



National Environmental Center

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Activity Report
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Promoting sound water resources management in the South of Moldova

The project “Promoting sound water resources management in the South of Moldova” is funded by the Coordination Office for Technical Cooperation of the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau

The absence of water resources management is a huge problem for the Republic of Moldova. During the last 20 years surface were affected a lot of excessive pollution. Moreover, rivers and ground waters slowly disappear, fact which proves that Moldova faces a big problem – the absence of water resources management. The image of Moldovan rivers is damaged a lot because of a variety of problems which affect water quality – problem caused by the lack of a proper sanitation system in the country.



The situation of water resources is even more critical in the South of the country. If the northern Moldova faces the problem of excessive pollution, then the southern part faces both, excessive pollution and dry climate conditions, which together cause the insufficiency of surface and ground waters. In addition, there are villages in the South of the country which do not have any surface or ground water resources and the population is forced to bring water for drinking from some villages and to store it in special recipients.

This project was designed to promote the term of integrated water resource management. This term includes evaluation, planning and taking decisions in a participatory manner and establishing mechanisms for water protection, preventing pollution and degradation of aquatic ecosystems as well as water supply with surface water for the settlements which use water from Prut River, as well as ground water supply for those who use artesian wells.

The main goal of the project was to improve the notion of environmental education and to promote the concept of sound water resources management, which will provide qualitative water and proper sanitation conditions in the basins of Tigheci and Larga streams in the future.

The main components of the project included the following activities:

Development of the report on environmental state of Tigheci and Larga streams

The reports on environmental state of Tigheci and Larga streams were developed by NEC during 2014 and these are available at www.environment.md. The reports were developed in collaboration with local authorities and competent bodies in the basins of these streams (Larga stream - 11 localities and Tigheci stream - 15 localities). The documents were consulted with the population in the region. Besides the problems and pollution sources for each locality, the report also gives solutions to improve the situation and these refer mainly to water supply and sanitation.



Creation and functioning of Tigheci and Larga streams Councils

During the implementation of the project, NEC provided support in the process of setting up Tigheci and Larga streams Councils. These bodies are formed of representatives of local public authorities, competent authorities at the local level, civil society, water users, and private sector.



Tigheci and Larga streams Councils are functioning now and have developed action plans for the future period, while NEC is providing assistance when needed.

Biological monitoring activities in the basins of Tigheci and Larga streams

In 2014 NEC organized a series of biological monitoring activities with all the schools located in the basins of Tigheci and Larga streams. More than 1500 students of secondary and high school age participated within biological monitoring activities of the streams. They witnessed how the water changes from spring till the confluence with Prut river due to a series of pollution sources.



Cleanup campaign of Tigheci and Larga streams basins

The National Environmental Center organised a cleaning campaign in Tigheci and Larga streams basins on the 26th of September 2014. All the Mayors of the towns and villages received equipment for cleanup activities (gloves and plastic bags). The Mayors involved students in the cleanup activities. Almost 1000



students got involved in the cleaning campaign. Plastic bags with waste were collected by the specialized services of the communities and transported to the waste sites.



Flash-mob to protect Tigheci and Larga streams in Cantemir

On the 8th of October 2014, a flash-mob was organised with the participation of students from Cantemir town (mostly from “D.Cantemir” High School) in front of the Cantemir District Council building. The flash-mob gathered around 100 students which promoted the idea of Tigheci and Larga streams protection. It was organised at the end of the meeting on the creation of the Tigheci Sub-basin Council.



Creation of Tigheci Sub-Basin Council and Larga Sub-Basin Council

In order to create the Tigheci and Larga Sub-basin Councils, CNM developed a Regulation of operation for these two Councils and consulted with the local public authorities and competent authorities at the local level (District Councils, Ecological Inspections of Cantemir and Leova districts and Centers of Public Health of Cantemir and Leova districts) on the membership of the Councils.



Meetings on the creation of the Councils were held on the 8th and 9th of October 2014.



The Tigheci Sub-basin Council was created on the 8th of October 2014 in Cantemir town in the premises of the Cantemir District Council. The Chair of the Council was chosen the

mayor of Cantemir town, Mr. Roman Ciubaciuc, taking into consideration that Cantemir town is the biggest settlement on Tigheci stream and the pressure from waste waters discharged without treatment directly into the river is big. The Mayor informed the members of the Council that a contract was signed with the Austrian Development Agency to build the waste water treatment plant during the next years. ADA helped the town with the water supply system previously. The Technical Secretariat of the Council was chosen an NGO Piretus from Leova town, Leova district (chair of the NGO – Mrs. Viorica Antonovici), Leova district, taking into



account that a winery from that village affects the water quality in the stream. So, it was decided to organise the next meeting in Tigheci village.

