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EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

DRAFT AGENDA

8th Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Moldova

Date:
20 March 2024

Venue:
Radisson Blu, 77 Mitropolit Varlaam str.
Chisinau, Moldova

Time:
09:00 – 18:00

Zoom connection:

<https://meetoe.cd1.zoom.us/j/94692241104?pwd=cDBpV0tKdk10NIJCRWlwQko5SXFXQT09>

Local Time	Item	Speaker
08:30-09:00 09:00-09:30	Registration and welcome coffee High-level Opening and welcome statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming statements High-level opening remarks Adoption of agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Petru Tataru, General State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova Mr. Adam Grodzicki, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section of EU Delegation to Moldova Mr. Alexander Zinke, EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
09:30-11:00	Thematic session 1: Progress with EU accession and water management High-level round-table policy discussion The high-level panel will include an exchange on progress with water policy reforms and upcoming priorities. The panel will look at policy ambition and targets aligned with the latest EU legislation and the investments required to achieve policy implementation. The discussion will build around key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What progress had Moldova made in EU Integration with regard to water since the last NPD? 	Moderator: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative from the Ministry of Environment (5 min) Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture (5 min) Representative from the Ministry of Infrastructure (5 min) Representative from the Ministry of Health (5 min)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which elements of the integration process have gone well and what challenges remain? • What areas of the integration process have particularly benefited from cross-ministerial cooperation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High-Level Advisor on the Green Transition (5 min)
11:00-11:30	Q&A and discussion. Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	<p>Thematic session 2: Discussion on reform of water law and normative acts and the operational implications</p> <p>The session is devoted to discussion of the progress on recent amendments to the water law, normative acts and institutional structures. The session will explore the progress to date and operational implications and priorities.</p> <p>A representative from the Ministry of Environment will share latest developments with amendments to the water law and normative acts and institutional reforms including with regard to water monitoring. Colleagues from agencies involved in implementation will respond to the presentation.</p> <p>The discussion will build around key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the key amendments to the water law and what are the practical day-to-day implications of the amendments? – How do these changes align with the EU integration process discussed in Session One? – What are the institutional and organizational reforms ongoing or planned to support this? – What are the current challenges for implementation? 	<p>Moderator: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative from the Ministry of Environment – Responses from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of Apele Moldovei (5 min) – Representative of the State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova (5 min) – Representative of Environmental Agency (5 min) – Open floor for interventions from NPD participants – Representative of ICPDR (online)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00–15:30	<p>Thematic session 3: Progress with River Basin Management Planning implementation and update on EU4Environment Programme</p> <p>The session will focus on implementation and include presentations and a dialogue with relevant basin management committees and projects and donors active on water, environment and climate issues impacting river basins in Moldova.</p> <p>The EU4Environment Water and Data Implementing Partners will provide an update on their activities with regard to programme implementation highlighting achievements in River Basin Management Planning, Economic Instruments, Mobilising Finance, Legislative</p>	<p>Moderator: Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova</p> <p>Keynote speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of Apele Moldovei (7 min) <p>Additional interventions 5 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of DPBS basin committee – Representative of the Dniester basin committee

	<p>developments, progress on Environmental Data and open data issues, including water accounts, environmental data, air quality, waste, land cover mapping and international co-operation</p> <p>The discussion will build around key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What progress has been made regarding River Basin Management Planning in Moldova? • What needs to be done next towards operationalisation and implementation of plans? • How are pressures related to climate and water scarcity incorporated in plans? • What further support is needed from the national and international stakeholders? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EU4Environment Water and Data: UBA, OiEau, UNECE, OECD (in total 15 min) – On an inventory of dams and dykes – Representative of SIDA – Representative of World Bank – Representative of UNDP – Representative of ADA – Representative of AFD
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-16:45	<p>Thematic session 4: Transboundary Water Management.</p> <p>The session will recognise the achievement of signature of the Prut Declaration with Ukraine and Romania and look ahead towards development of a terms of reference for implementation of the Declaration and will provide a brief overview on the developments in the Dniester River Basin Commission.</p> <p>The discussion will acknowledge the impact of such a declaration and the benefits for citizens and the environment and requirements for making the Prut Commission operational.</p> <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Representative from Ministry of Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of Ministry of Environment, Romania (online) – Representative of Ministry of Environment, Ukraine (online) – Representative of UNECE Water Convention – Representative of OiEau
16:45 – 17:15	<p>Session 5: Water and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the implementation of the National Programme on the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What priorities remain for national stakeholders? • Progress with wastewater-based COVID monitoring • Progress with access to water and sanitation services 	<p>Moderator: Ministry the Environment of the Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Representative of the Ministry of Environment – Representative of the National Agency for Public Health – Representative of UBA
17:15-17:30	<p>Session 6: Concluding session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting summary • Decisions and recommendations • Feedback questionnaire on the NPD and next steps • An introductory overview of workshops on 21 March 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment of Moldova • EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
17:30-19:30	Networking Cocktail	

Background

This is the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Moldova. This meeting marks further development of the reforms in the water sector: development of secondary legislation to the Water Law and of the Information System on Water (Water Cadastre). NPD facilitates policy discussions where stakeholders meet to advance water policy reforms. NPDs are driven by the demand from the host countries and are usually chaired by heads of respective government agencies. A variety of stakeholders participate in the meetings, such as ministries and government agencies and institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations, the business community, parliamentary bodies, academia. Participants typically include international organisations and EU Member States active in water policy reforms in each country. Under the EU-funded EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme, NPDs are supported in the five Eastern Partner countries.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- to provide and update on recent developments in the area of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and policy development;
- to provide an update on the implementation of the road map of 5 EU Water Directives in Moldova under the Moldova–European Union Association Agreement;
- to discuss progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment – Water and Data programme in Moldova and to receive feedback from the national stakeholders;
- to provide a platform for coordination of donor activities in the water sector in Moldova and to enhance the international cooperation with partner organisations;
- to strengthen dialogue between key water sector stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities for financing water security and system improvements in Moldova;
- to discuss remaining challenges in the area of IWRM and next steps

Participants

The meeting will gather over 40 participants from ministries, agencies, donors and international projects with an interest in water management in Moldova.

About EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

This programme aims at improving people's wellbeing in EU's Eastern Partner Countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme's activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens. It ensures continuity of the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes.

The programme is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The action is principally funded by the European Union, and co-funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 12,75 million (EUR 12 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.