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**Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism**  
**Joint Managing Authority**

**Grant Application Form**

Reference: 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals

**Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013”**

Deadline for submission of proposals: 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2011

Title of the joint Action and acronym:	Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGOs actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area (CRCS)
Location(s) of the joint Action:	Galati -Romania, Black Sea Region-Turkey, Cahul-Republic of Moldova, Varna-Bulgaria, South Caucasus-Georgia
Name and country of the Applicant	ECO COUNSELLING CENTRE GALATI (ECCG)/Centrul de Consultanta Ecologica Galati, Romania
Name of the IPA Financial Beneficiary <sup>1</sup>	Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation (DYKD), Turkey
Priority and measure	Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation, Measure 2.1 Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems

Dossier No	
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(for official use only)

For economical and ecological reasons, we strongly recommend that you submit your files on paper-based materials (no plastic folder or divider).  
We also suggest you use double-sided print-outs as much as possible.

<sup>1</sup> If at least one Turkish partner is involved in the project

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<b>Legal status of the Applicant</b>	Association	
<b>Partner(s)<sup>2</sup> IPA Financial Beneficiary</b>	Name: Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation (DYKD) Country: Turkey Legal status: Association	
<b>Partner 1</b>	Name: Ecological Counseling Center Cahul (ECCC) Country: Republic of Moldova Legal status: Association	
<b>Partner 2</b>	Name: Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) Country: Bulgaria Legal status: Association	
<b>Partner 3</b>	Name: Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova) Country: Republic of Moldova Legal status: Association	
<b>Partner 4</b>	Name: Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) Country: Georgia Legal status: Association	
<b>Estimated ENPI total eligible cost of the joint Action (A1)</b>	<b>ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1)</b>	<b>% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1/A1x100)</b>
EUR 498.099,16	EUR 448.289,24	90%
<b>Estimated IPA total eligible cost of the joint Action (A2)</b>	<b>IPA amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B2)</b>	<b>% of estimated IPA total eligible cost of action (B2/A2x100)</b>

<sup>2</sup> Add as many rows as partners

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EUR 80.156	EUR 72.140,40	90%
<b>Estimated ENPI+IPA total eligible cost of the joint Action (A1+A2)</b>	<b>ENPI+IPA amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1+B2)</b>	
EUR 578.255,16	EUR 520.429,64	
<b>Total duration of the joint Action :</b>	24 months	

Applicant's contact details for the purpose of this Action <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Postal address:</b>	No.2, Basarabiei Street, Galati, Romania, 800201
<b>Telephone number: (fixed and mobile) Country code + city code + number</b>	004(0) 236 499957 004 (0) 724049135
<b>Fax number: Country code + city code + number</b>	004(0)236312331
<b>Contact person for this joint Action:</b>	Iulia Lucia Leonte
<b>Contact person's email:</b>	<a href="mailto:eco@cceg.ro">eco@cceg.ro</a>
<b>Address:</b>	2 Basarabiei Street, Galati, Romania, 800201
<b>Website of the Organisation:</b>	<a href="http://www.cceg.ro">www.cceg.ro</a>

Any change in the addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and in particular e-mail, must be notified in writing to the Joint Managing Authority. The Joint Managing Authority will not be held responsible in case it cannot contact an Applicant.

<sup>3</sup> Important: this will be the only contact details used during the evaluation please ensure their availability.

*JCA*

CONSULTANTA E.C.C.  
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## Grant Application Form

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Reference of the Call for Proposals</b>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals</i>
<b>Title of the joint Action and acronym:</b>	Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGOs actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area  (CRCS)
<b>Priority and Measure</b>	Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation, Measure 2.1 Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems
<b>Partners</b>	
<b>Applicant<sup>4</sup>:</b>	ECO COUNSELLING CENTRE GALATI (ECCG)/Centrul de Consultanta Ecologica, Romania, NUTS II Region of South-East
<b>IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary<sup>5</sup>:</b>	Society of Natural and Wildlife Conservation (DYKD), Turkey, Black Sea Region, TR 83
<b>ENPI Partner no 1:</b>	Ecological Counseling Center Cahul (ECCC), Republic of Moldova, Cahul District
<b>ENPI Partner no 2:</b>	Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN), Bulgaria, Varna
<b>ENPI Partner no 3<sup>6</sup>:</b>	Regional Environmental Centre Moldova (REC Moldova), Republic of Moldova, Cahul District
<b>ENPI Partner no 4:</b>	Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), Georgia, South Caucasus

<sup>4</sup> According with ENPI Implementing Regulation, the body which signs a grant contract with the Joint Managing Authority and which assumes full legal and financial responsibility for project implementation vis-à-vis that authority is called 'Beneficiary'. Until the grant contract is signed, any body that submits a proposal is called 'Applicant'.

<sup>5</sup> If it is the case.

<sup>6</sup> Please insert as many rows as you need for ENPI partners.



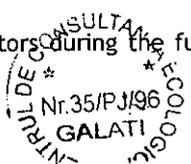


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<b>Location(s) of the joint Action:</b>	Galati -Romania, Black Sea Region-Turkey, Cahul-Republic of Moldova, Varna-Bulgaria, South Caucasus- Georgia
<b>Total duration of the joint Action:</b>	24 months
<b>Objectives of the joint Action<sup>7</sup></b>	<p>The Overall objective of the action is to contribute to the effectiveness of the measures taken by different stakeholders to address the issue of water pollution, as common challenge in the environmental protection of the Black Sea area.</p> <p>The specific objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop cooperation partnership among NGOs and other stakeholders to share experiences on fighting against water pollution as common challenge;</li> <li>2. To increase the capacity of the NGOs in supporting local and regional authorities in the field of water management;</li> <li>3. To raise public awareness and strengthen public participation by promoting the protection of ecosystem and advocacy for pollution control in Black Sea Basin, especially the tributaries rivers.</li> </ol>
<b>Target group(s)</b>	<p>The target groups are representatives and volunteers of NGOs, young people and citizens within the regions covered by the joint Action.</p> <p>Representatives and volunteers of NGOs have to manage a various lists of issues and they need to develop their skills on specific subjects and advocacy and lobbying.</p> <p>The representatives of NGOS will be involved within activities of this joint Action.</p>
<b>Final beneficiaries</b>	The final beneficiaries are people working for the NGOs involved within the activities of this joint Action as well as the young people and citizens living in the

<sup>7</sup> This section will also be used by the evaluators during the full application evaluation. Please include all relevant information.



