

Assessing the EEA cooperation with Western Balkans, ENI East and Central Asia on integrated water management



Dr. Nihat Zal - EEA, Project manager- Water resources
Nihat.Zal@eea.europa.eu

SEIS and the environmental dimension of the SDGs – webinar series
Webinar 4 - Freshwater Management Indicators and Policies
21 April 2021



WFD target – achieve good status in all water bodies

40 % of surface waters in GES

38 % of surface waters are in good chemical status

89 % of the GWB area achieved good quantitative status



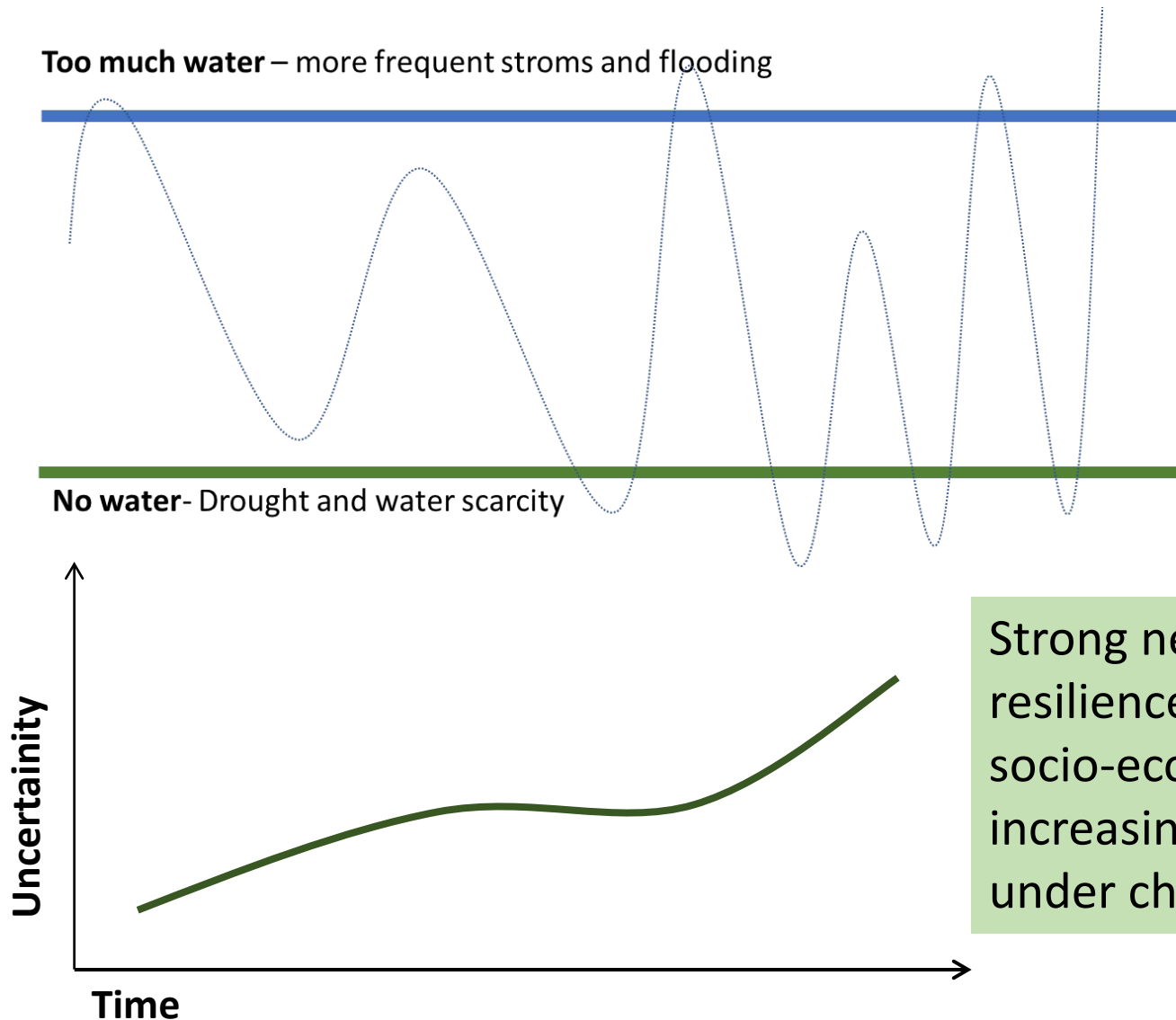
1st RBMP

2nd RBMP

3rd RBMP

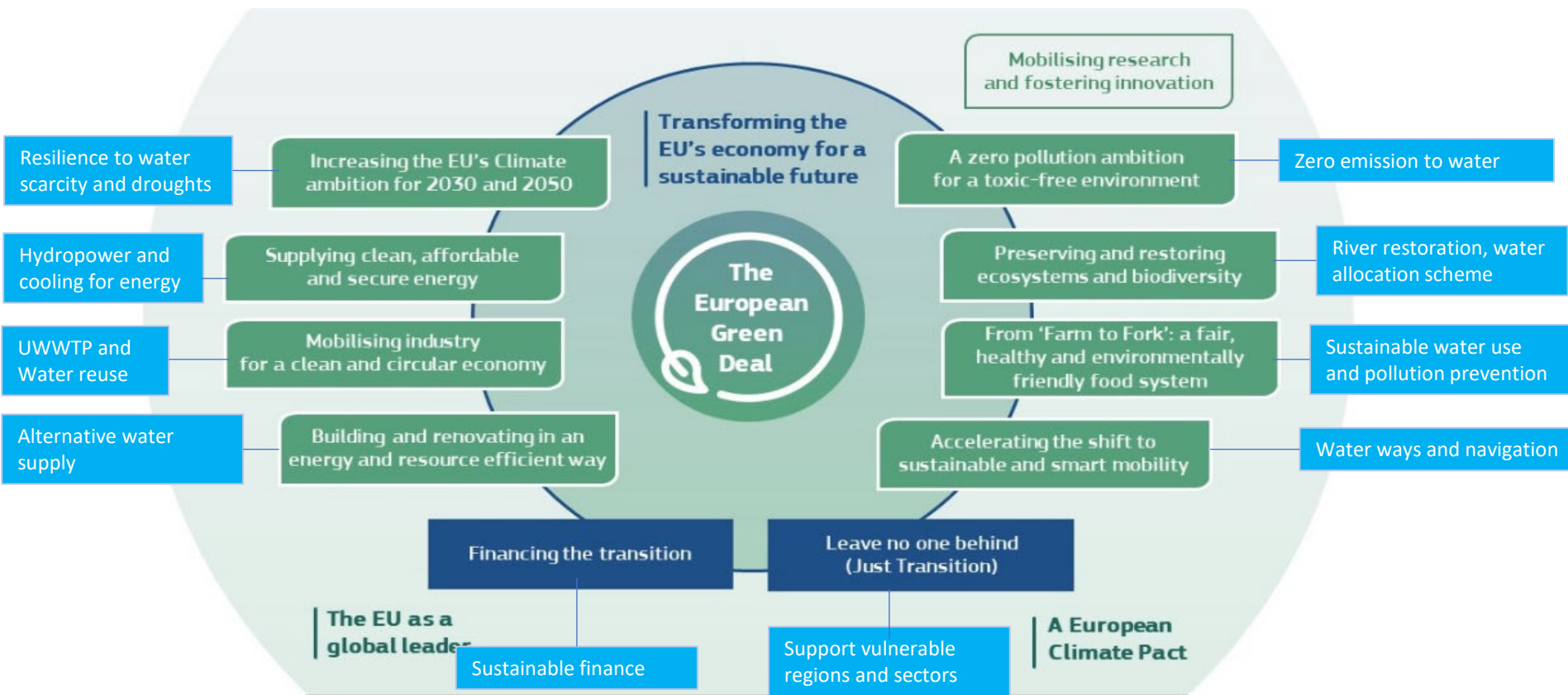
Achieve good status in all water bodies in Europe by 2027...?

Increasing uncertainties under the changing climate



Strong needs for improving resilience of ecosystems and socio-economic systems to increasing uncertainties under changing climate

