

European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries



Quarterly Information Update

(April 2018 – June 2018)

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Disclaimer

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1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This is the sixth quarterly information update on the implementation of EUWI+. It covers the reporting period from April 2018 to the end of June 2018. 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 and Progress

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.

Work has started on key activities in all countries.

The Inception Report was accepted and registered in its final form on 4 June 2018 and planning is underway for the second Regional Steering Committee to be held in November 2018.

Interim progress against key indicators from the project log frame are presented below:

Result Area	Indicator	Target for 2020	Current Status
Whole of Project	Reform of institutional and legal frameworks	6 countries developed and adopted a shared water management framework based on WFD principles	National work programmes being delivered in all 6 countries towards key WFD principles including water ecosystems and management, cost recovery and public participation
Result 1	Effective regulatory and governance arrangements are in place	6 NPDs established delivering evidence based policy decisions	5 of 6 NPDs established
	Institutional and regulatory frameworks strengthened in line with WFD, IWRM and MEAs	Minimum of 5 policy packages developed and submitted for consideration to NPD Steering Committees	2 submitted, minimum of 5 under development including work on strategy development and legal frameworks
Result 2	Number of RBMPs designed and share of national territory covered	13 RBMPs and 22% covered. In addition, one 1 st phase RBMP preparation, resulting in a total related coverage of 49%	7 RBMPs exist, work ongoing in all countries on remaining 6 plans
	Number of assessment reports for monitoring in line with WFD principles	6 new monitoring assessment reports	6 reports produced
	Number of laboratory assessment reports	6 laboratory assessment reports	6 reports produced
Result 3	Communication strategy in place at basin, national and regional scale	Annually updated communication strategy developed	Communication strategy and action plan developed for whole of project and 6 countries. First annual review completed.
Capacity Development	The water sector is equipped with the necessary human and technical capacity	Human capacity strengthened in 6 countries through training programmes	6 country chapters on needs assessment for capacity and development completed. Regional work programme prepared. Training events underway across Result 1, 2 and 3.

2. COUNTRY QUARTERLY REPORTS

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

2.1 Armenia

2.1.1 Country synthesis

- Armenia signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreement with the EU in November 2017 and it was ratified by the National Assembly in April 2018. This is now a major driver of activities under EUWI+, supporting development of a road map for approximation towards the 5 EU water related directives covered by CEPA. Development of robust River Basin Management Plans is a key part of this approximation and work progresses in terms of characterisation of the key basins of Sevan and Hrazdan. Groundwater and surface water identification, delineation and assessment needs to be improved and work is ongoing and with enhanced monitoring capabilities critical to supporting RBMP implementation, plans for relocation of the main water quality laboratory to modern premises is also underway. The irrigation sector is a key water user in Armenia and critical to overall effective water resources management. The work is underway to examine opportunities for improving flow monitoring to aid water accounting in the irrigation sector, and to review existing subsidies and the potential for driving water efficiency through the use of economic instruments.

2.1.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.1.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- Support to the Ministry of Nature Protection and other beneficiary organisations in developing a roadmap for implementation of the requirements of 5 EU Water Directives according to the CEPA agreement was provided by EUWI+. A draft final road map was circulated by WRMA for comment to beneficiary Ministries and organisations.
- The EUWI+ programme through a team of experts is supporting the WRMA and SCWS with the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of selected measures from the Action Plan on ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation in Armenia.
- A team of experts has been mobilised to conduct a study on the reform of “harmful” subsidies in Armenia’s irrigation sector. The study supports strengthening water use efficiency and looks into different models and economic instruments paving the way towards sustainable irrigation. During the reporting period the team of experts reviewed existing concepts and methods to assess irrigation subsidies and proposed a methodology for the irrigation water sector of Armenia.

2.1.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- To support the process of development of RBMPs for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, 4 local teams are going to implement: (i) Development of Draft River Basin Management Plans for Sevan RBD: Part 1 - Characterisation Phase; (ii) Development of Draft River Basin Management Plans for Hrazdan RBD: Part 1 - Characterisation Phase; (iii) Surface water bodies identification and delineation; and (iv) Groundwater bodies identification, delineation and assessment.
- To support the process of laboratory accreditation and improvement of water resources monitoring, 3 local teams will implement: (i) Preparation of Detailed Cost Estimate for the EMIC Laboratory Relocation to New Premises; (ii) Detailed Assessment of Modern Flow Measurement Equipment Needs for Irrigation Water Accounting in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, and (iii) Prepara-

tion of a detailed assessment of priority needs for improvement of hydrological monitoring in Sevan and Hrazdan pilot basins. The groundwater team is also preparing an inventory of the existing groundwater monitoring networks in both RBDs, and a proposal for improvements will be made. During the reporting period the contract for “Preparation of Detailed Cost Estimate for the EMIC Laboratory Relocation to New Premises” was completed and specifications for the laboratory equipment procurement were prepared in cooperation with the beneficiary. The draft final report “Detailed Assessment of Modern Flow Measurement Equipment Needs for Irrigation Water Accounting in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs” was prepared.

2.1.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- On 17 April 2018, a training workshop on RBMPs was organised for local contractors and beneficiaries to highlight the principles, objectives and issues in RBMPs and to ensure coordination between all ongoing and planned contracts in Armenia within the EUWI+ project.
- On 23-26 April, meetings related to the relocation of EMIC’s laboratory took place. Discussions also took place on the procurement and elaboration of technical specification and on the results of laboratory proficiency tests, with suggestions for improvement jointly elaborated.
- A kick-off meeting on groundwater body delineation and design of the GW monitoring network was conducted on 14-15 May 2018 with participation of beneficiaries and the local contractor.
- On 13 June 2018 a mission was organised on data management, allowing exchanges with the main organisations producing and managing water related data including WRMA, SWSC, Hydromet and EMIC who agreed on future tests of selected automatic data exchange procedures. In meetings with contractors for the RBMP development an agreement was reached to implement data management and metadata production and mapping activities.
- The terms of reference for Stakeholder participation and public consultation has been drafted taking into account the latest timeframe for RBMP’s development in Sevan & Hrazdan and implementation in Akhuryan. A national guideline for stakeholder participation and public consultation according to the WFD requirements was reviewed with the beneficiaries.
- The EUWI+ project contact list in Armenia was updated, and a list of links to websites and social networks of beneficiaries, the EU delegation and water sector projects in Armenia were prepared. A two-page fact sheet on EUWI+ was prepared in Armenian and English languages and shared with the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.