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	Black Sea area.
<b>Estimated results</b>	<p>The estimated results are: improved and comprehensive knowledge on water management and pollution control status within project regions; better outlining of possible NGOs role in environmental issue; partnership tools created; increased experience - exchange on water management and pollution control; improved information on potential partners; better dissemination of project information and results among different stakeholders; improved conditions for NGOs cooperation; increased level of qualification and information on water management and pollution combating among NGOs; increased level of cooperation between public and private stakeholders; increased knowledge on public participation and increased awareness of public on water management and pollution control.</p>
<b>Main activities</b>	<p>The main activities are: <b>Group of activities no. 1. Creating the framework for a better cooperation among NGOs and the other stakeholders in the field of water management and pollution combating including:</b> 1.1. Organizing regional focus groups on identification of different water pollution sources and main categories of stakeholders involved; 1.2. Study on water management process within project regions with relation to EU regulations; 1.3. Research on the role of NGOs in implementing Water Framework Directive and especially in River Management Plans elaboration; 1.4. Creating a Cooperation web Platform. <b>GA no. 2 Strengthening NGO cooperation capacity and the activities are:</b> 2.1. Organizing a conference with theme: <i>How to improve the cooperation amongst NGOs and the stakeholders within Black Sea basin?</i> 2.2. Preparing Training activities for volunteers of environmental NGOs, 2.3. Developing human resources of NGOs. <b>GA no. 3. Increasing public participation into water management, including</b> 3.1. Creating a database with best practices of public involvement on decision-making process regarding water and pollution control; 3.2. Conference for best-practices dissemination; 3.3. Organizing awareness campaigns of promoting the ecosystem and advocacy for pollution control in Black Sea Basin, especially the tributaries rivers; 3.4. Creating a guide on public involvement in the process of decision making</p>





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## 2. The Joint Action

### 2.1 COST OF THE JOINT ACTION AND AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM THE JOINT MANAGING AUTHORITY

Estimated total eligible costs of the Applicant (A1.1)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1.1)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1.1/A1.1x100)
EUR 244,341.94	EUR 219,907.74	90%
Estimated total eligible cost of ENPI Partner 1 (A1.2)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1.2)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1.2/A1.2x100)
EUR 99,427.33	EUR 89,484.60	90%
Estimated total eligible cost of ENPI Partner 2 (A1.3)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1.3)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1.3/A1.3x100)
EUR 61.827,14	EUR 55.644,42	90%
Estimated total eligible cost of ENPI Partner 3 (A1.4)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1.4)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1.4/A1.4x100)
EUR 33.102,16	EUR 29.791,95	90%
Estimated total eligible cost of ENPI Partner 4 (A1.5)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1.5)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1.5/A1.5x100)
EUR 59.400,59	EUR 53.460,53	90%
Estimated total eligible cost of IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary (A2.1)	IPA amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B2.1)	% of estimated IPA total eligible cost of action (B2.1/A2.1x100)
EUR 80.156	EUR 72.140,40	90%
Estimated ENPI TOTAL eligible cost of the joint Action (A1=A1.1+A1.2+A1.3+A 1.4+A 1.5)	ENPI amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1)	% of estimated ENPI total eligible cost of action (B1/A1x100)
EUR 498.099,16	EUR 448.289,24	90%
Estimated IPA TOTAL eligible cost of the joint Action A2=A2.1	IPA amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B2)	% of estimated IPA total eligible cost of action (B2/A2x100)
EUR 80.156	EUR 72.140,40	90%
Estimated ENPI+IPA total eligible cost of the joint Action (A1+A2)	Amount requested from the Joint Managing Authority (B1+B2)	
EUR 578.255,16	EUR 520.429,64	
Please note that the cost of the joint action and the contribution requested from the Joint Managing Authority have to be expressed in EURO		





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## 2.2 TYPE OF THE JOINT ACTION (PROJECT)

As presented in Section 2.1.3 of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants,

Please check the type of joint action:

- Integrated project
- Symmetrical project
- Project implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact

Please check the criteria which the joint action fulfils:

- Joint development
- Joint implementation
- Joint staffing
- Joint financing

## 2.3 RELEVANCE OF THE JOINT ACTION<sup>8</sup>

### 2.3.1 RELEVANCE TO THE OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Please provide all the following information:

#### 1. Describe the relevance of the joint Action to the objective and priority of the call for proposals.

**Clean Rivers - Clean Sea! NGOs actions for environmental protection within Black Sea area** joint Action has an overall objective to contribute to the effectiveness of the measures taken by different stakeholders to address the issue of pollution, as common challenge in the environmental protection of the Black Sea area.

In many within Black Sea region countries, the intense and uncontrolled process of economic change has led to an unprecedented impact on natural resources and pollution. The main environmental problems are also connected to access to good quality drinking water for all of the human settlements, the availability of sewerage networks, air and water quality in certain areas, and the control of the impact of industrial activities on natural resources, such as forests, rivers, lakes, and the sea.

This problems require an high political commitments, tehcnical support and public involvement in order to get a common solution.

**Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!** joint action has as specific objectives:

1) to develop cooperation partnership among NGOs and other stakeholders in order to share experiences on fighting against pollution as common challenge.

Black Sea Basin countries are characterized by the high heterogeneity of environmental, socioeconomic, and political conditions. There are a lot of stakeholders involved in different fields area linked to the pollution control and this is the main reason to promote cooperation partnership among NGOs. Public consultation is compulsory according to the EU and international requirements and the success of the public intervention would be

<sup>8</sup> This section will also be used by the evaluators during the full application evaluation. Please include relevant information.



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more effective through this approach. This first objective of *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action will generate a stronger partnership among Black Sea region NGOs acting within environment protection field.

2) to increase the capacity of the NGOs in supporting local and regional authorities in the field of water management;

The administrative capacity of local and regional authorities is low and the complexity of the pollution control needs a high technical level to be addressed. NGOs will be active partners for local and regional authorities.

3) To raise public awareness and strengthen public participation by promoting the protection of ecosystem and advocacy for pollution control in Black Sea Basin, especially the tributaries rivers.

Human economic activities are sources for pollution and this objective will contribute to raising the public awareness on this issue. On the other hand, the pollution issues are linked with the sustainable development and the health status of the people. Pollution is the cause/reason for many problems, coming from different perspectives and requires an appropriate answer.

*Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action is addressing a common problem - pollution of sea and its tributarian rivers using the NGOs partnership as the main instrument.

The objectives and the activities which will be developed by *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* Action will contribute both to the global objective of the Programme: to achieve stronger regional partnerships and cooperation and to its key wider objective: "a stronger and more sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin".

Moreover, *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action will contribute to the Programme's specific objectives 2. Working together to address common challenges, and its priority Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation.

**2. Describe the relevance of the joint Action to any specific measures and any other specific requirements indicated in the guidelines of the call such as partnership, local ownership etc.**

*Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action will contribute to the Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation giving as a central focus the environmental protection and conservation. This joint Action is paying close attention to the technical and political instruments available, research results and proposals for action in each region involved. *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action will promote innovation and exchange of good practices in the fields of scientific, technical and administrative competencies and capacities for environmental protection and conservation. Networking activities play an important role for the exchange and implementation of appropriate solutions to environmental common challenges and *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action proposed a specific objective on this issue.

*Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action will contribute to the **Measure 2.1 Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems**, which aims at the promotion of stronger integration and development of research, innovation, awareness and scientific partnerships in the fields of monitoring, control and protection of maritime systems and rivers in the Black Sea Basin.

Activities developed by *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action are in line with the list of

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indicative activities such as exchange of experiences and good practices through the establishment of cooperation partnerships among environmental NGOs and educational institutions.

The results of the *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action proves that NGOs partnership will be stronger and all the future action will be developed for local and regional communities. Local and regional authorities will use the power and technical capacity of the NGOs partnership and citizens will be more involved within community's life.

**3. Describe which particular expected outputs and results mentioned in Section 8 of this Grant Application Form (Indicators of the Programme) will be addressed.**

The outputs of the programme addressed by this joint action are: out 6: Number of environmental training and/or research initiatives carried out; out 7: Number of agencies / associations involved in project activities; out 8: Number of research / education institutions assisted / involved in project initiatives. The results of the programme addressed by this joint action are: RES 6: Number of partnerships contracts / agreements establishing permanent relations among institutions / agencies active in the environmental sector and RES 8: Number of institutions active in environmental protection adopting innovations developed by projects.

