## o|s|c|e

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

# INBO – MENBO – ERP Session "WATER TRIBUNE"

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OSCE Activities in Water Management

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# OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Water Management

- Enhancing co-operation between the OSCE, the UNECE and other relevant international organizations on water management related matters
- Encouraging participating States to strengthen dialogue on co-operation on water management within the OSCE
- Encouraging participating States to consider the ratification and support the full implementation of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management

## Water

- ☐ Unsustainable water uses pose a potential threats to security
- Water management offers opportunities for building confidence and fostering greater co-operation

## OSCE Water Management Projects

#### **Chu and Talas Rivers**

Kyrgyzstan – Kazakhstan

#### **Dniestr River**

Ukraine – Moldova

#### **Kura Araks River Basin**

 Geordia – Armenia – Azerbaijan

#### Sava River

 Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro

#### **Partners**

**UNESCAP** 

UNECE

REC

NATO

**UNITAR** 

## www.dniestr.org









Action Programme
to Improve Transboundary
Cooperation
and Sustainable Management
of the Dniester River

#### The Dniester

Length - 1329 km:
Starts in Ukraine
Flows through Moldova (225 km)
Reaches Ukraine again near the
Black Sea

Population – ca 8 mln people: Ukraine – over 5 mln Moldova – 2,74 mln



#### Issues

- Water pollution (e.g. agriculture, industry, sewage)
- Water abstraction
- Gravel abstraction
- Illegal construction of houses in the LowerDniester wetlands





## Legal and institutional framework

■ A Bilateral Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the Joint Use and Conservation of Transboundary Waters (1994)

Meeting of Plenipotentiaries is a cooperative mechanism

#### The OSCE/UNECE Dniester projects

Dniester I (2005)

Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management of the Dniester River

**Dniester II** (August 2006 – December 2007)

Action Programme to improve transboundary cooperation and sustainable management of the Dniester River basin

Dniester III (May 2008 – May 2010)

Support to the implementation of the Action Programme

#### **Dniester I**

## Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River

- **2005**
- Principal results:
  - Transboundary Diagnostic Study
  - The Protocol of Intentions
- Identified issues:
  - Narrow scope of cooperation
  - A limited participation of institutions other than the Water Management Committees of Moldova and Ukraine
  - Limited public participation
  - A restricted access to and exchange of information between the countries

#### **Dniester II**

Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River

■ August 2006 – December 2007

### Results of the Dniester II

- Action Programme to improve transboundary cooperation and sustainable management of the Dniester River in 2007-2010 (approved)
- 2. Regulation on stakeholders participation (approved)
- Regulation on cooperation on the sanitary-epidemiological control (draft)
- 4. Regulation on the joint Dniester website (<u>www.dniester.org</u>) (approved)
- Agreement on the cooperation in conservation and sustainable development of the Dniester River basin (draft)
- 6. Annex to the Dniester Agreement on public participation (draft)
- 7. A project proposal on development of the transboundary information system for the Dniester River basin (launched)

#### **Dniester III**

Support to the implementation of the Action Programme

- May 2008 May 2010
- Objectives:
  - To sign the new Dniester River basin Agreement
  - To facilitate cooperation of the sanitary-epidemiological services
  - To promote integration of the biodiversity concerns into water management
  - To facilitate basin-wide exchange of information by establishing of a pilot transbountary information system
  - To raise awareness of water and environmental issues among the broad audience

## Participants (UA & MD)

- Water Management agencies
- MoE
- MFA
- NGOs
- Sanitary-epidemiological services and MoH
- Research institutes
- (Fisheries agencies)
- + OSCE, UNECE, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

## Challenges

- Changes of the government (=> change of officials and reforms of the institutions)
- Weak / inappropriate enforcement of legislation on information and lack of cooperation on biodiversity issues

## Opportunities

- Strong commitment of the project participants and political will of the governmental officials
- Willingness to participate and involve the Transdniestrian authorities
- Active involvement of NGOs
- Existing national expertise and appropriate legislation
- Capacity built up by the project "Dniester I"
- International expertise and political mandate

# The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

www.envsec.org