2.1.3 National Policy Dialogue

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

2.1.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

On 11 April 2018 the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia unanimously ratified the CEPA. CEPA includes obligations undertaken by Armenia on 5 EU water-related directives: Water Framework Directive, and the Drinking Water, Nitrates, Floods and Urban Wastewater Directives.

2.2 Azerbaijan

2.2.1 Country synthesis

- In 2017, Azerbaijan started negotiations on a new agreement and relationship with the EU. An important feature of this agreement is environmental management, including a significant focus on water sector policies and improvement of the existing regulatory and institutional framework. The main enabler to this reform is a long-term vision, a “National Water Strategy”. EUWI+ is providing support to this strategy development and support to further reforms of water policies, an adequate governance framework, and development of institutional capacities in support of policy implementation. Ongoing efforts include institutionalisation of the main principles of IWRM and Basin principle according to EU WFD at the national level, to develop and implement RBMP in a selected pilot river basin, improvement of water monitoring and assessment systems and finalisation and adoption of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health.

2.2.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.2.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- Finalisation and adoption of the National Water Strategy is a key enabler for implementation of the water policy in Azerbaijan, and to support implementation an Action Plan will be developed. Clear roles and responsibilities are critical for implementation of the water strategy and of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) based on the EU WFD principles. A letter and note produced by EUWI+ for Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, the new Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) highlighted the benefits of a Water Policy Sector within MENR, responsible for water sector policy-making and drafting and implementation of RBMPs. National and basin level bodies responsible for water resources management would be created in the MENR regional offices, located in different basin districts to fulfil the functions of basin authorities. The letter and note was supported and will be taken into account when finalising the water strategy.
- Work on finalisation and adoption of the Draft Water Strategy is ongoing and will include institutionalisation of IWRM and RBMP principles and water allocation procedures. Harmonisation with the EU WFD requires the use of economic instruments including water pricing, therefore support to development of economic tools which would incentivise sustainable water use and provide financial resources will be included. Representatives of beneficiary organisations and EUWI+ discussed issues related to development of a regulatory framework on water abstraction rates according to environmental flow requirements as an important element of the water allocation planning process in Azerbaijan and support of the project will help this. A methodology for identification of water abstraction limits depending on ecosystem flow needs will be developed.
- Work on the development of the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health has been finalised. The targets are expected to be adopted by the Joint Order of MENR and the Ministry of Health in July 2018. The EUWI+ project team is discussing with the beneficiary organisations possible support for the implementation of some selected targets within the project.

2.2.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- Work started on development of River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and surface water and groundwater body delineation and characterisation in the Kura Upstream of Mingachevir Dam Pilot Area. This activity targets implementation of a developed RBMP and includes stakeholder participation mechanisms at basin, national and international levels, and shared data management.
- Work on laboratory accreditation and improvement of water resources monitoring is ongoing. A local construction specialist is contracted by EUWI+ to oversee the process of laboratory rehabili-

tation and shortly, plans for the purchase of laboratory furniture for the national laboratory of MENR in Baku and the 2 regional laboratories in Beylagan and Gazakh regions will commence. An inventory of the existing groundwater monitoring networks in the pilot areas is being prepared. A proposal for improvements to this network including monitoring stations, parameters, frequencies and investment and operation and maintenance costs is being developed.

- Work was launched on drafting a communication strategy and action plan for participative RBMP Planning for the Kura upstream Mingachevir dam River Basin.

2.2.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- The EUWI + project training workshop on “Determination of transitional and coastal water bodies in the EUWI+ pilot area” was conducted in Baku on 4-5 April 2018.
- EUWI+ supported 4 representatives of the MENR regional laboratories to attend a UNDP GEF laboratory training session on Quality Systems and Internal Audits in Baku on 16-17 April 2018.
- On 18-19 April, discussion on the procurement process, in particular for the procurement of air conditioning facilities in the laboratory and on the procurement for instruments took place.
- A kick-off meeting on groundwater body delineation and design of the GW monitoring network was conducted in Baku on 6-7 May with participation of beneficiaries and the local contractor.
- Preparatory work was carried out to organise the RBMP Workshop on 3 July 2018, the 7th NPD SC meeting on 4 July 2018 and a Consultation workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health and equitable access to water and sanitation on 5 July 2018, all to be held in Baku.
- Information on EUWI+ was uploaded at the web page of MENR and project brochures were distributed to different stakeholder groups. A local communication assistant was hired for technical support to the implementation of EUWI+ communication and visibility activities.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track

2.2.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting will be conducted on 4 July 2018.

2.2.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

- Mr. Mukhtar Babayev was appointed as the new Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources on 23 April 2018.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 23 May 2018 between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the EUWI+ EU Member State Consortium on joint implementation of EUWI+ Results 2 & 3 and to cooperate in Azerbaijan’s water sector development according to the principles of the EU WFD and Azerbaijan’s obligations with the European Union, in the spirit of mutual respect, good cooperation, professionalism and commitment.
- On 6 June 2018 Mr. Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head of unit, Environmental Policy, Environmental Analysis and Assessment Division, MENR was appointed as the new Focal Point for the EUWI+ project in Azerbaijan.

2.3 Belarus

2.3.1 Country synthesis

- Belarus has no obligations to implement the provisions of the EU WFD or other EU Directives. However, the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2020 recognises the introduction of basin water management and harmonisation of the water legislation of Belarus with the EU water legislation as a key priority. The new Water Code of the Republic of Belarus defines the need to develop River Basin Management Plans, including for the Dnieper and Pripyat river basins, and the creation of Basin Councils. Therefore the objectives of EUWI+ correspond to the interests of Belarus ensuring project sustainability. The risks of the project implementation include the fact that there is a complex and long-term registration procedure for the project. The package of documents is currently under consideration in the Ministry of Economy.