**4. Demonstrate the type of the joint Action (project): integrated project, symmetrical project or project implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact.**

*Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint action is an integrated project, activities will be managed by different partners and implemented in different locations. The each group of activities will be managed by one partner and the outputs will be used by partnership. The results of the activities will be used by all the organisations involved.

**5. Demonstrate the cross-border character of the joint Action. Explain how at least two of the following criteria (1) joint development; (2) joint implementation; (3) joint staffing; or (4) joint financing are fulfilled.**

*Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* Action has a cross-border dimension and joint approach. The action was *joint developed*. All the partners were involved in the designing process and all the idea or inputs coming from partners were taken into account by the applicant. The *joint implementation* is foreseen. The activities are distributed in a balanced way among the partners, taking into account the expertise of the partners, the specific needs addressed in each region and the availability of the partners. The applicant will be responsible for the implementation process and monitoring in order to reach the objectives of the action.

The criteria of *joint financing* is also fulfilled by *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* Action. The common budget is divided between the partners according to the balanced distribution of activities to be carried out by them. The joint staffing criteria is also fulfilled.





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**2.3.2 RELEVANCE TO THE PARTICULAR NEEDS AND CONSTRAINTS OF THE TARGET COUNTRIES, REGIONS AND/OR RELEVANT SECTORS (INCLUDING SYNERGY WITH OTHER EU INITIATIVES AND AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION)**

Please provide all the following information:

**1. Identify clearly the specific pre-project situation in the target countries, regions and/or sectors (include quantified data analysis where possible).**

The main topics covered by *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action are: water pollution and the link between water quality of the rivers which flows into Black Sea, NGOs involvement for fighting against pollution and public awareness and participation to the decision-making process on water issues.

The differences among the states/regions covered by this joint Action are obvious. Bulgaria and Romania, as member states made a lot of progress in their way to implement EU legislation, especially Water Framework Directive which implies public consultation as a key for its success. The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive (adopted in June 2008) is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. So, the connection and interdependence between Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive is easy to see. Turkey, Moldavia and Georgia are facing the problems related to water pollution in a different phase.

Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment COM(2005)504 mentioned that in enhancing environmental protection of sea catchment areas inland through improved freshwater quality, implementation of the WFD will make an important contribution. The objective is to achieve good environmental status of Europe's marine environment by 2021. This date will coincide with the first review of River Basin Management Plans under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), allowing for synergies on the further implementation of both Directives. The main threats for the marine environment is pollution (including contamination by dangerous substances; from landbased sources; litter, microbiological; oil spills as a result of accidents as well as pollution from shipping and offshore oil and gas exploration; pollution from ship dismantling; and noise pollution).

As The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013 is mentioned the obvious cross-border dimension of environmental pollution around the Black Sea has encouraged a tradition of cooperation on this issue over the last 15 years, at least at the level of the littoral states which are most affected. This international cooperation and political commitment to reduce nutrients and stop persistent toxic substances being released has started to produce encouraging results for the Black Sea to recover from its deep environmental crisis. Agricultural pollution is being reduced and wetlands are being restored in the upstream basins to serve as nutrient sinks. Industrial, urban and agricultural activities all generate threats to the ecological equilibrium. The Black Sea once supported a rich and diverse marine life, with abundant fisheries and highly valuable habitats, such as the Danube delta, contributing to biodiversity. Its beauty drew millions of visitors. But by the 1990s, the Sea's environment had deteriorated in terms of its biodiversity, habitats, recreational value, and water quality. Pollutants, including





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agrochemicals, toxic metals and radio nuclides, made their way into the sea either through the atmosphere or by means of river discharges. Almost one third of the entire land area of continental Europe drains into this sea through the second, third and fourth major European rivers: the Danube, Dnieper and Don. Increased nutrients have caused an overproduction of phytoplankton, which blocks the light from reaching the sea grasses and algae. The eutrophication problem has been amplified by the almost totally landlocked nature of the Black Sea. Overexploitation of marine living resources, as well as industrial activity, mining, shipping, oil extraction and transport, have further contributed to the sea's deterioration. Some countries have dumped solid waste into the sea or onto wetlands. Urban areas flushed untreated sewage waters and poor planning has destroyed much of the aesthetics of the coastlines. The large number of towns around the Sea, 155 above 50.000 inhabitants, gives an idea of the environmental challenge generated by human settlement. One of the weaknesses of the region mentioned by Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013 is "Closed sea"- negative environmental impacts from external agents located in the Black Sea physical basin.

The opinion of the public related to these issues is base for any further policy development. Within Special Eurobarometer 365 „Attitudes of the European citizens towards the environment” published in August 2011, the section **Main environmental concerns:** The most popular responses relate to the direct impact of human activity on the environment at a global level. Man-made disasters returned the highest number of responses (42%) followed by water pollution (41%), indicating an overall concern about how industry affects the environment - a concern which is almost certainly fuelled by global media stories, although (in the latter instance) one which can also apply on a personal level to people across the Member States who live in industrialised areas. A relative majority of EU citizens surveyed thought that the quality of rivers, lakes and - where relevant - coastal waters in their country has deteriorated in the past five years (37%). A lower proportion of interviewees (30%) said that the quality of water in their country has not changed compared to five years ago and 27% thought that there has been an improvement in quality. **Changes in water quality in the past five years: 61% of Romanian and 53% of Bulgarian thought that the water quality was deteriorated.**

Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, as Europeans were interviewed with the occasion of the **Flash Eurobarometer on Water**, published in March 2009. One of the topics was the level of knowledge about water-related problems and overall, slightly more than 4 out of 10 EU citizens felt informed about the problems facing rivers, lakes and - where relevant - coastal waters in their country: 38% of respondents felt well informed and 5% said they felt very well informed. A majority of respondents, however, answered that they did not feel informed about this topic: 40% said they were not well informed about such problems and almost one-sixth (16%) did not feel informed at all: 53% of Romanian said not well informed, and 43% Bulgaria not well informed. In the same time the citizens consider that the main threat to the water environment is chemical pollution was by far the most mentioned threat to a country's water environment - selected by three-quarters of EU citizens 75%. The level of feeling informed about problems facing rivers, lakes and (if any) coastal waters increased with age, educational attainment and occupational status of the respondents.

Romania, The National Development Plan (CDP) 2007 - 2013 mentioned that in the Romanian seaside area, the Black Sea is subject to a pollution process, following the pollutants resulted from the Danube, purified and non-purified wastewater direct

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evacuations, as well as through the intense port activity. One of the main threats included by SWOT analysis is climate change/environmental degradation.

As is described within **Sectoral Operational Programme Environment 2007-2013**, Romania is endowed with all types of fresh water resources (rivers, natural and artificial lakes, the Danube River and the ground waters). Related to the quality of the surface water is mentioned that the main sources of pollution leading to poor water quality are domestic husbandry, stock rearing, chemical industry and the mining and metallurgical industry. The natural regime of ground waters has been modified over the years in the various river basins catchments. Partly, these waters have been polluted in the past with heavy metals occurred in mining and ore processing areas and with oil, petroleum products and phenol around refineries and drilling rigs. Other pollutants arise from past intensive agricultural practices.

In **Turkey**, agricultural pollution not in coastal but in watersheds flowing to the Black Sea, deficiency in wastewater treatment plants are the primary problems in the coastal area of the Black Sea Region. Land-based pollution, due to untreated domestic and industrial wastewater discharge into the rivers or directly into the sea, also has adverse effects on the marine environment, the flora and fauna of the region and on human health.