EU Green Deal -A comprehensive reponse to sustainable transition



The EU Water Framework Directive – an integrated approach at river basin level to protect water bodies and sustainable use of water resources



EEA – Eionet strategy – 2021-2030

Delivering data and knowledge to
achieve Europe's environment and
climate ambitions

Strategic Objectives

Supporting policy implementation and
sustainability transitions

Providing timely input to solutions for
sustainability challenges

Building stronger networks and
partnerships

Making full use of the potential of data,
technology and digitalisation

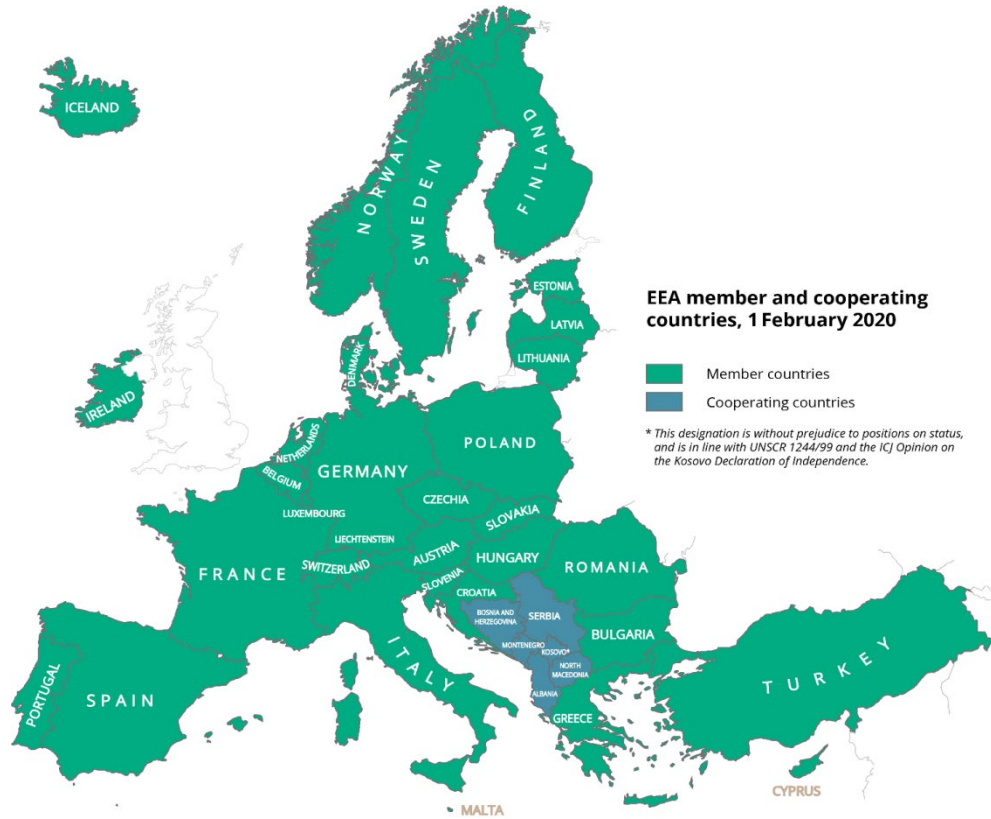
Resourcing our shared ambitions



EEA thematic working areas – 2021-2030



Building stronger networks and partnerships



Eionet - About 300 national institutions in **32 member countries** + 6 Western Balkans cooperating countries

