



9th session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
29 September – 1 October 2021 Geneva & Hybrid



European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

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on behalf of partners:
UNECE, OECD, OIEau, Environment Agency Austria



Overview – EUWI and NPDs



- **National Policy Dialogues** on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation (NPDs) - intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water policy reforms
- EU Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, facilitated jointly by UNECE and OECD, **since 2006**
- NPDs currently ongoing in **10 countries**, including **4 in Central Asia**
- High-level **intersectoral Steering Committee** meetings provide platform for discussions on key aspects of water policy reforms
- **Diverse stakeholders**: all relevant government entities, NGOs, academia, donor agencies, IFIs, local and basin authorities, etc.
- **Funded and supported by**: European Union, Finland, Switzerland, Romania, Norway and by partners (WB, SDC, OSCE, CAREC, IFAS bodies, UNDP, UNESCO,...)



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EUWI NPDs in Central Asia (2019-2022)



- Funded by the **European Union** within the regional European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change (**WECCOOP**) programme and implemented by **UNECE in cooperation with OECD** during 2019-2022.
- EUWI NPDs are guided at the regional level by the **EU-CA Working Group on Environment and Climate Change**
- Support to reporting on **SDG indicator 6.5.2** on transboundary water cooperation provided through regional workshop and individual support to countries. As a result, 4 countries submitted reports to UNECE and UNESCO (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
- Hybrid **NPD Steering Committee meeting** in Kazakhstan in November 2020 ; **expert group** under NPD meetings in Kyrgyzstan in October 2020 and June 2021; **roundtable** in Tajikistan in February 2021
- Support to «policy packages» and investment ideas in the water sector:
 - Kazakhstan: **water quality and accidental water pollution in the Syrdarya basin** negotiated and activities starting (in collaboration with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents) and proposals developed for **a national water security indicators framework**
 - Kyrgyzstan: **water security indicators** reflecting the transboundary dimension of water security; new methodology for **compensation of damage** to water resources and bodies; investment ideas for **transboundary Chu-Talas basin**
 - Tajikistan: elaboration of a methodology for the **water balance calculations** in support of the new Water Code completed
- Negotiations to launch of NPD process in Uzbekistan and relaunch of NPD in Turkmenistan are ongoing
- NPD meetings delayed due to COVID-19 related restrictions; plans to organise NPD meetings in all countries in 2021-22



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EUWI+ for Eastern Partnership

- EUWI+ project for the **6 Eastern Partnership countries** (funding from DG NEAR)
- September 2016 - July 2021
- Implementing Partners: **UNECE**, **OECD**, EU Member States Consortium (**Environment Agency Austria** and **International Office for Water of France**)

EUWI+ project details

Implementation period:



Budget:

€24.8 million



€ 23.5 million from the EU and co-funding from the Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of Austrian Development Co-operation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency

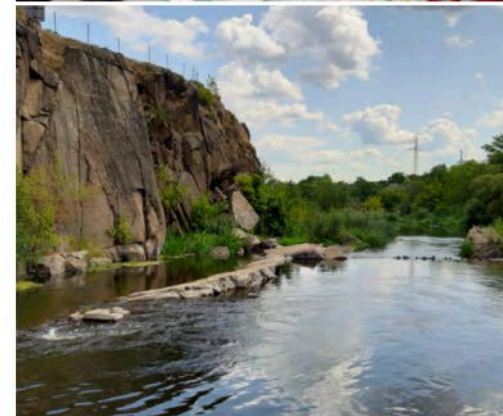


Implementing partners:

