorities
- Progress on water monitoring, water accounts & quantitative management
- Development of environmental open data
- Land cover mapping, waste, air quality and indicators for SOER reporting

Guiding policy questions:

- What progress has been made on River Basin Management Planning in Moldova?
- What are the priorities for operationalisation and implementation of plans?
- What further support is needed from national and international stakeholders?

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The Danube Prut and Black Sea **RBMP** was officially **adopted on 29 June 2022**.
The priority today is to **plan the implementation of the program of measures** in each sector and at local scale.

➤ **FOR WATER SANITATION AND SUPPLY (WSS)**

- A new tool was tested with the development of a WSS master plan for the Nirnova basin under EUWI+.
- Important investments for water supply have followed the master plan or are engaged. In 2023, an important step for the development of inter-municipal governance has been taken with the creation of an ADI (Intermunicipal Development Association) based on the new Moldovan legislation of Feb 2023.
- Under EU4Env a team of consultants was contracted to develop information package for the selection of an inter-municipal WSS operator to manage the water supply investments under viable economic conditions
 - + provide a technical input to implementation and costing of 3 priority investment for drinking water supply development
 - + upgrade the sub-basin master plan to better guide the efforts of the ADI

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➤ **FOR NITRATE DIRECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

- A code of good agricultural practices has been developed (EUWI+)
- Some information on nitrate concentration has been included in RBMPs, but vulnerable zone not yet defined.
- In order to support Moldova's obligation to implement the Nitrate Directive, a workshop was organised on 14 December 2023 (EU4ENV)
 - Based on the results of the workshop, a team of consultants has been contracted to develop a proposal for an action programme for Nitrate Directive implementation and cost the implication of options in order to facilitate decision making

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WATER MONITORING

- Extend monitoring **networks, frequency, parameters and interpretation** based on EUWI+ *Monitoring Development Plans*

➤ SURFACE WATER:

- July 2023: ecological survey in the northern Prut basin (20 sites) -> video
- October 2023: **Training** and study visit to Vienna
 - **Phytobenthos & Benthic Invertebrates** (sampling, lab treatment, and identification);
 - Meetings with Austrian Ministry, Vienna Waters & ICPDR

Outlook 2024:

- April/May: **Data interpretation training in Vienna** (chemical & biological data)
- May/June: proposed 2nd **survey** with EAM

➤ GROUNDWATER:

- Nov 2023: GW survey in the DPBS RBD (35 sites)
- Sep 2023: Training on the development of a tailored methodology for the assessment of GW quantity and quality status of GWBs
- Monitoring and assessment of **transboundary waters**:
 - Currently on hold due to war in UA and limited EAM capacities.



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WATER MONITORING - LABORATORY

- Aug 2023: **Regional training** in Tbilisi for WFD compliance with GC MS/MS equipment on ISO 28540 - determination of 16 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and ISO 6468. Determination of certain organochlorine insecticides in water together with GC experts from GE, AZ, AM and UA
- Oct 2023: 2 **Regional trainings** in Baku for WFD compliance with GC MS/MS equipment on EN ISO 10301 - Determination of highly volatile halogenated hydrocarbons (VOCs), EN ISO 20595 - determination of selected highly volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and EN ISO 18857-1 - determination of selected alkylphenols (OP, NP) in water together with GC experts from GE, AZ and UA
- Next: May 2024: 5th **regional training in Chisinau** for WFD compliance on
 - phthalates (DEHP)
- Participation in international **Proficiency Testing schemes** for: heavy metals, nutrients, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons



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ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS AND MOBILISING FINANCE

- ***Options, prerequisites and methodology for reforming the water tax in Moldova***
 - Review current water tax with view of supporting overall economic soundness of the water sector
 - Consider policy objectives of the tax and opportunities for reform
 - First step will be a questionnaire on objectives and priorities of water tax
 - Analysis of current water tax structure and performance
 - Recommendations on reform scenarios for consultation and development of methodology including pre-requisites
- ***Enabling environment survey and financing Nature Based Solutions***
 - Assess barriers to financing water
 - Analysis and linkages to OECD roundtable on financing

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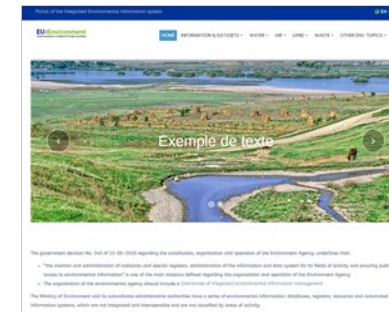
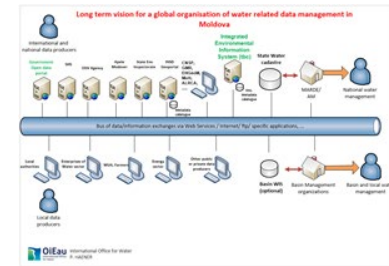


