

A protocol of the meeting of the Working Group on Water Monitoring and Information Exchange

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
USE AND PROTECTION OF THE
DNIESTER RIVER BASIN

Third meeting

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova,
December 7 - 8, 2022

A protocol of the meeting

I. The meeting of the Working Group on Water Monitoring and Information Exchange (Working Group) was held on December 7 - 8, 2022 at the Summit conference hall Centry, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

Present: members of the Working Group on water monitoring and information exchange from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and other participants of the meeting (Annex 1).

II. The Working Group considered the following issues according to the agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting, introduction of the participants of the Working Group of the Parties and approval of the agenda.
2. Presentation of information on water monitoring in the transboundary Dniester river basin for the period 2020 – 2021.
3. Carrying out joint water sampling, presentation of the results.
4. Presentation and discussion of classifications for assessing the ecological status of surface water in the Dniester river basin.
5. Discussion, consideration and approval of the Regulation on cooperation in the field of monitoring and exchange of information in the Dniester river basin in a transboundary context.
6. Issue of informing the Moldovan Side about the change in the mode of daily releases of the Dniester HPP-2 with planned costs.
7. Presentation and approval of the Working Plan of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange for 2022-2023.
8. Discussion of proposals and issues required for consideration at a meeting of the Dniester Commission.
9. Coordination of issues for consideration at the Dniester Commission, discussion of other issues and summing up .
10. Final conclusions, recommendations and priorities for monitoring and information exchange before the next meeting.
11. Signing the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group.

III. The working group made the following decisions:

1. Opening of the meeting , introduction of the participants of the Parties and approval of the agenda.

The meeting was opened by Gavril Gylca, Director of the Agency of the Environmental Protection, chairman of the Moldovan Side of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange. There are was noted the financial contribution to the organization of the meeting of the Working Group by the national coordinator of the EU4 ENVIRONMENT project Andrei Ursachi. Gavril Gylca briefly told about the establishment of the Agency of the Environmental Protection and the General Directorate of the Ecological Reference Laboratory, which includes a water quality laboratory responsible for water quality monitoring.

Ukrainian Side was represented by Mariia Shpanchyk, Head of the Water Resources Provision Department of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, Head of the Ukrainian part of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange. Mariia Shpanchyk informed about the renewal of the composition of the Ukrainian part of the Working Group.

Gavril Gylca announced the Agenda of the meeting of the Working Group.

The Working Group discussed and approved the agenda of the meeting.

2. Presentation of information on monitoring in the transboundary Dniester basin for the period 2020 - 2021

2.1. The Working Group heard information from Olga Mikhni, Head of the Water Quality Laboratory (Republic of Moldova), about monitoring and exchanging information on water quality in the Moldovan part of the Dniester river basin in terms of hydrochemical and hydrobiological indicators.

Monitoring of surface waters in the Dniester basin is carried out on 34 water bodies for hydrochemical and hydrobiological indicators.

Hydromorphological indicators are not included in the monitoring program.

The surface water monitoring program is approved annually, and based on the monitoring results, it is reviewed every year, new points are excluded and included.

It is concluded that that the main approaches to the formation of national programs for both sides are the same.

The Parties focused on the need to monitor hydromorphological indicators, which are taken into account when assessing the ecological state.

2.2. Maria Zasadko, Head of the Laboratory for Water Monitoring of the Western Region (Ukraine) and Tatyana Kuznetsova, Head of the Laboratory of Hydrobiology, Central Geophysical Observatory named by Boris Sreznevsky (Ukraine) presented information on water quality monitoring in the Ukrainian part of the Dniester river basin: assessment of the chemical and ecological state.

Maria Zasadko informed about the increase in the number of monitoring points and the expansion of the capabilities of laboratories for the period 2020-2022.

6,6% of the surface water bodies of the Dniester basin are covered by monitoring. She informed about the process of forming a national monitoring program based on the obtained measurement results.

She provided information on pollutants found in the Dniester River basin, their concentrations do not exceed environmental quality standards.

She informed that hazardous chemicals are detected in water samples, which are prohibited for use in many countries.

Informed about the discovery of excesses of environmental quality standards at the monitoring point of the Dniester river, Beliaivka and Dniester river, Maiaky.