2.3.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.3.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- On 15 June 2018 a consultation meeting with local NGOs was held to discuss the draft Water Strategy till 2030 prepared by Central research institute for complex use of the water resources (CRICUWR) in cooperation with EUWI+. Representatives of the NGOs generally supported the draft Strategy and will provide written comments by 1 August 2018. A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Water Strategy will then be prepared by the end of 2018.
- The main strategic goal of the new Water strategy is to ensure water security for the present and future generations of the people of Belarus. The Strategy envisages that action at the national level should be complemented by respective actions at the basin and local levels. From this perspective, several pilot studies have been implemented with support from EUWI+:
 - development of national indicators to monitor progress in implementation SDG 6.3-6.5 as part of water security indicators. It is implemented in close co-operation with BelStat, the National Statistics Committee; and
 - a survey of water resources and systems in the Kopyl rayon of Minsk oblast of Belarus, including: assessment of water use efficiency and developing new water consumption and waste water discharge norms for water intensive and recommendations for development of drinking water supply systems in the Kopyl rayon of Minsk oblast of Belarus.
- Interim and final results of these studies were discussed at an expert workshop held on 18 June 2018 at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (*Minprirody*) and attended by experts from *Minprirody*, Ministry of Economy, National Committee for Statistics (*Bel-Stat*), Ministry of Housing and Utility Services, Kopyl region executive committee, Central research institute for complex use of the water resources and a representative from EUWI+.
- On 15 May 2018, EUWI+ supported the 3rd meeting of the Belarus-Lithuania expert group on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the Neman river basin with participation of *Minprirody*, Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and other concerned stakeholders. The final report (Russian version) of the second phase of the work on the elaboration of the priority components of the joint River Basin Management Plan for the Neman basin to enhance transboundary cooperation was presented and discussed at the meeting. The short version of the report, containing key findings, will be available in English in July 2018. It was agreed, that all technical results will be transferred to the upcoming GEF project on the Neman and Bug basins, to be implemented by UNESCO and UNECE, and further support to Belarus in this regard will be facilitated through that project.

2.3.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- Work has started on the refinement of the RBMP of the Dnieper. Work aims at finalisation in September 2018 in order to be presented to Dnieper Basin Council before the end of 2018. Given the Belarusian context, the methodological approach is balanced between the Belarusian technical code and the Water Framework Directive principles.
- Discussions were initiated about a guideline concerning “diffuse pollution” and demonstration measures to be selected in the Dnieper RBMP for implementation in the Dnieper river basin.
- Two experts workshops were held in the training centre of Minprirody: “data management for IWRM” (11-12 April 2018) and “River Basin Management Plan principles” (29 May 2018).
- Tenders on delineation of SW and GW bodies in Pripjat basin were completed and contracts were signed between the CRICUWR and IOW on 25 June 2018. Implementation has started.
- To support the process of laboratory accreditation and improvement of water resources monitoring, an inventory of the existing groundwater monitoring networks in the Pripjat basin, and a proposal for improvements to this network including monitoring stations, parameters, frequencies and investment and operation and costs maintenance are being developed.

2.3.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- On 23-25 May 2018 a preparatory mission for the bottom sediment training in autumn 2018 took place. Possible sampling sites for the training were visited and sampling equipment checked.
- A kick-off meeting on groundwater body delineation and design of the GW monitoring network was conducted on 5-6 June 2018 with participation of beneficiaries and the local contractor.
- On 29 June 2018, the first meeting of the Pripjat basin council was held with support from EUWI+. The meeting discussed the main ecological problems in the Pripjat basin, French experience of basin water management and a wide discussion on the E-40 project, which aims to connect the Black and Baltic Sea water transport systems. Amongst the key decisions, the Pripjat basin Council decided to support the development of the Pripjat river basin RBMP under EUWI+.
- Key local stakeholders including NGOs were consulted on the draft Water Strategy of Belarus.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• The progress under this activity area is on track. NPD considered delayed pending project registration.
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• The progress under this activity area is slightly delayed
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track

2.3.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The National Policy Dialogue for Belarus will be initiated following project registration.

2.3.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

- Mr Philippe Bernhardt, project manager of the EU Delegation in Minsk, who facilitated initiation of the EUWI+ project in Belarus, departed on 13 June 2018. A new project manager is expected to be appointed in the middle of September 2018.
- The Ministry of Economy of Belarus has approved the updated EUWI+ project registration package and submitted all documents to other Ministries (Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Taxes) for consideration and approval.

2.4 Georgia

2.4.1 Country synthesis

- Georgia signed an Association Agreement (AA) with the EU in 2014 and prepared a roadmap and action plan for implementation of the environmental chapters. A needs assessment and identification of priorities with a broad range of national stakeholders has aligned all relevant activities of the EUWI+ project to support implementation of the action plan and achievement of relevant country targets. Key focus areas are related to legislative and economic issues, approximation of EU Water Framework and other Directives, as well as development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in the selected pilot basin of the Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed Basin Districts. Work on RBMP development is focussing, for the first step of the basin characterisation, on groundwater and surface water delineation, defining monitoring and assessment needs for establishing ecological and chemical classification systems and economic evaluation and use of economic instruments. This work will ultimately fall under a national water resources management strategy with and its implementation plan.

2.4.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.4.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- EUWI+ is supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) in the process of harmonisation of the national legislation with EU water legislation. Key activities include development of the final version of the draft Law on “Water Resources Management” and revision of two existing draft regulations (by-laws) on “Approval of water quality ecological standards” and draft Decree of Government “Rules of Planning and Implementation of Water Resources Monitoring”.
- In parallel, work continues on drafting a policy paper to present a vision for further policy developments ahead of 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. Stakeholder discussion on the main issues of the paper is planned for Q3 with the Department of Climate Change and Environment including the water division and other relevant departments and agencies of MEPA.

2.4.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- EUWI+ is focussing on the two pilot river basin districts of Georgia, the Alazani-Iori and the Khrami-Debed. Work is ongoing to prepare for delineation and characterisation of Groundwater bodies and delineation and typology of Surface Water bodies in both pilot basins. Contracts were signed to support the preparation of the draft RBMP for the Alazani-Iori Basin District of Georgia in line with the EU WFD principles. The RBMP for the Khrami-Debed Basin District will commence next, ensuring that both pilot basin districts are covered.
- To support the process of laboratory accreditation and improvement of water resources monitoring, an inventory of existing groundwater monitoring networks in both pilot RBDs, and a proposal for improvements to this network including monitoring stations, parameters, frequencies and investment and operation and costs maintenance are being developed.

2.4.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- A kick-off meeting on groundwater body delineation and design of the GW monitoring network was conducted in the National Environmental Agency (NEA) of Georgia on 11-12 May

2018. The meeting was delivered by the EUWI+ team and participants included the Geothermal Association of Georgia and the hydrogeology unit of the NEA Geology Department.

