

European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries



Quarterly Information Update

(October 2017 – December 2017)

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Disclaimer

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This is the fourth quarterly information update on the implementation of EUWI+. It covers the reporting period from October 2017 to the end of December 2017. The update has been prepared by members of the implementing partners with valuable input from the local project 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

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 Regional 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 the European Commission into the inception report and in parallel work has started on priority work programme activities.

Planning is underway for the second Regional Steering Committee to be held in March/April 2018. A key element of this next meeting will be presentation of the first annual report summarising overall EUWI+ progress.

1.3 Objectives of Quarter 4

This fourth quarter of the project had the following objectives:

- Commence and continue priority work programme items;
- Implementation of the communication strategy, in particular populating the website;
- Preparation of first annual financial and narrative reports for each result area;
- Initiate implementation of technical activities related to participative RBM Planning and natural water resources monitoring; and
- Commence planning of second Regional Steering Committee Meeting.

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 October 2017, a mission of UBA laboratory assessment and monitoring assessment teams was held, which aimed to prepare the necessary steps towards sustainable analytical laboratory and monitoring capacities in Armenia. A meeting with the Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia was held to get confirmation on the relocation of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (EMIC) and to agree on support to be provided by EUWI+ to facilitate this. Information on the meeting is posted in the official website of the Ministry at the following link: <http://www.mnp.am/en/post/54>. During the mission, bi-lateral meetings were held with the representatives of the Water Resources Management Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (Ministry of Nature Protection), State Committee on Water Systems (Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources), State Hydro-meteorological Service (Ministry of Emergency Situations), Institute of Chemical Physics and Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydro-ecology (National Academy of Sciences), to present the general progress of EUWI+ and to get information necessary for compilation of the laboratory assessment and water monitoring assessment reports for Armenia.
- On 29 October-1 November 2017, the Team Leader of the EU Member States Consortium visited Armenia to discuss general progress of the EUWI+ project in Armenia. During the mission bi-lateral meetings with the Chief of Staff and the Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, Director of the EMIC and the International Aid/Cooperation Officer of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia were held. The aim was to discuss status of project registration, organisation of tenders for equipment procurement, and the co-operation agreement with the Ministry on co-financing the relocation of the EMIC laboratory. A meeting with the Chief of Party of the USAID ASPIRED Program in Armenia was held to exchange information about the projects, and ensure smooth coordination of activities in Ararat valley, which is pilot basin for both projects.
- On 20-25 November 2017, a mission of the IOWater team was held on River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and data management. A workshop on data management was held on November 22-23, 2017 with over 20 participants, including representatives from the Water Resources Management Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre, Sevan, Hrazdan and Akhuryan Basin Management Organizations (all within the Ministry of Nature Protection), State Committee on Water Systems (Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources), State Hydrometeorological Service (Ministry of Emergency Situations), National Statistical Service, and State Committee on Real Estate Cadastre.. During the workshop the objectives of the EUWI+ project were presented together with a strategy related to the development of national water data management procedures and tools in compliance with SEIS principles, in order to facilitate the production of maps and indicators for RBMPs.
- On 3-5 December 2017, the Team Leader of the EU Member States Consortium met with the Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia, including a planning meeting on 4 December during which the EUWI+ project investment contributions to Armenia were discussed. . Information on

the meeting is posted in the official website of the Ministry at the following link: <http://www.mnp.am/en/post/226>.

- On 3-6 December 2017, the UNECE Team organised a consultation meeting on the Protocol on Water and Health and Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation in Armenia. The meeting was held on 5 December 2017 and attended by over 25 beneficiaries, including representatives from the Water Resources Management Agency, Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (all within the Ministry of Nature Protection), State Committee on Water Systems (Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources), National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Ministry of Health), Institute of Water Problems, as well as representatives of different NGO, private sector and international organisations, such as UNDP and Asian Development Bank.. During the meeting the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and target setting under the Protocol on Water and Health, the process of updating/revising the targets set in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Armenia, and the support needed for possible completion of the process of ratification of the Water and Health Protocol in Armenia were discussed.
- On 10-14 December, the OECD held a series of bilateral meetings to progress a study to analyse subsidies in the irrigation sector. This forms part of the economic instruments reform in the Armenian water sector. Analysis of “harmful” subsidies in the irrigation sector of Armenia, including assessment how appropriate and useful they are; advantages and disadvantages of having a unified irrigation fee, possibilities for introduction of differentiated fees, different business models of irrigation water supply, and presentation of recommendations based on pilot studies. The Government requested such a study aimed at strengthening water use efficiency in the irrigation sector with a look into different business models and economic instruments, as it could help to address this priority and partially the requirements of the Government Resolution on developing Food Security Policy in Armenia, as it will path the way towards sustainable water use in irrigation. During the mission discussions took place at the State Committee on Water Systems (SCWS) of the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources; the irrigation water intake company, which is in charge of bulk water supply to WUAs in Armenia; the Department of Tariff Policy of the Public Services Regulatory Commission of Armenia to discuss irrigation water tariff methodology.

2.1.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The outlines of the RBMPs for Sevan RBD and Hrazdan RBD were developed with the support of EUWI+ and were formally approved by the Decree of the Head of the Water Resources Management Agency (WRMA) in December 2017. In parallel to the workshop, the RBMP outlines of the two pilot basins Sevan & Hrazdan were developed according to the model outline and discussed with the WRMA. A complimentary document to the RBMP outlines (“Methodological Indicators for Developing RBMPs”) was developed by the EUWI+ project, to support the process of RBMP development in Armenia. It was submitted to the WRMA for approval.
- A draft Laboratory Assessment Report for the EMIC water laboratory was prepared and shared with the beneficiaries in December 2017 for comments and observations. In the report an assessment of the current laboratory situation for hydro chemical testing of water was carried out, to identify gaps and areas of improvement and to propose actions towards a sustainable implementation of the WFD and give a strategic outlook for further needs of action.
- A draft Water Monitoring Assessment Report for Armenia was prepared and shared with the beneficiaries in December 2017 for comments and observations. The report summarises the current state of knowledge on the existing water monitoring and management systems in Armenia, indicates the identified needs for capacity building along the steps of the cyclic ground- and sur-

face water management approach of the WFD, and also links to the rehabilitation and/or procurement and installation of monitoring equipment.

