



THE EUROPEAN UNION'S WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER – ARMENIA – APRIL 2020



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The European Union's Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) supports integrated management of water resources in the 6 Eastern Partnership Countries

3 MAIN RESULTS



Stronger water legal framework

at the national level through alignment with the European Union Water Framework Directive and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)



Improved water management capacities

at the river basin level through the development of a river basin management plan and an improved water monitoring system



Closer involvement

of stakeholders and the wider public for the future of their water resources

ORIGINS European Union Eastern Partnership Programme

€ 24.6 million

CO-FUNDING European Union (95%)
Austria, France (5%)

4 YEARS 2016 - 2020

4 PARTNERS OECD, UNECE, Environment Agency Austria, International Office for Water (France)

Progress on EUWI+ activities in Armenia

Armenia has moved a step closer to the European Union acquis in integrated water resources management. In the water domain, the CEPA between Armenia and the EU is designed to gradually align the Armenian legal framework in the water sector with the EU acquis. The EUWI+ is supporting the Ministry of Environment through a roadmap for the implementation of provisions under the 5 EU water-related directives in the CEPA. Roadmap implementation is now ongoing, with a comprehensive set of amendments to the Water Code recently submitted to government entities for official circulation. Armenia has also recently revised its national targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all citizens, and they have been submitted for adoption.

At basin scale, Armenia has improved its capacities to implement its national strategy by renovating its water monitoring network and laboratory facilities, and by organising numerous training courses to build the capacity of experts and personnel within EUWI+. This is coordinated with the development of the first River Basin Management Plan for Sevan and Hrazdan basins - a planning/ policy document that aims at structuring and improving the management of water resources at basin level in the long term. As a result, Armenia will be able to implement **concrete measures at local level** for more efficient water resources management in order to reach good water status.





Sharing best practices to conduct public consultations on river basin management plans in the Caucasus countries: sub-regional workshop

27-28 February 2020

This two-day workshop took place in the Georgian capital Tbilisi (26-27 February) in the framework of the EUWI+ project. It aimed at developing a set of guidelines for public consultations based on past experience in the participating countries and on best practices developed under the European Union Water Framework Directive.

[More on the EUWI+ website](#)



Renovated Environmental Laboratory in Armenia: the European Union provides laboratory equipment

31 January 2020

The Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre (EMIC) now conducts state-of-the-art water analysis, which will clearly advance the protection of water in Armenia. The EU Head of delegation to Armenia, the Minister of Environment of Armenia, and representatives from the Austrian and French Embassies, among others, attended the event.

[More on the EUWI+ website](#)



National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Armenia

15 October 2019

The 18th Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) steering committee took stock of major progress in the country's water resources management over a decade of EU Eastern Partnership. Improvements in legislation and river basin management planning were heralded as the main achievements of EUWI+. The importance of the cross-sectoral NPD process for developing integrated water resources management in Armenia was highlighted by Irina Ghaplanyan, Armenian Deputy Minister of Environment.

[More on the EUWI+ website](#)



Bilateral Meeting between Armenia and Georgia on Cooperation in the Khrami-Debed Basin

14 October 2019

The EUWI+ programme helped facilitate a bilateral meeting between water management experts from Armenia and Georgia to discuss cooperation on the shared Khrami-Debed river. Technical experts dealing with water quality monitoring agreed on the next steps to ensure close cooperation in saving the shared water resources.

[More on the EUWI+ FB page](#)



2019 Report on the first public consultation

First round of public consultations were carried out in the Sevan and Hrazdan river basin districts of Armenia, in the spring 2019. The report provides a brief overview of the consultation and feedbacks received.

[Report on the EUWI+ website](#)



World Water Monitoring Day in Armenia

18 September 2019

Last summer, around 350 schoolchildren from the Sevan and Hrazdan River Basin communities used special kits to carry out basic monitoring of local waterbodies. The activity followed a series of green events aimed at raising awareness on water protection. Organised by EUWI+ and its partner, Country Water Partnership Armenia (CWP), these activities empower young people to identify and solve water challenges by taking action in their own communities.

[More on the EUWI+ website](#)

Coming soon in Armenia within EUWI+



Regional activities

- A sub-regional workshop on groundwater status assessment in Tbilisi (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), was scheduled for 18-20 March, but had to be postponed due to the coronavirus
- A joint transboundary survey (surface water) of Armenia and Georgia probably in the spring
- A study tour was planned to Vienna for groundwater experts on the occasion of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) conference on 4-8 May 2020, but had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus. Meetings will instead be held online.
- Regional workshop on equitable and sustainable water allocation and environmental flows for countries in the Eastern Partnership, Balkans and EU members is postponed to autumn 2020



Improving water management capacities

- Series of groundwater and surface water surveys, workshops on surface water monitoring, and further improvement of monitoring networks possibly in the spring
- Online training courses on groundwater status assessment to replace the postponed sub-regional workshop in Tbilisi, and online participation in the EGU's replacement offer for the cancelled conference
- Work by Armenian consultants is ongoing to finalise part 2 (economic analysis and programme of measures) of the river basin management plans for the Sevan and Hrazdan pilot basins.



Fostering involvement

- Public consultations on the second part of the RBMP: online public consultations and series of meetings with stakeholders
- A final EUWI+ event will most probably be held in the autumn, back to back with the NPD, in order to celebrate the main achievements of the project in Armenia.

Learn more about EUWI+

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

✉ contact@euwipluseast.eu



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