

# European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries



## *Quarterly Information Update*

*(July 2017 – September 2017)*

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## **1. GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This is the third quarterly information update on the implementation of EUWI+. It covers the reporting period from July 2017 to the end of September 2017. The update has been prepared by members of the implementing partners with valuable input from the local representatives in each country. A list of key contacts can be found in Annex A.

Quarterly updates aim to provide key information on the project to the European Commission, EU Delegations and the key stakeholders of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The updates are intended to be published on the project website to provide access to a wider audience including international projects and interested stakeholders. Both country-specific (Part 2) and regional (Part 3) developments are reflected.

### **1.2 Current Project Status**

EUWI+ is currently finalising its inception phase which started on 1 September 2016. The project was kicked off through a high level regional meeting held on 19-20 September 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine and through a series of national kick off meetings held in late 2016. The first Steering Committee Meeting was held in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017 and allowed presentation of a draft version of the inception report and work programmes.

The EUWI+ team are incorporating feedback received from countries and the European Commission into the inception report and national work programmes. In parallel work has started on priority work programme activities.

### **1.3 Objectives of Quarter 3**

This third quarter of the project had the following objectives:

- Finalising technical and structural comments on the inception report;
- Finalising the summary record of the First Steering Committee Meeting;
- Commencing priority work programme items; and
- Implementation of the communication strategy, in particular populating the website.

### **1.4 Timeline**

The work flow in the reporting period followed a timeline as outlined below:

- Updating of Inception report and work programmes with country comments (issued 4 August 2017);
- Finalisation of comments on the summary record of the Steering Committee (issued 14 September 2017);
- Updating of the inception report with European Commission comments (issued 30 September 2017);
- Commencement of priority work programme activities (July-September 2017).

## 2. COUNTRY QUARTERLY REPORTS

Part 2 provides further details on the activities in each country.

### 2.1 Armenia

#### 2.1.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 2-5 July 2017, an UBA mission on laboratory assessment held meetings with the leadership and technical staff of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (EMIC) of the Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP) of Armenia and its laboratory, and the Institute of Chemical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. The objective of the mission was to initiate the assessment of the EMIC laboratory in terms of existing quality standards and potential for international accreditation according to EN ISO 17025:2005.
- On 28 August - 2 September 2017, the second UBA mission of the laboratory assessment team took place, during which bilateral meetings were held with the EMIC, Institute of Chemical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences, and internationally accredited laboratory “Standard Dialogue”. UBA experts also met with the Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia and highlighted key points of the assessment including the need to relocate the laboratory to new premises, as a requirement for international accreditation. During the mission, a field visit to Hrazdan and Sevan pilot basins was organised to observe the sampling protocols by the technicians of the EMIC and visit the hydrological observation post Sevan-Geghamavan.
- On 10-15 September 2017, a mission of IOWater was held on RBMPs and stakeholder communication. Meetings were held with the leadership and technical staff of the Water Resources Management Agency of the MNP, Public Relations Department of the MNP, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Water Systems, and the Armenian Office of the REC Caucasus to commence structuring of RBMP activities and stakeholder involvement into the RBMP process.
- On 13-14 September 2017, a field visit to Sevan and Hrazdan basin was organised, during which meetings were held with Sevan and Hrazdan BMOs, Gegharkunik and Kotayq Regional Administrations, and “Gegharkunik” and “Kotayq” WUAs to preliminarily identify the most significant pressures on water bodies of the pilot basins. Mapping of these pressures was initiated.

#### 2.1.2 EUWI+ project progress

- EUWI+ hydrogeologists provided support to the EMIC in the form of input to the groundwater quantity and quality monitoring concept. This formed part of the process of development of a Concept Paper for Environmental Monitoring in Armenia.
- Preliminary conclusions and recommendations for the assessment of the EMIC laboratory were prepared and shared with the EMIC staff for comments and feedback. Based on the comments, the report, which assesses the laboratory of EMIC in terms of their current status of analytical work related to WFD and of their existing quality standards according to EN ISO 17025:2005, was finalised.
- Taking into consideration the recommendations of the laboratory assessment report, an informal agreement was reached on relocation of the EMIC laboratory to the building of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia with the Director of EMIC and Deputy Minister on Nature Protection. EUWI+ will co-finance the relocation and necessary refurbishment on the basis of an Agreement with the concerned institutions.

- The assessment and structuring of river basin management planning related activities in Sevan and Hrazdan basins was initiated. Through participatory exercises, the most significant pressures in the two basins were provisionally identified and located on maps.
- The assessment of stakeholder involvement into the RBMP process and structuring of a communication strategy commenced. The first round of consultations with stakeholders in Sevan and Hrazdan basins took place to introduce the RBMP approach and receive feedback on stakeholder expectations.
- Periodical coordination meetings were held with the USAID ASPIRED and PURE-Water projects, and UNDP to exchange information on activities being implemented by the projects, and ensure harmonised implementation of activities particularly in Ararat valley, which is pilot area for EUWI+ and USAID projects.

### **2.1.3 National Policy Dialogue**

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for week of 4-8 December 2017.

