



**NATIONAL WATER POLICY DIALOGUE
UNDER THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE**



UNECE



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

BRIEF REPORT

**SEMINAR TO DISCUSS AN APPROACH TO COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE
TO WATER RESOURCES AND WATER FACILITIES,
AS WELL AS INDICATORS REFLECTING THE TRANSBOUNDARY ASPECT OF
WATER SECURITY**

June 11, 2021, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The seminar to discuss an approach to compensation for damage to water resources and water facilities, as well as indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of water security took place on June 11 2021 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The seminar was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) jointly with the State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic with the assistance of the BIOM Environmental Movement.

The seminar was conducted with the support of the European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change (WECOOP) project within the framework of the National Water Policy Dialogue under the European Union Water Initiative, which is implemented by the UNECE.

GOAL

The main goal of the seminar was to discuss documents reflecting: an approach to compensation for damage to water resources and water facilities in Kyrgyzstan, taking into account international experience; a list of recommended indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of Kyrgyzstan's water security.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by representatives of interested ministries and departments of Kyrgyzstan involved in water resources management economics and transboundary water cooperation. Together with the staff of the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, UNECE, OECD and the WECOOP project, who attended the online meeting, 25 people took part in the meeting, who are listed in the Annex 1 to this report.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Abdybai Dzhailoobaev, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, noted in his welcoming speech that the results of the studies carried out are of great importance for the development of the water economy in Kyrgyzstan. He briefly presented the meeting agenda and wished the participants fruitful work. The seminar program is presented in Annex 2 to this report.

Ms. Isabel Pimenta, Project Manager of the Cooperation Unit of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic, noted the importance of the issues brought up for discussion and expressed her satisfaction that the support of the European Union would facilitate this process in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Alisher Mamadjanov, representative of the UNECE, emphasizing the importance of the topics discussed, noted the demand for the continued support of the process of the National Dialogue on Water Policy in Kyrgyzstan from the European Union.

Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD representative, stressed that studies on the issues discussed were carried out on the recommendation of the water authorities of Kyrgyzstan and are among the highest priority.

Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD representative and Mr. Mikhail Kozeltsev, consultant, presented the general principles and the proposed approach to compensation for damage to water resources and water facilities in Kyrgyzstan, taking into account international experience and OECD recommendations.

Mr. Alexander Martusevich and Mrs. Taisiya Neronova, the consultant, presented the results of the study on the topic “Water security of Kyrgyzstan in a transboundary context and the development of relevant indicators”. As a result of the study, indicators were proposed that can be used to monitor progress in the implementation of the relevant part of the future National Water Strategy, concerning the management of transboundary waters.

Mr. Alexander Belokurov, UNECE representative informed the workshop participants about the results of the global reporting on SDG 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation.

Ms. Dinara Tursunaliyeva, Vice-Rector of the Kyrgyz Economic University and Mr. Mikhail Kozeltsev reported on the experience of using the textbook “Economic Management Tools for Sustainable Development of Water Resources and Increasing the Level of Water Security” developed within the project.

The meeting participants discussed in detail each of the agenda items.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop participants adopted the following recommendations on the topics discussed:

1. To ask the leadership of the State Agency for Water Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic to send for consideration to the relevant governmental bodies the proposals prepared by the project on returning to the practice of compensating for damage to water resources and facilities using the regulatory-tax method. At the same time, the payment for the discharge of pollutants into the environment with wastewater is exempted from the function of compensation for damage. This will require the adoption or introduction of additions and changes to the relevant regulations.
2. The State Agency for Water Resources, together with the OECD and UNECE, shall prepare a project proposal for conducting in 2022 an experiment to compensate for damage to water resources and facilities, as well as water management systems by the restoration method and agree on the choice of pilot sites (site) on small rivers. The results of the experiment will contribute to making a decision on the feasibility, procedure and timing of the transition to use this method.
3. To take into account the proposed indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of water security in Kyrgyzstan. Seminar participants should send proposals to the consultant with possible changes / additions to the proposed indicators within a week.
4. To take into account the results of the global reporting on SDG 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. Recommend to use the platform of the National Dialogue on Water Policy within the framework of the European Union Water Initiative in Kyrgyzstan to continue work in this direction.

5. To approve the results of using the textbook "Economic Management Tools for Sustainable Development of Water Resources and Increasing the Level of Water Security" at the Kyrgyz Economic University. Recommend to expand the use of the textbook in other universities in Kyrgyzstan. Consider the possibility of supplementing and revising the textbook with the release of additional printed copies.

6. Apply with a request to the project "European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change (WECOOP)" for financial support of the activities specified in p. 2 and 5.

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as well as indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of water security**

June 11, 2021, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**Seminar to discuss an approach to compensation for damage
to water resources and water facilities,
as well as indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of water security**

June 11, 2021, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Venue: Conference hall of the Park Hotel
Address: 87 Orozbekova Str., Bishkek

PROGRAM

13.30-14.00	Registration of participants, tea, coffee
14.00 - 14.20	<p>Opening of the meeting. Adoption of the agenda.</p> <p><i>Chairman - Mr. Abdybai Dzhalobayev, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Water Resources Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic.</i></p> <p>Greeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Isabelle Pimenta, Project Manager, Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic (online)</i> • <i>Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE (online)</i> • <i>Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD (online)</i> <p><i>Presentation of the objectives, program and participants of the workshop</i></p>
14.20-15.15	<p>Session 1: Approach to compensation for damage to water resources and water facilities in Kyrgyzstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introductory note - Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD (online)</i> • <i>Presentation of the research - Mr. Mikhail.Kozeltsev, consultant (online)</i> <p>Questions and answers Discussion</p>
15.15-15.45	Tea and coffee break
15.45-16.40	<p>Session 2: Indicators reflecting the transboundary aspect of water security in Kyrgyzstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction - Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD (online)</i> • <i>Presentation of the research - Ms. Taisiya Neronova, consultant;</i> • <i>Results of the Global reporting on SDG 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation - Mr. Alexander Belokurov, UNECE (online)</i>

	<p>Questions and answers Discussion</p>
16.40-17.00	<p>Session 3: Study guide "Economic management tools for sustainable development of water resources and improving water security»</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction - Mr. Alexander Martusevich, OECD (online)</i> • <i>Presentation of the Study guide - Ms. Dinara Tursunaliyeva, KEU; Mr. Mikhail Kozeltsev, consultant (online)</i> <p>Questions and answers Discussion</p>
17.00-17.30	<p>Summary of the workshop and decision-making <i>Chairman-Mr. Abdybay Dzhalilbayev</i></p>
17.30	<p>Reception</p>