



EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management

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National Policy Dialogues (NPD)

on integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water supply and sanitation (WSS) is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI).

- 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;
- OECD is key strategic partner on water supply and sanitation as well as water resources management financing



NPD – as a policy process rather than a technical project

- NPDs is a part of a cooperative process between the EU, UN, OECD and target countries on a wide range of issues
- NPDs are a platform for the policy discussions and preparation and implementation of national policy documents (e.g. Governmental and Ministerial Orders)
- 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, donors take part in the SCs meetings.



NPDs IWRM in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Since 2006, UNECE has been carrying out National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in four countries: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

In 2010, the policy dialogues started in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In September 2010, a request has been received from the Government of Kazakhstan.

Major issues addressed by the EUWI NPDs IWRM

- ***Water legislation*** (EU WFD, Water Convention principles): development of water strategies, laws, regulations based on IWRM principles (AM, AZ, GE, MD, UA, TJ, TM).
Synergies with OECD on financing!
- Issues of drinking water quality (***UNECE – WHO Protocol on Water and Health***) (MD, UA, GE).
Synergies on WSS with OECD!
- ***National policies for management of transboundary waters*** (UNECE Water Convention) (AZ, GE, MD, UA, KG),
- ***Adaptation of the water sector to climate change*** are high on the policy agenda (MD, UA).



Current NPD-IWRM activities – ENP region

Instruments/frameworks	AM	AZ	MD	UA	GE
EU WFD principles	X	X	X	X	X
UNECE Water Convention principles	X	X	X	X	X
UNECE – WHO Protocol Water & Health	X		X	X	X
EU Urban Wastewater Directive			X		
Climate change adaptation (EU and UNECE instruments)			X	X	
EU Flood Directive/UNECE instruments – Payments for Ecosystems Services	X			X	
Institutional frameworks (e.g. River Basin Councils, other)		X	X		X



Current NPD-IWRM activities – Central Asia

Instruments/frameworks	KG	TJ	TM	UZ
EU WFD principles	X	X	X	
UNECE Water Convention principles	X	X	X	
UNECE/WHO-Euro Protocol on Water and Health	X			X
EU Urban Wastewater Directive				
Climate change adaptation (EU and UNECE instruments)	X			
Flood Directive/UNECE instruments – Payments for Ecosystems Services				
Institutional frameworks (e.g. River Basin Councils, other)	X			



Armenia – started in 2006

Focus: IWRM principles, EU policies, especially financial instruments for water management

Activities:

UNECE: Programme of measures for the Marmarik river basin; and a pilot study on introduction of payments for Ecosystem Services Scheme in the Upper Hrazdan River Basin

OECD: Analysis of financial aspects of WRM and development scenarios

Outcomes:

- Policy Brief: Results and lessons learned
- Protocol of the Government of Armenia Session N4 of February 3, 2011 “On Approval of the Contents of Model River Basin Management Plan”. Chapter 10 – Financial analysis of water sectors in the river basin



Azerbaijan – started in 2010

Planned activities:

- Governmental Water Sector Strategy development for period until 2025 (UNECE);
- Financial aspects of IWRM (OECD);
- Transboundary water cooperation (UNECE).



Moldova – started in 2006

Focus: IWRM principles, Protocol on Water and Health, transboundary cooperation, climate..

Outcomes:

- A Governmental Order on wastewater discharges from municipal sources (2009);
- A Governmental Order of the Agency Apele Moldovei on the establishment of RBM authorities and river basin councils (2009);
- An action plan on the water-related MDGs
- Governmental Order on the targets under the Protocol on W&H adopted on 20 October 2010.



Kyrgyzstan – started in 2008

Focus: IWRM principles, Protocol on Water and Health, transboundary cooperation, climate..

Outcomes:

- A regulation on the establishment of a river basin council for the Chu river basin. The regulation was submitted in June 2009 to the joint Kyrgyz-Kazakh Commission on the Chu and Talas for implementation; it was adopted as Ministerial Order of the Government of Kyrgyzstan in October 2009

Current activities

- River basin management plan for Chu River Basin (UNECE);
- Financial aspects of IWRM in Issyk-Kul (OECD).



Tajikistan – started in 2010

Focus: IWRM principles, water strategy

Activities: A governmental strategy for water management is being prepared in consultation with key ministries and agencies. Transboundary water cooperation with Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan is another important issue.

Turkmenistan – started in 2010

Focus: IWRM principles

Activities: An expert group is to be established to assist the Government of Turkmenistan in adopting the standards of the Convention in national legislation, including the concept of IWRM.



Update on NPDs development

- Diverse activities but one structured approach –SCs established, MoU signed, countries' reports on mapping major stakeholders and programmes and NPD/IWRM Roadmaps are prepared;
- More active work on ground – support to national and international consultants to conduct analysis, prepare thoroughly policy packages. NB: the support is a direct and quick reflection to the governments' needs
- In-kind expert support from UNECE member states!
- Close coordination and synergies with OECD – establishment of joint SCs and joint programming



NPD IWRM supported in 2009 – 2012

- European Commission,
- UNECE, ENVSEC through OSCE
- Governments of
 - Finland,
 - Switzerland,
 - Germany - GIZ,
 - Norway,
 - Denmark (expertise),
 - Slovakia through IWAC.



Plans for the NPD/IWRM in Georgia

- Promoting IWRM principles in the legislation, including preparation of a national Water Law;
- Setting up the targets under the UNECE/WHO-Euro Protocol on Water and Health;
- Strengthening transboundary water cooperation, including preparation of a transboundary water agreement with Azerbaijan and supporting efforts of the Government of Georgia to access the UNECE Water Convention.



Schedule of the NPD/IWRM in Georgia

- 15 July 2011 – Submission of English version of a draft report with recommendations for preparation of the water law;
- 30 July 2011 – Submission of Russian version of the transboundary water cooperation report; a confirmed MoU sent to UNECE;
- 15 August 2011 – English version TW report;
- August – October 2011 – comments by international experts (supported by the Government of Finland) to reports, finalisation of reports in English and Georgian;



Schedule of the NPD/IWRM in Georgia

- 11 October 2011 (tbc) - Signing ceremony for MoU and an expert meeting (with international experts);
- 12 – 13 October 2011 (tbc) - Task Force meeting on Protocol on Water and Health;
- 14 – 16 November 2011 (tbc) - First NPD/IWRM Steering Committee meeting;
- 20 – 21 February 2012 – IWRM workshop
- 16 – 18 September 2012 – Second NPD/IWRM Steering Committee meeting.