4 partners

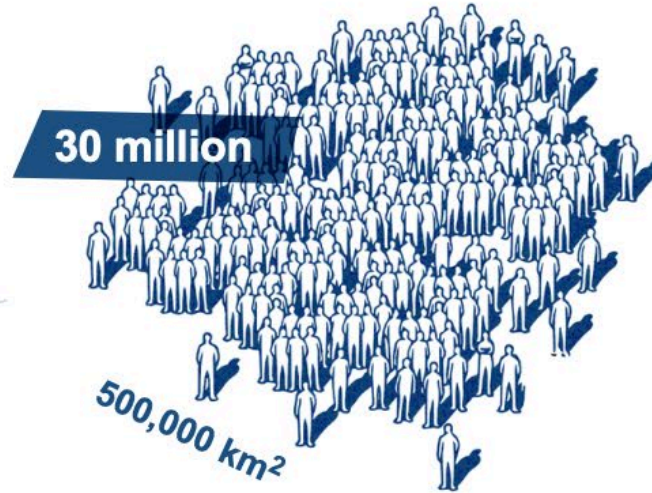


6 Eastern Partnership Countries

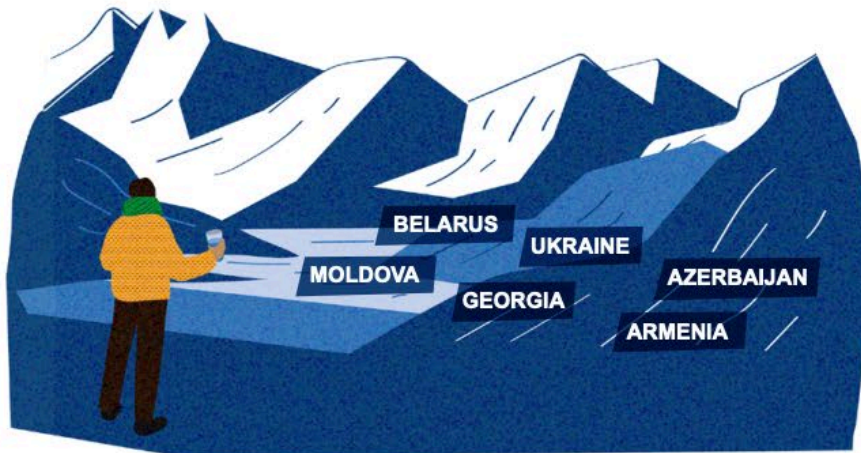


EUWI+ impact in key figures

Around **30 million citizens** (40% of the countries' population) on over **500,000 km²** (50% of the countries' land surface) benefiting from new or revised River Basin Management Plans



Quality of life set to improve in the **6 Eastern Partnership countries** through better drinking water, safer leisure and recreation, the creation of economic opportunities and preserved biodiversity



25 organisations in the **6 countries** have benefitted from **400 units** of state-of-the-art equipment items for water monitoring and analysis following best EU practices
6 renovated water laboratories (in 4 countries)
44 surveys carried out in rivers, ground- and coastal waters, covering more than **1000 sites**



1000



More than **1 000 knowledge products**, including technical reports, databases, maps and web services, to help the public and authorities better understand and manage their water resources

More than **10,000 people** directly involved in project activities through **National Policy Dialogues, public consultations**, numerous outreach events, and capacity-building activities such as workshops, training and field surveys





EUWI+ results: legislation, policy & institutional strengthening



- **National Policy Dialogues:** 24 meetings in all 6 EaP countries to secure political will and consultation to advance water reforms
- **Support to strategic planning:** 5 Water Strategies advanced
- **Support to updating legislative framework:** amendments to 3 Water Laws/Codes and a number of secondary legislation, including e.g. norms on small-scale water systems, economic instruments, SEAs in water sector, etc.
- **Support to harmonization with EU acquis:** inclusion of WFD aspects into legislative amendments, dedicated EU roadmaps
- **Support to transboundary water cooperation:** bilateral agreements/cooperation in 5 basins advanced – Dniester, Kura, Neman, Western Dvina/Daugava, Khrami/Debed
- **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 500 participants, including
 - Virtual regional workshop on equitable and sustainable water allocation in October 2020
 - Water-related SDGs workshop in November 2020
 - Webinar on Covid-19 monitoring in wastewater in November 2020



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EUWI+ results: water monitoring

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 chemical/biological, hydromorphological, investigative)
- Future Monitoring Development Plans on GW and SW,
- RBMP: water body delineation, pressures, risks, *Ecological Status Classification* -> programme 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**
- Armenia/Georgia: guidance, draft cooperation agreement and pilot survey on transb. SW monitoring
- Belarus / Ukraine: assessment of transboundary GW bodies
- Rep. of Moldova: expansion of GW monitoring network – 3 new wells
- Ukraine: pollution screening of Dnipro basin surface waters -> 21 basin-specific substances

Laboratory development - towards ISO 17025 accreditation

- 6 labs renovated (AM, AZ, BY, UA) with national co-financing
- major investments: 400 analytical equipment and accessories delivered to 11 labs
- 50 staff and expert trainings
- International proficiency tests and QM documentation



