



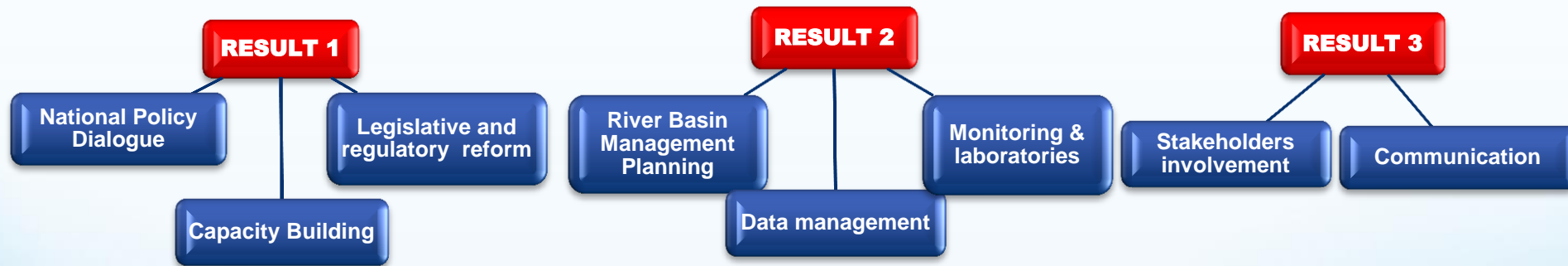
EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE
26 APRIL 2017, BAKU



Project Overview

- ❖ Overall project aim, to support the six EaP countries to approximate to EU water *acquis*



- ❖ Project structure and administration
 - National Policy Dialogue and its Working Groups
 - National Executive Strategic Board
 - Regional Project Steering Committee
 - Local Representatives



Progress



- ❖ Inception Phase (ongoing)
 - gathering of background information (Sep-Oct 2016)
 - kick off meeting (28 November 2016)
 - follow-up discussions and meetings with partners to clarify potential priorities (Nov 2016–Jan 2017)
 - drafting and discussing national workplan for 4 years (Feb-April 2017)
 - presenting national workplans at regional Steering Committee in Brussels (15-16 may 2017)

- ❖ Objective of this session and this presentation is to present the overall vision of the workplan



- The continuation of National Policy Dialogue
- Support to development of a long-term vision for water sector reforms
- Development of water legislation in accordance to the forthcoming agreement between EU and Azerbaijan
- Implementation of MEAs, primarily the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health
- Further support for transboundary cooperation with Georgia
- Capacity development

Policy and legislative assistance

- Revision of 1997 Water Code to reflect concepts of IWRM, EU directives, Water Convention (support by UNECE)
- Further legal support will be clarified after completion of EU-Azerbaijan negotiations
- Recasting of the National Water Strategy and developing the National Water Action Programme
 - ✓ Assessment of sustainable economic and financial mechanisms to support implementation of the water strategy (OECD)
 - ✓ Development of water allocation rules (OECD)

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

- finalisation and adoption of national targets under Protocol on Water and Health
- Support to implementation of UNECE Water Convention

Transboundary cooperation with Georgia on Kura

- bilateral negotiations (Tbilisi, June 2017?)
- implementation of certain aspects (in coordination with UNDP-GEF Kura-2 project)

Capacity development

- workshop on challenges and obstacles emerging while developing national water strategies
- provision of training on development and application of water allocation plans for national levels
- training to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention

- ❖ **EU Member States experience and know-how transfer to support WFD compliant water management practices in Azerbaijan**
- ❖ **Transition from Technical Assistance to process ownership and leadership: Key objective of developing institutional sustainability in Azerbaijan**

Based on Azerbaijan country priorities

- ❖ **Development of River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Kura upstream Mingachevir reservoir**
- ❖ **Support for WFD compliant ground water and surface water monitoring program in Kura pilot hydrographic district**
- ❖ **Support to laboratories analysis: quality management, training and equipment**
- ❖ **Support to harmonise RBMP on Kura with Georgia with a particular focus at the border and on transboundary issues**

- ❖ **Methodological support for establishment of cadastre/Water Information System (WIS) and developing data flow management to sustainably feed information production for the RBMP development in Azerbaijan in synergy with the twinning project**
- ❖ **Assist to create a dashboard to monitor the implementation of the programme of measures (PoM) on Kura pilot district based on previous RBMP experience**
- ❖ **Support to implementation of pilot demonstration actions on selected (soft) measures in particular from the RBMP of the EPIRB Central Kura pilot sub-basins (right bank tributaries)**

