



# European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries

*Quarterly Information Update*

*(April 2017 – June 2017)*

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## 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Introduction

This is the second quarterly information update on the implementation of the EUWI+ project. It covers the reporting period from April 2017 to the end of June 2017. The update has been prepared in consultation with each implementing partner.

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 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.

### 1.2 Current Project Status

The EUWI+ project 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.

The first EUWI+ regional Steering Committee was held on 15-16 May 2017 in Brussels and focussed on presentation of the draft work programmes. The EUWI+ team are currently focussed on incorporating feedback received from this meeting into the inception report and national work programmes.

### 1.3 Objectives of Quarter

This second quarter of the project had the following objectives:

- Extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including government agencies in EaP countries, EU Delegations and NGOs;
- Identification and prioritisation of country needs jointly with key local stakeholders in each EaP country;
- Drafting of an inception report;
- Delivery of the First Regional Steering Committee Meeting and presentation of draft national and regional work programmes;
- Incorporation of feedback received during Steering Committee Meeting;
- Early start on some priority work plan items.

### 1.4 Timeline

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

- Specific in country missions (April–June 2017);
- Analysis of country priorities and development of draft national and regional work programmes (April 2017);
- National level presentation of draft work programmes (April 2017);
- Circulation of Inception Report (April 2017);

- First EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee (May 2017);
- Receipt of country comments on inception report and work programmes (May 2017);
- Receipt of European Commission comments on inception report (June 2017);
- Updating of Inception report and work plans (June 2017); and
- Early start of priority work programme items (April-July 2017).

## 2. COUNTRY QUARTERLY REPORTS

Part 2 contains country specific chapters which provide further details on the activities in each country.

### 2.1 Armenia

#### 2.1.1 Meetings held in April–June 2017

##### 2.1.1.1 Bilateral meetings with beneficiary organisations

Several missions for representatives of the EUWI+ project team were organized during the quarter, to coordinate the development of the country chapter of the Inception Report on Armenia, including the workplan of activities and milestones for the period 2017-2020, as well as implementation of some of the national priorities.

- On April 5 2017, bilateral meetings between the representatives of IOWater and the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia were held, to coordinate development of new model outline for RBMPs.
- On May 30-June 2 2017, a mission of IOWater was held to coordinate development of new model outline for RBMPs, and identify priority soft measures of the officially adopted RBMP for Akhuryan RBD, to be supported by the EUWI+ project.
- On June 28-29 2017, a mission of UBA hydrogeologists was held. As part of the mission, an expanded meeting, chaired by the Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection, was held, with follow up technical meetings with the hydrogeologists of the Centre. Issues related to characterization of hydrogeological conditions in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, as well as identification and delineation of groundwater bodies were discussed.

##### 2.1.1.2 Coordination with donors

Periodical coordination meetings were held with the USAID ASPIRED and PURE-Water projects, and UNDP.

#### 2.1.2 EUWI+ implementation and relevant recent developments in Armenia with implications for the EUWI+ project

### 2.1.2.1 EUWI implementation

- The country chapter on Armenia in the draft Inception Report, including the workplan and milestones, was discussed and agreed by the national stakeholders in Armenia.
- Two national experts, hired by UNECE, successfully completed the assignment on providing input for the new chapter on sanitation, as part of the national priority #1, “Support to the working group on revising the Water Code of Armenia”.
- On April 6, 2017 the first meeting of the National Executive Strategic Committee of the EUWI+ project in Armenia was held with the participation of representatives of the Water Resources Management Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (Ministry of Nature Protection), Hydrometeorological Service (Ministry of Emergency Situations), as well as OECD, UNECE, IOWater and UBA. During the meeting, the draft EUWI+ project workplan for Armenia was discussed.
- On April 7 2017, the 16th meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Water Sector Issues in Armenia was held, with over 50 participants, including the Steering Committee members, representatives of Government agencies, international organizations, private sector, NGOs, Universities and independent experts. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the status of on-going NPD activities and the draft national priorities for 2017-2020 within the EUWI+ project in Armenia. The meeting also aimed to serve as a platform for strengthening synergies with other international water projects implemented in Armenia. A press release on the NPD meeting was published at the website of the State Committee on Water Systems of the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of Armenia (<http://www.scws.am/am/information-center/releases/show/259/0>).
- The link to the NPD meeting can be found on the project website and the meeting material is hosted here: <http://www.unece.org/16sc/apr2017>
- One of the EUWI+ project National Focal Points of Armenia (Head of the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection) participated in First Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the EUWI+ Project, held on May 15-16, 2017 in Brussels.

