

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources
Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management

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on behalf of partners:

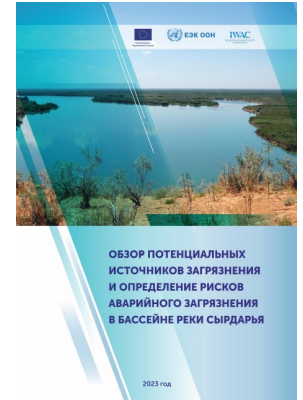
UNECE, OECD, OiEau , Environment Agency Austria, ADA

Overview – National Policy Dialogues

- **National Policy Dialogues** on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation (NPDs) - intersectoral multistakeholder platforms to drive water policy reforms
- National Policy Dialogues started in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia **since 2006**, under the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) and facilitated jointly by UNECE and OECD,
- NPDs currently ongoing in **10 countries**, including **5 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,...)

NPDs in Central Asia (2019-2023)

- Funded by the **European Union** within the regional European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change (**WECOOP**) programme and implemented by **UNECE** in **cooperation with OECD** during 2019-2023.
- **4 meetings of the NPDs SC:** Uzbekistan (Sept'22) - launch of NPD process, Kazakhstan (Dec'22), Kyrgyzstan (Feb'22), Tajikistan (Feb'22)
- Regional Study on **pollution sources and identification of accident risks in the Syr Darya basin** (KZ, UZ, TJ, KG) - in collaboration with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and IWAC
- **3 investment ideas** for the water sector:
 - Digitalization of the Great Western Chu Canal in KG, based on the Chu-Talas Strategic Action Programme
 - Fertigation in Southern KZ, based on the Chu-Talas Strategic Action Programme
 - NbS for fortifying banks of the Zerafshon river (TJ), based on the Zerafshon RBMP
- Negotiations to relaunch of **NPD in Turkmenistan**: process for the NPD Steering Committee nominations
- **Policy packages in Kyrgyzstan:**
 - Revised textbook on economic instruments for Kyrgyz Economics University
 - Updated publication on national framework for water, food and energy security indicators (including transboundary water security indicators)



NPDs in Eastern Partner countries

Funded by the **European Union** through the **EU4Environment Water and Data Programme**

National and international water governance

5 NPD Steering committee meetings (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine):

- AM: amendments to the Water Code adopted
- UA: National Water Strategy until 2050 adopted

Transboundary cooperation:

- Transboundary monitoring in Khrami-Debed (AM-GE) and Alazani basins (AZ-GE) with potential agreements
- Development of the trilateral memorandum of cooperation on the Prut River (MD, UA, RO)
- Idea of AM-AZ transboundary cooperation

3rd reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation by 30 June 2023

Regional workshop on monitoring & assessment in transboundary basins: 16-18 October 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Water and health:

- AM: Drinking Water Directive roadmap under development

Economic instruments and investment strategies

OECD work on economic viability of strategies and mobilizing finance for strengthening water management in EaP countries



NPDs in Eastern Partner countries

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)

12 RBMPs are developed or under development in line with the EU Water Framework Directive. They concern 30 million inhabitants in the 5 countries.

RBMP is the relevant tool to share the vision and to prepare the future of water resources: characterisation of the river basin; status of water resources (quality, quantity, ecology, trends); objectives; economic analysis; programme of measures.

More than 6,000 water bodies delineated.

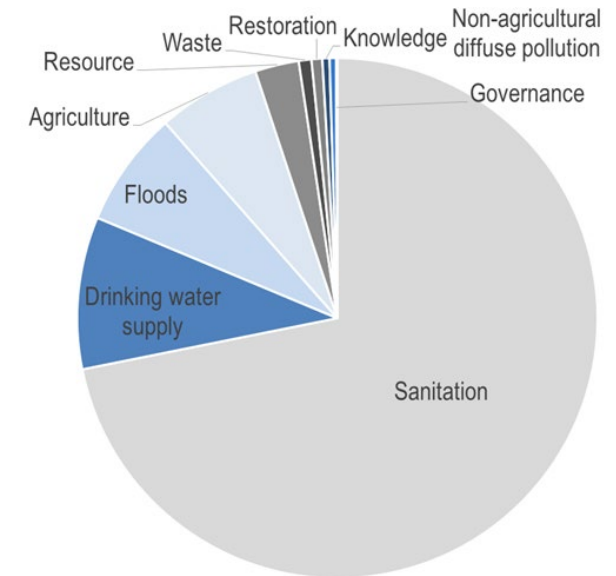
Tasks realised by national experts with continuous support from EU Member States experts' team.

Production of adapted guidance documents to facilitate reproducibility for the next planning cycles and other river basins.

First generation of RBMPs geared towards sanitation measures.

Average investment cost of programmes of measures associated with RBMP: 25 EUR/inhabitant/year

Adoption is the unescapable step to strengthen the legal scope of RBMP before implementation.



NPDs in Eastern Partner countries

NPD results: Water Monitoring

Objective of **EU4Environment Water & Data programme** (2022-2024) is to extend the monitoring networks, frequency, parameters and interpretation based on EUWI+ project (2016-2021)

PROGRESS

Surface Water: new surveys being implemented in AM, AZ, GE, MD; trainings on Phytobentos and data interpretation

Groundwater: new surveys being done in AM, GE und MD; ongoing trainings on GWB delineation and status assessment

Coastal and Transitional waters: new surveys done in GE (Black Sea) and AZ (Caspian Sea and Kura delta)

New **transboundary surveys** in autumn 2023 on Debed river (AM-GE) and Alazani river (GE-AZ).

Laboratory: various capacity constraints in all reference labs

- Supported participation (except UA) at series of Proficiency Testings (nutrients, heavy metals)
- Support for finishing application to accreditation (ISO 17025) in AM, AZ, UA labs
- Regional lab trainings for all countries for WFD-compliant parameters: on PAH (2022) and 6 other trainings in 2023

Wastewater-based epidemiology: Sars-Cov2 monitoring introduced in 2022 (first successful sampling in each country, several trainings, guidance docs: **3 July** high-level online workshop with COM on how to nationally institutionalize WBE surveillance

Lessons learned and prospects

- 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 implementation**
- Engagement with **national and local counterparts** - 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
- Interest to strengthen **innovative approaches** e.g nature-based solutions, nexus, public-private partnerships, investments etc.
- Strong link between **water and health** agenda
- Important to ensure **financial and logistical stability** of NPDs
- For **NPDs in Central Asia** no funding yet secured
- NPDs are part of the programme of work under the **Water Convention for 2022-2024**

Partners



EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries



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

Implementing partners



Co-funded by



Thank you!



WEB

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