In January 2010 Turkey Need Assesment Report was published by Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations in the IPA Countries, Turkey Office (TACSO). In the section called **structure of civil society in Turkey** is mentioned that according to data obtained from state Departments for Associations at the Ministry of the Interior and Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV) there currently approximately 83,000 associations and 4,500 foundations active in Turkey. In addition, there are a few thousand chambers of commerce, agricultural and housing cooperatives and trades unions (TUSEV 2006). Civil society organisations (CSOs) are active in all of Turkey's 81 provinces, but their distribution is very uneven. There is a marked concentration of CSOs in urban areas, especially the three largest cities, Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. CSO representation in eastern, north-eastern, central and southern Anatolian regions is particularly weak, while post-conflict conditions in the south-east has led to an increase in CSOs in recent years (TUSEV 2006). The urban concentration of foundations is more conspicuous than that of associations.

The catchment basin of the **Republic of Moldova** is made up of 3,621 watercourses, over 3,000 natural lakes and artificial basins. The Rivers Nistru and Prut represent the border between Moldova, Ukraine and Romania. The largest natural lakes are located on the course of the Prut and Nistru Rivers. The largest artificial basins are located on the Prut River. The Nistru River is main water supply source in the Republic of Moldova. Groundwater also represents an important water supply source. The quality of the surface waters is determined by the existing pollution sources, but also by the position adopted by people and the local and national decision-making factors on the prevention of pollution as well as the protection of aquatic resources. According to the investigations performed by the State Ecological Inspectorate and the Ministry of Health, the status of surface waters is unsatisfactory. Constant investigations have established the degradation of watercourses in the vicinity of towns, which demonstrates the existence of pollution sources and their impact on the aquatic resources. The Nistru River is vulnerable to pollution and largely influenced by the hydrological regime established by the hydro-



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power plant at Dnestrovsc (Ukraine). The quality of rivers is highly influenced by the discharge of pollutants in waste waters, the manner in which neighbour countries manage their river basins and their co-operation in order to ensure the protection and sustainable use of waters.

As described within Georgia, National Indicative Programme 2011 - 2013, annex 6: Georgia – Country environment profile, the key environmental issues in Georgia are air quality, water quality, waste management, land use, coastal and marine pollution, chemicals, and nature protection. With regard to **water quality**, infrastructure is mostly not sufficient and also outdated. Georgia has nevertheless considerable water resources, but their distribution is uneven due to varying geographic conditions. Data on surface and ground waters is limited. Drinking water quality is of concern, as shortages in infrastructure and contamination from waste water cause problems. With regard to **coastal and marine pollution**, sources include a number of industrial hotspots, pipelines and oil spills from oil transport. Water quality is affected by discharges of municipal and industrial wastewaters and return flow from agriculture. The Black Sea is subject to similar problems, the most serious of which are discharges of wastewater, oil pollution in coastal areas, and loss of biodiversity, including fish stocks.

**2. Provide a detailed analysis of the problems to be addressed by the joint Action and how they are interrelated at all levels. In addressing this point, refer to any significant plans undertaken at national, regional and/or local level relevant for the joint action and describe how the joint action will relate to such plans.**

One of the problems addressed by *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action are: environmental protection/water pollution, especially the sources of the pollution. There is an obvious link between quality of water into rivers flowing into Black Sea and the quality of marine environment.

Owing to natural factors, the diversity of species of Black Sea fauna is approximately three times lower when compared with that of the Mediterranean. Specific features of the Black Sea make it very vulnerable to disturbances of its environment and ecosystems. Eutrophication, pollution, and irresponsible fishing resulted in an overall decline of: biological resources, the diversity of species and landscapes, and of the aesthetic and recreational values of the Black Sea, thereby bringing its ecosystems to the edge of collapse.

Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment COM(2005)504 mentioned that in enhancing environmental protection of sea catchment areas inland through improved freshwater quality, implementation of the WFD will make an important contribution. The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive (adopted in June 2008) is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. So, the connection and interdependence between Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive is easy to see.

Both for Romania and Bulgaria, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is crucial and will generate positive effects on the other policies developed by EU. Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment COM(2005)504 mentioned that the main threats for the marine environment are: pollution (including contamination by dangerous substances; from landbased sources; litter, microbiological; oil spills as a result of accidents as well as pollution from shipping





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and offshore oil and gas exploration; pollution from ship dismantling; and noise pollution).

Water and marine pollution within Black Sea area are described within different programs and strategies, as follows:

The **Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013** mentioned that environmental protection - and in particular the protection of the maritime ecological systems - can be easily identified as the main common challenge in the eligible regions. The main environmental problems are also connected to access to good quality drinking water for all of the human settlements, the availability of sewerage networks, air and water quality in certain areas, and the control of the impact of industrial activities on natural resources, such as forests, rivers, lakes, and the sea. In many countries, the intense and uncontrolled process of economic change has led to an unprecedented impact on natural resources and pollution. In this regard, the accession of all the countries in the region to the relevant international conventions becomes alarming necessary.

**European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation, Strategy Paper 2007-2013**, mentioned that while many of these issues can only be effectively addressed at a national or indeed multilateral level, there is still an important role which local actors can play in this respect. Environmental issues are no less important on land-borders, though here they are often of a more localised character, particularly in relation to transboundary waters (rivers and lakes). Environmental issues are particularly important in the context of shared sea basins like the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Water pollution, whether from industrial or urban discharges, is a critical problem, exacerbated by risks of marine pollution. Water is a case in point where cross-border cooperation will facilitate the shared development and protection of water resources. A broader environmental cooperation will be particularly important in the sea-basin programmes in the Baltic and Black Seas and in the Mediterranean.

Another problem is the insufficient involvement of the public/NGO within decision-making process both in Romania and Bulgaria as Member State of EU and Turkey, Moldavia and Georgia. The causes are both the attitude of the responsible institutions and the capacity of NGOs to advocate and to participate in the most effective manner. The lack of public awareness related to water pollution is another problem to be addressed. All these will be described, based on the available source of information, very limited in the case of the non-member states.

The **Master Plan for South-East Region 2010-2020** describe the NGOs situation. Collaboration between the public administration and the civil society is still insufficiently developed for various reasons. On one hand, the Romanian laws, regulations and other rules are still not clear enough on which NGO are indeed representative in the economic, and/or social and/or environmental area, or in other areas, if the case, at national, regional or local level. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, 64,738 NGOs were registered with the NGO National Register, with an average of 1,500 for each county. In the South-East Region in 2009, there are only 107. There are many fields in which the NGOs may be active within the region, e.g. the business environment, employment (employers, trade unions, non-profit centres for vocational training), environmental protection, civil rights protection, culture, sports etc.



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The lack of information and insufficient public consultation is proven by the process needed for the elaboration of the River Basin Management Plans, according to the WFD. Flash Eurobarometer on Water, published in March 2009 includes a section related to „Consultation on the River Basin Management Plan”. The Water Framework Directive establishes a legal framework to protect and restore clean water throughout the EU and by 2015, all water in the EU should be of “good or high quality”. During 2008, several Member States started a public consultation process aimed at giving all interested parties a chance to express their views and to influence the future River Basin Management plans. Only 14% of EU citizens were aware of the public consultation process in the framework of the River Basin Management plans; hardly anyone had already taken part in the scheme (2%). Nevertheless, one in two EU citizens were ready to take part in the scheme: 6% of interviewees were aware of the plans and intended to express their views and 44% would take part in the public consultation process although they were not aware of the scheme at the time of the survey. Awareness of the public consultation process in the framework of the River Basin Management plans increased with age and the educational level of the respondents. The 15-24 year-olds and the least educated respondents were also the least likely to consider taking part in the consultations (45% and 48%, respectively vs. 52% on average). Interviewees who felt very well informed about water-related problems, on the other hand, were the most likely to consider taking part in the consultations: while only 41% of respondents who felt not informed at all, almost 6 out of 10 (58%) respondents who felt very well informed had this intention.

