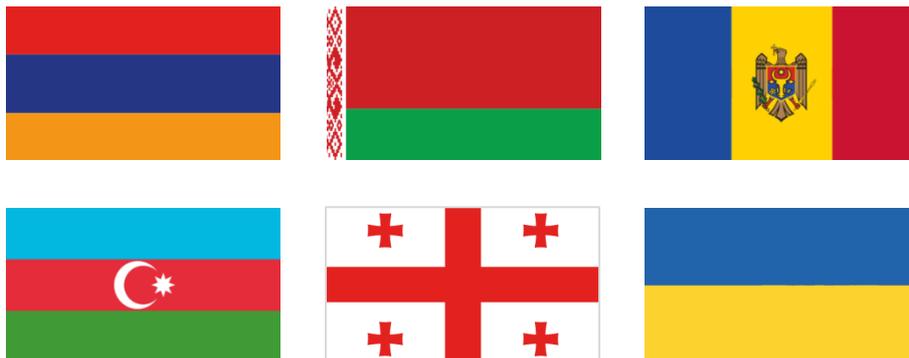


European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries (EUWI+)

QUARTERLY INFORMATION UPDATE No # 9

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1 PROJECT BRIEF

The European Union Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a policy initiative launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009. It aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

In recent years, the countries of the Eastern Partnership have demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), as well as other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moreover, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have made commitments to reform their water policies and implement the EU water acquis as part of Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014.

It is in this context that the European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) for Eastern Partnership Countries was initiated by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission.

The European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) was launched in September 2016 to assist the 6 Eastern Partner countries to approximate their legislation to the EU Water Framework Directive and its associated directives. Its objective is to improve the sustainable management of water resources with a focus on trans-boundary river basin management.

EUWI+ focuses on five thematic areas:

1. Legislation, policy development and institutional strengthening
2. Laboratory and monitoring systems strengthening
3. River Basin Management Plan development
4. River Basin Management Plan implementation
5. Public awareness, communication, and data/information management

The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under thematic area 1. Thematic areas 2–5 are implemented by an EU Member States Consortium comprised of the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau/IOWater) of France. Experts from other EU Member States will also be involved in activities of the project.

The budget for these thematic areas for all 6 countries amounts to Euro 24.6 million in total, which is financed by the European Union (Euro 23.5 million grant) with contributions from the Governments of Austria and France. Its planned period of implementation is from September 2016 until August 2020 (48 months).

The project has developed a website (<http://euwipluseast.eu/en/>) to publish and disseminate all data, information and services developed and used in the frame of this project.

2 GENERAL OVERVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The ninth quarterly information update on the implementation of the EUWI+ covers the reporting period from January 2019 to the end of March 2019.

Quarterly updates provide key information on the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme. The updates are published on the EUWI+ website. Both country-specific (Part 2) and regional (Part 3) developments are reflected.

2.2 Programme Architecture

The overall objective of the Action is to improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary rivers, in the EaP countries.

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 programme architecture is briefly presented below:

Result area:	Outputs
Result 1: Legal and regulatory frameworks improved in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs	Output 1.1: National, transboundary and regional mechanisms in place to support planning, approval and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs
	Output 1.2: Technical capacity is built within national and/or river basin authorities for the development of policies, strategies and budgetary frameworks in line with the WFD, IWRM and MEAs
Result 2: River Basin Management Plans designed and implemented in line with the WFD principles	Output 2.1: Adequate infrastructure is available for sound monitoring of water quality and quantity in pilot areas in line with the WFD
	Output 2.2: Capacity is developed and strengthened on chemical, hydro-morphological, ecological and biological monitoring of selected river basins in accordance with the WFD
	Output 2.3: Pilot river basin management plans implemented and new plans elaborated
Result 3: Lessons learnt regularly collected, shared and communicated to stakeholders	Output 3.1: Coordination, awareness and visibility of the project are ensured

The programme contributes to the 20 Deliverables for 2020 for the Eastern Partnership countries agreed between the European Union and the six Eastern Partnership countries. The EUWI+ contributes significantly to the overall aim to achieve tangible results for citizens in particular in the area of supporting Stronger Connectivity, Deliverable 16 “Support the environment and adaptation to climate change”.

2.3 Current Project Status and Progress

The project started in late 2016. The first Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Brussels on 15-16 May 2017) endorsed the inception report, including country specific work programmes for Armenia (AM), Azerbaijan (AZ), Belarus (BY), Georgia (GE), the Republic of Moldova (MD) and Ukraine (UA). The second Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Tbilisi on 14-15 November 2018) reported progress against the work programmes.

During quarter 1 of 2019, focus was put on:

- Finalisation of drafting legislative acts, by-laws and implementing baseline studies
- Continuation of work on water sector strategies and improvement of economic instruments
- Continuation of work on river basin management plan development and implementation in target basins, including the finalisation of surface water and groundwater body delineation
- Finalisation of tender documentation and launch of the international tender procedure for large laboratory equipment for all 6 partnership countries
- Harmonisation of tender documents with beneficiaries for direct award procedure
- Start of detailed planning for improving the groundwater monitoring networks in order for them to cover the newly delineated groundwater bodies
- Public Consultations on draft River Basin Management Plans
- Selection and planning of specific implementation activities to support improvement in priority issues in the partner countries
- Continuation of training activities for laboratories, surface and groundwater monitoring and surveys
- Continuation of technical support for laboratory accreditation; development of quality management system documentation for non-accredited partner laboratories and transposition plan for accredited partner laboratories
- Continuous improvement of visibility and communication products
- Review of progress in the implementation of the EUWI+ in 2018 and planning and co-ordination of envisaged activities for 2019 with the six Eastern Partnership countries

Interim progress at the end of March 2019 against key indicators from the project log frame is presented below:

Result Area	Indicator	Target for 2020	Current Status
Whole of Project	Reform of institutional and legal frameworks	6 countries developed and adopted a shared water management framework based on WFD principles	National work programmes are being delivered in all 6 countries towards key WFD principles including water ecosystems and management, cost recovery and public participation Completion rate: 60%

Result Area	Indicator	Target for 2020	Current Status
Result 1	Effective regulatory and governance arrangements are in place	6 NPDs established, delivering evidence-based policy decisions	5 of 6 NPDs established 1 Interagency Steering Committee for the EUWI+ to support an NPD on IWRM in Belarus established. Completion rate: 90%
	Institutional and regulatory frameworks strengthened in line with WFD, IWRM and MEAs	Minimum of 5 policy packages developed and submitted for consideration to NPD Steering Committees	6 submitted, minimum of 6 under development including work on strategy development and legal frameworks Completion rate: 80%
Result 2	Number of RBMPs designed and share of national territory covered	13 RBMPs and 22% covered	3 RBMP refined and adopted (Akhuryan in AM, Dnieper in BY and Danube Prut and Black sea cycle in MD) 8 RBMPs preparation on-going. Resulting in a total related coverage of 47% of the countries territory with WFD compliant RBMP. Completion rate: 50%
	Number of assessment reports for monitoring in line with WFD principles	6 new monitoring assessment reports	6 reports produced currently in proof reading phase Completion rate: 100%
	Number of laboratory assessment reports	6 laboratory assessment reports	6 reports currently in proof reading phase Completion rate: 100%

