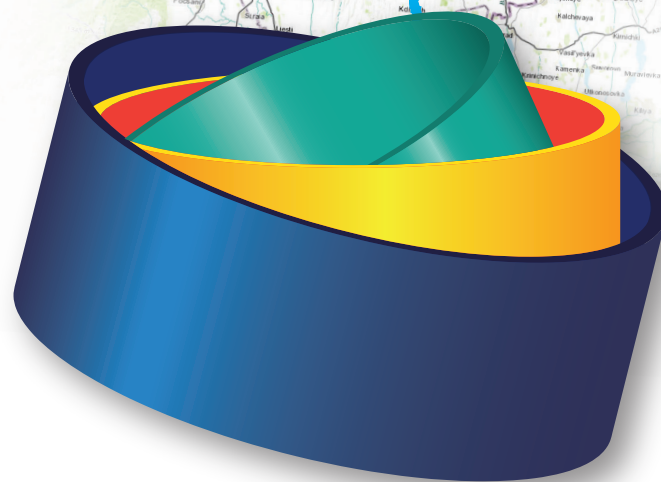




Concept for the complex development of Pruth River

2015

Since the beginning, nature has carried man in his journey through time.

Like a trusty travelling companion, Pruth River and we who live on either side of its banks, await a new beginning.

Romania, Moldova and Ukraine need it, now more than ever!



Petru Schipor

Preşedinte & CEO, Ekkou VP

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Petru Schipor".





Established in 2010 by Petru Schipor, Ekkou VP (Romania) is a supplier of integrated investment development services, specializing in sectors like construction, energy, oil & gas, as well as the management of partnerships and projects that arise from major investment opportunities in the EMEA and Asia-Pacific regions.



Connected. Relevant. Successful.

Investment Scouting

We identify relevant regional investment opportunities from media and public sources, collecting and assessing the needed information for successfully approaching each opportunity.

Coalition Building

We have a large portfolio of worldwide partners with a wide variety of knowledge, know how & expertise. For each investment opportunity we select and bring together the ones that present the most relevant expertise and potential contribution to the project in order to ensure the highest score in the tender.

Business Intelligence

Correct information is vital in the success of a tender application and is a pre-requisite to an efficient business interaction. In this respect, we gather information on the project, competition interest and stakeholders' agenda, ensuring comprehensive reports for project documentation.

International Public Affairs

We ensure our project partners liaising with the proper authorities in the host community in a transparent and professional manner, offering permanent advice in the investors/partners interaction with appropriate stakeholders from first contact to project completion.

Permitting

We have a very good level of knowledge on procedural requests and procedures, being able through our ongoing practice on these markets to provide support in meeting all permitting requirements, ranging from notifications, company registration, labor permits for employees, etc.

Coordination of Local Partnerships

We have a proven track record of successfully managing global investments projects, our team being able to provide fully integrated project coordination services to our partners from day one until the project closure.



Petru Schipor

President & CEO

Born in Bukovina, a historic region in northeastern Romania, Petru Schipor began his professional career in the field of insurance, where over the course of a decade he made a name for himself through success and professionalism.

He accumulated a vast expertise in the local and regional market, including Moldova, as regional development director for Austrian bank BAWAG AG (currently BAWAG PSK).

At the start of the new millennium, he chose to diversify his expertise in sales and distribution by joining forces with Greek group Lazaridis Marmor as development director for Eastern Europe and Russia.

This was a turning point in his career, as he began to establish contacts with business and institutional partners in the eastern hemisphere (Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Russia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan) that later guided him towards the position of investment integrator for a major Russian oil company. His contribution to identifying and establishing

commercial ties with business partners in China and distributors in Canada proved vital in establishing a value chain from refining to distribution of finished products.

In 2010, motivated by the extent of his previous success and the opportunities revealed by the new economic context, he establishes his own consultancy firm – Ekkou VP (Romania), designed and positioned as provider of integrated services specializing in sectors like construction, energy, oil & gas, as well as the management and implementation of partnerships and projects in response to major international business opportunities in the EMEA and Asia-Pacific regions.

Shortly after, Ekkou VP entered a period of accelerated growth, successfully implementing a series of diverse regional projects and building solid ties to companies and business leaders in order to address investment opportunities from Brazil to Kamchatka and from Canada to China.