- ❖ **Assessment of 1) existing GW and SW monitoring situation and current strategies and 2) Laboratories (Baku, Ganja, Beylagan).**
 - Needs identification of equipment, infrastructure and training.
- ❖ **Strengthen WFD compliant water monitoring and water analyses by:**
 - Development of tailored monitoring strategies and nationally applicable guidance.
 - Purchase / upgrade equipment, infrastructure, consumables.
 - Hands-on training on **1)** sampling and monitoring of all WFD indicators (quantity, chemistry, biology); **2)** analyses of further substances, new/upgraded equipment and quality management.
 - Biological and chemical field surveys in SW and GW to support RBMP development/implementation (eg. Upper Kura, Aras).
 - Assist towards enlarging the accreditation scope.

❖ **Support to the development of River Basin Management plan in Azerbaijan**

- Assessment of RBMP development process in Azerbaijan
- Support to set the base for the institutionalisation of IWRM in Azerbaijan including delineation of basin districts
- Development of Kura upstream Mingachevir reservoir River Basin Management Plan in the spirit of WFD
- Development of national methodological guidelines to steer the planning process in the country based on the pilot experience
- Support to optimise the extra input provided by local consultant

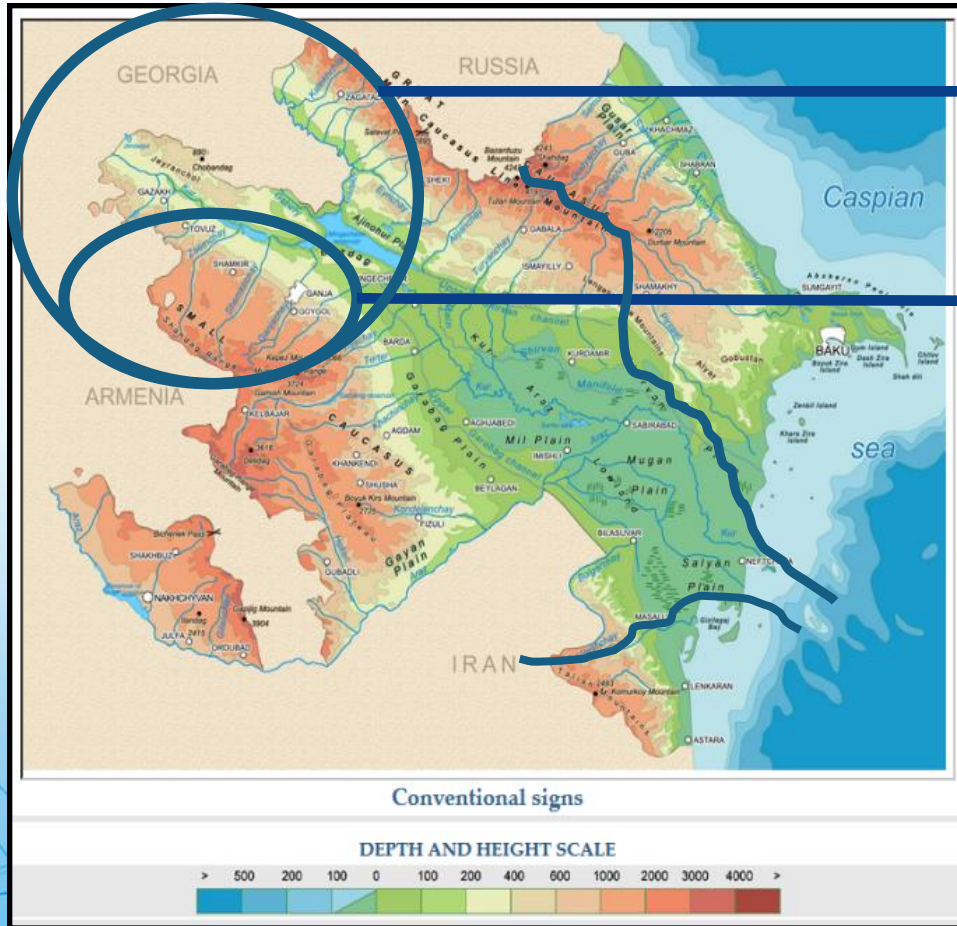
❖ **Support coordination in transboundary river basins**

