

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

August 20th, 2007

Transboundary Risk Management in the Dnestr River Basin



Impression of the Dniestr river (picture: German Federal Environment Agency)

Background information

The Dnestr river, with a total length of 1352 km – has its source in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathian Mountains. On its way to the Black Sea, it crosses the territories of both the Ukraine and the Moldovan Republic.

The Dnestr is of utmost importance for the drinking water supply for the 7 Mio people inhabiting its catchment area. Many technical installations in that region are in poor condition. Contamination of the river, caused by inappropriate handling of dangerous substances or industrial accidents, is a likely danger.

Industrial accidents that occur in large river catchment areas are likely to reach international dimensions as contaminants are diffused rapidly across large distances.

Project information

In the course of the project, environmental authorities in Ukraine and Moldova are supported in establishing a transboundary

warning and alert plan, allowing for efficient countermeasures in case of industrial accidents in the Dnestr catchment area. In addition, the security level in industrial facilities in the catchment area shall be improved in order to reduce the risk of accident-related pollution of the Dnestr. An international project steering group comprising representatives of Moldovan, Ukrainian and German representatives took up its work in June 2006.

Further project activities include:

- Setting up an inventory of risk-related industrial facilities in the Dnestr catchment area,
- Proposing measures for the improvement of particularly dangerous facilities,
- Training environmental inspectors in both countries to apply a special 'Checklist approach' for the risk assessment of industrial facilities,
- Establishing international communication and alert centers,
- Elaborating and testing an internal warning and alert plan in the Dnestr catchment area.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: FKZ 380 01 133
- Region: Ukraine, Moldava
- Duration: January 2006 – June 2009
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partner: MLT Consulting, Chisinau
- Project website: www.dnestrschutz.com