### 2.1.2.2 Recent developments in Armenia with implications for the EUWI+ project

- In May 2017, the merger of the 4 State Non-Commercial Organizations of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia (Environmental Impact Monitoring Centre, Information-Analytical Centre, Waste Monitoring Centre and Hydrogeological Monitoring Centre) into one organisation – Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, in charge of surface and groundwater quality and groundwater quantity monitoring, was finally completed, and the new Director of Centre was appointed.

## 2.2 Azerbaijan

### 2.2.1 Meetings held in April 2017 – June 2017

#### 2.2.1.1 Meetings with beneficiary organizations

The EUWI+ project team met with different beneficiary organizations on 25 April 2017. During the meeting different aspects of the country work plan for Azerbaijan and its implementation in the period 2017-2020 were discussed. Meetings were held with the representatives of different divisions of

MENR working in water sector, Water Resources State Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations, Azersu JSC, Amelioration JSC, laboratories and scientific organizations with participation of the representatives of OECD, UNECE and EU Consortium Member States.

During May 29-June 1, EUWI+ project experts visited Azerbaijan to meet with beneficiaries and attended laboratories to assess the status of national laboratories and to assess support needed to meet international standardisation requirements.

On June 19, representatives of the EUWI+ project met with beneficiary organizations to discuss water monitoring, laboratory assessment and RBMP development activities. On the same day, the team departed to Beylagan to assess the status of the regional laboratory of MENR and improvements needed to meet international standardisation requirements. Meetings were conducted during June 20-22 with representatives of different regional and local organizations in Ganja-Gazakh region to discuss the possible repartition of responsibilities for the development of the different aspects of RBMP in Upper- Kura region and the different Azeri districts in the future. The proposal was reflected in a table proposing a possible repartition of roles in connection with the structure of a standard WFD complaint RBM Plan structure. On June 23 in Gazakh, the team assessed the status of regional laboratory of MENR and reviewed improvements needed to meet international standardisation requirements.

On June 22, the project expert on RBMP development met with Mary Mathews, Regional Coordinator of UNDP GEF Kura project to discuss possible synergies in particular through possible contribution to future workshops to be organised by Kura II project from the end of 2017 (date and detailed agenda to be defined later on by Kura II project).

#### **2.2.1.2 Coordination with donors**

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.

#### **2.2.2 National Policy Dialogue in Azerbaijan**

On April 26 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan the 6<sup>th</sup> NPD meeting was held to discuss the EUWI+ project work plan. Representatives of the team of EUWI+ project, UNDP GEF Kura II, EU Twinning project and different stakeholders of Azerbaijan took part in the meeting. About 40 participants attended the event. Participants of the meeting made the following decisions and provided recommendations:

- NPD Steering Committee welcomed the draft 2016-2020 national workplan, prepared by the EUWI+ project team in close dialogue with national stakeholders. NPD Steering Committee proposed the representatives of Azerbaijan to approve the workplan as part of EUWI+ project inception report at the first regional Steering Committee meeting in Brussels, 15-16 May 2017.
- It was proposed to continue regular meetings with EUWI+ project team to identify detailed actions in relation to activities described in the workplan, including those related to updating of water legislation, development of water action plan, conducting of field survey, development of pilot RBMP and its implementation.
- It proposed to continue cooperation with UNECE under the EUWI+ project to implement country commitments under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.
- It proposed to hold next NPD Steering Committee meeting in the 4th quarter of 2017 to discuss ongoing activities of the EUWI+ project and activities related to cooperation and coordination with other related international projects.

- The link to the NPD documents can be found on the project website and the meeting material is hosted here: <http://www.unece.org/6sc/apr2017>

### **2.2.3 EUWI+ implementation and relevant recent developments in Azerbaijan with implications for the EUWI+ project**

#### **2.2.3.1 EUWI+ implementation**

In May 2017, UNECE and OSCE finalized the study “Historic Water Use, Protected Demand and Water Status in the Kura River Basin” based on requests by Azerbaijan and Georgia before the bilateral Kura agreement could be finalized and agreed. Translation of a 20-page executive summary into Azeri was organized by UNECE and OSCE. Preparations from UNECE was carried out for a bilateral meeting in Tbilisi for June 20, 2017 (postponed to early October 2017) as next round of bilateral consultations to discuss the finalization of the agreement on Kura.

Project team representatives on Laboratory and RBMP activities conducted visits to Azerbaijan as part of the project implementation work. During the visits they had bilateral meetings with beneficiary organizations and attended national and regional laboratories.

In July-September expert mission are planned to the country to assess the status of surface and ground water monitoring systems and needs for improvements in this sphere.

The project team met with beneficiary organizations and with representatives of the EU Twinning on monitoring System improvement, the UNDP GEF Kura project and the EU SEIS project.