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DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL OPEN DATA IN MOLDOVA

- **Global aim to reinforce availability of relevant data for decision makers and citizens in line with roadmaps/action plan previously adopted (ENI SEIS project)**
- **Supporting the developing of integrated environmental information system as a single web access point for environmental information (in collaboration with the Environmental Agency)**
 - Supporting the development of concept note of the integrated environmental information system
 - Preparing prototype of entry point portal <https://www.oieau-wiss.org/md-ieis/>
- **Inventory of available datasets/ data sources**
 - Description of existing datasets and data sources (metadata) to be presented on the entry point portal : <https://www.oieau-wiss.org/md-ieis/stakeholders-and-datasets.html>
- **Reinforcing management and access to environmental datasets**
 - Contract launched for the development of databases/applications, including API allowing data interoperability/availability, on surface water quality data and on waste



List of informations and datasets in Moldova

Here after the list of datasets described in the metadata catalogue

# Services				
Type	Title Dataset/Resource	Preview	Link to Dataset/Resource	SDRM Name
Service	Water in water in Moldova		https://www.oieau-wiss.org/md-ieis/	Surface water monitoring Ground water

# Datasets				
Type	Title Dataset/Resource	Preview	Link to Dataset/Resource	SDRM Name
Dataset	Inventory of Ecological and Natural Resource State Database		https://www.oieau-wiss.org/md-ieis/	Monitoring Coastal waters Surface water Ground water
Dataset	Real Time River Discharge Surface water monitoring Database		https://www.oieau-wiss.org/md-ieis/	Monitoring

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DEVELOPING WATER ACCOUNTS

- **Water accounts is linking hydrological information alongside economic information in a consistent way**
- **Capacity building**
 - Completed: Introduction to Water Accounts (in April 2022) and Training on Physical Flow and Use table (in March 2023) were conducted.
- **institutional cooperation**
 - Follow-up coordination between statistical service and Apele Moldovei and key data providers on data sources and knowledge development is pending and subject of mission in April 2024.
- **Test filling of Physical Supply and Use Tables (PSUT)**
 - convert/convey data from the UNSD Joint Questionnaire to PSUT tables conducted by EU4WD experts; validation by Moldavian experts scheduled for mission in April 2024
 - Extend the temporal coverage by feeding additional PSUT with data from UNSD Joint Questionnaire for more years in June 2024
 - Identify gaps and work together for identifying where to find additional data and estimates to fill gaps in April 2024.
 - Explore how to use draft PSUT as a supporting tool for RBMP and other national policies - Summer 2024.



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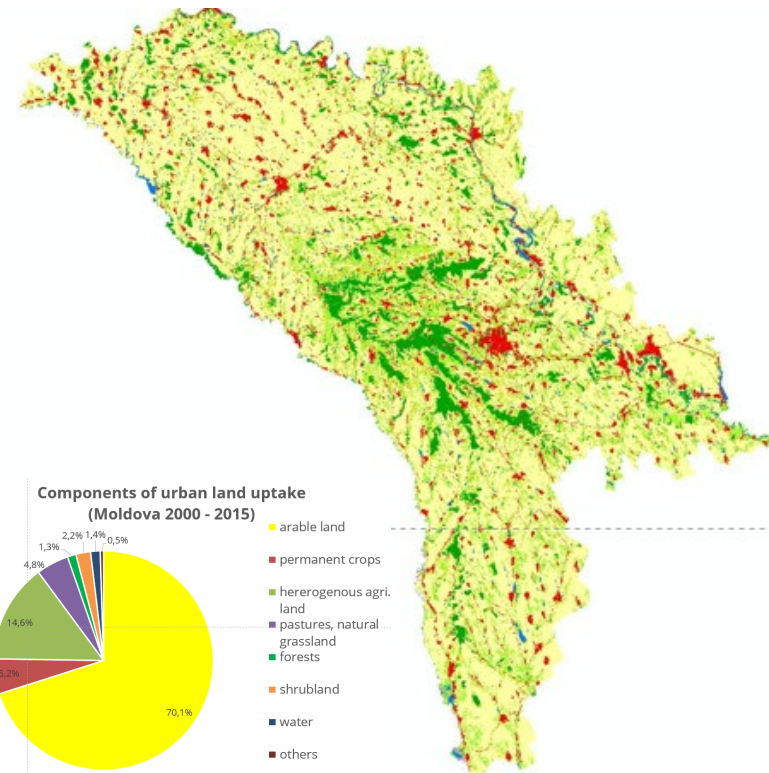


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CORINE LANDCOVER – WITH 100% COVERAGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- CLC Implementation by IngeoCad supported by Lechner
- assistance is provided in selection and download of imagery
- Finalization of CLC Moldova: March 2024