Tatyana Kuznetsova informed that diagnostic monitoring was carried out in 2020, and both diagnostic and operational monitoring were carried out in 2022. In total, 96 surface water bodies (SWM) were covered in the basin on 61 rivers and 4 reservoirs.

Hydrobiological monitoring is carried out on 4 biological quality elements: phytoplankton, microphytobenthos, macrozoobenthos, vascular plants.

She emphasized that at present there is no national classification for assessing the ecological state of water bodies in Ukraine .

Separately, certain invasive species are presented in the surveyed sites.

2.3. Listened to Olga Chiriac, Chief Specialist of the Department of Geology and Mineral Resources of the Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources (Republic of Moldova) with a presentation on monitoring and exchange of information regarding the quality and quantity of groundwater in the Moldovan part of the Dniester river basin.

She presented the legislative and regulatory acts regulating groundwater monitoring.

Informed about 9 identified water bodies in the Dniester river basin.

Presented a map of the monitoring network of wells, which consists of 172 observation wells.

At the moment, there are 109 wells in the Dniester river basin, of which 26 wells are in slightly disturbed and 83 are in disturbed regimes.

In an automated mode (sensors) observations are carried out at 33 wells, level, temperature and other parameters are measured.

According to the groundwater quality monitoring data for 2019-2021, groundwater quality indicators are mostly unchanged; an increase in ammonia, nitrites, nitrates and sulfates is recorded.

According to the monitoring data on the amount of groundwater, as of 01.01.2022, the volume of groundwater in the Dniester river basin in the Republic of Moldova is 3471.7 thousand m³ / day.

2.4. Natalia Pavlyuk, head of the complex geological and hydrogeological party of the OP "Lviv Geological and Exploration Expedition" of the State Enterprise «Zapadukrgeologiya» (Ukraine) made a presentation on monitoring the quality and quantity of groundwater in the Ukrainian part of the Dniester river basin.

Information on groundwater monitoring (quantitative and chemical) is provided.

2.5. Dinu Prepelitsa, Head of the Hydrology Department of the State Hydrometeorological Service (Republic of Moldova) informed about hydrological monitoring and information exchange in the Moldovan part of the Dniester river basin.

Hydrological observations are carried out at 21 hydrometeorological stations (4 classical, 6 automated, 11 mixed).

He informed that the exchange of hydrometeorological data is carried out between the hydrometeorological services of Ukraine and Moldova, including data of hydrological observations (levels, precipitation rates, natural phenomena), regime hydrological information, data of automatic posts.

He informed about plans to expand the network of hydrological monitoring of surface waters in the Dniester basin.

2.6. Victoria Kornienko, Deputy Head of the Department of Hydrological Forecasts - Head of the Sector for Forecasting the Hydrological Regime of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center (Ukraine) informed about hydrological monitoring and information exchange in the Ukrainian part of the Dniester river basin.

She presented a description of the hydrological regime in the Dniester river basin in 2020 - 2022, including the Dniester reservoir.

She emphasized that in the autumn period of 2022 the water content was 17% of the norm, which is below the low water criterion (below 20%). The inflow to the Dniester reservoir was 5.5 cubic km (average 9.5 cubic km).

Informed about the maximum discharges from the Dniester reservoir in November 2022 because of the massive missile attack by the Russian Federation to the critical infrastructure of Ukraine.

The Working Group took note of the information provided.

The Parties agreed on the need to exchange information on allocated groundwater bodies in the Dniester river basin.

3. Carrying out joint water sampling, presentation of the results.

The Working Group heard information from Olga Mikhni, Head of the Water Quality Laboratory (Republic of Moldova) and Oleg Medvedev, Leading Engineer of the Lower Danube Water Facilities Service of the Black Sea Center for Water Resources and Soils of the Black Sea and Lower Danube Rivers Basin Administration (Ukraine).

Olga Mikhni informed that joint water tests are carried out quarterly. The data are transmitted to the Black Sea and Lower Danube Rivers Basin Administration and the Prut and Siret Rivers Basin Administration. Data exchange at border monitoring points is carried out through the Agency "Apele Moldovei" for further information of the Ukrainian Side. In 2022 all water sampling was carried out according to the schedule.

