



**Press Release
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The project "Water supply and sanitation in Moldova Center" – Key progress and challenges discussed by the members of the Steering Committee

September 19, 2024 – The Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIDR) hosted the **Steering Committee** meeting for the “**Water supply and sanitation in Moldova Center**” project. The meeting was attended by representatives from MIDR, the German Embassy in Moldova, the KfW Bank, and other entities involved in the implementation of this essential infrastructure project.

The project involves the construction of the Chişinău-Străşeni-Călăraşi main transmission pipe, approximately 53 km long, and the rehabilitation of water networks in the towns of Străşeni and Călăraşi. In its first phase, the project will provide access to drinking water for 30,000 residents in the central region of the Republic of Moldova.

During the meeting, Sergiu Tăbăcaru, Head of the Water Supply and Sanitation Policies Directorate at MIDR, emphasized that the water supply and sanitation sector is a priority for the Government of the Republic of Moldova, thanking the German partners for their support. He also highlighted the importance of simplifying the procedures for delegating water and sanitation services, following a recent government decision.

The representatives of the German Embassy reaffirmed their continued support for improving access to quality water in Moldova, underscoring their commitment to supporting the country on its path to European Union integration.

During the meeting, Ion Pînzari, Director of the Central Regional Development Agency (RDA Center), announced the imminent signing of the construction contract and discussed the planning of procurement for the second phase of design. The head of the implementation team also stressed the close collaboration with local authorities and the partners involved to ensure the efficient implementation of the project, considering the positive impact it will have on the region.

In the same vein, the project team presented information regarding the establishment of Social Impact Monitoring Committees at the local level in each of the communities involved in the project. These committees will oversee the on-site situation and monitor the compensation procedure for the temporary expropriation of affected landowners.

An important topic discussed was the challenges encountered in creating the regional operators S.A. Apă Canal Străşeni and S.A. Apă Canal Călăraşi. It was agreed to accelerate the implementation process through closer collaboration with the Public Property Agency and the experts involved.

RDA Center is a non-commercial public institution subordinate to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The purpose of the Agency is to contribute to the sustainable and equitable development of the Central Region by eliminating disparities and imbalances between the areas of the region, for the benefit of its residents.

The meeting concluded with discussions on awareness-raising measures and community engagement to ensure efficient and transparent communication with the project beneficiaries.

The "**Water supply and sanitation in Moldova Center**" project is one of the largest ongoing infrastructure projects in the water supply and sanitation sector, having a significant impact on the quality of life for residents in the central region of the country.

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