

The objective of the EUWI+ East project is to improve the management of water resources in the Eastern countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. The specific objective is to achieve convergence of national policies and strategies with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Azerbaijan and the EU are planning to sign a new agreement on bilateral cooperation that envisages the approximation of Azerbaijan's legislation and procedures to relevant international and EU trade norms and standards.



The development of River Basin Management Plans in the Kura upstream of Mingachevir Dam is moving forward: several reports prepared by contractors are currently being finalised. This work is summed up in the thematic overview presenting the first step of the River Basin Management Plan's preparation, called the basin characterisation.

A public consultation on this important document will take place in the second half of 2019

This letter features the progress made recently and describes main activities planned for 2019.

**ALL NEWS:** <https://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/countries/azerbaijan-country>

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

EUWI+ aims to foster progress in three result areas:

- 1- Reform the legal and regulatory framework for water in convergence with the Water Framework Directive
- 2- Establish, develop and implement 10 river basin management plans (RBMP) in the Eastern Partnership countries, including provision of equipment and services, to monitor water resources status
- 3- Ensure active participation of key water stakeholders.

National work programmes are being delivered based on key principles of the EU Water Framework Directive, including regular reviews of progress in the frame of National Policy Dialogue meetings in the six beneficiary countries of the Eastern partnership.

## LATEST NEWS FROM AZERBAIJAN



### First Stakeholder consultation on RBMP for the Kura River

31 Jan. 2019

On 31 January 2019, the EUWI+ project gathered experts and water stakeholders to seek their views on the future of Kura River waters. The results of this dialogue will be taken into account for the next steps to develop the River Basin Management Plan.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

### Groundwater Field Survey in the Upper Kura pilot basin

31 Oct - 5 Nov 2018

The first Groundwater Field Survey, aimed at checking the quantity and quality of newly delineated groundwater bodies in the Kura upstream of the Mingachevir Reservoir Dam, was launched on 31 October 2018 with the participation of a hydrogeology expert from the National Geological Exploration Service, EUWI+ project staff, and a UBA groundwater expert. The team visited the field and conducted an assessment of groundwater wells at pre-selected sampling locations of groundwater aquifers. Groundwater samples were collected, preserved and delivered to the Ministry's Environmental Laboratory for further analysis of specific chemical substances.



### "Save Water" public awareness campaign launched in Azerbaijan 30 Aug. 2018

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), with the support of EUWI+, held a press conference on 30 August 2018 to launch a public awareness campaign on climate change and the consequences for water resources. A video "We Save Water!" prepared by the EUWI+ was presented on this occasion.

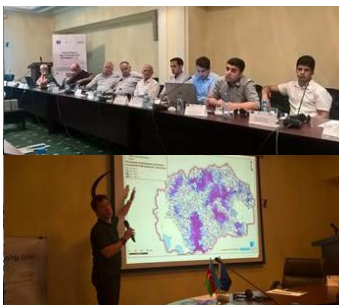
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### National Policy Dialogue 04 Jul. 2018

The 7th NPD Steering Committee meeting was conducted in Azerbaijan on 4 July 2018. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the key issues in the development of the national water policy and the status of ongoing activities within the EUWI+ project in Azerbaijan. The meeting also served as a platform for strengthening synergies with other international projects implemented in Azerbaijan. The main emphasis was placed on the implementation of a work plan, including priority activities in Azerbaijan for the coming years of project implementation.

[ALL DOCUMENTS](#)



### Training workshop: practical introduction to River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) to develop the Kura upstream from the Mingachevir Dam 03 Jul. 2018.

The main objectives of the workshop "What is a River Basin Management Plan?" were to provide a better understanding of the main principles and objectives of RBM planning, and discuss key issues and practical approaches to river basin characterisation of the upstream Kura pilot basin. The workshop also aimed to ensure coordination between various actors of RBMP development.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES IN AZERBAIJAN

### Support for national level policy reforms

- With the support of EUWI+, the draft Water Strategy is currently being revised by the MENR and other stakeholder organisations. The document is expected to be adopted in 2019.
- In parallel, work on revising the framework for environmental flow regulation and water allocation planning is ongoing, led by the MENR.
- The National Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring departments have merged to form the National Hydrometeorological Service within the MENR.