Result Area	Indicator	Target for 2020	Current Status
	Works carried out and supply (equipment) delivered for surface water, coastal and transitional water, and groundwater monitoring programmes upgrading	12 River Basin District water monitoring programmes (surface water, coastal and transitional water, and groundwater) upgraded within the scope of the EUWI+; Realisation of upgrading investments totalling Euros 2 mio (in total costs together with laboratory investments)	International tender published Start with direct award procedure Completion rate 25%
	Works carried out and supply (equipment) delivered to priority laboratories	Min. 6 priority laboratories upgraded within EUWI+; Realisation of upgrading investments totalling Euros 2 mio (in total costs together with monitoring investments)	
Result 3	Communication strategy in place at basin, national and regional scale	Annually updated communication strategy developed	Communication strategy and action plan developed for whole of project. First annual review completed. 3/6 countries specific strategies for participative RBM planning completed. Communication package, web site and newsletters developed. Completion rate: 70%
Capacity Development	The water sector is equipped with the necessary human and technical capacity	Human capacity strengthened in 6 countries through training programmes	6 country chapters on needs assessment for capacity and development completed. Regional work programme prepared. Training events underway across Result 1, 2 and 3. Completion rate: 70%

3 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Part 2 provides further details on the activities in each country.

3.1 Armenia

3.1.1 Country Status

Armenia signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU in November 2017 and it was ratified by the National Assembly in April 2018. This is now a major driver of activities under the EUWI+, which is supporting the development and finalisation of a road map for approximation towards the 5 EU water related directives covered by the CEPA. A final draft of the roadmap has been submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia to initiate its adoption. Development of robust River Basin Management Plans is a key part of this approximation and work progresses well in terms of characterisation of the key basins of Sevan and Hrazdan, surface and groundwater identification, delineation and status assessment, and enhancement of monitoring capabilities critical to supporting RBMP implementation.

3.1.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- Support to the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and other beneficiary organisations in finalising a roadmap with respect to five water-related EU directives for implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was provided by the EUWI+ programme. During the reporting period, the road map was finalised in Armenian and English languages and submitted to the Water Resources Management Agency (WRMA) for initiation of the process of official adoption.
- The EUWI+ programme continued the support to the WRMA and the Water Committee with the process of the revision of targets under the UNECE/WHO Europe Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of selected measures from the Action Plan on ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation in Armenia. On 19 February 2019, a National Stakeholder Consultation meeting on the Protocol on Water and Health and equitable access to water supply and sanitation was held, after which the works on the above-mentioned support were successfully concluded. Information on the event is available under <https://www.unece.org/env/water/npd/countrydialogues/am.html> and the EUWI+ website. The revised targets under the Protocol were submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection, to initiate their adoption and recommendations to address legislative barriers on equitable access to water supply and sanitation were finalised based on the comments received during the National Stakeholder Consultation meeting.
- During the reporting period, regular consultations on the development of national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders in particular as regards the amendment of the Water Code, the Law on Water Policy and the National Water Programme to align them with the requirements set out in the 5 EU Water Directives and according to the CEPA roadmap.

Implementation of river basin management principles

- To support the process of development of RBMPs for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, during the reporting period, a Plansthe works on Surface water bodies identification and delineation in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs were successfully completed by the local contractors and adopted by UBA.
- Under the global coordination of OIEau, the specific elements from the surface water and groundwater bodies (delineation, description and typology, initial status assessment, risk analysis and monitoring systems - including related maps, tables and metadata) have been incorporated by the consultants in charge of developing the RBMPs into the draft RBMPs Part 1 for Sevan & for Hrazdan. Eventually the RBMPs were corrected by the consultants ahead of submission to the authorities.
- The finalised reports for the draft RBMP's Part 1 were translated from English into Armenian language and submitted to the beneficiary organisations for approval at the end of March.
- To support the follow-up of RBMP development works in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs, during the reporting period, TORs for RBMP part 2 (Risk assessment and environmental objectives; Economic analysis of water use; Programme of measures to achieve environmental objectives and related costs; Public participation and consultation) were agreed with the Ministry of Nature Protection and the tenders for selecting local contractors were successfully conducted.
- As part of implementation of soft measures in Akhuryan RBD, the TOR for a local contractor for "Application of Government of Armenia Resolutions On Criteria for Defining Territories of Zones for Water Ecosystem Sanitary Protection, Flow Formation, Groundwater Resources Protection, Water Protection, Ecotone and Inalienable Zones" and "On Approving the Method for Calculation of Environmental Flow" for Akhuryan RBD of Armenia and Subsequent Update of the RBMP" was agreed with the Ministry of Nature Protection and the tender was successfully conducted.
- The development of the groundwater monitoring network will be continued in order to adequately cover all newly delineated groundwater bodies. Several monitoring sites will be rehabilitated. In fall 2019, a second groundwater survey will be carried out. This survey will serve as the basis for WFD surveillance monitoring of groundwater. Isotope analysis may be done at some monitoring sites to support the conceptual understanding of the groundwater system.
- A methodology will be developed to assess the available groundwater resource in the Sevan and Hrazdan River Basin Districts. EMIC and UBA will develop guidelines to carry out this assessment, and to then mirror the methodology in the other River Basin Districts of Armenia. This assessment will be an important basis for the assessment of the quantitative status of groundwater. The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues, and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol.
- As part of continued support to the process of laboratory accreditation and co-financing (from the EUWI+) the relocation of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (EMIC) into new premises, on 21 March 2019, a tender for selection of a local contractor for internal renovation works was launched. The tender for purchase of Ultrasonic flow measurement equipment for the EMIC was launched on 29 March 2019. Also, during the reporting period technical specifications of the priority equipment needs for the EMIC laboratory were finalised.
- As part of the support to data management and sharing:
- Works on integration of common water user codes from the actual water use database (EMIC) into the water use permitting database (WRMA) was successfully completed.

- A virtual machine was made available on one of its servers by the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia: this allowed the transfer of some tools for data management previously working on the IOW server.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- On 5 March 2019, a training workshop on “General QM Principles and Requirements of EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 International Standard for Laboratory Accreditation” took place with participation of over 20 laboratory experts from EMIC.
- The first public consultation meetings on the main issues in Hrazdan and Sevan RBDs were organised on 19 March (Hrazdan city) and 21 March 2019 (Gavar city).
- From 12 March to 12 April 2019, EUWI+ organised the first public consultation on the main challenges of the Sevan and Hrazdan river basin district. During this consultation period several public hearings and consultation visits were held. Specially designed questionnaires were widely used and online surveys were conducted. In this way, various opinions and useful additional information will be collected for further stages of the RBMP development.
- The local contractor for “Communication Assistance to support the Implementation of the Action Plan for Participative RBM Planning in Armenia” (implemented by the “Country Water Partnership” NGO) has communicated the main issues in pilot river basins through social media, web pages, web-based and printed questionnaires, and related tools.
- Works, Services and Infrastructure for the refurbishment of EMIC’s new laboratory have been tendered and will be completed by the end of August 2019
- Information material to raise awareness were made available on the project website, including two factsheets on River basin management plans for the Sevan and for Hrazdan river basin districts and infographics on main issues for both river basin districts.
- The Armenian Newsletter was published on the project website and disseminated in February 2019.
- World water day was celebrated in Ashtarak community (Hrazdan river basin) on 22 March 2019 with schoolchildren.

