



European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogue

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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

1. What has been done in this work area? The main achievements since 2009?

- NPDs implemented in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Strengthened IWRM in the above countries in line with the principles of the Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU WFD and other UNECE and EU instruments
- “policy packages” (legislative acts, strategies, ministerial orders and plans for implementation); support to their implementation through pilot projects and technical assistance



2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?

- High-level support /strong country commitment and national champions and drivers essential
- A holistic consideration of issues, as the topics of the dialogue process are of relevance to all water-related sectors and cover one or more of the four pillars of IWRM, and cross-cutting issues as financing and public involvement
- Adapt to on-going processes (e.g. agricultural reform in Tajikistan)
- Aim for practical results, even if small-scale
- Use of the experience of UNECE and the parties to the Water Convention – the topics for NPDs should be closely linked to the Convention's provisions



2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt? (cont.)

- An environmental performance review, conducted by UNECE in EECCA countries following an OECD approach, provides a solid basis for choosing the right topics for the policy dialogue and developing a holistic understanding of environmental problems and sustainable solutions
- A focus on policy issues rather than technical problems, and is a platform where representatives of all competent sectors and the public can meet
- Involvement of all major stakeholders in the respective countries and representatives of relevant international organizations, institutions and programmes; also it is important to involve representatives of parliamentary bodies responsible for environmental issues for legislative matters
- Cooperate with bilateral donors and international organization





3. What are the ideas for the future work in this area?

- Continued NPD work in 10 EECCA countries until 2015 while deepening the implementation of IWRM; the topics for NPDs should be closely linked to the Convention's provisions
- Baseline study in 2012, follow-up study in 2015