### Implementation of river basin management (RBMP) principles

- The following reports prepared by contractors are being finalised: 1) characterisation of the Kura upstream of the Mingachevir Dam pilot river basin and a Pressure and Impact report 2) Draft Surface Water Body Delineation and Groundwater Body Delineation reports
- Following the establishment of the Kura River delta as the Azerbaijan pilot area for transitional and coastal waters, a new short service contract was prepared to provide a pressure and impact analysis of the transitional and coastal water bodies in the Kura River delta including the eastern part of the Kura-Aras river basin in Azerbaijan.
- Development of pilot national data management tools continued and a tender was launched for server acquisition.
- A technical workshop entitled "Characterisation and Pressure-Impact Analysis for RBM Planning" was held on 25-26 October 2018 in Baku. It aimed to check the results of the first phase of RBMP development in the Kura upstream of the Mingachevir Dam pilot basin, to introduce pressure-impact analysis methodology and techniques, and prepare the next steps of the contracts, including basin consultations programmed for the next quarter.
- A working meeting on the finalisation of the groundwater body delineation and characterisation as well as on the planning of further groundwater-related work in EUWI+ was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 26 March 2019. The delineation and characterisation were finalised and approved. The National Geological Exploration Service together with the EUWI+ International Thematic Leader for groundwater



monitoring and the EUWI+ country representative decided that a large number of boreholes and springs would be assessed to decide which equipment to purchase and which sites to rehabilitate. This analysis will serve as a knowledge base to fill gaps in the monitoring network's required coverage of groundwater bodies.

### Capacity development for water analysis and natural resources monitoring

- A workshop on "Delineation of Transitional and Coastal Water Bodies" was held in Azerbaijan on 4 and 5 April 2018. It aimed at harmonising and improving knowledge for delineation of transitional and coastal water bodies in relation to the delineation of surface water bodies.
- [MORE INFORMATION](#)
- On 29 October 2018, UBA conducted a training session on groundwater sampling and monitoring for the representatives of beneficiary organisations in Azerbaijan. Following the training session, a groundwater field survey was conducted by the beneficiaries and with participation from UBA to fill data gaps in the Upper Kura basin.
  - Technical support focused on assisting with the preparation of all necessary documentation towards the application for accreditation of the partner laboratory in Azerbaijan.



### Communication activities and stakeholder involvement

- A local Hydrometeorological consulting company led by Professor Farda İmanov was hired in Azerbaijan to support the implementation of the communication strategy related to participative RBM Planning.
- A new communication strategy for participative RBM Planning and adapted tools were developed in Azerbaijan (e.g. cartoons about public participation and RBPM).



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

### Regional activities

- Representatives of Azerbaijan attended the second Regional Steering Committee Meeting which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia on 15 November 2018. The meeting was held back-to-back with the ENI SEIS II East Regional Steering Committee Meeting. The European Commission, six EaP country senior delegations, all implementing partners, and ENI SEIS II representatives attended the meeting. The EU Delegation to Georgia and the French and Austrian Embassies were also present to open the meeting.



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- On 19 March 2019, a training course was held by UBA in Tbilisi for experts from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. The workshop on "data processing and analysis" is a pre-requisite for the definition of reference conditions and class boundary settings in ecological classification methods.

## COMING SOON IN AZERBAIJAN WITHIN EUWI +



### Support for national policy reforms

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is planned in June-July 2019.



### Implementation of river basin management (RBM) principles and capacity development for water analysis

- Preparatory work began ahead of the purchase of new furniture and a heating system scheduled for the first quarter of 2019 to create a better environment for operating new equipment in MENR's main laboratory in Baku and in two regional laboratories in Gazakh and Beylagan. The laboratory's opening in Azerbaijan is planned for the third quarter of 2019.
- A gas chromatograph, an atomic absorption spectrometer and a micro-water digestion system will be procured for the Ministry's laboratory. Preparations are underway for the procurement of further equipment for monitoring and for the laboratory.
- Boreholes and springs will be analysed in detail to decide on where and what to procure in order to fill knowledge gaps in the Azerbaijan's groundwater monitoring network in the Upper Kura pilot basin.

- A study to assess the current status of the hydrological monitoring network will be conducted. This study will be the basis for deciding which equipment to procure and which hydrological monitoring stations to rehabilitate.
- A quantitative study will be conducted on water resources in the Upper Kura basin as a basis for water allocation planning in the Lower Kura.
- The tender to assess pressure and impacts in the Kura delta area is being finalised. Results are expected by the end of the first semester.



### Stakeholder involvement

- The tender for “Communication Assistance to Support Implementation of the Action Plan for Participative RBM Planning” has been launched.
- Activities are planned in Azerbaijan for Europe Day on 21-22 May 2019: Open Space in Kura/Mingachevir basin area. EUWI+ will run a stand, lead practical sessions for schoolchildren on water quality and pollution prevention (21 May), and give lectures and more practical sessions for schoolchildren and students (22 May).
- World Environment Day will be celebrated on 5 June, and World Clean-up Day on 21 September!

## LEARN MORE ABOUT EUWI+

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