3.1.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The last National Policy Dialogue Steering Committee meeting was held on 19 October 2018 in Yerevan, and was co-chaired by the Water Resources Management Agency and the Water Committee.
- During the meeting the status of development of a roadmap for implementation of the requirements of the 5 Water Directives according to the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement was presented, and the progress of the EUWI+ in Armenia was discussed with the beneficiary organisations.
- During the reporting period consultations on a date for the next NPD Steering Committee meeting took place.
- The next NPD meeting is tentatively planned for October 2019.

3.1.4 Recent developments

- On 1 March 2019, an official letter was received from the Water Committee of the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia. The letter nominated Mr. Kamo Sargsyan, Deputy Chairman of the Water Committee as the National Focal Point from the Water Committee for implementation of the EUWI+ programme in Armenia.

3.2 Azerbaijan

3.2.1 Country status

Azerbaijan and the EU are planning to sign the new agreement on bilateral cooperation which envisages the approximation of Azerbaijan's legislation and procedures to relevant international and trade norms and standards of the EU. Structural changes to improve the efficiency and performance of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) are ongoing. These include the merger of the National Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Departments to form the National Hydrometeorological Service within the MENR. Structural changes continue and proposals by the EUWI+ in relation to water sector reforms and application of the WFD and IWRM principles in Azerbaijan, including reforming the institutional setting towards RBMP development and implementation are under consideration by the MENR.

The draft Water Strategy is under revision to address the comments received from different Ministries and Agencies. The Ministry of Ecology is committed to align the document with the requirements of the EU Water Directives. A Stakeholder Communication Strategy and Action Plan is drafted and is pending adoption and a contract was signed in March with the Hydro-meteorological Consulting LLC to support communication in a pilot basin. Joint actions have been conducted with beneficiaries on water allocation planning, water saving and protection.

3.2.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- The overarching objective of the National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan is to articulate the main directions of national reforms in the water sector. With the support of the EUWI+, the draft strategy is currently under revision by MENR and other stakeholder organisations. The document is expected to be adopted in 2019. An action plan will be developed to support its implementation. The development and application of mechanisms for implementation of the EU WFD and the IWRM approach remain in the focus of the strategy. The document also considers a need for strengthening the institutional framework to support development and implementation of RBMPs. In a parallel, the work on revision of the framework for environmental flow regulation and water allocation planning was submitted to MENR for review and adoption.
- During the reporting period, regular consultations on the development of national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders. On 16 April, the European Commission (Mr Michael Rupp) and the EU Delegation to Baku (Ms Ulviya Abdullayeva) had a meeting with the Water strategy working group of the MENR of Azerbaijan (also including the EUWI+ Project Focal Point, the Head of Environmental Policy Department and the Head of International Department) to discuss the status of approval of the National water strategy. MENR is committed to finalise this process in Q2 in order to present the follow up steps at the next NPD meeting in Baku (tentatively scheduled for Q3).
- Support has been also provided to the development of the national report of Azerbaijan under the Protocol on Water and Health during the 4th reporting cycle.

Implementation of river basin management principles

- The Protected areas and Economic Assessment reports were prepared by the consultant and accepted by the RBMP Thematic Leader and the MENR representative.
- The Ground Water Delineation (GWD) reports adopted by Thematic Leaders, while those for Surface Water Delineation (SWD) will soon be finished and adopted.

- The preparatory work on purchase of new furniture and a heating system was conducted in the first quarter of 2019 ahead of procurement in the second quarter.
- Results of the Surface Water Field Survey (SWFS) were analysed and the report submitted to the project. The Groundwater Field Survey (GWFS) results are currently being analysed.
- All wells and springs which are already part of the national groundwater monitoring network, and existing additional wells and springs which could be integrated into the network, will be analysed in detail. Based on this analysis by a contractor, an investment decision will be taken to improve the network in order to adequately cover all newly delineated groundwater bodies. Required mobile monitoring equipment was identified and will be purchased.
- A study for a detailed quantitative assessment of water resources to support water allocation planning upstream and downstream of the Mingachevir dam is under preparation.
- A study to assess the current status of the hydrological monitoring network and to propose concrete steps for improvement is under preparation.
- The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues, and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol.
- As part of the support to data management and sharing, an agreement was signed by the MENR and EUWI+ on data management and a tender was launched for server acquisition.
- The tender to assess pressure and impact in the Kura delta including the eastern part of the Kura-Aras River Basin was finalised and the local contractor started its analysis. First draft reports were prepared and commented by UBA.
- The Institutional reforms on application of the basin approach is under consideration.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- The EUWI+ pilot basin stakeholder consultation meeting was organised on 31 January 2019 in Ganja city.
- Supply of heating and cooling systems and laboratory furniture for the involved three laboratories have been tendered and will be delivered at the end of May 2019.
- Joint actions were conducted with beneficiaries on water allocation planning, water saving and protection.
- Laboratory method training for the implementation of chemical analyses for selected priority substances according to ISO 10301 was conducted in Baku on 11-15 March 2019.
- The Stakeholder Communication Strategy and Action Plan were drafted and prepared for adoption in Azerbaijan. A tender on communication assistance to support the participative RBMP in Azerbaijan was completed and a contract was signed in March 2019 with the Hydrometeorological Consulting LLC to conduct communication activities in the pilot basin.
- A press release was published on the finalisation of the River basin characterisation for the upstream Kura pilot basin focusing on the 1st Stakeholder consultation on 31 January 2019.

3.2.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The next NPD Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for 12 July 2019.
- Preparations for a planned mission to Azerbaijan in Q2 in support of transboundary cooperation on the Kura were conducted.

3.2.4 Recent developments

- None reported for Q1 2019.

3.3 Belarus

3.3.1 Country status

While the Republic of Belarus has been participating actively in the Eastern Partnership since 2016, including under the EUWI+, it has no obligations to implement the provisions of the EU WFD and other EU Directives. At the same time, the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2020 determines as a priority the introduction of water management at river basin level and harmonisation of the water legislation of Belarus with the EU water 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 basins. These confirm the objectives of EUWI+ as corresponding to the interests of the Republic of Belarus, which contributes to the sustainability of the programme in Belarus. The EUWI+ programme was approved by the Government of Belarus and registered by the Ministry of Economy on 26 September 2018 (No. of registration 2/18/000928).

3.3.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- The main directions of national water reforms are determined in the Water Strategy of the Republic of Belarus till 2020. The EUWI+ supported the development of the draft Strategy of water management in the conditions of climate change till 2030. Several pilot studies have been implemented by the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (CRICUWR), with methodological guidance provided by the OECD, to facilitate the strategy implementation at both national and local levels, including the:
 - development of national indicators to monitor progress in implementation of SDG 6.3-6.5 as part of water security indicators – a national methodology was prepared and adopted by BelStat, the National Statistics Committee. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (Minprirody) is expected to adopt this document in the second quarter of 2019;
 - elaboration of recommendations for development of drinking water supply systems in the Kopyl rayon of Minsk oblast of Belarus. The draft report for the first phase was adopted by the Kopyl rayon executive Committee. The development of recommendations continues.
- The Minprirody of Belarus adopted a plan for development of technical legislative documents for 2019. This plan included the upgrading of national documents (technical code of sustainable practice) which regulates the development of RBMP. It is planned to prepare such a document in 2019 with support from EUWI+.
- During the reporting period, regular consultations on the development of national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders in particular as regards the revision of the national targets under the Protocol on Water and Health.