- The kick-off workshop on RBMP development for Alazani-Iori Basin of Georgia was organised on 5 June 2018 with participation of beneficiaries from Azerbaijan working in parallel on the downstream part of the Alazani/Ganikh. Identification of the key building blocks of the RBMP and linkages between the different elements were the main focus of the discussion.
- A Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Artois-Picardie Water Agency of France was signed on 6 June 2018, by Georgian Deputy Minister, Mr Giorgi Chkheidze and General Director of the Artois-Picardie Water Agency, Mr. Bertrand Galtier. This agreement will support implementation of the EU–Georgia Association Agreement through peer-to-peer exchanges in the fields of institutional organisation, integrated water resources management, data collection and knowledge development on water use and development of stakeholder participation in water resources management at basin scale.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.

2.4.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting was planned for 2 July 2018, but due to ongoing restructuring of Governmental institutions it was decided to postpone the NPD meeting to autumn 2018.

2.4.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

- Institutional changes with the main beneficiary, formerly Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia was finalised in April. The new Project National Focal Point is now Ms Mariam Makarova, Head of Water Division of the MEPA's Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- In mid-June, the second wave of institutional change was initiated by the Government of Georgia. This followed the resignation of the Prime Minister and includes restructuring of the Ministries.
- Preparation of the Project Registration documents was concluded. The necessary documentation was translated, reviewed and approved by the beneficiary institution. A Memorandum of Understanding and all accompanying Annexes have been completed and uploaded to the official electronic portal of the Government for further approval and registration.

2.5 Republic of Moldova

2.5.1 Country synthesis

- Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union and is working towards implementation and alignment of its environmental legislative framework with the EU acquis. Water is a key priority under this task. The official establishment of the new Environment Agency on 5 June 2018 will facilitate this process. The Agency was set up as part of the ongoing Central Public Administration Reform and will be the main administrative authority to ensure implementation of environmental legislation in line with EU legislation. Support from EUWI+ in capacity development of this agency will be crucial. Developing local capacities for implementation of the mid-term Action plan for the national Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy and supporting laboratory development through improving the monitoring of surface and ground waters are also key priorities for Moldova under EUWI+.

2.5.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.5.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- The EUWI+ project helped develop new norms for design and construction of small-scale water supply systems. They were introduced by Ordinance of the Minister of Economy and Infrastructure dated 4 April 2018. Key expected benefits from using the new norms will be lower unit costs per person connected, increased cost-effectiveness of interventions in WSS by donors and the public budget, and faster progress toward implementation of SDG 6.1 and national WSS strategy targets in rural areas.
- The EUWI+ project supported MARDE in the preparation of recent amendments to the Water Law No. 272 to be submitted to the Parliament in autumn 2018. The preparatory work for the revision of the National Programme for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health for 2016-2025 and the implementation of some of its measures were also launched. Following the NPD SC decision, an expert group, expected to start work in August-September 2018, will be established.
- The EUWI+ project contributed to the preparatory stages of the establishment of the bilateral Moldovan-Ukrainian Dniester Commission as a feed into the GEF project.
- Work was launched on drafting a mid-term action plan to implement the national WSS Strategy for 2014-2018 with the view to eventually update the strategy with support from EUWI+.

2.5.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- On 4 April 2018, the RBMP for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea river basin district (DPBS RBD) was approved by the DPBS Basin Committee and submitted to the State Chancellery for revision. Approval is foreseen in the third quarter of 2018. The draft of the agreement for the procurement of works and services under EUWI+ Results 2 and 3 were provided to MARDE.
- To support the process of the development of the draft RBMP (second cycle 2021-2027 to be synchronised with Danube countries) for DPBS RBD work was done to prepare contracts for support in the update of the delineation and characterisation of groundwater bodies and the design of a groundwater monitoring network, updating of the Danube, Prut and Black Sea River Basin characterisation and developing a communication strategy.
- On 2-3 May, the kick-off meeting on the review of groundwater body delineation and characterisation and groundwater monitoring design was organised by the Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources and supported by EUWI+. This meeting covered training on delineation and characterisation of groundwater bodies and the design of a monitoring programme for the DPBS RBD with participation of beneficiaries and the local contractor.

- From 14-16 May, a mission focussing on data management presented the existing situation related to water management and a proposed database structure to beneficiaries and the IFP (ADA/SDC) project. EUWI+ will support harmonising water management databases through developing and integrating RBMP requirements for planning and implementation.

2.5.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- On 16 May a working meeting on creation of the Ialpuș sub-basin committee and LPA in municipality Comrat (UTA Gagauzia) together with IFP (ADA/SDC) project experts was facilitated by EUWI+. The meeting focused on stakeholder communication with on-going water sector projects including the World Bank study on developing water security diagnostic of Moldova, the GEF/OSCE/UNDP project on Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River basin and ENI SEIS II.
- EUWI+ supported MARDE and participated in the Celebration of Dniester Day on 28 May in Vadul lui Voda on the Dniester River and International Danube Day on 29 June in Giurgiulești International Free Port.
- An ISO 10301 technical training was facilitated by EUWI+ in the reference monitoring laboratory at the new Environmental Agency on 26-29 June 2018.
- A local communication assistant was hired to provide technical support to the implementation of EUWI+ communication and visibility activities in the country.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• The progress under this activity area is on track, adoption and implementation of the DPBS RBMP for the on-going period is delayed due to recent institutional changes
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track

2.5.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The 4th NPD Coordination Committee meeting (26th NPD meeting under the EUWI) was held in Chisinau on 15 June 2018. The meeting was attended by about 70 delegates - committee members and invitees, representing the Government of the Republic of Moldova and central public authorities, representatives of civil society, the expert community, international organisations and bilateral donors. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss progress in the water sector development in Moldova, including the implementation of EUWI+. Documents from the NPD can be found on the project website and the meeting material is hosted on the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/ea3f3bc6cd68/hf966gwbla>. The next meeting of the NPD in Moldova is tentatively planned for the beginning of 2019.

2.5.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

- A new Environment Agency was established on 5 June 2018 and will be the main administrative authority to ensure the implementation of environmental legislation harmonised with European Union legislation in compliance with the Association Agreement. This includes implementation of new instruments for environmental management such as the impact assessment mechanism concerning the impact on the environment from economic activities, strategic environmental assessment, integrated environmental monitoring, integrated environmental permitting, integrated waste management and integrated environmental information system management.

