



### ***Short information about the draft of the River Basin Management Plan of the Black Sea Basin Directorate (2016-2021z.)***

The updated River Basin Management Plan (2016 - 2021) is published on 01.12.2015 on the website of the Black Sea Basin Directorate and the site of the Ministry of Environment and waters. Pursuant to the requirements of Art. 168b and Art.168v of the Water Act, a draft RBMP was published for public consultation for a period of six months (until 01.06.2016).

The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) is an essential tool for integrated water management, according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD), transposed in the Water Act.

The first plan was published in the early 2010 and covers the period until 2015. In accordance with Art. 14 of the WFD and Art. 159, para. 1 of the Water Act, the RBMP shall be reviewed and updated every six years after its initial publication.

The updated plan builds on the results of the first planning period to achieve good ecological status of the water bodies. For the updating purposes national approaches and methodologies consistent with the EU water legislation have been adopted. Wider and deeper approaches are implemented for analysis and assessment which are, for the most part, the result of scientific and applied research. The plan aims to provide a framework for conservation and improvement of water bodies, and also pays particular attention to the special status areas requiring special protection.

A key component of the RBMP is the analysis of significant pressures and impacts on water bodies, which focuses on the identification of specific environmental problems and their origin, leading to the failure to achieve the environmental objectives. The identified significant problems in water management are those problems, whose solution is emphasized in preparing the programme of measures in the draft River Basin Management Plans (2016, 2021).

In the basis of river basin management, aimed at making the right decisions to achieve good status for all waters, appropriate targets for water bodies are set, as well as the necessary activities (measures) to achieve them. The River Basin Management Plan sets realistic and long-term goals for the environment and society.

The culmination of the RBMP is the Programme of measures (PoM) to achieve the environmental protection objectives. The program of measures is an essential tool for sustainable water management, integrating water conservation and use in different areas - energy, industry, agriculture, tourism, transport and regional policy. In order to implement a unified national approach for the development of the programmes of measures, a National catalog of measures is developed.

The programs of measures in the River Basin Management Plan (2016 - 2021) include basic measures (to meet the requirements of the specific directives), other major measures (applying to the overarching ones to achieve the objectives of the environmental protection) and additional measures (of preventive and control nature). Based on identified significant problems in water management in the updated program of measures under the RBMP 2016-2021, there are measures aimed at the source of pressures having impact on the surface and groundwater bodies and leading to deterioration of their conditions.

The measures to achieve good water status have been developed within the major river basins and water bodies (for surface and groundwater) and are associated with the conditions of each water body and its objectives.

The programmes of measures include measures aimed at: - *reducing the pollution from settlements; reducing the pollution from industrial sources; reducing the pollution from*

*agriculture; reducing the hydromorphological pressure; measures to protect from the harmful effects of water; measures aimed at protecting the drinking water protected areas; measures aimed at protecting coastal waters; measures aimed at protecting and improving the quantitative and qualitative status of groundwater.*

The total cost of the project of the PoM in the RBMPs amounts to 697.4 million levs. The majority of the expenditures are directed towards surface water bodies, and the costs provided for key measures whose implementation necessarily represents 84% of total expenditure for the period 2016-2021. This shows that the efforts of the Black Sea Basin Directorate are aimed at implementing measures as required by the country to the Treaty of accession to the EU.

Based on the conducted economic analysis of the program of measures, in particular – analysis of the possible means to cover the costs necessary to implement the program of measures RBMP for Black Sea river basin district concluded that all measures, both basic and supplementary, are financially supported for the period 2016-2021, through funding from the public funds and the operational programs

The implementation of the measures will be financed by the European funds, state and municipal budgets, budgets of the Water operators and funds from holders of permits and legal persons involved in the implementation of the Programme of measures. During the preparation of the first RBMP (2010-2015) and the introduction of Programmes of measures, there was no mechanism to fund the programs of measures which impeded their start and implementation. The institutions were not sufficiently involved and legally obliged to provide funds in the budget to implement the planned measures. To overcome the gaps and to ensure priority funding and implementation of measures, steps were taken to amend the legislation. According to the adopted amendment of the Water Act in 2011, plans for river basin management and national program implementation will be adopted by the Council of Ministers, which guarantees the responsibility of all parties involved to implement the programs of measures.

We hope that this River Basin Management Plan will be the basis of future six-year balanced water management, leading to significant improvement in the status of surface and groundwater, as well as the drinking water protection areas. Because water is not an ordinary commercial product but a heritage that must be preserved, protected and treated as such.

The participation of all economic sectors and the public at this stage is key to make the right decisions on planning the program of measures to achieve good water status. All participants in the planning have their place and benefits of implementing the plan, and adequate interest in water management. The full implementation of the plan for river basin management requires joint coordinated efforts of state institutions, stakeholders, municipal and regional governments, NGOs and water users.

In 2016, with the approval of the updated River Basin Management Plan / 2016 - 2021/ will be outlined long-term goals for water management, including the Plan, which will contain measures and actions coordinated with business, entrepreneurs, local partnership, water users, researchers and public authorities. Pursuant to Art. 160 of the Water Act, the Council of Ministers will adopt plans proposed by the Minister of Environment and Waters. At the moment when the new River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) come into force in 2016, they will become binding on municipalities and businesses in the country.