- A first draft breakdown of the EUWI+ project investment contributions to Armenia was developed and shared with the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia, as a preliminary document for discussion.
- Coordination meetings were held with the USAID ASPIRED project to exchange information on activities being implemented by the projects, and ensure harmonised implementation of activities particularly in Ararat valley, which is a pilot area for EUWI+ and USAID projects.
- A rapid assessment report of the current relevance of the targets and target dates set in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Armenia in 2013-2014 was prepared to inform discussions at the consultation meeting held in Yerevan on 5 December (see above). The report will serve as basis for the revision of targets in 2018.
- A draft TOR on the communication strategy mission for Armenia was elaborated. The document was circulated to stakeholders for consideration.

2.1.3 National Policy Dialogue

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

2.1.4 Recent developments

- Government Resolution No 1584-A was adopted on 7 December 2017 regarding relocation of the EMIC laboratory into the premises of the Institute of Chemical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. The Resolution, which allocates 539.1 m² territory of the first floor of the premises of the Institute of Chemical Physics to the EMIC, is adopted, taking into consideration recommendations of the EUWI+ project laboratory assessment team.
- A Model Outline for Development of RBMPs was officially adopted by Protocol Resolution No 45 of the Government of Armenia on October 26, 2017. The model outline is largely based on the input provided with the support of the EUWI+ project, and will serve as basis for development of RBMPs for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs.
- The EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on 24 November 2017 in the margins of the Eastern Partnership Summit. UNECE was requested by the Ministry of Nature Protection to assist in the preparation of an initial roadmap for the application of the 5 EU directives related to water through the EUWI+ project, in the with the provisions of the CEPA.

2.2 Azerbaijan

2.2.1 Missions and technical meetings

- During 10-15 October 2017, an EUWI+ project mission was held in Azerbaijan for the assessment of laboratory premises and instrumentation. It was attended by 10 representatives of MENR and other laboratories and organisations. The aim of this mission was to consider possibilities to achieve a commitment on the improvement of laboratory premises as well as on a sustainable laboratory vision. During the mission laboratory experts of EUWI+ met with representatives of National Environmental Monitoring Department of MENR and relevant laboratories to assess the state and improvement needs.

- On 26 October 2017, the EUWI + country representative attended an advisory group meeting of UNDP GEF Kura project in Azerbaijan to discuss works ongoing within the projects and areas of future cooperation. Results of these discussions can be found at: <http://www.kura-river.org>. A matrix comparing the activities of the 2 projects was established in order to identify the potential synergies for further discussion.
- During 20-23 November 2017, a representative from OECD met with representatives of the project beneficiary organisations in Azerbaijan to discuss ongoing and future work. During the meetings with Mutallim Abdulhasanov and Matanat Avazova from MENR and Arif Akhundov and Sahib Hasanzadeh from Water Resources State Agency of Ministry of Emergency, issues of improvement of water legislation, institutional needs to meet the requirements of IWRM application in Azerbaijan and finalisation and adoption of National Water Strategy were discussed with next steps agreed. During the mission the EUWI+ project was presented at an EU SEIS Water Related Workshop on 21 November and also in Water Projects Donor Coordination meeting on 23 November 2017.
- On 29 November 2017 a Workshop on River Basin Management Plan development in Azerbaijan was held in Baku. It was attended by 35 representatives of MENR, Water Resources State Agency of Ministry of Emergency Situations, Amelioration JSC, Azersu JSC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, State Statistics Committee and other organisations. The main objectives of the workshop was to analyse lessons learned from previous River Basin Management Planning experience in Azerbaijan, to share the main objectives of River Basin Management Planning in line with the principles of WFD and Water directives and to build a consensus with the main stakeholders on the needs for the development of RBM Plan in the hydrographic district of the Kura upstream Migachevir reservoir. During the workshop the possible repartition of tasks to cover the main needs for the pilot RBM Planning exercise to target further capacity building programmes and data management strategy was discussed.
- On 1 December the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan met with EUWI+ project representatives of UBA and IOW. During the meeting the status of EUWI+ project registration in Azerbaijan, the procurement and supply of laboratory and monitoring equipment, procedure for the contribution to laboratory reconstruction/refurbishment, the future work on RBM Planning and monitoring and assessment missions to Azerbaijan were discussed.
- On 19-20 December 2017 representatives of beneficiary organisations of Azerbaijan attended an EUWI+ project workshop on “Delineation of Transitional and Coastal Water Bodies in the Pilot Area of the Black Sea Coast” in Batumi, Georgia. The aim of the workshop was harmonising and improving knowledge of the WFD (Water Framework Directive) and MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) principles, of various Biological Quality Elements (BQE) and other reference/technical requirements for the delineation of transitional and coastal water bodies.

2.2.2 EUWI+ project progress

- Project experts in the sphere of laboratory assessment, water monitoring systems and RBMP development and communication worked with representatives of beneficiary organisations and other projects related to water (UNDP GEF Kura II, SEIS) in Azerbaijan. This helped to finalise the work on the assessment of the status of water monitoring systems and laboratories and identify priority needs towards application of IWRM approach in Azerbaijan and development of the pilot RBMP in the selected pilot area (a special RBMP workshop was organised in Baku on 29 November in this regards).
- The Head of Media division of Western University prepared a press release on the RBMP Development workshops in Baku (November 2017) and hosted it on the web page of the university.

- The EUWI + project prepared reports on the assessment of state and rehabilitation needs for MENR Environmental Pollution laboratory in Baku and also regional laboratories in Gazakh and Beylagan regions. The project also prepared a report on assessment of surface and ground water monitoring systems in Azerbaijan.
- To ensure project synergies are realised, a donor coordination meeting was held on 23 November 2017 with representatives of 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 local project representative in Azerbaijan attended an advisory group meeting of UNDP GEF project and regularly met with different experts of this and other ongoing projects in Azerbaijan to maintain links.
- In December 2017, UNECE provided additional comments to MENR and the Ministry of Health on the draft national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health. The draft is expected to be officially circulated among key government entities in December 2017-January 2018.
- A first workshop on RBM Planning discussed the needs for the development of the pilot RBM Plan in the hydrographic district of the Kura upstream Migachevir reservoir in line with the principles of WFD and Water related directives.