Implementation of river basin management principles

- During the reporting period, the final report on groundwater bodies delineation and design of the monitoring network in the Pripyat basin was completed and adopted by UBA.
- A coordination meeting took place to structure and plan the work on groundwater aspects in 2019 and beyond. The development of the groundwater monitoring network design will be continued in order to adequately cover the newly delineated groundwater bodies which are not yet covered by monitoring. It is aimed at coordinating the transboundary harmonisation of groundwater bodies with Ukraine and to perform targeted surveys in order to serve as the

basis for WFD surveillance monitoring of groundwater and support the risk assessment and the conceptual understanding of selected groundwater bodies.

- The final report on surface water bodies delineation in the Pripjat River Basin has also been completed and adopted.
- From 4 January 2019, the CRICUWR started the development of the RBMP of Pripjat with the support of an EUWI+ experts' team, according to a contract with IOW after a dedicated Tender.
- After the Dnieper Basin Council, the Central research institute for complex use of the water resources completed the final version of the RBMP of the Dnieper. The Minprirody submitted the Dnieper RBMP to the Executive Committees of Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel and Vitebsk oblasts for final approval. The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol. The Specific Implementation Activities (SIA) were discussed to choose the relevant ones among a proposal from Minprirody. The SIAs will be implemented in the Dnieper and Pripjat River Basins. They concern groundwater, sub-basin planning, and technical outputs for secondary legislation.
- As part of the support to data management and sharing, a letter of agreement was signed between the CRICUWR having a mandate by Minprirody, and IOW, for the acquisition of a web server aiming to facilitate water data integration/processing.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- On 13-14 February 2019, Minskvodokanal held an International water conference. On behalf of EUWI+, the OECD, in cooperation with the CRICUWR, organised and facilitated a EUWI+ side-event on water supply in small towns and rural settlements.
- Meetings were held with the ecological NGO from Minsk, Gomel and Mogilev regarding participation in the implementation of the EUWI+ pilot activities on restoration of the springs in Belarus.
- A factsheet was published on the Dnieper river basin on the project website.

3.3.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The Minprirody established the National Interagency Steering Committee in Belarus in November 2018 in accordance with the EUWI+ Description of Action. The Committee includes representatives of all ministries involved in the process of water resources management, including the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services. The regulation document on the work of the Interagency Steering Committee has been developed and approved. The Committee is headed by the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Mr. Andrei Khmel. The adopted regulation document on the work of the Committee can become a basic document for the organisation of the national water dialogue.
- During the reporting period consultations on a date for the next Interagency Steering Committee meeting of the EUWI+ were held.
- The first meeting of the Committee was held in December 2018 and the next meeting is planned for November or December 2019.

3.3.4 Recent developments

- In January 2019, Minprirody appointed a new Head of International cooperation department - Ms. Larisa Lukina and a new deputy head of the International cooperation department - Mr. Alexandr Shpakovskiy.
- In January 2019, Mr. Vladimir Korneev commenced the role of country coordinator for Result 1 of the EUWI+ programme in Belarus.

3.4 Georgia

3.4.1 Country status

Georgia signed the Association Agreement (AA) with the EU in 2014. By May 2015, it had prepared the roadmap and action plan for implementation of the environmental chapters of the AA. The needs assessment and identification of priorities aimed at ensuring that all relevant activities of the EUWI+ programme support the implementation of the action plan and achievement of other relevant country targets. These relate to legislative and economic issues, approximation of the EU Water Framework and other related Directives and the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in the selected pilot basins of the Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed River Basin Districts. Work is ongoing to build elements of the RBMP, including basin characterisation, groundwater and surface water delineation, defining monitoring and assessment needs for establishing ecological and chemical classification systems, economic evaluation and use of economic instruments for cost recovery of water.

3.4.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- The EUWI+ programme continued support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) in drafting a policy paper providing a vision for further policy developments in preparing the National Water Strategy of Georgia. The policy paper covers two main areas: 1) review and analysis of water policy currently undertaken by the Government of Georgia, and 2) identification of prerequisites for the water reform and key focus areas of the future national water strategy in Georgia. The draft policy paper was submitted to MEPA for review.
- To facilitate the process of adoption of the new law on “Water Resources Management” and to get a common understanding on expected reforms in the field of water resources management in Georgia, aiming at harmonisation with the EU Water Directives, a Consultation Workshop on the Draft Law on Water Resources Management was organised with the support of the EUWI+ programme (UNECE) on 10-11 February in Borjomi, Georgia. The event gathered parliamentarians and high-level representatives of the Government of Georgia. The Consultation Workshop was chaired by Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. In the opening session welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture, and Mr. Kakhaber Kuchava, Head of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia. The key decisions regarding the draft law on water resources management made during the consultation workshop were as follows:
 - To review the timing of entry into force of specific transitional regulations, taking into account real and existing capacity of relevant institutions;
 - To arrange additional consultations with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development;

- To clarify duties and functions of the national intergovernmental commission on water use and protection;
- To initiate a Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure for pilot RBM plans, including development of a relevant methodology;
- To strengthen laboratory capacity of the National Environmental Agency regarding new methodology and corresponding equipment.
- During the reporting period, regular consultations on the development of national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders in particular regarding the envisaged adoption of the draft law on water resources management and a Strategic Environmental Assessment for pilot river basin management plans.

Implementation of river basin management principles

- An EUWI+ Database Management Mission was conducted on 15-16 January 2019, focusing on finalisation of negotiations with the key beneficiary water data producers in the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), its line agencies (NEA, EIEC) and other partner institutions. On 15 January, the parties agreed on the details of the web-based water data platform proposed by EUWI+. The participants discussed terms and conditions of procurement, installation and maintenance of the data server and production of spatial API applications that will allow water data producers to automatically upload updated information to the Water Platform.
- The Basin Planning contractor, REC Caucasus, finalised drafting of the following Phase 1 deliverable reports both for the Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed RBMPs in English and Georgian: Description and Characterisation of River Basins; Mapping of Protected Areas; Pressures and Impacts of Human Activities on Water Resources; Thematic Summaries for the Phase 1. In addition, the contractor submitted first draft reports on the Economic Analysis both for the Alazani-Iori and Khrami-Debed Basins. The draft reports have been distributed to the relevant beneficiary institutions for their comments and proposals for amendment and addition.
- A working meeting on the finalisation of the groundwater body delineation and characterisation and on the planning of further groundwater-related work in EUWI+ was held in Tbilisi on 18-19 March 2019. The delineation and characterisation were finalised and approved. The NEA Geology Department together with the EUWI+ representatives decided that necessary mobile monitoring equipment will be purchased and that several monitoring stations will be equipped with fixed equipment. A large number of existing wells and springs will be analysed in detail for their suitability to become part of the national groundwater monitoring network. This analysis will serve as the knowledge base to fill gaps in the monitoring network's required coverage of the groundwater bodies.
- The SW Delineation contractor, GIS-Lab Ltd, received the necessary data from the RBMP contractor and will finalise the already drafted delineation and risk mapping tasks by May.
- The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- The first Basin Consultation and Stakeholders Communication Meeting was conducted for the Alazani-Iori Basin RBMP of Georgia. The meeting was organised in Kvareli Eden Hotel on 29 January 2019 and gathered about 40 participants, including the representatives of beneficiary institutions, regional and local authorities, NGOs, main contractors in GE for RBMP development and EUWI+ representatives. The main objective of the meeting was to give opportunity to the basin stakeholders and other project beneficiaries to critically assess

the progress of the river basin plan, identify consensus and the main challenges of the plan and to take into account the results of the discussion for the development of next steps of the planning documents, including to enrich the objectives, develop the Programme of Measures and the actions to achieve these measures.

