During Q1, EUWI+ supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment in developing the Moldovan Code of Good Agricultural Practice and working towards its integration into the national regulation. This shows the cross-sectoral approach of EUWI+, with water use in agriculture a key challenge for its sustainable management. Work on economic instruments for water resources management and water infrastructure continued, and on 31 March, a draft final report was delivered. On 25 March, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the appointment of Maxim Popov as State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment. He will be responsible for Environmental Protection. The nomination of a new key national focal point for the project is pending. The final draft revisions of the National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health until 2025 were prepared. The consultation meeting to discuss the revisions will be postponed to Q2 due to COVID-19.

In February, the EAM laboratory participated in a proficiency test for determination of metals and nutrient elements in water. A needs assessment and procurement of consumables for the analytical methods trainings commenced to allow successful delivery of trainings on site. During Q1, a local QM expert prepared key elements of the quality management documentation for EAM laboratory re-accreditation.

A mission by the surface water team found that the monitoring capacities at EAM, like in 2019, are still insufficient, both in terms of staff, with key team members having left, and operational budget for standard and WFD-compliant sampling and analyses. The monitoring survey report of the groundwater survey in 2019 was finalised. A final draft of the proposal of an upgrade of the groundwater monitoring network was submitted.

The preparation of the public consultation for the Danube Prut Black Sea river basin is ongoing.
Look ahead to Q2

Work to **finalise the WFD compliant draft of the second cycle of the Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBMP** for 2021-2027 is an important priority for the quarter and is planned for completion by the end of April. This critical work will complete the planning efforts in all 19 Danube countries and facilitate further harmonisation. May and June will be dedicated to consultation with basin committee members through electronic means. This is a replacement for a consultation session initially planned for 26 March. An online information campaign will be designed for the wider public.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, planned surface water surveys have been postponed, however, preparation will continue regarding site selection, logistics and contracting to ensure a continuation as soon as the situation allows. It might be necessary to find alternatives to transboundary activities, such as sub-regional workshops and transboundary fieldwork. In Q2, suppliers will deliver required equipment of biological monitoring of surface waters. Preparations for introducing investigative monitoring and groundwater monitoring have also commenced.

Work on **monitoring documents** (RBMP monitoring chapter, thematic summaries, monitoring development plans and ecological status classification system) continues as planned and is expected to be finalised by the end of Q2. EUWI+ will continue to support the Agency’s laboratory through trainings on quality management (re-accreditation) and on new equipment.

Work will be intensified on the development of a **WSS master plan** in the Nîrnova sub-basin. A consultation of the mayors of the 30 municipalities organised in a pilot inter-municipality association is planned. The study shall give substance to the inter-municipality association created as a first experience of reinforced governance for water services improvement in rural areas where project development skills are too weak at individual municipality scale to allow sound project implementation.

The technical work on the **code of good practice** development will be concluded and adoption of zoning for its implementation in line with the nitrate directive supported.

A tender for acquisition of a data server for Apele Moldove may be launched once the Letter of Agreement is signed.

Work will be done to support **integration and visualisation of AGRM/Geofond ground water data management**.

Terms of references for the development of water body and river passports are targeted as a first step towards “**e-RBMP**” allowing enhanced visualisation of the content of the plan and risks to the basin.

The **Stakeholder Consultation Meeting to discuss the revision of the National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health** until 2025, postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to take place by the end of Q2.