#### **2.2.3.2 Recent developments in Azerbaijan with implications for the EUWI+ project**

As developed by the EUWI+ project team, the work plan for 2017-2020 was mainly in full compliance with the proposals of beneficiary organizations on the priority needs in Azerbaijan. It was therefore approved by participants of the NPD meeting and also by Azeri representatives attending the regional steering committee meeting of the EUWI+ project in Brussels on May 15-16 2017.

Work is now ongoing to prepare the necessary document on behalf of the Azeri Government for exemption from any taxation and customs fees for equipment and other materials to be allocated for relevant beneficiary organizations in Azerbaijan with support of the EUWI+ project.

## **2.3 Belarus**

### **2.3.1 Meetings held in April – June 2017**

#### **2.3.1.1 First EUWI+ SCM in Brussels on 15-16 May, 2017**

Two representatives of Belarus took part in the first EUWI+ SCM in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017. They have generally supported the draft Inception report; it was agreed that additional comments on it by Minprirody of Belarus will be provided within the deadline established by the meeting.

### **2.3.1.2 Bilateral meetings with beneficiary organizations**

On 19-21 June 2017 the ground water (GW) mission to Minsk was held. GW experts visited the institute for geology for discussing the approaches in the ground water monitoring and development river basin management plans in the part of GW.

### **2.3.1.3 Coordination with donors**

Coordination meetings were held with the projects “Green economy for Belarus” and SEIS.

## **2.3.2 EUWI+ implementation and relevant recent developments in Belarus with implications for the EUWI+ project**

### **2.3.2.1 EUWI implementation**

According to the request of the EUWI+ project, Minprirody appointed Ms Tatiana Slizh (head of department of water use and protection) as a national contact point for the EUWI+ project ( letter of Minprirody # 7-17/868-VN dated 27.042017).

Working Plan for Belarus was reviewed and updated matrix of country priorities was sent to the EUWI+ project partners.

Central research institute for complex use of the water resources was contracted by Minprirody ToR for developing the new Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2030. Consultations with OECD started on structure of the future document.

In June 2017, UNECE finalized preparations for a bilateral meeting between Belarus and Lithuania to discuss the continuation of transboundary cooperation in the Neman river basin, supported by the EUWI+ project, as a follow up to a concluded UNECE-UNDP project on climate change adaptation. The meeting of a bilateral expert group will be held in Vilnius on 12-13 July 2017. A report on the first phase of activities in 2017 will be finalized after the meeting and will focus on priority actions towards preparation of a joint river basin management plan for the Neman river basin.

### **EUWI+ project registration in Belarus**

Consultations with representatives of consortium of EU MS involved in the project were held regarding the format of documents which needed for national project registration. 3 main documents are needed for project registration in Belarus:

- ToRs (in English and in Russian) - exist;
- Project characteristic (in Russian) – draft characteristic prepared;
- Project budget for Belarus – in process of preparation by representatives of UBA and other members of the consortia.

### **2.3.2.2 Recent developments in Belarus with implications for the EUWI+ project**

- On March 1 2017, according to the order of Minprirody № 55-OD the inter-ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC) for use and protection of the water resources was established. The first meeting of the IMCC is scheduled for 5-6 September, 2017.

- Central research institute for complex use of the water resources with cooperation of the department of the regulation the pressure on air and water resources of Minprirody developed the draft document “Requirements for development, compilation and design the River Basin Management Plans”, which will be adopted by Minprirody in May, 2017.
- In the framework of the 5th International Water Forum “Water resources and climate” on 5-6 October 2017 in Minsk, Minprirody plans organising a seminar «Strategic and medium-term planning of water resources and water management systems: OECD recommendations, approaches and planning tools». (Decree of Minprody № 139-OD dated by 22.05.2017).

## **2.4 Georgia**

### **2.4.1 Meetings held in April - June 2017**

#### **2.4.1.1 Bilateral meetings with beneficiary organisations**

During the reporting period, the project expert teams planned and conducted missions to assess laboratory capacity of the NEA central laboratory in Tbilisi and the regional laboratory in Kutaisi, responsible sampling and analysis for Rioni and other Black Sea river basins. The mission was conducted by Team-2 of the Umweltbundesamt GmbH, Philipp Hohenblum and Felizitas Zeitz.

The objective of the mission was to assess capacity of the Georgian labs in regards of technical capability of analysing the priority substances of the WFD in respect to methods, LOQ, quality procedures according to WFD, evaluate existing quality standards according to the EN ISO 17025. The technical and administrative aspects of the mission were as follows:

- Liaise with representatives of NEA and Ministry of Environment
- Interview the responsible laboratory contact persons
- Evaluate the interview results in accordance to WFD and EN ISO 17025
- Coordination meeting with laboratory representatives
- One-to-one interview with quality manager and head of laboratory

The mission outcomes will be a base for further actions, including needs assessment report and procurement plan for Georgian beneficiary institutions.

