

# National Policy Dialogues: support to the protocol on water and health activities

Alexander Belokurov  
UNECE

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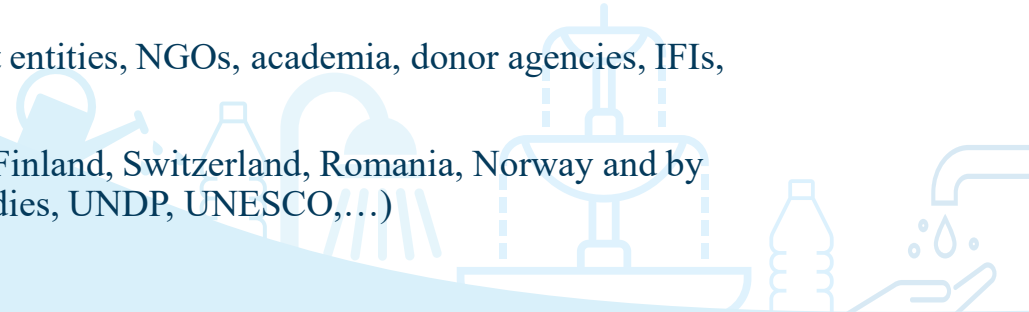
Protocol on Water and Health



#ProtocolWaterHealth

# National Policy Dialogues: overview

- **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** (supported through EU WECOOP programme)
- 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,...)



# Support to the Protocol on Water and Health through the NPDs

## Goals:

- To improve overall policy and strategies on water and health in countries.
- To contribute to achievement of SDG 6.
- To contribute to achievement of obligations under Association Agreements with the EU (where applicable, establishing links with EU directives).

With substantive support of the **Joint UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol secretariat**.

Strong links with the Protocol's **Programme of Work** (target setting, equitable access).



# Support to the Protocol on Water and Health through the NPDs

## Targets setting/revision and reporting

- *Azerbaijan*: official adoption of targets in August 2018
- *Belarus*: official adoption of revised targets in April 2021
- *Ukraine*: revision of targets under the Protocol completed, SEA process planned
- *Armenia*: revised national targets in the context of the Protocol and analysis of legislative barriers to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation finalized and submitted for adoption
- *Republic of Moldova*: draft revisions to the National Programme for the Protocol on Water and Health implementation completed and submitted for adoption; report on proposals for legislative changes to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation finalised

## Reporting

- *Azerbaijan and Ukraine* supported in the last reporting cycle along with regional support

## Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)

- Health considerations through SEA processes in Belarus and Georgia

## Accession process

- Overall support to accession and specifically currently to *Kazakhstan* within the NPD CA project



# Support to the Protocol on Water and Health through the NPDs

## **Equitable access**

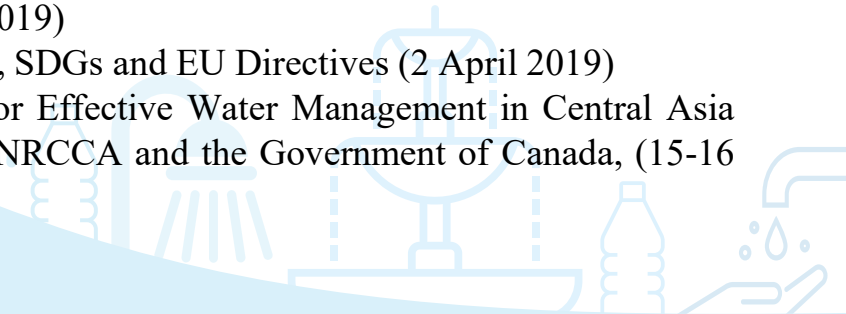
- Equitable access to water and sanitation covered in dedicated studies or as part of target setting process in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine
- Regional meetings of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

## **Capacity development**

- Workshops and Public Consultations on the Protocol on Water and Health and equitable access to water and sanitation
- Meetings of the regional Task Force and the Working Group on Water and Health
- Side-event at MOP-5 on Water and Health (19 November 2019)
- Regional workshop on joint implementation of the Protocol, SDGs and EU Directives (2 April 2019)
- Workshop on Water/Health Nexus and Gender Equality for Effective Water Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan in a post-COVID World, organized by UNRCCA and the Government of Canada, (15-16 March 2021)

## **Other activities with partners**

- WSS and WRM strategies, RBMP development process, monitoring and laboratories equipment, communication and awareness raising





Funded by  
the European Union

## New project - EU4Environment: Water and Data

Output 1.3 objective: the implementation of **water for health agenda** advances

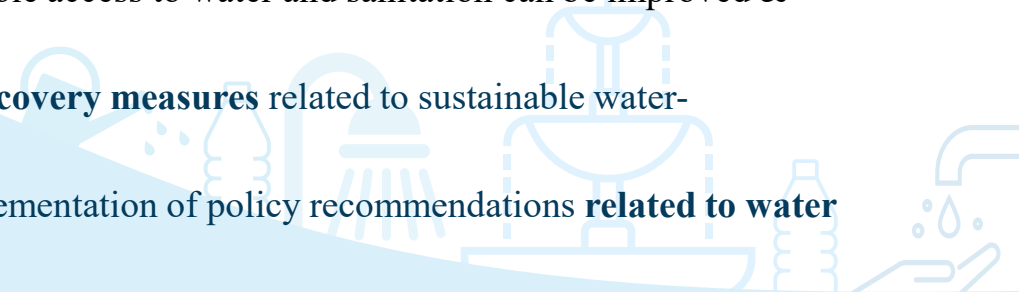
Activities & planned results:

Promotion of the implementation of **water and health goals, with emphasis on COVID-19** challenges & international commitments

- Assist countries to revise relevant policies in view of COVID-19 considerations (incl. implementation of national targets under the PWH)
- Policy recommendations on how equitable access to water and sanitation can be improved & application of the PWH scorecard

Provide **recommendations for post-pandemic recovery measures** related to sustainable water-management

**Technical advice and capacity building** for implementation of policy recommendations **related to water & health**



# Lessons learnt for future work

- **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)
- 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**
- Engagement with **local partners** at all levels - key to sustainability of NPDs
- Important to **continue exploiting NPDs** on strategic and implementation levels as well as sustain financially and logistically
- **EU4Environment: Water and Data** is a new project as a continuation of EUWI+ and SEIS for the Eastern Partnership countries
- For **NPDs in Central Asia** no funding yet secured beyond 2022
- NPDs are part of the proposed next programme of work under the **Water Convention for 2022-2024**



# Thank you for your attention!

## Partners:



<https://www.unece.org/env/water/npd/countrydialogues.html>