- A workshop on Data Processing and Analysis for hydrobiological monitoring, data analyses and the assessment of the ecological status of surface waters, for the hydrobiologists and general physico-chemical monitoring specialists of the Caucasus sub-region was held in Tbilisi on 19 March 2019. The objective of the workshop was to provide guidance to understanding and mastering the steps from data collection to ESCS (Ecological Status Classification System) development. It aimed at enabling participants to calculate selected biological metrics and carry out basic statistical analyses, as well as to evaluate existing biological data from EPIRB and EUWI+ surveys and identify open issues and needs for further data calculations.
- The Stakeholders meeting and first Basin Consultation on RBMP development for the Khrami-Debed River Basin of Georgia was held on 21 March 2018 in the Hotel Deutsche Mühle in Bolnisi, Georgia. The meeting gathered 53 participants; including representatives of beneficiary institutions, regional and local authorities, NGOs, main contractors in GE for RBMP development and EUWI+ representatives. The main objective of the meeting was to i) present the objectives and activities of the RBMP development ii) present the initial results of the Khrami/Debed WB delineation and characterisation reports; iii) help defining the main issues with the contribution of stakeholders; iv) Initiate a group discussion and consultation of stakeholders in support of the development the next phase of RBMP elaboration for the basin.
- For World Water Day, an information campaign was launched to raise students and schoolchildren's awareness of water quality, sustainable development goals and the principle "Do not miss anybody". The campaign was held with an Open Space World Water Day for schoolchildren in Bolnisi, Khrami-Debed River Basin.
- The Factsheet, infographics and Technical summary on Khrami-Debed River Basin in Georgia, are available on the project website.

3.4.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The last Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia (6th Meeting) was held on 2 October 2018 in Tbilisi (45 participants (29 female, 16 male)).
- During the reporting period, consultations to support the adoption of the draft law on Water Resources Management and the negotiations on the Kura agreement with Azerbaijan were held, and consultations on a date for the next NPD Steering Committee meeting took place.
- The next Meeting of the Steering Committee of the NPD is planned for October 2019.

3.4.4 Recent developments

- The Project Management Team and Georgian beneficiaries (MEPA and NEA) finalised work on the EU tender procedures. With the assistance of the EUWI+ and the EU Delegation to Georgia, NEA received tax exemption from the Revenue Services of Georgia for "supplies and related services" within the framework of the EU Laboratory Tender.
- All necessary tender documentation, including technical specification, Letter of Notification to the potential Bidders and Procurement Contract was finalised and signed by NEA.

3.5 Republic of Moldova

3.5.1 Country status

The Republic of Moldova ratified an Association Agreement with the EU and is working towards adherence with its requirements. The Prime Minister recently described Moldova's challenges regarding insufficient water supply and sanitation and stated that at present, only 53% of Moldova's population is connected to a drinking water supply system, with only 23% having access to piped sewerage networks. The Prime Minister urged that a master plan for water supply and sewerage should be developed as a priority, including an inventory of all water and sanitation networks. In addition, it was announced that the Agency Apele Moldovei is to be reorganised, aiming at centralising services and developing tariffs that are affordable to citizens with the aim that these services will reach every village and person in the country.

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3.5.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- The new study on Economic Instruments for WRM in Moldova was launched. The EUWI+ team, including OECD staff and consultants, participated in a kick-off mission on 11-15 of March.
- The work on the development of the Medium-Term Action Plan (for the years 2019-2023) under the Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy is ongoing. The draft package¹ was revised and consulted with key stakeholders (such as MoFinance) before re-submission to the State Chancellery. The final version of the draft is expected to be completed in April 2019.
- The methodological support for the SDG 6.5.2 indicator reporting was finalised in February 2019 with the support of UNECE. The report will be officially available in the first half of 2019.
- During the reporting period, consultations on the development of the national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders, in particular regarding the planned revision of the National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health.
- Preparations for an expert meeting for the revision of the National Programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health, planned for early April 2019, took place during the reporting period.

Implementation of river basin management principles

- On 31 January 2019 in Chisinau, the Workshop 2 on “participative river basin planning for the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River District” was held in the Agency “Apele Moldovei”. The general objectives were to understand and master the next steps of River Basin Management Plan development and in particular, conclusion of the thematic summary on basin characterisation (cycle II). The meeting included a consultation for identification of the most significant water issues in the basin. The workshop was held with 27 participants (of which there were 8 female and 19 male participants).
- Support to the on-going contracts on the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River Basin Management Plan development (Surface and ground water delineation, characterisation and pressure impact analysis, economic analysis) was provided together with beneficiaries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional development and Environment and the involvement of

¹ Including draft Government Resolution on approving the new Action Plan and on adjusting the WSS Strategy, as well as the draft Action Plan and associated Explanatory Note.

all basin stakeholders. In particular on 14 February a webinar was held on drafting the economic analysis chapter linked to the Danube-Prut and Black Sea River Basin District characterisation. The capacity building of Moldovan experts was progressed through the participation of 3 experts to the regional training on economic analysis which took place on 27-28 March in Kiev.

- Cooperation with Romanian planners from the National Agency “Apele Romane”, working on the right bank of the Prut river basin, was continued including the participation of one Romanian expert working to the 31 January workshop.
- A working meeting with the Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources (AGMR) was held on 13 March 2019. The final work for concluding the GWB delineation contract was discussed, with acceptance by the beneficiary provided in written form. The final report will be submitted officially by EUWI+ to the AGRM. In 2019, the development of the groundwater monitoring network design will be continued in order to adequately cover those groundwater bodies which are not yet sufficiently covered by monitoring. Monitoring sites will be established and a groundwater survey is planned in order to serve as the basis for WFD surveillance monitoring of groundwater and support the risk and status assessment and the conceptual understanding of groundwater.
- The work programme for groundwater activities in 2019 was approved by the beneficiary.
- The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues, and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol.
- A meeting with the Agency “Apele Moldovei” (AAM) staff and RBMP contractor Oikumena was held on 26 March 2019. The main results were the conclusion and submission of the thematic summary by Oikumena to the AAM. Final work for terminating the SWB delineation contract on the Prut River Basin was discussed with a local contractor and beneficiary. Various Specific Implementation Activities (SIA) were discussed with the beneficiary. It was proposed to support sub-basin committees and to develop a WWTP master plan with the Nirnova project, with possible extension of this work to the Camenca and the Lapusna River Basins. The latter basins are tentative areas for first hydromorphological surveys.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- During the country mission from 4-7 March 2019, the EUWI+ team met with MARDE, Agency “Apele Moldovei” and Environmental Agency representatives to discuss Specific Implementation Activities (SIAs) and to prepare a draft ToR.
- The EU Delegation was updated on development and progress of the EUWI+ in Moldova and the beneficiary website was updated.
- On 14 March, the first workshop on emission modelling (MONERIS) with the Environmental Agency staff was held in Chisinau. Experts from the UBA/ICPDR working group presented the Moneris tool that can be used to calculate emissions. Information on the background of emission modelling, model types, as well as a short overview on different model applications were given. The use of emission modelling results in the management cycle was presented and discussed.
- On 14 March the EUWI+ expert on SW monitoring met with the Environment Agency Moldova laboratory representatives. Specific Implementation Activities (SIAs), equipment needs and the workplan for field surveys and trainings in the current year were discussed and agreed.
- An EUWI+ capacity development event (OECD led) on new norms for small-scale WSS systems and on sustainable business models for rural WSS was held in Chisinau on 14 March 2019.