#### **2.4.1.2 Coordination with donors**

Periodical coordination meetings were held with the other water/environment related projects in Georgia, particularly UNDP/GEF Kura-2 project, UNDP/GEF Enhancing Environmental Monitoring and Reporting project, UNDP/AF Development of Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices in the Rioni Basin project, EU/EEA SEIS-II East project National Focal Point.

### **2.4.2 National Policy Dialogue in Georgia**

The 5th Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) - the UNECE/OECD-assisted water policy process - took place on 11 April 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Some 30 participants from key stakeholder organizations, NGOs and the academic sector attended the high-level meeting to discuss challenges that Georgia faces in harmonizing its water policy and practice towards the relevant EU directives, as well as the obligations that Georgia

has to fulfil according to the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. The meeting was chaired by MENRP Deputy Minister Ms Ekaterine Grigalava and Head of Integrated Management Department Mr Gizo Chelidze. The comments and discussion outcomes of the meeting on the on-going legal and institutional water reforms, provision of clean water and sanitation, preparation of river basin management plans, measures for flood risk management, sustainable agriculture, clean and efficient energy policy, protection of the marine environment, will be reflected by various donor organizations through the on-going, or planned activities.

The link to the NPD documents can be found on the project website and the meeting material is hosted here: [www.unece.org/5sc/apr2017](http://www.unece.org/5sc/apr2017)

## **2.4.3 EUWI+ implementation**

### **2.4.3.1 EUWI+ implementation**

- According to country needs and priorities identified by the MENRP under the EUWI+ project, preparations for a UNECE international consultant on the legal review of harmonization of a new draft Law on Water Resources Management to EIA Code of Georgia, draft laws on Environmental Liability, mineral resources, licences & permits and IPPC was started. The first visit to Georgia is planned on 6-7 July 2017 to study general situation regarding to drafting and implementation process of above mentioned legal acts in compliance with EU standards and to identify next steps of project assignment. Interviews will be carried out with the representatives of Department of Integrated Management of Environment; Division of Water Resources; Department of Environmental Impact Permit; Legal Department and Department of Environmental supervision and other stakeholders.
- In May 2017, UNECE and OSCE finalized the study “Historic Water Use, Protected Demand and Water Status in the Kura River Basin” based on request by Azerbaijan and Georgia before bilateral Kura agreement could be finalized and agreed. Translation of 20-page executive summary into Georgian was organized by UNECE and OSCE. Preparations from UNECE side was carried out for a bilateral meeting in Tbilisi for June 20, 2017 (postponed to early October 2017) as next round of bilateral consultations to discuss the finalization of the agreement on Kura.

## **2.5 Moldova**

### **2.5.1 Meetings and missions held in April 2017 – June 2017**

#### **2.5.1.1 National Policy Dialogue**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> NPD Coordination Committee meeting (25<sup>th</sup> NPD meeting under the EUWI) was held in Chisinau on 11 April 2017. The meeting was attended by about 55 delegates - committee members and invitees, representing the Government of the Republic of Moldova and central public authorities as well as representatives of civil society and expert community, international organizations and bilateral donors. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss national priorities and the draft 4-year Work plan under the EUWI+ project.

- A press release was posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova <sup>1</sup>.
- Documents from the NPD in Moldova can be found on the project website and the meeting material is hosted here: <http://www.unece.org/25sc/apr2017>

### 2.5.1.2 Steering Committee Meeting

- Two delegates from the Republic of Moldova, representing the Agency Apele Moldovei and the State Hydro-meteorological Service participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the regional EUWI+ Steering Committee held in Brussels on the 15-16 May 2017 and presented the country expectations and commitments.
- Preparations for the regional Steering Committee included examination of the inception report by the Ministry of Environment with comments provided on 10 May 2017. The Ministry of Environment expressed the intention to provide updates to the annual workplan, taking into account the expected reform of central public authorities of the Republic of Moldova including the reforming of environmental institutions.

### 2.5.1.3 Missions and Bilateral Meetings

Missions of representatives of the EUWI+ project implementing partners were organized in the period April-June 2017, to present and coordinate activities from the country workplan for the Republic of Moldova for the period of 2017-2020, as well as on other issues concerning water resources management, monitoring and laboratories.