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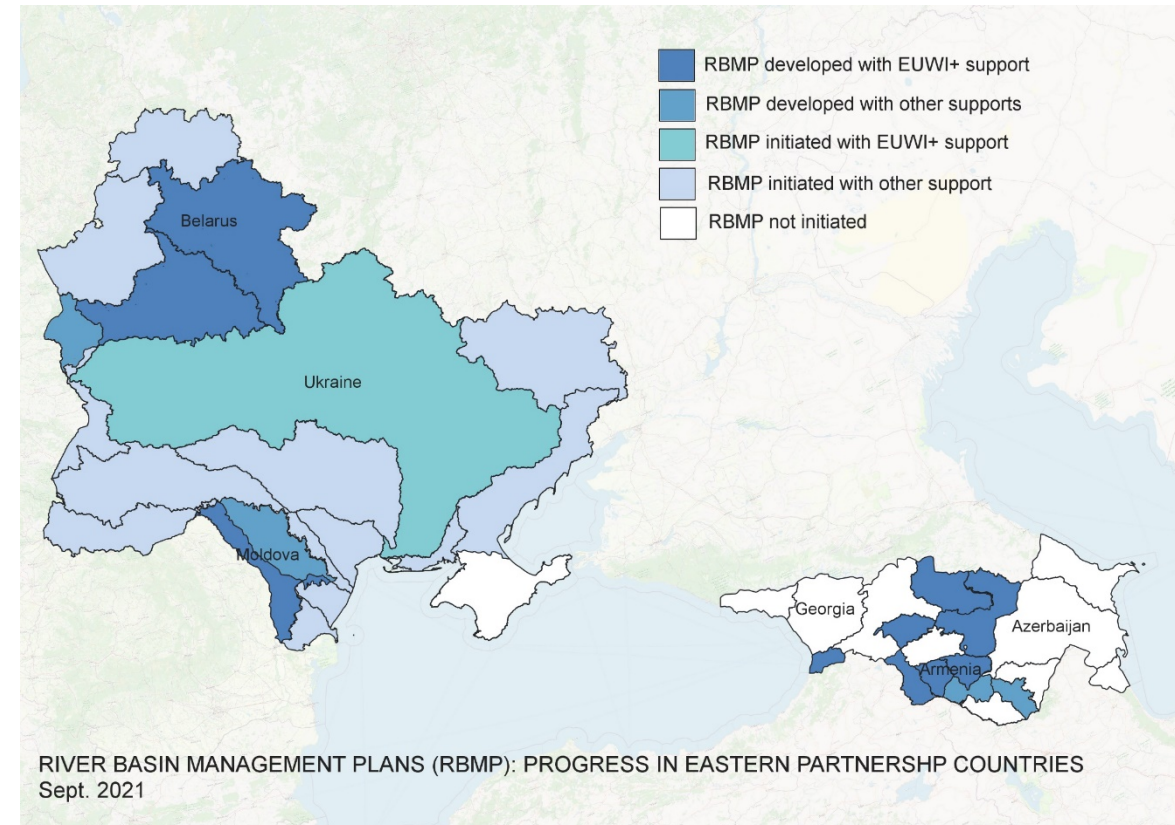


EUWI+ results: RBMPs



Fully WFD compliant RBMPs developed for 50 % of the surface of the countries (500,000 km²) and 40 % of the population (30 millions Inhabitants):

- Work on **11 RBMP documents** with **111 capacitated local experts**
- Delineation and characterisation of **6000 water bodies** with **transboundary harmonization** in EE
- **Program of measures** including **economic analysis** (average cost of 25 €/inhabitant/year)
- **Data management for knowledge integration** with improved data access on **6 platforms** including servers modernisation for National Infor. System, metadata base development, web mapping & tools
- **Consultation** (1300 participants to stakeholders meetings, 20 public consultations periods on main issues and PoM during RBMP development)



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Lessons learnt and prospects



- **COVID-19** pandemic impacted negatively direct cooperation but also highlighted the importance of access to safe water and sanitation, better strategic planning in water sectors, stronger monitoring capabilities and the relevance of such tools as the EU WFD and MEAs (Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health)
- Engagement with **local partners** at all levels - key to sustainability of NPDs
- Importance to **align** implementation to objectives of strategic partnership documents between EU and countries in the region, ensure **links** with the EU Strategy on Central Asia and with the European Green Deal
- Continuous interest and support need from countries in **Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia**
- Need to maintain strong **ownership** by countries of NPDs and **monitor progress**
- Important to **continue exploiting NPDs** on strategic and implementation levels as well as sustain financially and logistically
- **EU4Environment "Water and Data"** project is in final stages of preparation as a continuation of EUWI+ and SEIS for the Eastern Partnership countries
- For **NPDs in Central Asia** no funding yet secured beyond September 2022
- NPDs are part of the proposed next programme of work under the **Water Convention for 2022-2024**



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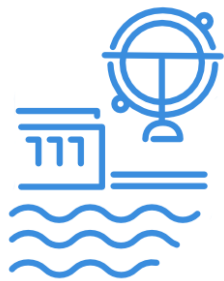
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Partners and EU support to sustainable water management



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Thank you



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For more information:

<https://www.unece.org/euwi-npds>

<https://www.euwipluseast.eu>

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