

National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee Meeting

Summary Record

The 7th Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM of Georgia

Country and location: Tbilisi, Georgia

Date: 05.03.2020

Key Decisions

Decision 1: The NPD Steering Committee (SC) welcomes progress in recent policy developments and institutional changes in the water sector of Georgia according to the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements and emphasised a commitment to expedite implementation of other water directives (on wastewater, drinking water, floods etc.).

Decision 2: The NPD SC welcomes that the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia continues public consultations and official procedures to accelerate the adoption of the new Water Law by the Georgian Parliament in the coming months.

Decision 3: River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) are the main tools for assessing and resolving water management issues in an integrative way. New strategic documents (e.g. Strategic Environmental Assessments/SEA for RBMPs) can help to identify potential issues to be addressed in RBMPs, which will support their adoption, RBMPs will be reviewed and revised every six years and are therefore living roadmaps that will be updated, as reform progresses. A pilot SEA for the Alazani-iori RBMP and a related methodology, being prepared under the EUWI+ programme, will develop capacity in Georgia to prepare and apply such management documents in the future.

Decision 4: Monitoring of surface, ground- and coastal waters is an important instrument for understanding the environmental status and justifying decision making in RBM Planning. It requires support from the government side to upgrade and sustain capacity of laboratories and staff. The NPD welcomes the important support provided by the EUWI+ programme in reforming the water monitoring system in Georgia.

Decision 5: The NPD SC welcomes the efforts made in enhancing transboundary water cooperation with the neighboring countries, particularly with respect to fostering practical ways of cooperation with Armenia in the Khrami-Debed/Debeda basin under the EUWI+, e.g. through developing a joint monitoring programme.

Decision 6: All participants agreed that Georgia will benefit from a reform of economic instruments for water resources management, with the reforms of water abstraction charges as a first step.

Decision 7: Securing a synergy and follow-up of international projects is extremely important for sustainably strengthening the capacity development and for achieving a more efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of the EU Directives in Georgia.

EUWI+ Indicators

Indicator 1: Gender Balance

Total number of Participants: **52**

In that:

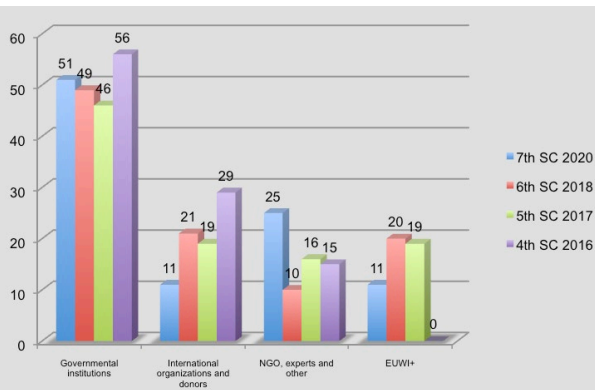
Total Female Participants: **28 (>40%, 53%)**

Female participants/total participants of 6th CC meeting of NPD = 50 %

The average of the female participants of the last 4 meetings was 55 %,

Indicator 2: Stakeholder Participation

% of Participants by Organisation type



The list of participants was divided into 4 categories:

1. *Governmental Institutions*
2. *International organizations and Donors*
3. *NGOs, expert community and other*
4. *EUWI+ team*

Historical data on the number of participants by category is presented in the chart on the left hand side.

Note: EUWI+ project team did not participate in the SC meeting of the NPD in 2016

Indicator 3: Government engagement in the 7th SC meeting of NPD

	Invited	Participated	%
MEPA	20	20	100%
MRDI	3	4	133%
MOH	1	1	100%
MESD	3	1	33%
GNERC	1	1	100%

Abbreviations:

MEPA: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

MRDI: Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure

MOH- Ministry of Health

MESD- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

GNERC- Georgian National Energy Regulation Company