



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



Belarus Newsletter June 2019

The objective of the EUWI+ project is to improve the management of water resources in the Eastern Partnership countries of 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). The EUWI+ project was approved by the government of Belarus and registered by the Ministry of Economy on 26 September 2018.



The priority of the Republic of Belarus water strategy up to 2020 is to introduce water management at the river basin level and harmonise the country's water legislation with EU legislation. 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.

This newsletter features the progress made as of May 2019 and describes key activities planned for the next period.

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

PROJECT OVERVIEW

EUWI+ aims to foster progress in 3 result areas:

- 1- Improve legal and regulatory frameworks 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 resource 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 at National Policy Dialogue meetings held in five countries plus one Interagency Steering Committee in Belarus.

LATEST NEWS FROM BELARUS



Sub-regional workshop on Synergies and Joint Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, related EU Directives and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries, Geneva 2 April 2019

On 2 April 2019, the [sub-regional workshop](#) was held in Geneva within the framework of the EUWI+ project and with financial support from the European Union. The workshop addressed synergies in implementing and reporting on water, sanitation and health under the international and regional frameworks. It was also an occasion to share experiences on good practices and challenges relevant to EaP countries. The event brought together representatives from all 6 EUWI+ target countries, ministries of environment and health, and other relevant agencies responsible for implementation and reporting under the different frameworks, including EUWI+ national focal points. The representative of Belarus shared updates on the revision of national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health in the country, supported by EUWI+.

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International water conference held at Minskvodokanal 13-14 February 2019

The OECD, in cooperation with the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, organised and facilitated an EUWI+ side-event on water supply in small towns and rural settlements.



National Interagency Steering Committee 05 December 2018

The inaugural meeting of the [National Interagency Steering Committee](#) took place in Minsk in support of a national dialogue on water sector policy. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus. Discussions on long-term priorities for the water sector focused on the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans, particularly in the context of finalising National Water Strategy development until 2030. Attendees also discussed the results of the following OECD-led studies: Express assessment of water resources, and Systems in the Kopyl rayon of Minsk oblast.

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PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES IN BELARUS

Support for national policy reforms

- A workshop was held on 6 December 2018 in Minsk to launch the process of revising national targets under the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health, to be supported by EUWI+. The workshop was attended by 24 participants representing all key ministries and entities responsible for water and health issues, including the academic and non-governmental sectors. The activity is planned to be finalised by the end of 2019.
- In November 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus established a national Interagency Steering Committee to supervise the implementation of EUWI+ in Belarus. The Committee is headed by Mr Andrei Khmel, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The adopted regulation document on the work of the Interagency Steering Committee could act as a basis to organise the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management.



Implementation of river basin management principles

- On 25-26 October 2018, the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine was held in Gomel City. The second meeting of the Dnieper Basin Council was held as part of the Forum. In the frame of EUWI+, the Dnieper River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) has been refined to match WFD requirements more closely. The final refined River Basin Management Plan for the Dnieper was adopted by the basin council on 25 October 2018. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus submitted the Dnieper RBMP to Oblast (Mogilev, Gomel, Vitebsk, Minsk) and Minsk City Executive Committees on 13 March 2019 for final consideration and approval. [The RBMP reports are available on the EUWI+ website \(All reports>Belarus\).](#)
- In December 2018, the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources won the tender to develop the Pripyat RBMP. Belarusian experts are working with the support of the EUWI+ expert team. The kick-off meeting was held on 14 and 15 March 2019 in Minsk.
- Following the constituent meeting of the Pripyat Basin Council held on 29 June 2018, the first reports for the Pripyat river basin were completed in late 2018: 1) final draft report on surface water body delineation; 2) final report on groundwater body delineation and design of monitoring network; 3) draft report with the analytical results of the groundwater and surface water surveys.
- As a result, local groundwater experts guided by EUWI+ experts delineated groundwater bodies (such as the new groundwater management units) and prepared the implementation of selected measures for groundwater monitoring in the Pripyat River Basin. On 9 April 2019, EUWI+ opened the following tenders for development of a groundwater monitoring design for groundwater body BYPRGW0001 in the Pripyat River Basin in Belarus: Transboundary coordination of aquifers and groundwater bodies along the country border with Ukraine in the Pripyat River Basin; Assessment of the pollution situation in the area of Petrikov and the southeast of the Pripyat River Basin.
- On 30 November 2018, the second meeting of the Western Bug Basin Council was held in Kobryn city with support of the EUWI+ team. The council adopted the River Basin management



Plan (RBMP) for the Western Bug and recommended that the plan should be submitted to the Brest Oblast Executive Committee for approval.

