EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE PLUS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE
7TH OF APRIL 2017, YEREVAN
Overall project aim, to support the six EaP countries to approximate to EU water *acquis*

**RESULT 1**
- National Policy Dialogue
- Legislative and regulatory reform
- Capacity Building

**RESULT 2**
- River Basin Management Planning
- Data management
- Monitoring & laboratories

**RESULT 3**
- Stakeholders involvement
- Communication

**Project structure and administration**
- National Policy Dialogue (and its Working Groups)
- National Executive Strategic Board
- Regional Project Steering Committee
- Local Representatives
Inception Phase (ongoing)

- gathering of background information (Sep-Oct 2016)
- kick off meeting (13 December 2016)
- follow-up discussions and meetings with partners to clarify potential priorities (Dec 2016–Fev 2017)
- drafting and discussing national workplan for 4 years (Mar-April 2017)
- presenting national workplans at regional Steering Committee in Brussels (15-16 may 2017)

Objective of this session and this presentation is to present the overall vision of the workplan
• Continuation of the National Policy Dialogue (NPD) process, existing NPD Steering Committee to oversee EUWI+ project

• Support to harmonization of legislation with EU (Water Framework Directive, sanitation, irrigation sectors)

• Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), primarily UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health

• Support to revising and further development of national policy on water for energy and food security

• Further support for transboundary cooperation

• Capacity development
Preparation for legislative assistance

• roadmap/analysis for harmonization with 5 EU water directives after new agreement with EU is signed which will replace the current EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation agreement (UNECE)

• Policy package on water for energy security and a study on “harmful” subsidies to strengthen water use efficiency in irrigation sector (OECD)

Potential concrete actions on legislation to follow

• (already ongoing) revision of Water Code and bylaws to regulate provision of sanitation services

• development of law on irrigation

• development of bylaws to support EU harmonization
Protocol on Water and Health
- revision, finalisation, adoption of national targets (discussed at NPD Steering Committees 2014-2016)
- ratification of Protocol by Armenia, based on adopted roadmap
- finalisation of national action plan on equitable access to water and sanitation

Transboundary cooperation with Georgia on Khrami-Debed
- working meetings
- joint assessment
- bilateral agreement

Capacity development
- on-job training of specialists of hydrochemistry, hydrobiology and hydromorphology (with Result 2 of EUWI+)
- on methodology for environmental flow regulation
Assessment of 1) existing GW and SW monitoring situation and current strategies and 2) Laboratories.

- Needs identification of equipment, infrastructure and training.

Strengthen WFD compliant water monitoring and water analyses by:

- Development of tailored monitoring strategies and nationally applicable guidance.
- Purchase / upgrade equipment, infrastructure, consumables.
- Hands-on training on 1) sampling and monitoring of all WFD indicators (quantity, chemistry, biology); 2) analyses of further substances, new/upgraded equipment and quality management.
- Biological and chemical field surveys in SW and GW to support RBMP development/implementation.
- Assist towards enlarging the accreditation scope.
RESULT 2

LABORATORIES AND MONITORING

-Assist in the development of WFD compliant RBMP by:
  - Review of delineation methodology (development of system B) for national application.
  - Assessment of existing RBMP to determine compliance with WFD and identification of gaps.
  - Assistance in setting environmental objectives and undertaking Risk assessments.
  - Design of WFD monitoring programmes: surveillance, operational and investigatory.
Support to the development of Water Basin Management plans

- Recommendations on improvement of the Outline of the Model Water Basin Management Plans
- Support to the development of Sevan and Hrazdan Basin Management plans in compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive and the legislation of water sector in Armenia

Support coordination in transboundary river basins

- In complement to activities under Result 1, on the Khrami-Debed Basin District (transboundary with Georgia), harmonisation of the methodology for water bodies delineation to facilitate shared vision and collaborative work
- Strengthen bilateral cooperation with Georgia for IWRM
Establishment of a system for regular monitoring of the implementation of the action program of the Akhuryan WBMP

- Develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the programme of measures of the WBMP and tools to support the visualisation of the monitoring results
- Support the use of evidence-based data for policy making and review of RBMPs plans of action
- Present the monitoring of the implementation of the action program in the form of a dashboard

Support to the implementation of soft measures of the Akhuryan WBMP

- Selection of pilot demonstration actions to improve key measures of the RBMP, especially as regards Water status assessment and monitoring for detecting high arsenic concentrations in groundwater bodies around Armavir and Ashotzq,
- Introduction of provisions regarding flood risk management and support to develop updated water balance in a context of adaptation to climate change
To improve the data/information management, it is proposed to:

- Support organisational aspects for an efficient water data management (agreements for data exchanges, support to metadata production, on line server management organisation, ...)
- Developing a pilot demonstration of automatized data exchanges with an online water cadastre version
- Application of automatized data exchanges and support to information production for the pilot River Basin Management Plan development
Stakeholder Involvement

- Assess the existing stakeholder involvement mechanisms at different scales (national, basin)
- Develop or strengthen the mechanisms for stakeholder and water users participation in the development and implementation process of the WBMPs
- Organization and facilitation of meetings with stakeholders to build consensus on shared objectives of WBMPs and Programs of Measures;
- Stakeholder involvement actions and users involvement on thematic issues in priority areas

Development, regular update and implementation of a communication strategy for the project

- Development, updating and implementation of a Communication strategy
- Preparation and publishing Information material (Leaflets on the national components, Action brochures, Be-annual project Newsletter, Press releases, media articles, social media, etc.)
- Implementation of communication activities for targeted stakeholders (communication campaigns, school information sessions, etc.)
Thank you for your attention!

Open for comments and questions