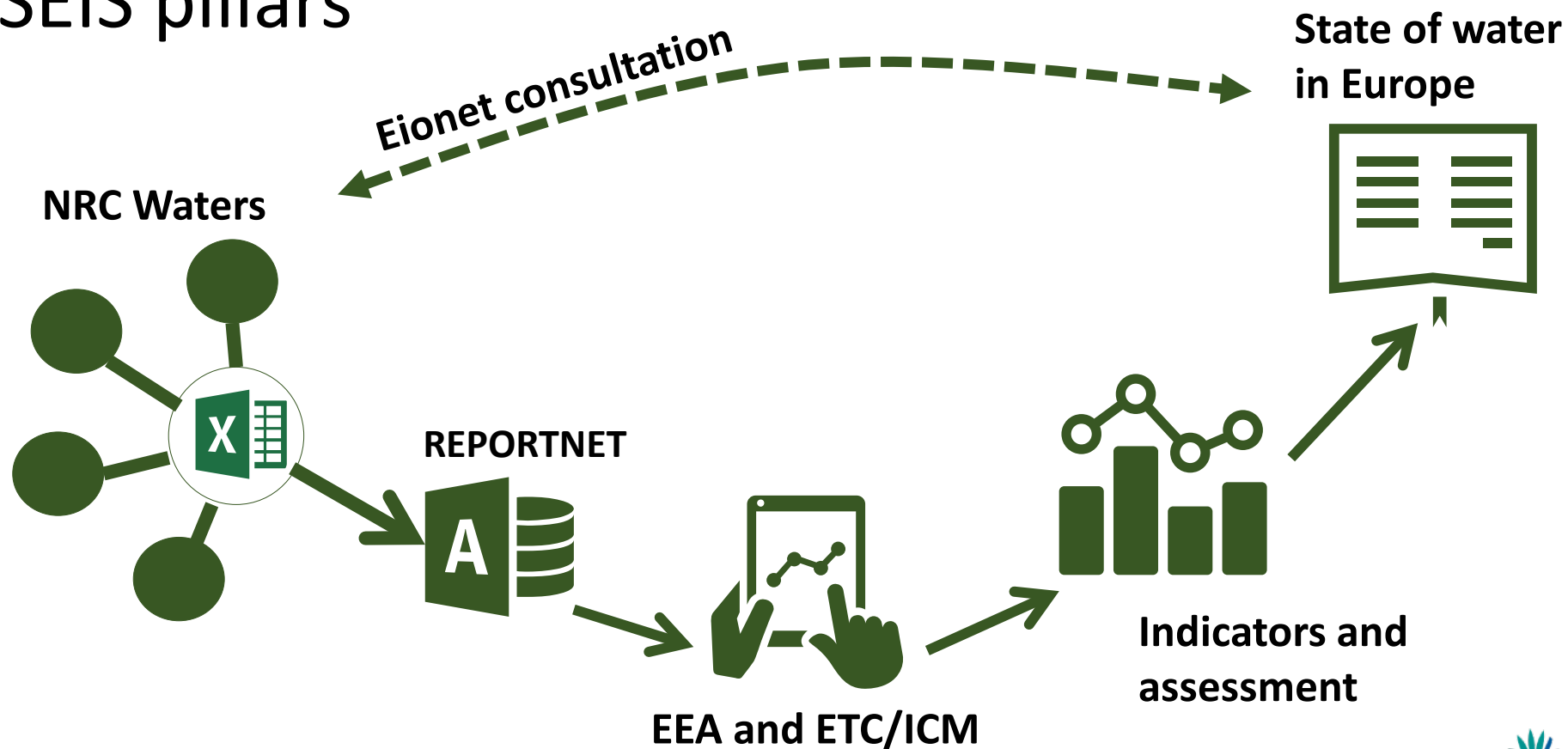
ENI – Neighbourhood countries of the East and the South

