New Water Legislation in Georgia
Review of progress

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Main **Sub-legal acts** under the Law on Water:

- Regulation on the protection of Georgian **surface waters from the pollution**;
- Regulation on **water protection zones**;
- Methodology on the calculation on **Maximal Admissible Discharges** of pollutants in the wastewater discharged to the surface water;
- Regulation on **State Accounting of Water Use**.
• Nominal and questionable legal validity of the most of the provisions of existing Law on Water
• Inconsistency of the latest water related legislation to basic principles and provisions of the existing Law
• Outdated water resources management system (administrative approach)
Justification for the New Water Legislation

Obligations according the EU-Georgia Association Agreement:
- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy
- Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks
- Directive 91/271/EEC on urban waste water treatment
- Directive 91/676/EC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources

4 water related Directives
Process of the preparation of the new legislation

- **2011** - *started* development of the legislation (National Policy Dialogue in IWRM in Georgia);
- **2012** - *the concept* of the new Law approved by the NPD Steering Committee;
- **2013** - *first draft* of the “Law in Water Resources Management” (support of the international experts from Finland)
- **2014-2015** - *consultations* with stakeholders, *revision* by international experts (UNECE), *public hearings*;
- **2016** - *comments* from the Government Administration;
- **2017** - Regulatory Impact Assessment (USAID);
- **2017** - Harmonization with the Environmental Assessment Code.
- **2017** – Submission to Government of Georgia
Institutional Setting

Responsibility for Water Resources

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Finance

Local Municipalities

Other Authorities

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection
Key Principles of the new Law

Institutional Setup for Integrated Water Resources Management

- Intersectional Committee for Protection and Use of Water Resources
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP)
- Water Basin Management Units under MENRP
- Water Basin Councils

Water monitoring according to EU standards

- Hydromorphological
- Biomonitoring

Introduction of water use permits

- Special permits for water abstraction and wastewater discharge

Polluter pays principle

Participatory decision-making
Secondary Bylaws

6 by-laws (UNECE, EPIRB, NPD):

- On identification and delineation of river basins;
- On rules for identification and delineation of water bodies;
- On the rules on composition and functioning of River Basin Councils;
- On the approval of the procedure of the development, consideration and endorsement of river basin management plans;
- On the rules for planning and implementation of water resources monitoring;
- On Calculation of Maximum Admissible Discharge (MAD) Norms of Pollutants Discharged With Wastewater Into Surface Water Bodies.
Ongoing Activities

- Amendments to the existing Law of Georgia on Marine Areas (based on MSFD);

- Development of the secondary by-laws to promote implementation of IWRM (UNECE):
  - On water quality ecological standards
  - On water protection zones
Planned Activities for 2017-2020

Development of the strategies and secondary by-laws to promote implementation of IWRM:

- National Water Strategy;
- Marine Strategy (based on MSFD);
- Amendments to the national legislation (based on EU Floods Directive);
- Introduction of the economic instruments (fees for surface water abstraction, wastewater discharge);
- Methodology on calculation of environmental flow;
- Regulation on the pre-treatment of industrial wastewater;
Thank you for attention!

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