### **2.1.4 Recent developments**

- A draft Government Resolution on relocation of the EMIC laboratory into the premises of the Institute of Chemical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia is prepared. It is expected that the Resolution will be formally adopted in October 2017.
- A draft Concept Paper on Environmental Monitoring, including water monitoring was circulated among Governmental organisations for official adoption which is expected in October 2017.
- A draft Model Outline for Development of RBMPs was officially circulated for comments at the unified website of draft legal acts ([www.e-draft.am](http://www.e-draft.am)) of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia.

## **2.2 Azerbaijan**

### **2.2.1 Missions and technical meetings**

- An UBA expert team visited Azerbaijan on 10-12 July 2017 to assess Ground Water monitoring and assessment systems. During the mission meetings were conducted with the National Environmental Monitoring Department, Geological Exploration Service and Ground Water Monitoring Laboratory of MENR.
- On 19-21 July 2017, a mission of IOW was held on RBMPs and stakeholder involvement. Meetings were conducted in Zagatala and Sheki regions of Ganikh (Alazan) river basin with representatives of the regional offices of MENR (Regional Environmental Protection office in Zagatala, Sheki branch of National Hydrometeorology Department, Complex Hydrometeorological station in Kishchay river basin), representatives of Ganikh (Alazan) River basin Council (not registered yet), Office of Amelioration JSC in Sheki and the Municipality of Balakan rayon. During the meetings issues related to RBMP development, water monitoring and assessment for RBMP, stakeholder participation and communication were discussed.
- The UBA expert team visited Azerbaijan on 27-29 July 2017 to assess Surface Water monitoring and assessment systems. During the mission meetings were conducted with the National Environmental Monitoring Department, National Hydrometeorology Department, Scientific Research

Hydrometeorology Institute of MENR to discuss the status of water monitoring and develop options for its improvement according to requirements of EU WFD.

- On 11-13 September 2017, the coastal monitoring assessment team were in Azerbaijan. On 11 September, the team met with National Monitoring Department on Environment, National Hydrometeorological Department, Monitoring Laboratory of Caspian Complex Environmental Pollution Monitoring Centre, Biological Institute, Environmental Pollution Prevention Centre of MENR and the Representative of Academy of Science. On 12 September the team visited MENR's Department of Reproduction and Protection of Aquatic Bioresources (Khilli Sturgeon Station) in Neftchala rayon and the Hydrological station of MENR in Neftchala to progress work in this area.
- On 28-29 September 2017, experts of IOW provided a training seminar in Baku on data management for Integrated Management for Water Resources supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to formulate a logical framework of the National Water Information System (NIS) to provide information on the preparation of the RBMP's in the river basins in Azerbaijan and start the process of data management. The seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the State Agency for Water Resources of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other beneficiary water agencies, including the Academy of Sciences and colleagues from various Universities.

### **2.2.2 EUWI+ project progress**

- Project team representatives on surface, ground and coastal water monitoring and RBMP development and communication conducted bilateral meetings with beneficiary organisations and attended national and regional offices to assess the status of surface, coastal and ground water monitoring systems and identify needs for improvements in this area.
- One training seminar was conducted in Baku to present the project objectives and strategy related to the development of national water related data management procedure and tools in compliance with the SEIS principle and in order to facilitate the production of maps and indicators for the RBMPs.
- The seminar also aimed to adopt the SEIS principles for data collection and sharing and to present the methodologies and tools recommended for the analysis of the existing situation concerning:
  - The identification of data producers on each data set necessary for IWRM;
  - Identification and characterisation of existing data sources, data sets and web services;
  - The existing data flow and data sharing within and between national institutions; and
  - To exchange on priority needs related to the strengthening of water data management procedures and tools at the national level.
- To ensure project synergies are realised, periodical coordination meetings were held with the EU Twinning project related to support of MENR for Atmosphere air quality monitoring system improvement, EU SEIS project and UNDP-GEF Kura II project. The EUWI Plus representative in Azerbaijan, Rafiq Verdiyev, attended 2 Working Seminars of UNDP GEF project on Environmental flow assessment and on identification of hot spots in transboundary areas of the Kura River.

### **2.2.3 National Policy Dialogue**

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for January/February 2018.

## 2.2.4 Recent developments

- Discussions were conducted with the UNDP GEF Kura project to coordinate activities of the 2 projects to promote synergy and harmonised actions.
- Necessary documentation was prepared and submitted to UBA on behalf of the Azeri Government for exemption from any taxation and customs fees for equipment and other materials under EUWI+.

## 2.3 Belarus

### 2.3.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 12-13 July 2017, a meeting of the Belarus-Lithuanian expert group on enhancing technical cooperation in the transboundary Neman river basin was held in Vilnius with some 20 experts attending. Priority actions towards preparation of the international RBMP for the Neman basin were discussed along preparations of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) for the upcoming GEF project on Neman and Bug rivers.
- On 24-26 July 2017, IOW began the assessment and structuring of Communication and Stakeholder involvement activities and RBM Planning activities. Meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and experts of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources to discuss the future cooperation in the field of development of RBMP of Pripyat river basin and stakeholder involvement.
- On 2-4 August 2017, UBA commenced assessment of monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs. The meeting was hosted in the laboratory of physical-chemical measurements of the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection in Minsk.
- On 28-30 August 2017, UBA commenced assessment of hydrobiological and hydromorphological monitoring and laboratory infrastructure, capacities and needs. Meetings were held in the unit of Hydrobiological Monitoring of Hydromet and the unit of Water Protected Measures of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of the Water Resources, who are responsible for hydromorphological monitoring in Belarus.
- On 10-16 September 2017, the first mission of the lead expert to the OECD pilot project in Kopyl rayon was held. The aim of mission was to collect data and conduct a preliminary assessment of the status of water resources and infrastructure in the rayon and identify challenges related to water management. Several site visits and bilateral meetings were held in Kopyl rayon as well as in Minsk including with specialists of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources and of the Geology Institute. A draft note presenting preliminary findings from the first field mission and requirements for further data collection is due in October 2017.

