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## PRESS RELEASE

The European Union supports a dialogue on RBMP development for better water management of the transboundary Prut river basin

An on-line international workshop organised in the frame of the European Union Water Initiative +

**Bucharest, Chisinau, Iasi, and Kyiv, 29 June 2021**, on the occasion of Danube Day, the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova), Romania and Ukraine, three countries sharing almost equally the Prut river (main tributary of the Danube delta), will present the progress made on river basin management plans and discuss harmonisation perspectives of their national plans at the scale of the Prut and the overall Danube basin.

River Basin Management Plans prepared at river basin scale in the 3 countries aim to support actions to protect water quality and ensure its availability in sufficient quantity for all uses on a river basin. On a transboundary river basin such as the Prut, international coordination is important to ensure synergies and share the benefits of the 3 RBMP's implementation.

Over the past 5 years, the EU Water Initiative Plus has supported Ukraine and Moldova in the development of EU Water Framework Directive-compliant plans in pilot river basins, contributing to the implementation of the EU-Moldova and EU-Ukraine Association agreements.

Today they join the efforts of Romania and the 19 Danube countries to prepare a plan for the next planning cycle 2022-2027. The meeting was the occasion to share and celebrate important progresses made in this matter.

Next step, in line with the article 13 of the European Water Framework Directive, is to push further towards the harmonisation of the respective national plans, by increasing technical exchanges and improving data and knowledge sharing. This will multiply benefits for the ecosystems and the populations.

### Quotes

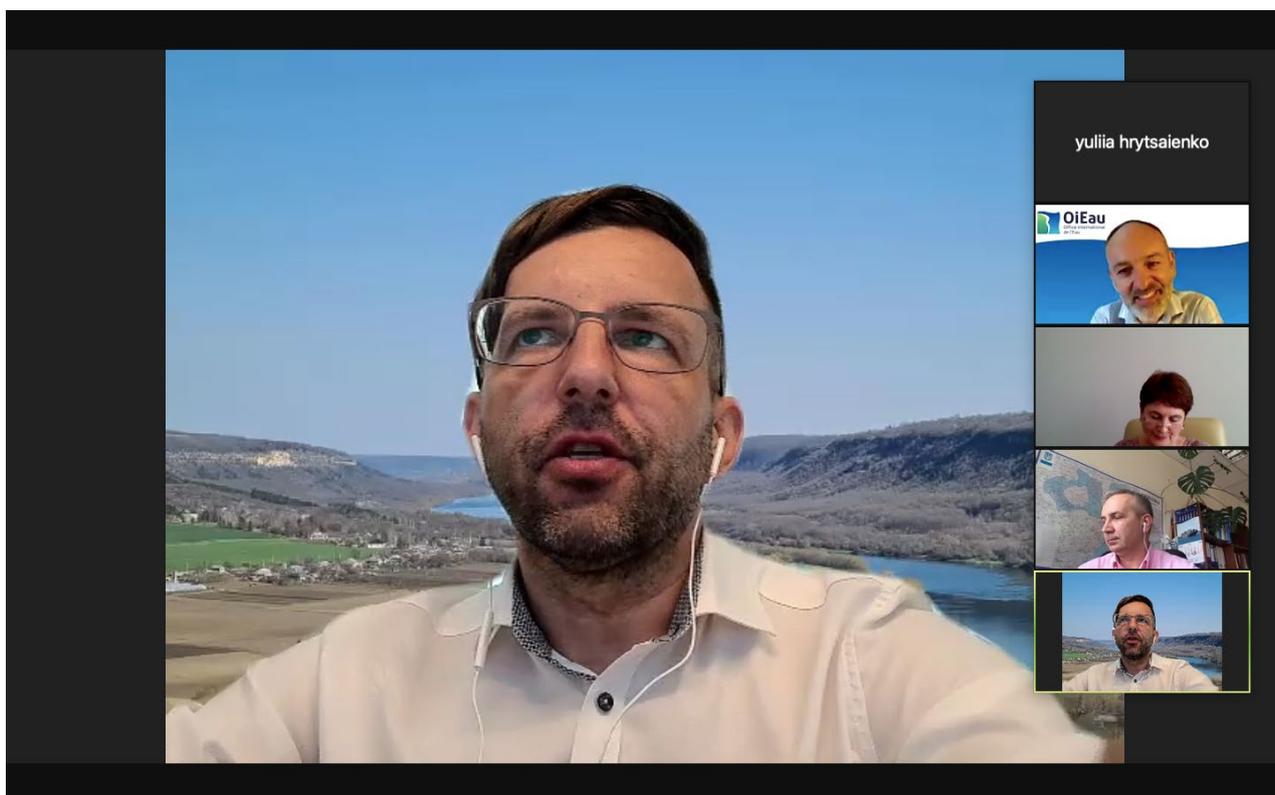
The ICPDR's 2021 President, **Momčilo Blagojević** of Montenegro, said at the occasion of the Danube Day: *"It has been an unusual time for the ICPDR and the citizens of the Danube River Basin, just like everywhere in the world. However, the strength of this international cooperation has bolstered the ability of our shared river basin to cope with unprecedented circumstances. It's a tribute to the ICPDR that during such a difficult time, we have been able to coordinate the process of drafting, revising, and consulting the public during the formulation of the all-important updates to our Danube River Basin Management Plan and Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. They will inform our activity until 2027, and the process has proven the ingenuity and flexibility of our dynamic institution."*

