Press Release following the 25th NPD meeting in Moldova

Chisinau, 12 April 2017

Action funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

Moldova is taking steps towards enhanced water resources management with support of the National Policy Dialogue

EUWI+ EU WATER INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Chisinau, 12 April, 2017, 08.00 local time:

The high-level multi-stakeholder meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on water took place on 11 April 2017 in Chisinau, Moldova.

Over 55 participants from key stakeholder organizations attended the meeting to discuss challenges that Moldova faces in harmonizing its water policy and practices with relevant EU directives, according to the Association Agreement signed in 2014 and entered into force in July 2016.

National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Water are the main operational instrument of the OECD and UNECE assisted water policy process in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

NPDs are under way in the following countries of the region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

The National Policy Dialogue (NPD) started in Moldova in 2006. More information on NPD on: www. oecd.org & www.unece.org

The National Policy Dialogue on water in Moldova focuses on four major topics: establishment of the legal framework for water management based on the EU Water Framework Directive principles; financial and economic dimensions of water management; implementation of national targets set under the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health; and transboundary cooperation on water.

The meeting was chaired by Igor Talmazan, deputy Minister of Environment, who stressed the vital role of the NPD process launched 11 years ago in ensuring proper coordination between national stakeholders and international projects for meeting the country's water policy objectives, including the commitments under the Association Agreement with the EU.

Based on the country priorities, representatives of UNECE, OECD, Austria and France presented draft 4-year Work Plan for implementing the "EU Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership" (EUWI+ East) up to 2020.The meeting discussed recent positive legal and institutional changes in the water sector, in particular the adoption of the National Programme to implement national targets on water and health under the Protocol which is expected to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the need for improving the economic regulatory system for Water Supply and Sanitation, the preparation of river basin management plans, their harmonisation in transboundary basins, permitting and controlling the different water uses. Draft conclusions and recommendations of the 25th NPD meeting are annexed.

The EUWI+ East project will provide support to the development of a long-term vision of water sector reforms. UNECE and OECD will assist Moldova in enhancing its water legislation, developing cooperation with neighbouring countries on transboundary rivers and implementing national water and health targets. The project will bring EU Member States experience in particular from Austria and France and know-how to support Moldova WFD compliant sector management.

European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership addresses existing challenges in both development and implementation of efficient management of water resources.

It specifically supports the EaP countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to move towards the approximation to EU acquis in the field of water management with a focus on the EU WFD and transboundary river basins management.