- On April 12, 2017, the OECD representative had several important meetings with officials from:
  - Ministry of Environment (Mr. Igor Talmazan – (ex)Deputy Minister of Environment, Mrs. Inga Podoroghin - State Secretary of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, national coordinator of the EUWI+ Project, Mrs. Serafima Tronza - Head of the Water Management Department), on issues related to the mid-term Action plan for WSS in Moldova (legal, institutional, regulatory issues, use of EIs and Investment programme for WSS).
  - Representative of ADA-SDC Project on Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova (Mr. Cyrille Vallet, international institutional expert on water management) - opinion on Result 1 related activities in the draft workplan and identifying eventual synergies, especially on capacity development.
  - Agency Apele Moldovei (Mr. Radu Cazacu and Radu Stratuta - deputy directors of Agency Apele Moldovei), discussing the same topics, as well as development of the Master Plan for WSS in Moldova.
- On April 13, 2017, representative of the OECD had meetings with representatives of the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova/CALM (Mr. Alexandru Osadci, Program Officer), on issues regarding OECD-RM cooperation and CALM participation in the capacity building component of the EUWI+ Project in Moldova.
- On 10 April 2017, the representatives of UNECE held bilateral meetings with the following officials:

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<sup>1</sup>) <http://mediu.gov.md/index.php/serviciul-de-presa/noutati/2646-eficientizarea-gestionarii-resurselor-de-apa-prioritate-a-ministerului-mediului>

- Head of the Water Management Department of the Ministry of Environment (Ms. Serafima Tronza) and the Deputy Head of the National Center for Public Health (Mr. Ion Salaru) to discuss priority measures from the National Programme to implement the targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025, which could be supported by UNECE through Result 1 of the EUWI+ project, as well as possible support to setting national indicators under SDG 6.
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (Mr. Matthias Leicht and Mr. Andrei Cantemir) to discuss synergies with the ongoing ADA-SDC project on strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova.
- State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (Ms. Inga Podoroghin) to discuss priorities for Result 1 under the project and the ongoing structural reform of the government.
- From 29 of May to 02 of June 2017, representatives of the consortium of EU member-states, consisting of 2 experts from Austrian Environmental Agency, visited the Republic of Moldova in order to conduct an assessment of laboratories for monitoring of surface water and groundwater from the State Hydrometeorological Service and Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources. A number of findings and recommendations were drawn up which will feed into proposals for adaptation of procedures, training plans and technical specifications for procurement of equipment. Furthermore a summary of the chemical parameter assessment was prepared.
- From 6 to 9 of June, 2017, representatives of the consortium of EU member-states visited the Republic of Moldova. The objective of the mission was to start the assessment and structuring of RBM Planning related activities 2.3.1 – 2.3.2 – 2.3.7 i.e.:
  - Prut, Danube and Black Sea RBM Plan assessment (activity 2.3.1),
  - Assessment of the RBMP in term of pressures and PoM in the domestic water sector and start structuring the work on establishment of a dashboard for following up its implementation (activity 2.3.7),
  - Identification of soft key measures that could be relevant to be candidate to be used as demonstration measures implementation in the field of domestic water management (activity 2.3.2).
- During the mission several meetings were organised with representatives from state institutions, such as the Water Agency “Apele Moldovei”, the Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Science, the Basin Water Management Authority, the Ministry of Environment, and donor organisations and NGOs, including the Regional Environment Centre.
- From 22 to 23 of June 2017, a new mission of representatives of the consortium of EU member-states was organised to Moldova on groundwater management issues within the EUWI+ Project. Issues discussed were the implementation of GW measures to be implemented under the River Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBMP, GW surveys to be undertaken during the EUWI+ project and equipment needs.

#### 2.5.1.4 Coordination with donors

- A dedicated donor coordination session was held as part of the 3rd NPD CC meeting. Relevant initiatives were presented by other stakeholders, in particular analysed the synergy between the ADA-SDC project on strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova, GIZ initiatives in the water sector, implementation of SEIS Project in Moldova.

- On 11 April, 2017 the representatives of the EUWI+ project implementing partners had discussions with Mr. Alexandre Darras, Project manager, EU Delegation to Moldova regarding the implementation of EUWI+ project in Moldova and cooperation with EU.
- On 13 April, 2017, representative of OECD had a meeting with representatives of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on SDG implementation issues and other UNDP water related initiatives, in particular the on-going initiative UNDP-GEF Moldovan-Ukrainian project “Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin”.
- UNECE, as one of the partners of the Dniester GEF project, continued maintaining close contacts with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (the lead implementing agency for the GEF project) to ensure smooth transition from the concluded UNECE-OSCE climate change adaptation project to the GEF project. Among others, possible support from UNECE within the EUWI+ project to holding bilateral meetings between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on transboundary cooperation in the Dniester basin was discussed.