EfE Process – pan-European assessment

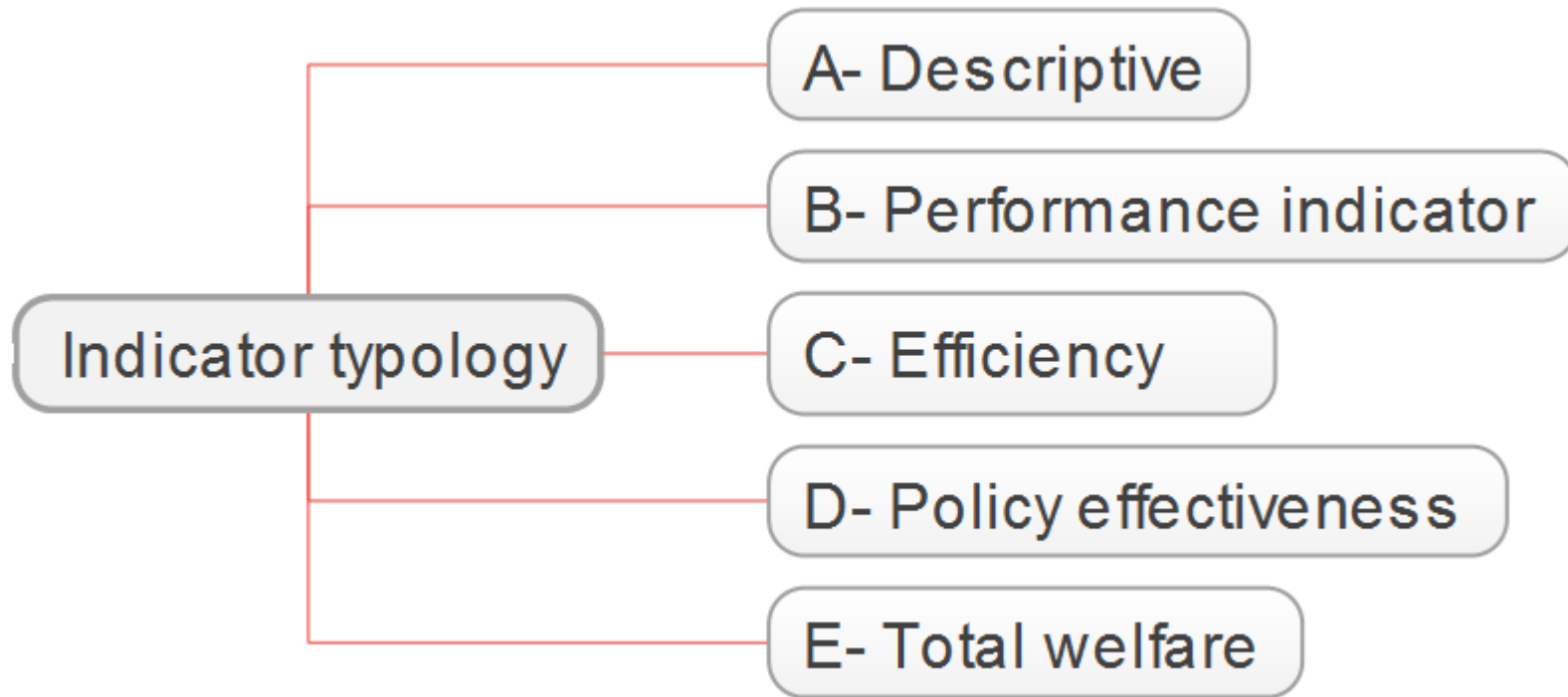
Eionet in practice – an example

Implementation of SEIS principles

SEIS pillars



Indicator typology and indicator-based assessment



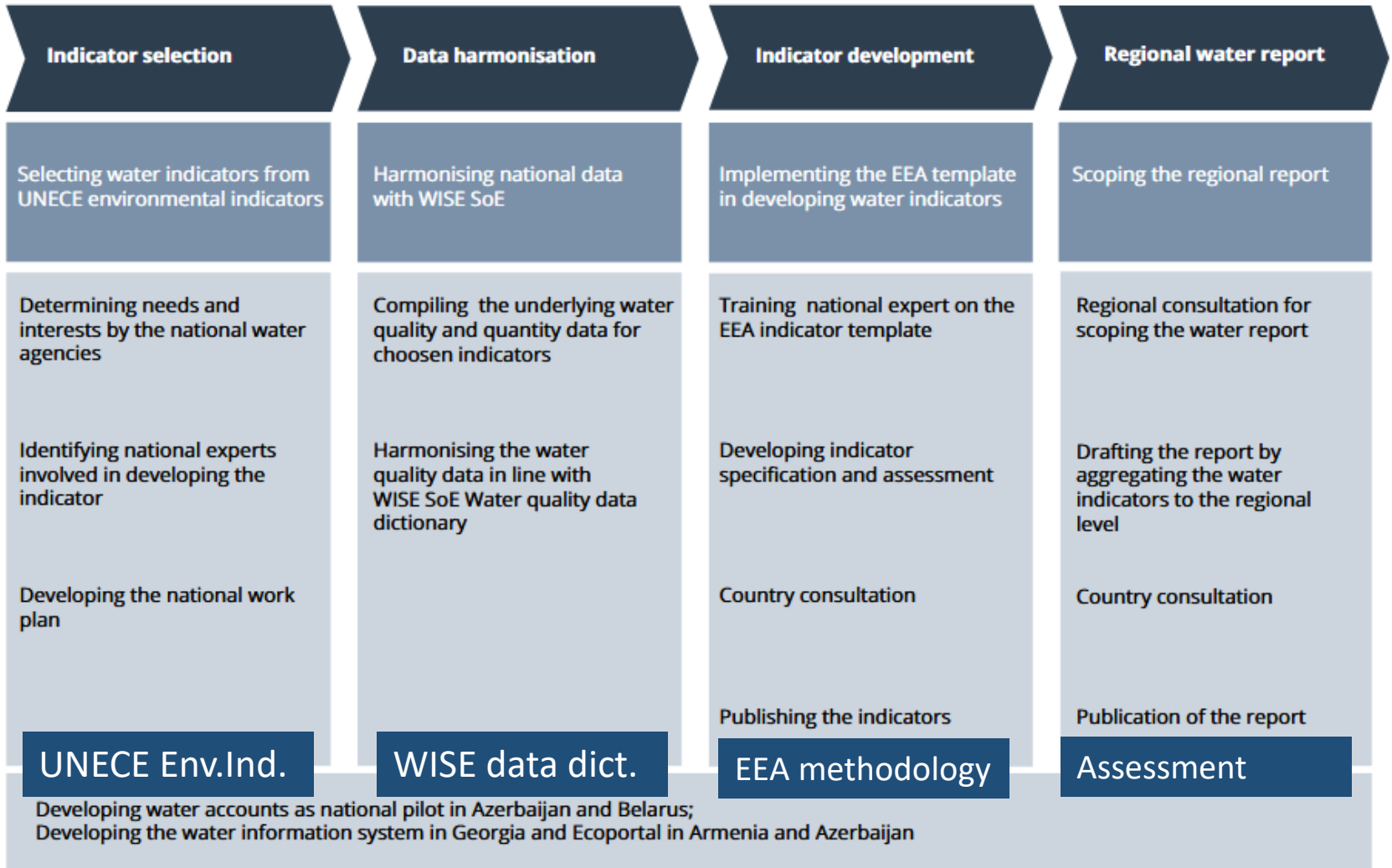
Progress (towards a policy targets)

