



Kyiv, 25 February 2021

New pollutants identified in the Dnipro basin The European Union promotes better water quality in Ukraine

In the Dnipro river basin, the biggest in Ukraine, pollutants such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals and heavy metals were found in concentrations that most of the time exceed European Union standards. These are the results that were presented on 25 February jointly by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine. Thanks to the pollutant screening carried out for the first time in the Dnipro river basin as part of the European Union Water Initiative Plus project (EUWI+) (more than 67 000 substances were screened), Ukraine has new precise field and laboratory data on the state of the Dnipro waters. This new data enables decision-makers to implement targeted measures in order to increase the protection of people's health and the environment in Ukraine.

Minister Abramovskiy said: *"The pollutants screening conducted in the Dnipro river basin is one more modern instrument, thanks to which we obtained new data about the state of our waters. The detected substances will be included in the on-going monitoring of surface waters. This will help identify the sources of pollution and prevent such pollution in the future"*

"Water is crucial for climate regulation, ecosystems functioning and human health. Our economic development is highly dependent upon water. Therefore, water policies are among the main building blocks of the European Green Deal. Ukraine has committed to implement six EU Directives in the water sector. Although national water legislation has improved over the last years, its implementation remains challenging. The European Union will continue supporting Ukraine and other Eastern Partnership countries in carrying out the water sector reform agenda for the benefit of people and the environment." - **Chloe Allio**, Head of Section "Economic cooperation, energy, infrastructure and environment" of the EU Delegation to Ukraine noted.

The Dnipro river basin covers half of Ukraine and is home to more than 20 million people. The river system provides the population with drinking water and recreation areas, allowing the local economy to thrive. However, it is also subject to significant pollution. In October 2020, at the request of the Ukrainian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the State Agency of Water Resources, the EUWI+ project started the first comprehensive pollutant screening. 27 Water samples and 5 fish samples were taken at diverse sites in the Dnipro basin, from the border with Belarus down to the Black Sea, to investigate the presence of pollutants.

The report is available here: [report](#) and [annexes](#)

Based on these analyses, the State Agency of Water Resources has been given a list of 21 specific river-basin substances to include in its surveillance monitoring programme as of 2021. In the future, these substances shall be monitored in particular by the Laboratory for the Northern Region in Vyzhgorod. EUWI+ is currently equipping this laboratory with new analytical instruments and relevant training compliant with EU standards. Similar screenings were conducted in the Dniester and Don river basins in 2018 and 2019 by other projects. The pollutants found in high concentrations were pesticides, pharmaceuticals and heavy metals. Chemical analysis of samples taken in the three river basins was performed by the Environmental Institute (Slovak Republic), which specialises in this area within the EU, particularly in the Danube river basin.



For additional information please contact EUWI+ project representative in Ukraine Oksana Konovalenko at oksana.konovalenko@euwipluseast.eu or mobile +38 096 449 34 59.

THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Address:
101 Volodymyrska Street,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: +38 044 39 08 010
Fax: +38 044 39 08 015

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.



Background information: Launched in September 2016, the [European Union Water Initiative plus for the Eastern Partnership](#) (EUWI+) supports the six Eastern Partnership countries to align their legislation with European Union policy on water management, with a focus on transboundary rivers. **In Ukraine, the project supports** the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the State Agency of Water Resources in the development of its water policies and river basin management. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EUR 23.5 million) and by Austria and France (EUR 1.0 million). It is implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and a consortium of EU member states, comprising the Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water (France).



THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Address:
101 Volodymyrska Street,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: +38 044 39 08 010
Fax: +38 044 39 08 015

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.