



## European Union and Belarus step up cooperation on water policy

The European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries project (EUWI+) addresses existing challenges in both development and implementation of efficient management of water resources. It specifically supports the EaP countries to move towards the approximation to EU acquis in the field of water management in light of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) principles.

On 5 December 2018, the inaugural meeting of the National Interagency Steering Committee of the European Union Water Initiative plus (EUWI+) took place in Minsk, Belarus in support of a national dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and opened by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Andrei Khmel.



Participants discussed the role of the EUWI+ for implementing the national water sector policy, enhancing transboundary cooperation, advancing river basin management planning and for further developing laboratories and ground and surface water monitoring in Belarus to comply with requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and to support Integrated Water Resources Management.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection presented the draft [National water strategy until 2030](#) which aims at sustainable management and preservation of water resources in view of climate change and which will contribute to the implementation of related Sustainable Development Goal:

The discussions on the long-term priorities for the water sector also focused on the development and implementation of the River Basin Management Plans and transboundary cooperation.



Following presentations of the workshop can be found on [our website](#):

Session 1:

1. Contribution of the EUWI+ to the implementation of the national policy in the water sector
2. National reporting on the SDG indicators 6.3-6.5 - Representatives of CRICUWR and OECD
3. Implementation of the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health



Session 2:

1. River Basin Management
2. Dniepr River Basin Management Plan
3. Development of priority parts of the international Neman river basin plan (stage 2)

Session 3:

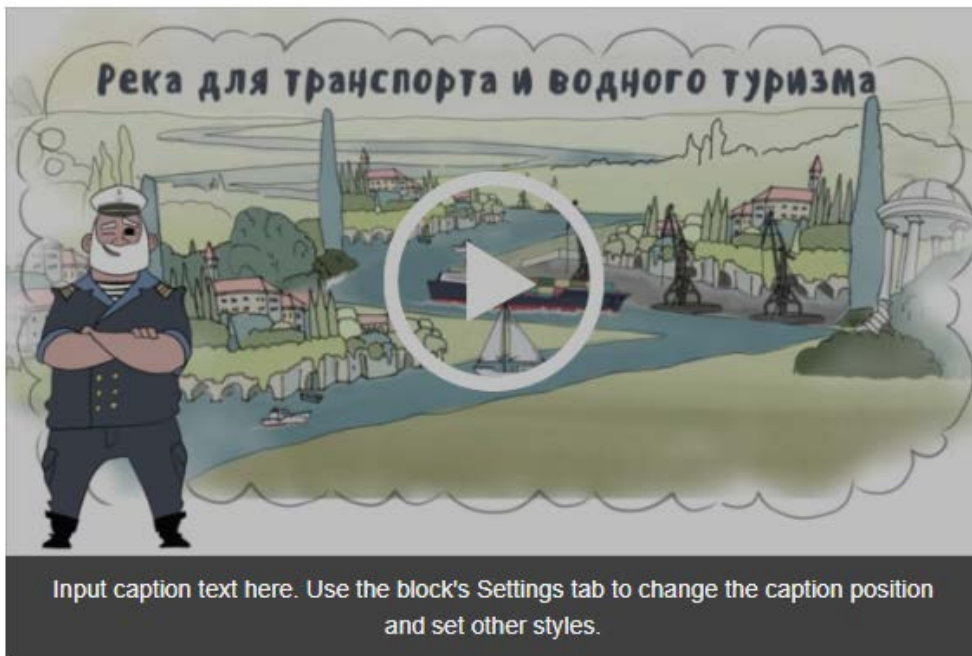
1. Pilot activities in the Kopylsky district at local level

Session 4:

1. Laboratories and monitoring system development

**Meeting participants:**

1. Recognized the progress in implementing the EUWI+ programme.
2. Welcomed the initiation of the revision of targets under the Protocol on Water and Health.
3. Identified the need to continue to work on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft national water strategy.
4. Agreed that by 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 a list of proposed additional pilot projects to be sent to the EUWI+ team by the MNREP.
5. Pursued the work on harmonization and approval of national methodologies on the SDG indicator 6.3-6.5
6. Invited the UNECE to consider the organization of a workshop on the SDG 6.5.2 Indicator jointly with neighbouring countries or to invite the experts from the Republic of Belarus to take part in regional or global workshops on reporting methodology for this indicator.
7. Provided recommendations (a list of priority measures with implementation dates) on the development of drinking water supply systems in the Kopyl district.



*We thank you for your interest in our EUWI+ Newsletter. In accordance with the new European General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR 2016/679) which came into effect on May 25 2018, the lawfulness of data processing is based on your consent. Data will be processed only for the purpose of sending out newsletters by e-mail. The newsletters might be sent by a service provider. For this purpose, your data will be forwarded to a company operating this service. There is no data transfer to a third party. The data you have provided will be stored until further notice.*

*At any time you have the right to access, object, rectify or delete your personal data. You can exercise this right by contacting IOWater via the contact form or by e-mail to :*

- the person in charge of processing your personal data at the following address : [e.nanova@oieau.fr](mailto:e.nanova@oieau.fr)*
- our designated Data Protection Officer at the following address: [dpo@oieau.fr](mailto:dpo@oieau.fr).*

*This information was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the EUWI+ project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

[https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus\\_ru](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus_ru)



Implementing partners



DISCLAIMER : The views expressed in this website do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission



*Copyright © 2018 EUWI+, All rights reserved.*

For more information please visit the project website:

<http://www.euwipluseast.eu>

Project representative in Belarus is

Mr. Alexandr Stankevich: [aps\\_stankevich@mail.ru](mailto:aps_stankevich@mail.ru)