State (ecological status of water bodies)

Trends (water abstraction)

Replication the concept of Eionet and WISE in the ENI East countries

Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the ENP East region - Water



Supporting UN SDG 2030 and National SoE Report

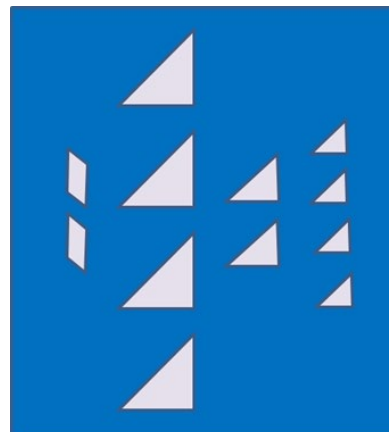
The image shows two screenshots of web portals. The top screenshot is the 'Water Ecoportal of Armenia', featuring a blue header with the 'ECO PORTAL' logo and navigation links for Home, Policy, Topics, Indicators, Data, and Map. The main content area has a large image of a stone church by a lake and a red 'Indicators' button. The bottom screenshot is the 'WIS GEORGIA' website, with a blue header and a white main area. It includes a login form with 'Username' and 'Password' fields, and two large boxes for 'WIS GEORGIA FRESHWATER' and 'WIS GEORGIA MARINE'. A footer contains the European Environment Agency logo and a note about the project's funding.

Replicating the concept of WISE for strengthening water data and information management in Armenia and Georgia

<https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east>

Data harmonisation and indicator development

Georgia and Armenia have already harmonised water quality data in line with the WISE SoE Data dictionary



Water resources and water quality can be compared across the ENI East countries

Water indicators	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
C1. Renewable freshwater resources						
C2. Freshwater abstraction						
C3. Total water use						
C4. Household water use per capita						
C5. Water supply industry and population connected to water-supply industry						
C10. BOD and concentration of ammonium in rivers						
C11. Nutrients in freshwater						

An indicator-based assessment

EEA Report | No 14/2020

Water availability, surface water quality and water use in the Eastern Partnership countries An indicator-based assessment

ISSN 1977-8449



Project funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Environment Agency

European Environment Agency



Отчет ЕАОС | № 14/2020

Водные ресурсы, качество поверхностных вод и водопотребление в странах «Восточного партнерства» Доклад на основе показателей