### 2.3.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, in cooperation with the OECD, prepared the first draft Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus to 2030 in the context of climate change. The draft is considered incomplete with further focus areas under consideration for inclusion. To inform the draft strategy, a mapping and assessment of the present institutional set-up, legal and policy frameworks and policy instruments as well as present practice of communications, inter-action and co-operation between the key actors in

the water sector of Belarus was prepared by the OECD. The mapping revealed several gaps and areas for further improvement to be reflected in the new Water Strategy. Consultations with representatives of the EU MS consortium were held regarding the format of documents which are needed for national project registration. 3 main documents are needed for project registration in Belarus:

- ToRs (in English and in Russian) - available;
- Project characteristic (in Russian) – draft characteristic prepared;
- Project budget for Belarus – in process of preparation. After signing the project budget for Belarus by all members of the project consortia the registration process will start in Belarus.

### **2.3.3 National Policy Dialogue**

- The National Policy Dialogue for Belarus will be initiated following project registration. In the interim period, the Inter-ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC), established during Q2, will serve as a coordinating body for the project. This Council was due to hold its first meeting in September however this was cancelled and rescheduled for Q4.

### **2.3.4 Recent developments**

- The OECD, in cooperation with the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, planned the EUWI+ side-event “Strategic planning of water resources and infrastructure”. The side event will be delivered as part of the 5th International Water Forum “Water resources and climate” to be held on 5-6 October 2017 in Minsk.
- There are ongoing changes to the management structure of the key beneficiary Minprirody. Mr Andrei Khudyk was appointed on 14 September 2017 as the new Minister and Mr. Alexander Korbut was appointed on 7 August 2017 as the new Deputy Minister with direct supervision of the water sector.

## **2.4 Georgia**

### **2.4.1 Missions and technical meetings**

- On 6-7 July 2017, under the priority “Legal review of harmonisation of new draft Law on Water Resources Management to EIA Code of Georgia, draft Law on Environmental Liability and IPPC directive” a Result 1 mission by an international legal expert was held to study the general situation regarding drafting and implementation of these legal acts in compliance with EU standards.
- The UBA Groundwater monitoring team discussed the project plans with representatives of the NEA Geology Department on 13-14 July 2017. The mission was to assess:
  - the existing and practiced methodologies for identification, characterisation and delineation of water bodies;
  - existing and planned groundwater sampling and status assessment methodologies and results;
  - the legal basis, rules and responsibilities for quantitative and qualitative monitoring; and
  - distribution and location of monitoring points and measured parameters.
- An RBM Planning and Communication and Stakeholder Involvement mission was held with the participation of International Office for Water (OIEau), Mr Yannick Pochon and Ms Yunona

Vedenina, and the Project Technical Advisor Mr Tim Turner, on 17-19 July 2017. The aims of the mission were:

- to complete a check list on RBMPs in GE and AZ;
- detailing of workplan for Alazani RBMP developments; and
- preliminary assessment of existing communication experience and practices.
- To support the preliminary assessment of communication experience and practices, the following communication/planning meetings were held between 17-19 July:
  - Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) for cooperation in the field of communication and public consultations;
  - Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, for their role in stakeholder involvement in different environmental activities in Georgia;
  - the Project NFP and the Water Division of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection;
  - Governor's Office of Kakheti Region (Alazani-Iori Basin);
  - Irrigation Service Centre of Telavi Municipality, part of the JSC Amelioration Georgia; Telavi Branch of the United Water Supply Company;
  - Head Office of Akhmeta Municipality;
  - Head Office of Dedoplistskaro Municipality and local representative of the Irrigation Service Centre, JSC Amelioration Georgia;
  - Dedoplistskaro Branch of the United Water Supply Company; and
  - Head Office of Lagodekhi Municipality.
- A second field mission of the UBA team of Laboratory Assessment experts and the first mission of Surface Water Monitoring experts was held on 24-26 July 2017 in Batumi, Georgia. The Laboratory Team focused on performance of the NEA's Batumi branch in respects of quality procedures, relevance of the practiced methodology and equipment to WFD standards, understanding laboratory structure, their obligations, technical background, required training and technical/ equipment upgrade needs assessments to increase their capacity.
- During the same mission the Monitoring Team focused on reviewing human and technical capabilities of the personnel and institutional resources and data availability in regards of biological monitoring of NEA's Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Department in Batumi. It was discussed that the site selection for ecological/biological status monitoring and training activities will take place in early spring 2018. As part of the demonstration sampling exercise, a field visit was organised on the Ajaristskali river, downstream of town of Khulo, with participation of the NEA biological (Tbilisi) and chemical (Batumi) field expedition team, UBA lab assessment and monitoring experts and project representatives from Georgia.
- As part of the Coastal Assessment and Monitoring activity, a team of international experts lead by Mr. Grozdan Kusplic (IZOR), as well as Mr. Tim Turner, the Project Technical Advisor, the project representative in Georgia and the Head of NEA's Pollution Monitoring Department conducted mission to Batumi on 14-16 September 2017. The aim of the mission was to prepare a pilot monitoring programme in selected water bodies of transitional waters of the Choroki River and coastal waters in the vicinity of Batumi in accordance with the WFD. The mission met with the biology and chemical laboratory experts of NEA's Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Department in Batumi to discuss the necessary steps required by the WFD for delineation, typology, identification of coastal water bodies (CWBs) and sampling stations, determination of reference conditions for Biological Quality Elements (BQEs) and supporting elements to be analysed during the proposed activities in the region. On 16 September, the team also conducted a field visit at the Chorokhi estuary and coastal areas of Batumi vicinity to take a water sample for analysing nutrients and measure on-situ salinity, conductivity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in terms to detect more accurate boundaries be-