Concept for the complex development of Pruth River

An integrated project along the
EU and NATO Eastern flank

In the past, Pruth River made the object of several development projects and initiatives. Whether the focus was placed on its hydropower potential or the economic benefits that would result from its development as a navigable route, Pruth River was always in the attention of political stakeholders and decision-makers in the three riparian countries: Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

The concept proposed by Ekkou VP in 2015 is based on a wider ambition. It incorporates previously considered development coordinates but adds new dimensions for consideration. Their combined effect generates a real potential for a wide range of economic benefits for local communities and riparian countries, as well as exert a positive impact on the EU geopolitical agenda for the region and on its political and economic relations with Ukraine and Moldova.

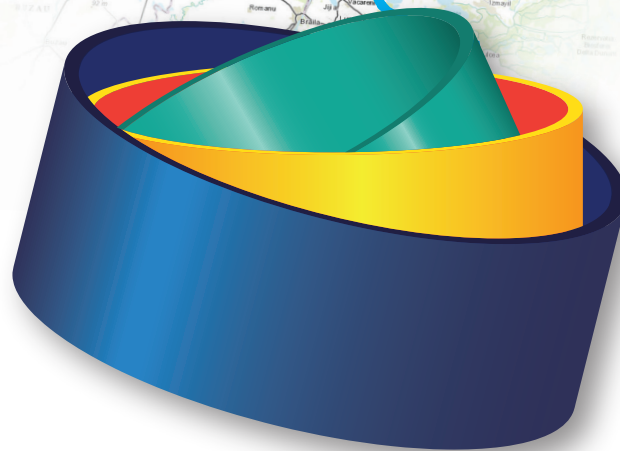
Pruth River enjoys a strategic geographical position, its relevance exceeding the national interests of riparian countries. This was obvious ever since 1926, when diplomatic and political efforts were made by Romania and Poland to open a fruitful dialogue on opening a new waterway between the Black Sea and Baltic Sea by connecting the Pruth, Dniester, San and Vistula rivers. Even though subsequent political evolutions prevented further discussion on the project, Pruth River has lately received new diplomatic coordinates as EU and NATO border. The concept for the complex development of Pruth River is aimed not only at establishing an integrated approach to economic and social opportunities, but also at ways to support the political aspirations of riparian countries to consolidate ties with the European Union and NATO, to confirm and support the importance of a North-South transport corridor.

In terms of hydropower potential, the total estimated power of projects proposed in this concept is around 120 MW, which is a much-needed breath of fresh air for Moldova, a candidate state for European Union integration who imports 80% of its energy requirement. The navigable development of Pruth River also provides an alternative, more cost-effective exit to the Black Sea and a cheaper alternative to rail and road transport, especially since all of Romania's existing waterways are concentrated in the south. The construction of new bridges across the river would strengthen commercial ties between the three riparian states (e.g. over 20 bridges tied Romania and Moldova back in 1940, but only 9 survived to this date). Previous studies outlined the possibility of thousands of new enterprises being created as a direct result of this project.

The development of irrigation networks and secure water supply for communities along the river, as well as the implementation of flood protection systems are also some of the main coordinates to be considered by this initiative. The renowned agricultural potential of the region must be developed further through new irrigation systems, while civil engineering works could prevent natural disasters such as those that took place in 2010, when two villages in the Republic of Moldova were almost erased from the map by a flash floods. Romanian officials estimated the Pruth River flooding area at 104,750 ha, with potential impact on 72 villages amounting to 125,000 inhabitants.

The political impact of this project would be tremendous, as it would improve interconnection and bilateral relations of Ukraine and Moldova with Romania and thus with the European Union, receiving support on their path to European integration and the adoption of democratic values and principles towards a common future despite the complicated regional context fraught with challenges.

Aside from the economic and political benefits of the project, which more than justify the complex development of Pruth River, the current context poses a unique historic opportunity which begs consideration and acknowledgment.



PRUT EKKOU

The project for the development of Pruth River poses a series of major benefits for both the economy and community.

The first stage of the proposal entails the elaboration of a pre-feasibility study, which would prove the commercial viability of the project and the required resources needed to secure funding.



In geopolitical terms, the project would consolidate the economic and political independence of Ukraine and Moldova, as well as the consolidation of ties within the EU bloc.



As part of the development of the North-South Corridor, it consolidates the interconnection and economic integration of Moldova and Ukraine with the European Union.



It could provide a waterway for the safe transport of agricultural and industrial products from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea.



The construction of new bridges will stimulate trans-border traffic and strengthen bilateral relations.



It encourages the development of energy capacities in the region through a series of new hydropower projects.