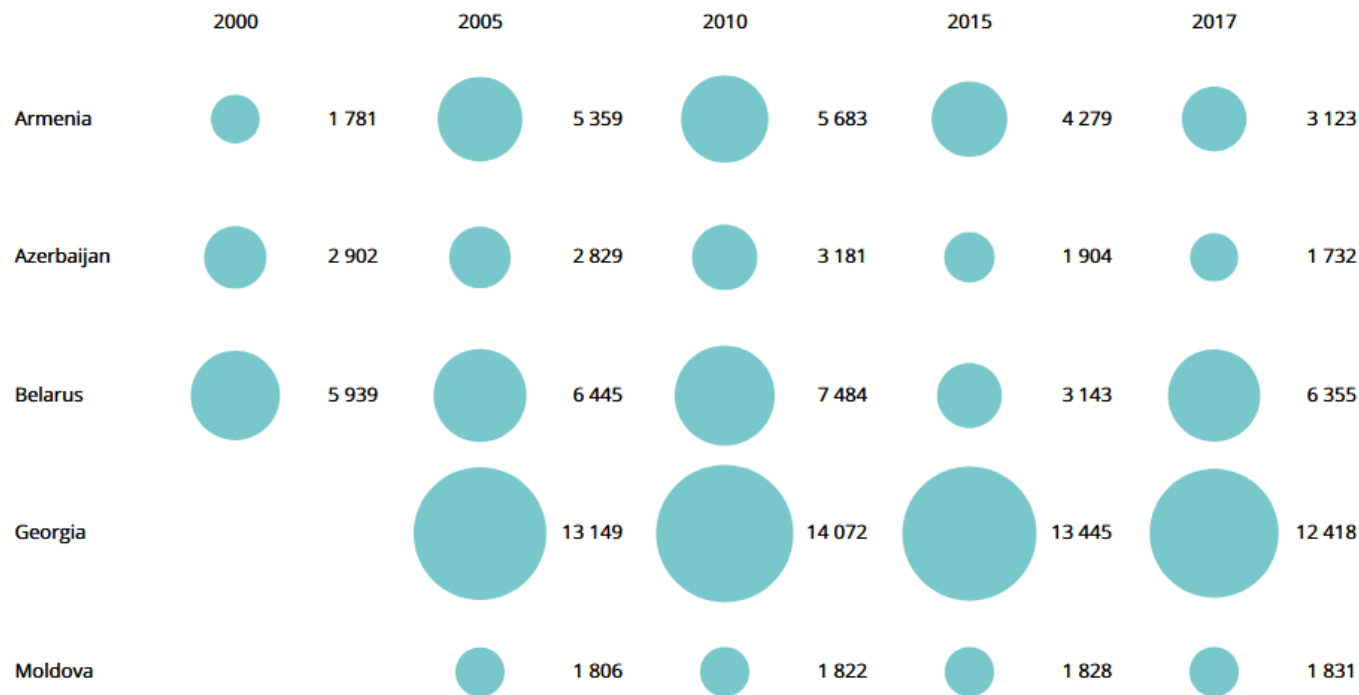


Проект финансируется Европейским союзом и реализуется Европейским агентством по окружающей среде

Европейское агентство по окружающей среде



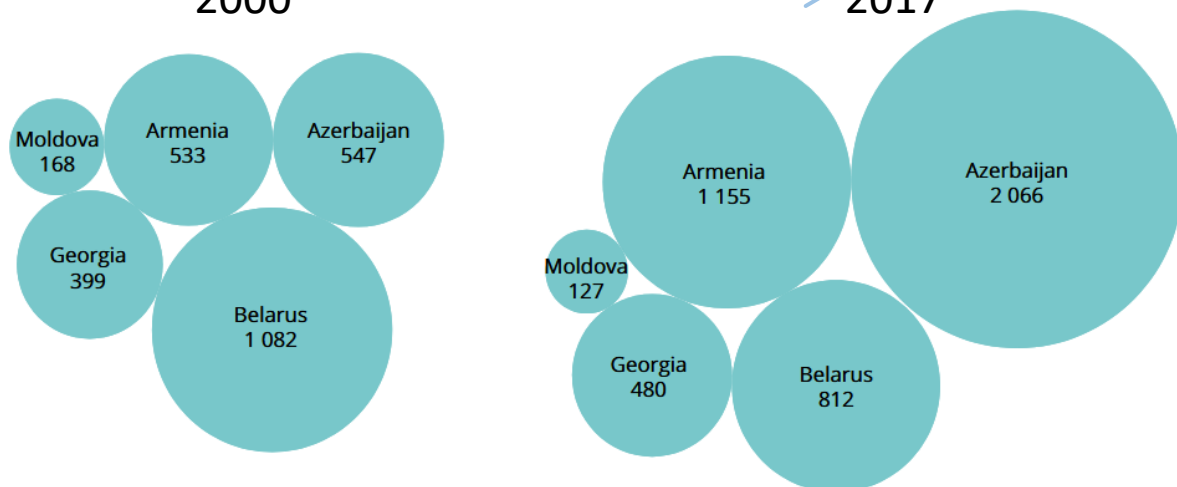
Water availability and pressure of water demand in ENI East countries



Development of water availability per capita (m3/capita/year)

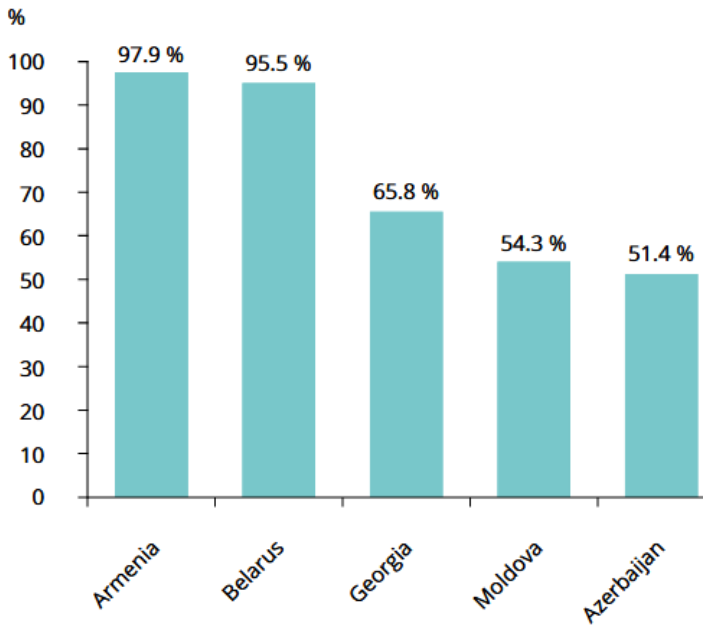
2000 → 2017

Increasing pressure of water abstraction on **groundwater** due to climate change impacts and surface water pollution in Armenia and Azerbaijan

