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EU4 Green Recovery East (700002623)  
Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership  
countries

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

# Elaboration of a screening and gap analysis report for the preparation of the Prut integrated RBMP.

### 1. Background

The EU4Green Recovery East (EU4GRE) programme (2025-2028), funded by the European Union, supports Eastern Partnership countries in their transition towards a greener, more resilient, and resource-efficient economy.

Under Component 2 - Water as a critical resource, the programme aims to improve water management in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), including the preparation, revision, and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

The Prut River Basin, shared by Romania, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, is a key transboundary basin in the region. The ICPDR Prut Expert Group is an Expert Body of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) established for the implementation of the "Declaration Regarding Cooperation on the Management of International Water Issues in the Prut River Basin" signed by Moldova (Minister for Environment Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV), Romania (Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests Mircea FECHET) and Ukraine (Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ruslan STRILETS) on 20 October 2023 in Kyiv (Ukraine). As part of its terms of references, the ICPDR Prut Expert Group aims for the joint development of an Integrated Prut River Basin Management Plan aligned to the EU WFD requirements and to oversee its regular updating including its Joint Program of Measures.

During its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings the Expert group has developed a workplan for the development of this integrated RBMP. Among the first steps, a 'screening and gap analysis report' has been identified as a primary objective, in parallel with the analysis of the appropriate river network and scale as well as establishment of a table of contents for the integrated RBMP.

As an EU funded project supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, EU4GRE is providing assistance to the expert group and will support the integrated RBMP elaboration through the launch of a Service contract to support the elaboration of the screening and gap analysis report.

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## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to support the preparation of a joint, integrated River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Prut River Basin through the delivery of a comprehensive screening and gap analysis.

This assignment constitutes the first step in a stepwise process agreed by the Prut countries (Romania, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) for the development of a basin-wide RBMP aligned with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The specific objectives of the assignment are to:

- Assess the current state of river basin management planning in the Prut River Basin, based on existing national RBMPs and available basin-level information;
- Identify gaps and inconsistencies:
  - between existing national approaches and WFD requirements;
  - between the three countries sharing the Prut River Basin, including differences in data availability, methodologies, and institutional arrangements;
- Compare and assess available information across countries for key RBMP components, with a view to identifying areas requiring harmonisation for the development of a joint RBMP;
- Provide a structured and operational basis for the development of the future Prut RBMP, including recommendations and a roadmap for addressing identified gaps and supporting harmonised implementation across the basin.

Overall, the assignment shall deliver a robust analytical foundation and practical guidance to enable the Prut countries and the ICPDR Prut Expert Group to move towards the coordinated development of a WFD-compliant, transboundary River Basin Management Plan.

## 3. Financing

European Union

## 4. Procedure

In line with EF procurement rules

## 5. Contracting Authority

International Office for Water (OiEau) – France

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## 6. Nature of Contract

Lumpsum Service contract.

## 7. Time Period of Implementation

4 months from contract signature.

## 8. Maximum Contract Value

8500 €

## 9. Scope of Work:

The assignment constitutes the first step in a stepwise process towards the development of a joint, integrated River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Prut River Basin. It shall provide the analytical and technical basis for contributing to the structure, scope, and methodological approach of the future RBMP, building on existing national plans and European best practices.

### Task 1: Definition of analytical framework

The Contractor shall:

- Analyse and extract key structural elements from:
  - Danube River Basin Management Plan
  - Tisza River Basin Management Plan
  - The draft structure for the Prut RBMP elaborated by the Prut EG
- Propose:
  - An updated and commented draft structure (Table of Contents) for the Prut RBMP
  - Recommendations on geographical scope and scale of water bodies

### Task 2: Screening of existing RBMP elements

The Contractor shall analyse, for each country:

- Content related to the Prut basin in national RBMPs, including:
  - Waterbodies delineation
  - Pressures and impacts
  - Risk and status assessment
  - Environmental objectives
  - Programme of measures
  - Economic analysis
  - Public participation
- Identify:
  - level of detail
  - data availability
  - consistency across countries

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### Task 3: Gap analysis

The Contractor shall identify gaps at three levels:

1. Against WFD requirements
2. Between countries (transboundary inconsistencies)
3. Against requirements for a joint RBMP

Including:

- data gaps
- methodological gaps
- institutional gaps

### Task 4: Recommendations & roadmap

The Contractor shall:

- Propose a roadmap for:
  - developing the joint Prut RBMP
  - harmonising methodologies
  - filling data gaps
- Include:
  - prioritisation of actions

## 9. Deliverables and deadlines

The Contractor shall produce the following deliverables:

Deliverable	Estimated number of pages	Deadline
Deliverable 1 - Inception Report	4 pages	2 weeks from contract start
Deliverable 2 - Draft Gap Analysis Report	15-20 pages	8 weeks from contract start
Deliverable 3 - Final Gap Analysis Report	20 pages	16 weeks from contract start
Deliverable 4 - Presentation of Results		End of assignment

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### **Deliverable 1 - Inception Report**

Deadline: Within 2 weeks from contract start.