Capacity development for water analysis and natural resources monitoring



- A regional workshop on economic analysis, which is a Water Framework Directive requirement in River Basin Management Plans, was held on 27-28 March 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine, for experts from Belarus, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. Around 40 participants attended the workshop, designed to support beneficiary teams and local consultants working on economic analysis of the two main steps in river basin management plan, i.e. to describe the economic importance of water uses, and to draft a financially balanced programme of measures to improve water resources. Experts from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine shared their experiences along with EUWI+ experts.

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- On 21-22 March 2019, a regional workshop on data processing and analysis for hydro-biology was held in Kyiv, Ukraine. The event gathered Belarusian, Ukrainian and Moldovan hydro-biologists responsible for biological monitoring, data analyses and assessment of the ecological status of surface waters. The regional workshop aims to help participants understand and master the steps from data collection to Ecological Status Classification System (ESCS) development.

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Regional Workshop on economic analysis related to River Basin Management Plan development

- On March 2019 in the framework of the EUWI+ project, an agreement was signed on internet-server procurement using EU funds to promote the improvement of data management on water resources. This equipment will be used to develop and improve data management on water resources at national level, taking into account the SEIS principles for data collection and exchange. It is expected that a new internet-server will start working in Belarus by the end of 2019.

- On 11-12 December 2018, two Belarusian experts from the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of the Water Resources shared their experiences at the EUWI+ “RBMP: delineation and characterisation” workshop in Kyiv. This workshop was dedicated to Ukrainian participants. The results of groundwater and surface water delineation in the Pripjat Basin were presented and some transboundary aspects were discussed.



Regional workshop on data processing and analysis for hydro-biologists, Kyiv, Ukraine

- In November 2018, four Belarussian organisations (Hydromet, Central Research Institute for Complex Use of the Water Resources, Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the field of environmental protection, and the Scientific and Production Centre for Geology) signed a framework agreement with the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) regarding the supply of laboratory equipment to Belarus.

- In November 2018, two representatives from the Republican Centre of Analytical Control in the field of environmental protection attended a training course on laboratory sessions organised in Vienna by the Environment Agency Austria (UBA).

- On 2 and 4 October 2018, the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) conducted training on groundwater sampling and monitoring and a course on bottom sediment sampling and monitoring for the representatives of beneficiary organisations in Belarus. Following the training sessions, groundwater and surface water field surveys were conducted to cover data gaps in the Pripjat basin.

Communication activities

- Meetings were held with water stakeholders regarding their participation in the implementation tasks of the EUWI+ project.
- Information support was provided to raise awareness of the EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plan, significant management issues, etc. through the project’s communication channels, with the production of information material (factsheet, infographics, video).



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Regional activities

- The second EUWI+ 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, senior delegations from six EaP countries, all implementing partners, and ENI SEIS II representatives attended the meeting. The EU Delegation in Georgia and the French and Austrian embassies also attended to open the event.

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COMING SOON IN BELARUS WITHIN EUWI+



Cross-cutting activities

- Implementation of a server to organise data sharing in Belarus.
- Participation of Belarusian beneficiaries in the 17th "EUROPE-INBO" International Conference, in Lahti, FINLAND, 17-20 June 2019.
- Purchase of laboratory equipment (chromatograph). Request for tenders closed.
- The next meeting of the National Interagency Steering Committee is tentatively planned for October-November 2019.



Implementation of river basin management principles

- Continuous support for Belarusian experts working on Pripyat RBMP development will be provided by the EUWI+ expert team to prepare for the basin council, which would be held at the end of 2019.
- Specific assessments will be carried out in order to improve groundwater knowledge in the Dnieper and Pripyat river basins.
- Other specific implementation activities will be developed in the Dnieper and Pripyat river basins.



Stakeholder involvement and communication

- The 15th Republican Ecological Forum will be held in Novogrudok on 7-8 June 2019. EUWI+ will support and participate in the session "Efficient use and protection of water resources".
- To prepare the Pripyat RBMP, a public consultation will be organised in summer 2019.
- World Environment Day in Belarus on 6 June 2019!
- Europe Day in Belarus on 9 June 2019!
- Dnieper Day will be held on 7 July 2019.

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EUWI PARTNERS

The project is funded by the European Union



Action funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

Implemented by



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