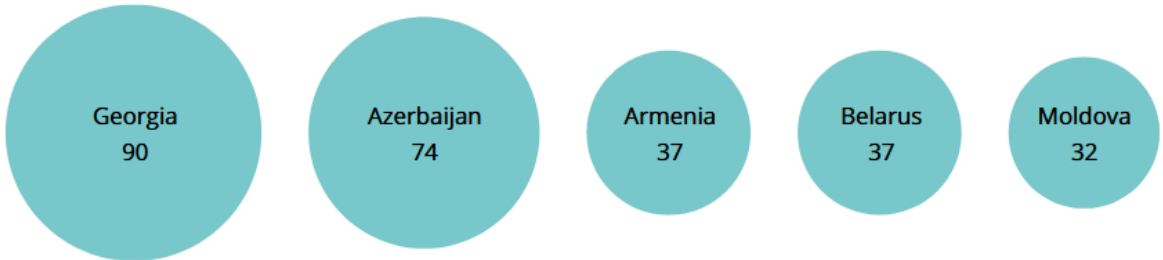


Public water supply and efficiency in the ENI East countries

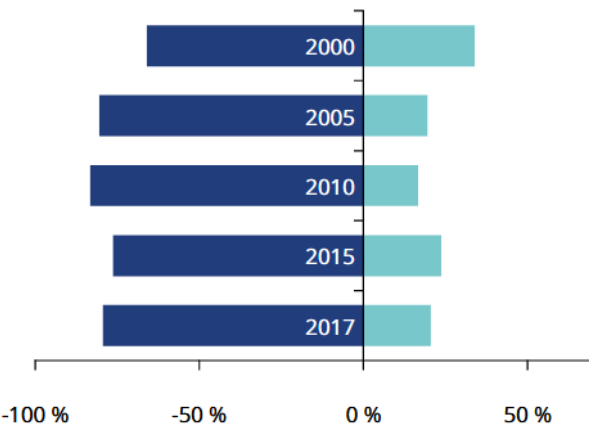
Population connected to public water supply



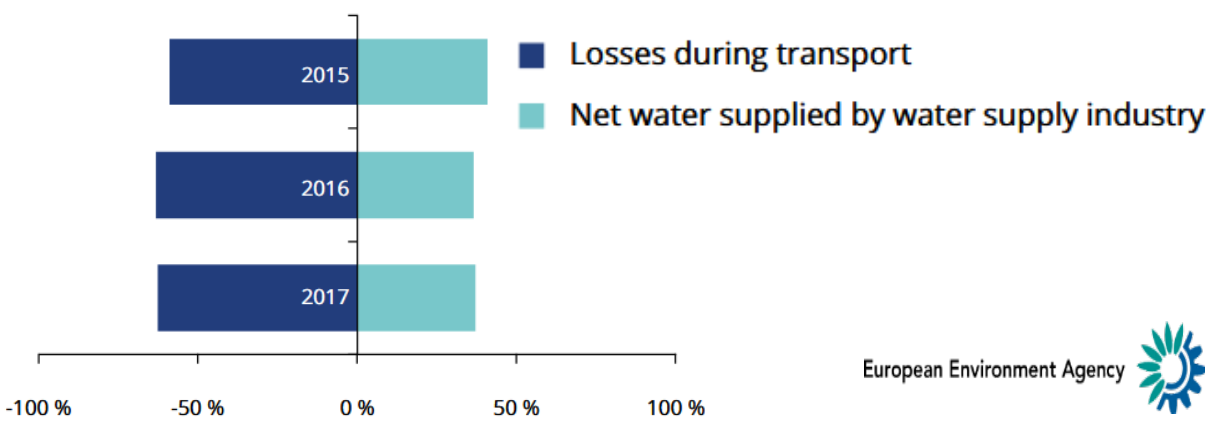
Water use per capita by households supplied by a public water supply (m3/capita/year in 2017)



