



# European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership

*Proceedings of the*  
**WORKSHOP ON WATER AND HEALTH**  
**SYNERGIES AND JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL**  
**ON WATER AND HEALTH, RELATED EU DIRECTIVES AND SDGS IN**  
**THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**  
*2 April 2019, Geneva*

## **DISCLAIMER**

*This report has been prepared with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission*



# CONTENTS

|            |   |          |
|------------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT .....</b>         | <b>3</b> |
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Opening Session .....</b>                  | <b>4</b> |
| <b>1.2</b> | <b>Session 1.....</b>                         | <b>4</b> |
| <b>1.3</b> | <b>Session 2.....</b>                         | <b>4</b> |
| <b>1.4</b> | <b>Session 3.....</b>                         | <b>5</b> |
| <b>1.5</b> | <b>Session 4.....</b>                         | <b>5</b> |
| <b>1.6</b> | <b>Closing session.....</b>                   | <b>5</b> |
| <b>1.7</b> | <b>Feedback provided by participants.....</b> | <b>5</b> |

## 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The workshop assessed recent progress on water, sanitation and health in the European Union Eastern Neighborhood region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and discussed the linkages and synergies between the UNECE/WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health, related EU Directives in particular the Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment (UWWT Directive) and the Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (Drinking Water Directive and its recast) and related SDGs.

The workshop addressed synergies in implementation and reporting on water, sanitation and health under the abovementioned international and regional frameworks and allowed the exchange of experiences on good practices and challenges that are relevant for the Eastern Partnership countries.

During the capacity development needs assessment conducted under the EU-funded European Union Water Initiative plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) programme in the 6 countries, support in this regard has been highlighted as a priority by most countries.

The event provided a forum for:

- (a) exchanging experience among the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries on implementing their national targets and objectives, reporting on progress under the Protocol on Water and Health and monitoring the relevant SDGs;
- (b) discussing linkages and synergies with EU Directives, in particular the EU Urban Waste Water and Drinking Water Directives, based on case studies from EU and non-EU countries;
- (c) sharing lessons learned and good practices in creating synergies between the different frameworks and their joint implementation.

The workshop considered legal, institutional, financial and technical aspects of advancing the water, sanitation and health agenda, taking into account the approach promoted by the Protocol, EU Directives and the SDGs.

The workshop was organized under the auspices of UNECE within the framework of the EUWI+ programme with financial support of the European Union.

The main objectives of the EUWI+ programme are to improve the management of water resources, in particular of transboundary rivers, developing tools to improve the quality of water in the long term, and the availability of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all. More specifically, the programme aims to support partner countries in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood region in bringing their national policies and strategies in line with the EU Water Directives and multilateral environmental agreements.

The meeting gathered 22 participants (14 female, 8 male) from ministries of environment and health, academia, civil society and international organizations.



## 1.1 Opening Session

In the opening session welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov, from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on behalf of the EUWI+ implementing partners. The agenda of the event was presented and adopted by meeting participants.

## 1.2 Session 1

The **first session** of the workshop focused on recent developments on water and health in EaP countries and contribution to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, EU Directives and the SDGs. A presentation on recent work on the Protocol on Water and Health under the EUWI+ was made by UNECE, Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov. Information was provided on the recently completed target setting/revision in the context of the Protocol and under the EUWI+ in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine and the ongoing or envisaged work in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova followed by an overview on capacity development activities on Water and Health as well as the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the EUWI+. Furthermore, activities by EUWI+ partners in the area of water and health were presented. Representatives of Eastern Partnership countries then complemented the discussion by providing an overview of recent developments related to water and health in the respective countries. Dr Zakhar Maletskyi, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) then presented a scoping study on sanitation for the pan-European region and in particular the specific findings for the countries in the Eastern Neighbourhood region. It was highlighted that the lesser urbanized Central and Eastern European countries have 30 million urbanites without access to safe, private toilets and that in Eastern European countries, for example, slightly more than 60% of waste water is collected and only 55% is treated. The presentations were followed by questions and answers.

## 1.3 Session 2

The **second session** of the workshop was devoted to Synergies between implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, related EU Directives and the SDGs.

Ms. Dolores Bentolila, White & Case presented legal aspects and synergies between the different frameworks. She emphasized that most obligations of the Protocol are included in the EU directives, but that there are also some gaps, for example related to equitable access to drinking water.

Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE then presented the Practical guide for joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development available under: <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/envwaterpublicationspub/brochures->

[about-the-protocol-on-water-and-health/2019/protocol-on-water-and-health-and-the-2030-agenda-a-practical-guide-for-joint-implementation/doc.html](https://www.euwaterinitiative.eu/about-the-protocol-on-water-and-health/2019/protocol-on-water-and-health-and-the-2030-agenda-a-practical-guide-for-joint-implementation/doc.html)

Synergies in implementation of the different frameworks in EU and non-EU countries were then presented based on the practical examples of Hungary and Ukraine. Ms. Anna Tsvietkova, NGO MAMA-86, Ukraine, made a presentation on Linking the target setting process with the obligations under the EU Association Agreements and with SDGs, followed by a presentation (through webex) by Ms. Marta Vargha, National Public Health Center, Hungary on the Joint implementation of the Protocol and EU Directives.