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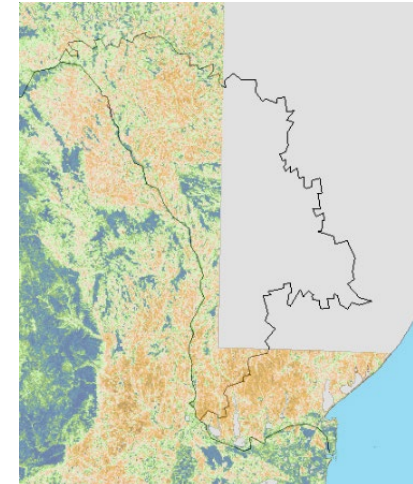
HIGH RESOLUTION VEGETATION PHENOLOGY AND PRODUCTIVITY

A **2-days workshop** took place in **December 2023** with the following objectives:

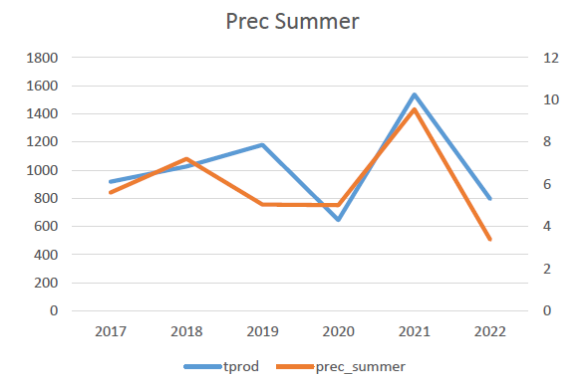
- Introduction to Earth Observation and the **Copernicus programme**
- Hands-on training on “**High-resolution monitoring of ecosystem dynamics using Copernicus datasets**”

In particular, the hands-on case studies focused on:

- Inter-annual changes of vegetation productivity in response to climate
- Monitoring the shrinkage of Lake Taraclia due to low precipitation
- Identification of deforestation and forest regrowth



Coverage of HR-VPP in Moldova



Response of vegetation to summer precipitation

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EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY & EIONET

MEMBER STATES & CO-OPERATING COUNTRIES

→ EU ACCESSION COUNTRY MOLDOVA TO JOIN THIS CONTINUOUS CO-OPERATION



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AMONG NEXT ACTION POINTS

- Develop/negotiate for prepared Eastern EU Accession and Partner Countries including Moldova a **co-operating countries programme** with the European Environment Agency at the model of the successful programme for Western Balkan countries < mid-term >
- Demonstrate co-operation readiness by a **pilot “country space” exercise** for the European State of the Environment Report (SoER) 2025 < now >
→ introductory workshop tomorrow afternoon
- Upgrade **Air quality monitoring** – managing/using data of first automated station(s) < now > , extending network of automated stations (co-operating with air quality focus twinning project – FI/SE/LT, and EU procurement programme), providing quality-assured data to citizens and the European Air Quality index < mid-term >

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SESSION 4. TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

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THE NISTRU

New address of the Dniester Commission website:

www.dniester-commission.org

The GEF project "Advancing transboundary co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) | GEF (thegef.org)" approved on 19 December 2023

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3rd reporting exercise on SDG 6.5.2.

Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Moldova submitted the report before the deadline (end of June 2023)

A regional EaP meeting on the lessons learned from the process and results of the reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2 took place in October 2023 (Geneva & online)

All reports will soon be available at UNECE website:

[Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention | UNECE](#)

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SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

- Good quality reports with new information every reporting rounds
- Data quality has improved during the 2nd reporting cycle: Moldova reported 7 aquifers in 2021 (only 4 in 2017), no 'new' waters reported in 2023

Country Name	Response 2017	Response 2020	Response 2023	Rivers and lakes component value (%)	Aquifers component value (%)	Overall SDG indicator 6.5.2 value (%)
Armenia	Yes	Yes	Yes*	11.3*	0*	10.15*
Azerbaijan	Yes (NaN)	Yes	Yes	27.75	3.86	21.73
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes*	0*	0*	0*
Republic of Moldova	Yes	Yes	Yes	100	100	100
Ukraine	Yes (NaN)	Yes	Yes	57.41	100	60.59



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Tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention

Ljubljana, Slovenia
23 - 25 October 2024

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Time for a new step towards closer international coordination for the management of the Prut basin?

Next steps to reinforce RBMP harmonisation and integration at Danube and EU scales:

1. Develop terms of reference for an **ICPDR prut working group in charge of working on the implementation of this new agreement**
2. Provide to ICPDR harmonised information on the Prut as for other important Danube sub-basin
3. Develop a roof report for a better overall vision of international water issues and increase cooperation and synergies on the ground
4. Increase ad hoc task group activities between practitioners to improve targeted transboundary management issues

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