The Inception Report shall include:

- Detailed methodology and analytical framework
- Workplan and timeline
- Identification of key documents and data sources
- Stakeholder mapping and consultation plan
- Proposed refined structure (Table of Contents) of the future Prut RBMP, based on Danube and Tisza RBMPs and the Expert Group document.

*This report will serve as the basis for validation of the approach by the Contracting Authority and the Prut Expert Group.*

### **Deliverable 2 - Draft Gap Analysis Report**

Deadline: Within 7 weeks from contract start

The Draft Report shall include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and methodology
- Proposed structure and scope of the Prut RBMP
- Screening of existing national RBMP content (RO, MD, UA)
- Gap analysis, including:
  - compliance with EU Water Framework Directive
  - transboundary inconsistencies
  - data and information gaps
- Recommendations and roadmap for integrated RBMP development
- Annexes (gap matrices, comparative tables, etc.)

### **Deliverable 3 - Final Gap Analysis Report**

Deadline: Within 12 weeks from contract start

The Final Report shall:

- Address and integrate all comments received
- Provide a clear, operational basis for the development of the joint Prut RBMP
- Include a finalised gap matrix and recommendations

The structure shall follow the Draft Report, with improved clarity and consolidation.

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## Deliverable 4 - Presentation of Results

Deadline: At the end of the assignment

The Contractor shall prepare and deliver:

- A PowerPoint presentation summarising key findings, gaps, and recommendations
- Presentation to the ICPDR Prut Expert Group (online or in person)

## Review and Validation Process

Each deliverable will be subject to review and approval by the Contracting Authority.

Comments will be consolidated and shared with the Contractor within a reasonable timeframe (typically 10 working days).

The Contractor will revise deliverables accordingly.

Validation will involve consultation with the ICPDR Prut Expert Group RBMP coordinators (See 10. Coordination)

## Format of Deliverables

All deliverables shall:

- Be in English
- Be submitted in Word and PowerPoint
- Include clear structure and executive summaries

## Quality Requirements

All deliverables shall:

- Be clear, structured, and suitable for decision-making
- Ensure consistency across the three countries
- Be technically sound and aligned with EU Water Framework Directive principles
- Provide practical and actionable recommendations

## 10. Coordination of the assignment

The Contractor shall work under the supervision of the Contracting Authority, OiEau, within the framework of the EU4Green Recovery East (EU4GRE) programme.

Close coordination shall be ensured with:

- the EU4GRE team;
- the ICPDR Prut Expert Group;
- relevant national authorities.

The Prut Expert Group, in particular the RBMP coordinators will play a key role by:

- providing strategic guidance;
- facilitating access to national data and expertise;
- reviewing and commenting on key deliverables;
- supporting validation of results.

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The Contractor shall ensure regular communication, including progress updates and participation in coordination meetings, and shall integrate feedback from the Contracting Authority and the Expert Group into all deliverables.

## 11. Payment modalities

Payment will be made according to the following schedule:

- 25% of the total contract amount - upon signature of the contract;
- 75% of the total contract amount - upon submission and acceptance of all deliverables.

Payment will be transferred via bank wire to the EUR account specified in the quotation.

## 12. Participation to the Tender

Open to experts or consulting firms with experience in:

- RBMPs
- EU Water Framework Directive
- Transboundary water management

Interested service providers (individual and legal entities) are invited to inquire the below mentioned documents by email -from [i.cicekoglu@oieau.fr](mailto:i.cicekoglu@oieau.fr) -

- Tender Submission Form (B1)
- Legal Identification Form (B2)
- Declaration of Honour (B3)
- Financial Identification form (B4)
- Financial offer form (B5)
- Technical offer with proposed methodology and implementation schedule
- CVs of the proposed key experts.

**Deadline for submission of the technical and financial offer is 22 May 2026, 18:00 CET.**

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