

*Proposals to improve public participation in  
river basin organisations in Moldova*

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# Reasons to involve public into decision making

- Formation of attitude of local authorities and population on IWRM principles and their role in basin approach realisation;
- Raising of a role of local communities in formation of o water resources and of water catchment;
- Support of understanding by different governmental agencies of their role in realisation of water policy to reach the integrity of decisions which are adopting on national and regional levels;
- The willingness to find solutions in the sphere of water policy, wide support of populataion, first of all, of NGOs;
- Realization of pilot projects and creation of a positive examples-models to replication in analogical conditions;
- Public awareness of pozitive experiences in relation to sub-basins and in general to basin.

# Attractiveness of public participation

- Public participation supports adoption of more sustainable decisions, and their legitimization.
- Follow the procedures of public participation avoid necessity to pay for overcoming of a negative consequences in future.
- NGOs and public are free from departmental approach and usually is ready to follow the ecosystem and basin approaches. It is pre-determined that participating will more follow public benefit interests, than different agencies concentrated on their departmental interests.

# Project OSCE/UN ECE for Dniester as example of public participation in decision making

- 2004 – 2007. Scope – to elaborate a common vision of MD and UA on the current status of Dniester River basin and priority measures to be taken. Drafting of Transboundary agreement. NGOs very active participated in drafting, discussion and pre-working. They did over 150 amendments. Necessity of NGOs involvement became evident.