tween the transitional and coastal waters in the area. Results of this demonstration exercise will be used in proposed coastal assessment study.

- A Data Management Workshop for Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia was organised on 26-27 September 2017 in the premises of the National Environment Agency in Tbilisi. The workshop, prepared by Paul Haener (IOWater), was attended by 25 participants, mostly coming from the project beneficiary institutions (MENRP and NEA), but also from other government institutions including, the National Statistics Service, Ministry of Agriculture, irrigation company, and international projects, working on collection, processing and maintenance of water related data and information. The main objective of the workshop was to initiate a data management process, following the development of the national Water Information System (WIS) in Georgia and to support the preparation of RBM Plans in the pilot river basins.

#### **2.4.2 EUWI+ project progress**

- Work began on the “legal review of harmonisation of the new draft Law on Water Resources Management to EIA Code of Georgia, draft Law on Environmental Liability and IPPC directive”. To study the general situation regarding the drafting and implementation process of these legal acts in compliance with EU standards and to identify next steps of project assignment first visit to Georgia by UNECE-hired international legal expert was held on 6-7 July 2017. Individual meetings were held with the following entities: Department of Integrated Management of Environment; Water Resources Management Division (in charge with Water draft Law); EU legislation harmonisation division; Department of Environment Impact permit; Department of Environmental Supervision; NGO - Georgia's Environmental Outlook. During the meeting it was agreed that the project will analyse and propose changes for the draft Georgian law on water resources management (WRM) and related legal acts with the aim of harmonising the legal acts and providing a clear legislative framework in the following fields:
  - Scope of the WRM law;
  - Rights and obligations of different types of water resource users;
  - New system of water use permits;
  - New system of water use fees; and
  - Institutional aspects related to application of new rules (including local RBM units).
- To ensure clarification and accuracy of English versions of the draft law on Water Resources Management and Environmental Assessment Code, the Result 1 national coordinator conducted a comparison and identified relevant updates of the legislative acts.
- The first draft of the review was submitted to the Ministry in September. The second visit of the legal expert to Georgia is planned for 12-13 October to discuss result of analysis, suggested changes and collect any comments developed from the Ministry.

#### **2.4.3 National Policy Dialogue**

- The Next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for January/February 2018.

#### **2.4.4 Recent developments**

- No developments reported during Quarter 3.

## 2.5 Republic of Moldova

### 2.5.1 Missions and technical meetings

- From 9-11 August 2017, Ms. Yunona Vidennia, the IOW expert on result 3, met with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Agency “Apele Moldovei”, SE “Basin Water Management Authority” and local environmental NGOs (“National Environmental Center”, “Eco-Contact”) to start the assessment and structuring of the Communication and Stakeholder related activities of the project. During the mission several aspects were covered including: preliminary assessment of existing communication experience and practices; approaches, projects and communication plans put in place by the national authorities and other projects; preliminary assessment of existing stakeholder involvement mechanisms at basin and sub-basin levels; and communication and visibility issues (e.g. identification and contact with potential partners for communication and stakeholder involvement issues; presentation of EUWI+ website; content of the MD web page and project leaflet). The Lapusna river sub basin was also visited and a meeting organised with the Lapusna Local Authority and the environmental NGO “Pro Dezvoltare” which intends to create new sub basin committee for this river, a tributary of the Prut river.
- From 18-22 September 2017, Ms. Christina Trimbacher conducted the third assessment of Surface Water (SW) quality laboratories from State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) in the framework of Result 2, including training on technical aspects of the ISO 17025:2005 requirements and areas of improvement at SHS SW lab, discussion of the draft laboratory assessment report and supporting the recently commenced accreditation process.
- From 19-21 September 2017, Ms. Kristina Schaufler and Mr. Robert Konecny conducted the first mission for implementing the hydrobiological and hydromorphological monitoring of surface waters in the framework of Result 2. Main goals of the mission were to assess the: Instrumental needs for WFD compliant monitoring–input for procurement; Personnel and institutional resources, competencies, capacities; Status of monitoring regarding the Biological Quality Elements; Planning of working steps for transition of biological monitoring to ecological monitoring; Check of data availability regarding biological monitoring and Identification of training needs. Several meetings were organised with the representatives of Hydrological, Environmental Quality Monitoring departments and Biological Monitoring Laboratory of the State Hydrometeorological Service.
- From 19-20 September 2017, Mr. Michael Sutter, Project manager (EU Consortium UBA&IWO), met representatives of beneficiary institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Agency „Apele Moldovei”, State Hydrometeorological Service). A high-level meeting was organised with Mrs. Inga Podoroghin, State Secretary, National Coordinator of the EUWI+ Project in Moldova to discuss different issues concerning project implementation and the execution of the planned tender for monitoring and laboratory equipment. The mission included also meetings with: Mr. Christian Ballaro, Project Manager, European Delegation to Moldova; and Daniela Petruschevschi – Project manager, Austrian Development Agency (ADA).
- From 25-27 of September, 2017 Mr. Philippe Sennhauser, IOW and Mr. Timothy Turner, technical advisor for Results 2 and 3 held a meeting with the beneficiaries and line agencies (Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources Institute of Ecology and Geography - Academy of Science, MARDE) to present the results and main outcomes of the assessment of the Danube, Prut and Black Sea (DPBS) RBMP, and priorities for the next activities of the EUWI+ project regarding RBMP. A meeting with Mrs. Daniela Petruschevschi – ADA-SDC IFP Project manager, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) was also organised to develop synergies regarding the implementation of the DPBS RBMP.