## **2.5.2 EUWI+ implementation and relevant recent developments in Moldova with implications for the EUWI+ project**

### **2.5.2.1 EUWI+ implementation**

- EUWI+ Implementing partners in co-ordination with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova drafted a summary workplan for 2017-2020 which was presented to national stakeholders for comments at the 3<sup>rd</sup> NPD Coordination Committee meeting (25<sup>th</sup> NPD meeting under the EUWI) held on 11 April, 2017 in Chisinau. On 25 of April, 2017 the Ministry of Environment presented additional comments to the draft workplan.
- EUWI+ implementing partners in coordination with the Ministry of Environment finalised the draft Work Plan based on comments received from stakeholders and presented it on 28 April, 2017 as a part of the draft Inception Report. The Work Plan was approved by the Ministry of Environment on 10 May 2017 and presented at the first meeting of the regional EUWI+ Steering Committee held in Brussels on 15-16 May 2017.
- Upon the request from the Ministry of Environment, the OECD has continued the work on two studies launched under the EUWI EECCA component: the Work on establishing a sound economic regulatory system for WSS in Moldova and the Study on developing new norms for small-scale WSS systems design and construction in Moldova. Comments to the Recommendations for enhancing the Economic Regulatory System for Water Supply and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova / Extraction from Draft Final Report were provided on 28 April 2017.
- Based on priorities expressed by the Ministries of Environment and Health, UNECE has initiated preparatory work to assist the Republic of Moldova in 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 for 2016-2025.
- The NESB, so-called National Coordination Committee of the EUWI+ Project in the Republic Moldova, has been established by the Ordinance of the Minister of Environment nr.42 of 14 April, 2017.

### 2.5.2.2 Recent developments in Moldova with implications for the EUWI+ project

#### Institutional and legal

- Ordinance of the Minister of Environment nr.35 of 05 April 2017, modifying the Ordinance nr.39 of 22.03.2016 on establishing the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated management of water resources in the Republic of Moldova.
- On 30 of May the Ministry of Environment presented to the State Chancellery proposals to include the EUWI+ project in the draft Governmental Decision on amending the Governmental Decision nr.246 of 8 April 2010 on how to apply the zero VAT rate to deliveries of goods, services performed on the territory of the country and the granting of tax and customs facilities for on-going technical and investment assistance projects falling under the international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is a party.
- On-going work on amending and completing the Law nr. 303 of 13.12.2013 on public service for water supply and sanitation. Proposals were elaborated at the initiative of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, based on recommendations of all involved stakeholders. There is an international expert involved, contracted in the frame of ADA-SDC Project on Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova. The draft is now being finalized and prepared to be sent to relevant ministries and institutions for their opinion.
- At the end of May 2017, the expected reform of the government structure began in Moldova: The Minister of Environment and all his deputies, as well as Director-General of Apele Moldovei and Head of the State Hydro-meteorological Service have stepped down (resigned). However, a few days after a new deputy Minister of the Environment - Mr. Ion Apostol, was appointed (in the past, he was Deputy Minister of the Environment).

#### At project level

- Discussions with World Bank on supporting the work for elaboration of the Master Plan for Water Supply and Sanitation in the Republic of Moldova. During a recent mission of the WB representatives to Moldova there is consent to assist the ministry of Environment in preparation of Terms of Reference for conducting the tender on selecting a consultancy company to elaborate the Master Plan.
- Additional amendments were made to the draft Management Plan for the Nistru District and it is expected its approval in the coming weeks.
- Draft Management Plan for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea District is finalised, at the moment it is being translated into Russian language. The document is expected to be presented to the State Chancellery by the end of June for its promotion and further approval by the Government of the Republic of Moldova.
- In the frame of ADA-SDC Project on Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova 2 IWRM experts were contracted in order to assist the Agency Apele Moldovei in promoting and implementing the River Basin Management Plans according to WFD and Water Law of the Republic of Moldova.

## 2.6 Ukraine

### 2.6.1 Meetings held in April – June 2017

#### 2.6.1.1 High-level Meetings

- 15 – 16 May: Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Mykola Kuzio and Head of International Division, Vladyslav Marushevskiy, took part in the EUWI+ project Steering Committee meeting in Brussels. A draft of Inception Report was presented by the EUWI+ project Consortium. Ukraine sent comments and proposals to the draft report twice, before the meeting and during the meeting. All comments were under review by the team of the EUWI+ project ahead of finalising the report.