2.6 Ukraine

2.6.1 Country synthesis

- Ukraine has signed an Association Agreement with the EU and work is underway regarding the approximation of national legislation with EU legislation. The requirements of the WFD were reflected in the updated Water Code of Ukraine in 2016 and now six EU water directives need to be implemented into national water legislation. All necessary regulatory documents have been developed for the preparation of River Basin Management Plans in Ukraine and MENR and SAWR must develop 9 RBMPs by 2024 for the main river basin districts defined within the territory of Ukraine. The EUWI+ project is supporting the request of the main beneficiary, MENR, to develop the RBMP for the Dnipro basin with the following focus areas: A general description of the characteristics of the river basin district, a summary of significant pressures and the impact of human activity on the status of surface water and groundwater, identification and mapping of protected areas, a map of the monitoring networks and a presentation in map form of the results of the monitoring programmes carried out under those provisions for the status of surface water (ecological and chemical), groundwater (chemical and quantitative) and protected areas and a list of the environmental objectives established for surface waters, ground waters and protected areas. Assistance to the development of a National Water Strategy and to activities to fulfil the main obligations under the UNECE Water Convention and the Danube Convention (ICPDR) provide additional support to Ukraine in this context.

2.6.2 EUWI+ project progress during last quarter

2.6.2.1 Support to national level reforms

- The EUWI+ project is supporting the MENR and MOH with the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention and preparing an Action Plan on the implementation of measures to achieve the targets. First drafts of the revised targets and the Action Plan have been developed and are expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the Interagency Working Group on the Protocol on Water and Health in July 2018. Work is also ongoing on developing a policy paper to feed into the National Water Strategy.

2.6.2.2 Implementation of river basin management principle

- Work is ongoing to support the process of development of the RBMP for the Dnipro RBD. 4 local teams are going to implement: (i) Development of Draft River Basin Management Plan for Dnipro RBD in Ukraine: Part 1 - Characterization Phase; (ii) Surface water bodies identification and delineation in Dnipro RBD; (iii) and (iv) Groundwater bodies delineation, characterisation and assessment in Dnipro RBD. Three kick-of-meetings with contractors on the identification and delineation of surface waters, groundwater and characterisation of Dnipro RBD were held in June 2018.
- A communication strategy and action plan to support participative RBM planning process is under development. The tender procedure was completed and a contract signed.
- Training packages on Quality Assurance and Quality Control and accreditation were delivered for laboratories of beneficiaries. Work is also ongoing to support the process of laboratory equipment procurement in cooperation with the beneficiaries. A meeting with representatives of laboratories regarding the preparation of documentation for accreditation in accordance with the requirements of ISO17025-2017 was held in June 2018.

2.6.2.3 Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder management

- A training course on “Delineation of surface water bodies” was held on 24-25 May in Kyiv. Information can be found here. <https://mailchi.mp/455e628cb26c/zu1tvqaniv>
- Two trainings on “River basin planning” were held together with the APENA project in Poltava and Ivano-Frankivsk oblast cities in June 2018. Information can be found here <https://mailchi.mp/ea86335432e7/8sbytiz19x>
- During June 2018 a mission was organised on data management to discuss a number of issues related to future actions related to data management (server acquisition, geoportal development) with SAWR representatives, a proposal for actions to reinforce data management (with Hydromet centre), and the development of a draft RBMP on the Dnipro basin (with consultants in charge), and to the organisation of data management and metadata production activities (with the local contractor in charge of groundwater delineation).
- Following the request from MENR and in coordination with the APENA project, the EUWI+ project continued to support participation of a limited number of Ukrainian experts in workshops and meetings organised under the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).
- A kick-off meeting on groundwater body delineation and design of GW monitoring was conducted in Kyiv on 7 June 2018 with participation of beneficiaries and the local contractor.
- At the request of the main beneficiaries, MENR and SAWR, EUWI+ supported the organisation of the Dnipro Day 2018 with the aim to raise public awareness and increase public involvement in river basin issues.
- With support of the EUWI+ project a social media campaign for entitled “Cleaner Dnieper starts from you”, for the prevention of phosphate pollution in the Dnieper River basin started on 1 June and will last until 7 July 2018 (Dnipro Day).
- A local communication assistant was hired for technical support to the implementation of EUWI+ communication and visibility activities in the country.

Activity Area	Progress
Legal and institutional framework related to water resources management	• Legal framework preparation is concluding, progress under the institutional reform activity is considered on track.
River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Water Resources Monitoring	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Analysis and laboratory accreditation	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is delayed as discussions with beneficiaries are still ongoing.
Data management	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.
Stakeholder involvement and communication.	• Overall, the progress under this activity area is on track.

2.6.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD is expected to be in November 2018.

2.6.4 Recent national level developments of note for EUWI+

- Discussions continue regarding the Draft Concept “Reforming the Water Management System of Ukraine”.



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 and the European Commission over potential dates for the Regional Steering Committee Meeting, with 15 November agreed as a suitable date with the meeting to be held back-to-back with the SEIS II Regional Steering Committee Meeting.

3.1.2 EUWI+ Progress Meeting and Strategy Development Workshop, Minsk, Belarus

On 25-26 April 2018, the EUWI+ team organised a 2 day event to deliver a one day workshop on developing strategies for the water sector and a progress meeting to discuss project implementation. The progress meeting discussed status since the first Regional Steering Committee in May 2017 and looked ahead to the second Regional Steering Committee meeting in November 2018. The meeting was attended by all partner countries and the implementing partners. Day 1 was opened by Mr Andrej Khmel, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment (Minprirody) of Belarus and Day 2 was opened by Dr Frederik Coene, Head of Operations Section of the European Union Delegation to Belarus.

3.1.3 Panel discussion on EUWI+ at the Working Group on IWRM meeting under the Water Convention

On 30 May 2018, a dedicated panel discussion on EUWI+ was organised during the Working Group on IWRM meeting, held under the auspices of the UNECE Water Convention in Geneva. The panel consisted of representatives of Romania (as Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group), partner countries under EUWI+ and representatives of all three Result areas under the project. The panellists presented current progress, opportunities for cooperation and challenges. The panel attracted interest in the discussion that followed, allowing for the exchange of experience among the EaP countries (all six participated) and with other countries where EUWI is operational (Central Asia) and beyond.

3.1.4 Regional training and development

There is a common understanding that a major limitation in implementing the WFD in the participating countries is a lack of training and capacity development. There seems to be no national training and development plans in place and the limited resources available are therefore often wasted and efforts misdirected. The EUWI+ has tried to ensure that its training is properly focused and coordinated with both national and regional projects.

In addition to a lack of any plans there is a fragmentation of institutional mandates and high turnover of staff, all of which makes identification of training targets difficult and the build-up of collective knowledge difficult. It is also difficult to know at what level to pitch the training since one size does not fit all.