2.2.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for April/May 2018

2.2.4 Recent developments

- On 10 October 2017 by the instruction of the Cabinet Minister of Azerbaijan Republic, an interagency working group lead by Deputy Minister of Ecology was created to improve existing and develop new regulations related to water management in Azerbaijan. It can be considered as a good step to improve water legislation and close cooperation with the EUWI+ project and this group can be very important towards creation of the legal basis for application of EU Directives and IWRM principles in general.
- The EUWI+ project and EU Twinning projects in Azerbaijan are planning to cooperate on material support to purchase a web server for dedicated environmental data management development at the MENR.
- The EUWI+ project and SEIS projects in Azerbaijan are planning to cooperate on the collection of information on existing data sources in line with INPIRE European Directive. The web server shall host in the future the metadata base including the description of the main reference data sources.

2.3 Belarus

2.3.1 Missions and technical meetings

- The team of OECD and local experts took part in the 5th International Water Forum “Water resources and climate” held on 5-6 October 2017 in Minsk. In the frame of the Forum, OECD and the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources held the EUWI+ side-event “Strategic and medium-term planning of water resources and infrastructure”.
- On 23-26 October 2017, a mission of IOW provided the second assessment and structuring of Communication and Stakeholder involvement activities and RBMP Planning activities. Meetings were held with the National focal point, the representative of the EU Delegation to Bela-

rus, experts of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources and of the Institute for Geology to discuss co-operation in the field of development of RBMP of Pripyat river basin, EPIRB Dnieper RBMP's refinement and stakeholder involvement.

- On 21-22 November 2017, the Project Manager from the EU Member-States Consortium held a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (*Minprirody*) of the Republic of Belarus. Topics discussed included : EUWI+ project registration in Belarus; the need to conclude the general contract between the consortium of the EU MS and *Minprirody* of the Republic of Belarus on purchasing and supply of laboratory equipment; procedures for preparation and approval of technical assignments for design works; and the procedure for selecting the country project representative for the implementation of results 2 and 3 of the project. On 22 November 2017, a project overview meeting was held with the EU Delegation to Belarus.
- On 4-6 December 2017, a mission of IOW provided the third assessment of RBMP Planning activities. Meetings were held with the National Focal Point, experts of the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources and the Institute for Geology to discuss cooperation in the field of development of RBMP of Pripyat river basin, EPIRB Dnieper RBMP's refinement and stakeholder involvement. . A lecture about French water policy and water supply and sanitation services was organised at the Belarusian National Technical University.
- On 19-20 December 2017, a mission of the Communication and Stakeholder Involvement expert (IOW) was held to participate in the first constitutive meeting of the Western Bug basin council. The experience of France and other countries in the issues of stakeholder involvement in basin planning processes was presented.

2.3.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, in co-operation with the OECD, prepared a draft Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2030 in the context of climate change. The Draft Water Strategy was presented at the 5th International Water Forum "Water resources and climate" on 5 October 2017. The draft Water Strategy was then consulted with main stakeholders, Ministries and regional authorities.
- The study on the express-assessment of water resources and water supply systems in the Kopyl Rayon of Minsk Oblast (a pilot local action under the respective RBMP) continued and preliminary findings and recommendations were prepared and shared with local stakeholders. Needs for further data collection was identified and data collection was broadly completed by 31 December 2017.
- The need for complementary work aimed at revising norms for technological water consumption by selected, most water intensive, enterprises in the Kopyl Rayon was identified, a Terms of Reference developed and a local consultant hired by the OECD. The assignment will be implemented in January-May 2018.
- Belorussian and Lithuanian experts continued to work on the second phase of priority actions towards the preparation of the International River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Neman River basin, in accordance with the adopted workplan for 2017. This work is supported by EUWI+ project and the UNECE Water Convention secretariat. The final report will be presented at a bilateral meeting, tentatively scheduled in Minsk for 19-20 February 2018.

2.3.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The National Policy Dialogue for Belarus will be initiated following project registration.
- The first meeting of the NPD is planned for the second quarter of 2018.

2.3.4 Recent developments

- According to the Order of the Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus № 347-OD dated 13 December 2017, the Western Bug basin council was established. The first meeting of the basin council was held on 20 December 2017 in Brest with participation of an IOW expert.
- From 1 December 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus will have a new structure. The water use and protection unit was included in the Main Department of Geology (in the old structure the unit of water use and protection was within the Department for regulation of pressures on air and water resources).
- The new Deputy Minister Andrey Khmel was appointed on 8 December 2017. From 1 January 2018 he will be responsible for water management in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.
- Updated documents required for the EUWI+ project registration in Belarus were submitted to the Department for International Co-operation of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus for completion of the registration procedure.

2.4 Georgia

2.4.1 Missions and technical meetings

- The second mission of an international legal expert for the Result 1, under the country 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”, was held on 12-13 October 2017. The mission aimed to discuss the feedback of the Ministry of Environment on proposals made by the consultant in the draft version to the “Analyses on Harmonisation of the Georgian Draft Water Law” and recommendations on further changes to the final version of the document. The relevant individual and joint meetings were held with the Head of the Integrated Management Department, Mr Gizo Chelidze, Head of Water Management Division, Ms Mariam Makarova, Head of International Law and EU Harmonisation Division under the Legal Department, Ms Salome Markozia, Chief Inspector of the Department of Environmental Supervision, Ms Nelly Korkotadze and the Resident Twinning Advisor of EU project “Approximation and Implementation of the EU environmental “acquis” Controlling Industrial Pollution and Industrial Hazards, Mr Inaki Bergaretxe.
- On 1 November 2017, the EUWI+ Local Project Representative attended a co-ordination meeting in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP) with the MENRP Water Management Division Head, NEA Pollution Monitoring Department Head and UNDP-GEF Kura II Project Coordinator in Georgia. The aim of the meeting was to discuss synergies of the two projects, possible overlaps of tasks and activities and ways to avoid duplication of the project resources.
- The EUWI+ Project Leader for Member States Consortium visited Georgia on 5-6 December 2017 for a general management mission to meet the Project high level partners. The meetings in the MENRP were held with the Deputy Minister, Ms Ekaterine Grigalava, Head of Water Resources Division, Ms Mariam Makarova, Deputy Head of Legal Department, Ms Nino Tandilashvili; in NEA with Head of the Agency, Ms Tamar Bagratia.

