



European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues on IWRM

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Implementing Partners (OECD, UNECE,
EU MS Consortium (Environment Agency Austria,
International Office for Water, France))



16th meeting of the Working Group on
IWRM (Geneva, 27 April 2021)

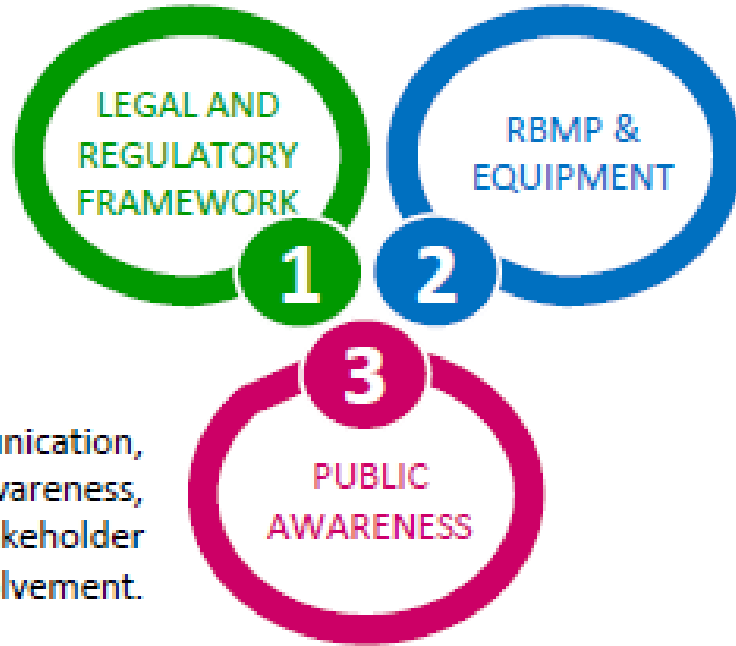


Overview – EUWI and NPDs

- **2006** - EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues on IWRM (NPDs) started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, initially under EUWI EECCA component
- **NPDs currently ongoing in 10 countries**
- **Funded and supported by:** European Union, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Romania, Norway, France
- **EUWI NPDs in Central Asia project, funded by EU and following up on EUWI EECCA,** started in 2019 (Sept. 2019-2022); 600 k EUR (UNECE in cooperation with OECD within the WECOOP programme)
- **EUWI+ programme** for the 6 EU Eastern Partnership countries; 24,5 mln EUR (23.5 mln EUR **funding from DG NEAR/European Union**); Sept. 2016 – Aug. 2020 (recently extended into 2021); **Implementing Partners:** UNECE, OECD, EU MS Consortium (Austria and France)

Activities in 2020 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus

National Policy Dialogues, Policy reforms integrating WFD principles, Training.



Communication, Awareness, Stakeholder involvement.

Development & implementation of pilot river basin management plans, Provision of equipment and services, Monitoring, Capacity building.

IMPLEMENTED IN 11 RIVER BASINS PILOT-AREAS



Progress and activities in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 1 – UNECE and OECD

- **Support to strategic planning:** 5 Water Strategies advanced, policy outlooks, etc.
- **Support to updating legislative framework:** Amendments to 3 Water Laws/Codes and a number of secondary legislation, including e.g. norms on small-scale systems, economic instruments, SEAs in water sector, etc.
- **Support to harmonization with EU acquis:** inclusion of WFD aspects into legislative amendments, dedicated roadmaps
- **Support to transboundary water cooperation:** bilateral agreements/cooperation in 5 basins advanced – Dniester, Kura, Neman, Western Dvina/Daugava, Khrami/Debed (in cooperation with R2)
- **National Policy Dialogues:** More than 20 meetings in all 6 EaP countries to secure political will to advance water reforms
- **Support to MEAs implementation:** All 6 countries submitted reports on SDG 6.5.2 and on the Protocol on Water and Health, water and health targets drafted/adopted in 5 countries
- **Capacity development:** More than 10 national, subregional, regional trainings with more than 350 participants. Virtual Regional Workshop on Equitable and Sustainable Water Allocation in October 2020; Water-related SDGs workshop in November 2020

Progress and activities in Q4 2020-2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 1 – UNECE

- **Armenia:** Amendments to the Water Code, etc. completed and in official circulation; Revision of targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in final steps of adoption
- **Azerbaijan:** Support to reporting under the Water Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2
- **Belarus:** SEA process for the draft Water Strategy to 2030 completed, revised Protocol on Water and Health targets adopted in March 2021; technical workshop on EUWI+ results in March 2021, jointly with OECD & EU-MS partners
- **Georgia:** SEA process for Alazani-Iori RBMP completed, final report prepared
- **Republic of Moldova:** Revision of National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health in official adoption process, Stakeholder Consultation meeting in November 2020, NPD SC meeting in November 2020
- **Ukraine:** Support to reporting under the Water Convention and SDG indicator 6.5.2
- **Support to transboundary water cooperation:** Khrami/Debed water quality monitoring (with R2)
- **Capacity building:** Virtual Regional Workshop on Equitable and Sustainable Water Allocation in October 2020



