



## European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership Countries (EUWI+)

### REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

## 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Water

- 19 November 2020, virtual meeting, 09:00 – 12.00 CET

10.00-13.00 Local Time (MD)

### *Draft agenda*

#### **Objectives**

The meeting will focus on discussing recent progress in modernising national water policy, extending access to water supply and sanitation, as well as enhancing transboundary cooperation. As the EUWI+ programme will soon be completing its implementation, this National Policy Dialogue meeting offers an opportunity to address remaining tasks in conjunction with the priorities and activities of the country-specific work programme, as well as discuss next steps towards ensuring sustainability of results and reflect on further needs and priorities in the water sector beyond 2020.

#### **Proposed date, format and timing**

Thursday, 19 November, virtual meeting on ZOOM platform, 09:00-12:00 CET

**Working languages:** English and Romanian, with simultaneous interpretation

#### **Background**

The Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014 and is committed to harmonise its water legislation with the EU *water acquis*. EUWI+ supports Moldova in its journey towards sustainable water management including through technical, financial and capacity building support. The Republic of Moldova is aligning its water sector with the best international practices in order to attract further investments in the water sector, this includes approximation towards ground breaking EU methodologies such as the Water Framework Directive which are aimed at protecting people's health and the natural environment. Sharing its river basins with Romania, an EU-member state, and Ukraine, transboundary cooperation plays a key role. Over the past 4 years, EUWI+ has supported a combination of policy reform and capacity development at both the national and basin scale, with activities tailored to ensure sustainability of the results.

## Draft agenda

Time	Activity
<b>10.00-10.15</b>	<b>Opening statements (Facilitated by MARDE)</b>
15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statement by Ministry (State Secretary &amp; National Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE)) (5 mins)</li> <li>- Statement by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova (5 mins) (</li> <li>- Introduction by EUWI+: (UBA) (5 mins)</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1: 10.15-11.00</b>	<b>Modernising national water policy and governance (facilitated by MARDE and OECD)</b>
45'	<p><i>This session will examine recent progress in modernising national water policy and governance and discuss future priorities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU support to reform of water policies – recent achievements (ppt – <u>Victoria Gratiu (MARDE)</u> (10 mins)</li> <li>- Upgrading the water monitoring capacities for SW and GW bodies (ppt <u>UBA</u>) (10 mins)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion (25 minutes)</i></p>
<b>Session 2 11.00-11.40</b>	<b>RBMP Update: facilitating cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation (facilitated by MARDE and UNECE)</b>
40'	<p><i>This session will review the current status of transboundary cooperation, discuss the benefits of such cooperation for the riparians, based on concrete examples, and identify further steps to increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation on transboundary waters both in technical and political terms in the light of WFD, Water Convention and SDGs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EUWI+ scene setting presentation (5 mins UNECE)</li> <li>- AAM overview of transboundary progress (10 mins)</li> <li>- Danube-Prut &amp; Black Sea RBMP cycle II ready for adoption and Improved water data management and knowledge sharing (ppt <u>AAM &amp; IOW</u>) (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion (20 minutes)</i></p>
<b>Session 3 11.40-12.25</b>	<b>Domestic water supply and sanitation: adopting new plans and regulations and addressing the implementation challenge (facilitated by MARDE and OECD)</b>
45'	<p><i>This session will briefly overview new strategic and mid-term plans, and regulations adopted with support from European Union, and discuss the following policy questions:</i></p> <p><i>(i) how to facilitate implementation of the adopted plans at the national and basin levels?</i></p> <p><i>(ii) what complementary regulatory, institutional and financial support measure are required to facilitate the development of small-scale WSS systems in rural areas?</i></p> <p><i>iii) how the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the links between WSS and health and what are the lessons learned?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated National WSS Strategy and new mid-term action plan and work on new norms (ppt <u>MARDE &amp; Min Economy and Infrastructure</u>, 10 mins)</li> <li>- National Programme to implement the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health (ppt <u>MoH&amp;MARDE</u> 8 mins)</li> <li>- The Nirnova local case: how to customise WSS measures (ppt <u>President of Nisporeni or Hâncesti Rayon, IOW</u> 7 mins)</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion (20 minutes)</i></p>



<b>Session 4</b> <b>12:25-12:45</b>	<b>Exchange of experience with Development Partners (Facilitated by MARDE)</b>
20'	- Development partners and project representatives will be invited to provide updates on ongoing work in Moldova
<b>Session 5</b> <b>12.45-13.00</b>	<b>Next steps towards successful completion of EUWI+, outlook beyond 2021 and closing remarks (Facilitated by MARDE)</b>
15'	- Remarks by EUWI+ (UBA) - Remarks by EU DEL to the Republic of Moldova - Closing remarks by Ministry (MARDE)