Includes flood protection works and expansion of irrigation and water supply networks in a renowned agricultural region.



Entails direct wide-area benefits for local communities along the river banks - from development of irrigation systems to increased border traffic and access to cheap waterways for transport, not to mention the jobs needed to implement the projects.



Ensures a favorable framework for environmental protection, allowing for conservation of local flora and fauna.



Consolidates European and Transatlantic policies for the region



Economic interconnection of Moldova and Ukraine with EU



New transport waterway with exit to the Black Sea



New road connections between countries



Energy development



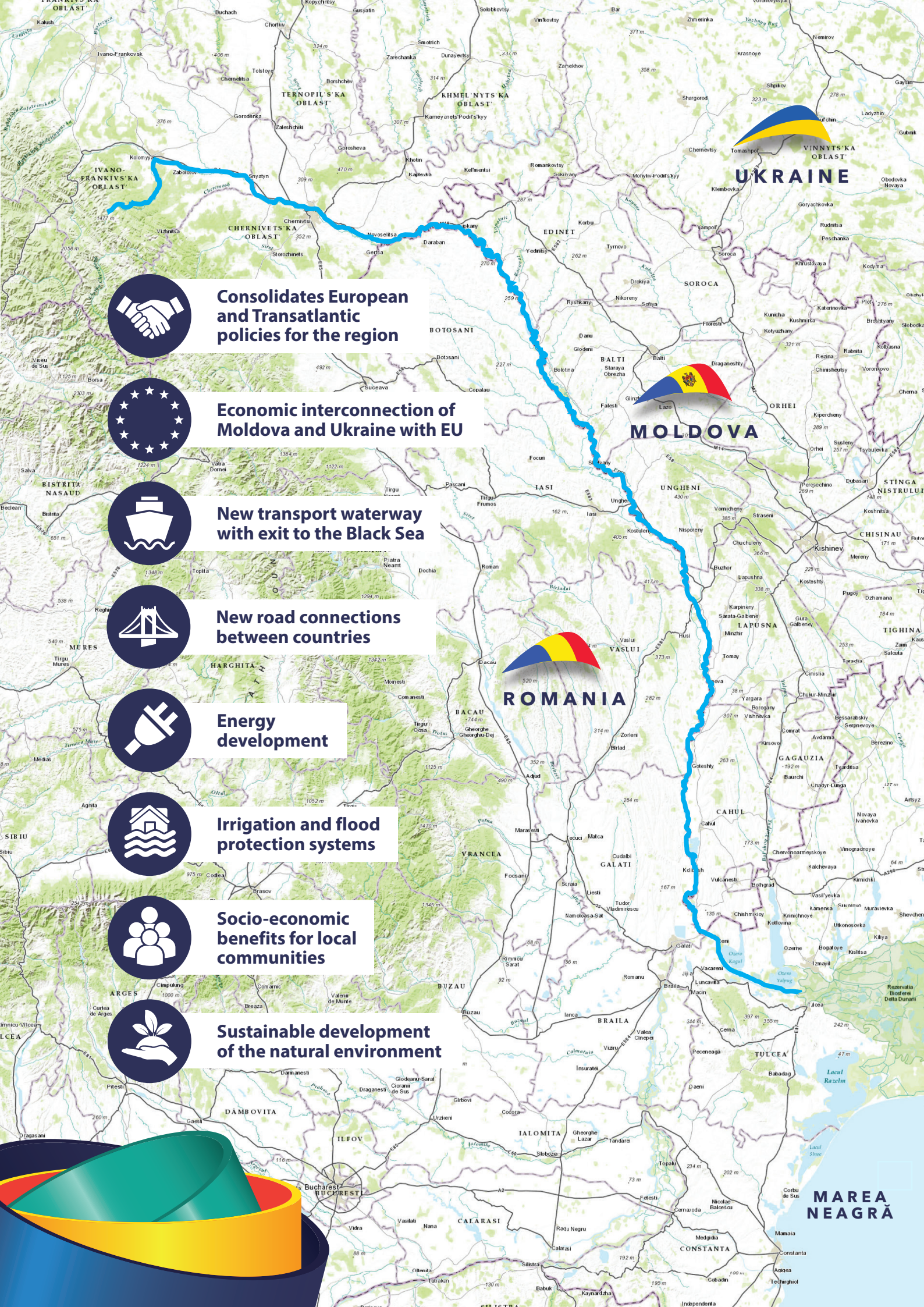
Irrigation and flood protection systems



Socio-economic benefits for local communities



Sustainable development of the natural environment



PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Project for the hidro-power development of Pruth River (1970)

The first projects for the development of Pruth River were drafted in 1959-1962, by the General Waters Directorate, which aimed to regulate all water basins in Romania through a national Water Use Master Plan.