**Mr Gintas Baranauskas** deputy Head of Cooperation at EU Delegation in Moldova said: *"The coordination of actions among three countries and at the level of the Danube basin is a key element to achieve common environmental, social and health goals as well as to contribute to the*

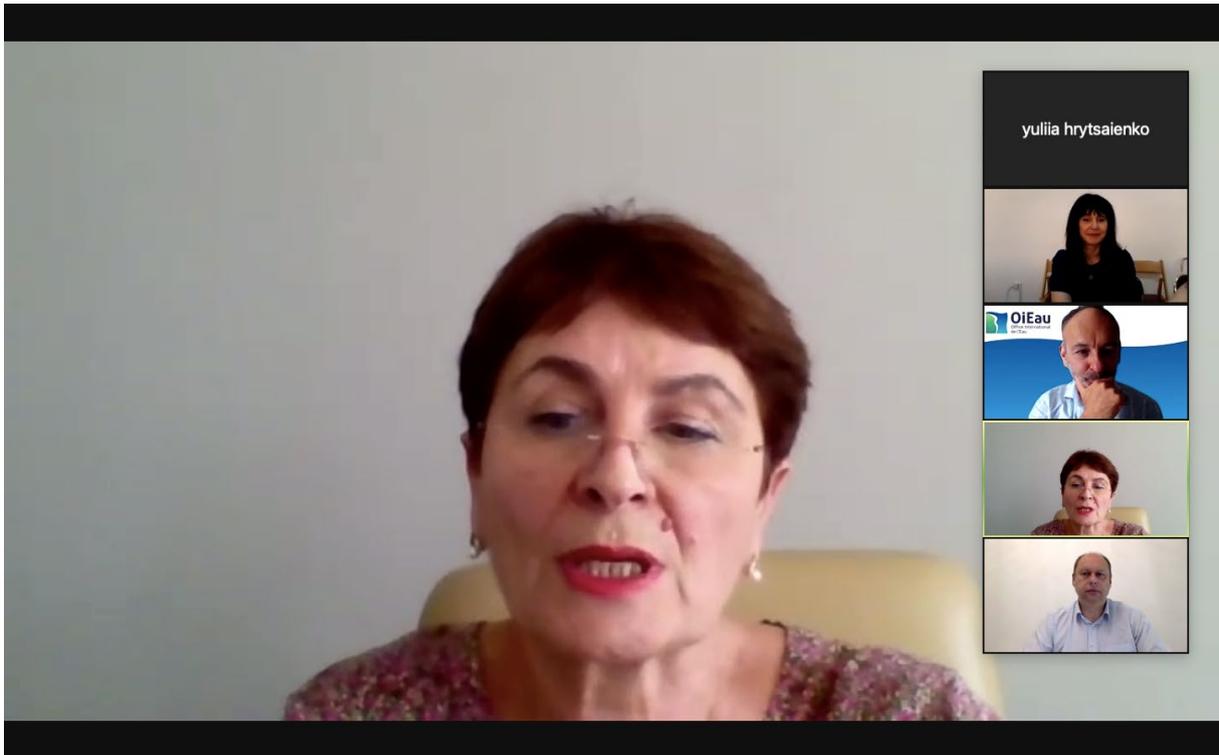
*achievement of the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals particularly in Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water. Taking into account that joint and coordinated actions are of the utmost importance in the effective water management, the synchronisation of RBMP 2022-2027 with other EU and Danube countries, in line with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive would be very welcomed.*