Oleg Medvedev presented the data of joint water sampling for 2022. According to the working plan for 2022, four joint water samplings were carried out on the Dniester river in the neutral zone "Palanka- Maiaky". During each selection, ballots were exchanged with the results of the previous selection, current issues related to the

selections and the results obtained were resolved. Water quality control was carried out according to 5 physical and chemical (temperature, smell, color, suspended solids, pH) and 22 hydrochemical indicators. During the reporting period, there was an increase in the content of chemical oxygen consumption (COC), Surfactants and partially sulfates indicators. Introduced a new laboratory for monitoring the waters of the Southern region.

The Working Group took note of the information.

4. Presentation and discussion of classifications for assessing the ecological condition of waters in the transboundary Dniester river basin.

Oleksii Iaroshevych, EU4Environment: Water Resources and Data project expert, presented type-specific classifications for establishing the ecological status of surface water bodies.

Informed about the legislative requirements for the development of classifications.

The presented classifications include biological quality elements: benthic spineless, phytoplankton, phytobenthos, macrophytes, specific (synthetic and non-synthetic), physicochemical and hydromorphological indicators.

The classification was developed taking into account the experience of the typology of neighboring EU countries (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland), screening data in the basins of the Dniester, Tisza, Danube (ICPDR), Don, Dniro, national monitoring data (biology, chemistry, hydromorphology) and European experience.

The Working Group decided, after the approval of the classifications, to conduct training on the use of type-specific classifications for specialists from Ukraine and Moldova on the basis of the Center for Improving the Classification of Water Workers of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

The Working Group agreed to include in the work plan for the next year an assessment of the ecological status of waters using classification tables at the transboundary points of the Dniester river basin (or one of them) based on the available monitoring data of the Parties.

5. Discussion, consideration and approval of the Regulation on cooperation in the field of monitoring and exchange of information for the Dniester basin in a transboundary context.

We listened to the information of Gavril Gilka and Maria Shpanchyk.

Maria Shpanchyk presented the draft Regulations for cooperation on monitoring and information exchange in the Dniester river basin.

The Working Group agreed that the Parties will submit their proposals for the draft Regulations by the end of 2022.

The working group decided to coordinate the draft Regulations online before the meeting of the Dniester Commission.

The Moldovan side will submit to the Ukrainian side the form of the protocol of biological measurements.

6. Issue of informing the Moldovan Side about the change in the mode of daily releases of the Dniester HPP-2 with planned costs.

Dinu Prepelitsa informed about high discharges from the Dniester HPP-2 on 24.11.2022.

Gavril Gilca informed about the experience of the emergency early warning system of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

The Working Group agreed on the need for prompt informing by the Ukrainian Part of the State Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Moldova about a sharp increase in water discharges from the Dniester HPP-2.

The Working Group decided to inform the Co-Chairs of the Dniester Commission about the problem of timely information.

7. Presentation and approval of the Working Plan of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange for 2022-2023.

The Working Group considered and discussed proposals for the work plan of the Working Group for 2022-2023.

The Working Group agreed on the draft plan of the Working Group and decided submit it for approval by the Commission (Annex 2).

The chairmen of the Working Group signed the Plan of the Working Group on monitoring and exchange of information for 2022-2023.

8. Discussion of proposals and issues required for consideration at a meeting of the Dniester Commission.

The Working Group agreed to submit for approval the draft Regulations for cooperation on monitoring and information exchange in the Dniester river basin.

9. Final conclusions, recommendations and priorities in the field of monitoring and information exchange until the next meeting.

The Working Group agreed to hold the next meeting online or offline, depending on the situation, but no later than one year later.

The Working Group decided, if necessary, to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss urgent issues.

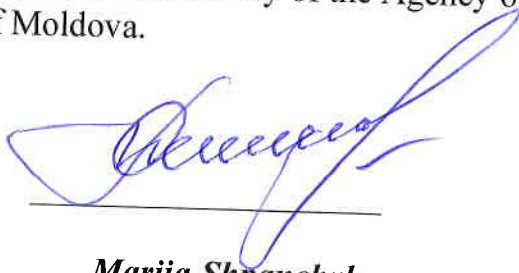
The Working Group agreed on the need for working visits of experts from the laboratories of the Parties.

The Working Group focused on the need to integrate the water policy and legislation of the countries in the context of acquiring the status of candidate countries for membership in the European Union.

