European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

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Progress and activities in 2016, (a)

LEGISLATION:
* 2 new water sector by-laws drafted in Georgia (on water quality ecological standards and on water protection zones), in addition to 2 bylaws drafted in 2015
* Water Code of Turkmenistan currently debated at Parliament
* Irrigation sector strategy finalised in Tajikistan

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION:
* Active bilateral cooperation between Kazakh and Russian experts to develop a joint strategy (on transboundary Ural river) and a joint Protocol (on transboundary Kigac river, tributary to Volga)
Progress and activities in 2016, (b)

WATER-FOOD-ENERGY NEXUS:

- Economic assessment of multi-purpose water infrastructure at Shardara (Kazakhstan) to support economic development and water, food and energy security
- Development of national definitions and indicators of water, food and energy security in Kyrgyzstan

WATER AND HEALTH:

- National water & health targets updated in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- National programme to implement water & health targets in Moldova
- New water & health targets drafted in Georgia
- Water & health targets being drafted in Kazakhstan
ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:

* Development of recommendations on a sustainable business model for water supply and sanitation in small towns of Kazakhstan

* Activities to strengthen the use of economic instruments for water law at:
  - national level (in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan)
  - subnational level (Republic of Buryatiya, Lake Baikal Basin, the Russian Federation)
  - transboundary level (in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)
Lessons learned and recommendations to others

- Political leadership (provided by the EU and by Romania as Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group)
- Ownership at national level, commitment of national actors
- Responding to countries’ needs and being flexible (in case of changes in governments)
- Long-term perspective (also helped by 3 or 4 year grants of donors)
- Coordination with development partners to ensure the sustainability of results
- Coordination with different EU mechanisms (EU-Central Asia Strategy, EU Water Diplomacy Initiative, Association Agreements with Eastern Neighbourhood countries, etc.)
Planned future activities in this area in 2016-2018

* Differentiation of focus:
  - **Central Asia**: water diplomacy, water-food-energy security and nexus, green economy
  - **Eastern Europe/Caucasus**: harmonization with EU water legislation, basin planning, capacity building
  - more exchange between Central Asia and Eastern Europe/Caucasus