*I am glad that support of the European Union was instrumental to make this progress ongoing here in Moldova. Nevertheless, more attention and capacity building is needed in Moldova as well as progress on the ground.*

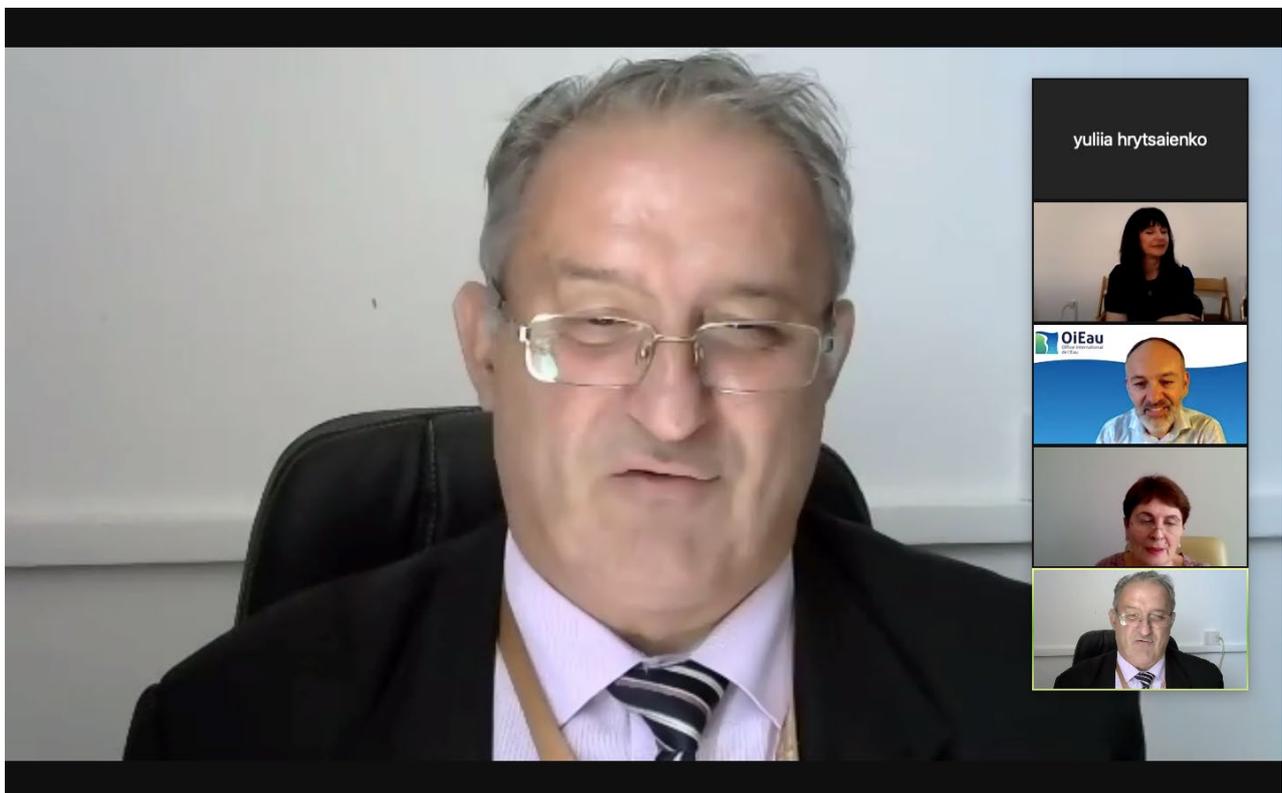
*I would like to encourage all stakeholders of this water management/IWRM cooperation process to focus on the effective implementation measures to the maximum serve to the interests of every citizen and environment of the region and with the EU support to bring tangible results for accession to safe, affordable water and sanitation together with efficient natural resource management, pollution prevention".*



