



# IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE BLACK SEA THROUGH BETTER WASTE WATER TREATMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR IN MOLDOVA

## General Introduction to Three Reports on Project Tasks

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## **General Introduction to Three Reports on the Project**

### **“IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE BLACK SEA THROUGH BETTER WASTE WATER TREATMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR IN MOLDOVA”**

#### **1.1 Background**

The project “*IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE BLACK SEA THROUGH BETTER WASTE WATER TREATMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR IN MOLDOVA*” was co-sponsored by EC (DG ENV) and OECD/EAP Task Force. It was implemented in 2011-2012 by a consortium led by Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (Austria) in the framework of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), through a National Policy Dialogue on water policy in Moldova.

#### **1.2 Objectives, Specific Tasks and Outputs of the Project**

The ultimate objective of the project was to improve the water quality of the Black Sea basin, and health situation in Moldova and downstream through:

- strengthen Moldova’s capacity to adapt its water policies and infrastructures to climate change (CC), with a focus on water quality; and
- propose a business model which will make sanitation sustainable in rural areas, villages and small urban settlements in Moldova.

The project comprised the following three tasks

- Task 1: Assess the impact of climate change on water supply sources and WSS systems and identify possible adaptation measures.
- Task 2: Analyze selected adaptation measures and propose a feasible adaptation strategy.
- Task 3: Develop a viable business model for small towns and rural settlements in Moldova.

Key results of each task are presented in respective Task Reports: Other key outputs have been: three policy dialogue meetings, including a conference, and expert workshop – for details see a separate report on meetings.

#### **1.3 Role of the policy dialogue in the project implementation**

As was stated above, the project was implemented through the National Policy Dialogue on water policy in Moldova, under the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) umbrella. Since its launch in 2007, the EUWI NPD in Moldova has been facilitated by OECD/EAP Task Force and UNECE as strategic partners of the EUWI EECCA component.

All draft inputs, key findings and recommendations were discussed at respective National Policy Dialogue and expert meetings (notes from the meetings are presented in a separate document).

Between meetings, the dialogue with government official, local experts and local stakeholders continued. In particular, local mayors and experts, as well as some international experts participated in the following two events organised during the project Implementation:

- Expert workshop on April 26, 2012 in Chisinau, to discuss preliminary results of Task 3; and

- Meeting on the "reality check" of selected alternative business models, undertaken through discussions with various stakeholders as presented in Section 8 of Task 3 report.

In addition, project manager and task manager presented key results of Task 3 at the 1<sup>st</sup> National conference on Inter-Municipal cooperation in Moldova in June 2012.

#### **1.4 Immediate and expected outcomes**

Tasks 1-2 of the project facilitated the ongoing policy discussion of climate change adaptation issues in Moldova. It has led to suggestions to revise the section on climate change adaptation in the revised Moldova's WSS Sector Strategy (see Annex C to Task 2 Report), The recommended revision could help substantially improved the adaptation dimension of the revised strategy; recommended priority adaptation measures could be integrated into the mid-term Action plan on implementing the sectoral strategy.

The recommendations also provide an input to the development of a National Plan for Flood Protection (to be drafted with support from EIB *et al*) and a national plan for reducing risks of other natural hazards (e.g. droughts and landslides).

Sustainability of WSS operators (the key topic of Task 3) is especially a big challenge in small towns and rural areas. Moldova's and international experience confirms that failure to address this challenge can lead to inadequate technical choices, additional costs, poor quality of the services and, consequently reduced willingness-to-pay from users. This in turn results a rapid decay of the infrastructures, which will need to be rehabilitated or rebuilt. Evidence suggests that such failures negatively impact health indicators regarding the incidence of water-born diseases –the number of outbreaks and the number of people affected.

The failures also undermine effectiveness of the social and agriculture policies of the Government.

Thus, the project results (Task 3) facilitate the implementation of the aforesaid strategies. Other synergies between Task 3 and ongoing projects and activities in WSS in Moldova are as follows:

EBRD is implementing a project to foster regionalisation of water and sanitation operators in the cities and larger villages. The European Union is supporting this project by assisting institutional reforms to facilitate regionalisation of water utilities. The ERBD project covers six out of more than 40 cities and towns in Moldova (corresponding to 6 out of 42 existing municipal water utilities - Apa Canals), but does not include several hundred smaller villages and settlements.

Regionalisation of water utilities will not cover the whole territory and is not the only option. Alternative options have to be developed to cover the gap.

Sustainability of business models in the WSS sector is also in the focus of the revised Moldova's WSS Sector Strategy.

That is, Task 3 was complementary to both the EBRD project, and the EC-funded Technical Assistance component of the EC-funded Sector Policy Support Programme for the water sector in Moldova, especially to the following key objectives of the Water SPSP:

- institutional reform at central and local level; and
- WSS Sector Strategy updating and effective sector management.

The table below summarises some links and synergies with other water-related activities, projects and processes in Moldova, including those sponsored by the EC.

**Summary: cross-fertilisation and synergies with other activities, projects and processes**

Project Tasks	Facilitation of ...	Complementarily or Input to ...	Links or Synergies with ...
<b>... the following ongoing projects/activities and processes:</b>			
<b>Tasks 1- 2</b>	Ongoing policy discussions of climate change adaptation issues in Moldova	<b>NCCAS</b> , developed with support from <b>UNDP</b>	“ <b>Dniester III floods and climate project</b> ” sponsored by the <b>UNECE</b>
		<b>EC-funded TA Water SPSP</b> (section on adaptation in the revised Moldova’s WSS Sector Strategy)	
		<b>National Plan for Flood Protection</b> (to be drafted with support from EIB <i>et al</i> ) and a national plan for reducing risks of other natural hazards	
<b>Task 3</b>	<b>EC-funded Water SPSP</b>		
		<b>EBRD</b> project on regionalisation of water operating companies	
		<b>Regional development process:</b> pilot testing some recommended business models in the frame of the ongoing regional development project funded by GIZ	
	<b>Inter-communal cooperation in Moldova</b> (e.g. input to the 1 <sup>st</sup> National conference on Inter-Municipal Cooperation (IMC) in 2012)		