In January 2010, Turkey Need Assessment Report was published by Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations in the IPA Countries, Turkey Office (TACSO) and one of the conclusions is that Turkey is still undergoing political transition towards establishing a democratic culture. Consequently, understanding among government circles and public administrations of civil society, its values and its role in a modern democracy remains at a low level. Raising the frequency and quality of government-civil society dialogue and cooperation will demand carefully targeted facilitation of government and public administration actors. As the country’s process towards European integration is the main driving force of its transition, the project, as an EC initiative, is well placed mediate between government and civil society. The capacity needs of Turkey’s civil society are extensive. Turkey is a very large country and there are considerable disparities between the capacity levels and geographical representation of civil society organisations across the country. In addition, government-civil society cooperation remains at a low level of development both at the state and the local levels.

**Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!** joint Action is in line with national and regional plans and strategies.

Protecting and improving the quality of the environment is one of the six national development priorities of the Romanian National Development Plan 2007 - 2013 (NDP) which has as the main- goal of spatial planning is to harmonize, across the entire Romanian territory, all economic, social, ecological and cultural policies, developed at national and local level, in order to ensure the balanced development of the country’s various areas, with a view to increase cohesion and the effectiveness of their economic and social relations.



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The Master Plan for South-East Region 2010-2020 has as priority 8. Protection and Development of Natural Assets and the Environmental Policy Promotion. The areas of intervention have two relevant priorities: 8.1. Greening the polluted water and soil surfaces and 8.2. Enlarging and modernizing the water and waste-water infrastructure systems. The Priority 10 is related to the Improving Administrative Capacity which relies on the improvement of communication, partnership and participation, as well as the co-operation and connection with regional factors. Involvement, participation and agreement with local communities for drawing up and implementing projects are essential both for urban regeneration-based projects and for rural areas revitalization. Community involvement requires important communication and consultation efforts. The management of the process by the citizens represents an advantage, being not only a matter of democracy, but also an instrument to add value to involvement and the decision-making process.

National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 - 2013 for Bulgaria has two strategic medium-term goals: To attain and maintain high economic growth through a dynamic knowledge-based economy in accordance with the principles of sustainable development; To improve the quality of human capital and to achieve employment, income and social integration levels, which provide higher living standards. Environment is one of the main thematic areas should be tackled to fulfil the country's strategy. SWOT Analysis considers as one of the strenghts the low level of water pollution, but in the same time as weknesses are insufficient construction and depreciated infrastructure for collection and treatment of waste water and significant number of existing polluted terrains.

Turkey Progress Report 2010 - SEC(2010)1327- Chapter 27: Environment mentions that limited progress can be reported on horizontal legislation. The scope of the by-law on environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been extended and the EIA Directive is now transposed to a large degree. However, procedures for public and transboundary consultations have not been fully aligned and implemented. There has been little progress in the area of water quality. Legislation on the control of water pollution was amended so as to regulate permit procedures. A high-level steering committee for water quality management was set up in order to increase coordination among the institutions involved and with the aim to develop strategies and policies for further alignment with the *acquis*. The institutional framework for water management is fragmented and not organised at river basin level. A number of basin protection action plans have been drafted, which will eventually be converted into river basin management plans. Transboundary consultations on water issues are still at a very early stage.

The EU Moldova Action Plan will help fulfil the provisions in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and will encourage and support Moldova's objective of further integration into European economic and social structures. Within Human rights and fundamental freedoms section is stipulated that Moldova needs to ensure respect for the freedom of association and foster the development of civil society by facilitating and supporting civil society development, enhanced dialogue and co-operation. Within environment section is stipulated that Moldova need to establish procedures regarding access to environmental information and public participation, including implementation of the Aarhus Convention, particularly by establishing structures and procedures for ensuring an acceptable level of service to those wishing to have access to information. There is a need for further improve communication strategies on the benefits of environmental policy and environmental education, support civil society actors and local authorities. Molodva has to take active action for prevention of deterioration of





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environment, protection of human health, and achievement of rational use of natural resources, in line with the commitments of the Johannesburg Summit. There is a need to continue with the adoption of legislation for key environmental sectors (water quality, waste management, air quality, industrial pollution), including the adoption of the legislation on wild flora and ecological networks. Moldova has to enhance co-operation on environmental issues and to participate actively in the Danube - Black Sea Task Force to implement a transboundary approach to water management; ensure active participation in the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia component of the EU Water Initiative.

According Republic of Moldova National Indicative Programme 2011 - 2013, priority Area 1: Good governance, rule of law and fundamental freedom, Sub-priority area 1: Rule of law, human rights and security has one of the *specific objectives*: to promote sustainable civil society development. This proves that the efforts that would be done by Clean Rivers-Clea Sea! joint Action are in the same direction as EU efforts within Moldova.

European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan - Georgia sets out a set of priorities in areas within and beyond the scope of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. ([http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action\\_plans/georgia\\_enp\\_ap\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/georgia_enp_ap_final_en.pdf)) Among these priorities there are: priority area no. 3 *Encourage economic development and enhance poverty reduction efforts and social cohesion, promote sustainable development including the protection of the environment; further convergence of economic legislation and administrative practices* with the Specific actions: strengthen administrative structures and procedures to ensure strategic planning of environment issues and coordination between relevant actors. Moreover, the priority area no. 5 *Strengthen regional cooperation*, includes as specific actions: Support the Caucasus Regional Environmental Centre in meeting its objective to promote co-operation between Governmental and non-Governmental actors in the region, as well as enhance participation in its work.

Caucasus Regional Environment Center is one of the partners for *Clean Rivers-Clean Sea!* joint Action.

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, EU - Georgia signed in 1996, stipulates at articol no. 57 - Environment: Cooperation shall aim at combating the deterioration of the environment and in particular: effective monitoring pollution levels and assesment of environment, combating local, regional and transboundary air and water pollution, environmental education and awarness.

As decribed within Georgia, National Indicative Programme 2011 - 2013, assistance provided under this National Indicative Programme for Georgia will focus on four main priority areas and will cover a maximum of eight sub-priorities. *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* joint Action is in line with priority area 1: Democratic development, rule of law, good governance, sub-priority 1.1: Media freedom, political pluralism, human rights, civil society development and priority area 3: Regional development, sustainable economic and social development, poverty reduction, sub-priority 3.2: Regional development and sustainable development, including environmental protection.



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**3. Demonstrate the relevance of the joint action to the particular needs and constraints of the target countries and regions, and how the results of the joint action shall have a cross border impact on the area.**

The needs of the target countries are to fight against again water pollution tacking into account the connection with Black Sea marine environment quality. The lack of strong and effective cooperation among stakeholders is one of the problems which are addresses by this joint action. The partnerships between NGOs and other stakeholder should be more effective and NGOs, as key players, according to the Water Framework Directive are constrained by lack of administrative capacity and resources to be more active and deeply involved in this process.

The objectives of the *Clean Rivers - Clean Sea!* join action will contribute to solve the particular needs: need for water quality improvement, need for stronger partnerships among stakeholders, need for powerfull NGOs and need for public awarness on water issues.