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Progress and activities in Q4 2020 – 2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 1 – OECD

- **Armenia:** Support to developing water quality standards for the lake Sevan basin district to support economic efficiency of investment decision making with regard to WWTPs.
- **Azerbaijan:** Support to finalization of the national Water Strategy and WS Action Plan (submitted for approval)
- **Belarus:** Irrigation study in Gomel oblast close to completion, requested additional field work will be implemented in April-May; ongoing studies on sludge treatment and taxation of wastewater discharges
- **Georgia:** Support to the reform of water abstraction charges for surface waters and developing a concept paper on the future national water strategy.
- **Republic of Moldova:** Draft Water Policy Outlook to 2030 developed and under consultation; developing a draft annotated outline of the future new Code of Practice establishing new norms for design and construction of small-scale sanitation systems; preparation for pilot testing of training materials on economic instruments for water management started at the Academy of Economic Studies (ASEM - lead economics university in Moldova)
- **Ukraine:** Support to developing a concept paper on the future state of WSS sector and its further incorporation into the framework national water strategy

Progress and activities in 2020-2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 2/3 – EU MS Consortium

- **Laboratory development - towards ISO 17025 accreditation**
 - major investments: 400 analytical equipment delivered
 - 50 staff and expert trainings
 - International proficiency tests and QM documentation
 - 6 labs renovated (AM, AZ, BY, UA) with national co-financing



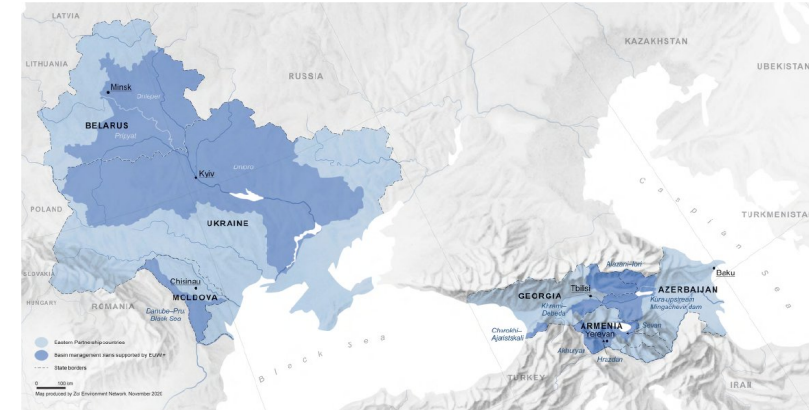
Progress and activities in 2020-2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 2/3 – EU MS Consortium

- **Development of Surface Water (SW) and Groundwater (GW) monitoring**
 - Series of trainings and guidance docs, notably on **biology**
 - **400** new field and analytical **equipment** delivered
 - **45 surveys** at 1000 sites (GW, SW chem/biol, hydromorph., investigative)
 - Future **Monitoring Development Plans** on GW and SW,
 - RBMP: water body delineation, pressures, risks, *Ecolog. Status Classification* -> progr. of measures
- **In addition:**
 - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia: new hydrology **monitoring stations** for GW and SW
 - Azerbaijan and Georgia: trainings and surveys of **coastal waters**
 - Belarus / Ukraine: assessment of **transboundary GW** bodies
 - Rep. of Moldova: expansion of GW monitoring network – **3 new wells**
 - Ukraine: **pollution screening** of the Dnipro basin surface waters -> 21 basin-specific substances



Progress and activities in 2020-2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 2/3 – EU MS Consortium