- The Stakeholder Communication Strategy and Action Plan were drafted and prepared for adoption. A tender on communication assistance to support the participative RBMP in Moldova was launched.
- EUWI+ celebrated the World Water Day by organising a water conference in Chisinau, Moldova on 22 March 2019 under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Agency Apele Moldovei and the Environmental Agency.
- The draft newsletter for Moldova is in progress and will be published early in May 2019

3.5.3 National Policy Dialogue

- The last meeting of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management was organised in Chisinau on 15 June 2018. Key decisions were to continue EUWI+ support in the following fields:
 - Planning and Improving the Legal Framework;
 - River Basin Planning;
 - Protocol on Water and Health implementation in line with Sustainable Development Goals; and
 - Strengthening the capacities of laboratory development and monitoring.
- During the reporting period, consultations on the date for the next NPD Steering Committee meeting were held.
- The NPD Steering Committee, planned for Q1 2019, was postponed and is tentatively re-scheduled for 18 June 2019.

3.5.4 Recent developments

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment published on its website a Notice on the initiation of the draft Governmental Decision on the approval of the Framework Procedure for the organisation, function and awarding of delegation contracts for the management of the public service of water supply and sewerage.

3.6 Ukraine

3.6.1 Country status

In 2014, Ukraine started the approximation of national legislation with EU legislation. Six EU water directives need to be transposed into national water legislation. The requirements of the WFD were reflected in the updated Water Code of Ukraine in 2016. All necessary regulatory documents were developed for the preparation of River Basin Management Plans in Ukraine. The MENR and State Agency of Water Resources (SAWR) must develop 9 RBMPs by 2024 for the main river basin districts defined in the territory of Ukraine. The EUWI+ programme is supporting the request of MENR, the main beneficiary of the project, to develop the first steps of the RBMP for the Dnipro basin.

3.6.2 EUWI+ programme progress during the last quarter

Support to national level policy reforms

- On 7 February 2019, the Interdepartmental Working Group approved the final draft of the new National Targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and made a proposal to in-

clude them into the draft of the National Water Strategy as suggested by Deputy Minister Mr. Kuzio.

- Based on an official request from MENR in February 2019, since March 2019, the EUWI+ provides methodological and logistical support in developing the national Summary Report of Ukraine in line with the requirements of the Article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health. This reporting is an important part of Ukraine's international obligations to monitor the progress with achievement of the national targets. It consists of seven chapters with a range of data and analyses. The reporting should be done by 23 April 2019 in both Ukrainian and English languages, and will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health in Geneva and Bonn. The first draft was sent to the MENR and the MoH in the reporting period.
- During the reporting period, consultations on the development of national water policy were held with relevant national key-stakeholders.

3.6.3 Implementation of river basin management principles

- The Dnipro River Basin surface water and groundwater body delineation reports were adopted.
- The report about the description of the characteristics of the Dnipro River Basin has been disseminated to the main actors.
- In order to develop the Dnipro RBMP in Ukraine (phase 1, step 2), a number of open tenders were developed in the reporting period:
 - Analysis of pressures & impact, risk assessment, environmental objectives for surface water bodies;
 - Analysis of pressures & impact, risk assessment, environmental objectives, monitoring programme, and methodology for groundwater bodies; and
 - Identification of protected areas, proposal of related environmental objectives and methodology.
- Project experts and representatives were involved in the process of training the regional River Basin Management Authorities (BUVR) employees from all across Ukraine (100 participants).
- An UBA laboratory mission was held in Kyiv on 18-22 March to discuss quality management documentation for laboratory accreditation and renovation of the laboratory in Vyshgorod for installation of equipment that will be purchased with EU funding.
- The compilation of biological data from previous sampling campaigns and recent data from autumn 2018 continues, and will be considered for sampling site selection.
- A surface water survey is planned for June 2019, focusing on biological parameters but including general chemical parameters and a hydromorphological site protocol.

Cross-cutting activities and stakeholder involvement

- EUWI+ supports participation of Ukrainian experts in expert and task group meetings of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). This helps to contribute to capacity development of experts and to support Ukraine in meeting its obligations under the Danube Convention. Two national experts participated in the HYMO TG meeting 18-19 March in Vienna, Austria. One groundwater expert participated in the UCPDR meeting 20-21 March 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. Two national experts participated in the ICPDR Monitoring and Assessment Expert Group meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, 28-29 March 2019.
- On 13 March 2019, SAWR signed an agreement with IOW on purchasing of a Web Server for data management. It is expected that by the end of 2019, the new server will be installed.

- Open Space World Water Day 2019 for youth took place on 21 March 2019. The State Agency of Water Resources (SAWR), jointly with EUWI+, organised the Open Space World Water Day with youth on water quality issues all around the Dnipro River Basin. In the framework of the event, young people became acquainted with the latest findings on the quality of water in the Dnipro and had an opportunity to analyse samples of river and wastewater themselves using express water tests. The interactive sessions on phosphate-free detergents and their impact on water ecosystems, as well as on riverine plastic waste will allow youth to affect water quality by the choices made in their daily lives.
- EUWI+ experts held lectures on “The basis of economic analysis for the development of River Basin Management Plans” and “Information and data exchange” at the Qualification enhancement Centre for water institution employees. More than 100 representatives from the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine (SAWR) and River Basin Management Authorities came from different parts of Ukraine.
- EUWI+ laboratory experts met in March with partner laboratory representatives to jointly work on the implementation plan for the quality management system documentation following the international standard EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for laboratory accreditation.
- In March, EUWI+ experts visited the basin laboratory of the Interregional office of protective arrays of Dnipro reservoirs in Vyshgorod, the main partner laboratory for technical support under the EUWI+, to verify the progress of the refurbishment of the laboratory premises.
- Communication Work focussed on support of the “Dnipro unites” Facebook group and support in developing information and awareness materials (infographics, EUWI+ cartoons and RBMP).
- The newsletter is drafted and will be published during April 2019.

3.6.4 National Policy Dialogue

- The last meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IRWM was held on 28 November 2017. No meeting could be organised in 2018.
- During the reporting period, consultations on a date for the next NPD Steering Committee meeting were held.
- A date in September 2019 for the next Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue is under discussion.

3.6.5 Recent developments

- The Ministry of Ecology and Nature Resources presented a draft of the “Green paper of Strategy on Water Policy of Ukraine”.

4 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Part 4 summarises key regional activities completed in the first quarter of 2019.

4.1.1 Regional Steering Committee and project management

Discussions have started over the location and dates for the third regional steering committee meeting, notionally planned for November 2019. It was suggested to host the meeting in Paris and the OECD team is exploring opportunities to this end.

An EUWI+ management meeting was organised in Vienna between 5-7 February 2019. Organised by UBA, the meeting was structured around a series of workshops and was attended by all EUWI+ implementing partners and national coordinators, with the European Commission participating on the final day of the meeting. Key discussions focussed on communication, visibility and stakeholder participation, general programme management aspects, improving EUWI+ implementation and long-term sustainability, visibility and ownership of results. The work programme for 2019 was also discussed.