The activities developed are tailor-made for targets gropus and the results of teh activities will decrease the problems of teh target gropus. Within first GA **Creating the framework for a better cooperation among NGOs and the other stakeholders in the field of water management and pollution combating**, all parties will be encourage for a better and more efficient cooperation and involvement of civil sector society organizations from Project regions, seen as potential providers of an increased pool of ideas and knowledge as a basis for policy formulation and decision making. The trans-national character of this activity enhances experience - exchange and integrated approach on Project issue, through comprehensive and expert information resources, partnership tools, outlined vision and potential roles to commit to, best practices. The web cooperation platforms and the database of potential partners are also valuable tools for developing new partnerships, as well as for acquiring information and expertise.

Through the activities developed within GA 2 **Strengthening NGO cooperation capacity**, NGOs will be provided with necessary knowledge and will benefit from external expertise as to be able to give incentives and bring valuable contributions to public/NGOs partnerships in water management and pollution control. The members and volunteers will benefit from trainings and information resources made available for them. In is clear that there is an insufficinet knowledge base and good policy depends on high-quality information. According to **Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment COM(2005)504** existing monitoring and assessment programmes are neither integrated nor complete. The knowledge they have generated reveals a significant number of information gaps on the state of Europe's marine environment, the effectiveness of existing measures, and the various threats and pressures posed by human activities.

Through the activities which will be developed the NGOs will improve their level of knowledge and will be more stronger as partners. The third specific objective is to raise public awareness and strengthen public participation by promoting the protection of ecosystem and advocacy for pollution control in Black Sea Basin, especially the tributaries rivers, and is addressed by GA 3 **Increasing public participation into water management**. Through these activities, the partners are organizing public debates within schools, universities and riverside communities and are drawing up a guide for public involvement with purpose of further dissemination. Public authorities will participate in these debates in order to interact with public, gather contributions and include public opinion in administrative decision process. Through GA3 the need of public awareness and public involvement will de addressed.



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The objectives and activities are developed taking into account the cross-border dimension of the problems to be addressed by the joint action and particular needs of the target groups. Water quality partnership for improvement is crossborder structured and all the organisations involved have an international dimension proven by their goals and activities. The improved administrative capacity of the NGOs will help to improve all their activities, including international ones. The citizens/the general public has to be informed and through the activities in this joint action the common level of information will increase. The citizens in different countries and regions along the Black Sea and rivers will have a common understanding of the water issues and environmental problems. Their inputs within the consultation process in the elaboration of the rivers management plans or different action plans will come together, generating a stronger effect.

**4. Where the joint Action is the continuation of a previous Action clearly indicate how the proposed joint Action is intended to build on the activities/ results of this previous Action; refer to main conclusions and recommendations of evaluations that might have been carried out.**

N/A

**5. Explain whether your joint Action has links to various policies and initiatives implemented in the Black Sea Region, for example initiatives under DABLAS, Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea against pollution etc.**

Clean rivers - Clean Sea! joint Action is linked with different initiatives taken by different organisations for Black Sea region.

Water quality and fighting against pollution is one of the main issues described in all the documents. All the organisations working for the improvement of environment economic development of this region are conscious about the role and importance of the water issue. Moreover, the role of NGOs and public involvement within decision-making process on water and especially in the development of the River Basin Management Plans in line with Water Framework Directive is clear underlined by different documents or activities developed by the organisations, as is describe below.

Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution signed in Bucharest in april 1992, and ratified by all six legislative assemblies of the Black Sea countries in the beginning of 1994. Also referred to as "Bucharest Convention", it is the basic framework of agreement and three specific Protocols, which are: (1) the control of land-based sources of pollution; (2) dumping of waste; and (3) joint action in the case of accidents (such as oil spills). The implementation of the Convention is managed by the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (also sometimes referred to as the Istanbul Commission), and its Permanent Secretariat in Istanbul, Turkey. National efforts and regional - international cooperation in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution expressed in the concerted actions of the Strategic Action Plan for Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea brought the first signs of recovery to the Black Sea: inputs of pollution from the priority sources of pollution are decreasing, Inputs of insufficiently treated waters are decreasing, Number of oil spills and volume of spilled oil show decreasing trends, content of nutrients in the marine waters are getting lower, - phosphorus has reached the levels of 60s, although nitrogen is still higher than in 1960s. Along with the first signs of the recovery of the Black



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Sea ecosystem, the economies of the Black Sea coastal states in transition began to recover according to the available macroeconomic indicators. In 2009, Strategic Action Plan for the environmental protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea was signed to encourage a broader stakeholder involvement, including the active participation of NGO's and the private sector in the implementation of environmental protection policies and promote development and implement river basin management plans for large and medium rivers flowing into the Black Sea in order to reduce their influence on the Black Sea.

**Black Sea Synergy - a new regional cooperation initiative COM (2007) 160.** Black Sea regional organisations have in recent year undertaken commitments to developing effective democratic institutions, promoting good governance and the rule of law. The EU should support these regional initiatives through sharing experience on measures to promote and uphold human rights and democracy, providing training and exchange programmes and stimulating a regional dialogue with civil society. The need to address marine environment problems at regional level is recognised by the EU Marine Strategy and proposed Marine Strategy Directive adopted by the Commission in 2005. The EU Marine Strategy will require EU Member States in all regional seas bordered by the EU to ensure cooperation with all countries in the region.

**Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)** has an Action Plan for Cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection which aims to improve the functioning of the institutional network of BSEC and the coordination with regional organizations, institutions and initiatives, in particular with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution; and to strengthening cooperation in the Black Sea basin in pollution prevention and biodiversity conservation with particular attention to the areas not covered by the Bucharest Convention;

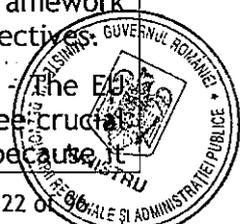
**6. Where the joint Action is part of a larger programme, clearly explain how it fits or is coordinated with this programme or any other planned project. Specify the potential synergies with other initiatives, in particular from the European Commission.**

**Clean rivers - Clean Sea!** joint Action is linked with different EU initiatives which are developed in order to support the interdependence between rivers and seas, especially Danube and Black Sea. The level of administrative capacity of NGOs and the level if public involvement have to increase in order to assure the ownership of water quality plans and actions.

By its objective and activities **Clean rivers - Clean Sea!** joint action is linked with the following EU initiatives:

**Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment COM(2005)504** - Key elements in building the Strategy - A co-operative approach, providing for broad engagement with all relevant stakeholders and enhancing co-operation with existing regional seas conventions. The objective is to achieve good environmental status of Europe's marine environment by 2021. This date will coincide with the first review of River Basin Management Plans under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), allowing for synergies on the further implementation of both Directives.

**Environment Partnership of the Black Sea Synergy** (Brussels, 16 March 2010) - The EU wants to give reality to this initiative by establishing sector partnerships in three crucial sectors: environment, transport and energy. These sectors have been chosen because



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is hard to question their importance to the region. Improvements in these sectors will have direct effect in the whole wider Black Sea region.

The DABLAS Task Force was set up in November 2001 with the aim to provide a platform for co-operation for the protection of water and water-related ecosystems in the Danube and Black Sea Region.