#### 2.6.1.2 Meetings with beneficiary organizations

- The Environment Working Group between Ukraine and France, formed based on an inter-ministerial cooperation agreement, was held on 18 May in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in Kyiv and chaired by Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Mykola Kuzio. Around 30 participants from Ukrainian and French ministries in charge of environment, French institutions (including IOWater) and private companies have shared their experiences and needs on 4 topics: renewable energy, natural protected areas, water management, and waste management. EUWI+ was presented as well as water policy reform. It was mentioned that private sectors could be associated to NPD as stakeholders.  
The meeting was followed by a lunch with, notably, Ostap Semerak, minister of ecology of Ukraine, and Isabelle Dumont, French ambassador in Ukraine, at the French residence in Kyiv. The discussion focused on the redevelopment of the exclusion zone of Chernobyl project (included in Pripyat sub-basin).
- On the 19-23 June a mission by laboratory experts from the Austrian Environment Agency to undertake the first part of assessment of Ukrainian laboratories involved in water management under the Ministry, Water Agency and for GW the Ministry of Geology. The assessment will be completed in the next reporting period with visits to a number of regional laboratories, including the marine laboratory in Odessa.
- A meeting on groundwater monitoring and WFD approach in Ukraine was held on the 15 June in EUWI+ Kyiv regional office with UBA hydrogeologists. There were also representatives from the State Geology Services of Ukraine.
- Meeting on the reform of the water sector of Ukraine for implementation of the integrated management of water resources in Ukraine with Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mykola Kuzio, Head of Strategic Department Lesya Karnaukh, Aarhus Center director Galina Serova and representatives of the OECD, Matthew Griffiths and Tatiana Efimova was held 20 June in Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.
- A meeting initiated by Timothy Turner on modality of EUWI+ project and monitoring assessment mission in Ukraine was held 22 June in Ministry with Mr. Olexander Bon (MENR), Olga Lysuk (SWA) and Larisa Demydenko (MENR).

#### 2.6.1.3 Meeting with donors and others international projects

All project missions for components 2 and 3 in Ukraine had meetings and discussion with representatives of the EU project "Support to Ukraine in approximation the EU environment acquis" (APENA) about coordination activities.

## 2.6.2 EUWI+ implementation and relevant recent developments in Ukraine with implications for the EUWI+ project

- 18 May - The Decree of Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the River basin management plan development procedure" was approved. Procedure provides for the preparation of RBMPs in accordance with the requirements of the EU WFD.
- In June, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified and the President signed an Agreement among Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on cooperation in the field of protection and sustainable development of the Dniester river basin. It is expected that results of the implementation of the basic provisions of the agreement will be:
  - reduction of pollution of surface and groundwater as well as the coastal waters of the Black Sea,
  - improve the health of the population living on the territory of the Dniester river basin;
  - fair distribution and regulation of water resources between countries;
  - conservation and restoration of protected ecosystems;
  - improvement of the environment in the Dniester River Basin by the main indicators (air, water, soil), reducing the risks of droughts and harmful effects of water (floods, erosion, diseases associated with water, etc.), as well as emergencies.
- The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the State Water Agency are working on a new draft of the State Program of water monitoring system. A final draft will be ready towards the end of August 2017.

### 2.6.2.1 EUWI+ implementation

#### Component 1

- OECD started to prepare the Concept of Water Strategy of Ukraine.
- UNECE started the work to revise the Protocol on Water and Health targets

#### Component 2 and 3

Missions on the EUWI+ implementation on Component 2 and 3 were also held in Ukraine:

- IOW (France): meeting with beneficiaries, recognizing situation with available data for RBMP characterization and national legislation for RBMP activities.
- UBA (Austria): a) groundwater monitoring situation in Ukraine and b) assessment of hydrochemistry laboratories in Ukraine in line with requirements of WFD.

## 3. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

Activity 1.2.2 of the Description of Action describes the organisation of trainings. Progress was made in Quarter 2 as outlined below:

Representatives from key partner ministries of EUWI+ project from all 6 countries attended a UNECE-organised workshop on setting targets under the Protocol on Water and Health to support implementation of the SDGs (4-5 May 2017, Geneva). It served as useful training for participants from 6 countries to learn the ways to support SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and to set Protocol targets

in a way to achieve SDG goals. Water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a cross-cutting theme of EUWI+ project while all 6 countries have listed work on UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health among their priorities. Under the EUWI+ project, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine are planning to revise/update their Protocol targets. In the Republic of Moldova, support for the implementation of already existing targets is planned.

The EUWI + East project representatives took part in the International Conference "Challenges of River Basin Management in the context of Climate Change ". The Conference, organized within the framework of the Network of Water Management Organizations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA NWO), with the assistance of UNECE and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), was held in Moscow on 18-19 May 2017. The Conference brought together researchers and experts from many countries, including Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, France, Switzerland, and Austria.