4.1.2 Regional training and development

- A tender was launched concerning the supply of 6 Chromatographs to EUWI+ Partner Countries. Delivery of the chromatographs is expected for late summer 2019. Multiple tender processes for further laboratory and monitoring equipment are under preparation.
- Two sub-regional workshops on “Data processing and analysis” were organised on 19 March in Tbilisi and 21-22 March in Kiev. The workshop objectives were to provide guidance to understanding and mastering of the steps from collected data on the ecological status classification system (ESCS) for hydrobiologists responsible for monitoring, data analysis and the assessment of the ecological status of surface water bodies.
- On 27-28 March a sub-regional workshop on “Economic Analysis related to the River Basin Management Plan Development” was held in Kiev. The main objectives were to master the steps to RBMP development and to clarify the objective and information that is needed related to the economic analysis, to complete the step of river basin characterisation and the development of a financially balanced program of measures (measure costs, identification of financial sources, and balancing the proposed program of measures). Representatives from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine participated.
- Preparations for a regional training workshop on “Water and Health - Synergies and joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, related EU directives and SDGs in the Eastern Partnership countries, planned for 2 April 2019 in Geneva were carried out.

4.1.3 Synergies with other projects/initiatives

Cooperation with GEF project “Dniester”

- Cooperation on sharing experience on the delination of Surface Water Bodies was continued between the projects experts and the Agency “Apele Moldovei”.

Cooperation with USAID ASPIRED Program in Armenia

- On 22 March 2019, the EUWI+ local representative in Armenia participated at the World Water Event, organised by the USAID ASPIRED program, where the interim results of the programme were presented and discussed.

Cooperation with the ENI SEIS II East project

- A coordination meeting with ENI SEIS II East project National Focal Point for Armenia and the National Project Representative for Armenia was held on 20 February 2019.
- Communication continued with ENI SEIS II in other countries at high level between the project managers and the Thematic Leader on data management from OIEau.

Cooperation with the ADA/SDC project – Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in the Republic of Moldova

- Country representatives participated in the World Water Forum on 22 of March 2019, with support from ADA & SDC project. A ToR and support to MARDE in the development of the Road Map for Nitrate Directive and Code of Good Agricultural Practices were discussed with the main beneficiary and ADA & SDC representatives.

Transboundary cooperation

- EUWI+ agreed to support the Joint Danube Survey (JDS-4), planned to be held in June and July 2019. A contract with the Environmental Agency of Moldova is under preparation at UBA and will be coordinated with the ICPDR Secretariat.

5 OVERVIEW OF KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Part 5 lists key activities and priorities planned for Quarter 2 and 3 2019.

Table 1: Key activities for Quarter 2 and 3 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with the local contractor for renovation of the new premises of the laboratory of the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre will be signed 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with the local contractor for implementation of soft measures in Akhuryan RBD will be signed 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBMP part 1 for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs will be finalised 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for Development of RBMPs for Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs (part 2) will be signed 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for purchase of Ultrasonic flow measurement equipment for EMIC will be signed 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with a local company for preparation of design documentation and official cost estimate for rehabilitation of hydrological monitoring posts in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs will be signed 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender for procurement of the laboratory equipment for the Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre will be organised 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design documentation and official cost estimate for rehabilitation of the priority groundwater monitoring points in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs will be prepared 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender for procurement of the equipment for irrigation flow monitoring in Hrazdan RBD will be conducted 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender for procurement of the equipment of hydrological monitoring in Sevan and Hrazdan RBDs will be conducted 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder and public consultations on Sevan and Hrazdan RBMP will be conducted 	12 March – 12 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the stakeholder and public consultation on Sevan and Hrazdan RBMP will be submitted for use in the next stage of RMP development 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with 2 national experts and 1 international expert on supporting the amendments to the Water Code, National Water Policy and National Water Programme, to incorporate recommendations of CEPA implementation road map, will be signed 	May 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising campaign on water quality and monitoring for schools will be conducted 	End May-June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second round of surface water survey (biological monitoring) 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication of RBMP strategy and action plan for Armenia will be drafted. 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QM mission to EMIC laboratory on technical support for laboratory accreditation including a half-day workshop on document control 	July 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method training on ions 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method training on ICP-MS follow up 	June 2019
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on QM principles and EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will be conducted in Baku 	2 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QM mission to MENR laboratory on technical support for laboratory accreditation 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical specifications of the laboratory equipment for MENR will be finalised and procurement commenced 	May-June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender on purchase of furniture and installation of heating system for laboratories of MENR in Baku, Beylagan and Gazakh will be conducted 	April-June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender on procurement of the web server to improve Hydrological and water quality data management will be finalised 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender on support of update of the water segment of MENR web site will be conducted 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing meetings on RBMP with stakeholders and representatives of population from Kura upstream of Mingachevir reservoir pilot region will be conducted 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the pressure impact assessment on Kura delta and Coastal Waters including the eastern part of the Kura-Aras River Basin will be submitted for use in planning of coastal water monitoring planning 	April-June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations on the Kura agreement in Baku 	14-15 May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the newsletter 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second round of surface water survey (biological monitoring) 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD Steering Committee Meeting 	12 July 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders on SIAs for developing groundwater monitoring capacities, transboundary harmonisation of groundwater bodies and performing surveys. 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next EUWI+ laboratory mission to RCAC Minsk for discussing status of transposition of existing quality management system to the new 2017 edition of the 17025 international standard, agreement on new equipment specific trainings and prioritisation of equipment for restricted tender procedure 	13-15 May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the 15th Republican Ecological Forum in cooperation with UNECE and IOW 	7-8 June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological SW survey 	14-23 June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender for communication assistance to support participative RBM planning in Belarus 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert workshop in Minsk on training materials re use of economic instruments for WRM 	September 2019 (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the newsletter 	May 2019
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop with stakeholders on Alazani-lori and Khrami-Debed pilot Basins 	January/ April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Coastal Survey in Ajara, Batumi 	May (3-4 days)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineation workshop of the Coastal and Transitional Water Bodies for the Chorokhi-Ajaristkali River Basin 	May (two days)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local public dialogue on the draft law of Georgia on “Water resources management” and draft RBMP of Alazani lori and Khrami-Debed Rivers with representatives of all the municipalities within two basins 	13 – 16 May
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication RBMP strategy and action plan for Georgia will be drafted 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second field survey for monitoring of surface waters (biological monitoring) in the Alazani-lori and Khrami-Debed river basins 	Late June
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the newsletter 	May 2019
Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third mission related to data management is planned for April. Main objectives are: Presentation of progress in terms of data management; Updating information on the need of data processing and data exchanges at the level of various local partners; Identification of actions to facilitate the subcontracting procedure regarding data management in the water sector. 	8-11 April 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation (April-September 2019) on the first thematic summary on RBMP will be organised with stakeholders. 	April-September 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender on improvement of the groundwater monitoring network. 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory mission to the Reference Laboratory of the Environment Agency Moldova on the status of accreditation and transposition of the existing quality management system to the new 2017 edition of the 17025 standard and prioritisation of equipment for restricted tender procedure. 	11-12 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Meeting on the revision of the national programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health 	10 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin committee meeting of the Danube Prut and Black Sea River district 	End of June close to Danube Day
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching of the contract on the second phase RBMP development (Objective per water body, Program of measures, financing, etc) 	May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting ToR on WSS master plan development on Nirnova (demonstrative measure implementation) 	Q2, 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching of the contract on for communication assistance to support participative RBM planning in Moldova 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water survey (biological monitoring) 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating Danube Day 	End of June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting of the JDS-4 event 	June -July 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Consultation meeting on the revised national programme and equitable access 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert meeting on the revision of the national programme to implement the Protocol on Water and Health 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD CC meeting 	18 June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert workshop on economic instruments for WRM 	Q3 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the newsletter 	April 2019
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off meetings of RBMP new tenders (protected areas, risks) 	April-May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders on: economic analysis part 1; review and revision of the monitoring programme, preparation of the field surveys 2019 	April 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One national expert will participate in the 25th Meeting of the Public Participation Expert Group of the ICPDR (Belgrade, Serbia) 	11-12 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures at the Training Centre of State Agency for Water Resources to describe the River Basin Management principles and development (pressures, stakeholders involvement, etc) 	April – June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to Lower Dnipro Basin Council 	16 May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological surface water Field survey 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next QM laboratory mission for technical support for laboratory accreditation incl. half-day workshop on risk identification & assessment 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICPDR Joint Danube Survey 4 	June-July 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dnipro Day public event 	7 July 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the newsletter 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of Ukraine in a technical workshop on development of a strategic water policy outlook, which will be held in Paris (OECD) 	8-9 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EUWI+ Participation in Dniester Sustainable Use and Protection Commission meeting in Kyiv 	April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support one national expert of ICPDR in participating “Pressure and impact” working group in Budapest Participation 	April 2019
Regional missions and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Water and Health - Synergies and joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, related EU Directives and SDGs in the Eastern Partnership countries 	2 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional training on economic analysis of water use as part of RBMP development will be organised Tbilisi, Georgia for the representatives of beneficiary organisations and local contractors 	11-12 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of two Ukrainian national experts (MENR and MOH) at a regional workshop on Water and Health: Synergies and Joint Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, Related EU Directives and SDGs in the Eastern Partnership Countries, organized under EUWI+ in Geneva 	March and April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional training on “Method validation, measurement uncertainty and metrological traceability in accordance with EN ISO 17025:2017” for laboratory representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine will be held in Kiev. 	9-10 April 2019

