

NGO perspective of P-free detergents

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PRUT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT. CASE STUDY

Project Objective

To support Moldova, Ukraine and Romania to develop the Prut River basin management plan, in line with the WFD

Main Components:

Component 1 - Prut River Basin Management Plan

Component 2 - Adapting policy objectives and measures to WFD/CAP context through raising awareness

Component 4 - Stakeholders dialogue, partnerships and networking

Countries involved:

Romania, Moldova, Ukraine



**2006 Danube Regional Project
"PRUT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT" CASE STUDY**

Component 3:

**Changing consumer behavior due to the introduction
of phosphate free detergent into the market**

Goal:

**Establish partnership with stakeholders and provide
them with relevant information/ data contributing
to use of phosphate free detergents**



Activities undertaken:

Identify relevant stakeholders groups as target audience

**Update surveys on currently used detergents in countries
involved**

Prepare and disseminate information package

Obtain feedback from target groups

**Make conclusions and develop recommendations to be
included in the Final Report**

**Prepare and disseminate flyer "Use Phosphate Free
Detergents!" based upon analyzed feedback from target
groups**

Create the project website: <http://prut-rbmp.cesep.ro>



P-free detergents Policy Related Issues

	Romania	Moldova
Water related legislation, in line with WFD	Adopted	Not developed
New nutrients ambient water quality standards	Adopted	Under discussion (note: at present phosphorus content is not regulated)
Phosphate policy	Developed	Not developed
Associations membership	16 member associations of A.I.S.E (under Romanian Union of Cosmetics and Detergent Manufacturers – RUCODEM)	None
Voluntary initiatives /agreements	Unilever (industry initiative)	None

P-free detergents Statistical Data

	Romania	Moldova
Usage of detergents (tones/annually)	154,600	12,000 (estimated)
Amount of produced detergents (tones/annually)	77,000 (estimated)	800-1000
Share of imported detergents	50%	90%
Indication of P-content	In some cases absent	In some cases absent
Share of P-free detergents on the market	n/a	none (only 5% of P-poor ones; 5-15%)

Proposed Nutrient Related Standards of Surface Water Quality in Moldova




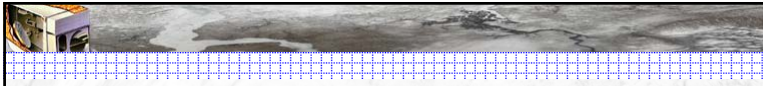


Parameters	Unit	MAC in use	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
P tot	[mg P/l]	none	0.1 (or NBGL)	0.2	0.4	1	>1
Ortho-phosphate, P-PO ₄	[mg P/l]	0,2	0.05 (or NBGL)	0.1	0.2	0.5	>0.5
Ammonium N-NH ₄	[mg N/l]	0,39	0.2 (or NBGL)	0.4	0.8	3.1	>3.1
Nitrate, N-NO ₃	[mg N/l]	9,1	1 (or NBGL)	3	5.6	11.3	>11.3
N tot	[mg N/l]	none	1.5 (or NBGL)	4	8	20	>20

Surface water quality standards in Romania

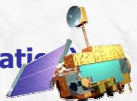


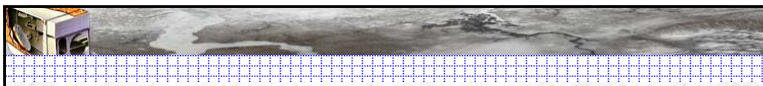


Parameters		Water quality class (OD 161/2006)				
		I	II	III	IV	V
Nutrients & detergents						
P tot	mg P/l	0.15	0.4	0.75	1.2	>1.2
Ortho-phosphate (P-PO ₄ ³⁻)	mg P/l	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	>0.9
Anion detergents	µg/l	100	200	300	500	>500
Amonium (N-NH ₄ ⁺)	mg N/l	0.4	0.8	1,2	3.2	>3.2
Nitrite (N-NO ₂ ⁻)	mg N/l	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.3	>0.3
Nitrate (N-NO ₃ ⁻)	mg N/l	1	3	5,6	11,2	>11,2
N totl	mg N/l	1.5	7	12	16	>16



Main Findings on updated survey - Moldova

- Recently adopted by the Parliament Concept of the National Water Policy that generally stipulates an integrated approach to surface waters management does not contain provisions of the phosphate policy
- There are not being developed national standard for phosphates concentration in detergents and anion detergents in water
- Trade flows of detergents within CEC have expanded during last years, and share of imported P- containing detergents predominates
- Enforcement of existing environmental and water quality protection laws and regulations is poor
- Fine system does not cover damage to environment and does not allow to control properly water quality
- P- content is often not indicated on detergent products



Main Findings on feedback - Moldova (continuation)

- Public awareness including environmental education related to input of nutrients in water and importance of use of phosphate-free detergents to prevent surface water eutrophication is still poor and needs to be raised and improved
- There is practically no NGO's activities towards introduction and use of P-free detergents
- High demand of population for low price products
- Consumers are mainly interested in the price of detergents rather than quality
- Contribution of P from detergents to the phenomenon of eutrophication in the country is not estimated
- Use of P- free detergents assuredly can contribute to a general decrease of nutrients in rivers, lakes and reservoirs

Recommendations - Moldova

- To develop national phosphate policy
- To adopt new primary and secondary water quality legislation, in line with WFD
- To adopt new water quality standards based upon surface water quality classification system

In fact,

- **Moldovan Hygienic Regulations (1997) contains 255 parameters** while

Directive 75/440/EC (drinking water) – 46 parameters

Directive 76/160/EC (bathing waters) – 19 groups of parameters

- **Moldovan Rules for Protection of Surface Waters (1991) regulate 10 “general conditions” parameters and**

1083 parameters in the list of MAC’s, while

Directive 78/659/EEC (fishery waters) – 14 parameters

(Source: OESD project)

Recommendations - Moldova (continuation)

- To promote voluntary third party initiatives to reduce nutrient pollution
- To further raise relevant agencies and public awareness and ensure public involvement
- To wider use Romanian and other Danube countries experience in the field
- To develop and adopt legal act limiting P- content in detergents
- To oblige importers to indicate P- content on products
- To develop tax policy for producers in relation to P-free detergents
- On initial stage to provide financial support from donors to subsidize P-free detergents prices