



PRESS RELEASE

Yerevan, 06 November 2018

The European Union Enables Modernisation of Laboratories and Peer-to-peer Water Cooperation between Armenia and EU Member States

As of 2019, Armenian citizens will have access to more reliable information about the quality of the country's water resources. This will be possible due to the support provided by the European Union. In conjunction with the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme, an agreement on equipment procurement was signed between the Environment Agency Austria, one of the EU Water Initiative's implementing partners, and the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia. The first delivery is planned for spring 2019.

The total investment in laboratory infrastructure will be around EUR 600,000. Also, a cooperation agreement between the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the Artois-Picardie Water Agency, France was signed. The French counterparts will help Armenia in the field of water data collection, institutional strengthening, the use of economic instruments and the development of stakeholders' involvement in water resources management at the basin scale.

P. Świtalski the EU Ambassador to Armenia noted that the water management is one of the areas where the European Union is focusing on providing tangible benefits for citizens. The strengthening of laboratory and monitoring capacities under EU Water Initiative Plus programme will help Armenia to progress towards a systematic use of international best practices, notably the EU Water Framework Directive. The Directive is a key piece of legislation ensuring an integrated management of water resources and people's participation in this process. The European Union is happy to contribute to this final goal of the cleaner Armenian rivers and waters.

M. Grigoryan, the Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, declared that the cooperation with France whose experience in river basin planning is beneficial to Armenia and he underlined the need for a comprehensive monitoring system of water resources.

M. Lacôte, the French Ambassador to Armenia, reminded the importance of water management in the cooperation with Armenia and greeted the efforts of Armenia to fulfill its obligations under the Paris agreement.

Water management is one of the areas where the European Union is focusing on providing tangible benefits for citizens. The strengthening of laboratory and monitoring capacities under EU Water Initiative Plus programme will help Armenia to progress towards a systematic use of international best practices, notably the EU Water Framework Directive. The Directive is a key piece of legislation ensuring integrated management of water resources and people's participation in this process. The commitment of the Government of Armenia to co-finance the laboratory is the basis for full sustainability of this intervention. On the policy development side, the National Policy Dialogues (NDPs) bring together stakeholders from various sectors to enhance river basin management. This is a crucial element for raising resilience of economic and social development. The most recent NPD meeting took place in Yerevan on 19 October 2018 and focused on how to address the environmental and economic implications of irrigation in Armenia.

Background information: The "European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership" programme addresses challenges in both the development and implementation of efficient water resources management. It supports the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to align their legislation with EU policy in the field of water management, with a main focus on the management of transboundary rivers. EUWI Plus supports the development and implementation of pilot river basin management plans, building on the improved policy framework and ensuring strong participation of local stakeholders. The project is implemented by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and an EU Consortium comprising the Austrian Environment Agency (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France). Regionally, the EU also supports other relevant programmes such as the EU4Energy and the Shared Environmental Information System for Eastern Partnership countries. Soon, two new programmes will be launched: EU4Climate and EU4Environment.



The project is funded by the European Union





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Implementing partners: The project is funded by the European Union and is implemented by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and an EU Consortium comprising the Austrian Environment Agency (Austria) and the International Office for Water (France).

For more information on the project, please visit the website: www.euwipluseast.eu

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More information is available at <http://mnp.am/am/post/3514>

EUWIPlus Project website: <http://www.euwipluseast.eu/>