2.4.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The results and comments from individual and joint meetings were incorporated in the final draft of the document developed by the UNECE international expert on the “Analyses on Harmonisation of the Georgian Draft Water Law with Other Related Legislative Acts.
- The final version of the “Analyses on Harmonisation of the Georgian Draft Water Law with Other Related Legislative Acts” was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in November 2017.
- To support implementation of the country priority “Develop the National Water Strategy (NWS), including water allocation plan for different sectors and water users, oriented towards the water security, energy efficiency and effective irrigation schemes”, work began in order to draft a policy paper providing a vision for further policy developments in preparing the National Water Strategy of Georgia. The policy paper will cover two main areas: 1) review and analysis of water policy currently undertaken by the Government of Georgia, and 2) identification of prerequisites for the water reform and key focus areas of the future national water strategy in Georgia. The first draft of the paper will be submitted for internal review in January 2018.

2.4.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The Next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for March 2018.

2.4.4 Recent developments

- A thematic workshop on the implementation of the water component of the ENI SEIS II East project in Georgia was held on 6-7 November 2017. The workshop aimed at aligning understanding on developing the national portal of water information and implementation of regionally comparable indicators of the ENI SEIS II project. The workshop gathered key water experts and data management personnel from government institutions: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, National Environment Agency, National Statistics Office, National Food Agency; international donor funded water projects, including the EUWI+ project representative and UNDP-GEF Kura project coordinator in Georgia, REC Caucasus, as well as EEA ENI SEIS II project management staff and experts from the European Topic Centre on inland, coastal and marine waters (ETC/ICM).
- As a result of the recent restructuring plan of the Government of Georgia, several government institutions, ministries and agencies, as well as their mandates and functions, have been regrouped, merged or cancelled. This reform also affected the key beneficiary of EUWI+ project in Georgia - the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. According to the Amendment to the ‘Law on Structure, Authorisation and Rule of Activities of the Government of Georgia’, environmental and agriculture ministries have merged in a new institution called: Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (N1620 RS, December 07, 2017). The management function (licensing) and mandate for the use of natural and mineral resources is now located in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. Within the next 3 months the new Ministry will have to (re)define structure and functions (merging, regrouping, or cancellation) of the subsidiary bodies including the agencies and institutions.

2.5 Republic of Moldova

2.5.1 Missions and technical meetings

- On 16-18 October 2017, the first country mission related to data management was performed. The mission was led by IOWater experts and aimed to assess the current situation and needs related to water information system (WIS) development and develop initial recommendations of a short term action plan. Also, communication with experts of ADA/SDC Project "Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova" (IFP Project) regarding developing national water information system (SIRA) was assured. The following institutions were visited during the mission: Agency "Apele Moldovei" (AAM), State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS), Institute of Geodesy, Engineering Research and Cadastre (INGEOCAD) under the Agency of Cadastre and Land Relations, National Focal Point of ENPI SEIS II project, representative at MADRM level and IFP Project IT expert.

This mission gave the opportunity to the data management experts group:

- to get a global vision of the existing situation related to water data management thanks to exchanges with some of the key relevant institutions;
- to present the methodology proposed in relation to water data management within the EUWI+ project;
- to start the identification and the access to relevant data sources;
- to update the list of institutions involved in the IWRM in Moldova was developed (available at the address <http://euwipluseast.eu/en/iwrms-actors-in-md>);
- the list of data producers in data management per topic was also developed.
- A technical meeting was organised in Chisinau on 18 October 2017 with the participation of 7 representatives from AAM, State Enterprise "Basin Water Management Authority" and Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources (AGRM), IFP Project experts and EUWI+ Project experts. This meeting gave the opportunity to present the methodology proposed within the EUWI project in relation to data management and to receive complementary information on the implementation of the Governmental decision Nr. 672 as of 05/30/2016 on the approval of the Framework Concept and Functioning of the Water Information System Resources of the Republic of Moldova, indicating among others that:
 - the corresponding responsible persons are not yet nominated by each institution;
 - the financial requirements were not yet established by the MARDE;
 - the on-going government restructuring / institutional reform which plans the creation of an environmental agency will have to re-define the role of each institution in relation with the SIRA development and feeding.
- On 27-30 November 2017, a mission related to needs assessment and identification of priorities in the area of support on legislative, economic, and RBM issues as well as organisation of NPD meetings and review of progress under activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 was held with participation of the OECD. The mission's goal was to meet the new representatives of the beneficiaries, i.e. the Head of the Water Management Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) in order to present them the EUWI+ project, and to identify their expectations and needs under the framework of the project, in particular with regard to planning activities for elaboration of the mid-term Action Plan to support the implementation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova (2014-2028), consideration of establishing a dedicated solidarity Water Fund, as part of the reformed National Environmental Fund (NEF) (or a merged fund) and organisation of the next

NPD meeting. During the mission, bilateral meetings with the following institutions were held: Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (Division of Integrated Water Resources Management) (MARDE); Dept. of Regional Development and the water Agency Apele Moldovei (AAM); Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure (MEI); IFP Project manager as well as representative at MADRM level and project experts; Association of Moldova Apa-Canals (AMAC); European Union Delegation to Moldova (EUD); United Nations Development Programme in Moldova (UNDP); Representative of GIZ Project “Modernisation of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova”. The meetings helped to identify that continuation of the work on establishing new norms for design and construction of small-scale WSS systems as well as the work on streamlining the National Environmental Fund and the National Fund for Regional Development (NFRD) were of high priority and urgency; and better clarify the scope of work under the development of the mid-term Action Plan. The project concept for the mid-term Action Plan was discussed and fine-tuned. Also the revised approach to, and steps in, establishing new norms for design and construction of small-scale WSS systems were agreed upon. Outcomes from the mission helped to launch the process of selecting and hiring local and international consultants for respective assignments (see below).