## 2.5.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The OECD finalised the project on Strengthening the Economic Regulatory System for WSS in Moldova, the Final Report will be sent out to key stakeholders in Moldova across Quarter 4.
- The project concept for the mid-term Action Plan to support the implementation of the Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation is being developed by the OECD. It will be discussed with key officers within the new Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) once appointed, before finalising the ToR and selecting consultants.
- UNECE initiated the work on supporting the implementation of measures related to equitable access to water and sanitation from the National Programme to implement the targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health.
- The MARDE requested the support of the EUWI+ Project through its Technical Assistance Programme to provide financial support of 74.472 MDL, or the equivalent of 3.600 Euro, in order to start the re-accreditation process for the laboratories of the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS). Due to the lack of financial resources there is a risk of accreditation loss for SHS laboratories and the interruption of the existing environmental quality management system (letter signed by Mr. Vasile Bitca, Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, nr. 01/01-729 of 25.09.2017).
- In parallel to the EUWI+ Project, ADA and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) are supporting the implementation of the project "Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova (Phase 01)" (IFSP). The Local representatives of EUWI+ Project in Moldova are in regular discussions with the IFSP experts, in order to avoid overlapping activities and to develop synergies.

## 2.5.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova is tentatively scheduled for the period from 18-20 December 2017 (the date may be changed due to the on-going reforming of the MARDE).

## 2.5.4 Recent developments

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) was created as a result of a decision on approval of the list of new ministries of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (adopted on 21st of July, 2017), followed by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the reorganisation of the central specialty public administration (approved on 26 of July 2017). According to the Regulation on organisation of the MARDE approved on August 30, 2017, a Department on Integrated Water Resources Management will be created. The reform of MARDE is ongoing; a reduction of personnel by 35% at the ministry level is expected; no staff reappointments at Department level have been made yet.
- On July 11, 2017 the EUWI+ Project local representatives in Moldova participated in a scoping meeting on definition of the areas of cooperation for improving water and wetland management in the Republic of Moldova organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, the Agency Apele Moldovei and ADA/SDC Project "Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova (Phase 01)" (IFSP), EUWI+ Project and WWF.
- In the period 18-19 July 2017, with the support of ADA/SDC, two meetings were held in Chisinau: the second meeting of the Dniester River District Committee, held after a three-year

break and the first meeting of the Danube Prut and the Black Sea River District Committee. The main purpose of these meetings was to bring together the committee members to inform them about their obligations according to the new Water Law and regulations, as well as about the progress of development of the River Basin Management Plans that are currently under approval by the Government. The local representative of the EUWI+ project in Moldova presented the project goals, objectives and expected results. The Agency Apele Moldovei, one of the main beneficiaries of the project, expressed their willingness to cooperate with EUWI+ project in order to assure an efficient activity of DPBS River District Committee and good cooperation in promoting new initiatives at sub-basin level.

- On 30 August 2017, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the Dniester river basin district Management Plan for 2017-2022. The objectives set out in the Plan include the prevention of deterioration of surface and groundwater status, the gradual reduction of pollution and the improvement of water bodies' status.
- On 21 September 2017 the EUWI+ Project local representatives in Moldova participated in a meeting on performance indicators and benchmarking in the water sector, elaborated within the SDC/ADA Project "Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation in Republic of Moldova (Phase 01)" (IFSP).
- Additional amendments were made to the draft Danube-Prut and Black Sea river basin district management Plan for 2017-2022. Due to the reforming process of the central public administration in Moldova, the document is being repeatedly consulted with the interested institutions.
- A national working meeting on the status of promotion of the Plan was organised on 26 September 2017, with participation of representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE), Agency Apele Moldovei, Institute of Ecology and Geography, State Hydrometeorological Service with participation of EUWI+ Project team members (Mr. Philippe Sennhauser, IOW, Mr. Timothy Turner, UBA) and representatives of SDC/ADA.