The meeting on the creation of Larga Sub-basin Council was organised on the 9th of October 2014 in Cirpesti village (Cantemir district). As a result of the meeting the members of the Council

were chosen as well as the Regulation of the Council's operation was voted and the Chair and the Technical Secretariat of the Council were selected. The Chair of the Council is the Mayor of Cirpești village, Mr. Ion Bizu, and the Technical Secretariat of the Council is the NGO from Cirpești village (Chair of the NGO – Mrs. Maria Gavril). It was decided to organize the next meeting of the Council in Tartaul village where the winery is discharging the organic waste directly into the river, causing severe pollution.

For both Councils created it was decided that the National Environmental Center will participate at least in the first two meetings of the Councils during the next year in order to assure the sustainability of the Councils' operation and taking into account the experience that the Center is a Technical Secretariat of the Bic Basin Council during almost the 3 years of its existence.

Second edition of Bic river festival

In order to strengthen a joint vision of all the people in the basin of Bic river and involve them in environmental activities, the National Environmental Center in cooperation with the district councils Calarasi, Straseni, Ialoveni and Anenii Noi organized the second edition of Bic river Festival **"Love your river!"** in Straseni district at the Ethno-Cultural Complex "VATRA", (which is the second district crossed by the river) on the 21st of September 2014. The event hosted about 1,500 guests.



The festival lasted one day and presented the cultural folk traditions and customs from the Bic river basin, as well as the environmental achievements obtained by the

communities located in this region. Moreover, the festival aimed to inform the guests with the ecological situation of the river basin, raise the awareness and involve the population in protecting the river by participating in cleanup and planting campaigns, declaring cases of pollution to ecological inspections, pressing the authorities to prevent river pollution from illegal discharges of sewage waters directly into the river. During the festival about 400 amateur and professional artists perform on the stage, providing the cultural and artistic side of the event.

Moldova votes for European integration and environmental improvement

The project "Moldova votes for European integration and environmental improvement!" was financed by the National Endowment for Democracy

The project intends to inform the youth of Moldova especially in the North and South of the country on the benefits of European integration in the field of environment and hereby determine the youth of Moldova vote for pro-Western political parties during the Parliamentary elections of 2014 which plead for European integration. One of the main objective of the project will be to bring necessary information to the



youth of the North and the South of the country so they would understand that integration of Moldova in EU will give real opportunities of raising environmental standards in our country and

achieve real environmental improvement, strengthen the rule of law, fight against corruption and improve the quality of life.

The main components of the project were the following:

Flash-mob to protect rivers in Comrat

On the 31st of October 2014, the National Environmental Center organized a new flash mob to protect rivers in Comrat town, Gagauzia.

This public action gathered about 300 young people who study in university institutions in Comrat and aimed to raise awareness about the state authorities and rivers of Moldova.



Youth Festival “Love your river!” in Balti

On the 25th of October 2014, the theatre "Vasile Alecsandri" from Balti municipality hosted the Youth Festival "*Love your river!*" which was organized by CNM for the northern part of the country. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the national network of young environmentalists who fight against pollution and want to improve the environmental situation in our country. The festival brought together about 350 young future leaders in the field of environmental protection. The event was attended by youth who were enrolled in the contest "Love Your River", which was divided into 3 categories (Video, Photo and Entertainment). On the stage, 22 works within the "Entertainment" category were presented and the evaluation board awarded the best 3 works.



At the same time the festival included also a flash mob. Thus, all the participants, guided by a team of professional dancers showed the story of Moldovan rivers, then for 10 minutes danced inviting the population to reflect on the situation of our rivers and the benefits that water provides to maintain life on earth. At the end of event, the participants were entertained with an impressive show, performed by the famous young singer in Moldova - Dara, who was the special guests of the event.

Youth Festival “Love your river!” in Cahul

On the 1st of November 2014, the Palace of Culture from Cahul town hosted the



Youth Festival "*Love your river!*" for the southern part of the country. The Festival brought together about 250 young future leaders in the field of environment. The event was similarly organized as in Balti municipality, including the flash mob and stage performance for “Entertainment” category and the award ceremony for “Photo” and “Video” categories.