- On November 27 – December 1, 2017 an IOW mission met the newly appointed representatives of the beneficiaries, i.e. the Head of the Water Management Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE) in order to present Results 2 and 3 of EUWI+ to confirm expectations and needs under the project.
 - A special focus was made on the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive of EU nr 91/272/EC in the synergy of other EU projects (Czech, Slovak, ADA-SDC IFP) and the water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector, through a working meeting with MARDE, AAM, AMAC (the association of the Moldovan WSS public utilities). Institutions met during country mission: Water Management Department from the new Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development, and Environment (MARDE), NFP for Convention on Protection of Danube River at MARDE, Agency “Apele Moldovei”, , AMAC (Association of Water Operators Units from Moldova), ADA-SDC Representatives and RBMP experts, Representatives of Slovak project “Technical assistance of Implementation of EU Directive 91/271/EEC by municipalities in Moldova”.
 - With regards to communication and stakeholder involvement, meetings were held with NGOs “National Environmental Center”, “Eco-Contact”, “Environmental Women Movement” and representatives of Basin and sub-basin committees from Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District on Camenca River. Furthermore, the mission allowed to clarify the overall strategy and approaches for involving local initiatives in the implementation of the overall basin plan and the program of measures, and to define the corresponding tasks to be implemented for a better contribution of local initiatives and representatives into the Basin Committee.
- On 14-18 December 2017, an expert hired by ADA held the first mission to Moldova to support the EUWI+ Project team on: “Inventory of point and diffuse sources of pollution and assessment of pollution loads” in the context of Activity 2.3.2. - Update and implementation of the first Danube-Prut Black Sea RBMP plan (cycle, 2017-2022). In the frame of this mission, the ADA expert defined the frame of the inventory/study to be conducted by a national consultant and held consultation meetings with the Moldovan partners. This inventory will focus on priority in pollution sources from the agricultural (including livestock breeding), domestic and industrial sector. During the mission consultation meetings were held with the following Moldovan partners and stakeholders: Water Management Department from the new Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development, and Environment (MARDE); NFP for Convention on Protection of Danube River at MARDE; Agency “Apele Moldovei”; IFP project managers and

experts; Environmental Protection of Pollution Office (EPPO); State Ecological Inspectorate; NGO Oikumena; State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS).

2.5.2 EUWI+ project progress

- The project concept for the mid-term Action Plan to support the implementation of the Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation was developed by OECD, discussed with the beneficiary and finalised. The work on developing the mid-term Action plan is expected to start in February 2018. Needs for updating the WSS Strategy will be identified and recommendations will be developed in order to incorporate the provisions of new international documents, adopted recently, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate, as well as the Republic of Moldova's obligations arising from the Association Agreement signed with the EU in 2014.
- An assignment was launched in December 2017 on mapping progress in implementing the WSS Strategy. It will provide useful input to the work on the mid-term Action Plan.
- With the support of EUWI+ Project Technical Assistance Programme, financial support of 74.472 MDL, or the equivalent of 3,600 Euro, was provided for re-accreditation process for laboratories of the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS).
- With the support of EUWI+ Project experts, assessment of water monitoring as well as of laboratories was conducted and two reports were developed:
 - draft Water Monitoring Assessment Report, summarising the current state of knowledge on the existing water monitoring and management systems.
 - draft Laboratory Assessment Report, with the main focus laid on chemical analyses including the physical-chemical parameters as well as priority substances according to the Commission Directive 2013/39/EC¹ and corresponding QA/QC topics as well as on determination of BQEs, their supporting physical-chemical elements and hydro-morphological elements.
- The list of institutions involved in IWRM in Moldova was developed and published on the updated website of the project (available at the address <http://euwipluseast.eu/en/iwrm-actors-in-md>).

2.5.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the Republic of Moldova tentatively scheduled for the period from 18-20 December 2017 was postponed at the request of the beneficiary pending nomination of a new co-ordinator of the EUWI+ Project in Moldova.
- The next meeting of CC of NPD in Moldova was rescheduled for the first quarter of 2018, the exact date will be coordinated with the newly appointed State Secretary of MARDE (Ms Tapis – see below).

2.5.4 Recent developments

- Progress was made in promoting the proposed amendments to the existing norms (SNIP) on construction of small-scale water supply systems, work conducted with the support of OECD in the frame of NPD implementation in Moldova. On December 20 2017, a meeting with rep-

¹ Directive 2013/39/EU of the European Parliament and of the council amending Directives 2000/60/EC and 2008/105/EC as regards priority substances in the field of water policy

representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure was organised with the participation of representatives of GIZ Project Modernisation of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova. The meeting agreed upon the proposed approach and next steps.

- The draft Danube-Prut and Black Sea river basin district management Plan for 2017-2022 is still in the process of consultation with relevant institutions, due to reform of the central public administration in Moldova.
- On December 20 2017 a new State Secretary responsible for environmental issues within MARDE was appointed – Mrs. Valentina Tapis.
- The Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Mr. Vasile Bitca, resigned on December 22 2017. As of 31 December 2017 a new minister was not officially appointed.

2.6 Ukraine

2.6.1 Missions and technical meetings

- There were two laboratories assessment missions in Ukraine:
 - 2nd laboratory assessment mission 3-6. October 2017; and
 - 3rd laboratory assessment mission 16-20. October 2017.
- UBA technical experts and the Local Project Representative visited the following laboratories:
 - Institute of Hydrobiology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (hereinafter NASU), Kyiv;
 - Central Geophysical Observatory, Hydrometcenter of Ukraine, Kyiv;
 - Institute of Marine Biology of the NASU, Odesa;
 - State Agency for Water Resources of Ukraine (Dnipro Basin Authority in Vyshgorod city (Kyiv region), Department of water resources in Dnipro city (Dnipropetrovsk region));
 - Ukraine Sea Ecology Centre of MENR, Odesa (Odesa region); and
 - State Geology Enterprises, State Service of Geology and Subsoil of Ukraine, Bortnich city (Kyiv region).
- A technical meeting was held on 27 November 2017 in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (hereinafter MENR) for a status discussion on EUWI+ implementation with EUWI+ project experts and key beneficiaries. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Mykola Kuzio. Preparations for the NPD meeting on 28 November and the Monitoring Assessment Report were in focus of the discussion. EUWI+ was represented by all implementing partner organisations and the Local Project Representatives.