## **2.6 Ukraine**

### **2.6.1 Missions and technical meetings**

- On August 22-23 2017, the EUWI+ team for Results 2 and 3 met with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). The purpose of the meeting was to develop a joint implementation plan for the project based on MENR's comments on the draft Inception Report. Detailed tasks of this plan plus a tentative schedule of project missions on laboratory assessment, registration and procurement processes in Ukraine were also discussed.
- On September 27 2017, the EUWI+ team for Results 1, 2 and 3 met with the MENR national focal point. The main aims of meeting were to discuss implementation of Component 3 of EUWI+, implementation of a pilot project on Protocol Water and Health under Component 1 of EUWI+, and proposals for preparing the next NPD Steering Committee meeting on 28 November 2017.

### **2.6.2 EUWI+ project progress**

- On 12 July 2017, a meeting of EUWI+ hydrogeologists with the APENA EU project hydrogeologist was held in Kyiv with the purpose to coordinate project activities and to support MENR in implementation of WFD groundwater monitoring.

- EUWI+ project hydrogeologists provided support to the State Geology Service of Ukraine in the form of input to a groundwater quantity and quality monitoring concept. This was prepared by the APENA EU project as part of the process of development of a draft State Water Monitoring Program for MENR. EUWI+ hydrogeologists also participated in 2 trainings organised by the APENA EU project in L'viv and Odessa regions for local hydrogeologists on WFD tasks.
- The work led by IOW on identifying the RBMP information holders in Ukraine was started.
- On 25-29 September 2017, the International Office of Water experts met with representatives of the EU Delegation in Ukraine, MENR, SAWR, APENA and EMBLAS EU II projects, UNEGO "MAMA 86". The objectives of this meeting were to start the preparing characterisation of the first stage of Dnipro River Basin Management Plan and discussion of communication activities under Results 2 and 3 of EUWI+.
- UNECE contracted NGO "MAMA 86" to facilitate the first phase of revising the national targets under the UNECE/WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health.
- On 28 September 2017, a kick-off meeting on the pilot project on implementation of Ukraine's obligations on Protocol Water and Health was held in MENR under the inter-ministerial working group. A technical meeting for experts of this project was also held in MENR Aarhus Centre.

### **2.6.3 National Policy Dialogue**

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for the week commencing 27 November 2017.

### **2.6.4 Recent developments**

- On 7 July 2017, a workshop under support of Global Water Partnership "Indicators of progress and risks of non-achievement of the Water Millennium Development Goals for Ukraine" was held in Kyiv with participation including the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, State Agency of Water Resources, Ministry of Health, Hydrometeorological Centre, World Bank, and the NGO MAMA 86.
- MENR completed the analysis of information about laboratory capacities in Ukraine from 5 high level state authorities that have responsibilities on implementing the State water monitoring program. Deputy Minister Mykola Kuzio sent the documents to the EUWI+ project experts for laboratory assessments.
- On 19 July 2017, the MENR Monitoring Working group discussed the draft of the new Program of water monitoring in Ukraine. The document was translated into Ukrainian and shared among the EUWI+ Consortium.
- On 20 July 2017, the MENR Round table "Reforming Water Management System in Ukraine" was held with aim to present to all interested high level authorities, donors, scientific organisations, NGOs the decision of Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine to reform the system of water management in Ukraine. This meeting was informed by a discussion document prepared by the OECD under Result 1 of the project.
- On 27 September 2017, the MENR reform working group with experts of new H2Office (project with support from EBRD), World Bank discussed the reform of State Agency of Water Resources and Irrigation reform. MENR will continue the preparation of these documents in the coming months with support of donor organisations.

### 3. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Part 3 summarises key regional activities completed in the last quarter.

#### 3.1.1 Regional Steering Committee and Inception Report

The summary record from the first regional Steering Committee meeting held on 15 and 16 May 2017 in Brussels was finalised in Quarter 3.

Comments were received from Ukraine that required review and discussion. The record was finally published and circulated to all participants on 14 September 2017.

The inception report underwent final revision during Quarter 3. Two rounds of comments were addressed:

- Country comments on the work programme were circulated in tracked change mode on 3 August for final review; and
- Comments from the European Commission on structure and content were addressed and an updated report circulated on 30 September 2017.

No comments were received in writing from countries on the updated version of the Inception Report circulated on 3 August 2017.

#### 3.1.2 Regional training and development

The EUWI + East project beneficiary representative from Georgia took part in the 15th “EUROPE-INBO 2017” International Conference, co-organized with the "Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives”, on 20 – 23 September 2017, in Dublin, Ireland. The work of the 15th "EUROPE - INBO 2017" international conference in Dublin was organised around a preparatory workshop on the organisation of water data management and electronic reporting, a strong challenge in the context of a balanced implementation of the water legislation and four thematic roundtables on the current issues. They provided an opportunity to exchange on progress or difficulties occurring in the implementation of the Water and Flood Directives, with a view to feeding discussions on a possible review of the WFD. The Final Declaration, all papers and photographs of the conference are available on the website: [www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)

#### 3.1.3 Communication activities

The reporting period was marked by the completion of a series of missions launching communication and stakeholder dialogue, identifying key stakeholders and potential partners and collecting the information related to communication strategies and best practices in the field of IWRM and Environment. Work contacts have been established with the communication press officers in the EU Delegations to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Other recent developments include:

- Update design of the project website according to the new EU requirements on visibility.
- From a technical point of view, work was done to optimise the operation of the site and eliminate functional problems associated with the fact that the site and the information platform were merged. The site is referenced through main search engines including Google.