Joint DABLAS - Black Sea Commission Regional Meeting on Project Identification and Financing in Water and Wastewater Treatment in the Context of River Basin Management, June 2011 held in Istanbul decided during the Session 1: Identification of hot spots along the Black Sea: results and challenges ahead Integrated River Basin Management Planning that a new DABLAS guide aims to clarify uncertainties in the countries as to how to use a WFD approach in IRBM planning. In the same meeting, in connection with the Danube River Basin Management Plan and the Danube Strategy ICPDR pointed out that the achievement of WFD environmental objectives on the basin-wide scale by 2015 is not ensured and efforts to ensure visions and management objectives still need to be undertaken. Significant financing is needed for the Programme of Measures.

As a consequence, we could say DABLAS Task Force support the public involvement and consultation in the Integrated River Basin Management Planning.

"Aarhus Convention" - Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters signed also by the European Community in June 1998. The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was adopted on 25th June 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus at the Fourth Ministerial Conference in the 'Environment for Europe' process. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders. It links government accountability and environmental protection. It focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities in a democratic context and it is forging a new process for public participation in the negotiation and implementation of international agreements. The subject of the Aarhus Convention goes to the heart of the relationship between people and governments. The Convention is not only an environmental agreement, it is also a Convention about government accountability, transparency and responsiveness. The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights and imposes on Parties and public authorities obligations regarding access to information and public participation and access to justice.

COM (2000) 11 - Commission Discussion Paper „The Commission and non-governmental organisations: building a stronger partnership”





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### 2.3.3 DESCRIBE AND DEFINE THE TARGET GROUPS AND FINAL BENEFICIARIES, THEIR NEEDS AND CONSTRAINTS AND HOW THE JOINT ACTION WILL ADDRESS THESE NEEDS

Please provide all the following information:

**1. Include a description of each of the target groups and final beneficiaries (quantified where possible), including selection criteria.**

The targets groups are: representatives and volunteers of NGOs, young people and citizens within the regions covered by the joint action.

Representatives and volunteers of NGOs have to manage a various lists of issues and they need to develop their skills on specific subjects and advocacy and lobbying.

The representatives of NGOs will be involved within activities of this joint action, especially Group of Activities no.1. *Creating the framework for a better cooperation among NGOs and the other stakeholders in the field of water management and pollution combating* and Group of Activities no.2 *Strengthening NGO cooperation capacity*. Trainings will be organized for selected NGOs members. In the end, a body of NGOs qualified human resources should be prepared to sustain public and private stakeholders' efforts and undertakings. *The Selection of the NGOs representatives will be based on application and CVs.* During two months, applications in English language will be received, via web platform, email, fax or any other communication means, from any NGO having environmental issues as activity object. The selection will comprise several stages and will be based on professional background, motivation issues, and essay evaluation. Selection will be performed jointly by all partners, as a fair participation from each country to be ensured. Experience shows that the involvement of civil society enhances the overall chance of success, but within a long time. Capacity-building is urgently required for NGOs. Policy expertise is often lacking, while energy, enthusiasm, commitment and expert (local) knowledge on the scientific and social aspects is not. This is why capacity-building and engagement of NGOs must be encouraged as soon as possible.

Young people (schools and universities) are open to the topics related to the environment. They are the future generation and it is crucial to get them informed and involed within participatory process of the policy development. Citizens within the regions involved in this joint action. Public participation can generally be defined as allowing people to influence the outcome of plans and working processes. The main purpose of participation is to improve decision-making by ensuring that decisions are soundly based on shared knowledge, experiences and scientific evidence, that decisions are influenced by the views and experience of those affected by them, that innovative and creative options are considered, and that new arrangements are acceptable to the public. To inform and get involed citizens it is one of the most difficult action that would be taken by Clean Rivers-Clean Sea! joint action.

Public debates will be organized. 3 public debates will take place in each project country, with at least 300 people participation, coached by NGOs volunteers; representatives of the public stakeholders will also be part of these debates, explaining the status and measures to be taken in water management and pollution control; public contribution will be gathered and brought to all stakeholders attention. Each event will address different public categories: public debate in schools: the aim is to shape the environmental culture since young age; public debate in one university: to capitalize youth ideas and contributions; public debates within communities in river basin: to reach general public perception on water management.

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The quantified target groups and beneficiaries are: 150 NGOs will use the studies developed within GA1 for increasing capacity, 30 representatives of the NGOs will be trained on the environment, especially water pollution issues, 10000 of persons will receive the leaflets during the awareness campaign, 1500 participants within 15 public debates out of which 1000 young people from schools and universities. At least 150 journalists will participate within press conferences.

## 2. Identify the needs and constraints of each of the target groups and final beneficiaries.

Needs of the people working for NGOs - representatives or volunteers, young people and citizens are facing different problems. It is a general need for water information and knowledge about the consequences of the human activities on environment. The level of development of NGOs is different and this was the main reason to develop the activities in a tailor-made manner.

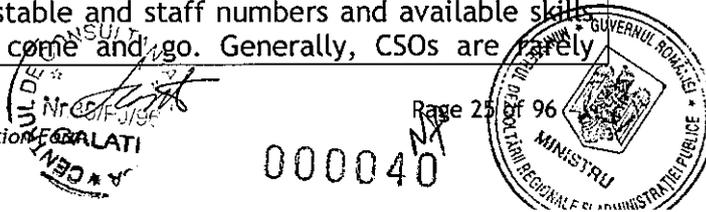
The final beneficiaries - people working in NGOs, young people and citizens are constrained by the lack of information sources, the insufficient relevance of these, and the underdeveloped level of public participation to the decision-making process because of the administrative and political systems and lack of capacity of NGOs.

Constraints of the target groups are specific to the level of maturity of the democratic system and economic and social development. The main aspects to be underline are:

- a) Capacity for involvement within public consultation organised for River Basin Management Plans. The NGOs and citizens will be more involved after they will know more details and more deeply the quality water issue. The quality of public involvement will increase too.

The Water Framework Directive - WFD (2000/60/EC) introduced a new, innovative and ambitious approach for sustainable management of water resources across Europe. The implementation of the Directive is a considerable challenge for the Member States and EU institutions. The first analysis carried out by the European Commission on the implementation of the WFD showed significant shortcomings, and a considerable distance in several Member States from the target of achieving good water status by 2015 (see 2007 WFD implementation report). The process of preparing the first River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) for the national and international River Basin Districts across Europe is a crucial milestone in European water management. In the preparatory process Member States are required to ensure transparency and public participation, and to actively encourage the active involvement of all interested stakeholders.

- b) Administrative capacity of NGOs. According to the **Turkey Need Assessment Report, 2010 made by TACSO**, in Turkey, while civil society organisations (CSOs) are clearly growing in number and the sector is developing rapidly, the majority of CSOs remain small, relatively weak outfits at an early stage in their organisational development. Very few associations and foundations in Turkey are able to employ salaried managers and expert professionals; outside of the big cities CSOs are almost entirely dependent on volunteer labour and temporary paid assistants engaged on short-term contracts for the duration of 'time-limited' projects. Consequently, staff structures are unstable and staff numbers and available skills fluctuate as scarce funding sources come and go. Generally, CSOs are rarely





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managed by professionals who have experience or expertise in CSO or other forms of organisational management. It is also quite common for relatively well developed and well financed organisations to be lacking in suitable management know-how and systems.

- c) Special Eurobarometer 365 *Attitudes of the European citizens towards the environment* published in August 2011: Scientists (40%) and environmental protection associations (37%) are the most trusted sources of advice and information on environmental issues, followed by a mixed list of media outlets and other organisations.

Volunteers and citizens /public have to have access to the information sources. It is the first step in their involvement. Volunteers have an low level of knowledge on environment issue, especially wáter quality. Some of activities are developed to address this problem.