2.6.2 EUWI+ project progress

- A draft “Baseline Study Report” on the Protocol Water and Health under the UNECE Water Convention was prepared by experts of UNEG “MAMA 86”, contracted by UNECE under Component 1 of EUWI+. It was presented at the MENR working group meeting on 7 November and the NPD meeting on 28 November. The Report will be sent to MENR, State Agency for Water Resources, Ministry of Health and other interested organisations after completion.
- The draft “Water Monitoring Assessment Report” was revised by the EUWI+ project experts and local representatives, translated into Ukrainian and sent officially to the beneficiaries. The present Report summarises the current state of the existing monitoring and water man-

agement systems. This report also links to the repair and/or procurement and installation of monitoring equipment. The assessments presented in this report are preliminary. Information was gathered and developed through meetings between the responsible technical and management staff in the Ukraine administration and the UBA groundwater and surface water experts.

- The expert of the Groundwater unit of the Environment Agency of Austria sent to MENR the “Austrian national ordinance on water monitoring” with two annexes and Austria’s strategy paper on the delineation of groundwater bodies translated into Russian language with aim to use this document in framework of implementation of the EUWI+ task on groundwater monitoring.

2.6.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The Meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Dialogue on Water Policy was chaired by Mr. Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration was held on 28 November 2017 in Kyiv. More than 90 representatives of the central executive authorities, scientific institutes, international organisations, active technical assistance projects, financial institutions and the NGOs participated in the Meeting.
- The purposes of this Dialogue in Ukraine were:
 - discussion and development of proposals on legislative and institutional changes in Ukraine in the field of water policy, including implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union;
 - preparation of the National Water Strategy;
 - discussion of the draft Concept of reforming the State Agency for Water Resources (SAWR) of Ukraine;
 - presentation of the RBMP process, in particular main challenges for the participative development of the first generation of Dnipro River Basin Management Plan;
 - presentation of draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine about new water monitoring system in Ukraine, which was preparing in comply with EU WFD;
 - status of implementation of Urban Waste Water EU Directive and Nitrate EU Directive in Ukraine.
 - presentation and discussion of the results of the Baseline Study Report to inform the discussions on both the review of the targets and the update of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol of Water and Health under the UNECE Water Convention.
- The meeting documentation can be found via this web link: www.menr.gov.ua/news/31881.html.
- The event received good coverage in the media. The information was covered by two TV channels, in several printed media, on the websites of the beneficiary and partner organisations and through social media channels.
- The next NPD is tentatively scheduled for April-May 2018.

2.6.4 Recent developments

- The local representatives of EUWI+ project in Ukraine started to work with “Support Reform Team” (water expert - Volodymyr Bilokon) closely and now they are involved in all reform activities of the MENR (meetings, discussions, revising all the drafts of new documents).
- A meeting of the monitoring working group (subsection on reforming of water sector) was held in Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources on 4 December 2017 under the initiative of

Deputy Minister Kuzio. There were 12 representatives of MENR, EBRD, Minregion, “H2office” (EBRD funded project), “Reform Support Team” (EBRD funded project), “APENA” EU-funded project, “EUWI+” EU-funded project. The following 3 issues were discussed:

1. Status of the Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the State Water Monitoring System;
 2. Assessment of the laboratories capacity in framework activities of EUWI+ project;
 3. The concept of water management reform in Ukraine.
- APENA informed that the Resolution on the State Water Monitoring System is still under revision, the comments should be finalised by the end of 2017, and the Resolution would be approved at the beginning of 2018 (on February / March 2018).
 - Deputy Minister Kuzio had an opportunity to review the presentation of the assessment of laboratories carried out by EUWI+ and expressed the following comments and suggestions:
 - to provide a report on the capacity analysis of all laboratories in Ukraine (not only the Dnipro river basin area) in order to establish the necessary number of laboratories in Ukraine to implement the monitoring program in accordance with the provisions of the EU WFD;
 - to specify which laboratories should be considered to play a leading role in the river basin in order to develop and strengthen them in the future;
 - to prepare a brief monitoring strategy for Dnipro river basin;
 - to prepare the brief report on the laboratory assessment in Ukrainian, using information from MENR (August 2017) about the capacity of Ukrainian laboratories.
 - The Concept of water management reform in Ukraine was discussed during the National Policy Dialogue on 28 November 2017. It was decided that the document requires a deep revision by the “H2Office” project experts and the State Agency for Water Resources of Ukraine by the end of 2017. The Concept was also discussed at a public hearing on 20 December 2017. There were many negative comments and substantial proposals received at this meeting, including: to stop document development, a new working group for document revision to be created, a new concept of water management reform has to be prepared.
 - The local representatives of the EUWI+ project in Ukraine participated in the Kick of meeting of the UNDP/GEF project "Promoting cross-border cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River basin", which was held on 18 December 2017 at Kyiv.
 - On December 21, the State Agency of Water Resources presented the new Geoportal "Water Resources of Ukraine" (under finance support of APENA). It is a modern GIS, which will contain relevant hydrological data of the main river basins of Ukraine and play an important role in the development of effective River Basin Management Plans after the completion of the “test regime” of the system.
 - On 26 December, the draft methodology for the identification of surface water bodies was presented to a working group at the SAWR.
 - A draft TOR on the Communication Strategy for Ukraine was elaborated. The document was circulated to the project team for consideration. A consultation is to be launched as a “single tender procedure” according to EU PRAG in the next quarter.

3. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

3.1.1 Regional Steering Committee

Discussions were held with Georgia over potential dates for the Regional Steering Committee Meeting. During these discussions, reform of the key beneficiary Ministry began and discussions were suspended pending clarity over the new organisational structure. Georgia requested until the middle of January to provide feedback on its ability to host the Regional Steering Committee.

3.1.2 Regional training and development

- On 5 October 2017, the 7th Round of Bilateral Consultations between Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Draft Co-operation Agreement on the Kura River Basin was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The meeting was organized by OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) through the Environment & Security Initiative. The meeting was attended by the relevant beneficiary institutions, international donor organisations, consultants and the representatives of on-going regional projects, working on water issues in Georgia and Azerbaijan (26 participants in total). The government institutions were represented by the following key agencies: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan; Department of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan; State Water Reserves Agency of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan; Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Farm, JSC; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; Environmental Policy and International Relations Department and Water Resources Management Division of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia; Ministry of Energy of Georgia; Amelioration and Land Management Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia; Economic Analysis and Reforms Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. The EUWI+ project, represented by International Technical Advisor and the National Representatives of Georgia and Azerbaijan, presented relevant activities in the two countries related to implementation of the goals proposed according to the Draft Kura Agreement.
- On 10-15 December 2017, UBA laboratory experts conducted the Regional Workshop on laboratory basics and ISO certification for the South Caucasus countries. The Workshop was held on 12-13 December at Betsy Hotel in Tbilisi, Georgia and was attended by 22 laboratory professional experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The workshop aimed at harmonising and improving knowledge on fundamentals, principles and terminology of quality management in laboratories and accreditation requirements (ISO 17025). It addressed in particular laboratory practitioners responsible for operating instruments and introduced QA issues. The workshop was designed as presentations and lectures, combined with interactive elements to engage participants on Day-1; and a practical session on Day-2 to encourage participants in discussing and elaborating crucial elements of an analytical methodology.
- A National Workshop on Determination of Transitional and Coastal Water Bodies in the Pilot Area of Georgia was held on 19-20 December 2017 in Batumi, Georgia. The workshop was organised by EUWI+ with the support of an International Consultant from IZOR, Croatia. The workshop was attended by 20 participants, representing NEA (National Environmental Agency) Fisheries and Black Sea Monitoring Department, NEA's Environmental Laboratory branch in Batumi, as well as Pollution Monitoring Department and Hydrometeorology Department of the NEA central office in Tbilisi. In addition, participants from Azerbaijan, as observers also

attended the workshop to gain skills from Georgian experience and replicate the process for the Caspian pilot coastal study in Azerbaijan. The workshop aimed at harmonising and improving knowledge of the WFD (Water Framework Directive) and MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) principles, as well as defining various Biological Quality Elements (BQE) and other reference/technical requirements for delineation of transitional and coastal water bodies.

3.1.3 Communication activities

During the last quarter, basic principles and approaches to the country communication strategy development were defined. The main aim was to determine (in a participative manner) the main lines of in-country communication strategy and a corresponding communication plan that would meet the overall communication objectives on EUWI+ and become an integral part of the process of the RBMP development and implementation process. Draft TORs on the Communication strategy mission for Armenia and Ukraine were elaborated. Draft TORs for other countries are in process. It is expected that this assignment will involve local NGOs that specialise in environmental education, stakeholder involvement and communication.

Partnerships were gradually built up with national initiatives and ongoing adjacent projects (APENA, EMBLAS, IFP, Kura II, etc.) to develop joint awareness raising activities towards stakeholders and the public in the field of integrated water resources management.

Working contacts with the communication press officers in the EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia were established. The project team regularly communicated with the EU Delegations to the partner countries.

The main approach regarding communication and stakeholder involvement within the EUWI+ activities consists in supporting new legislation and national strategies, setting up National Policy Dialogues (Result 1) and RBMP development and implementation (Result 2). In this regard, regular information was provided on the activities of these results through the project and partner websites, press releases, information materials, and partner networks, as well as during meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders. All project missions served an opportunity to further promote the IWRM and EU support, and to present the Action.

Particular attention was given to communication around the National Policy Dialogues on water, including the 2nd NPD meeting in Ukraine on 28 November 2017. Effective communication around this event aroused great interest. Evidence was a significant number of participants (more than 90 representatives of various stakeholders). In addition, the good interaction of the project with the EU delegation in Ukraine made it possible to notify journalists and television in a timely manner. This event was the subject of special press releases, publications on the project and partners websites, in the press, as well as video interviews on TV news channels.

The reporting period was marked by the finalising and operational implementation of a “new look” version of the project website www.euwipluseast.eu. The website was developed in two languages (English and Russian). It is linked to the EUWI+ data and information platform and includes links to the partners' websites and is connected with the social networks. The information is updated regularly, in particular, on the meetings and results of the NPD, workshops and trainings in the framework of the project and other relevant events. The site has a dedicated page for each project country with a brief description of the country situation, the project objectives and main in-country activities. The information is also organised by pilot basin areas in order to share activities and results in other hydrographic districts in national but also at international level.

Other recent developments include:

- Production of information materials, including printing and distribution of country leaflets presenting the project and in-country activities (in English and national languages), as well as a poster on the concept of basin planning using infographics.
- Graphic design and production of a communication and visibility kit for the six countries in English Russian and/or national languages. Roll-ups, banners, posters, as well as several promotional items (notepads, pens and folders with the new EU graphic for the Eastern Partnership projects) were transferred to country offices. In particular, this was used during the workshops and trainings in November and December in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine.
- Regular updating of a contact list (including thematic focal points) and a distribution/ mailing list.

On 14-15 December 2017, the IOW expert responsible for Communication and Stakeholder Involvement (Result 3) was in Brussels to take part in a Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development within the Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change. This workshop focused on education for children and secondary-education pupils but on communication and awareness rising for all groups of society was an opportunity to make contacts and exchange views, and also to find synergies for future joint actions. This is especially valuable in the perspective of the school and university information sessions planned in the EUWI+ project. (The first such session on basin planning was held for students of the Belarusian National Technical University in the reporting period.)