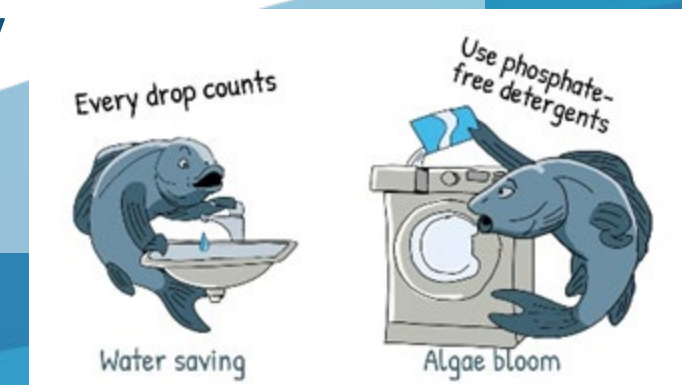
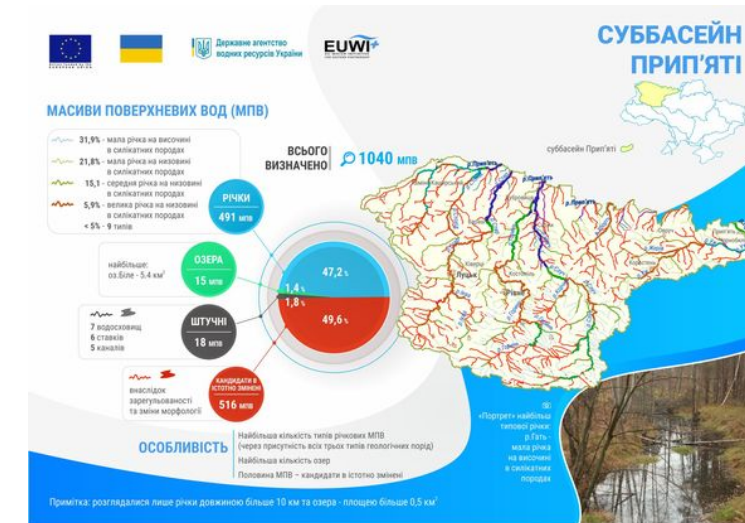
- Strengthening of RBM Planning including transboundary harmonization and data management (knowledge integration)
 - **Data:** Metadata base, servers, web mapping, improved data access
 - **11 RBMPs completed** (refined or new)
 - ✓ AM: Lake **Sevan** and **Hrazdan** basin; 8,700 km²
 - ✓ AZ: **Kura** upstream Mingachevir dam; 15,300 km²
 - ✓ BY: **Dnieper, Pripyat**; 114,500 km²
 - ✓ GE: **Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debeda & Chorokhi coastal**; 21,700 km²
 - ✓ MD: **Danube-Prut & Black Sea RB District** revised; 14,800 km²
 - ✓ UA: **Dnipro basin**; 296,300 km²



Progress and activities in 2020-2021 in Eastern Europe and Caucasus – Result 2/3 – EU MS Consortium

Developed stakeholder participation and awareness raising

- 14 RBMP consultation processes
- BY, MD and UA: River Basin Councils, etc.
- Targeted communication at basin, national & regional scales
- ✓ www.euwipluseast.eu project **web site**, yet more than 90,500 visits
- ✓ **Facebook** group EUWI+: more than 102,000 reaches
- ✓ 21 **Newsletters** in national languages - 1,000 subscribers; leaflets, infographics, factsheets
- ✓ **YouTube** channel: 60 videos for wider public awareness and experts
- ✓ 46 public **events**: World Water Day, Dnipro & Sevan Days, Clean Beach Day
- ✓ AM & AZ: teacher trainings on water quality tests: >1250 people
- ✓ GE: video interviews





WECCOOP

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on
Water – Environment – Climate Change



EUWI NPDs in Central Asia (2019-2022)

- Support to reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 provided through regional workshop and individual support to countries
- Virtual/Hybrid NPD meeting in Kazakhstan in November 2020 and an expert group under NPD meeting on SDG 6.5.2 in Kyrgyzstan in October 2020
- Policy packages: in **Kyrgyzstan**, draft report on methodology for damage compensation and progress in developing transboundary water security indicators (jointly with OECD), roundtable planned in May 2021. **Tajikistan**: Methodology for the water balance calculation in support of the new Water Code submitted for adoption, roundtable in February 2021
- Launch of NPDs planned in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Lessons learned and challenges

- COVID-19 pandemic delayed some activities but triggered new ways of working, highlighting also the importance of access to safe water and sanitation, better strategic planning in water sectors, enhancement of monitoring capabilities (new: wastewater!) and the relevance of such tools as the EU WFD and MEAs (Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health)
- EUWI+ team adjusted to new circumstances by closely engaging with beneficiary countries through online tools and platforms
- Importance to align implementation to objectives of strategic partnership documents between EU and EaP and Central Asian countries.
- Continuous interest from countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Lessons learned and challenges

- Increased responsibility & ownership in the EaP countries
- Tight partnering between EU Member State and national experts
- Investment possibilities are important
- Sustainability of development is key
- Countries have shown commitment for far-reaching decisions (e.g. AM: new Lab premises; AZ: complete Lab refurbishment, UA & BY: lab renovations...)
- Need to maintain strong ownership by countries of NPDs and monitor progress
- Focus on RBMPs' implementation, upgraded water monitoring and broader awareness

Remaining work and future activities in 2022-2024 (programme area 3.4)

- Under EUWI+, successfully complete work programmes in all countries and regional activities and create good platform for the follow up to EUWI+ action
- Complete stocktaking NPD meetings in all EaP countries and a Regional Steering Committee meeting in April-June 2021
- Expand SW, GW, CTW water monitoring (WFD) programme in all EaP countries
- In Central Asia, continue with implementation of the regional EUWI NPD project until September 2022, no funding yet secured beyond that
- Links with the European Union long-term policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020, the European Union Strategy on Central Asia and with the European Green Deal
- Links with other programme areas, e.g. 3.2 on nexus
- Continue NPDs to drive water reforms and support EU acquis and MEAs implementation

Partners



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EU – Central Asia Cooperation on
Water – Environment – Climate Change

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