To overcome some of these problems training has been split into sub-regions to encourage exchange of knowledge between neighbouring countries. In selecting training participants EUWI+ has also looked for potential trainers. The idea of centres of excellence has been explored but as yet this has not been properly developed and will be more actively pursued.

Highlights across this quarter have included:

- A regional workshop and training on Methods Validation, Measurement Uncertainty and Metrological Traceability in Accordance of EN ISO 17025:2017 was organized in the premises of the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and its chemical laboratory on 24-26 April 2018.

The workshop and training was attended by central and regional laboratory teams of Georgia, Belarus and Moldova.

- On 24 May 2018 a regional training workshop on surface water body identification and delineation was organised in Kyiv Ukraine.
- Azeri representative attended the EUWI + project training workshop on “Development of RBMP” in Tbilisi, Georgia during June 4-5 2018.
- A joint workshop on RBMP development for Alazani-Iori Basins was organised on 5 June 2018 in Georgia with participation of beneficiaries and contractors from the Upstream Kura of Azerbaijan.
- On 5-6 June, the EUWI+ project representative in Moldova took part in the meeting of the plenipotentiaries of the governments of Ukraine and Moldova on the implementation of the Agreement on the joint use and protection of border waters (1994) and presented the project activities and progress in the field of implementation of the EU Water Directives.
- On 19-20 June a training workshop was organised in Kyiv on ecological status classification systems and the interlinkage between ecological, chemical and hydro-morphological classification including practical exercises with participation of representatives of authorities, experts on biological monitoring and hydromorphology and local contractors of the EUWI+ project three countries: Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Information can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/fa3624db0dd5/ll0pv8dkaz>

3.1.5 Communication activities

The reporting period marked the beginning of an active implementation of the communication strategy and action plan in the project countries.

Visibility

Further steps were taken to ensure the project visibility at international level, in particular through participating in international events such as:

- 2nd joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (WGIWRM) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) under the Water Convention, held from 28-30 May 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where a session was devoted to the European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46374>
- 6th Meeting of Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change held in Kyiv at the invitation of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on 12 -13 June 2018, where EUWI+ had the opportunity to present its progress and insights gained on the EU WFD implementation in the Eastern Partnership countries.

Awareness raising and public involvement

A popular way to foster wide public involvement into the river basin issues is the organisation of a Rivers Day, which has become a positive example of engaging a wide range of different stakeholders into water management issues. In Moldova, EUWI+ supported MARDE in the Celebration of Dniester Day on 28 May in Vadul lui Voda on the Dniester River as well as on the International Danube Day on 29 June in Giurgiulesti International Free Port.

<http://euwipluseast.eu/en/component/content/article/36-post-englih/140-moldova-the-danube-day-2018?Itemid=397>

In Ukraine, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and State Agency for Water Resources requested support with the organisation of the Dnipro Day 2018. A concept for the Dnipro Day celebration has been developed and preparation for the Dnipro Day celebration that will be held in Kyiv on 7 July 2018 has started.

In this framework, a social media campaign entitled “Cleaner Dnieper starts from you”, for the prevention of phosphate pollution in the Dnieper River basin began on 1 June and will last until 7 July 2018 (Dnipro Day). For a better understanding of the impact of phosphates and phosphonates on the state of water in the rivers, EUWI+ has developed a number of infographics, created a cartoon, and launched the contest "My favourite laundry detergent - without phosphorus compounds". Samples are presented below:

- Campaign information



<http://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/component/content/article/36-post-english/125-a-new-campaign-for-protection-the-dnieper-river-basin-from-phosphate-pollution-has-been-launched-in-ukraine?Itemid=397>

- Cartoon “Washing cloth and swimming in Dnieper”



<https://www.facebook.com/EUDelegationUkraine/videos/1914732781904674/?t=5>

The campaign became widespread with early results of the discussion including more than 24,000 recorded interactions on social networks (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, SAWR, European Union in Ukraine, EU neighbours East, Facebook group of EUWI+, reposts by different organisations and persons) suggesting high interest and lively discussions, as well as a list of the “right” laundry detergents. The first results are now published on the project website, see below: <http://euwipluseast.eu/en/component/content/article/36-post-english/136-first-results-of-social-media-campaign-for-phosphate-pollution-prevention-in-the-dnieper-river-basin-in-ukraine?Itemid=397>

Other recent developments include:

Development of information and awareness raising materials:

- A country specific Leaflet for Azerbaijan (in English and national language) was prepared and printed. Two other leaflets for Armenia and Georgia were drafted in English and are now under finalisation in national languages.
- 2nd “Information update” was prepared and sent in English and Ukrainian to the project contact list <http://euwipluseast.eu/en/publications-reports/newsletters>
- Three infographics and a cartoon were developed for the Phosphate-free campaign in Ukraine
- Development of the concept for the Dnipro Day celebration. Preparation for the Dnipro Day celebration that will be held in Kyiv on 7 July 2018.

Project website development and online promotion:

- A new version of the website went live in April 2018. During the reporting period, the project website continues to be filled with information. More than 20 publications have been uploaded to the site to date. New sections were introduced, such as the NPD, workshops and trainings, and other projects outputs.
- Web-publications on other websites:
 - partners’ websites and social networks (about 40 publications)
 - beneficiaries websites (AM, MD, UA, AZ)
 - EU delegations (BY, MD, AM, AZ, UA)
 - Regional network – CENN, REC
 - Other institutions/ organisations / projects, such as Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute <http://uhmi.org.ua/msg/euwi/>
- The EUWI+ social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) are dynamic and have good attendance
 - Facebook group “The Dnipro unites” (more than 400 members) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Dniprounites/>
 - Facebook page EUWI+ https://www.facebook.com/euwiplus/?ref=page_internal
 - Facebook page for Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan <https://www.facebook.com/EUWI-for-Eastern-Partnership-Armenia-Georgia-Azerbaijan-214964305926249/>
 - Twitter account EUWI+ https://twitter.com/EUWI_plus_East
- An electronic library of presentations and slideshows with more than 110 uploads is created on SlideShare https://www.slideshare.net/EUWIplusEast/edit_my_uploads
- Development of Landing pages with the presentations of regional workshops that were held in Ukraine
 - <https://mailchi.mp/455e628cb26c/zu1tvqaniv>
 - <https://mailchi.mp/fa3624db0dd5/llopv8dkaz>
 - <https://mailchi.mp/751337d4a202/m9qm8fef8l>

Contact database development

- The project contact list currently has about 700 contacts and continues to be replenished to be used in particular for the dissemination of the e-news.