A meeting on communication issues was held with Ms Angela Bulagra, DG NEAR Programme Manager, on 15 December. The main recommendations relate to the strategic approach to communication issues that the project should follow in its activities, including:

- A more strategic communication about EUWI+ benefits for citizens should be provided;
- Less attention should be devoted to communication "about the project"; and
- Communication/ information/ awareness raising campaigns should be, if possible, inventive, original, in synergy with other projects and "environmentally friendly" (for example, fewer paper-printed publications and unhelpful promotional articles)

Information was provided about the status of the EU/EaP visual identity: a new visual identity of Eastern Partnership is in place and will be gradually rolled out to cover projects. A new visibility and communication manual will be soon issued by DEVCO. The consequence will be a smoothing of the visual differences between individual projects: project specific logos will be phased out. It is suggested to get closer to the OPEN Programme which can provide support with better communication. (For information, this is already done in Belarus and in process in Ukraine). DG NEAR particularly stressed the importance for the EUWI+ local representatives to be specially informed and sufficiently trained to pursue communication and visibility activities, and to be seen as one team.

The project team is aware of these issues and provides regular information and updating on communication issues for local representatives. Moreover, the "EUWI+" e-mail addresses have been already created for all newly appointed country representatives and the office managers. The new staff were also provided with business cards with the attributes of the EU and the project.

With regards to internal communication, the project team continued to develop and implement a series of standard procedures such as planning, organisation of events and missions. Specific forms complementing the procedures, as well as different project templates, have been recently updated according to the new EU graphic chart for the EaP, and shared among the partners through a common electronic system.

3.1.4 Synergies with other EU projects/initiatives

On 7 December, the OECD participated in a TAIEX Multi-beneficiary workshop on funding opportunities for the water sector in Brussels. The workshop was aimed at increasing the knowledge of the national water authorities about the existing EU funding opportunities for the water sector, which is available to support implementation of the EU water acquis. The workshop participants presented obstacles to the absorption of the EU funds they have encountered at the national level. One of the issues discussed (and what we also experience with implementation of the EUWI Plus program for EaP countries) is capacity building in the water sector to assist in the resolution of identified obstacles and to improve the take up of funding opportunities to support the implementation of the EU water acquis. The meeting brought together about 35 participants representing mainly the water authorities in the Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood regions (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), as well as DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG NEAR, EIB and World Bank.

4. OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN NEXT QUARTER

Part 4 lists key activities and priorities for the coming quarter of 1 January 2018 – 31 March 2018.

4.1 Key Activities for Next Quarter

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
Armenia	• NPD Steering Committee meeting (tbc)	February-March 2018
	• RBMP mission by IOW	January 29-2 February 2018
	• Delineation mission by UBA	February 2018
	• Launch of the work on the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of the Action Plan on equitable access to water and sanitation	January-February 2018
Azerbaijan	• RBMP mission by IOW	January 29-2 February 2018
	• Donor supported projects coordination meeting in Baku	2 February 2018
	• Finalising and applying of National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan for adoption	March/April 2018
	• NPD Steering Committee meeting	March-May 2018
Belarus	• Water workshop under ENI SEIS II EAST project in Minsk	9-10 January 2018
	• Meeting for preparation of the treaty for trans-boundary cooperation in Western Dvina/Daugava between Belarus and Latvia in Riga	10-11 January 2018

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral Belarus-Lithuania expert group meeting on transboundary cooperation in the Neman River basin. 	19-20 February 2018 (TBC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP Mission by IOW 	March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD Seminar on planning of water resources in Minsk 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on RBMP development with water stakeholders under guiding IOW in Minsk 	April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First meeting of the NPD (subject to approval by <i>Minprirody</i> after the EUWI+ project registration) 	Q2 2018 (tentatively) Preparations during Q1
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP / Delineation mission by IOW and UBA 	22-26 January 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineation workshop for TW & CW types and water bodies (tbc) 	22-23 February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD Steering Committee meeting (tbc) 	March 2018 (TBC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineation workshop and start of works for GWBs (tbc, could be regional, or sub-regional) 	end-Feb to mid-March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineation workshop and start of works for SWBs (tbc, could be regional, or sub-regional) 	mid- to end-March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Steering Committee meeting in Tbilisi (Discussions ongoing) 	March/April 2018
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP Mission by IOW 	22-26 January 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Basin Council for Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District meeting 	Q1, 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next RBMP mission on informing beneficiary on future activities and upgrading RBMP for Danube-Prut and Black Sea River district 	22-26 January 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second mission on Inventory of point and diffuse source of pollution and assessment of pollution loads. 	February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission on procurement of new monitoring equipment for chemical and hydrobiological monitoring 	February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third mission on GW monitoring 	March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD Coordination Committee meeting 	Q1, 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the work on drafting the mid-term Action Plan to support the implementation of the Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation of the Republic of Moldova 	Q1, 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of the work on establishing new norms for design and construction of small-scale WSS systems in Moldova 	Jan.-Nov., 2018

Focus Area	Activity	Timeline
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Baseline Analyses on 20 targets areas of the Protocol Water and Health” (UNECE Water Convention) will be finalized and discussed with inter-ministerial working group. 	End of January 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP Mission by IOW 	February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going work on National Water Strategy according requirements of EU Association agreement and tasks of MENR 	January – March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of the second phase of activities for the revisions of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and the preparation of the new National Plan for their implementation. 	February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional workshop on quality management in chemical laboratories. 	March 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of workshops and surveys and discussion of the step-wise procedure between the Ukrainian administration and the EUWI+ Member State consortium; Potentially a regional workshop on groundwater monitoring according with WFD requirements. 	February 2018 February 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of workshops and surveys; Delineation workshop for SW RBMP general training Regional workshop on surface water monitoring in comply with requirements of WFD. 	January 2018 February /April 2018 February 2018 March 2018/ April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the communication strategy 	March 2018
Regional Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team meeting to plan 2018 activities 	18-19 January 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Steering Committee Meeting (tbc - discussions ongoing) 	March/April 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional event on strategy development (tbc back to back with Steering Committee) 	March/April 2018

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@mntp.am
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