- The EUWI+East information platform was enriched with new resources (webmapping<sup>1</sup> and catalogue of data sources<sup>1</sup>).
- Design and drafting country leaflets presenting the project and in-country activities (in EN and national languages).
- Preparation of a communication & visibility kit (graphic design): roll-ups, banners, posters, training certificates, folders using new EU graphic chart for the Eastern Partnership projects.
- Establishing distribution lists.

## 4. OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN NEXT QUARTER

Part 4 lists key activities and priorities for the coming quarter of 1 October – 31 December 2017.

### 4.1 Key Activities for Next Quarter

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
Armenia	• Data Management Workshop for Integrated Water Resources Management (Mr. Paul Haener, IO-Water).	20 – 24 November 2017
	• Technical mission for the preparation for the supply of monitoring and laboratory equipment and refurbishment of premises (Mr. Michael Sutter, UBA)	30 – 31 October 2017
	• Technical mission to launch the project activity on assessment of water harmful subsidies in irrigation (Tatiana Efimova, OECD)	4 -8 December 2017
	• NPD Steering Committee meeting (tbc)	4-8 December 2017
Azerbaijan	• RBMP and stakeholder involvement & communication mission (Mr. Pierre Henry de Villeneuve & Yunona Videnina, IOWater).	13 – 15 November 2017
	• Coastal delineation mission (Mr. Grozdan Kuspilic, IZOR)	12 -14 December 2017
	• Technical mission to launch the development of the national water programme (Tatiana Efimova, OECD)	20-24 November 2017
Belarus	• The first meeting of the Inter-ministerial Coordination Council for use and protection of the water resources (National Policy Dialogue) is tentatively scheduled with participation of the relevant EUWI+ experts.	end-November, 2017

<sup>1</sup> <http://193.70.117.229/webmapping>

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EUWI+ side-event “Strategic planning of water resources and infrastructure” in the framework of the 5th International Water Forum “Water resources and climate” to be held in Minsk</li> </ul>	06 October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of water resources and water systems in Kopyl rayon of Minsk Oblast (a pilot activity at basin level) will continue</li> </ul>	October-December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of the Western Bug basin council and facilitating the first meeting of the basin council in the city of Brest.</li> </ul>	November 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBMP and communication mission. (Mr. Philippe Seguin &amp; Yunona Videnina, IOWater).</li> </ul>	23 – 26 October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBMP and stakeholder involvement mission (Mr. Philippe Seguin &amp; Yunona Videnina, IOWater with participation of Ms Marie-Claire Domont, from the French Water Agency)</li> </ul>	4 – 8 December 2017
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mission by international legal expert hired by UNECE to assist with drafting of water legislation</li> </ul>	12-13 October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBMP and stakeholder involvement &amp; communication mission (Mr. Pierre Henry de Villeneuve &amp; Yunona Videnina, IOWater).</li> </ul>	16 – 17 November 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal delineation mission (Mr. Grozdan Kuspilic, IZOR)</li> </ul>	12 -14 December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical mission to launch work on the national water strategy and start planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Steering Committee meeting (Tatiana Efimova, OECD)</li> </ul>	3-5 October 2017
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct the first mission related to data management for IWRM. Main goal of the mission is to develop analysis of the situation and needs related to water information system (WIS) development; elaboration of first recommendation and definition of a short term action plan; Communication with IFP project experts regarding developing national information system for water resources (SIRA) (Mr. Paul Haener, IOWater).</li> </ul>	16 – 18 October, 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a mission on the water and sanitation sector, urban wastewater treatment directive; dashboard of the programme of measures for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District Management Plan (Mr Emmanuelle Renou, IOWater)</li> </ul>	06 – 10 November, 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd mission on communication and stakeholder involvement issues (Yunona Videnina, IOW) is planned for end November, to support the DPBS</li> </ul>	End of November, 2017

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
	Basin Council meeting and further communication with sub basins committees.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise the process for revising and updating the composition of the NPD Coordination Committee and its regulation, due to the reform of the central public authorities of the Republic of Moldova.</li> </ul>	October-November 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the second Basin Committee meeting of the Danube-Prut-Black Sea River District</li> </ul>	October-November 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ToR prepared and selection of a consultancy for developing the mid-term Action plan for WSS Strategy in Moldova launched.</li> </ul>	December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise and conduct the next meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova.</li> </ul>	18-20 December 2017
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPD Steering Committee meeting to be held</li> </ul>	28 November 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBMP Stakeholder involvement and communication mission. One-day participative Workshop on Communication strategy for participative RBM planning (Mr. Philippe Seguin &amp; Yunona Videnina, IOWater)</li> </ul>	27 November – 1 December 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory assessment mission to Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk (Mr. Michael Ghobrial, UBA)</li> </ul>	3 – 6 October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory assessment mission to Kyiv and Odessa (Ms. Cristina Trimbacher and Mr. Michael Ghobrial, UBA)</li> </ul>	16 – 20 October 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological and hydro-morphological assessment mission (Ms. Kristina Schaufler and Mr. Robert Konecny, UBA)</li> </ul>	16 – 20 October 2017
Regional Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop for Caucasus countries on ISO 17025 for laboratories, (Philipp Hohenblum and Felizitas Zeitz, UBA)</li> </ul>	28 – 30. November
Communication and Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalising and operational implementation of a new version of the project website. Processing of country webpages in Russian and/or national languages</li> <li>Printing and distribution of country leaflets presenting the project and in-country activities (in EN and national languages)</li> <li>Issue of the Newsletter (n°1)</li> <li>Production of communication &amp; visibility kit for the 6 countries (promotional materials)</li> </ul>	Across Q4