Love your river youth campaign

The project was financed by the US Embassy in Chisinau

The 'Love your river!' was launched by the National Environmental Bic River Basin in 2013 and involved, especially more young Bic River Basin in public actions in order to attract the attention of policy makers on the state of the river Bic degrading and training public opinion vis-a-vis this issue. Thus on March 24, 2013 was organized first Youth Forum Bic River Basin with the participation of 400 people from 27 April 2013 - Bic River sanitation campaign with the participation of 1,000 people, to May 29, 2013 - flash- Square ecological mob of mun. Chisinau with the participation of 200 people, on July 7 to 14 - 25 youth ecological expedition on the river Bic, and in September 2013 - flashmob caravan sites in the river basin district centers Bic (Calarasi, Straseni, Noi, Ialoveni and Chisinau).

The main components of the project were the following:

National Youth Festival „Love your river”- 2014

If the campaign "Love your river!" 2013 was in the basin of Bic river only and involving young people from the basin of Bic river in public actions for forming the public opinion concerning the problems of Bic river, then in 2014 the campaign has been extended at national scale.

Thus the National Youth Campaign "Love Your River!" started with the National Youth Festival on May 10, 2014 in Chisinau and was organized by the



National Environment Centre with the financial support of the American Embassy in Chisinau and co-funded by the American Foundation EcoCatalyst Foundation .



The Youth Festival gathered about 400 young people, future leaders in the field of environmental protection throughout the country who participated also at the grand final of the national competition "Love your river!"

announced in April 2014 by NEC.

The purpose of the event was to identify young leaders in the field of environmental protection and form a national network of young environmentalists "Love your river!" who are advocating for the protection of rivers in our country.

The competition was divided into two categories - Video and Entertainment being oriented to students from secondary schools of Moldova with the purpose to address interactively and creatively pollution issues faced by Moldova rivers. CNM distributed ads about the competition and festival through the Education Departments of each district of the country, ensuring that each institution will be informed and will have the chance to participate.

There was organized a flash mob with the slogan "Love Your River!" during the festival, where all participants joined a dance, guided by a professional team, danced



for 10 minutes inviting thus to reflect on the situation of rivers in Moldova and the benefits that provide water to maintain life on earth.

At the end of the event, representatives of the network "Love your river!" drafted and read the Resolution read of the National Network which was later sent to the Parliament of Moldova, Prime Minister and Minister of Environment, requesting their involvement in solving the problems of Moldova rivers.



Summer camp "Love your river!"

The summer camp with the slogan "Love your river!" gathered 25 youngsters across the country, ready to face new challenges in the field of rivers' protection. The camp lasted a week (29 -06 July 2014)

The camp was mobile and every day the participants have to move to another place. Thus the participants spent the nights in tents on banks of Bic river, Raut river and Tigheci river. This way, they had the possibility to get directly familiarized with the problems of the rivers. Also, the young people had a series of useful trainings for citizenship and leadership



development of the network "Love your river" and had the opportunity to interact directly with decision makers in the country.



The participants travelled in different places of the country (Calarasi, Straseni Iargara, Cantemir, Orhei) interacting with environmental inspectors, mayors, journalists, activists and other stakeholders to address the problems of rivers.

This event was organized within the project youth campaign "Love Your River", implemented by the National Environment with the support of the US Embassy and co-funded by the American Foundation "EcoCatalyst" Foundation.

Youth Network "Love your river!"



The national youth Network "Love your river!" has at the moment about 400 young people which participated in a number of civic activities organized in 2012-2014 in different informing and awareness campaigns on issues which affect and destroy the rivers of Moldova, such as: first expedition on Bic river, First Youth Forum in the basin of Bic river,

youth Festival "Love your river", a series of flash mobs and a number of clean-up campaigns in Moldova, and numerous water quality monitoring activities on rivers. Though recently established, the youth network "love your river!" grows with quick steps and becomes stronger throughout the country fighting against the pollution of our rivers.



Thus in the beginning of 2014 the network was formed the Youth Bic River Basin Council which is a form of empowering young people to ensure their participation in decision-making processes at the basin level, organize activities for young people and with young people's participation on environmental issues.

The youth network had some meetings with the decision makers were discussed about their plans and ideas in improving the situation of Moldova rivers. Thus on July 18, 2014 about 30 people from the network, went to the Parliament and distribute T-shirts with the message "Love your river!" to all 101 deputies. Thus, by means of this action, young environmentalists asked to take under parliamentary control and use protection issues in Moldova rivers.

The youth network "Love your river!" visited also the Ministry of Environment on 22 July 2014 where they had a meeting with Mrs. Minister. During the visit, they discussed issues related to the state of rivers in Moldova and problems which affect them

In order to strengthen the network "Love your river!" NEC has provided and developed an online tool that will serve as a platform for communication, information and exchange of experience for all young environmentalists from Moldova. It can be accessed on www.loveyourriver.md