3.1.6 Links and synergies with other projects/initiatives

The EUWI+ project has maintained open communication channels with a number of regional, sub-regional and national projects during the reporting period ensuring coordination of activities and exploring possibilities for collaboration.

There are currently no formal donor coordination groups in the water sector in any of the countries and communication between projects is typically through the national coordinators or through the NPDs. There have been proposals from the countries to establish donor coordination groups, for example from Azerbaijan, which could be investigated. In the meantime EUWI+ will make maximum use of the NPD platform and other regional meeting such as the UNECE IRM working group meeting held in Geneva at the end of May and the European Water Conference to be held in Vienna in September 2018 to spread knowledge about the project and build a network of related projects at all levels.

A list of coordination activities undertaken in the reporting period with the major projects in the water sector is presented below.

Cooperation with UNDP GEF project “Dniester” (Moldova and Ukraine)

The EUWI+ project team continues to exchange information with the GEF Dniester project. A number of technical meetings were held by the GEF project in the reporting period. The main upcoming event would be the organisation of the First meeting of the Moldovan-Ukrainian Dniester Commission (tentatively scheduled for September 2018). The EUWI+ project team will ensure the presence of its representatives at this event. The GEF project is currently developing its Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the basin and based on this assessment will help the beneficiaries to develop individual and then an umbrella WFD plan for the Dniester. It is at this later stage when closer coordination is anticipated.

Cooperation with EMBLAS, EC-UNDP regional project (Ukraine, Georgia, Romania and Bulgaria)

The project has been in regular contact with the EMBLAS project which is now in its final months of implementation. We are awaiting the final report, including the results of the 2017 survey. It is not yet clear whether the EMBLAS project will continue and what will be its scope of works. It is important that there is minimum overlap between the two projects in implementation of the WFD in the coastal zone and transitional waters and that results of any pilot RBMPs which are developed feed into the EMBLAS project. This would be the case in Georgia but it is currently less certain in Ukraine.

Cooperation with EC Clima East regional project

During the reporting period EUWI+ maintained communication with Clima East and monitored the web site but there was no direct coordination. It is anticipated there will be closer communication as the pilot RBMPs are developed.

Cooperation with EC PPRD East regional project

During the reporting period EUWI+ maintained communication with the project and monitored the web site but there was no direct coordination. It is anticipated there will be closer communication as the pilot RBMPs are developed.

Cooperation with UNDP GEF Kura II project (Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Following a coordination meeting in Baku in February, EUWI+ maintained open communication with the UNDP-GEF project, in particular in the common areas of training, laboratory development and RBMP. The GEF project was invited to participate in the laboratory training undertaken at sub-regional level and the launching of the pilot basin plans in both Azerbaijan and Georgia, the two participating countries. Towards the end of the reporting period the EUWI+ national coordinators were invited to attend GEF workshops to discuss proposals for establishment of national working groups to address various aspects of the WFD implementation and IWRM. Discussions with the participating countries on the necessity for such working groups is ongoing.

Cooperation with UNDP GEF Neman-Bug Project (Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland)

The inception meeting of the preparatory phase of the GEF Neman and Bug project was held in Minsk on 16-17 May 2018, back to back with the bilateral Belarus-Lithuania expert group meeting on enhancing transboundary cooperation in the Neman basin (supported by EUWI+). At the GEF meeting, the results of the previous work in the Neman basin, supported by EUWI+ were presented, discussed and appreciated. Belarus and Lithuania informed that all technical results of the EUWI+ supported activities will be transferred to the GEF project to continue the work on the elaboration of the joint RBMP for the Neman basin. Cross-participation of the GEF project experts in the Neman meeting and of EUWI+ project team representatives (UNECE and Technical Advisor for Results 2 and 3) in the GEF workshop was facilitated. Potential cooperation between EUWI+ and GEF project on the Bug basin was also discussed.

Cooperation with ENI SEIS II East project

There was regular communication between the EUWI+ project and SEIS project during the reporting period at management and national coordinator level. This included a workshop in the framework of ENI SEIS II EAST in Minsk on 18-20 April 2018 for providing technical assistance on development of national institutional capacities to support regular reporting on environment. It is important to distinguish the differing aims and objectives of the two projects and explain them clearly to the beneficiaries in order to avoid overlap. The SEIS project will assist the countries to develop a portal for all environmental data for a broad range of users and stakeholders whilst the EUWI+ will help develop more structured databases and cadasters to improve water governance. It is however important that there is technical consistency between the projects and that any pilot projects developed are complementary.

Cooperation with EU Twinning project on upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of Azerbaijan on the base of EU best practices

The EUWI+ is in close coordination with the twinning project assisted by the beneficiary on training and information management. The two projects are also collaborating in the purchase and installation of a computer server for the establishment of a joint environmental database to be housed in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

Cooperation with "Open Access Project"

A working meeting was held on 27 June with the representatives of the "Open Access Project". The objective of that meeting was to discuss exchange between the representatives and identify potential topics of collaboration and synergy between the projects.

Cooperation with APENA Project, EC Ukraine

The EUWI+ project team continues coordination with the APENA project to support the participation of Ukrainian experts in workshops and meetings under the ICPDR. A number of expert travels were supported by EUWI+ in the reporting period. The APENA project updated the EUWI+ project team on the support to legislative work provided to Ukraine. Workshops on the implementation of the EU Water Framework and Flood Directives were held in Ivano-Frankivsk city on June 11-12 and in Poltava city on June 14-15, 2018, with the participation of EUWI+ experts. The Apena project presented its methodology of SWB delineation at the EUWI+ workshop on 25 May 2018.

Cooperation with other national projects

The national coordinators have through the project beneficiaries been maintaining contact with all relevant national projects in the water sectors and keeping the project management abreast of developments. This is of particular importance in the three association agreement countries.

Transboundary cooperation

The project has been in close communication with the ICPDR both directly and through the national focal points in Moldova and Ukraine.

4. OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Part 4 lists some of the key activities and priorities for quarter 3 and 4 2018.

