



Report on the Moldovan National Workshop on Blue Growth in the Black Sea Chisinau, Jazz Hotel, 21/02/2018

1. Overview of the National Workshop on Blue Growth in the Black Sea

The workshop was held at the premises of the Jazz Hotel on behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure. The aim of the workshop was to present the Blue Growth state of play and the Facility objectives, launch an in-depth exchange with attendees on national priorities in the context of Blue Economy based on a draft country assessment developed by the Facility Team and identify potential areas of interest for cooperation at regional level. The agenda and the attendance list are attached.

2. List of points discussed

2.1. Introduction and Plenary Opening Session

Elena Cacicovschii from the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure introduced the topic of the workshop and the agenda and thanked all the participants for their presence and interest in Blue economy in Moldova.

The floor was given to Marco Gemmer from the EU Delegation to Moldova who presented an overview of existing collaborations and events structured around the Black Sea and stressed the active participation of Moldova in that context. He also mentioned the financing opportunities for cooperation projects around the Black Sea and the structuring role the Facility team can play in supporting this development in the maritime area. He concluded by inviting the participants to make full use of the Facility in order to identify funding opportunities for projects.

Opening remarks followed by Victor Andrusca, the Harbour Master, who presented the infrastructure situation in Moldova which is based on water transport. He highlighted the on-going efforts regarding the mechanization of infrastructure and the increase of number of cruise stops. He thanked the European Commission and the EU Delegation for supporting the inter-sectoral approach that will contribute to the sustainable development of Moldova.

Rieks Bosch, the Facility's Project Director, explained the structure of the workshop day, i.e. presentation of Blue Growth and Integrated Maritime Policy, Facility objectives and mission, draft country Blue Economy assessment under development and working group session in order to formulate national priorities that will be communicated to the EU and other countries for regional cooperation. He also mentioned future Blue Economy and Black Sea events, in particular the European Maritime Day (Burgas, 31 May-1 June).

2.2. Blue Growth Session

2.2.1. Integrated Maritime Policy presentation and discussion



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During this session, Mr. Frederick Herpers, the Facility's Sea Basins expert, presented what the Integrated Maritime Policy is, referring to concrete examples (cf. Facility presentation). He underlined that Blue economy concerns also the land and not only maritime coasts. Especially in Moldova, land planning and sea planning have to be developed jointly, taking into consideration issues such as what can be produced from the land for the sea and vice versa and what the role of infrastructure in that perspective is. Mr. Herpers also presented examples of existing projects of integrated management.

The debate that followed the presentation raised several issues such as the level of knowledge of commercial species stocks, the control of overall catches (fisheries, leisure), the impact of river flux regulation (hydropower development in Ukraine) on river and then marine ecosystems. Given that all countries share the same natural capital, so they have to establish transboundary cooperation. Examples of short sea shipping between Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova were mentioned as an illustration of cooperation between sectors where Moldova has already a place.

The participants expressed their wish to receive the Blue economy assessments conducted in the other Black Sea countries as well as their development priorities in order to develop regional cooperation (bilateral and multilateral) projects based on the common interests identified.

Rieks Bosch mentioned that all workshop outcomes will be uploaded on the website (available in the coming days). He also stressed that the country assessments belong to the countries and not to the Facility.

2.2.2. Initial Blue Growth Assessment presentation and discussion

Mr. Herpers went on to present the actual Blue Growth preliminary assessment on Moldova. He indicated that the assessment is a very first draft to raise interest in and awareness of the potential of Blue Economy in Moldova but also in the Black Sea, in order to identify and strengthen cooperation.

3. Working group

The exchange on the draft assessment was finally organised in one working group where all the participants sat around a table and collectively worked on the country assessment, providing and updating the information on the questions raised by the Facility:

- What are the drivers/brakes for Blue Economy at national level but also in Black sea for Moldova?
- What are Moldova's priorities for Blue Economy?
- Which synergies (activities, governance) to support the development of Blue Economy in Moldova?
- What do you expect from the Facility to support Blue Economy development in Moldova?





3.1. Outcomes

The answers to those questions are listed below as workshop outcomes.

3.1.1. What are the drivers/brakes for Blue Economy at national level but also in Black sea for Moldova?

Main drivers:

- Proven opportunities based on land – river and sea link valorization
- Moldova position on regional corridor (Danube- Rhine)
- Political will to develop Blue Economy by meeting international legislation and standards
- Existing regional or multilateral (RO, UKR) sectoral cooperation in maritime sectors
- Infrastructures development with intermodality
- Rivers ecosystem critical situation
- EU agreement and the associated technical and financial support

Major brakes:

- Weak level of confidence and interest of investors or donors in BE
- Lack of maritime vision for Moldova and full capacity for full operational implementation of related national strategies and decided actions for BE
- Level of requested efforts and national capacities to meet legal an operational implementation international and EU legislation

3.1.2. What are Moldova’s priorities for Blue Economy?

- Support to existing maritime activities (maritime transport and short sea shipping)
- Development of enforcement and regulation capacities for operational implementation of related international and national legislation
- Development of sustainability and environmental protection (rivers, limans)
- Development of cooperation on BE with neighbors as natural capital (rivers and Black Sea) is shared

3.1.3. Which synergies (activities, governance) to support the development of Blue Economy in Moldova?

- Maritime transport and tourism
- In land and river tourism and river and maritime cruise
- Development of ecotourism and valorization of human heritage with “wine cruises”)
- Bottom up projects supported local authorities and national vision (priorities)
- Shared diagnosis at national level but also with neighbors to identify shared objectives and develop cooperation

3.1.4. What do you expect from the Facility to support Blue Economy development in Moldova:

- Support for stakeholders’ network development at national and regional level
- Support in project set up and capacity building with funding identification
- Support in Investors’ attractiveness development (support in maritime vision definition)
- Support in legislation adaptation (under national action)
- Sustainability in any project supported by the facility





4. Conclusion and next steps

Elena Cacicovschii and Nicolae Malic from the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure thanked the participants for the very constructive exchange and the Facility Team for their support.

Rieks Bosch mentioned that the Facility Team will proceed with amending the country assessment based on the information collected during the workshop. The Facility recalled the need to get any updated information and the fact that the Blue economy assessment is a draft and its ownership by national stakeholders is essential in order to set up a national vision nested in a regional one in the Black Sea.

The updated assessment, after being approved, will be sent to all interested stakeholders and shared with the other countries around the Black Sea. Moreover, the stakeholders will be facilitated in communicating with each other, so that a network be created.

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