For the first time, the Master Plan revealed Romania had one of the lowest water resources potential in Europe, a stark contrast from the traditional views of its richness.

Pluvial water resources that accumulate within Romanian borders (domestic resources) amount to 1,894 cu.m./yr per capita, while surface waters rise to a level of 0.18 m. That makes Romania largely dependent on waters from upstream countries.

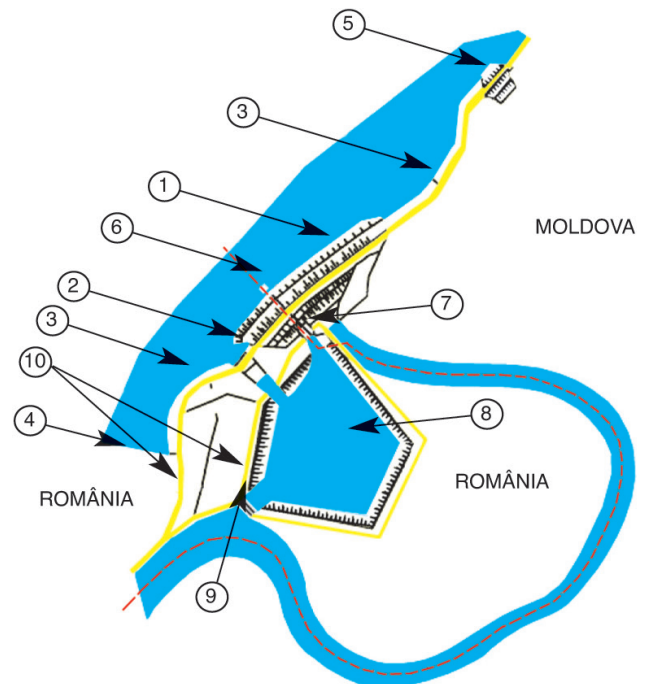
For flood protection, the plan for the complex development of river basins in the country included a series of dams and reservoirs used to retain excess water and, if needed cases, divert flash floods to safe areas.

Once the Water Use Master Plan was completed, authorities decided to disband the State Waters Committee. Between 1962 and 1970, the task of drafting water use studies was handled by the Institute for Hidroengineering and Water Surveys (IPACH), which identified the need for these studies for the substantiation of new projects.

Even before the Master Plan was completed, the state began a series of development works, with a more intense investment effort after its

