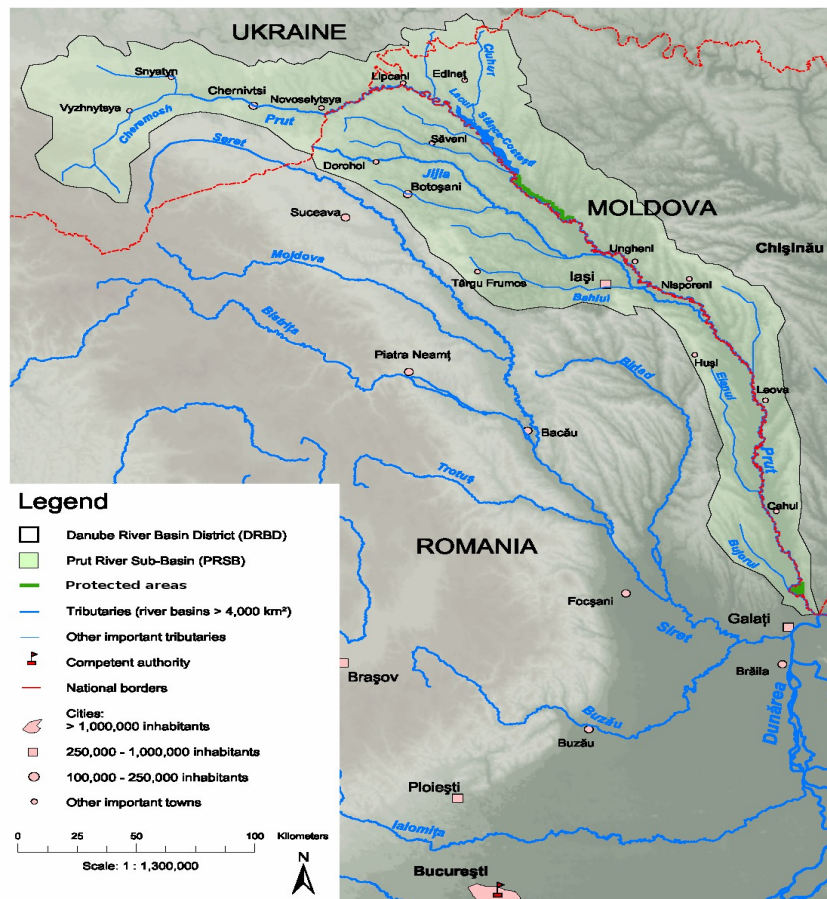


# PRUT RIVER BASIN. OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRUT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Drumea Dumitru, Regional Center for Strategic Environmental Studies "ECOS", Republic of Moldova,  
e-mail: [drumead25@yahoo.com](mailto:drumead25@yahoo.com)

Prut river is last significant tributary of the Danube before the Danube Delta and Danube confluence with the Black Sea. Management Plan for the Prut river presents an integrated part of the Danube river basin and implementation of the In spite of Moldova is a non-EU country, there is a very strong political and public commitment to implement provisions of the integrated water resources management based on the provisions of the EU WFD, which should be developed in cooperation with neighboring countries - Romania and Ukraine for the whole Prut river cathment (fig. 1).

**Prut River Basin Map**  
Sub-basin of the Danube River Basin District



Development and implementation of the program of measures demands a strong cooperation in common efforts from different level of local authorities. These efforts

should be realized through a certain framework, which will be the base for such cooperation. For identification of such framework a number of consultation meetings and national water dialogs with local authorities were organized in the Prut river basin during 2005-2006. On the base of the discussions with local authorities during these events next issues were identified as priorities for strengthening of institutional capacities for enforcement of regional cooperation:

1. Harmonization of institutional, legislative and normative practices for improvement of the water management and planning of new common projects in the Prut river basin
2. Cooperation of local authorities with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders and institutions including financial ones, involved in different domains of water management for implementation of provisions of regional plans for social and economic development
3. Large involvement of public institutions and NGOs in preparing of the Integrated river basin management plan for the Prut river basin and Program of measures for its implementation during years 2009-2015

For the achieving of the institutional, legislative and normative aspects for the development of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan next measures have been proposed by different level of local authorities during consultation meetings:

- Coordination in implementation of program of measures for the Prut river basin among local authorities including sectoral ones with special emphasis on national and regional programs like “Rural tourism”, “Drinking water supply” etc through performing of national water dialogs on regional level with large involvement of NGO community.
- Efficient involvement of local authorities in implementation of the provisions of Integrated River Management Plan as a tool for application of the WFD in Prut river basin and cooperation with the river basin council.
- Rising of the capacities of local authorities in efficient use of financial, human and other resources accumulated in the region with development of relevant training programs based on EU experience in this domain with further fund rising for development of the water related activities (drinking water supply network, waste water treatment, etc) in the Prut river region
- Harmonization of local development plans (infrastructure, economical development, social; aspects, etc) with provisions of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan, including of the technical projects in the Program of Measures
- Cooperation of local with central authorities in the development of legislative acts, standards etc for development of water management
- Clear sharing of responsibilities among sectoral local authorities in the field of water management
- Attraction of local business community in the development of the water networks (drinking water supply, waste water treatment, sanitation of settlements, etc) with economical estimations and research in the field of economical studies of different aspects of water use and management.

- Development of the local political infrastructure for extension of water services in different domains of economy and social life
- Assuring of gender equity in planning and implementation process for development of the system of water management

European Union Water Framework Directive presumes creation of the River Basin Councils. Local authorities proposed next issues in order to assure effective cooperation between local authorities and basin councils.

- Identification of main functions of local authorities, which could contribute to the activities of the river basin councils and development of the reciprocal (local authorities and river basin councils) information exchange system, which will also be available for general public
- Involvement of local authorities and experts in the implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan on relevant territory, organizing of annual conferences of local authorities, experts, NGOs with the Basin Council. Civil society and NGO community will be involved in this process through organizing of local public hearings, regional water dialogs, NGO conferences. Relevant public institutions will be selected by NGO community during such events as public representatives on Basin Councils and will be involved in decision making process on all stages of implementation of the program of measures.
- Logistical and transparency assurance of Basin Councils activities in the region
- Cooperation in development of the nature protected zones network and control on the implementation of the legislation on protected areas
- Facilitation of the development of local conventions for cooperation between local authorities, NOG communities and river basin councils
- Active involvement of local authorities and experts in elaboration of programs for implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management Plans and identification of opportunities for possible co-financing of the implementation of certain activities from local budgets
- Development of the alarm emergency system and involvement in the development of the ad-hoc measures. Launching of the working groups near local authorities for supporting of Basin Councils activities.

Regional local authorities outlined necessity in preparatory work for development of the Integrated Prut River Basin management plan and preparing of main tasks and responsibilities for the activities of the river basin councils, which have to be developed in cooperation with central, local authorities and NGOs (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine). The process of implementation of the Program of Measures needs development of recommendations, elaboration of agreed tools, mechanisms, creation of relevant institutional structure in all Prut river basin countries and as it was recognized these issues should also be presented in the plans for actions of future Prut river basin council.

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