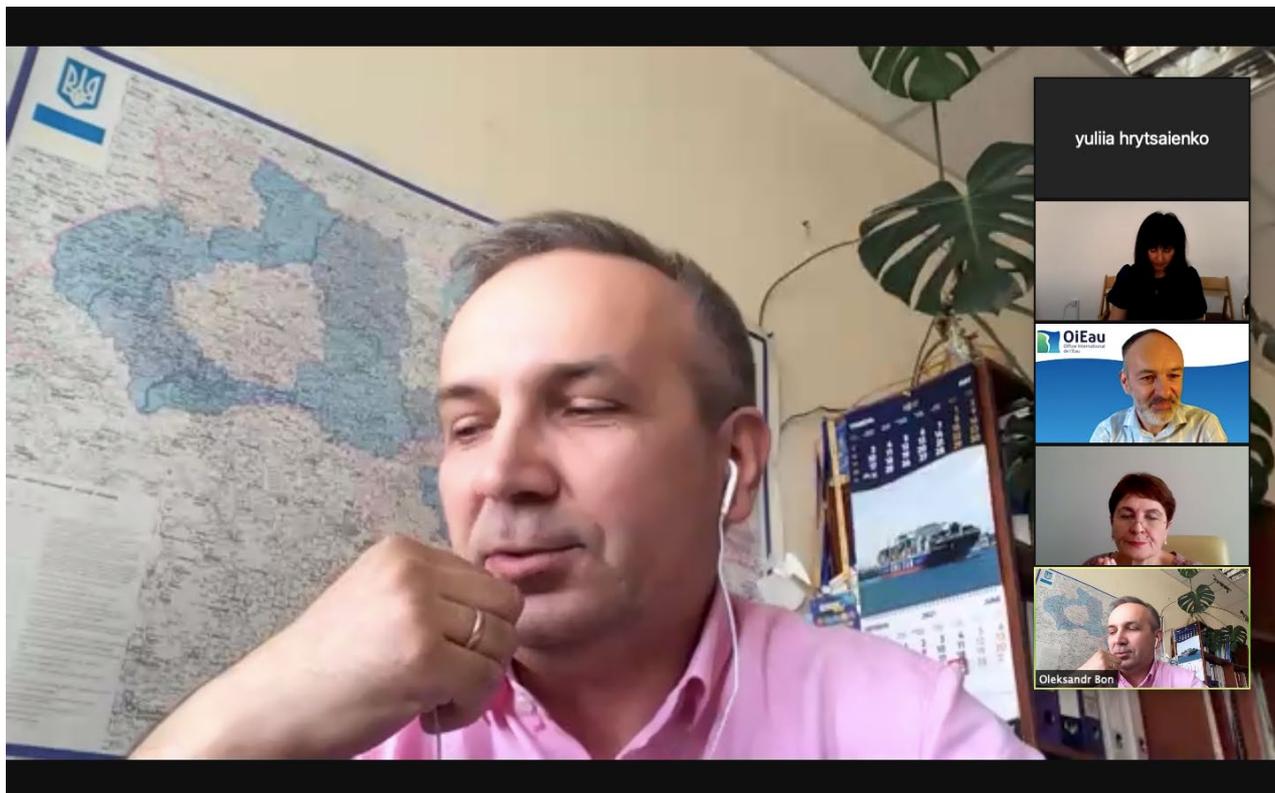
**Ms Valentina Tapis**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) in Moldova said: *“The river basin management plans prepared at the scale of the river basin in the 3 countries aim to support water quality protection actions and ensure its availability in sufficient quantity for all uses of a river basin. International coordination is important to ensure synergies and share the benefits of implementation.”*