The focus areas of the Conference were:

- transboundary river basin cooperation,
- sustainable water management and adoption of information-communication technologies (ICT) at basin level,
- adaptation of water management to climate change and anthropogenic impact,
- water-food production-hydropower-environment nexus,
- SMART-water,
- water supply and sanitation,
- river basin reclamation issues.

The participants of the conference discussed the prospects for practical cooperation and interaction between the EUWI + East project and the EECCA NWO.

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

Part 4 lists key activities and priorities for the coming quarter of 1 July – 30 September 2017.

### 4.1 Key Activities for Next Quarter

Key activities are identified below:

- Finalisation of draft Inception Report – by end of September 2017
- Armenia missions and ongoing work streams:
  - Assessment on participative RBMP as follow up of the first mission on RBMP model and first mission on stakeholder involvement and communication strategy : 11-15 September 2017
- Azerbaijan Missions and ongoing work streams:

- In July-September expert missions are planned to the country to assess the status of surface and ground water monitoring systems and needs for improvements in this sphere.
- Workshop on data collection for RBMP preparation planned on 28-29 September 2017.
- Belarus missions and ongoing work streams:
  - First meeting of the inter-ministerial Coordination Council for use and protection of the water resources (possibly as 1st NPD Steering Committee meeting): – 5-6 September 2017 with participation of some EUWI+ experts.
  - Development the draft new Water strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2030 by Central research institute for complex use of the water resources in cooperation with OECD.
  - Organization of an expert group meeting between Belarus and Lithuania to discuss the continuation of transboundary cooperation in the Neman river basin and finalization of the report for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of bilateral activities in 2017 (Vilnius, 12-13 July 2017)
  - Several field missions are planned, including the following:
    - First Laboratory Assessment mission to Minsk: 3-7 July 2017
    - Second laboratory Assessment mission to Minsk: 2-4 August 2017
  - First participative RBMP and stakeholder involvement mission to Minsk: 24-27 July 2017. A second one will follow in September.
- Georgia Missions and ongoing work streams:
  - UNECE international consultant on the legal review of harmonization of a new draft Law on Water Resources Management mission to study general situation and to identify next steps of project - July 6-7, 2017.
  - Workshop on data collection for RBMP preparation planned on 28-29 September 2017.
- Moldova missions and ongoing work streams:
  - Initiate 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.
  - Assessment on participative RBMP as follow up of the first mission on RBMP model and first mission on stakeholder involvement and communication strategy : 11-15 September 2017.
- Ukraine Missions and ongoing work streams:
  - Continuation of the OECD work on preparing the Concept of Water Strategy of Ukraine.
  - Organization of the processes for revising the Protocol on Water and Health targets with the support from UNECE,
  - Following up the hydrochemistry laboratory assessment – end of July,
  - Start of RBM planning mission initially planned for the middle of July is now planned for end of August,
  - Hydrobiology capacity in Ukraine mission – August,
  - Hydrogeology monitoring mission is pending to September.
  - Formulation of the technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory and monitoring equipment:
- Regional Missions:
  - The laboratory assessment missions to the beneficiary countries will be concluded with a meeting to discuss the findings and commence with formulation of the tech-

nical specifications (TORs) which will form part of the tender dossier for their respective procurement.

- Regional Opportunity:

- Representatives from key ministries of EUWI+ project from all 6 countries are invited to attend the EUROPE-INBO 15th "EUROPE-INBO 2017" International Conference, co-organized with the "Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives", from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd September 2017, at the Grand Hotel Malahide, Dublin, IRELAND The Workshop on "Water data management organization and electronic reporting" will take place on 20 September in the afternoon,

The 4 thematic Roundtables will be organized in plenary sessions on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 September on:

- WFD, upcoming milestones: 2019 Review, 3rd RBMPs and beyond...
- Adaptation to Climate Change: Pressures, Priorities, Insurances, Impacts and Resilience of Government Agencies and Economic Sectors
- Public Participation: Statutory Consultation for RBMP, SEA, NIS and PoMs Development and on-going Sectoral, Voluntary, NGO and Network Participation
- New Threats to Aquatic Environments: Degradation of Natural Capital and Ecosystems, Emerging Contaminants and Hazardous Substances, Micro pollutants including Plastics entering the Food-Chain, Non-point Source Pollution, Hydromorphology, Alien Species.
  - EUWI+ beneficiaries from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine will have an occasion to have an insight in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, and of its "Daughter and related Directives", from the Member and Candidate Countries of the European Union and of all the other countries of Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia and of the Mediterranean Basin and share their experiences on basin management throughout the sessions of EUROPE-INBO