As is mentioned by Turkey Need Assesment Report, 2010, in recent years, in Turkey, there has been a positive trend in promotion of voluntarism and total numbers of people volunteering in civil society has grown. Some universities, especially private universities, encourage their students to work voluntarily in CSOs, but these pioneering initiatives are insufficient to establish an adequate volume of volunteer services in society.

As a sector, civil society is poorly equipped to carry out successful advocacy and policy analysis and otherwise influence public policy substantively. The effect of poorly developed skills in this area is compounded by the weak base of participation by the Turkish citizenry and the restricted space allowed by government and public administration to CSOs for engagement in these activities. In addition, most CSOs have no specialised staff for dealing with the media and they pay little attention to publicising their work and maintaining good relations with the public.

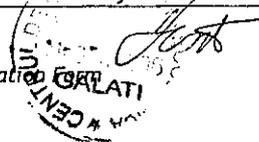
As National Indicative Programme 2011 - 2013 both for Georgia and Republic of Moldavia are mentioned, the need for improvement the capacity of NGOs is one of the priorities. So, *Clean Rivers-Clean Sea!* joint action will contribute too.

**3. Demonstrate the relevance of the proposal to the needs and constraints of the target groups and final beneficiaries and how the joint Action will provide the desired solutions, in particular for the targeted beneficiaries.**

*Clean Rivers-Clean Sea!* joint Action was designed based on the specific needs of target groups and in line with their type of behaviour. The activities of the joint Action will contribute to increase the level of knowledge on water issues, the administrative capacity of NGOs to be active partners in the process of developing water policies, especially within the elaboration of the River Basin Management Plans. Volunteers and citizens are both target groupus and beneficiaries. They will be involved within different activities and their role in public debates will increase. The NGOs are the most relevant actors for such an approach.

Special Eurobarometer 365 *Attitudes of the European citizens towards the environment* published in August 2011: Scientists (40%) and environmental protection associations (37%) are the most trusted sources of advice and information on environmental issues, followed by a mixed list of media outlets and other organisations.

We have seen on several occasions throughout this analysis that European citizens are frequently concerned by environmental matters which affect them directly, and that resources, commerce and consumption play a vital part in how they feel. It is therefore unsurprising that the main issues about which they feel uninformed are issues which





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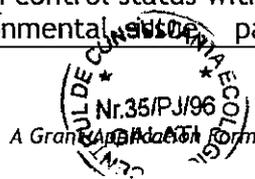
reflect this. Citizens say that they lack information about the health impact of everyday products (40%), genetic modification (37%), pollution in farming (29%), and water pollution (28%). Many of these aspects are closely linked to the depletion of natural resources and related issues - areas in which 27% of citizens would like to see more information. 27% of citizens also want to be better-informed on the loss of biodiversity.

The activities of *Clean Rivers-Clean Sea!* joint Action were designed according to the specific needs and constrains the target group. The foundation for any form of public participation is **information supply** to the public. Active dissemination of information is essential to make the prescribed consultation and active involvement work. The first level of real participation is **consultation**. Administrative bodies should consult people and interested parties (stakeholders) to learn from their knowledge, perceptions, experiences and ideas. Consultation is used to gather information or opinions from those involved to develop solutions based on this knowledge. Reports, scenarios or plans are presented and people are asked to comment. Consultation aims to ensure ownership of management actions as well as public and stakeholder support for the implementation of specific measures. Active involvement is a higher level of participation than consultation. Active involvement implies that stakeholders are invited to contribute actively to the planning process by discussing issues and contributing to their solution. Essential to active involvement is the potential for participants to influence the process. However, it does not necessarily imply that they also become responsible for water management.

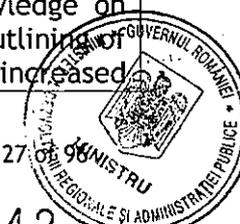
Transparency about “where we are now, what options we have, which ones are proposed and why” and to manage expectations. Transparency is essential as water management suffers from bad public relations and only 9% of EU citizens trust their governments on environmental information. Results from the consultations on Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) shows that there are observed improvements, but there is still a lack of involvement in consultations and it is unclear what impact consultations have on the drafting of final documents. In most cases SWMIs were identified without a clear and transparent procedure; some countries did have criteria and cut off thresholds.

**Turkey Need Assessment Report, 2010:** Public perceptions of CSOs and civil society in Turkey are complex and changing. A recent survey (January 2009) undertaken by CSDC confirmed the view (...) that a growing number of the population regard CSOs in a positive light. 63% of those surveyed associate CSOs and voluntary organisations generally with values of democratic rights, unity and solidarity, and view them as a source of positive power. However these views are in stark contrast to those of the remainder who comprise a considerable minority (37%) which holds civil society in deep suspicion, associating it with terror, fear and social unrest. An indication that democratic values and confidence in the possibility of exercising one’s right to speak out and act independently without fear of sanction are gaining currency in Turkey is the survey finding that positive assessments of civil society are considerably more prevalent among younger citizens, while older generations are much more inclined to persist in their fear of CSOs. Positive regard for civil society also correlates strongly with higher socio-economic wellbeing. However, low trust is almost certainly a determining factor in the very low participation rates in CSOs.

The initial situation of the target groups will be changed by outputs achieved by *Clean Rivers-Clean Sea!* joint Action including: improved and comprehensive knowledge on water management and pollution control status within project regions, better outlining of possible NGOs role in environmental, partnership tools created, increased



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experience - exchange on water management and pollution control, improved information on potential partners, better dissemination of project information and results among different stakeholders, improved conditions for NGOs cooperation, increased level of qualification and information on water management and pollution combating among NGOs, increased level of cooperation between public and private stakeholders, increased knowledge on public participation, increased awareness of public on water management and pollution control, increased input from public in decision - making, better means for dissemination of best practices.

**4. Explain any participatory process ensuring the participation of target groups and final beneficiaries.**

Both target groups and final beneficiaries (citizens) are involved within activities. In the first Group of Activities the representatives of NGOs will be part of the regional focus groups on identification of different water pollution sources and main categories of stakeholders involved. The working group that will validate the study which will be elaborated within activity no 2, GA 1, will be composed by representatives of NGOs as target group. Within activity no 3, same GA, "Research on the role of NGOs in implementing Water Framework Directive and especially in River Management Plans elaboration" the study will analyse, process and correlate interviews on NGOs themselves, on public opinion and also on private and public stakeholders, in each project region and will research upon the best EU practices. Young people in schools and universities as target group will participate directly within public debated organized in each region. Citizens will participate too and they will have the opportunity to express themselves and to contribute to the conclusions and recommendation that will be made for future improvement of the role of NGOs

**2.3.4 PARTICULAR ADDED-VALUE ELEMENTS**

**1. Indicate any specific added value elements, in particular promotion or consolidation of public/private partnerships, innovation and best practices, or other cross-cutting issues such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples.**

*Clean Rivers-Clea Sea! Joint Action* is special due to the fact that is developed by NGOs for NGOs and citizens, as young people and other citizens. The main topic is related to the environment especially water quality and that implies a cross-cutting approach. A good quality of water is needed for a good health of the people, for biodiversity and for economic activities. The training platform in 5 languages will offer the opportunity to organize trainings for representatives of NGOs or volunteers including disabled people. The on-line platform will provide on-line knowledge for disabled people. The public events, conferences, public debates will be opened to all people and will be encouraged disabled people and minorities to participate and to present their point of view.

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