

# European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

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



# Background on NPDs

- National Policy Dialogues (NPDs): active in the Region since 2006
- Currently in 10 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine
- Funding from: European Commission, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Switzerland
- Jointly implemented by: UNECE (IWRM) and OECD (WSS)
- Chaired by: Romania
- Included in Water Convention Work Programme 2013-2015

# Main developments since 8<sup>th</sup> IWRM Working Group meeting in Sep 2013 (1)

- Number of policy packages developed:
  - drafted Water Law to be passed to Georgian parliament
  - drafted Water Code to be passed to Turkmen parliament
  - implementation of Water Sector Reform Strategy in Tajikistan started (institutional changes)
  - National Water Strategy of Azerbaijan further developed
  - input provided to State Programme for Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan
  - strengthening the use of economic instruments for water management at national level (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) and at transboundary level (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
  - support to work on water and health (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan)

# Main developments since 8<sup>th</sup> IWRM Working Group meeting in Sep 2013 (2)

- Visibility towards partners and stakeholders:
  - EUWI seminar at the World Water Week (Stockholm, September 2013)
  - 17th and 18th meetings of the EUWI Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) Working Group (Helsinki, October 2013 and Geneva, June 2014)
  - Plenary presentation at 3rd Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health (Oslo, November 2013)
  - Presentations at GIZ seminars on basin planning in Central Asia (Bishkek, December 2013 and Almaty, May 2014)
- 10 high-level Steering Committee meetings organised in 7 countries
- national workshops and stakeholder meetings

# Main developments since 8<sup>th</sup> IWRM Working Group meeting in Sep 2013 (3)

- Increased visibility:
  - Publication “Water Policy Reforms in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Achievements of the European Union Water Initiative since 2006” (April 2014)
  - Report “Integrated Water Resources Management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Progress report 2013” (May 2014)
  - NPD policy brief published for Georgia (December 2013)
  - NPD Newsletter issued (January 2014)
- Updated websites [www.unece.org/env/water/NPD](http://www.unece.org/env/water/NPD) and [www.oecd.org/water](http://www.oecd.org/water)
- Communication strategy (September 2013)

# Main developments since 8<sup>th</sup> IWRM Working Group meeting in Sep 2013 (4)

- Donor coordination:
  - Donor coordination meetings organised during 17th and 18th meetings of the EUWI EECCA Working Group
  - Donor coordination events attended (on green economy in Kazakhstan, on Central Asia)
  - Donor coordination sessions organised at every national-level Steering Committee meeting (attended by UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, OECD, EU, Finland, SDC/Switzerland, GIZ/Germany, USAID, etc)

# Emerging topics

- water - energy - food security nexus
  - achieving policy coherence and cooperation
  - reforming tariffs and harmful subsidies
  - Discussing results at NPD Steering Committees (such as Alazani pilot assessment between Azerbaijan and Georgia)
- water and green growth
  - robust river basin management plans (ongoing work in Chu basin)
  - management of transboundary rivers
  - issues of affordability and distribution
- water diplomacy
  - transboundary cooperation (Pyanj basin Afghanistan/Tajikistan, Chu-Talas basins Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan)
  - reforming tariffs and harmful subsidies

# Contacts of implementing agencies

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