Stânca-Costești development - overview

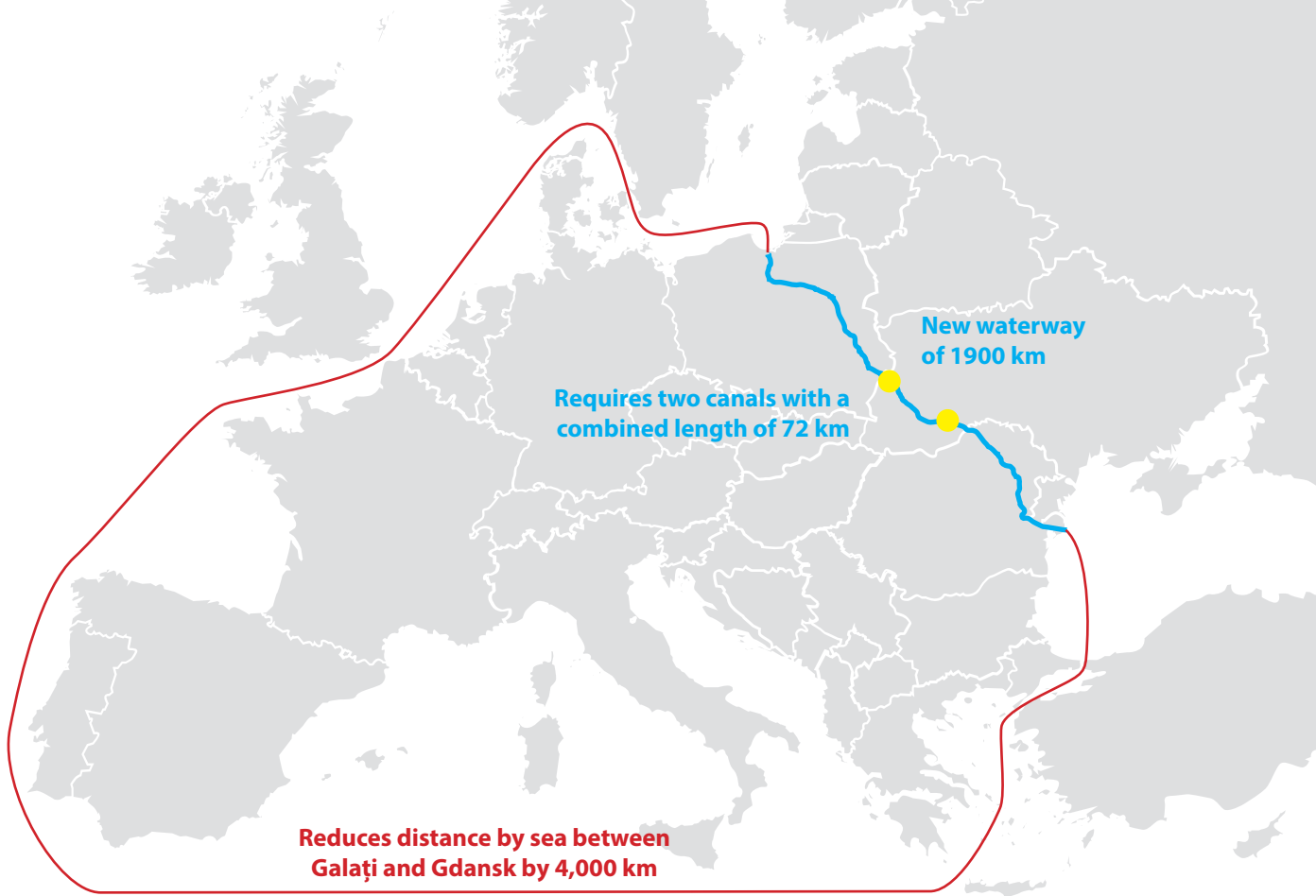
1. main dam
2. spillway dam
3. closing dam
4. consolidation of right (Romanian) bank
5. limestone quarry dam
6. water catchment
7. hydropower plant
8. compensation lake
9. compensation lake vent
10. access roads



completion. These included the construction of the Stânca-Costești development on Pruth River.

Following the devastating floods of 1970, state authorities reached the conclusion that disbanding the former State Waters Committee was a mistake and established the National Waters Council (CNA).

From 1971 to 1974, IPACH (now called ICPGA) enjoyed the support of the United Nations Development Program (UINDP), which aimed to help Romania with the issue of periodic floods.



Project for navigable route from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea: Gdansk-Galați (1920/1975)

The vision of a navigable route between the Baltic Sea and Black Sea was first announced in 1920. At the moment, it came as a natural evolution from the previous navigable development of Pruth River. Already navigable for a distance of over 300 km since 1850, Pruth River had seen new developments in 1914 which would enable an extension of its navigable sector.

The benefits of even this limited development led to the formation of a wider vision.

The first attempt to establish a dialogue between riparian states was made by the King Carol I Foundation, which presented an original plan for the full navigable development of Pruth River in 1920, integrating it into a large-scale regional project that required an interconnection with existing navigable waterways along Vistula, San and Dniester rivers.

Historical evolutions, both economical and political, prevented the actual implementation of the project, despite support and interest from all riparian states. Moreover, the navigation ban issued in 1940 and the subsequent abandonment of Pruth River as viable transport route in the context of the two world wars led to the fall of a political and public cone of shade over the regional interconnection initiative. It was thus abandoned for nearly 50 years, until 1970, when due to the political polarization of Europe the country had limited support and decision abilities over the project.

The current geopolitical context in the region, the national interests and agendas, as well as the joint objective of better integration and interconnection between Eastern Europe and the European Union, can favor the revival of a vision and create the premise for its incorporation into plans for a European north-south transport corridor.



BALTIC
SEA

GDANSK

LITHUANIA

LATVIA

San-Dniester
Canal

Dniester-Pruth
Canal

ROMANIA

GALATI

BLACK
SEA



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EKKOU^{VP}
INVESTMENT INTEGRATOR

5 Jean Monet St.
Sector 1, Bucharest 011955
Tel/Fax: +40 213-15-10-11
Mobile: +40 730-28-38-76
office@ekkou.ro
www.ekkou.ro