Shape bilateral agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia:

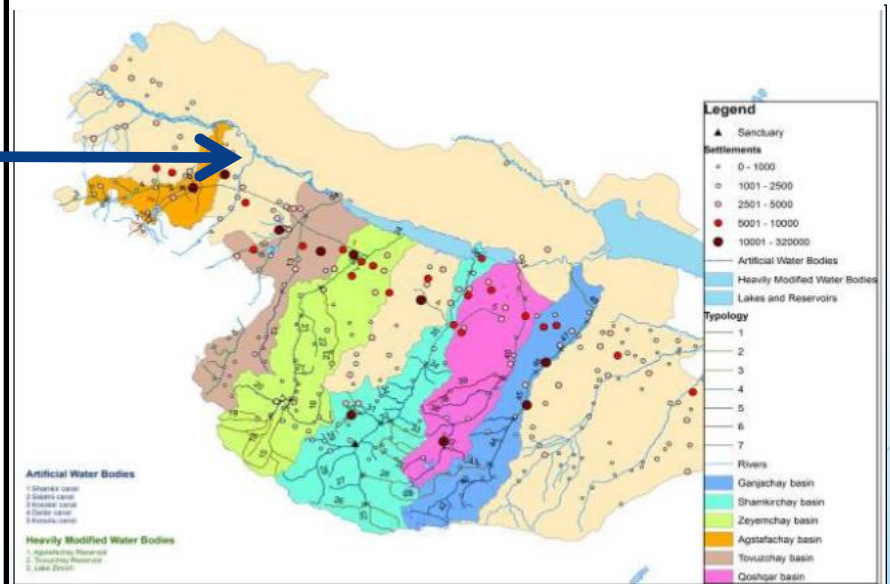
- Assessment of the RBM Plans on both side of the border
- Harmonise the different steps of the planning process
- Support to establishment of cross-boundary working groups
- Organise exchange of practice with other European transboundary basins

- ❖ **Establishment of a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of Program of Measures from existing RBMPs**
 - Introduction of the use of programme of measures implementation indicators to be linked to the basin governance;
 - Study the possibility to use Sustainable Development Goals for providing additional information beyond water resources monitoring;
 - development of dashboard with partner institutions for an interim report about the implementation of the programme of measures;
 - Assess the adapted type of measures to be monitored in the dashboard
- ❖ **Pilot test on action implementation on central Kura and possibly beyond in synergy with other projects**
 - The selection of the pilot action to be tested will be subject to a consultation process.
 - Methodological support and possible development with local support based on the 1M€ budget. Synergies will be sought with other projects.

Pilot basins evolution for RBMP in Kura



Upper Kura pilot district for RBMP development in EUWI+East



Central Kura sub-basins worked out as pilot RBMP in EPIRB

❖ **To improve the data/information management, it is proposed to:**

- Support organisational aspects for an efficient water data management (agreements for data exchanges, support to metadata production, on line server management organisation, etc)
- Developing a pilot demonstration of automatized data exchanges with a online water cadastre version
- Application of automatized data exchanges and support to information production for the pilot River Basin Management Plan development

RESULT 3

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNICATION

❖ Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project

- Development and regular update of a Communication strategy; The strategy may include consultations on relevant documentation linked to participative RBM Planning
- Implementation of communication activities for targeted stakeholders and the public in the pilot basins, including public awareness communication campaigns, school information sessions, preparation and publishing Information material etc.

❖ Strengthening of stakeholder involvement mechanisms for participative RBM Planning

- Develop practices and possibly institutionalization of stakeholder involvement mechanism at different basin scales which will include methodological and technical support to River Basin Councils (Upper Kura)
- Organisation and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to building consensus on shared objectives of RBMPs and PoM
- Stakeholder involvement actions and users involvement on thematic issues in priority areas.

❖ Establishment of a mechanism for national harmonisation of practices and share information and communication

- Development and regular update of the “EUWI+ East” data and information platform with a country webpage
- Organisation of targeted capacity building with ad hoc working groups
- Development mechanism for national harmonisation of methodologies and practices



3 RESULTS

TRANSBOUNDARY ASPECTS



Thank you for your attention!

Open for comments and questions

**Please feel free to contact the EUWI+ team:
y.videnina@oieau.fr**