**UNECE**

UNECE Environment  
and Human Settlement Division

**OSCE**

Office of the Coordinator of OSCE  
Economic and Environmental Activities

**OSCE/UNECE Project:  
Transboundary Cooperation and  
Sustainable Management of the Dniester River**

**TRANSBOUNDARY  
DIAGNOSTIC STUDY  
FOR THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN**

November 2005

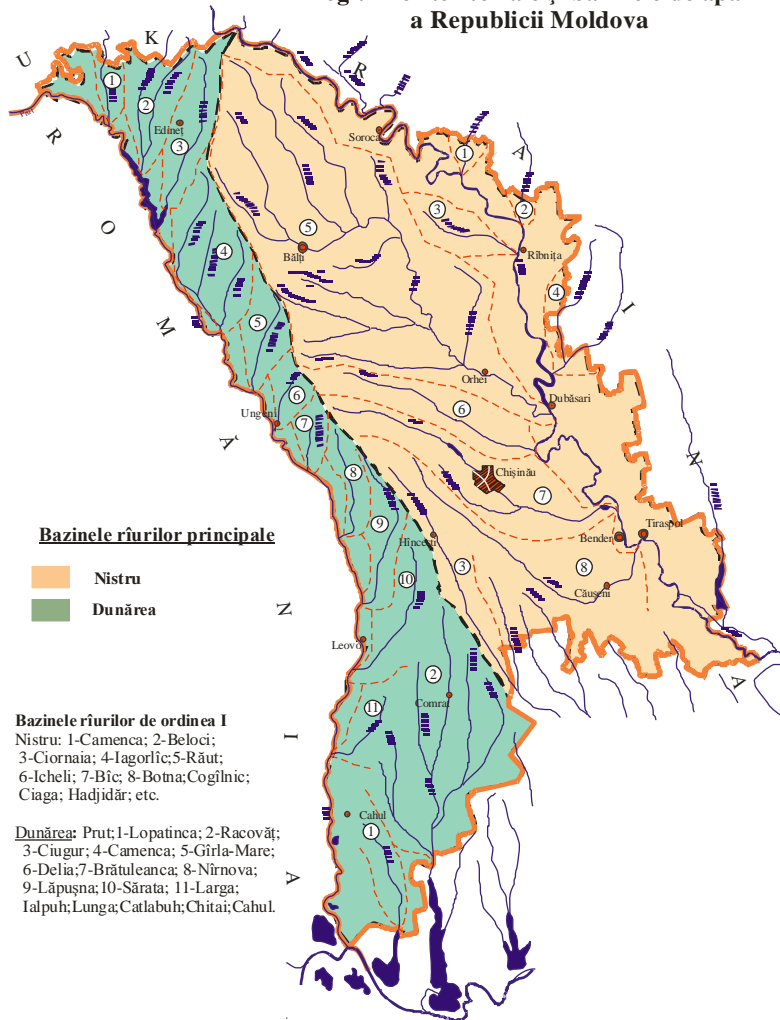


# Role of National Water Policy Dialogue

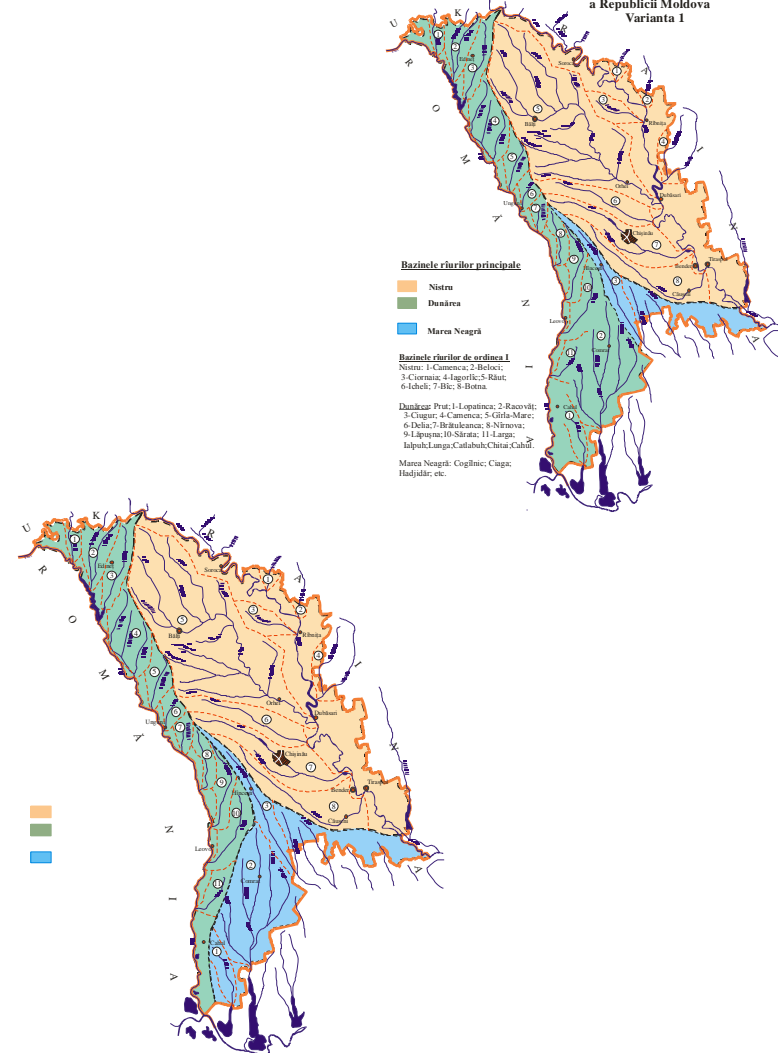
- Attraction of stakeholders
- Concentration on IWRM
- Invitation to do water policy a nat priority
- Attention to public involvement
- Strengthening of attention on financial and institutional aspects

# Territorial-basin regions of Moldova

Schema  
regiunilor teritoriale și bazinele de apă  
a Republicii Moldova



Schema  
regiunilor teritoriale și bazinele de apă  
a Republicii Moldova  
Varianta 1



# Specificity of NGOs presence in basin committees

- In accordance with the Moldavian draft of the Strategy of Water Policy and the draft of Water Law, environmental NGOs should be presented in river basin committees.
- Water basins of Moldova have specific features in accordance with which should be constructed the involvement of public in decision making process.
- First of all, both basins – Dniester and Prut/Danube have transboundary nature, and decision making should be realised together with Ukraine (the best – in frames of joint body – River Commission).
- In current draft of Transboundary Dniester River Basin Agreement of Moldova and Ukraine is stipulated that environmental NGOs there could be observers in frame of the River Commission. Currently it is about 100 ECOs in Dniester basin, occupying with its protection. They are united in two networks: one of them transboundary – Eco-TIRAS (over 50) and another – Dniester Group of Ukrainian Rivers Network (about 30)
- In case of Prut and Danube already exists the Danube ECO-Forum, which represents NGOs of the Danube basin. But Danube Convention does not provide the NGO membership in the river Commission.

# Why governmental WGs decided to give NGOs the places in the Commission?

- NGOs played a very constructive role during Dniester River negotiations, proposing a lot of documents and even being leaders of some working groups
- NGOs helped to draft the regulation on stakeholders involvement into decision making process to overcome current monopoly of one state agency
- NGOs helped to manage the sanitary epidemiological working group and start its practical activities (more information will be provided at Water & Health Seminar)
- NGOs proposed to initiate activity of the Biodiversity Issue Group in frames of current cooperation MD-UA



# Levels of Public Participation

- Transboundary river basin
- National on the level on the Territorial Basin Department
- Sub-basin on the level of tributaries

# Objectives of public participation on sub-basin level

- Restoration of land and landscape management efficiency should include the raising of effectiveness of Dniester and Prut sub-basins management.
- It is evident that this activity should be a part of Local Agenda 21 for the regions and be realized together with measures on creation of the National Ecological Network.
- These measures should be coordinated between ministries of local public administration, MoE, Ministry of Agriculture and local authorities.
- In this case NGOs could be initiators and agencies on development of sub-basins management plans, their implementation with attraction of National and Local ecological funds and external support.

# Participation on transboundary level

- *Public participation should be formalised by adoption of inter-governmental agreements for both river basins with preferable observers' status for NGOs.*
- To exclude discrimination, it looks as necessary creation for every basin of the river basin forum where will be presented NGOs, academics, specialists, water users, regional and local authorities, state agencies which are not presented on the Commission level.
- Having in mind that for the Danube River basin such structures are already exist, as well as important status of the Prut River for all three riverane states, it looks as necessary the special three-side agreement for Prut river basin like it is done for Sava and Tisza, with involvement of 2-3 NGOs from each side.

## During National Water Policy Dialogue it was discussed and proposed possible forms of participation in basin structures

- Each basin council includes three representatives of ECO-NGOs in spheres: IWRM (1-2) & WSS (1-2). All NGO representatives have a status of observer. These representatives should be proposed by their NGOs and approved by the state agency which proposes the whole composition of the Basin. For the rest of NGOs it is proposed a mechanism of consultation by using website of the river commission. Beside NGOs the non-gov stakeholders should be presented by business, water users, as well as academics. For Dniester it is established website [www.dniester.org](http://www.dniester.org) managing by UA and MD water agencies and open to all stakeholders

# Thank you for attention!

Eco-TIRAS International Environmental  
Association of [Dniester] River Keepers

[www.eco-tiras.org](http://www.eco-tiras.org)