

EU WATER INITIATIVE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES

Ms. Ana Drapa
Romania



Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

1. NPDs: Rationale and background

- National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM and WSS are the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) in EECCA.
- WG for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is chaired by Romania
- UNECE is key strategic partner on IWRM, transboundary waters => **NPDs are part of the Water Convention programme of work**
- OECD is key strategic partner on water supply and sanitation and the economic and financial dimensions of water resources management



2. NPDs: a policy process

- NPDs are a platform for the policy discussions and preparation and implementation of national policy documents – “policy packages”
- NPD are led by a senior official
- High-level officials representing different sectors comprise NPD Steering Committee
- Stakeholders include governmental entities, NGOs, science, private sector
- Donors and international organisations take part in the SC meetings
- The dialogue is supported by robust analytical work



3. Major issues addressed by the NPDs IWRM

- **Strengthening water legislation** (EU WFD and other directives, Water Convention) (AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA, TJ, TM).
- **Issues of drinking water quality** (UNECE – WHO Protocol on Water and Health) (MD, UA, AM, GE). Synergies on WSS with OECD!
- **Transboundary water cooperation** (UNECE Water Convention) (AZ, GE, MD, UA, TJ)
- **Adaptation to climate change** (MD, UA).
- **Economic and financial dimension of WRM** (the use of economic instruments – AM, AZ, GE, KG, and business models for water users associations - UA)



4. NPDs on WSS

- OECD has worked on WSS in EECCA since 2002 (AM, GE, MD, UA, KG)
- Dialogues aim at
 - Injecting financial realism in water strategies and investment plans
 - Revising water pricing policies
 - Designing institutions which favour sound water policies
 - Overcoming fragmentation of water systems
 - Business models for rural sanitation
 - Adapting water services and infrastructures to climate change



5. Selected achievements in 2010-2012:

- 2010: NPDs on IWRM started in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan
- 2012: NPD process started in Kazakhstan
- National water strategies based on IWRM under development in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan
- Target setting on water and health completed in Kyrgyzstan
- Accession to Water Convention in Turkmenistan, following the recommendations by NPD expert group
- A reform of tariff policies in Armenia
- An Action and Investment plan for water supply and sanitation in Moldova
- A roadmap to set up regional water utilities in Ukraine



6. Future activities

Convention's work programme 2013-2015 (programme area 2: NPDs on IWRM)

- Continuation of ongoing NPDs on IWRM
- Funding: long term stable funding by the EC; additional support by bilateral donors is important as in the past

Indicative work plan for 2012-2013 (adopted by 16 EUWI EECCA WG, July 2012)

- Stronger synergies with EU projects in the region
- Focus on adaptation of water resources to climate change
- Greater visibility for NPDs and sharing lessons learned
- Stronger stakeholder involvement