**Mr Gheorghe Constantin**, representative from the Minister of Environment Water and Forest (MEWF) in Romania said: “The river basin management plan of the Prut is and will be a part of the Danube river basin management plan, which we are in the third round of development for the period December 2021 to December 2027. Therefore, the future RBMPs will be essential to increase the cooperation at the national, transboundary and also at the basin level as the water has no border. Romania as part of the EU team is happy to contribute to this important effort essential for the wellbeing of the whole basin citizens.”



**Mr Olexander Bon**, Director of Water Resource Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Ukraine said: "Ukraine has started to adopt integrated water resources principles. Under the EUWI+ project, we have developed the first part of the Dnipro RBMP. This first RBMP will become a success story for the development of other 8 RBMPs. We are happy to be a part of the Danube basin and have an opportunity to study the best practices and share our ideas. Currently, we are working actively on the Prut and Siret RBMPs with the support and deep involvement of Basin organisations."



## Background info

### Danube Day

Held annually, Danube Day celebrates the Danube and the rivers that flow into it, and the vital role they play in providing water, food, power, recreation, and livelihood. Over the course of 18 years, Danube Day has grown become the world's largest international river festival with events and activities from the Black Forest to the Black Sea.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River is an international organization consisting of contracting parties i.e. 14 states including Moldova, Romania and Ukraine and the European Union. This commission plays an important role in the events of the Danube Day. At the international level, events are coordinated by ICPDR from their Permanent Secretariat in Vienna. ICPDR member countries and partners also organize events at the national level, putting to use their local knowledge side-by-side with the international cooperation.

For Danube Day 2021 once again we are inviting more than eighty million people in the 14 Danube countries to celebrate the day, learn about the waters, experience the river, and #DiscoverDanube. As last year, Danube Day 2021 will mostly be celebrated with online events because of the pandemic, except for a limited number of in-person ceremonies and prize-givings.

This year, however, is special as Danube Day coincides with the ICPDR's Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, *Our Opinion – Our Danube*. The results from JDS4 – the Fourth Joint Danube Survey – the most comprehensive investigative surface water monitoring effort in the world, which takes place every 6 years, were also published just a few weeks ahead of the day. The JDS4 has included sampling in Moldova with the contribution of the Environment Agency of Moldova being supported by EUWI+, Romania and Ukraine.

To find out more about what Danube Day events are still running or are taking place online, please visit: [www.danubeday.org](http://www.danubeday.org) and [www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

### **Video material presented**

Introduction video-message: <https://we.tl/t-3M9tovvaRF>

The clip on 2 new Danube plans can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfsvLN\\_Ruo4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfsvLN_Ruo4)

### **EUWI+ project**

Launched in September 2016 for a duration of 4 years, the [European Union Water Initiative plus for the Eastern Partnership \(EUWI+\)](#) is one of the biggest policy dialogue and technical support commitments of the European Union to the water sector in the Eastern Partner countries. The programme supports the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to align their legislation with European Union policy on water management, with a focus on transboundary rivers. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EUR 23.5 million) and Austria and France (EUR 1.0 million). It is implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and an EU member states consortium comprising the Environment Agency Austria (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France).

**For more information and to access background documents discussed during the NPD, please visit: [euwipluseast.eu](http://euwipluseast.eu)**

### **Video material presented**

**Presentation of EUWI+ project (English version with Romanian and Ukrainian subtitles)**

RO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZFRoCH7ual>

UA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7TpCVp6B0U>

### **Recording of the webinar**

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/ASIKsFsw4veJUDwV1HZR0kwbOE2G-BVUkOWhMm6c2laFqpCT7IH0O08ABHgPNNbo.2WKnpR8l2zz1TOV?startTime=1624950188000>