Country	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional training seminar in Tbilisi for implementation of ISO 17025:2017 standard for partner laboratories from Georgia, Belarus and Moldova in Tbilisi EUWI+ Participation in Dniester Sustainable Use and Protection Commission meeting in Kyiv 	21-22 May 2019 10 – 12 April 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional training of biologists in Kiev before starting 2019 field survey Support 	4 June 2019 21-22 May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of representatives from Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine in the INBO conference in Lahti (Finland) with support of EUWI+ 	17-20 June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation to the EU days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moldova Belarus, Azerbaijan 	11-12 and 18-19 May 9 June 2019 20-22 May 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Newsletter 	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication products (water cycle, infographics, cartoon and article with educational purpose on laboratories) 	June 2019

6 VISIBILITY

The main channels for project external communication and visibility - the EUWI+ website <http://www.euwipluseast.eu/en/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/euwiplus/> continue to be populated with information. The updated EUWI+ website was launched in February 2019. The main changes include: Dynamic pages for partner countries (information on all activities, access to main documents), Useful documents in Home, and an Awareness documents section and an All video section. Approximately 30 publications were uploaded to the site during the reporting period.

The EUWI+ social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) are live and have good attendance; [Facebook page EUWI+](#) (more than 300 members); [Facebook group "The Dnipro unites"](#) (about 500 members); [Facebook group Clean Rivers for a Healthy Future - Caucasus](#) (about 250 members).

The country newsletters are progressing: The Armenian newsletter is published and disseminated, other newsletters are in progress and will be published during the next quarter.

7 ANNEXES

Annex contains contact information of key people involved in EUWI+: national focal points, local representatives from each EaP country, and contacts from each of the implementing partners.

1.1 National Focal Points

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
Armenia	Mr. Edgar Pirumyan	Head of the Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Nature Protection	edgarpirumyan@gmail.com
	Mr. Kamo Sargsyan,	Deputy Chairman of the Water Committee, Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources	sargsyankamo@yahoo.com
Azerbaijan	Mr. Mutallim Abdulhasanov	Head of Division in Environmental Policy and Ecological Situation Analyses and Assessment Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	mabdulhasanov@gmail.com
	Mr. Rasim Sattarzadeh	Head of Environmental Policy and Ecological Situation Analyses and Assessment Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	rsattarzada@gmail.com
Belarus	Mr. Andrei Khmel	Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	minproos@mail.belpak.by
	Ms. Tatiana Slizh (Deputy NFP)	Head of Department of Use and Protection of Waters, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	tanya.sl@tut.by
Georgia	Ms. Nino Tandilashvili	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	nino.tandilashvili@mepa.gov.ge
	Ms. Mariam Makarova	Head of Water Division of the Department of Environment and Climate change, MEPA,	mariam.makarova@mepa.gov.ge
Republic of Moldova	Ms. Valentina Tapis	National Coordinator of the Project, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	valentina.tapis@madrm.gov.md

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
	Ms. Serafima Tronza	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 1)	serafima.tronza@madrm.gov.md
	Ms. Victoria Gratii	Senior Officer, Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (for Result 2 and 3)	victoria.gratii@madrm.gov.md
	Mr. Andrian Delinschi	Head of the Department of policies for integrated water resources management, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment	andriandelinschi@gmail.com
Ukraine	Mr. Mykola Kuzio	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	mykola.kuzio@menr.gov.ua
	Mr. Vladyslav Marushevskiy	Head of International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	marushevskiy@menr.gov.ua
	Mr. Volodymyr Bilokon	EIWI+ Project Coordinator, Reform Support Team, MENR	v.bilokon@gmail.com

1.2 Local project representatives

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Armenia	Mr. Vahagn Tonoyan	Local Project Representative for Results 1,2 and 3	vahagn.tonoyan@euwipluseast.eu
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Belarus	Mr. Alexandr Stankevich	Local Project Representative of Results 2 and 3	alexandr.stankevich@euwipluseast.eu
Georgia	Ms. Eliso Barnovi	Local Project Representative of Result 1	eliso.barnovi@euwipluseast.eu
Georgia	Mr. Zurab Jincharadze	Local Project Representative of Results 2, 3	zurab.jincharadze@euwipluseast.eu

Country	Name	Title	e-mail address
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Ukraine	Ms. Nataliia Zakorchevna	Local Project Representative of Result 1	nataliia.zakorchevna@euwipluseast.eu
	Ms. Oksana Konovalenko	Local Project Representative of Results 2 and 3	oksana.konovalenko@euwipluseast.eu

1.3 EUWI+ international implementing team

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OECD	Mr Matthew Griffiths	Programme Manager	matthew.griffiths@oecd.org
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	Mr Philipp Hohenblum	Thematic leader for laboratories AM, AZ and GE	philipp.hohenblum@umweltbundesamt.at

Organisation	Name	Title	e-mail address
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	Mr Andreas Scheidleder	Thematic leader for ground wa-ter monitoring	andreas.scheidleder@umweltbundesamt.at
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	Mr Philippe Seguin	Thematic leader for RBM Plan-ning	p.seguin@oieau.fr
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