National Policy Dialogues under the EU Water Initiative

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National Policy Dialogues (NPD)

- 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 the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests
- 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
NPD – a policy process

• NPDs are a platform for the policy discussions and preparation and implementation of national policy documents (e.g. Governmental and Ministerial Orders) – “policy packages”
• NPD are led by a senior official, usually the Deputy - Minister for Environment/Water Resources
• High-level officials representing different sectors of economy (water, agriculture, industry, other) comprise NPD Steering Committee
• Stakeholders include governmental entities, NGOs, science, private sector entities
• Donors and international organisations take part in the SCs meetings
• The dialogue is supported by robust analytical work
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).
Major issues addressed by the NPDs IWRM

• The OECD has initiated work on the economic and financial dimension of WRM in selected EECCA countries
  – The use of economic instruments for water resources management (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan)
  – business models for water users associations or for river basin management agencies (Ukraine).
NPDs on WSS in EECCA

• OECD has worked on WSS in EECCA since 2002 (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan)

• 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
Selected achievements

- National water strategies based on IWRM under development in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan
- Analyses on target setting on water and health completed in two basins in Kyrgyzstan
- National legislation analyzed and accession to Water Convention recommended in Turkmenistan
- 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
Plans for the future

- Continuation of ongoing NPDs
- NPDs in Kazakhstan and Russia start in 2012
- Stronger coordination of Central Asian NPDs, also through EU-CA platform
- Stronger synergies with EU projects in the region and other initiatives
- Greater visibility for NPDs and sharing lessons learned
- Funding: European Commission (3.2 mln for 2012-early 2016), Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, OSCE/ENVSEC