## 1.4 Session 3

The **third** session was devoted to Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health, related SDGs and EU Directives. UNECE (Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova and Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov) presented an overview of reporting requirements under SDG 6, followed by a training on the template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health by Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE. A discussion on questions from countries on the current reporting cycle took place after the presentation.

Ms. Katharina Lenz, Environment Agency Austria (UBA) then presented an overview on reporting requirements under related EU Directives (WFD, UWWT Directive, Drinking Water Directive) from an EU member State perspective.

## 1.5 Session 4

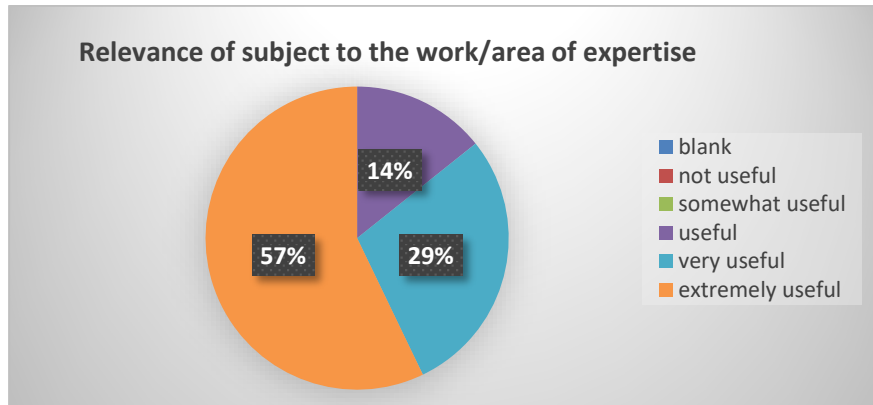
The **fourth** session was devoted to Good practices and tools for joint implementation of the various frameworks and included an presentation on New norms for design and construction of small-scale water supply systems in the Republic of Moldova by Mr. Valentin Bordeniuc, national expert, OECD and Water and Health related indicators as part of the national set of water security indicators, example from Kyrgyzstan, by Mr. Alexandre Martoussevitch, Project Manager, OECD. The presentations were followed by a discussion and questions and answers.

## 1.6 Closing session

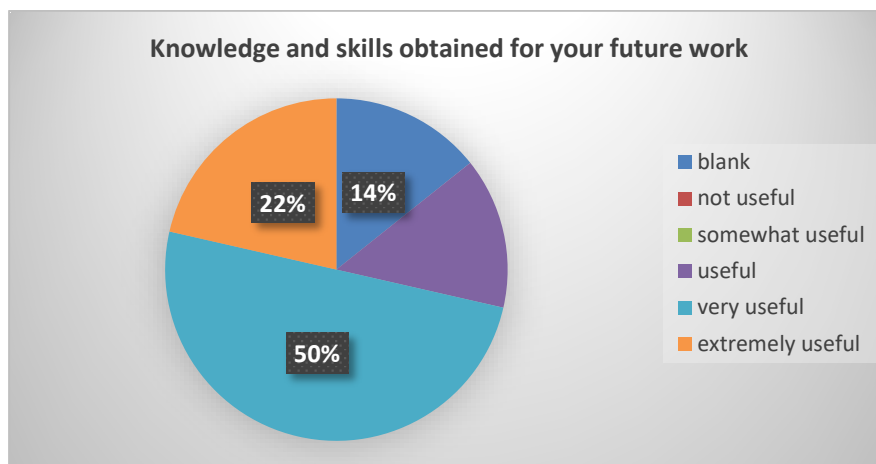
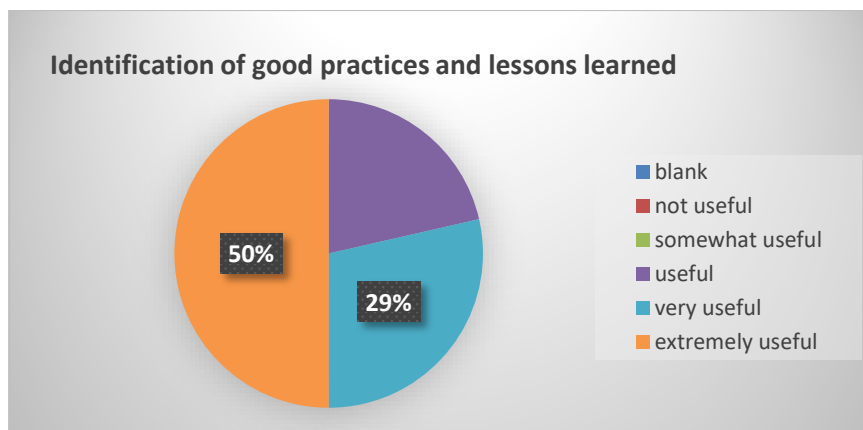
In the **closing session** UNECE wrapped up the meeting and participants were invited to provide feedback on the training workshop.

## 1.7 Feedback provided by participants

The majority of participants rated very highly the substantive and organizational aspects of the workshop. For example, the degree of relevance of the subject of the workshop for their work/area of expertise was rated mostly as extremely useful or very useful, as shown below.



The workshop also helped in identification of good practices and lessons learned or the knowledge and skills obtained for their future work as shown by the evaluated feedback provided by participants below.



All presentations of the event are available under: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51497>