





European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership

8TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Online, 31 May 2021 (all times shown are CET+2)



Venue: hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, virtually via Zoom

Languages: Georgian and English, simultaneous interpretation provided.

The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and Chair of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

The objectives of the meeting are:

The meeting will focus on discussing recent progress in modernising national water policy, extending access to water supply and sanitation, as well as enhancing transboundary cooperation. As the EUWI+ programme will soon be completing the current phase of implementation, the meeting will offer an opportunity to address remaining tasks in conjunction with the priorities and activities of the country-specific work programme, as well as discuss next steps towards ensuring sustainability of the results and reflect on further needs and priorities in the water sector beyond EUWI+.

AGENDA

15:45 – 16:00	CONNECTION TO ZOOM AND OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS
16:00–16:20	Opening and welcoming statements
	 Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) – welcoming remarks and adoption of the agenda Ms. Mzia Giorgobiani – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure – opening remarks Mr. Alexandre Darras, EU Delegation to Georgia – opening remarks Opening statement from the EUWI+ Implementing Partners















	Demonstration of a short video on the results of the EUWI+ programme Link to video with Georgian subtitles: https://bit.ly/3tlm5us
SESSION 1	Recent progress in modernizing national water policy and governance and emerging national priorities (moderated by MEPA)
16:20–17:00	This session will examine recent progress in modernizing national water policy and governance and discuss future priorities. The session will also focus specifically on progress in approximation of national legislation to EU water directives in line with the Association Agreement with the European Union. • Update on the legislative approximation to EU directives with focus on the draft Law on Water Resources – Ms. Mariam Makarova, MEPA • Reforming economic instruments for water management - Mr. Pierre Strosser, Acteon (France) • Ongoing activities toward implementation of EU GE AA agreement in the field of public health and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic – Ms. Nana Gabriadze, Head of the Environment Health Division, NCDC, MoH • Priorities for water policy work for the next period - Ms. Tatiana Efimova, OECD Q&A followed by discussion on the different key points
SESSION 2	Progress in transboundary water cooperation with neighboring countries (moderated by MEPA)
17:00 – 17:30	 This session will focus on progress in implementing SDGs in the water domain, with focus on transboundary water cooperation. The session will also cover aspects of Strategic Environmental Assessment in the water field. Recent reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation and lessons learned, Ms. Gvantsa Sivsivadze, MEPA and Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE Update on transboundary water cooperation with riparian countries, Ms. Mariam Makarova, MEPA, Ms. Marine Arabidze, NEA, and Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE with focus on: Cooperation on the Khrami-Debeda River with Armenia, Update on the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Alazani-lori River Basin Management Plan and development of a SEA methodology, Ms. Irma Melikishvili (national expert), Alexander Belokurov, UNECE Q&A followed by discussion on the different key points
17:30-17:40	Technical break
SESSION 3	Progress in River Basin Management Planning and enhancing monitoring capacities under EUWI+ (moderated by MEPA)
17:40-18:40	This session will take stock of progress with respect to river basin management planning in Georgia and review progress in enhancing monitoring capacities. Participants will discuss the ways to institutionalize River Basin Management Planning















	in the country and the required legislative and technical aspects.
	 Upgrading the water monitoring capacities for surface and ground water bodies, and coastal & transitional waters, Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria Updates on the development of the River Basin Management Plans, and additional results, Yannick Pochon, OiEau Future priorities and timeline on river basin management planning in Georgia, MEPA Q&A followed by discussion on the different key points
SESSION 4	Next steps towards successful completion of the EUWI+, outlook beyond 2021 and closing remarks
18:40- 19:00	 Discussion Remarks by EU Delegation and EUWI+ Closing remarks by the Ministry







