



# EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EUWI+)



Armenian Newsletter Feb. 2019

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). Armenia signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreement with the European Union in November 2017 and it was ratified by the National Assembly in April 2018. This is now a major driver for the national legal frame adaptation and for all the activities under EUWI+.



The development of River Basin Management Plans in Sevan and Hrazdan basins has achieved so far the initial characterisation, identification of pressures and impacts on water resources, surface and groundwater bodies delineation and status assessment, the registration of protected areas and the analysis of the monitoring system to supporting RBMP further implementation.

This letter features the progress made in 2018 and describes some activities planned for 2019.

**ALL ARMENIAN NEWS:** <http://www.euwipluseast.eu> > Partner countries > Armenia

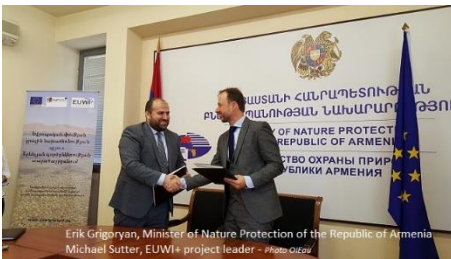
## OVERVIEW OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

EUWI+ activities progress in 3 results:

- 1- Reform the water law in convergence with the Water Framework Directive
- 2- Establish, develop, implement 10 river basin management plans in the Eastern countries
- 3- Ensure an active participation of the key water stakeholders.

By the end of 2018, National work programmes are being delivered in all 6 countries towards key WFD principles including water ecosystems and management, cost recovery and public participation. Six National Policy Dialogue have been established in the 6 countries.

## LATEST NEWS FROM ARMENIA



### Water cooperation agreement on equipment procurement

18 Oct. 2018

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 the frame of the European Union Water Initiative Plus project, a framework agreement on procurement of supply, works and services was signed in October 2018 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 summer 2019.

[READ MORE](#)



### National Policy Dialogue

19 Oct. 2018.

The Steering Committee meeting of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) was held on 19 October 2018 in Yerevan and aimed to provide updates on the status of development of road map for implementation of 5 water Directives in Armenia under the CEPA Agreement. The participants have discussed on progress of EUWI+ implementation. ...

[READ MORE](#)



### Protocol on Water and Health

22 Dec. 2018

EUWI+ programme, through a team of experts, continues the support to the WRMA and the Water Committee with the process of 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.



### Training workshop on quantitative pressures and impacts of human activities 11 – 13 Sept. 2018.

Training workshop on quantitative pressures and impacts of human activities on water resources gathered 27 participants from the Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA) and its Basin Management Organisations, Water Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, and water users associations (WUAs) from Sevan, Hrazdan and Akhuryan River basin districts, Hydrometeorological Service, Environment Monitoring and Information Center (EMIC) and USAID ASPIRED and Pure Water programs.

## PROGRESS ACTIVITIES IN ARMENIA (LAST QUARTER 2018)

### Support to national level policy reforms

- The report on reforming “harmful” subsidies in the irrigation sector of Armenia, aimed at strengthening water use efficiency and looking into different models and economic instruments, with a final objective to pave the way towards sustainable water use in irrigation, was finalized taking into consideration the comments received by beneficiary organizations.
- Support to the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and other beneficiary organisations in developing a roadmap for implementation of the requirements of 5 EU Water Directives according to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreement (signed on 24 November 2017) was provided by the EUWI+ programme.



### Implementation of river basin management principles.

- The following draft technical reports were prepared by the local contractors for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, as part of development of RBMPs: First Technical Report (Characterization); Second Technical Report (Significant pressures and possible impacts on water status), and Third Technical Report (Protected areas, climate change, and status of water bodies). Within on-going parallel contracts, Groundwater identification, delineation and assessment works in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs was successfully completed, and draft final report on Delineation of Surface Water Bodies in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs was prepared.
- As part of continued support to the process of improvement of water resources monitoring the co-financing by the EUWI+ project of relocation of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre into new premises was agreed. Also, the works of the local contractors for “Assessment of Priority Needs for Irrigation Flow Monitoring in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs” and “Detailed Assessment of priority needs for improvement of hydrological monitoring in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs” were successfully completed.



### Cross-cutting activities and capacity building

- Training workshops : 1) on Quantitative pressures and impacts assessment for 29 participants, 2) Water quality (ISO 6468:1996 standards) attended by two representatives from the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, 3) on the existing ICP-MS at the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre according to the WFD relevant test method EN ISO 17294-2, 4) on water bodies status and risk Assessment for 35 attendees .
- Official signing ceremony of the Cooperation Agreement between the Water Resources Management Agency of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency.



### Communication activities

- Draft technical summaries for Sevan & Hrazdan RBMP Part 1 will be available in EN and AM in Feb 2019
- Permanent support of website – preparation of news and translations on current events, workshops.
- Communication Assistance to support Implementation of the action plan for participative River Basin Planning in Armenia



### Regional activities

The second Regional Steering Committee Meeting 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, 6 EaP country senior delegations, all implementing partners and ENI SEIS II representatives all attended the meeting. The EU Delegation to Georgia and the French and Austrian Embassies also attended to open the meeting.

[READ MORE](#)

## COMING SOON IN ARMENIA



### Cross cutting activities

- Launching of tender for renovation of the new premises of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (Feb./March 2019)
- Launching of tender for procurement of the equipment for irrigation flow monitoring in Hrazdan RBD (Feb./March 2019),
- Launching of tender for procurement of the equipment of hydrological monitoring in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs (March 2019),
- Finalization of mutually agreed technical specifications of the laboratory equipment for the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (Feb. 2019)
- Delivery of training on the new version of the international standard for testing laboratories EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for EMIC laboratory specialists (March 2019).



### Implementation of river basin management principles

- Completion of water bodies delineation and monitoring studies in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs (Feb. 2019)
- Design documentation and official cost estimate for rehabilitation of the priority groundwater monitoring points in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs (March 2019),
- Delivery of RBMP Part I for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs (March 2019),
- Launching of tender for the implementation of selected soft measures in Akhuryan RBD (Feb. 2019)
- Launching of tender for the development of RBMP Part 2 in Sevan & Hrazdan RBDs (Feb. 2019)



**Stakeholder involvement** - Public consultation meetings on work program and main issues in Sevan and Hrazdan river basin districts (12 March to 12 April 2019). All useful documents are available on the website, Give your feedback online.

[READ MORE](#)

## LEARN ABOUT EUWI+

<http://www.euwipluseast.eu/>

✉ [contact@euwipluseast.eu](mailto:contact@euwipluseast.eu)



<https://www.facebook.com/euwiplus>

## EUWI PARTNERS



UNEP



OECD  
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY AUSTRIA

umweltbundesamt<sup>U</sup>



International  
Office  
for Water

The project is funded by European Union



Action funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

Copyrights © 2019 EUWI+, all right reserved  
Legal notices