**Project Summary: EUWI+**

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a policy initiative launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009. It aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

In recent years, the countries of the Eastern Partnership have demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), as well as other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moreover, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have assumed commitments to reform water policies and implement the EU water *acquis* as part of the Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014.

It is in this context that the *European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+)* for Eastern Partnership Countries was initiated by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the management of water resources, in particular of trans-boundary rivers, in the EaP countries. It specifically supports the EaP countries to move towards the approximation to *EU acquis* in the field of water management with a focus on trans-boundary river basin management.

The project is divided into three result areas as follows:

- Result 1: Legal and regulatory frameworks improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs;
- Result 2: River Basins Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles; and
- Result 3: Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders.

The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under Result 1. Results 2 and 3 are implemented by an EU Member States Consortium including the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau / IOWater) of France. Experts from other EU Member States will also be involved in activities of the project.

The project has developed a web portal (<http://euwipluseast.eu/en/>). This web portal constitutes a platform for access, exchange and dissemination of all data, information and services developed and used in the frame of this project.

## 5. ANNEX A

Annex A contains contact information of key people involved in EUWI+: national focal points and (*ad interim*) local representatives from each EaP country, and contacts from each of the implementing partners.

### 5.1 National Focal Points and local representatives

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Armenia	Mr Vahan Davtyan	Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	vahan.davtyan@mdp.am
	Mr Volodya Narimanyan	Deputy Head of the State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources	narimanyan59@mail.ru
	Mr Vahagn Tonoyan	Local Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	vrtonoyan@gmail.com
Azerbaijan	Mr Rasim Sattarzadeh	Head of Environmental Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	rsattarzada@gmail.com
	Mr Issa Aliyev,	Deputy Head of Executive Strategic Board, Head of Propaganda Department MENR	issa.aliyev@gmail.com
	Mr Rafiq Verdiyev	Local Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	rafig2000@mail.ru
Belarus	Ms T. Slish	Head of Department of Use and Protection of Waters	tanya.sl@tut.by
	Mr Sergei Zavyalov	Head of Department, Minprirody	2006048@tut.by
	Mr Alexandr Stankevich	Local representative of Result 1, and 2 and 3	aps_stankevich@mail.ru
Georgia	Ms Ekaterine Grigalava	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection	e.grigalava@moe.gov.ge
	Mr Gizo Chelidze	Head of Department of Integrated Management, MENRP	g.chelidze@moe.gov.ge
	Mr Zurab Jincharadze	Local representative of Results 2, 3	zurab.jincharadze@gmail.com
	Ms Eliso Barnovi	Local representative of Result 1	ebarnovi@gmail.com
Republic of Moldova	Ms Inga Podoroghin	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	inga.podoroghin@madrn.gov.md
	Ms Diana Celac	Local representative of Result 1	celacdi@gmail.com

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
	Mr Victor Bujac	Local representative of Results 2&3	victor_bujac@yahoo.com
Ukraine	Mr Mykola Kuzio	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	mykola.kuzio@gmail.com
	Mr Oleksandr Bon	Head of Water Resources Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	bon@menr.gov.ua; oleks.bon@gmail.com
	Ms Nataliia Zakorchevna	Local representative of Results 1,2 and 3	natzakor@gmail.com

## 5.2 EUWI+ international implementing team

Organisation	Name	Title	e-mail address
OECD	Mr Matthew Griffiths	Programme Manager	matthew.griffiths@oecd.org
	Ms Tatiana Efimova	Project Manager	tatiana.efimova@oecd.org
	Mr Alexandre Martoussevitch	Project Manager	alexandre.martoussevitch@oecd.org
UNECE	Mr Peep Mardiste	Regional Coordinator Environment Division	peep.mardiste@unece.org
	Mr Alisher Mamadzhonov		alisher.mamadzhonov@unece.org
Umweltbundesamt GmbH/Environment Agency Austria	Mr Michael Sutter	Project Manager	michael.sutter@umweltbundesamt.at
	Mr Christopher Opancar	Project Assistant	christopher.opancar@umweltbundesamt.at
Office International de l'Eau / International Office for Water	Ms Josiane Mongellaz	Director of International Cooperation	j.mongellaz@oieau.fr
	Mr Pierre Henry de Ville-neuve	Project Manager	p.henry-de-villeneuve@oieau.fr
	Mr Paul Haener	Thematic leader for data management	p.haener@oieau.fr

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>e-mail address</b>
	Mr Philippe Seguin	Thematic leader for RBM Plan- ning	p.seguin@oieau.fr
	Ms Yunona Videnina	Manager for Result 3	y.videnina@oieau.fr
EUWI+ project	Mr Timothy Turner	Technical Advi- sor for Results 2 and 3	trturner@btinternet.com

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