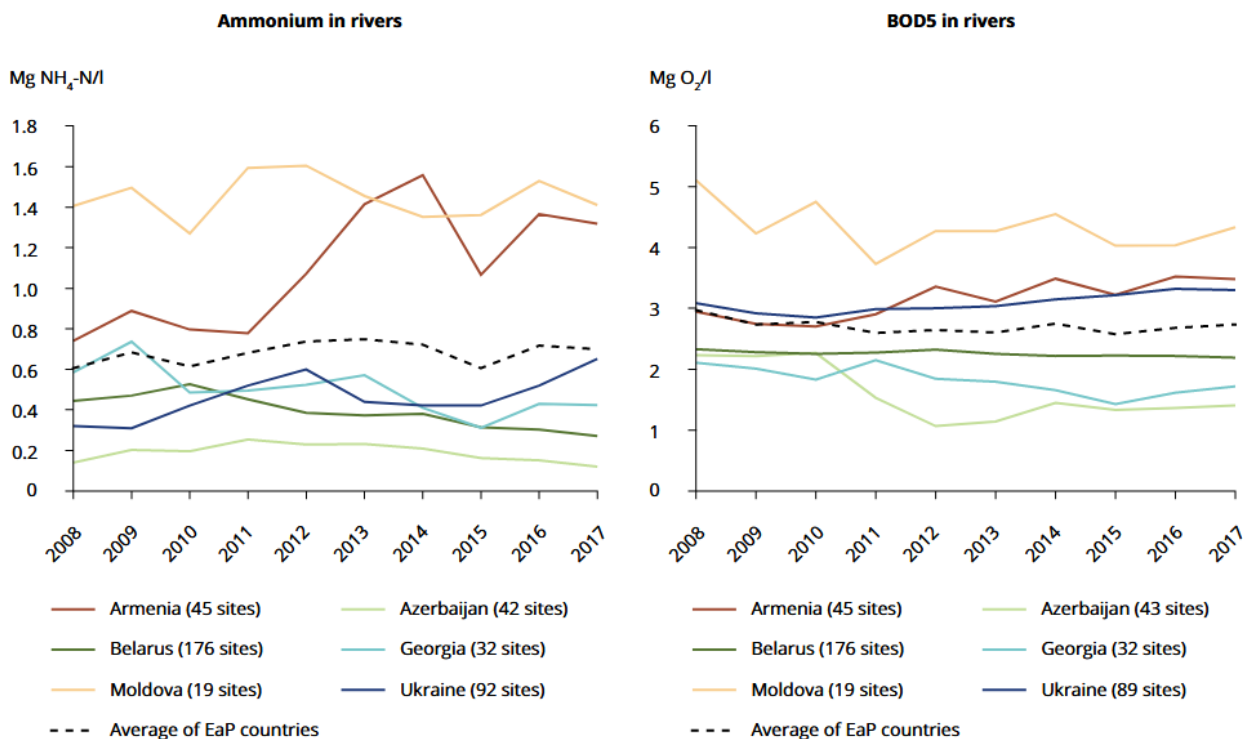
Armenia



Georgia



Average annual ammonium concentration and BOD5 for river sites in the ENI East countries



In the region, one quarter of the river sites are found in the two highest classes for BOD5 and three quarters for ammonium concentration.

Key water issues in the ENI East countries

- **Water scarcity** is an increasing problem in the region
- High water **losses** and **leakages** further exacerbate it
- **Agriculture** is the main pressure on water resources in the region and water abstraction for agriculture presents increasing trend
- **Water pollution** due to discharge of **untreated** or **insufficiently treated** wastewater and diffuse pollution from agriculture into water bodies – which also causes overabstraction from groundwater in downstream areas.



ENI East – Outlook for sustainable water management

Cooperation

Cooperation in transboundary basins needs to be further improved and encouraged

- Establishment and functioning of **river basin councils**
- Stakeholders involvement
- Developing the **funding** mechanisms

Insufficient inter-institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation

- Strategic planning and reforms in water management

Content

- Adaptation the content of monitoring programmes and data collection to modern **IWRM**, e.g. In line with the WFD
- **Data integration** (water and sectoral data) still remains challenging
- **Digitalisation** in monitoring programs present potentials for future



ENI East – Outlook for sustainable water management

Content (*continued*)

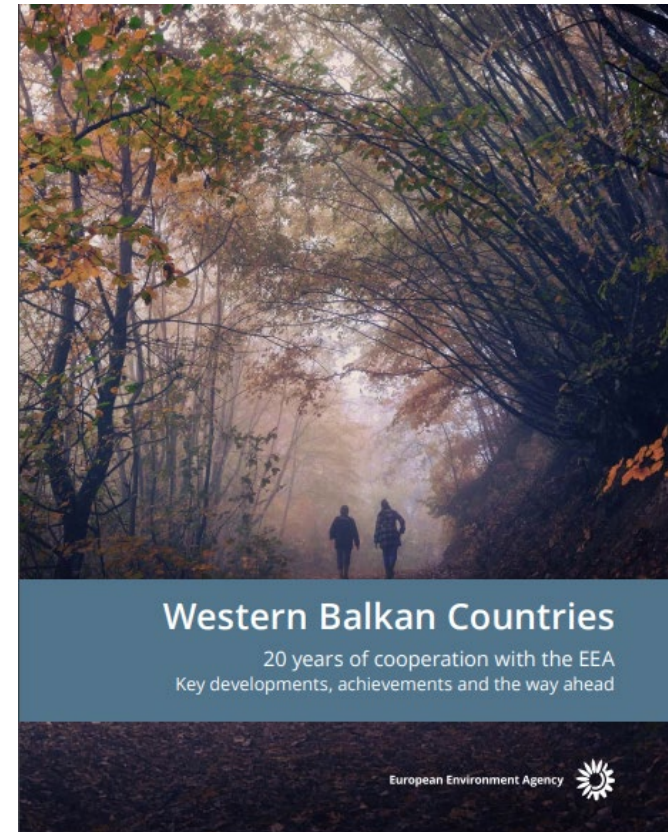
- Frequent institutional **re-organisation** and **staff-turnover** causes the loss of such institutional memory

Infrastructure

- EEA has harmonised **water quality** data of Georgia and Armenia with WISE. Data harmonisation should continue for emissions and spatial data.
- **Content management** of Water Information system of Georgia and EcoPortal of Armenia should be improved
- **Various water information systems** have been developed by the EU and internationally funded projects. Efficiency and effectiveness of that systems need to be ensured

EEA cooperation with Western Balkans countries

- EEA has been cooperating with the Western Balkan partners since 1997
- From 2014 onwards, the EEA intensified its activities in the region with a focus on guiding the countries towards **'technical readiness'** for EEA membership
- The six Western Balkan partners **participate** in the **Eionet** on a similar basis as the 32 EEA member countries, and are referred to as **'EEA cooperating countries'**



EEA cooperation with Western Balkans countries

Strengthening the participation of the Western Balkans in the work of the European Environment Agency 2020-2021

Water component

- **Capacity building** in reporting data to WISE
- Developing **water indicators** as part of the SoE report and improve the expert capacity in undertaking ecosystem-based management
- **Pilot activities** tailored to **the national needs** in the implementation of Monitoring, Data, Information, Assessment and Knowledge (MDIAK-C) chain in water.

EEA-Eionet cooperation with Central Asia



Support the policy debate under the Environment for Europe process



EEA liase with UNEP and UNECE and for follow up the cooperation with Central Asia on this area.



Thanks for your attention!

www.eea.europa.eu

<https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east>

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/policy/european-neighbourhood-instrument-eni>