10. Signing of the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group.

The Chairmen of the Working Group signed the minutes of the meeting.

Within the framework of the meeting, the Working Group visited the Ecological Reference Laboratory of the Agency of the Environmental Protection of the Republic of Moldova.



Mariia Shpanchyk
*Co-Chair of the Working Group,
State Agency of Water Resources of
Ukraine*



Gayril Gilca
*Co-Chair of the Working Group,
Environmental Agency of the
Republic of Moldova*

List of participants

SHPANCHYK Mariia	Head of the Department of Water Resources Provision of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, Chairman of the Ukrainian part of the Working Group
SYNYTSIA Olena	Chief Specialist of the Department of Water Monitoring and Administration of the Water Cadastre of the Department of Water Resources Provision of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, member of the Working Group
VODOLASKOVA Inna	Deputy Head - Head of the Hydrometeorological Observation System Sector of the Observation System and Hydrometeorological Support Department of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center, member of the Working Group
KORNIENKO Victoria	Deputy Head of the Department of Hydrological Forecasts - Head of the Sector for Forecasting the Hydrological Regime of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center, member of the Working Group
ZASIDKO Maria	Deputy Head of the Department of Hydrological Forecasts - Head of the Sector for Forecasting the Hydrological Regime of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center, member of the Working Group
KUZNETSOVA Tatiana	Head of the laboratory of hydrobiology of the Central Geophysical Observatory named by Boris Sreznevsky, member of the Working Group
MEDVEDEV Oleg	Leading Engineer of the Lower Danube Water Facilities Service of the Black Sea Center for Water Resources and Soils of the Black Sea and Lower Danube Rivers Basin Administration, member of the Working Group
LYSYUK Olga	Deputy Director of the Center for Advanced Training of Water Workers of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, member of the Working Group
MANTUROVA	Candidate of Biological Sciences, Senior Researcher of

Oksana	the Department of Ichthyology and Hydrobiology of River Systems of the Institute of Hydrobiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, member of the Working Group
PAVLYUK Natalia	Head of the integrated geological and hydrogeological party of the OP "Lviv Geological and Exploration Expedition" SE "Zakhidukrgeologia", a member of the Working Group
IAROSHVYCH Oleksii	Water management expert, representative of Blue Rivers Environmental Consulting, member of the Working Group
GYLKA Gavril	Director of the Agency of the Environmental Protection, Chairman of the Moldovan part of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange
LUNGU Marina	Head of the General Directorate of the Ecological Reference Laboratory of the Agency of the Environmental Protection
MIKHNI Olga	Head of Water Quality Laboratory, Agency of the Environmental Protection
ZGYRKU Natalia	Hydrobiologist Engineer, Agency of the Environmental Protection
LUKI YANOVA Victoria	Hydrobiologist Engineer, Agency of the Environmental Protection
LUTAN Vitaly	Head of Operational Service for Environmental Investigations
KOZARI Lydia	Engineer , Water Quality Laboratory , Agency of the Environmental Protection
GILAN Ina	Engineer , Water Quality Laboratory , Agency of the Environmental Protection
URSAKI Andrew	EU4 ENVIRONMENT National Project Coordinator

**Working Plan of the Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange
of the Commission on Sustainable Use and Protection
of the Dniester River Basin for 2022-2023**

№	Name of the work	Timeline	Responsible executor
1.	Preparing a report on the working group's activities for the Commission meeting	Before the Commission meeting	Members of the Working Group
2.	Approval and submission for approval by the Commission of the Regulation of Cooperation in Monitoring and Exchange of Information in the Dniester river basin	Before the Commission meeting	Members of the Working Group
3.	Monitoring of water quality and surface water conditions in the Dniester river basin	During the year	Members of the Working Group
4.	Exchange of information on the state of water resources	During the year	Members of the Working Group
5.	Agreeing on joint sampling and measurements	During the year	Members of the Working Group
6.	Mutual information/participation in the activities of the basin council (Ukraine) and the Dniester basin district committee (Moldova)	During the year	Members of the Working Group
7.	Holding a meeting of the Working Group	During the year, as agreed between the Parties	Members of the Working Group
8.	Assessment of the ecological condition of surface waters in the Dniester river basin by means of classification tables.	Until the next meeting	Members of the Working Group



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