4.1 Key Activities for Quarter 3 and 4 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
Armenia	• National Policy Dialogue meeting	September 2018
	• Workshop on River Basin Management Plans and quantitative pressures on water	11-13 September 2018
	• National Stakeholder Consultation on revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of the Action Plan on equitable access	September 2018
	• Training on GW sampling and Groundwater survey	Sept/Oct 2018
	• Working meeting on GW body delineation and monitoring	Sept/Oct 2018
	• National workshop on qualitative pressures on water	30-31 October 2018 (provisional)
	• Laboratory training	October 2018
	• Procurement of equipment	November 2018
	• National workshop on water bodies status and risk assessment and protected areas	11-12 December 2018 (provisional)
Azerbaijan	• EUWI+ RBMP Workshop on pilot basin activities	3 July 2018
	• NPD SC meeting	4 July 2018
	• Consultation workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health and equitable access to water and sanitation	5 July 2018
	• EUWI+ Database Management mission to Azerbaijan	27-28 August 2018
	• Procurement of air conditioning systems	August 2018
	• Procurement of equipment	November 2018
Belarus	• Training on GW sampling and groundwater survey	September/October 2018
	• Seminar on economy issues for RBMP development	25 September 2018
	• Training on bottom sediment sampling	2-5 October 2018
	• International Environmental Monitoring conference under guidance of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus	4-5 October 2018
	• Second meeting of the Dnieper basin council	24 October 2018
	• Procurement of equipment	November 2018
Georgia	• Regional Workshop on Ecological Classification Systems	24-26 July 2018

Country	Activity	Timeline
	for the Caucasus Countries, in Tbilisi, Georgia	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUWI+ Database Management mission to Georgia 	30-31 August 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPD SC meeting 	End September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of equipment 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on GW sampling and Groundwater survey 	Sept/Oct 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working meeting on GW body delineation and monitoring 	Sept/Oct 2018
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop planned on new norms for design and construction of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, in collaboration with the Technical University of the Republic of Moldova. 	September-October 2018 (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on GW sampling and Groundwater survey 	Sept/Oct 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working meeting on GW body delineation and monitoring 	Sept/Oct
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Stakeholder Consultation meeting on revision of national programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health until 2025 and selected measures 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of equipment 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A international workshop including Romanian experts to support harmonised development of Danube-Prut and Black Sea RBMP 	October 2018
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the “Dnipro Day” 7 July 2018 in Kyiv, with focus on impact of phosphate pollution on water quality of the Dnipro 	7 July 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of the draft of National targets on Protocol Water and Health by MENR and MOH 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Stakeholder Consultation meeting on revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and its implementation plan 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working meeting on GW body delineation and monitoring 	Sept/Oct 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in preparing the Communication Strategy, the Characterisation of Dnipro river basin district, the Delineation of surface waters bodies and ground water of the Dnipro RBD 	July–September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory training 	Nov/Dec 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of groundwater body delineation and characterisation 	December 2018
Regional missions and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Workshop on Ecological Classification Systems for the Caucasus Countries, in Tbilisi, Georgia 	24-26 July 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROM Monitoring and missions 	September 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-MS consortium coordination meeting in Vienna. 	5-6 September
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional (MD/BE/GE) 2-day audit training workshop 	12-13 September

Country	Activity	Timeline
	planned on in Chisinau.	2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side-event on EUWI NPDs at the 8th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Astana) 	10-12 October 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Regional Forum of Ukraine and Belarus including sessions on development of transboundary cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and water resources management and round table on the development of river navigation between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine. 	25-26 October 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUWI+ Regional Steering Committee Meeting 	15 November 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, local representatives from each EaP country, and contacts from each of the implementing partners.

5.1 National Focal Points

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Armenia	Mr Vahan Davtyan	Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	vahan.davtyan@mdp.am
	Mr Volodya Narimanyan	Deputy Head of the State Committee on Water Systems, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources	narimanyan59@mail.ru
Azerbaijan	Mr Mutallim Abdulhasanov,	Head of unit, Environmental Policy, Environmental Analysis and Assessment Division, MENR	mabdulhasanov@gmail.com
	Mr Rasim Sattarzadeh	Head of Environmental Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	rsattarzada@gmail.com
Belarus	Ms Tatiana Slizh	Head of Department of Use and Protection of Waters	tanya.sl@tut.by
Georgia	Ms. Nino Tandilashvili	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	nino.tandilashvili@mepa.gov.ge
	Ms. Mariam Makarova	Head of Water Division of the Department of Environment and Climate change, MEPA,	mariam.makarova@mepa.gov.ge
Republic of Moldova	Ms Valentina Tapis,	National Coordinator of the Project, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	valentina.tapis@madrm.gov.md
	Ms Serafima Tronza	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 1)	serafima.tronza@madrm.gov.md

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
	Ms Victoria Gratii	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 2 and 3)	victoria.gratii@madrm.gov.md
Ukraine	Mr Mykola Kuzio	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	mykola.kuzio@menr.gov.ua
	Mr Vladyslav Marushevskiy	Head of International Cooperation Division	marushevskiy@menr.gov.ua
	Mr Volodymyr Bilokon	EIWI+ Project Coordinator, Reform Support Team, MENR	v.bilokon@gmail.com

5.2 Local project representatives

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Armenia	Mr Vahagn Tonoyan	Local Project Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	vahagn.tonoyan@euwipluseast.eu
Azerbaijan	Mr Rafig Verdiyev	Local Project Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	rafig.verdiyev@euwipluseast.eu
Belarus	Mr Alexandr Stankevich	Local Project Representative of Result 1, and 2 and 3	alexandr.stankevich@euwipluseast.eu
Georgia	Ms Eliso Barnovi	Local Project Representative of Result 1	eliso.barnovi@euwipluseast.eu
	Mr Zurab Jincharadze	Local Project Representative of Results 2, 3	zurab.jincharadze@euwipluseast.eu
Republic of Moldova	Ms Svetlana Stirbu	Local Project Representative of Result 1	svetlana.stirbu@euwipluseast.eu
	Mr Victor Bujac	Local Project Representative of Results 2&3	victor.bujac@euwipluseast.eu
Ukraine	Ms Nataliia Zakorchevna	Local Project Representative of Result 1	nataliia.zakorchevna@euwipluseast.eu
	Ms Oksana Konovalenko	Local Project Representative of Results 2 and 3	oksana.konovalenko@euwipluseast.eu

5.3 EUWI+ international implementing team

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

Organisation	Name	Title	e-mail address
	Ms Yunona Videnina	Thematic Leader for Communication and Stakeholder Involvement	y.videnina@oieau.fr
EUWI+ project	Mr Timothy Turner	Technical Advisor for Results 2 and 3	tim.turner@euwipluseast.eu